# DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

## Smirks of art: Winning captions

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1392 the Empress sought captions for four more Bob Staake creations. We shoot for ambiguity, and so we're happy that the cylinder in Picture D was seen as a can (too many people to credit labeled it **"canned laughter"**), TP and an electronic assistant, among other things. See this week's Style Conversational column for entries that focus on little details.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

### 4th place:

**Picture A:** "I'd like to spit all over everything on this table and then have you touch it, please." *(Marni Penning Coleman, Falls Church)*

### 3rd place:

**Picture C:** Harold thought a pipe would make him look distinguished. *(Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore)*

### 2nd place and the 'durian aroma paste':

**Picture B:** To save time, Sid pointed out the manager as soon as Karen approached his counter. *(Terri Berg Smith, Rockville)*

### And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

**Picture D:** "First, you're with Trump in Puerto Rico, then you're placed on American soldiers — what's next for you, Bounty?" *(Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)*

### The lost picture show: Honorable mentions

**PICTURE A**

"Are those antennae? You aliens are harder to spot with the face coverings these days." *(Nancy Della Rovere, Silver Spring)*

"Will there be anyone else exposed to madam's droplets for lunch today?" *(Howard Walderman, Columbia)*

"Is the soup du jour made with fresh or dried jour?" *(Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)*

"Frankly, I liked it better when I could see you smirking." *(John McCooey, Rehoboth Beach, Del.)*

"Tonight, TMZ finds Jiminy Cricket, his fortune squandered, waiting tables in Boca." *(Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf)*

"Me 'N' U?" I'm flattered, but I don't even know your name." *(Steve Smith, Potomac)*

Unfortunately, the waiter did not understand the Ellipsis language. *(Chuck Smith, Woodbridge)*

**PICTURE B**

"Toss me a chicken! I have to get to the Cottonelle before it sells out!" *(Robyn Carlson, Keyser, W.Va.)*

Brian immediately recognized the non-gravity of the situation and just pointed the way. *(Jeff Hazle, San Antonio)*

Instead of wearing a mask, Ethel would do her grocery shopping in one breath. *(John Hutchins, Silver Spring)*

"Quick — where can I find your arm reattachment supplies?" *(Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.; Richard Franklin, Alexandria)*

"Help! I need a fortune in ingredients I've never heard of to make a pretentious recipe to serve a bunch of people I don't even like." *(Bill Bouyer, Ocoee, Fla.)*

Ethel was hellbent on winning Piggly Wiggly's inaugural NASCART race. *(Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)*

"Look out, you're about to be stung by a giant B!" *(Jeff Contompasis)*

**PICTURE C**

"You said you wanted to try 'peeking duct,' didn't you?" *(Bill Dorner, Indianapolis)*

"What a cool periscope — your nose hairs look like icy pine needles!" *(Nancy Della Rovere)*

Conversations with M.C. Escher rarely lasted long. *(Kevin Dopart, Washington)*

"Wow! I bet you had a really hard time finding a mask that would fit." *(Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)*

Harold and Martha no longer see eye to eye, but Harold is at least trying. *(Pia Palamidessi, Cumberland, Md.)*

"Help! This Acrobatic American man is threatening my life!" *(Mike Caslin, Round Hill, Va.)*

**PICTURE D**

"My next guest is starring in a new film based on the work of Andy Warhol." *(Frank Mann, Washington)*

"So, Alexa, what prompted you to write your new tell-all about Siri?" *(Diane Lucitt, Ellicott City)*

"As agreed to by both candidates, the format for this debate will be canned answers regardless of the question." *(Drew Bennett, West Plains, Mo.)*

"I see that you've removed your label in protest, Garbanzo . . . " *(Marni Penning Coleman)*

"Fresh from her co-starring role in 'Popeye' ..." *(Ward Kay, Vienna, Va.)*

"And my next guest, fresh from that famed film festival in the south of France . . . " *(Steve Fahey, Olney)*

"Tonight we'll hear a remarkable story of survival from a K-ration who had been hiding on the Marianas since 1945, not knowing the war was over." *(Steve Smith)*

**Still running — deadline Monday night, Aug. 10: our "plus one" contest to add another element to a well-known grouping known by a number. See wapo.st/invite1395.**

## Hail Limerixicon XVII! Write a limerick featuring a 'ha-' word

**Law enforcement was wrong to endorse**
**Making SWAT teams a matter of course**
**In the war against drugs,**
**Since police become thugs**
**When they make it a HABIT of force.**
*(Chris Doyle, Week 1084)*

When we last dropped in on limerick-meister Chris Strolin, just about a year ago, his quest to create a full dictionary with every word described in limerick form had reached the gr-words. The Style Invitational has been abetting Chris's mission once a year since the infancy of OEDILF.com in 2004, with a contest for limericks that featured words from some sliver of the dictionary. (Current estimate for completion: Nov. 3, 2063.) Now we're up to ... **This week: Supply a humorous, previously unpublished limerick significantly featuring any English word, name or term beginning with "ha-,"** as in the example above — still so timely, alas — from 2014, a contest for limericks featuring fo- words.

Please see our guide "Get Your 'Rick Rolling" at **wapo.st/limericks1396** for our fairly strict rules on limerick rhyme and meter (in a nutshell: "perfect" rhyme, and a strong "hickory-dickory-dock" rhythm in Lines 1, 2 and 5; a "dickory-dock" in Lines 3 and 4; additional unaccented syllables on either side are fine). See OEDILF.com about submitting limericks there, if you like, after this contest is over.

Submit up to 25 entries total at **wapo.st/enter-invite-1396** (no capitals in the Web address). **Deadline is Monday, Aug. 17;** results will appear Sept. 6 in print, Sept. 3 online.

**Winner gets the Lose Cannon,** our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives, apropos of this contest, a useful spritz bottle of **Poo-Pourri bathroom spray,** which includes a remarkably fine limerick on the bottle:

"There once was a young lad from Rhone/ Whose odor he'd rather disown./ Now he's taming his poo/ By anointing the loo/ And now happily sits on his throne." Donated by Dave Prevar.

**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 new lusted-after Loser magnets, "No 'Bility" or "Punderachiever." 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 "Smirks of Art" is by Chris Doyle; Beverley Sharp wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at *on.fb.me/invdev*; "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 discusses each new contest and set of results at **wapo.st/conv1396.** This week she'll share various captions that note some details of the cartoons that you might not have noticed.

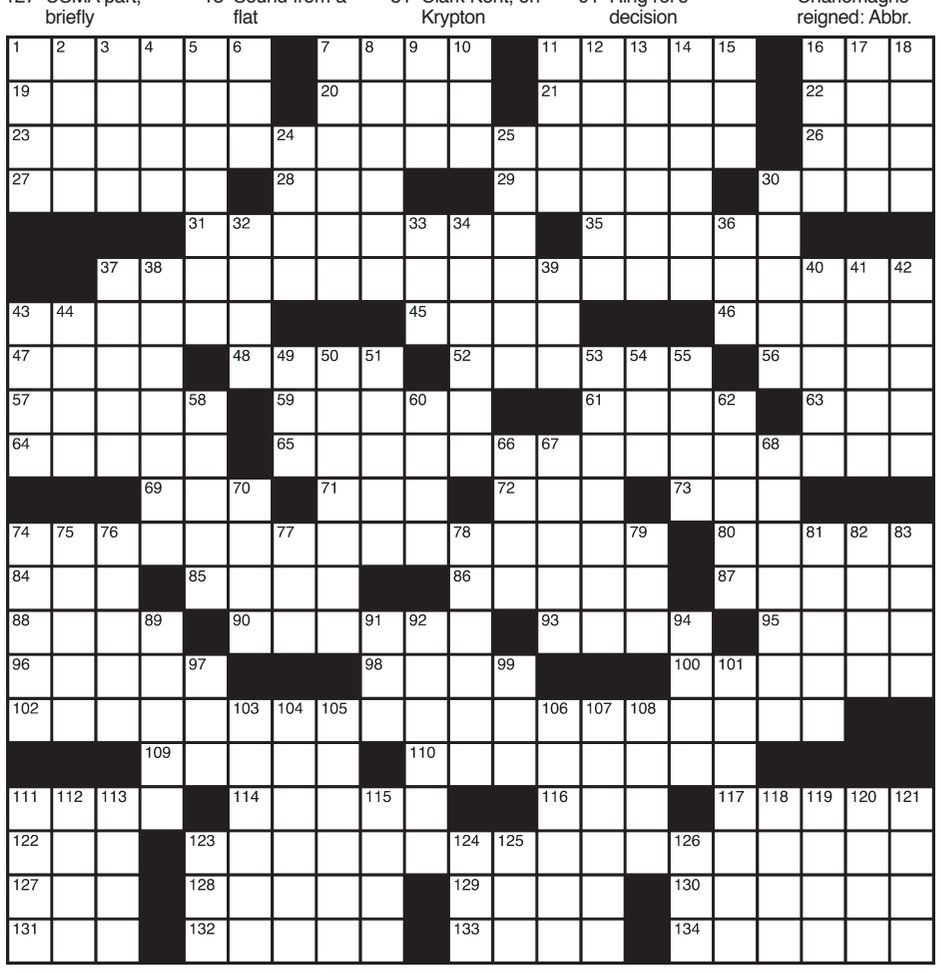
L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

**"OPENING ACT"**
**By PAM AMICK KLAWITTER**

**ACROSS**
1 Savvy
7 Degrees for corp. execs
11 Grates on
16 Couples' refuge?
19 Come to a boil
20 __ of office
21 They have Mystery and Birthday Cake varieties
22 It's tipped in a parlor
23 Appreciative freeloaders?
26 English cathedral town
27 Early mobile home?
28 Merged telecom co.
29 Brie coverings
30 Poems that glorify
31 Entrust, as authority
35 Little bitty bits
37 World conference participants?
43 Platte River valley native
45 Spherical opening?
46 Crews of "America's Got Talent"
47 "__ something I said?"
48 __ set
52 Bad way to come on
56 Garfield's foil
57 1993 Oscar nominee Rosie
59 Longtime SeaWorld star
61 Proof of ownership
63 'Neath opposite
64 Taco topping
65 "There's snowplace like home" or "I only have ice for you"?
69 FedEx alternative
71 NFL's Gronk and others
72 Special __
73 Vietnam holiday
74 Writing that's both flowery and thoughtful?
80 Sketch starter
84 U.K. locale
85 Tolstoy title name
86 Goofs around
87 B in chemistry
88 Spare tire, perhaps
90 "Nausea" novelist
93 Court cry
95 Grade
96 Sunset dirección
98 Fictional captain with the middle name Tiberius
100 Hebrew prophet
102 Time anticipated by environmentalists?
109 Time-honored words
110 It may be requested before a sentence
111 Much junk mail
114 WWI battle river
116 Time of preparation
117 Take effect
122 Old Mideast alliance: Abbr.
123 Bad dream about Cerberus?
127 USMA part, briefly
128 Beloved 1981 bride
129 Memo letters
130 Silver State NFLer
131 Sign of a hit
132 Bier holder
133 Aussie hoppers
134 Dakota del Norte, por ejemplo

**DOWN**
1 Marines NCO
2 "Over __!"
3 Gather
4 Major suffix
5 Cajole
6 Rapper Mos __
7 Like lava
8 Troublemaker
9 Absorbed, as a cost
10 Doo-wop syllable
11 Silk Road desert
12 Big sporting spots
13 Bring about
14 Much
15 Sound from a flat
16 Breezed through
17 __ of thumb
18 Florida attraction
24 Hybrid citrus
25 Fantasized
30 Bony prefix
32 Just managed, with "out"
33 "This is so relaxing!"
34 Gets ready to drive
36 Winter setting in the Rockies: Abbr.
37 Show off a new outfit, say
38 Pays to play
39 Film set VIP
40 Passion
41 Gave it a whirl
42 Watchful ones
43 Lollapaloozas
44 In the Black?
49 Top row keyboard key
50 Had success on the links
51 Clark Kent, on Krypton
53 Post-Trojan War epic
54 Prefix with con
55 Fellow
58 Frank of avant-garde rock
60 Whse. inventory
62 Geeky sort
66 Voldemort's title
67 Skating gold medalist Ohno
68 Certain footrest
70 Pacific Division NBA team
74 Clear, as a windshield
75 Calculus pioneer
76 Clear the board
77 Genetic material
78 Curie or Cardin
79 Houston-to-Miami dir.
81 Restaurant critic Claiborne
82 Raised-chair dance
83 Sarcophagus symbol
89 Second-stringers
91 Ring ref's decision
92 Ransacked
94 #30 on a table
97 Last word, say
99 Author Kesey
101 Tabasco time-outs
103 Brit's rats?
104 Greek markets
105 Mocha native
106 Grado de examen perfecto
107 Bacon and Smith
108 10 C-notes
111 Adding results
112 Couple
113 1968 self-named folk album
115 Have in mind
118 Send out
119 "Done!"
120 Ticked off
121 Roman ruler of ill repute
123 NFL scores
124 Dinghy mover
125 Muscle car in a '60s hit
126 Where Charlemagne reigned: Abbr.



8/9/20 xwordeditor@aol.com ©2020 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

**Answers to last week's puzzle below.**

HOROSCOPE

BY MADALYN ASLAN

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Aug. 9:** Influential and altruistic, you can be a tower of strength for those who need you. This year, you persuasively enter a project that you make a success. You must remember to take care of yourself. If single, it will not be long between loves, and you will give your love a next time without reserve. If attached, it is an intense bond with some competition. You love completely. Gemini lightens you up.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19)
Always courageous and energetic, challenges for you present greater inspiration to succeed. Today you will be highly motivated and argumentative. Maintain balance and perspective. Others will be aware of what you have to offer.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20)
Expect delays. Be patient if a project takes longer than expected. Reunions of all kinds, including past life connections, will be a focus. Pace yourself regarding strenuous activities. Rest for both mind and body will rejuvenate you.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)
The expectations of friends, community life and your role in an organization impacts you greatly today. Release friendships or group affiliations that you have outgrown. Some time for grief. A favor is — finally — returned.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22)
Career situations are a concern today. A difficult co-worker can be a source of worry and stress. An inspiring hunch or creative idea can change your professional prospects for the better. Your workload eases.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)
Today's influence encourages the exploration of new ideas. Visit a library or bookstore or enroll in a study program. Be patient if an in-law or grandchild seems a little demanding. Humor and talking over your differences might help.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
You'll be doing some sleuthing today. There is a mystery you are determined to solve. Travel plans or an intriguing course of study presents new perspectives. Plan to revisit destinations that have interested you before.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Associates will be quite assertive, even argumentative. Keep the competitive situations good-natured. Let others make decisions and learn through experience. You might have the last laugh in the end. You learn if you do by next week.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Today accents connections to animal companions. A new pet might adopt you. A loved animal companion might require extra attention. A dream or intuitive perception brings insight into fitness factors. Seek ways to ease a stressful daily schedule.

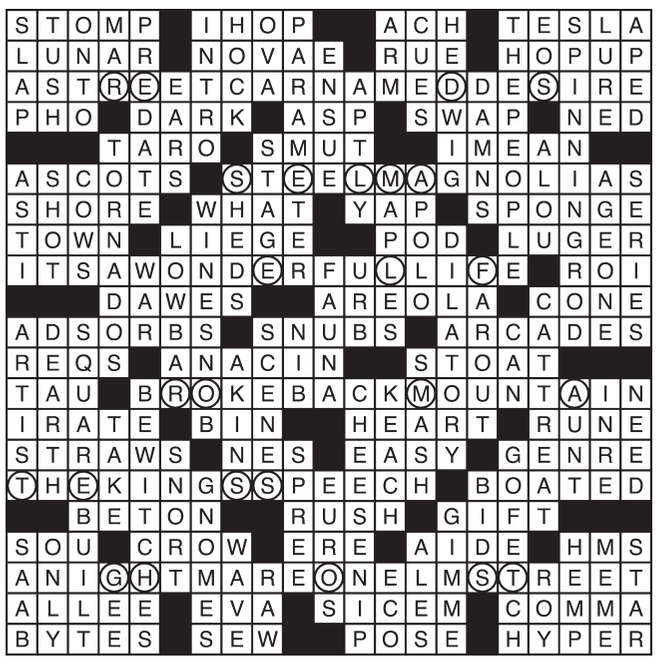
**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Your imagination and creativity are in top form. An original idea can solve a problem or generate additional income. Children have much to share. Young people are sources of inspiration, pride and hope.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan 19)
A cycle of joy begins with events and invitations. The good times roll on. Real estate transactions, interior decorating and family gatherings are a focus. Keepsakes and reunions evoke a sentimental mood.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Today is busy. Errands and short trips need attention. The pace is exhilarating and hectic. A sibling or neighbor seeks your assistance. Try your best to take time out to talk with them.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)
Explore new markets for your viable job skills. Rework your budget and seek financial advice. Prepare a prosperity blessing. Keep trying. There is value in patience. Financial rewards come in the future through a job well done in the present.

**Answers to last week's puzzle.**



8/2/20