

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Flip the Bard: More Shakespeare fun

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1376 we asked the Losers to add a character to a Shakespeare work and insert a line of dialogue. Let's just say that the Bard proved more timely than ever.

4th place:

Hamlet: I must be cruel, only to be kind: Thus bad begins, and worse remains behind.

Chief of Staff Mark Meadows: Let's strike that and just say: "We have very few people with it, and the people that have it... they're all getting better." (Frank Mann, Washington)

3rd place:

Hamlet: And my imaginations are as foul as Vulcan's stithy.

Mr. Spock: Although humans do not possess them, I assure you my stithy is maintained in a hygienic state. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

2nd place and the Rocket Launcher toilet game:

Antony in "Antony and Cleopatra": Perchance to-morrow you'll serve another master.

Anthony Fauci: Not soon enough. (Mark Raffman, Reston)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

Duke of Gloucester in "Henry VI, Part I": Mayor, farewell: thou dost but what thou mayst.

Pete Buttigieg: In four years shall America vote in the gayst. (Mike Gips, Bethesda)

More matter, less art: Honorable mentions

Orlando in "As You Like It": I cannot speak to her, yet she urg'd conference.

Texting co-worker: Did you unmute your Zoom mic? (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

A Lover's Complaint: O, how the channel to the stream gave grace! Millions of Americans: Binge-watching Netflix helps us shelter in place! (Mike Gips)

Aaron in "Titus Andronicus": Villain, I have done thy mother.

Oedipus: Ha, beat you to it! (Jeff Contompasis)

Antony in "Julius Caesar": Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears.

Mr. Potato Head: You still haven't returned my nose! (John Hutchins, Silver Spring)

Benedick in "Much Ado About Nothing": A man loves the meat in his youth that he cannot endure in his age.

President: Why do you think I spend so much time tweeting from the toilet at 3 a.m.? (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

Biron in "Love's Labour's Lost": Greater than great, great, great, great Pompey! Pompey the Huge. Secretary of State: Uh, there's an O at the end." (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Oberon, in "A Midsummer Night's Dream": But, notwithstanding, haste; make no delay: We may effect this business yet ere day.

Mitch McConnell: No. (Sam Mertens, Silver Spring)

Caliban in "The Tempest": How does thy honour? Let me lick thy shoe. Trump: That was pretty good. Now watch Lindsey. (William Kennard, Arlington)

Viola in "Twelfth Night": Make me a willow cabin at your gate.

First Contractor: Okay, but we can't start until October. (Rick Fouchoux, Silver Spring)

Emilia in "Othello": I must needs report the truth.

Trump: I say that you are a terrible reporter. That's what I say. (Mary Giorgis, Crofton, a First Offender)

Domitius in "Antony and Cleopatra": Thou art so leaky, that we must leave thee to thy sinking.

Kellyanne Conway: I prefer to call it alternative nondis-closure. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

Escalus in "Measure for Measure": I shall desire you, sir, to give me leave to have free speech with you.

Barack Obama: Sorry, my honorarium is \$400,000. (Mark Raffman)

Falstaff in "Henry IV, Part II": I will turn diseases to commodity.

Sen. Richard Burr: Ooh, good idea! (Duncan Stevens)

Hamlet: I shall not look upon his like again.

Mark Zuckerberg: Yeah, he didn't just unfriend you, he blocked your



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New for Week 1380: Both sides now

PANdemIC: A knockdown brawl in Aisle 6 over the last package of toilet paper.

MELANchoIIA: Being married to the best husband in the history of husbands.

Family nIGHT: When you play a game of Monopoly after two weeks in isolation together.

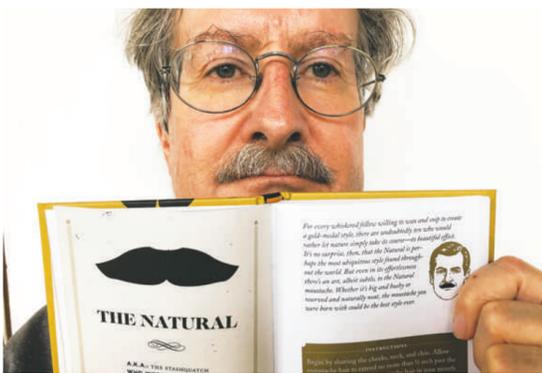
Here's a brand-new contest that's the opposite of one of our favorite recurring contests: In our "air quotes" challenge, you find a word inside another word, and relate it to the first word. This week: Delete one or more letters (in a row) from a word or brief phrase to find another word, and define it, as in the examples above by Jesse Frankovich, who last week got NO ink, for the first time in... one hundred weeks. (He's back.) You could delete the letters from one end of the term instead of the middle, but you need the reader to be surprised by the discovery. This contest was first suggested by Roy Ashley and in a slightly different form by Kenji Thielstrom.

Submit up to a total of 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1380 (no capitals in the Web address). Deadline is Monday, April 27; results will appear May 17 in print, May 14 online.

Winner gets the Lose Cannon, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives just the thing for a guy in isolation: a little book called "The Moustache Grower's Guide," describing 30 different hairy-lip looks; donated by the totally smooth-lipped Ms. Pie Snelson; AND an alternative: a bacon-scented stick-on mustache. "Extra manly!" assures the packaging. Because... well, I don't know why. Donated by Bill Dornier, who was cleanshaven (even on his head) last time I saw him.

Other runners-up win their choice of our "For Best Results, Pour Into Top End" Loser Mug or our "Whole Fools" Grocery Bag. Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, "Too-Weak Notice" or "Certificate of (de) Merit." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline "Flip the Bard" is by Chris Doyle; Tom Witte wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdex. "Like" the 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 reviews each new contest and set of results. This week, a tribute to the newest (15th) member of the Style Invitational Hall of Fame, Frank Osen, who scored Ink Blot No. 500 last week. We may have to take a drive down to Pooperstown and bump out the end of the hall, just so everyone can social-distance. Check out the Convo at wapo.st/convo1380.



The Empress's Royal Consort, Mark Holt, in a modified natural.

account. (Mark Richardson, Takoma Park)

Claudius in "Hamlet": His liberty is full of threats to all — to you yourself, to us, to every one.

The GOP: "So?" (Marni Penning Coleman, Falls Church)

Lord Sands in "Henry VIII": 'Tis time to give 'em physic, their diseases Are grown so catching.

Trump: Nah. It'll hurt my ratings. (Marni Penning Coleman)

King Lear: Five days we do allot thee for provision to shield thee from diseases of the world.

Fauci: Actually, I'm afraid we're looking at a longer time frame... (Alex Steelsmith, Kailua, Hawaii)

King of France from "All's Well That Ends Well": Why, then, young Bertram, take her; she's thy wife.

Henny Youngman: Take mine too, prithee. (Roy Ashley, Washington)

King Lear: Meantime we shall express our darker purpose.

Ralph Northam: I tried that once. The year was 1984... (Jesse Rifkin, Arlington)

Macbeth: Swords I smile at, weapons laugh to scorn, Brandish'd by man that's of a woman born.

Coronavirus: I hail from pangolin, perchance from bat. So tough luck, sucker: I'ma knock you flat. (Nan Reiner, Boca Raton, Fla.)

Oberon: My gentle Puck, come hither.

Alex Ovechkin: That's how you sissies play hockey in England? (Richard Franklin, Alexandria)

And Last: Duke of Milan in "Two Gentlemen of Verona": And think thee worthy of an Empress' love.

Bill Dornier, Indianapolis: Most weeks my jokes receive no part thereof.

More honorable mentions in the online Invite at wapo.st/invite1380.

Two contests still running — deadline for both Monday, April 20: — Week 1378, songs (and optional videos) about Life in the Age of Corona: wapo.st/invite1378 — Week 1379, tell a joke whose punchline involves a song title or lyric: wapo.st/invite1379

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

"WHAT'S MISSING?" By DAVID ALFRED BYWATERS

ACROSS

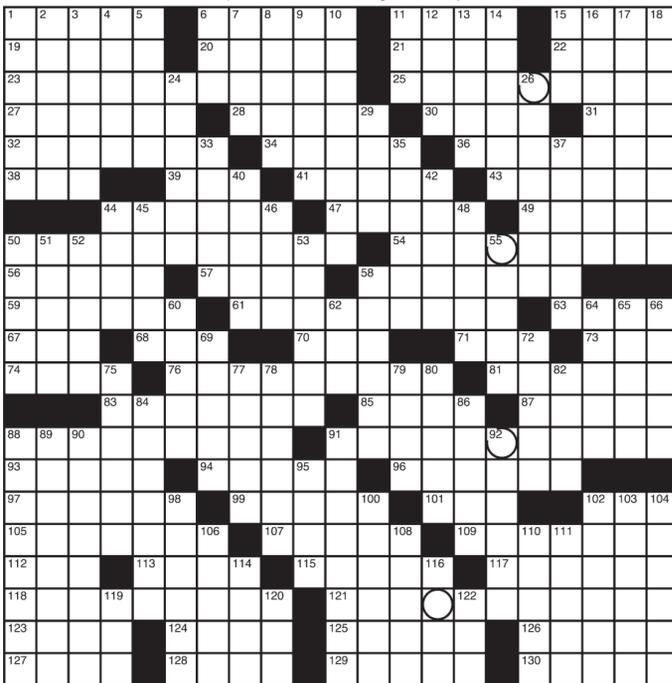
- 1 Worrier's agenda
6 Audibly amazed
11 "Zounds!"
15 Ingredient in some pancakes
19 Musical genre that means "work" in Italian
20 Wrist bones
21 Nautilus captain
22 "A-Hunting We Will Go" songwriter
23 Feeling caused by reading too many self-referential articles?
25 Where movie actors rehearse Southern accents?
27 Left
28 Often-improvised light source
30 Soybean paste
31 Factor of DX
32 Spray
34 Walk proudly
36 Lobster
38 When doubled, a dangerous fly
39 "Yo ho ho" beverage
41 "Poison" shrub
43 Get top billing for
44 Prodigy
47 Unrestrained episode
49 Goddess of peace
50 Overhead support for a small army?
54 Urban pedestrian's maneuver?
56 Noise
57 Narrow victory margin
58 Intifidlers
59 Performer with a record
21 Oscar nominations
61 They hang around
63 Try
67 Rite lead-in?
68 Fútbol cheer
70 Chicago's Center
71 Shamus
73 Ostrichlike bird
74 Edit
76 Seamy component, as of politics

- 85 R-rating reason
87 Savory jelly
88 Insult humor in a cornfield?
91 Trust that a supervised job will lead to full-time work?
93 Transplant, in a way
94 Demeter's Roman counterpart
96 Cat pickup spot
97 Very
99 1972 missile pact
101 Pig thief of rhyme
102 Estonia, once: Abbr.
105 Winner's flag
107 Fallback strategy
109 Perfectly detailed model
112 Gnome cousin
113 Floral neckwear

- 115 Follow
117 Cheer for
118 Legume farmer's concern?
121 Sailing one small ship after another?
123 Violin music word
124 Hudson-to-Niagara River canal
125 Not yet realized
126 Shilling's five
127 Fraction of a min.
128 Stare blankly
129 Shows the way
130 Biblical mounts

DOWN

- 1 Act aggressively toward
2 Very tops
3 Hang it up, so to speak
4 Muse with a lyre
5 Hotel amenities
6 Do something
7 Pace of walking
8 Rival of Sparta
9 Dramatic growth periods
10 Bakery shell
11 Finish
12 Microbe
13 With full force
14 Searches for a well, say
15 Actor Mineo
16 Obtained with effort
17 Indefatigable
18 Appointed one
24 Worshipper
26 Best time for beachcombing
29 Carmel's fast-storage site
33 Afternoon date, maybe
35 Seafood sauce
37 Industry bigwigs
40 Aesopian conclusion
42 Stop
44 Glass unit
45 Pitcher Normo
46 Spring month in Porto
48 Bring to bear
50 Indian tea region
51 "Ask somebody else"
52 Italian city known for a shroud
53 Providence athletes
55 "No more for me"
58 Well-meaning
60 Dwarf planet since 2006
62 How-... manuals
64 Adagio and presto
65 Gamut
66 Kyle or Kurt of NASCAR
69 Early computer
72 Eadineage
75 Still eligible for a full refund, as clothing
77 Pill bottle info
78 Catch in a sting
79 Pair in jigs?
80 Put up
82 Mil. flying branch
84 Gallery event
86 Miscalculation, say
88 Galette cooker
89 Merrymakers
90 Feature of a gravy-covered sandwich
91 Port straddling the Bosphorus
92 Uno, por ejemplo
95 Magazine with a pronoun title
98 Large size of the '80s that now sounds tiny
100 Half-baked
102 Sedate protests
103 Wall fixture
104 Roams freely
106 Sparkly headgear
108 Myanmar, once
110 Family nickname
111 Bounding gaits
114 Cut off
116 ...out a living
119 Holiday nickname
120 Snider of Twisted Sister
122 Elevs.



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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY MADALYN ASLAN

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | April 19: You will not have the control you are used to, but it will be a good year nevertheless. It will be possible to escape any serious financial difficulties with relative ease. There will be unexpected opportunities to add to your income. If single, a degree of freedom when in a committed situation is essential to your happiness. If attached, you will be the object of admiration and loyal devotion. Your bond strengthens. Sagittarius adores you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Take as much time in solitude today as you can. Release addictive loves. Addictive loves are those that seem compelling but bring only sorrow and frustration, not peace and nurture. Trust in your own strength and powers of reason.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Today you find out how to enhance future security. Get to know people you admire from afar and join their social groups online. It sounds stealthy, but it's just the way it needs to be now with all the social isolation.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You are making it entirely too pleasant and a fun experience to be this socially distanced. You entertain the kids and you make it like an adventure. Of course, we are all jealous. This promises interesting possibilities.

CANCER (June 21-July 21) You dream of a land far away. You wish you could travel. A legal matter finally will get resolved, you are relieved just to hear the news. It's amazing how many make allowances in an emergency crisis like this.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Since analytical Virgo is involved in this pattern, it makes sense to keep very neat and complete financial records. Remember not to become anxious regarding financial situations. It wastes time and energy. Money is only of value for the good it brings about.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) If you are fancy free, a new romantic interest can develop through your professional circle today. Relationships are highlighted today, even fleeting connections. Your feelers, your bee antennae, are so attuned, following this isolation time.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Take reasonable care around those who are ill. Step back from those who are depressing you or are perhaps psychologically draining. You must be extra vigilant with your health today. It comes first. It takes a national emergency to get you to say no.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Recognize how friendships can be a catalyst for love. Accept invitations to meet friends online. This can bring a delightful series of new contacts. You can expect great happiness to be accompanied by change regarding the tender passions.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Today is really a home day. You are really getting it. You need time to yourself but when you want it. You are starting to feel like Aries, a little caged. A hobby shared with others can also invite a closer intimacy.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan 19) You must convince and persuade others and attend some form of conference. There are a lot of necessary interactions today. With your sibling, neighbors, old pals. Also a delightful series of new contacts. It is very enjoyable.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Depression lifts, and your faith helps you to carry plans forward. People are becoming more giving and thoughtful. In love and business and in common conversation. Your physical vitality is improving.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Make certain that you include the friends of a companion who is winning your heart. Then make certain your prospective partner's feelings are mutual concerning your friends. Keep in mind you may open up to someone completely new.

Answers to last week's puzzle.

