

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Your wit parade: Winning song puns

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1379** the Empress asked for jokes whose punchline was a pun on a song title or lyric. Beware: These entries are firmly in the Groaner Pun genre. If you don't like groaner puns, go do the sudoku and come back next week. Meanwhile, if you don't get which songs are being referenced, check the E's answer key in this week's Style Conversational at wapo.st/conv1383.

4th place:

Gene officiated NFL games for a living and, to his family's irritation, couldn't seem to leave his work at the stadium: When one of the kids did something wrong, he'd blow a whistle and throw down a yellow flag. His wife pleaded with him to stop this nonsense: **"You don't have to live like a ref, Eugene."** (Hildy Zampella, Alexandria.)

3rd place:

My wife might have overdone it at the tanning salon today, but I know Eleanor was just trying to look hot for my birthday. And after a roman-tic dinner, even when she's turned yellowish-brown . . . **there's no place better than under my umber Ella.** (Michelle Christophorou, London)

2nd place and the electronic mini-Screaming Goat:

Allergies, you say? I think not. Clearly, Army Special Forces are out to get me, constantly showering me with dust from drones that makes me sneeze and snuffle. Yes, I'm convinced: **Ranger ops keep pollen on my head.** (Ken Liss, Brookline, Mass.)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

An F5 tornado tears through Louisiana's capital and levels several blocks of the city's businesses — including McGee's Dispensary, a cannabis shop that collapses on top of its owner and his girlfriend. Uninjured but unable to get out, the couple decide they have nothing left to lose, and they get **buzzed in flattened Baton Rouge waitin' for a crane.** (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

Musical nots: Honorable mentions

Before gaining fame as the wizard of the Beach Boys, Brian Wilson attended the San Francisco Culinary Institute, even winning awards for his omelets. At graduation, the dean presented him with his victory certificates, but not what he'd really hoped for: the traditional gift basket full of gourmet delights. As Wilson lamely said later: **"I'm picking up good-bye rations; she's giving me egg citations."** (John Glenn, Tyler, Tex.)

Springsteen played college campuses until the terrible "Hazard From Harvard" incident, where piles of beer cases from the sponsor, Miller, were used as concert seats. One tower toppled and fatally injured a freshman from Sweden. The coroner's succinct summary: **"Blonde dead by the Lite."** (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

What do you call the evening when Dick Cheney retired and the Secret Service took him to an undisclosed location in Florida? **The night they drove old Dick C down.** (Alex Steelsmith, Kailua, Hawaii)

Before he met with Kim Jong Un, officials warned the president not to agree to anything the North Korean leader said — not just in words, but by gesture or even expression. Trump assured them, **"He can't read my ocher face."** (Ward Kay, Vienna, Va.)

What did Joan Jett call her private Pacific atoll? **Isle of Rock and Roll.** (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

A chimp dressed in royal attire walks into a London pub and orders a pint. The aged, half-blind bartender says, "And who do we have here — the queen's consort, Prince Philip?" "Heavens no," the chimp replies, **"I'm her ape, old man! I'm Henry."** (Steve Smith, Potomac)

We square dancers had to cancel our whole season — you can't very well social-distance while doing the allemande and do-si-do. I'm afraid **it's the end of the whirls as we know it.** (Jerry Birchmore, Springfield)



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1383: Questionable Journalism

Sentence in The Post: "The worst enemy is an invisible enemy."

Question it could answer: Come on, Jaden, why don't you want to play hide-and-seek?

A. "It's going to be a little subdued, and it's definitely going to be stressful," Kopp said. "But we can ride."

Q. What did Harley racer Kody Kopp predict about the new Flat Tire Motocross Grand Prix?

A. "S--- is a great source of information." (from the article "Sewage Scans Could Detect Outbreaks")

Q. What unpopular opinion did one White House reporter offer, only in code, about Sarah Sanders?

It's one of our recurring contests — first appearance: Week 254, 1998 — and one particularly good for people whose current calling, at the behest of their country, is Sitting Around at Home:

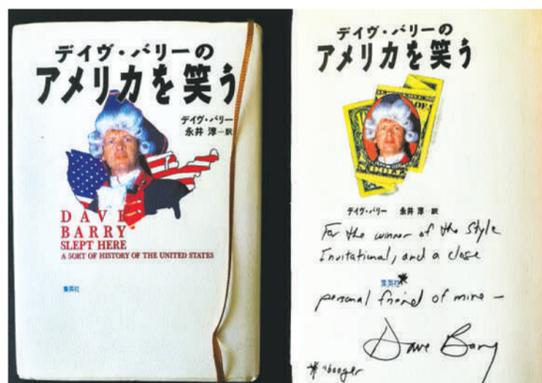
This week: Choose any sentence (not a headline) in an article or ad in The Washington Post or another publication dated May 7 through May 18, and write a question that it might humorously answer, as in the examples above, which the Empress found on a page or two of the May 4 Post. You don't have to use the entire sentence (and you can use two consecutive ones, as in the second example) but don't drop words out of the middle that would change the meaning of the sentence. Please include the publication name, date and page number of print papers and magazines, and a link to the Web page for online ones.

Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1383 (no capitals in the Web address). Deadline is Monday, May 18; results will appear June 7 in print, June 4 online.

Winner gets the Lose Cannon, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a true collector's item: the book "Dave Barry Slept Here: A Sort of History of the United States" — autographed by Dave Himself and inscribed, "For the winner of the Style Invitational, and a close personal friend of mine." The thing, though: (a) The winner/"close personal friend" is Elden Carnahan, who won this book in Week 122, in 1995; he regifted it during a little Kondo-binge despite the potential loss of his close personal friend, who had inscribed it before the winner was chosen; and (b) the book is entirely in Japanese, except for the title on the cover and, of course, Dave's inscription.

Other runners-up win their choice of our "For Best Results, Pour Into Top End" Loser Mug or our "Whole Fools" Grossery 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 "Your Wit Parade" is by Chris Doyle; Jeff Contompass wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](https://www.facebook.com/on.fb.me/invdev). "Like" the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at [bit.ly/inkofday](https://www.facebook.com/bit.ly/inkofday); follow @StyleInvite on Twitter.

The Style Conversational: The Empress's weekly online column reviews each new contest and set of results. Check out this week's Convo at wapo.st/conv1383.



Is Dave Barry even funnier in Japanese? This week's second prize.

My buddy and I broke quarantine with a picnic in the park — and what a mistake that was: No sooner was the blanket down than the bugs found us. Then the sky darkened, it suddenly got really blustery — and a strong gust carried my pal off! A patrolman came by and asked, "All right, who all is here?" I answered, **"The ants are. My friend is blowin' in the wind."** (Sam Mertens, Silver Spring)

And Last: So, Empress, what did

you say to the Style Invitational contestants at the Loser brunch after judging all the bad puns in this contest? **"I groaned and cursed 'em to their face."** (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

More honorable mentions in the online Invite at wapo.st/invite1383.

Still running — deadline Monday night, May 11: our annual horse name "breeding" contest. See wapo.st/invite1382.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

"TRADE SCHOOL" By PAUL COULTER

ACROSS
1 Noble, unselfish sort
8 Copy
14 Language of the Quran
20 Magnetite, e.g.
21 Port N of Pittsburgh
22 Examine in detail
23 This year's hatchlings?
25 Influential groups
26 Quelques... a few, in French
27 One in a shell
28 ER workers
30 "Bellefleur" author
31 Half a tuba sound
32 Scrips
33 Acapulco aunt
34 Mayo is found in it
35 Quarterback Manning
37 Chopin virtuoso's self-assurance?
45 Highland hillsides
47 Attorney general after Sessions
48 Tummy muscles
49 Coal carrier
50 Greek cross in a company logo?
54 Exist
55 Diva deliveries
56 Formally commend
57 Ancient assembly areas
58 Opinion surveys on text changes?
60 Extend People
62 Santa feature
64 Kids' song refrain
65 Some QB protectors
68 Alpine peasant dress
70 Sealed
73 Animal house
74 Skateboarding move
76 Peak
78 Lover of Silvio in "Pagliacci"
80 Time to honor an aircraft manufacturer?
83 Jeered
85 Buckwheat noodle
89 U.K. honors
90 Faller of 2001

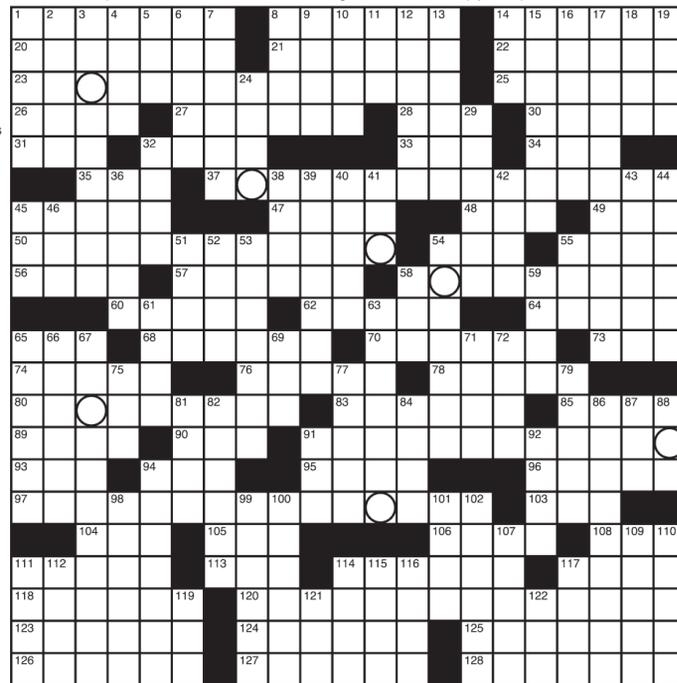
91 Shark's interim appendage?
93 Bug
94 Knock
95 Q.E.D. word
96 Hoists
97 Ripening of a Mediterranean fruit?
103 UFO crew, in theory
104 "One Mic" rapper
105 Anaheim MLB team, in crawl lines
106 Meh
108 Film buff's channel
111 Typical hole-in-one, e.g.
113 Triage ctrs.
114 Piggies' protector
117 "... saw Elba"
118 White rat, e.g.
120 Pupil with a phonetic beginning that hints at what the circled letters comprise

123 Beach locales
124 Bread maker
125 Heartfelt
126 Most massive
127 Heavy hammer
128 High houses

DOWN
1 Generate
2 Place to play
3 Become discouraged
4 Queen's offspring
5 Monopolize
6 Mountain ridge
7 Strip of vegetation
8 Chipper
9 Seriously shrunken sea
10 Baptism, for one
11 Outdoor gear brand
12 Portugal's second-largest city
13 Astrigent in red wine
14 "Tarzan" critter
15 Puts in more film

16 French satellite launcher
17 Grabbed for a chat
18 "Of course"
19 Prefix with pit
24 At one time, at one time
29 Apple browser
32 Japanese soup
36 Sufferer healed by Jesus
38 Super, slangily
39 Like some artifacts, thanks to radiocarbon
40 Clear
41 French vineyard
42 "As if"
43 Border
44 Inventor of an early stock ticker
45 Discreetly send a dupe email to
46 "Vive le...!"
51 Eastern royal
52 New
53 Limo service vehicle
54 Extend
55 "... or thought"

58 Coastal flier
59 Await judgment
61 Sistine Chapel mural setting
63 Quaint coin-op eatery
65 Surname in a 1983 Styx hit
66 Worldwide
67 Item of camping gear
69 Arid
71 Equal
72 Historic Icelandic work
75 "___ for Innocent": Grafton novel
77 Sex educator
79 So far
81 2008 TARP beneficiary renamed Ally Financial
82 Simple radio antenna
84 Eye opener?
86 Like garage parking
87 Modicum
88 Reply to a ques.
91 Bus. card info
92 Stat start
94 Is indignant about
98 Carousel traveler
99 Furry brothers
100 Programming language named for a mathematician
101 Bone: Pref.
102 Sounds
107 Bristlelike parts
109 Perfume, as at High Mass
110 Hands, in slang
111 Apiece
112 Baseball brother
114 Boston or Chicago
115 Blood type, briefly
116 Shrek, for one
117 "Giant" author
119 East, in Essen
121 Charlemagne's domain: Abbr.
122 Coffee hour vessel



5/10/20

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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY MADALYN ASLAN

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | May 10: You are a lone mover and shaker and are involved this year in an exciting project that brings you fame and riches. If single, it has been too long, and you need to find a mate who gives you emotional support. It will happen once you set your mind to it. If attached, listen more to your partner, who has invaluable suggestions. Virgo gives the best advice.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
The role of adviser or teacher comes your way today. You will process data and analyze facts with a flair that leaves others speechless. This very positive pattern promises growth and an overall improvement in standard of living throughout the months to come.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
You feel ambitious even on a Sunday, and you are anxious to get moving again and show what you can do. Your image and reputation will be enhanced. Do rituals to open doors for yourself and to stimulate your talent.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
Use caution before forming financial partnerships today, even if idly chatting. Loans you make might turn into gifts. Be wary of advice, and double-check insurance matters. A child has a fairy tale to tell you.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
Finances demand your attention. You will work hard to acquire greater security. Suddenly, the tension lessens because of a surprise windfall that might come your way. Your popularity will peak.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Get enough rest and avoid companions and situations that you know are not good for you. Your long-term wellness depends on you being your own best friend during this everlasting stay home period. The lion is growing restless.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
A relationship that was on hold moves forward today. Your kindness to a loved one who needs support adds stability to the relationship. A problem linked to child care or pet care suddenly dissolves.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Today there is an emphasis on the home and family area. Allow a

temperamental household member time and space to work on a problem. A home repair is needed. You will feel lazy and more inclined to read your book.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Ideas come from another today. There will be a great deal of commotion and many short outings. Remain focused and avoid distractions. Transportation issues might need your attention. You will long to purchase some pricey items but must resist the temptation.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Your sector of possessions and security will be accented today, so plan an online shopping period. If asked to mediate a dispute, be sure to keep any personal bias concealed.

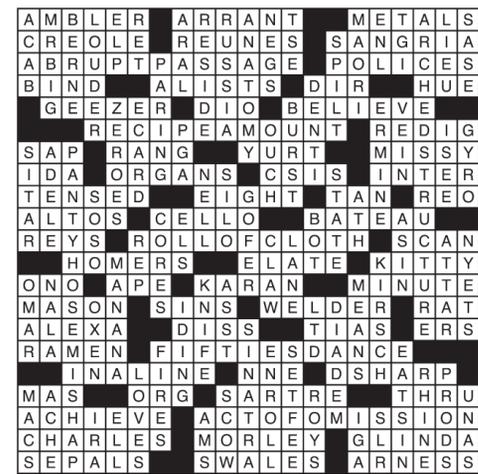
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan 19)
Today brings a very joyful trend, accenting invitations and your

popularity. Your appearance is especially pleasing. The financial prospects are promising too. It's a perfect time to prepare a list of goals and affirmation for your new season.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Today brings the perfect opportunity for self-analysis and soul-searching. It will be easier to express yourself and articulate tomorrow, but for now you need some time alone. Your physical vitality will be low. Journal and write as much as you can.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
It is a day to network and be social online. Friends inspire you to develop worthwhile goals. Avoid challenging others, because an aggressive tactic on your part might backfire. Politics within a service organization will be very satisfying.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



5/3/20