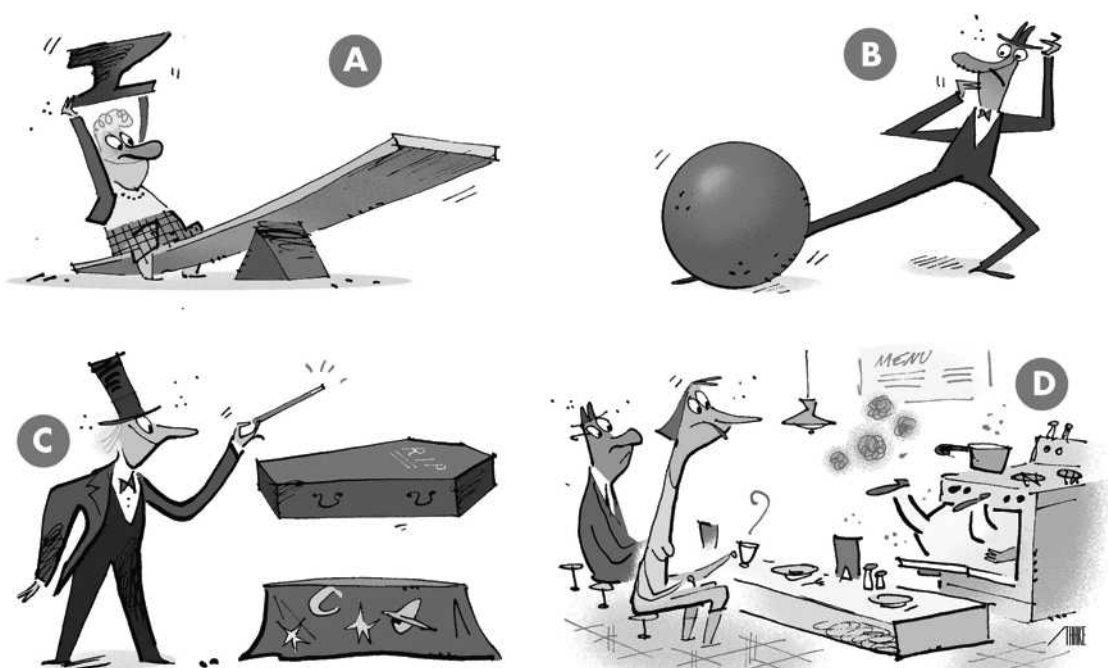


DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Sketch comedy: Winning captions

In **Week 1308** we asked for captions for any of the Bob Staake cartoons above, or a combination of them. Or you could tell us what was wrong with the picture. At least a dozen people captioned Picture C “**Abra-cadaver,**” while icky Sylvia Plath jokes abounded for Picture D. (When the contest was announced, this page was in color; the ball in Picture B was red.)

4th place:

Picture A: “C’mon, that wasn’t an insult — I love Hamburger Helper!” (Nancy Della Rovere, Silver Spring)

3rd place:

Picture A: Watch out, glass ceiling! (Susanne Pierce Dyer, Green Valley, Calif.)

2nd place and the ‘World’s Okayest Girlfriend’ mug:

What’s wrong with Picture D: The low-hanging pink lamp is clearly an OSHA violation. (Mike Gips, Bethesda)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

All four pictures can be described with the same letters — all anagrams of one another: **(A) WOMAN HOLDING A BIG ANVIL ON THE SEESAW. (B) SHOWED MAN VIEWING A GIANT BALL ON SHOE. (C) OOH, SEE ONE TALL MAN WAVING HIS BIG WAND! (D) AGHAST BESIDE MAN WHO WILL GO IN AN OVEN!** (Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)

Couldn’t carry a toon: honorable mentions

PICTURE A: Elon’s mom has her own plan for getting to Mars. (Jesse Frankovich)
 Even though it didn’t have the best safety record, Esther’s Discount Airlines was still better than flying United. (John Hutchins, Silver Spring)
 Ethel’s elevator phobia was intense. (Susanne Pierce Dyer)
 After massive budget cutbacks, NASA did the best it could. (Mark Raffman, Reston; Al Fisher, Rockville)
 Wile E. Coyote had to admit it was a nice catch. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)
 They could take away Juliana’s pilot’s license, but they could never take away Newton’s third law of motion. (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf)
 June was going to make those ants regret pitching their tent under her new ski jump. (David Peckarsky, Tucson)
 Mrs. MacLintel desperately wanted to be in that social set of ladies who launch. (Barbara Turner, Takoma Park)
 Helen isn’t fooling anyone with her inflatable anvil. (Jesse Frankovich)

PICTURE B: Every time he tells a lie, Paul Manafort’s ankle monitor grows. (Jesse Frankovich)
 Target’s latest security system stops shoplifters before they make it to the parking lot. (Jill Renkey, Frederick, a First Offender)

New contest for Week 1312: Neologisms in TOUR de Fours XV

Dadventurous: Daring to wear a fanny pack, socks with sandals, or a “World’s Best Farter” T-shirt.
Toutrageous: Preposterously boastful. “The other world leaders laughed at his touting claim that his administration had done more in two years than most others had in the history of the country.”

It’s our annualish Tour de Fours neologism contest, in which you make up words that contain a given block of four letters. This week, Amazingly Successful Loser Jesse Frankovich suggests that the letter block come straight out of the name. **This week: Coin a word or multi-word term that contains the letter block T-O-U-R and describe it, as in Jesse’s examples above; the letters may be in any order, but there may be no other letters between them (you may insert a space or hyphen).** You might make your entry funnier to read if you include a good example, or showing how the term would be used, since there’s a good chance that someone else will come up with the same term you did.

Submit entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1312 (all lowercase).

Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our new Style Invitational trophy.

Whoever is so unlucky to land in second place receives **Mr. Turdy**, kind of a perverted Mr. Potato Head. You actually form Mr. T yourself with the enclosed modeling clay, then stick on the appendages. Donated by Loser Nan Reiner.

Other runners-up win our “You Gotta Play to Lose” Loser Mug or our “Whole Fools” Grocery Bag. Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, “We’ve Seen Better” or “IDiot Card.” First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air “freshener” (FirStink for their first ink). **Deadline is Monday night, Jan. 7;** results published Jan. 27 (online Thursday, Jan. 24). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline for this week’s results was suggested by both Jeff Contompasis and Jon Gearhart; Bill Dorner wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the Style Invitational Devotees on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev. “Like” Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at bit.ly/inkofday; follow @StyleInvite on Twitter.

THE STYLE CONVERSATIONAL The Empress’s weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. Especially if you plan to enter, check it out at wapo.st/styleconv.

One of the reasons they don’t want people wandering around Chernobyl is the cherry grove. (Barbara Turner)

So all those beautiful sunsets have just been special effects! (Gary Crockett)

Randall had to admit that his bunion was starting to get in the way of his dancing career. (David Ballard, Reston)

Edgar put his right foot out, but that was the end of his hokeypokey. (Jeff Shirley, Richmond)

And suddenly, Larry caught a glimpse of what it’s like to be wiped out by a heavy period. (Hildy Zampella, Alexandria)

The lesser known, but no less treacherous, Running of the Balls. (Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.)

“ . . . And then my poor meatball rolled out of the door.” (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

“Medicine ball?! Doc, please tell me you’ve got this in liquid form.” (Hildy Zampella)

It’s hard to walk when only one of your legs has a knee, even before someone drops a giant bowling ball on your ankle. (Mark Raffman)

What’s wrong: The small red ball is correctly labeled “B” for background, but the large red ball is missing the “F” for foreground. (Dave Conger, Sterling, a First Offender)

PICTURE C: Some magicians ask to be buried six feet over. (Will Stutzman, Millersburg, Ohio)

The sawing-in-half went terribly wrong, but Colette is still part of the act. (Gary Crockett)

Hiring Lazarus was the smartest thing Mandrake ever did. (Jon Ketzner, Cumberland, Md.)

“And for my next trick, I will make half my jacket disappear!” (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

PICTURE D: “Jeez, I only asked for gluten-free coffee.” (Colette Zanin, Greenbelt)
 The other “Hell’s Kitchen” judges expressed disapproval with greater subtlety than Gordon Ramsay. (Bob Kruger, Rockville)
 The dessert chef put too much yeast in his gingerbread man again. (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)
 The untimely end of the Pillsbury Doughboy. (John Kupiec, Fairfax)

“Hey, I ordered baked Alaska — not Alaskan.” (Joanne Free, Clifton)

What’s wrong: The “3” on the woman’s jersey is crooked. (Jesse Frankovich)
What’s wrong: The tea drinker has failed to extend her pinkie finger. (Jeff Hazle, San Antonio)

COMBINATIONS:
Pictures B and C: The entertainment was intense at the Onesie Tux party. (Duncan Stevens)
A and C: You have to get creative when the Stairway to Heaven is out of order. (Robyn Carlson, Keyser, W.Va.; Roger Dalrymple, Gettysburg, Pa.)
A and B: To cease the giant ape’s rampage and save the city, one brave vet launches herself into the behemoth’s nether region and neuters King Kong. (Bird Waring)

B and C: What’s wrong is that both of the men’s bow ties are clip-ons and well, that just lacks panache. (Jeff Shirley)
Still running — deadline Monday night, Dec. 31: Our “year in preview” contest: See wapo.st/invite1311.

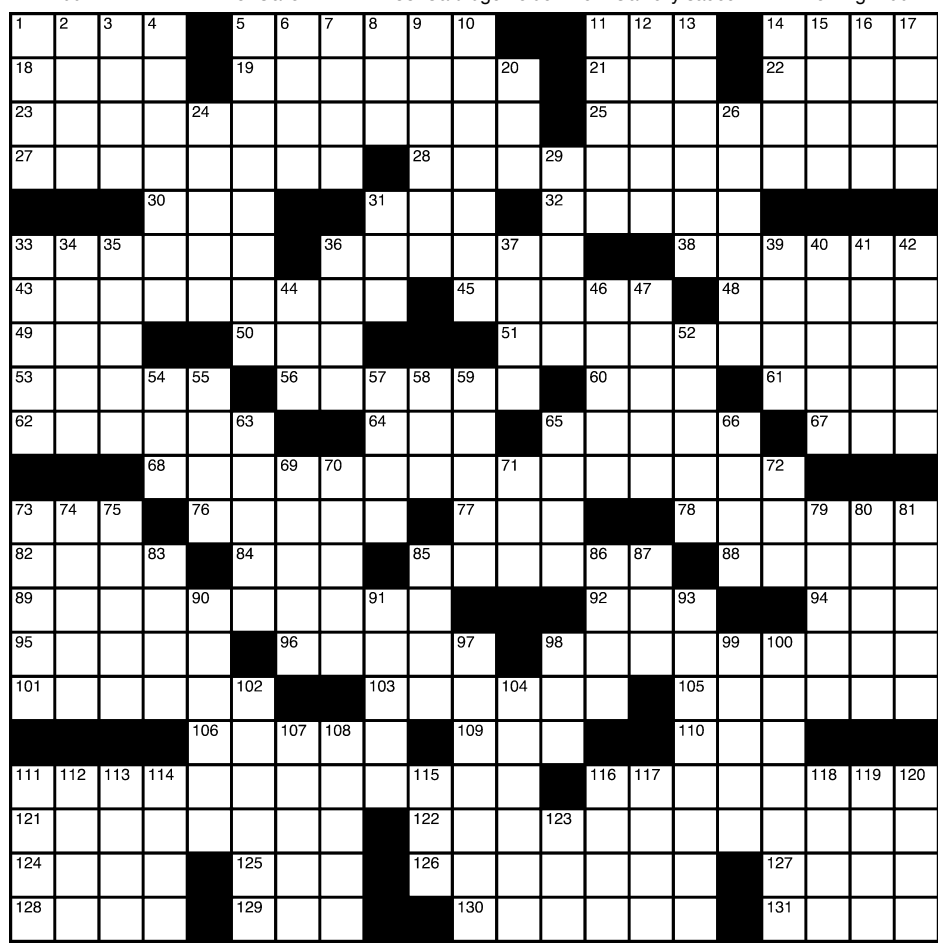
L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

“CALLING FORTH”
 By GARY LARSON

ACROSS
 1 Close to closed
 5 Salad veggie
 11 Its “M” stands for “Motoren”
 14 Batty
 18 Ashton’s spouse
 19 2002 “Friends” Emmy winner
 21 French monarch
 22 Barbarian
 23 Off-season at a nudist camp?
 25 Stock female roles
 27 Caribbean getaway
 28 Dollhouse Christmas decoration?
 30 Reveal, poetically
 31 Sale limitation word
 32 Early Indo-European
 33 Hot
 36 Abandon
 38 Silver and gold
 43 Defrost in the microwave?
 45 Cubes for cooking
 48 Longtime Dolphins coach
 49 Reggae’s — Kamoze
 50 Ham, to Noah
 51 Two, for most folks?
 53 English critic
 56 Folks
 60 Worker in a garden
 61 Apple variety
 62 Capital south of Vienna
 64 Links prop
 65 Broom- . . . comics witch
 67 “As Time Goes By” pianist
 68 Aha moment sensation?
 73 Pops
 76 Frozen summer coolers
 77 Propel, in a way
 78 Words to live by
 82 Biblical prophet
 84 Grab a bite
 85 Type of plane
 88 One at a family reunion
 89 Geek chic?
 92 Minor player
 94 With

DOWN
 1 Gremlins and Pacers
 2 Abandon at the altar
 3 Heaps
 4 Filthy quarters
 5 Duds, old-style
 6 Kournikova of tennis
 7 Quarters
 8 Novel ending?
 9 Mushroom stems
 10 Went deep at the park
 11 Pipe material
 12 Bank contents
 13 Early American home
 14 Ready to serve
 15 Contents of el mar
 16 Be a bundle of nerves
 17 Radio host
 18 John
 20 Society page word
 24 Optimist
 26 The “E” in E. & J. Gallo
 29 Strapped-on accessory
 31 Nave seat
 33 Phelps broke his gold-medal record
 34 Skater Harding
 35 Because of, with “to”
 36 Copenhagen native
 37 Confirmation, e.g.
 39 Norse god associated with storms
 40 Jam ingredients
 41 Andean wool source
 42 “The Crucible” setting
 44 Letters after I?
 46 Jazz pianist
 47 Common sense
 52 Obscure show
 54 Soft drink brand since 1924
 57 Elevator innovator
 58 Cartridge holder
 63 Flexor muscle, informally
 65 German title
 66 Before long, quantity
 69 Some lides
 70 — One: vodka brand
 71 Lucrative, contractually
 72 VW hatchback
 73 Friend of Pythias
 74 Appliance maker since 1934
 75 Grandparent, often
 79 Wyoming’s — Range
 80 Former #1 PGA golfer
 81 Lorena
 81 Goes after
 83 Evade
 85 One of the Baldwins
 86 Hurling
 87 John in London
 90 Separately
 91 Garlicy sauce
 93 Chewed persistently
 97 Former name of Myanmar’s most populous city
 98 Asian celebration
 99 Welcome
 100 They may empty in a brawl
 102 Actress
 107 Plummer
 104 NATO alphabet letter after Romeo
 107 Rainbowlike
 108 Cara of “Fame”
 111 Bangers partner
 112 Gym site
 113 Skier’s aid
 114 Put in a position
 115 Sympathetic sounds
 116 Done, in Verdun
 117 Jared of “Suicide Squad”
 118 Where Cork is
 119 Dudley
 Do-Right’s org.
 120 32-card game
 123 No longer working: Abbr.



12/30/18 xwordeditor@aol.com ©2018 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Answers to last week’s puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Dec. 30: This year, you are likely to be your usual practical self. You also will be more inclined to be social and present. Work with others to manifest at least one of your long-term dreams. If you are single, your dating life is active, but you might wonder at the oddness of some of the people you meet. If you are attached, you and your partner adore your time alone together. Make the most of these periods. Scorpio proves to be a great friend.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
 If you can, avoid a challenging, controlling person. In general, communication flourishes between you and others. A loved one enjoys relaxing with you. Your idea of a relaxing day might not be the same as this person’s. In any case, have fun.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 To the dismay of a loved one, you might be returning to your busy routine. This person would like to have more time with you. Instead of having a tense moment, make time for this person later in the day.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 Your sense of humor and love of laughter once again mark your day. Do not make anything more difficult than it needs to be. At a certain point, a partner could become somewhat frustrating to deal with. Be livelier and open to others’ energies.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 Being a homebody is your natural, preferred state; once again, you enjoy some time at home. You do not need to take down the decorations or do anything unusual; you are happy doing nothing. Others appreciate your relaxed attitude.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 Make your round of Sunday calls. You might find that your conversations are more animated than you originally had anticipated. A friend or loved one could be out of sorts. If you can, help this person feel better.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 You could be very tired of all the holiday celebrations and might decide to go off and do something not related to the holidays. Avoid someone who is judgmental or difficult. You will enjoy the company of a like-minded person.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 You know when you’re in your element. Nevertheless, be smart with a controlling person. Don’t try to outwit or ignore this person. Go off, do your thing and be happy. A surprise could have you guessing what’s going to happen next.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 Use the daylight hours just for you. You do not need to share what you are up to. You might be better off just taking the day for yourself. Reading a good novel or watching a favorite TV series could be all that you need. Squeeze in a nap or two.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 When a friend whispers their plans in your ear, you will want to join them. Do it. You could have a great time with this person. Somehow, you might be involved with making plans for New Year’s. You do not need to be the hub of activity.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 Wherever you are, others seem to seek you out. Often, people want your advice or opinion. You might not be inclined to respond to every single request. Know that you can tell them to come back some other time.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 Be more open about your thoughts. In the near future, make plans to visit with several friends whom you don’t often see. Just discussing your plans and what you want to do together will recharge your batteries.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 When a certain person comes toward you, you cannot resist their charm. Such is the case today. The two of you have a lot in common and enjoy each other’s company. Open up to new possibilities, and participate in a fun activity.

Answers to last week’s puzzle.

