

## **The Invitational Week 6: Picture This – a caption contest. Plus Questionable Journalism winners.**

**By Pat Myers and Gene Weingarten, Empress and Czar of The Invitational**

The Invitational is no longer flush with money and can no longer commission a series of cartoons from the great Bob Sub-Staake but we can still ask the Loser Community to write up some captions. In fact, since we are no longer limited by the small space on a newspaper page, we can have more pictures to choose from. **This week: Write a caption – as many as 25 total – for any of the pictures below;** they range from medieval oddities to runway shots to family photos. **Begin each caption only with the letter on the picture – as in “A. [your caption]”** – so that the Empress can sort the captions by picture.

**[CLICK HERE FOR THIS WEEK’S ENTRY FORM.](#)**

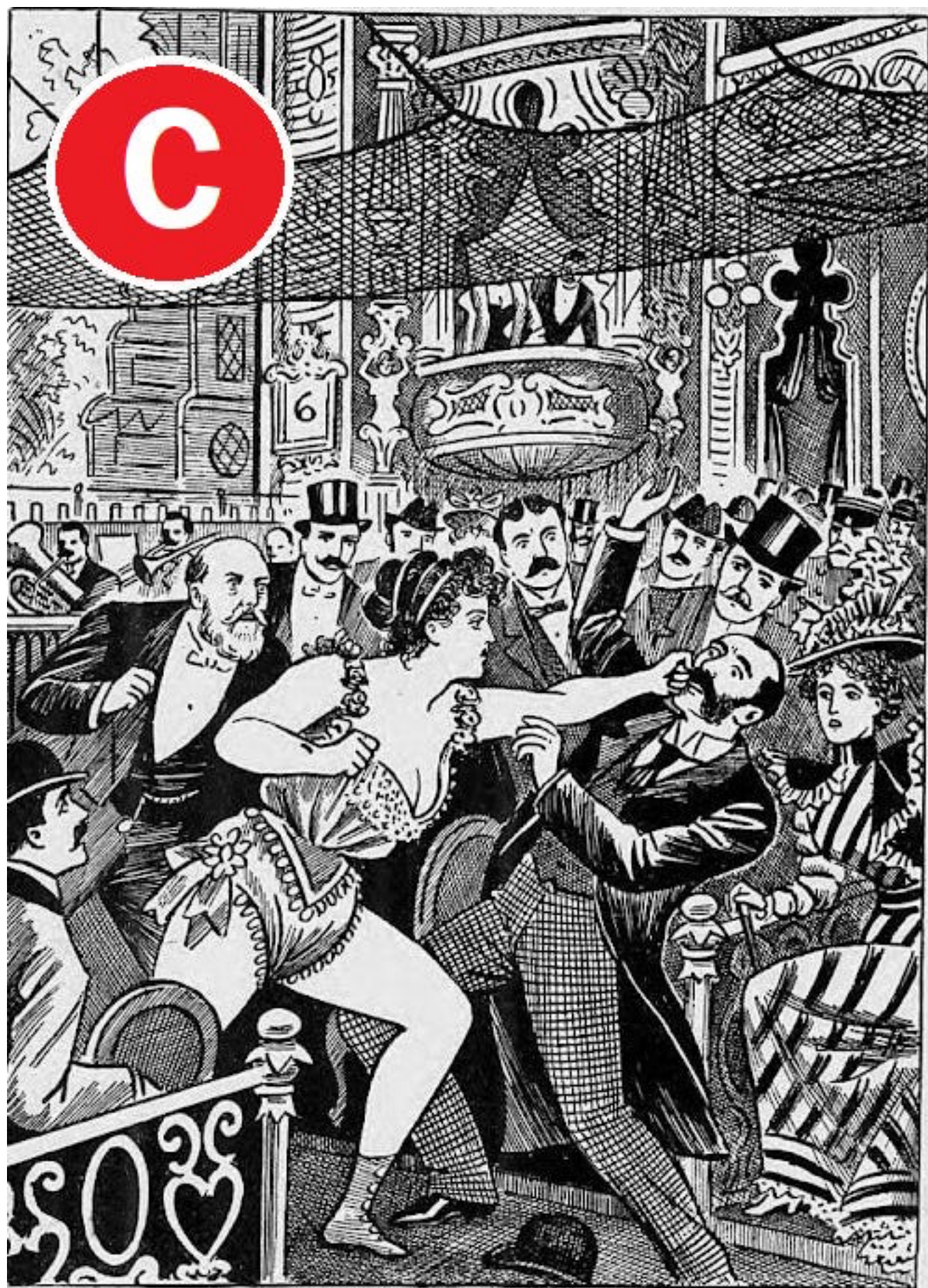
**Deadline is midnight Friday, Feb. 17. Results will run here in The Gene Pool on Thursday, Feb. 23.**

Here are this week’s pictures:





















**Winner** receives a little tin of [Instant Underpants](#) – “just add water.” Because you never know when you might suddenly need a pair of wet underpants. We have given these out several times over the years, but have never received a photo of the recipient wearing them. We’ll wait. Donated – unopened! – by Longtime Loser Edward Gordon. First Offenders receive the [Fir Stink for their first ink](#): a smelly tree-shaped air “freshener.”

[Ask a question!](#)

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And here are the results of Week 4.



ALERT: For those of you who feel that you had better entries than the one we chose, please complain immediately and at length in high dudgeon to the editors of The Washington Post.

## Asking The Har Questions: The Results of Invitational Week 4

Week 4 was another of our Questionable Journalism contests, in which Losers could choose any sentence from something published that week, and pair it, A&Q-style, with a question it could answer. Click on the links to see the original contexts.

*Third runner-up:*

A. ["I don't know where this will go."](#)

Q. What did he say that told you he wasn't quite the playa he'd claimed to be? (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

*Second runner-up:*

A. ["There is a big grassroots movement that's sprung up."](#)

Q. What did the plumber say after using his plunger on the vegan's toilet? (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

*First runner-up:*

A. ["Milk is released immediately upon sucking."](#)

Q. What happens when a farmer trains cows to judge "American Idol" auditions? (Leif Picoult, Rockville, Md.)

*And the winner of the [Joys of Jell-O cookbook](#):*

A. [The tortoise was discovered in a restroom at Harry Reid International Airport in Las Vegas.](#)

Q. Mr. Hare, what are the grounds for your allegation that your opponent cheated?

(Mike Gips, Bethesda, Md.)

## **Dregs, the Questions: Honorable Mentions**

A. [Banishing it has become a conservative cause across the nation and a priority of DeSantis.](#)

Q. Does basic human decency stand a chance? (Judy Freed, Deerfield Beach, Fla.)

A. [Teachers who are trying out the draft curriculum said it has been popular.](#)

Q. How have students responded to the new “Pub Crawling 101” course? (Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.)

A. [You should try to welcome any disruptions to your routine with open arms.](#)

Q. Now that we members can carry guns in the House, Mr. Speaker, how would you advise dealing with the pesky news media? (Chris Doyle)

A. [“Ready to go. Up to date on shots and deworming.”](#)

Q. How does a Tinder profile show you’ve taken the covid advice of both the CDC and Donald Trump? (Jon Carter, Fredericksburg, Va.)

A. [Will bad actors use AI to promote bigotry or hijack nuclear weapons?](#)

Q. Any guesses about what’ll be in that new movie with Nicolas Cage and Kristen Stewart? (Mark Raffman)

A. [“Aim for the head,” he said.](#)

Q. How did the Navy captain summarize bathroom etiquette? (Kevin Dopart, Washington, D.C.)



A. The layoffs included two dozen massage therapists.

Q. What was the first indication that Trump had vacated the White House?  
(Karen Lambert, Chevy Chase, Md.)

A. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy demanded a Gang of Eight intelligence briefing from the president on the balloon.

Q. Why did President Biden say there was only room for six people on his balloon? (Richard Wexler, Alexandria, Va.)

A. I can see where we can find common ground.

Q. Instead of this \$20-a-pound whole-bean coffee, don't you guys just sell a can of Maxwell House? (Kevin Dopart)

A. I wish it was more transparent, because that's what it's all about.

Q. What do you think of my new warm-weather burlap windshield? (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

A. "I was able to knock down some shots in the second quarter which really helped."

Q. How have you been coping with your low approval ratings on the economy, Mr. President? (Jon Gearhart)

A. I was sitting among a group of friends and strangers, cheering for a group of boys participating in a ceremony with their mothers.

Q. What's is like watching "MILF Manor" at a bar? (Kevin Dopart)

A. "There will be a chess match along the lines."

Q: What is the worst idea ever for a Super Bowl halftime show? (Steve Honley, Washington, D.C.)

A. Our main finding out of this is that fat matters a lot.

Q. What life lessons can be gleaned from the lyrics of Sir Mix-a-Lot? (Sam Mertens, Silver Spring, Md.)

A. Far from it.

Q. Where should I stand to take a selfie with a water buffalo? (Chris Doyle)

A. This ordinance was originally agendized at an October City Council meeting.

Q. Is there any progress on your proposal to ban the verbing of nouns? (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

A. “That moon-white face turns toward us, with a jagged line of black makeup running through it like a crack.”

Q. How can you tell when Rudy Giuliani has just dyed his hair? (Leif Picoult)

A. They don’t care about being invited to elite parties in Georgetown.

Q. What’s the philosophy of the Georgetown Party-Crashers’ Guild? (Duncan Stevens)

A. The Federal Reserve Board announced that it was transferring \$107 billion into Treasury’s accounts.

Q. How can the government afford to keep eggs on the menu at military bases? (Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore)

A. Moderates have seemed willing to turn a blind eye to any potential overreach so long as Bolsonaro’s movement is contained.

Q. Why isn’t there a bigger uproar in Brazil after the outgoing president looted, vandalized and left his BM in a shoebox at the presidential palace? (Bill Dorner, Indianapolis)



A. Fifty bucks per foot.

Q. Besides reduced sentences for donating their organs, what else does Massachusetts plan to offer prisoners? (Chris Doyle)

A. “They are hyper-focused on the opportunity to breed, and they therefore lose some of their wits.”

Q. Why do so many high school boys perform poorly on standardized tests? (Lee Graham, Reston, Va.)

A. Seen from the ground, their ephemeral parabolas look like calligraphic brushstrokes.

Q. What was it that William F Buckley said about forward passes? (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn, Va.)

A. “Will anyone I know be happier if I save this?”

Q. What thought process do you *NOT* want lifeguards to engage in? (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase, Md.)

A. If the outcome is No. 2, then they’ll be kind enough not to shove the U.S. economy off a cliff.

Q. Why might we want to try giving the Freedom Caucus a dose of a gentle laxative? (David Smith, Pleasanton, Calif.)

A. “They poop prolifically, and their droppings—thanks to their olive-heavy diet—are oily and slick.”

Q: What State Department travel warning offended the Greek ambassador? (Leif Picoult)

A. She gets through the day by flinging open her windows for some fresh morning air, lighting incense and wiping the soles of her shoes.

Q. How does Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene deal with the stress of trampling on the dreams of immigrants and the  
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ss fortunate? (John Hutchins, Silver Spring Md.)

A: The pagination.

Q: Is there anything on George Santos's resume that's accurate? (David Garratt)

A. Just a single new cutting-edge chip-making facility costs \$20 to \$25 billion.

Q. Why are Lay's and Pringles so expensive? (Frank Osen)

A. "It was just annoying to do it over and over and over again."

Q. How did my wife explain to our couples therapist why we had sex only three times during our five years of marriage? (Jon Ketzner, Cumberland, Md.)

A. It depends on who you are speaking to.

Q. Does it matter if I mix up subjective and objective pronouns? (Roy Ashley, Washington, D.C.)

A. 1 Roma tomato, seeded and diced.

Q. What's the dinner special at the Institute for Runway Models and Ballerinas? (Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

A. The caller identified himself as "General Matthew Weyer," said he was stationed in Afghanistan and needed money to ship a box to the United States.

Q. How did George Santos use the phone to raise money for his Congressional run? (Karen Albamonti, North Kingstown, R.I.)



*And Last:*

A. [Enter the storm door.](#)

Q. For this week's Invitational, should I submit my latest racist joke, sexist joke or storm door joke? (Jeff Contompasis)

*The headline "Har Questions" is by Beverley Sharp; the honorable-mentions subhead is by Bill Dorner.*

**Ingest foodstuffs with genuine Losers!** This month's Loser Brunch is at Asian Palace in Columbia, Md., on **Sunday, Feb. 19**, at noon. (The E has to miss this one, alas.) More info and RSVP at [Our Social Engorgements](#) on the Losers' website, NRARS.org.

Banter and share humor with the Losers and the Empress in the [Style Invitational Devotees](#) group on Facebook; join and the Devs will anagram your name every which way. And see more than 1,000 classic Invite entries in graphic form, also on FB, at [Style Invitational Ink of the Day.](#)