

FIND YOUR MISSION.
FIND YOUR PLACE.

CRAFT YOUR JOURNEY.

Online and Hybrid Graduate Programs

LEARN MORE

WWW.GOUCHER.EDU/JOURNEY

GOUCHER | college

Entertainment

Style Invitational Week 1431: The On-Our-Way-Back Machine

Tell how life will be different post-pandemic. Plus winning puns about historic events.



(Bob Staake for The Washington Post)

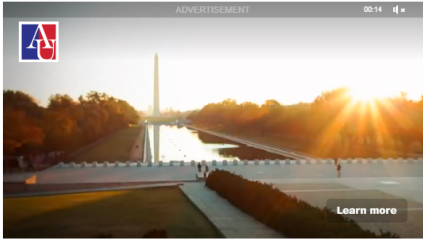
By Pat Myers

April 8, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. EDT

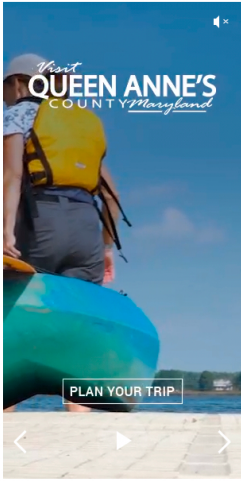
(Click [here](#) to skip down to the winning history puns — prepare to groan)

Yes, we know we're not out of the woods yet. A maddening number of people (i.e., anything over zero) have taken our progress against the pandemic as a reason to toss their masks, sneeze on one another, etc.: It's like running from a wildfire in those very woods, reaching your car, and then setting up a tripod for a really nice photo of the flames before you leave.

Still, as millions of us each day are getting jabbed up (the Empress got her second shot this past week), offices are beginning to beckon us back, traffic slows to that feels-like-old-times crawl, we can't help but think toward a post-pandemic time — as several Style Invitational readers have suggested. **This week: Tell us how (in some funny way) things will be different as we emerge from the pandemic.** We'll have to repurpose all those masks, for example. No strict format; the E is just looking for the funny. **Submit up to 25 entries at [wapo.st/enter-invite-1431](#)** (no capitals in the Web address). **Deadline is Monday, April 19;** results appear May 9 in print, May 6 online.



Winner gets the Clowning Achievement, our new Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a super-handy **hand-shaped cookie cutter**, suitable for making, duh, hand-shaped cookies whose fingers you may shape into the gesture of your choice. Donated by The Post's Karla Miller, who created the L for Loser cookie shown here.



MOST READ ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



1 How 'The Crown' shaped a generation's view of Prince Philip

2 How cartoonists are portraying the battle over Georgia's new voting law



3 What can I do in the D.C. area right now? Festivals, museums and restaurants are coming back.



4 **Perspective** 10 made-for-TV biopics to watch, from the striking 'Mahalia' to the viral 'Wendy Williams'



5 Taylor Swift rattled country music when






A printable option of the various hand gestures you can make with this week's prize cookie cutter. (Photos by Karla Miller)

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 “Puns Upon a Time” is by Chris Doyle; Chris and Jesse Frankovich both submitted the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the lively 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 will return next Thursday at [wapo.st/styleconv](#).



Our best-selling handmade jewelry including earrings, bracelets, necklaces and rings.

Shop handmade jewelry, accessories and more. Find yours today!

[Shop Now](#)



They'll give you a hand: Karla Miller's daughters Nyssa, 11, and Arya, 8, with cookies made from this week's prize. (Karla donated a brand-new cutter for us.)

The “You’re Invited” podcast: A dozen half-hour episodes, including dish from the Empress and the Czar, and tips from top Losers. **See [bit.ly/invite-podcast](#).**

[And from The Style Invitational four weeks ago . . .](#)

Puns upon a time: History wordplay from Week 1427

In Week 1427 we asked for pairs of puns about historic (or legendary) events in the “A, or B” form that was often used in the “next time” teaser on the old “Rocky and Bullwinkle” cartoon shows. Some of the dates are ballpark figures; in the case of legends, well, whatever.

4th place:

1996: Birth of Dolly the sheep, the first cloned mammal: **Don’t Need Ewe Anymore**, or **Mutton Two It** (*Ward Kay, Vienna, Va.*)

3rd place:

1869: Transcontinental Railroad completed: **Cross-Training**, or **Laid to West** (*Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.*)

2nd place

and the monster that pops out of your shirt pocket:
1858: Invention of the ironing board: **Pressing News**, or **My Joy in Creases** (*Sarah Walsh, Rockville, Md.*)

And the winner of the Clowning Achievement:

2008: Sen. John McCain announces his running mate: **Impalin’ the Ticket**, or **Wasilladvised** (*Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase, Md.*)

Lasts from the past: Honorable mentions

The biblical Flood: **On Your Ark, Get Set, Go!** or **High-Intensity Interval Raining** (*Hannah Seidel, Alexandria, Va.*)

she went pop. But her fearless release pays homage to her Nashville roots.



JustFashionNow



The Opinions Essay newsletter

Get notified of new installments in Opinions' long-form commentary series.

[Sign up](#)

By signing up you agree to our [Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy Policy](#)

JustFashionNow





God feeds the Israelites in the desert: **To the Manna Born, or Wander Bread** (*Ann Martin, Brentwood, Md.*)

500 B.C.: Hindus adopt vegetarianism: **We Can't Go on Meating Like This, or Don't Have a Cow, Man** (*Mark Raffinan, Reston, Va.*)

A.D. 40: Emperor Caligula says he'll appoint his horse as a senator: **Very Stable Genius, or Neigh on the Filly, Buster** (*Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.*)

79: Mount Vesuvius erupts: **For the Lava God, Run! or A Pompeian in the Ash** (*Jon Gearhart, Des Moines*)

— **Flashes to Ashes, or Adjust to Dust** (*Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.*)

500: Irish bishop banishes serpents: **Scoring a Pat Trick, or A Whole Lotta Snakin' Goin' On** (*Ken Gallant, Sequim, Wash.*) [there is no evidence that there have ever been wild snakes in Ireland]

1518: The [Dancing Plague of Strasbourg](#): **Soul Chorea, or In Vitus to the Party** (*Mary Ann Henningsen Frankenfeld, Oakland, Calif.*)



1600: Founding of the East India Company, which grew to dominate trade in much of Southern Asia: **Open the Bombay Doors, or India Inc.** (*Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn, Va.*)

1687: Newton's law of gravitation: **A Fruit-Fall Endeavor, or Apple-ied Science** (*Mark Raffinan*)

1688: Common soldier Charles Sanson is appointed Executioner of Paris: **The Horseless Headsman, or He'll Ax You Only Once** (*Dean Alterman, Lake Oswego, Ore.*)

1692: The Salem witch trials: **Spellbound, or Hex in the City** (*Diana Oertel, San Francisco*)

1752: Ben Franklin discovers electricity in lightning: **Go Fry a Kite, or Someone Left the Kook Out in the Rain** (*Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.*)

1783: End of the Revolutionary War: **The First Brexit, or Hicks Nix Brits in Stix** (*Stu Segal, Charlotte*)

1814: Restoration of the French monarchy: **Bonaparting Gift, or Bourbon Renewal** (*Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.*)



1824: Invention of Braille: **Give It Your Best Dot, or I Feel What You Did There** (*Hannah Seidel*)

1843: Charles Dickens's "A Christmas Carol" is published: **Whither Thou Ghost, or The Turn of the Scrooge** (*Beverley Sharp*)

1845: Andrew Jackson's parrot removed from his funeral service for swearing: **Cold Hickory, or Rites & Responsibilities of Psittacines** (*Mary Ann Henningsen Frankenfeld*)

1846: The Liberty Bell suffers a major crack: **Dud Ringer, or Toll Free** (*Tom Witte, Montgomery*)



Podcast

Post Reports

The Washington Post's daily podcast: unparalleled reports, expert insight, clear analysis. For your ears.

Add to [Apple Podcasts](#), [Google Podcasts](#)



JustFashionNow



Village, Md.)

1846-47: The Donner party disaster: **Mother and Fodder**, or **Who Wants a Pappy Meal?** (*Tom Witte*)

1879: Edison's electric bulb: **A Step in the Light Direction**, or **Filamentary, My Dear** (*Jesse Frankovich*)

1901: Huge cache of fossils is discovered on the Rancho La Brea property: **What in Tar-Nation?** or **Check Your Pits!** (*Mark Raffman*)



1904-14: Building of the Panama Canal: **Can You Dig It?**, or **Isthmus Be the Place** (*Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore*)

1912: Sinking of the Titanic: **Ay-yi-yi, Captain!** or **Ship out of Luck** (*Jonathan Jensen*)

— **Sink Along With Me**, or **I Only Have Ice for You** (*Rob Cohen, Potomac*)

1919: Conrad Hilton buys his first hotel: **Overnight Success**, or **Inn: The Beginning** (*Duncan Stevens*)

1922: King Tut's burial chamber discovered: **Mummy Dearest**, or **The Tomb Where It Happened** (*Eric Nelkin, Silver Spring, Md.*)

1929: Wall Street crash: **Stock Bottom**, or **Apocalypse Dow** (*Jesse Frankovich*)

1938: Superman debuts in Action Comics No. 1: **Kal-El-lujah!**, or **Cape Diem** (*Perry Beider, Silver Spring, Md.*)

1947: Chuck Yeager breaks the sound barrier: **OK Boomer**, or **Beware the Rides of Mach** (*Kevin Dopart, Washington*)

1953: Rosalind Franklin's under-credited discovery of DNA structure: **Up a Crick, Watson**, or **You Can Both Go to H-E-Double-Helix** (*Sarah Walsh*)

1960: Kennedy wins out over a perspiring Nixon in the first televised presidential debate: **Ugly-Sweater Contest**, or **Schvitz and Misses** (*Tom Witte*)

1967: Pirates of the Caribbean attraction opens at Disneyland: **Bring Us Your Treasure!**, or **It's Arrrr-Rated** (*Mark Raffman*)

1967: "Summer of Love" in San Francisco: **Shall We Gather by the Reefer**, or **Weed Shall Overcome** (*Jonathan Jensen*)

1974: Mikhail Baryshnikov defects from Russia: **Pointe of No Return**, or **Pliés to Meet You** (*Kevin Dopart*)

1978: Successful birth from in vitro fertilization: **Upward Motility**, or **We Couldn't Give at the Orifice** (*Rick Haynes, Boynton Beach, Fla.*)

2001: Space station returns to Earth: **Russian Back Home**, or **A Mir Drop in the Ocean** (*Cheryl Denney White, Hartsdale, N.Y.*)

2014: Body-image-embracing "All About That Bass" is a pop hit: **That Tuchus Forever**, or **Lend Me Your Rears** (*Jeff Shirley, Richmond, Va.*)

2015: Same-sex marriage legalized: **The Rainbow Connection, or Ordering Grooms' Service** (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station, Va.)

2017: Obsequiousness on display at Trump's first full Cabinet meeting: **The Fawner Points of Life, or A Hind Is a Terrible Thing to Taste** (Kevin Dopart)

2021: The national anthem sung terribly at the CPAC convention: **Bomb Bursting, or Treble Without Applause** (Duncan Stevens)

*And Last: 1993: The Style Invitational debuts: **Empressive Czarcasm, or Decency Dies in Dorkness** (Kevin d'Eustachio, Beltsville, Md.)*

*And Even Later 2003: The Empress takes over The Style Invitational: **Catch a Falling Czar, or Another Lousy Magnate** (Bruce Carlson, Alexandria, Va.)*

Still running — deadline Monday night, April 12: Our annual horse name “breeding” contest. See wapo.st/invite1430.

DON'T MISS AN INVITE! [Sign up here](#) to receive a once-a-week email from the Empress as soon as The Style Invitational and Style Conversational go online every Thursday, complete with links to the columns.

0 Comments



Pat Myers

Pat Myers is editor and judge of The Style Invitational, The Washington Post's page for clever, edgy humor and wordplay. In the role since December 2003, she has posted and judged more than 700 contests. She also writes the weekly Style Conversational column and runs the Style Invitational Devotees page on Facebook. Follow [Twitter](#)

MORE FROM THE POST

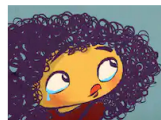
Expand access? A historic restriction? What the Georgia voting law really does.

Analysis · April 5, 2021



Carolyn Hax: Before a tough talk with her doctor, fears for tears

Perspective · Today at 12:00 a.m. EDT



Good luck with your fans, Major League Baseball

Opinion · April 3, 2021



Prince Philip, original Wife Guy

Perspective · April 9, 2021



Medical examiner says police restraint, neck compression 'more than Mr. Floyd could take'

April 9, 2021



The Opinions Essay newsletter

Get notified of new installments in Opinions' long-form commentary series.

Sign up



By submitting your email, you agree to our Terms of Use and Privacy Policy.



12 Facts About Saving Private Ryan That Will Change The Way You See The Film

[Terms of Use](#)

- [Digital Products Terms of Sale](#)
- [Print Products Terms of Sale](#)
- [Terms of Service](#)
- [Privacy Policy](#)
- [Submissions & Discussion Policy](#)
- [RSS Terms of Service](#)
- [Ad Choices](#)