

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Q-shticks: Report from Week 1320

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1320**, our recurring Questionable Journalism contest, we asked readers to choose any sentence from a publication dated that week and write a question it could answer (if oddly).

4th place:

*Sentence in a Post story:* **She suggests keeping 12, and her preference is for all matching mugs for a calmer look.**  
*Question it might answer:* **How does Marie Kondo recommend that police departments organize their "Most Wanted" posters?** (Steve Honley, Washington)

3rd place:

*Post story:* **A cloud can amplify global warming, or it can limit it, depending on what kind of cloud it is, and its size, location, thickness, duration, etc.**  
*Question:* **How did the first draft of "Both Sides Now" start?** (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

2nd place and the electronic piano-keyboard necktie:

**A. Tip-off is 7 p.m.**  
**Q. So you think the Mueller report is going to be leaked?** (Drew Bennett, West Plains, Mo.)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

**A. "I was tasked with the job of stopping the run and I do take pride in that."**  
**Q. So, Mr. Putin, you admit sabotaging the Clinton campaign?** (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

Ask-naught: Honorable mentions

**A. No one wants to see a baby in distress.**  
**Q. Why does the president usually watch cable news by himself?** (Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)  
**A. The Wizards' defensive woes have been especially evident in how they defend the paint.**  
**Q. Did you hear the Klan leaders' pathetic comments over the blackface picture in Gov. Northam's yearbook?** (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

**A. "Soybean prices are in the toilet right now."**  
**Q. What happened when the grocery tagger had to bring his toddler to work with him?** (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station)

**A. "I was super excited for him because I knew it was a very hard accomplishment."**  
**Q. Vice President Pence, why did you give the president a standing ovation for attending the 9 a.m. Cabinet meeting?** (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

**A. You might feel as if you have pushed too hard.**  
**Q. What if my new baby ends up halfway across the delivery room?** (Mark Raffman, Reston)

**A. "FLOTUS, hands down."**  
**Q. What did Mick Mulvaney shout in the West Wing after asking if anyone was planning to leave in the next 12 months?** (Kevin Dopart)

**A. And the icing on the cake was the taxes.**  
**Q. What else happened at your accountant's birthday party?** (Duncan Stevens)

**A. A kiss based on one person's joy and another person's non-consenting shock isn't really a perfect kiss.**  
**Q. What were the early, rejected lyrics to "As Time Goes By"?** (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

**A. "We don't have to settle for being as terrible as Donald Trump."**  
**Q. When the GOP adopted its "Let's settle for being as terrible as Donald Trump" strategy, what advice did it reject?** (Duncan Stevens)

**A. "It is a hell that no person deserves."**  
**Q. Why did Satan say he quit working at the White House?** (John Hutchins, Silver Spring)

**A. Just who is Patrick Shanahan?**  
**Q. Mr. President, Patrick Shanahan has been on the job for six months. What's your estimation of his effectiveness so far?** (Elden Carnahan, Laurel)

**A. "Saturday and Sunday weren't as successful as we had hoped, but that's just part of the**



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1324: Chapter and worse

**Exodus, as told by Donald Trump:** "See, Pharaoh was weak and had bad judgment. He let in all these people (no wall!). And then when they wanted to leave, he said no! Can you imagine!?"  
**... by Karl Marx:** "Ultimately the inevitable worker revolution took place, hastened by some fortunate meteorological phenomena."  
**... by Dr. Seuss:** "Who took you from Egypt and split the Red Sea? There's only ONE GOD and that ONE GOD is ME."

This week's contest was the idea of Hall of Fame Loser Mark Raffman, who'll be recounting the story of the Exodus, in some form or other, at a Passover Seder next month (just in time for this week's results). **This week: Tell or describe a Bible story, or another classical or folk tale, very briefly (75 words would be lengthy) in the voice of a particular author or other person, as in Mark's examples above, which could be three different entries or one combined one (the Empress might choose).**

Submit entries at [wapo.st/enter-invite-1324](http://wapo.st/enter-invite-1324) (all lowercase).  
 Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy.

Second prize receives a little volume titled **"The Golfer's Prayer Book,"** by Dominican nun (and golfer) Dorothy K. Ederer. Sister Dorothy recasts various passages of Scripture in a duffer-centric way, such as the 23rd Psalm: "... Even though I end up at times in rough places, I have no fears ... With my woods and irons, I progress from tee to greens with hope and exultation." You may chuckle, but yea, Sister D., on June 28, 1994, scored a hole in one on the 10th hole at Ridgeview Golf Course. Donated by Loser Daphne Steinberg.

**Other runners-up** win our "You Gotta Play to Lose" Loser Mug or our "Whole Fools" Grossery Bag. Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, "We've Seen Better" or "IDiot Card." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). **Deadline is Monday night, April 1 (no joke!);** results published April 21 (online April 18). See general contest rules and guidelines at [wapo.st/InvRules](http://wapo.st/InvRules). The headline "Q-shticks" is by Kevin Dopart; Chris Doyle wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the Style Invitational Devotees 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](http://wapo.st/styleconv).

**learning process."**  
**Q. What did God say to His co-workers on Day 8?** (Duncan Stevens)  
**A. Banging the table, she added, "Why can't I use that watermelon?"**  
**Q. When do you realize your new girlfriend is just too kinky for you?** (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)  
**A. Their white tops reflect lots of solar radiation back into space.**  
**Q. What role does the Green New Deal envision for bald Nebraskans in combating global warming?** (Steve Honley)  
**A. Bowser declined to weigh in on the reported compromise proposal.**  
**Q. How was Mario's new offer for the release of Princess Peach received?** (Jesse Frankovich)  
**A. Excess drooling during breakfast may not set off your internal alarms, but finding puddles on your floors might be cause for concern.**  
**Q. How can I tell I'm watching too much cable news?** (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)  
**A. "If I had even 1 percent of that amount of money, you would never see or hear from me ever again."**  
**Q. "Tell me, darling: if you won the lottery would you take me around the world?"** (Beverly Sharp)  
**A. It wasn't like, "Well, if this doesn't work out I can go back home."**  
**Q. Did you have any reservations about deciding to burn down your house for the insurance money?** (Danielle Nowlin)  
**A. I have attended 45 back-to-school nights over the past 40 years.**  
**Q. So how has the rhythm method worked for you?** (Jeff Contompasis)

**A. The more things change, the more they stay the same.**  
**Q: How's progress on the Post's initiative to avoid using clichés?** (Mark Raffman)  
**A. "I was telling everybody I wasn't going to cry and all that, and I got to the final buzzer and it just kind of hit me."**  
**Q. What did the winner say at the end of the viral Bee Sting Challenge?** (Tom Witte)  
**A. I need some help setting boundaries with a friend who has a hard time reading social cues.**  
**Q. How did "Pence-ive on the Potomac" start his letter to Dear Abby?** (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf; Barry Koch, Catlett, Va.)  
**A. A brutal Arctic air mass is about to take over the United States.**  
**Q: After predicting an early spring, why did Punxsutawney Phil join the witness protection program?** (Dave Silberstein, College Park)  
**A. "I think in certain places that's not going to be received very well."**  
**Q. What happens if I throw a ball to the Redskins' pass-catchers?** (Duncan Stevens)  
**A. Mr. Kraft hugged her and gave her a \$100 bill. ... He was on his way 14 minutes after he arrived.**  
**Q. How do we know who in the Patriots organization, other than Tom Brady, is rich and has a quick release?** (Jon Ketzner, Cumberland, Md.)  
**A. "Go in there and kick ass."**  
**Q. What was Shakespeare's first draft of the St. Crispin's Day speech in "Henry V"?** (Duncan Stevens)  
**Still running — deadline Monday night, March 25: Our contest to delete letters from the beginning and/or end of a movie title. See [wapo.st/invite1323](http://wapo.st/invite1323).**

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

**"POLLINATION" By JASON MUELLER**

**ACROSS**  
 1 "Behind the \_\_\_ I'll convey myself"  
 6 Base near home  
 11 EMT skill  
 14 Judge's seat  
 18 Hardwood tree  
 19 Fail to make use of  
 20 WC  
 21 Prayer opening  
 23 "Henry James heroine"  
 25 Top of a scepter, perhaps  
 26 "Three Tall Women" Pulitzer playwright  
 27 German university city  
 28 Initial payments  
 29 "Hip-hop artist with the 2014 #1 hit 'Fancy'"  
 31 Pays attention  
 34 Delivery pros  
 35 One taking a selfie  
 36 AP rival  
 37 "Cold one over here, please"  
 40 Campaign funding org.  
 42 "Youngest NBA player to win the MVP"  
 46 Big risk taker  
 52 Happening  
 53 Studio supporter?  
 54 Remote, as a road  
 55 Dwindle  
 57 Divested (of)  
 58 Bird in Saint-Saëns' "The Carnival of the Animals"  
 59 1912 Olympic legend  
 60 2007 IHOP acquisition  
 66 Barrett of Pink Floyd  
 67 "Bashful one"  
 71 "NCIS" was spun off from it  
 74 Key movie scenes  
 75 60-year-old Mattel classic  
 79 Since  
 81 D.C. VIP  
 82 Pocatello natives  
 84 Korean rice dish  
 87 Designer Geoffrey  
 90 Keats, for one  
 91 "These go to eleven" band

**DOWN**  
 1 "Idol" judge replaced by DaGenerees  
 2 "Around the Horn" host Tony  
 3 French coronation city  
 4 Coolers in windows, briefly  
 5 Timid  
 6 Target Field team  
 7 Cease  
 8 Bermuda, e.g.  
 9 GPS data  
 10 Aachen article  
 11 Blocked, as a drain  
 12 Gershwin title lover  
 13 One-named Swedish pop singer  
 14 Ruth's husband  
 15 Allowing admittance anywhere, as a pass  
 16 Highborn  
 17 Angler's basket shake  
 24 Overexcited Watson creator  
 29 Vail alternative  
 32 Tina and Lana  
 33 Mel Blanc's "That's All Folks" et al.  
 34 Pitcher Hershiser  
 37 Donkey sound  
 38 Dawn deity  
 39 Linguistic suffix  
 41 Citrus suffix  
 42 Skillful  
 43 Cole Porter's "Well, Did You \_\_\_"  
 44 Make over  
 45 Mauna \_\_\_  
 47 Suspect's story  
 48 Copland ballet with a hoedown  
 49 Gives one's word  
 50 "It could happen"  
 51 Allow to use  
 56 "The Way We \_\_\_"  
 57 Guns  
 60 Like, with "to"  
 61 Dessert option  
 62 "Park: Pirates' field"  
 63 Part of XL: Abbr.  
 64 Site of Napoleon's exile  
 65 Fish in the genus Hippocampus  
 68 Where \_\_\_  
 69 Hip-hop's Salt-\_\_\_  
 70 Walked-on  
 71 Some punches  
 72 Take \_\_\_ of taste  
 73 Mongolian desert  
 76 Scott of "Charles in Charge"  
 77 Etched: Abbr.  
 78 Bk. read at Purim  
 80 Tweaks  
 82 Research ctr.  
 83 JFK say  
 85 Plan, with "out"  
 86 Pancakes sometimes served with caviar  
 87 What Superman first looked like?  
 88 Prior to, in poems  
 89 Grafton's "\_\_\_ for Evidence"  
 92 Sliced-off parts  
 94 "He that \_\_\_ many words shall be abhorred": Eccl.  
 97 Coffee order: Abbr.  
 99 Fraternal org.  
 100 Strange  
 101 Preppy jackets  
 103 Abated  
 104 Aside (from)  
 105 Ceremonies  
 106 Govt. security  
 107 Caught congers  
 108 Judy of "Devious Maids"  
 110 Support for glasses  
 111 Facet  
 112 Israeli airline  
 113 Margin  
 117 Preppy metaphor  
 118 "Unbelievable" rock band  
 119 Celestial lion

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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY | March 24:** This year, you have a lot of energy and interest in traveling and meeting people from other cultures. Once you release some of your obligations, you might create such an opportunity. If single, you might meet someone very different. You will learn a lot just relating to this person. If attached, the two of you start planning that special vacation you often dream of. Scorpio has the same goals as you but approaches them in a very different manner.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19)  
 Plan on special time between you and a loved one. You could get involved with a cantankerous older friend or relative, but you would be happiest hanging with a friendly loved one or a child.  
**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20)  
 Defer to a loved one who might have a mischievous twinkle in their eye and secret plans. You may want to touch base with a friend or family member briefly on the phone.  
**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)  
 Pace yourself, making the most of the possibilities around you. Do not get stuck in the thought that you decided to do lawn work or some other project. Say yes to a fun, spontaneous idea. A friend looks all over for you.  
**CANCER** (June 21-July 22)  
 The unexpected seems to be occurring more often, especially around an individual friendship, a group of friends or a long-term desire. You might want to go off and brush up on your softball game. Why not?  
**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)  
 You are not necessarily housebound, but you might want to spend a day at home. You rarely take time for yourself, enjoying a somewhat lazy day with a good cup of java and the Sunday paper.  
**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)  
 Your phone might start ringing before you even open your eyes. Someone might want to catch up on some news or just visit for a while. You will not have to go far to stay busy and content.  
**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)  
 You might have some tenuous plans, but you have the urge to go shopping or stop at a casino. Use

some caution with spending, as you could lose track of what you have spent. A dear friend or loved one joins you for a late brunch.  
**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)  
 Beam in whatever knocks your socks off or delights you. Others gravitate toward you, and you might need to defer getting together. You have special plans in mind.  
**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)  
 You could be too tired for your own good and need some time off from your popularity and responsibilities. You might be surprised at how fast you come back to your accepted energy levels.  
**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)  
 You could weave an interesting

path today. You opt to join a favorite person for lunch perhaps. Keep plans spontaneous and not written in stone. Others come up with wonderful suggestions and/or invitations. The response is "yes."  
**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)  
 A close friend hopes that you will bring others together or perhaps handle some responsibilities. Take the time to complete your obligations and get ahead with a project. You could be surprised by the end results.  
**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)  
 Your ability to get through some difficulties allows greater give-and-take with a friend who often seems to seek you out with problems and personal dilemmas. You have the gift of caring and detachment. Help this person identify with others.

Answers to last week's puzzle.

B	O	W	E		C	H	I	P		H	A	L	F		S	C	R	U	M	S	
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