

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Quip art: Winning cartoon captions

BY PAT MYERS

Of the 1,000-plus captions submitted for the four Bob Staake cartoons in **Week 1256**, about a dozen offered "Hey, my eyes are down here" for Picture B, while numerous others identified the man in Picture A as a Grateful Dead fan.

4th place

PICTURE C: Mr. Kershaw didn't seem very concerned when his new TV wafed to the floor. (Barbara Turner, Takoma Park)

3rd place

PICTURE A: Today's death metal music goes right over Harvey's head. (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

2nd place and the hat promoting an off-color-named fan colony

PICTURE D: It's moldy! I should've known not to buy a Henry Moore sculpture at Kmart! (Warren Tanabe, Annapolis)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

PICTURE B: Judge Moore regretted hitting on Sabrina the Teenage Witch. (Mark Raffman, Reston)

Pic noes: Honorable mentions

PICTURE A
It turns out that it wasn't "his master's voice" that kept Nipper staring at the Victrola. (David Garratt, Silver City, N.M.)

Winthrop cleverly repurposed his old organ grinder. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Contemplating Nana's disappearance, Chuck suddenly realized why the device was called a gramophone. (Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg, Va.)

Reginald occasionally lets his skeletons out of the closet for a dance party. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village, Md.)

Armand really wanted a Victrola, but could only afford a Vitriola. (Jeff Hazle, San Antonio)

"Ethel, I said I wanted to hear '76 TROMbones!" (Hildy Zampella, Falls Church, Va.)

Edison was irked by the ribbing — and femuring, skulling and pelvising — that he received over his new invention, the bonograph. (Christy Tosatto, Brookeville, Md.)

Amid the distractions of the crime scene, investigators failed to notice that Mr. Bentley had planted marijuana in the Stanley Cup. (Mark Raffman)

PICTURE B

"But Blair said that when I was in town I should look up his sister." (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

"And if you think this is weird, let me show you what's in my briefcase." (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

Once again he lost his head and panted after the first pretty girl to walk by. (Dudley Thompson, Cary, N.C.)

"Baby, I'm head over heel for you." (Joanne Free, Clifton, Va.; Edward Gordon, Austin)

"It's called extreme ventriloquism — anyone can throw their voice..." (Jeff Shirley, Richmond)

"Madam, I was *not* staring at your chest. I am a leg man." (Andrew Hoenig, Rockville; Ward Kay, Vienna, Va.)

Bill should have read the consent form for his knee replacement

more carefully. (John Hutchins, Silver Spring)

No one was fooled by the guy shooting upskirt photos once the head fell off his dummy. (Tom Witte)

"You should see my sister — she wears her heart on her sleeve." (Steve Fahey, Kensington)

"Hey, baby, show me what you got!" yelled the knee jerk, hoping to get a reaction. (Art Grinath, Takoma Park, Md.)

Fred lost his malpractice suit after the judge ruled that his face functioned perfectly. (Dave Prevar, Annapolis)

Greg suddenly realized why women weren't interested in him: His jacket was missing half of its lapels. (Duncan Stevens)

PICTURE C

Distracted by the sports section, Frank would soon find out he was standing next to a huge envelope full of fire ants. (Jesse Frankovich, Grand Lodge, Mich.)

The only thing worse than getting TP stuck to your shoe? Getting King Kong's TP stuck to your shoe. (Todd DeLap, Fairfax)

The driverless carpet still requires more road-testing. (John O'Byrne, Dublin)

"I'm not sure what's stranger: that a sheet of drywall just randomly fell on my toe, or that my newspaper is made of rigid steel." (Bill Dornier, Indianapolis)

"Search Continues for Letter I Stolen From 'PUBLIC PARKING' Sign." (Jesse Frankovich)

Having a sheet of drywall fall on his foot became the second-biggest shock of Frank's day when he was reading that the Browns actually won a game. (Jesse Frankovich)

PICTURE D

Irma just had to try the pitted Fukushima avocados. (John McCooney, Rehoboth Beach, Del.)

By late 2017, the Pinocchiofruit had become a real problem. (Brad Levy, Lawrence, Kan., a First Offender)

Mrs. Bunyan was annoyed at the size and expense of the toilet bowl scrubber she needed to buy. (John Folse, Bryans Road, Md.)

"No, Zork, you can *not* ride in the little seat!" (Frank Mann, Washington)

"These darn food section recipes always have one exotic ingredient, but 'giant bewhiskered hambone' takes the cake." (Jeff Lubbers, Takoma Park, Md.)

Irene was totally pumped to find the perfect Style Invitational prize. (Jesse Frankovich; Duncan Stevens)

Disagree on the winners? Vote for your favorites at wapo.st/conv1260.

Still running — deadline Tuesday night, Jan. 2: our contest for euphemisms. See wapo.st/invite1259.

New contest for Week 1260: What lies (are) ahead for 2018

Jan. 15, 2018: Former senator Al "Handsy" Franken posts a Facebook message announcing that he is embarking on a new career and has been hired as an airport TSA screener.

Sept. 15, 2018: Harassment accusations take down another prominent entertainer when four different puppets accuse ventriloquist Jeff Dunham of "inappropriate touching," "repeated confinement in a locked trunk" and "showing his hand up our backsides."

It's hard to imagine what news events could be more astonishing than the "no, it's not the Onion" jaw-droppers we've encountered daily throughout 2017. But it was also hard to imagine anyone could write a funny song parody about sea urchin sushi, and the Loser Community did just fine with that contest, too. So we're bringing back a contest we did seven years ago, inspired by Loser Malcolm Fleschner's annual "Year in Preview" in his San Jose Mercury-News humor column "Culture Shock." **Jokingly predict some news event to happen in 2018**, as in the examples above from Malcolm's column.

Submit entries at the website wapo.st/enter-invite-1260 (all lowercase).

Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our new Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a battery-operated "Instant Audience" gadget that, at the push of any of four buttons, will supply you with several seconds of "applause," "crickets," "rimshot" or "boo." "This is not a toy," the package announces sternly. So you'll have to find a serious application for it. Donated by Dave Prevar. (Applause for Dave.)

Other runners-up win our "You Gotta Play to Lose" Loser Mug or our Grossery Bag, "I Got a B in Punmanship." Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, "No Childishness Left Behind" or "Magnum Dopus." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). **Deadline is Monday night, Jan. 8;** results published Jan. 28 (online Jan. 25). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The "Quip art" headline was submitted by both Chris Doyle and Danielle Nowlin; Kevin Dopart 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" 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 discusses each new contest and set of results. Especially if you plan to enter, check it out at wapo.st/styleconv.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

"ALIEN NATION" By ROBERT E. LEE MORRIS

- ACROSS
- 1 Turn in the box
- 6 Pour out forcefully
- 10 Sailing
- 14 Dip providing potassium, for short
- 18 Drink with an umbrella
- 20 Scat legend, familiarly
- 21 Diamond slip-up
- 22 Austen classic
- 23 "Menace to society"
- 25 "Old-school letters"
- 27 A or Angel
- 28 "Immediately, if not sooner!"
- 30 Jeweler's assortment
- 31 Doc's orders
- 34 Ryan in a 1998 film, e.g. Abbr.
- 36 Macho guys
- 38 Party animals?
- 42 BWI posting
- 43 Word on a wanted poster
- 45 Canine protection
- 47 Prefix with polli
- 48 Kind of milk or sauce
- 49 "Tropical cocktail"
- 51 Pledged, in a way
- 53 Common FM radio fare
- 55 Hands over
- 56 Sign off on
- 57 Bring out
- 58 "Can I have a ___ of your drink?"
- 59 "That was close!"
- 60 Coll. term
- 61 Trial version
- 62 Look forward to
- 64 Coolly dispassionate
- 66 MLB stat
- 68 "Neckwear for which Mr. T was once famous (but no longer wears)"
- 70 Issue opener?
- 71 They're sold as is
- 73 Choral composition
- 74 Former Laker star Lamar
- 77 Manhattan suffix
- 78 Partner
- 79 Pine ___
- 80 Spot on a horse
- 82 Not insist on payment of, as a debt
- 84 Weasel-like animal also called a honey badger

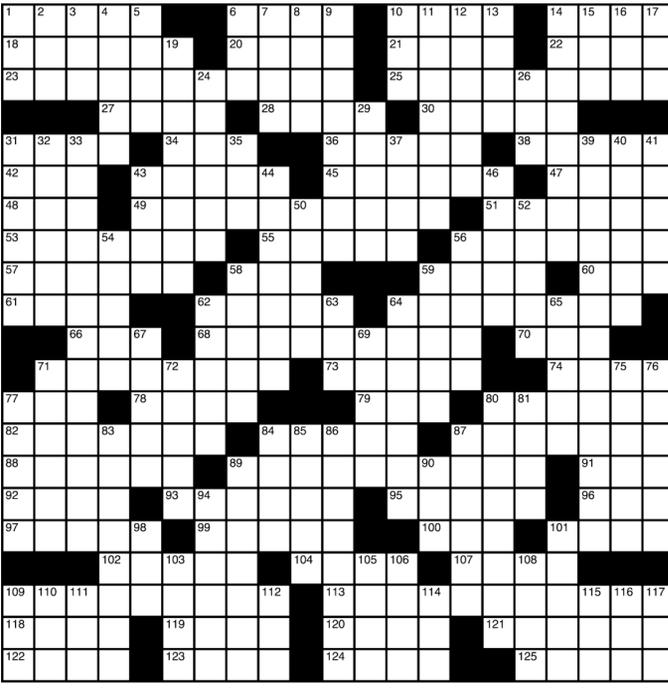
- 87 Pirate's ship
- 88 Hydrocodone, e.g.
- 89 "Hobby shop purchase"
- 91 "___ Got a Secret"; old game show
- 92 Hemsworth of "The Hunger Games"
- 93 Justice replaced by Gorsuch
- 95 Major artery
- 96 Zilch
- 97 Broad valleys
- 99 Divvy up
- 100 Part of Q and A: Abbr.
- 101 "By Jove!"
- 102 "Gone With the Wind" family name
- 104 Nothing to write home about
- 107 Loads
- 109 "Deluge"
- 113 Remote region ___ and what literally ends each answer to a starred clue
- 118 Wheel connector

- 119 "In that case ..."
- 120 Leg up
- 121 Body shop application
- 122 Close by
- 123 Legal document
- 124 What Jack Sprat's wife couldn't eat
- 125 Factions
- DOWN
- 1 Power-increasing gadget
- 2 19th Greek letter
- 3 Lobster eater's accessory
- 4 Aid in planning a trip
- 5 Follow
- 6 One percent of a D.C. group— or the group itself
- 7 Earnest request
- 8 O'Neill's "Desire Under the ___"
- 9 Winning by a mile
- 10 Six-pack set

- 11 Italian Riviera resort
- 12 Friend of Jerry, George and Cosmo
- 13 Comparable
- 14 Idaho nickname
- 15 Actress Thurman
- 16 Brest friend
- 17 Silent ___: White House nickname
- 19 Factory with frozen assets
- 24 "Dr." with MVP awards
- 26 Some smartphones
- 29 Rigatoni alternative
- 31 Fit together
- 32 French star
- 33 "Soap, often"
- 35 Playground game
- 37 Fancy wheels
- 39 "Flu symptoms"
- 40 Storybook sister
- 41 Doomed biblical city
- 43 Mine, in Metz
- 44 Church gatherings

- 46 Three-star mil. officer
- 50 Hardly gung-ho
- 52 "Crocodile Hunter" Steve
- 54 Brahms creation
- 56 "Ooh! I know this! Gimme ___"
- 58 Promised
- 59 Tradesperson
- 62 Type type
- 63 Channel for film buffs
- 64 Tree with long beanie-like pods
- 65 Houses with layers
- 67 Fess up
- 69 Monopoly piece
- 71 Word from the Greek for "not a place"
- 72 Succumbs to pressure
- 75 Singer Newton-John
- 76 Just
- 77 Music to a bluffer's ears
- 80 "Keep going!"
- 81 Square measurement

- 83 Words a pinball wizard hates to see
- 84 Hot streak
- 85 "So long, José"
- 86 Kitchen cloth
- 87 "The Tonight Show" character with a turban
- 89 Vague unease
- 90 Mauna ___
- 94 Wine choice
- 98 Short
- 101 Navel type
- 103 Extremely dry
- 105 Debate team, for example
- 106 Gymnast Korbut
- 108 Yours and mine
- 109 Solo in "Star Wars"
- 110 PC file suffix
- 111 SEC powerhouse
- 112 Drop off
- 114 Man cave setting
- 115 HBO competitor
- 116 Collecting Soc. Sec.
- 117 What birthday candles represent: Abbr.



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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY DAVID BETANCOURT

HAPPY BIRTHDAY(Dec. 31: This year could provide many unusual moneymaking opportunities. It will please you to build your security and not worry so much about what is happening. Be more in touch with your needs. If you are single, you easily could meet the one. If you are attached, the two of you work together to create a bigger net of security. In general, you both have many cohesive ideas that support your relationship. Gemini can be quite disruptive in your life.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
You could be on a symbolic journey that might be difficult to stop at the moment. Make time for yourself as well as others. You might need to verbalize why your attitude suddenly has changed.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
You could be in a situation where you find change difficult. You tend to want everything written in stone. Recognize that shaking up the status quo could take a lot of effort, but somehow you'll fit that flexibility into your New Year's resolution.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
You might feel as if you must play the role of host or hostess of the New Year's party tonight, even if it's not at your home. You tend to be better at facilitating people's enjoyment than many others are.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
You will want to rethink a situation and make headway with a problem. The other parties involved might not be clear about what they are seeking. Perhaps they would like to kick back, reflect on the year and get ready to christen the new year.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Excitement surrounds friends. You might have to remind others of the meaning of what is about to happen. Brainstorm with a loved one who could be looking at a long-term goal. Be there for this person, and help them find the best solution.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
You'll become more in touch with who you want for your new year. You are likely to verbalize that desire so that not only the others can hear it, but also those around you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
You'll wonder what is possible if

you just relax and go along with the moment. A friend makes a considerable difference in your life. Acknowledge this person for what they do for you, and express your full appreciation.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Not everything or everyone falls into place today. Listen to your inner voice, as it will guide you in the right direction. Hook up with friends and let whatever needs to happen occur. You are ready to make some big decisions, but are others ready?

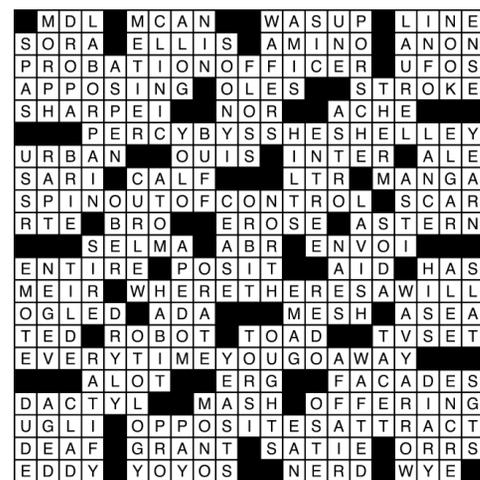
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
You could be surprised by what others are up to. If you slow down and think about what's happening with each individual, you will enjoy relating to them more fully. You work well with surprises.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
You don't need to look too far to find a friend with whom you would like to visit. As you go over your year, you are likely to see opportunities that you have missed. Decide to become more aware of all the possibilities that the new year presents.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
You naturally assume the right mood for the moment. How you see a changing situation could be too complicated for you to explain. You know how to weave the worst mess into a fun happening.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Honor what is happening around you and be willing to make a major adjustment to your New Year's plans, if need be. How you deal with a changeable matter could surprise many people.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



12/24/17