

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Muse bulletins: Acrostic poems

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1406 we asked for **acrostic poems**, which vertically spell out a relevant word or name with the first letter of each line. While the poems had to be about the news, the Empress reminded our Loserbards that they were writing before the election, and that the results would run afterward. So many of them turned instead to some goshdarn amazing recent events that you might not have heard about. (More poems online at wapo.st/invite1410.)

4th place:

Naked teen covered in ranch dressing crashes vehicle into Kansas gas station:

Well, I've heard some strange tales, but this guy from Topeka Has got Florida Man beat — yup, he's even uneka!

One small legal point, though — and it could prove quite pressing: Are you technically naked when covered in dressing?

(Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

3rd place:

Rainbow-stuffed Oreos provoke protest

One cookie's ignited a fight: "Rainbow filling? It's always been white!

Every child will turn gay!" One Million Moms say. (Seems they hope that their kids are alt-right.)

(Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

2nd place and the beard-motif face mask:

WATER ON THE MOON

We've learned that there is water on the moon, At least a small amount bound up in glass.

They think there's also ice in shadows strewn — Enough to help us live there? To grow grass?

Run wild through lunar sprinklers, sail a yacht, Or maybe cast a line and catch a fish?

Now will our space explorers have a shot To take a low-G bath and splash and splash?

How nifty would it be to have a drink Extracted from some moon rocks? Oh, so cool!

Might astronauts do dishes in the sink, Or dare to take a dive into a pool? Oh, what if after that first step so small,

Neil's giant leap had been a cannonball? (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

Vietnamese condom factory accused of recycling used prophylactics:

HO CHI MAN

Hounding out fraud in Hanoi, Officials uncovered a ploy: Cashed condoms, though used and quite old, Had all been cleaned up and resold!

In statements that furrowed some brows and Made news, they said three hundred thousand

All sourced to one guy whose appliance Now, I guess, he'll be leaving to science. (Frank Osen)

Vertically challenged: Honorable mentions

"Library" misspelled on sign outside Indiana library:

Let's all venture forth to the place with the stacks In those long, careful rows from their fronts to their backs,

Books by the thousands, on topics galore, Religion, philosophy, science and more,

Alphanumerically placed on the shelf. Reading is power! Empower yourself!

Empower yourself to ignore what you see — Yes, I'm talking about the superfluous E. (Sarah Walsh, Rockville)

Pumpkin pie spice recalled in salmonella scare:

Say it isn't so, O Universe: As if the year had not been hard enough,

Last month we got the news (what could be worse?) More danger lurked in once-delightful stuff!

Of course we're speaking of that crucial thing Nogs, scones, and lattes take



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1410: Legends of the fall — more fictoids

In 1962, Jim Brown of the Cleveland Browns set the rushing record by a player with the same name as his team, breaking the one held by Edward Fortyniner. (Steve McClemons)

While it's true that the Pilgrims' first Thanksgiving feast did not feature turkey, it did include venison, lobster, berries, squash and fortune cookies. (Chris Murphy)

97.2 percent of veterans who don their uniforms for Veterans Day pop at least half the buttons off. (Edward Gordon)

It's The Style Invitational's fourth and final contest for fictoids about the seasons of the year. This week: Tell us some bogus trivia about autumn, or things that happen (or have happened) in autumn, as in the examples above from earlier fictoid contests on various themes. The fake facts should relate in some way to the season; don't just tack on, say, "On Oct. 15, 1966," to something that could have taken place any old time.

Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1410 (no capitals in the Web address). Deadline is Monday, Nov. 23; results will appear Dec. 13 in print, Dec. 10 online.

Winner gets the Lose Cannon, our Style Invitational trophy, or its replacement trophy (TBA). Second place receives Dress-Up Squirrel, a laminated cardboard critter standing straight up so that you can dress him/her/ them in a wondrous variety of 39 cling stickers, including men's and women's underthings, a Santa suit, an Easter Bunny headdress, leprechaun gear, a pearl necklace and, of course, a chain saw. 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 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 "Muse Bulletins" is by Chris Doyle; both Tom Witte and Jeff Contompasis offered 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; and follow @StyleInvite on Twitter. The Style Conversational The Empress's weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. See this week's at wapo.st/conv1410.



One of the countless possible cling-sticker looks to adorn Dress-Up Squirrel, this week's second prize.

advantage of Each fall, to help assuage the season's sting; Long nights may loom, but this warm taste we love Lets us forget we'll soon be scraping ice. And yet . . . perhaps we'll skip the pumpkin spice. (Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

Pundit accidentally appears on Zoom while masturbating:

CNN Internal Memo Just a brief note to all personnel Especially those of the male persuasion Frankly, we don't know why in the hell Further guidance is needed on such an occasion.

There are some rules here at CNN (Other places you've worked may well have been lax). Our standards are high, we remind you again; Best keep this in mind as you plan

your acts. Insist we must, or we'll lower the boom: No "consulting with Richard" when you're on Zoom. (David Shombert, Harrisonburg, Va.)

"Bear 747" wins Alaska park's fattest-bear contest

Fall is here; the time has come to vote; And bears know that it's time for them to bloat. Temps are dropping; there's no time to wait — Binge on salmon, then go hibernate. Every bear's in gastronomic heaven, And no one more than 747. Ripped the competition (which made sense): Seven-Forty-Sevens are immense! (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

MASKLESS:

Medically, dreadfully Anthony Fauci says Stark-naked faces are Killing us, dude! Liberty? No, it's just Egocentricity! Stop being selfish or Soon we're all screwed. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

Police called about a "homeless person" that was actually a sculpture of a sleeping Jesus:

Just walking by the churchyard, Encountering a bum; So strange to see one here now — Uptown is not a slum. Should I call in for backup? By gosh, this sure is odd; Exactly who is sleeping? Dear me — the son of God! (Mark Calandra, Wenham, Mass.)

Still running — deadline Monday night, Nov. 16: our contest to drop letters from the middle of a song title. See wapo.st/invite1409.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

"WORKPLACE SUPERSTITIONS" By LEE TAYLOR

- ACROSS
- 1 Street fights
- 9 Skippy skirt
- 13 Diacritic for a long vowel sound
- 19 Caltech city
- 20 Low-pH material
- 21 Italian innkeeper
- 22 Weather forecaster's "Don't"?
- 25 Throw away
- 26 Batter's stat
- 27 Caesar's rebuke
- 28 Manuscript marking
- 29 Beautician's "Don't"?
- 34 Pink Floyd's Barrett
- 35 Boarding aid
- 39 "American Idol" fixture until 2010
- 40 Other side
- 42 Gave a sigh
- 44 Words heard shortly after many a marriage pronouncement
- 46 Major artery
- 50 Exercise, as power
- 51 Kimono ties
- 53 Tolkien talking plant
- 54 17th/18th-century British ruling house
- 55 Little guy
- 56 "Misérables"
- 57 Home security co.
- 58 Indigenous Nepal mountain people
- 59 Bear genus
- 61 "Narc" co-star
- 63 Bona
- 64 Big name in romance fiction
- 67 Carpenter's "Do"?
- 70 Brainchild
- 71 Vulcan mind
- 72 Start of a play
- 73 Versatile game piece
- 75 Comprehensive
- 77 Wanna
- 78 Snack item
- 79 Corp. leaders
- 82 After-dinner party
- 83 Heartache
- 84 Christmas tune
- 85 They're often tapped out
- 87 Bit of character assassination

- 88 One hanging at a food court
- 90 Had a longing
- 92 Sucked (in)
- 94 Spring bulb
- 96 Follows
- 97 Doo-wop group
- 98 "Na Na
- 99 Ice skater's "Don't"?
- 102 Copied
- 103 Henry
- 104 Ages and ages
- 105 "An Essay on Criticism" poet
- 109 Banker's "Do"?
- 116 Russia, vis-à-vis Crimea, in 2014
- 117 "___ it a rest!"
- 118 Prepare for conflict
- 119 Brought up
- 120 Eject
- 121 Final shot

- 5 Big Pharma watchdog; Abbr.
- 6 Sportscaster
- 7 Berman
- 7 Harden
- 8 South American dances
- 9 Put a dent in
- 10 ___ fishing
- 11 Zippo
- 12 One stuck in traffic, at times
- 13 Fertilizer ingredient
- 14 Say further
- 15 Pianist's "Do"?
- 16 Difficult to hoe
- 17 When rights may be restricted
- 18 Fit together compactly
- 21 Climbing equipment
- 23 Two-piece suits
- 24 Words in Newton's first law
- 29 Son of Odin and Frigg
- 30 Deli option

- 31 "Famous" cookie maker
- 32 Work on a green, say
- 33 Entered permanently
- 35 Bar mitzvah celebrant
- 36 Red sign over a door
- 37 Nonbinary gender pronoun
- 38 Construction worker's "Don't"?
- 41 Deckhand
- 43 Grab a bite together
- 45 Being dragged along
- 47 Speedy
- 48 Fantasy football deal
- 49 Lost completely
- 52 Utterly infatuate
- 54 Relief from the heat
- 57 Lotion ingredients
- 58 With determination

- 60 Take to the rink
- 62 Chef's hat
- 64 Not quite right
- 65 Spiteful feeling
- 66 Classic tune
- 68 Early programming acronym
- 69 Show reverence for, as a deity
- 74 Confine with a dike, say
- 76 Northern neighbor of Chile
- 78 Took in
- 80 Restaurant window posting
- 81 Corner, in a way
- 83 Attack with enthusiasm, as a project
- 84 "The Lion King" lioness
- 86 '60s radical gp.
- 88 Area of expertise
- 89 Baseball stat
- 91 Common Market initials

- 93 Promised to attend, perhaps
- 95 Drive forward
- 97 Title holder
- 98 Temporary tattoo dye
- 100 Sonar sounds
- 101 Jungian archetype
- 102 Hardy in the neighborhood
- 105 Core
- 106 Chicago Bulls forward
- 107 Feature of some orange juice
- 108 Sport in which the entire body is a valid target
- 110 Firefighting tool
- 111 Pup's protest
- 112 Michigan in Chicago; Abbr.
- 113 Word before age or year
- 114 "60 Minutes" aier
- 115 Dennings of "2 Broke Girls"

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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY MADALYN ASLAN

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Nov. 15: Prepared, courageous and uncompromising, you never back down from a challenge. In 2021, you succeed despite all odds with a project only you could foresee. Waiting for exactly the right moment to act brings you the prize. If single, you'll experience a few fiery, volatile relationships before you find your mate. If attached, you experience greater intimacy with your partner in 2021 while traveling. Sagittarius loves the excitement of you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Future travel, new career and study opportunities, and solutions to difficult financial situations are in the wind. Your life moves forward. Enjoy this time of progress and accomplishment.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Today promises change in your schedule at home. Completely new long-term goals can emerge. Be progressive. Clinging to the past does not serve you well at this time. Maintain your faith.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Other people are interesting but unpredictable. Be philosophical about eccentric behavior or startling announcements. Detach a bit. Focus on yourself and release expectations involving others.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) There's no time like the present to address health issues. Still, don't be hasty. Be aware of how stress affects your health; gather information about options regarding any important health issues. You will enjoy trying new and experimental remedies.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) A captivating new project or exciting romantic connection adds zest to this beautiful day. The birth of a child or a wedding could be announced. Accept opportunities for public speaking or share your written thoughts.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Today brings an increasing awareness of your roots. An influential book appears that offers helpful new perspectives. Consider home improvements. A chance for reprieve arrives. Family members want to be closer. Happy memories can be created.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Today can make those near you

restless and uncertain. Adopt a live-and-let-live attitude. Offer suggestions, but keep expectations in check. A ritual oriented toward loyalty and sincerity would be apropos.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Today suggests bargain hunting and avoiding risks. Don't splurge. Recycle and make do, and financial stresses can ease. Be careful not to overspend on home improvements. Keep receipts and check the references of those with whom you do business.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Much can be accomplished, but you must focus and release stress to do your best. Control anger and impatience at all costs. A new position of leadership can be offered unexpectedly.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Today sets a quiet pace. You will feel the urge to keep a low profile. There is much you would prefer not to reveal. Dreams could offer insight into maintaining your well-being. Solutions to difficult situations are in the wind.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Today accents a new state of mind and new interests, and it brings new clarity to personal goals. A friend suggests charitable projects or deeper community involvement. Endings and beginnings must be balanced.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) The promise of new options brings hope into your life. A new residence or career path is possible. Family dynamics are shifting, as is the balance of power in your professional life. This can attract extra recognition from others.

Answers to last week's puzzle.

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