

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Har pressed: WHCA dinner jokes

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1325** we asked for jokes that might have been told at the April 27 White House Correspondents' Association dinner, had there been the usual comic roasting the president and guests. (President Trump refused to attend yet again.) The Empress got a big pile of one-liners — or whole-paragraphers — for this contest, but . . . let's say comedy is hard.

4th place:

So President Trump says he considered nominating Ivanka to head the World Bank, said she's "very good with numbers." I don't know about that, but I know her dad is really good at division. (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf)

3rd place:

You know, I can't say people have become overly sensitive to everything that people used to find funny. I can't say it because I know someone will be offended. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

2nd place and 'Collected Speeches of Spiro Agnew':

The president couldn't be here tonight because he's hard at work in the Oval Office — there are a lot of Democratic candidates who need childish nicknames. (Howard Walderman, Columbia)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

One thing you have to say about the president: **He's really an excellent golfer.** That's why so many people call him "Putts." (Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)

Mic droppings: Honorable mentions

I heard **Joe Biden was so upset** when he heard allegations that Senator Klobuchar abused her staffers, he flew straight to Minnesota and gave them each a big, long hug. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

David Bernhardt and Andy Wheeler, our new Interior and EPA chiefs, can't be with us tonight — they didn't want to miss the first day of drilling season at Yellowstone. (Allen Haywood, Washington, a First Offender)

We invited the CEO of Boeing to be here tonight, but he said it was too far of a drive from Seattle. (Jerry Lugar, Hampton, Va.)

Angela Merkel wants the E.U. to get along better with the Trump administration. So I hear she's thinking of assassinating her half brother, and threatening to nuke California. (Mark Raffman, Reston)

And is Joe Biden here? There you are. I hope you're okay with the seating arrangement, Joe. We had to make sure that all the people in front of you were guys. Bald guys. Bald guys without shoulders. (Neal Starkman, Seattle)

So tonight, while we were eating, **Mitch McConnell just confirmed** the entire young Republican club of Yale Law to lifetime judgeships. Congratulations, kids! (Ward Kay, Vienna, Va.)

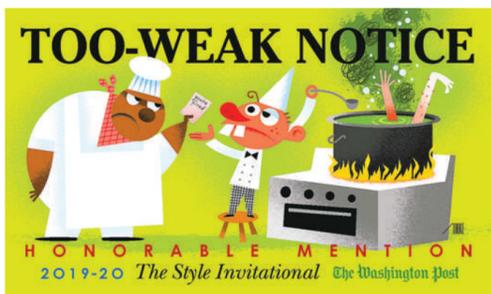
I see **Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez has achieved something rare** these days with her Green New Deal, and that's bipartisan opposition. Of course, it's bipartisan opposition, but still . . . (Jeff Contompasis)

This new Democratic Congress is **serious about its green initiatives** — they plan to save 5,000 trees a month by sending all subpoenas to the White House electronically. (John Hutchins, Silver Spring)

The president couldn't be here tonight because he's on a tour of **Brazil, Argentina, and Chile,** or, as Fox News calls them, Mexico. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

Mar-a-Lago memberships cost \$200,000 plus \$28,000 for two years' dues. That's steep, but it's cost us taxpayers 150 times that for President Trump to go there — and he owns the place. That's like paying a President Colonel Sanders \$3,000 to get him a bucket of his own chicken! And that would cost us less, because the Colonel couldn't eat 29 Family Fill-ups every day. Not even Donald Trump can do that! (Connie Akers, Radford, Va.)

Unfortunately, President Trump couldn't be here this evening; but



MAGNETS DESIGNED BY BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Announcing our newest pair of Loser Magnets for honorable mentions; we've been issuing them each year since 2004. They're the size of a business card, but hey, they're full-color limited-edition (500 each) Bob Staake prints. The slogan above is by Bruce Carlson, as an entry to an earlier contest; Bob and the Empress worked out the one below (note the "laurel" border of poison ivy).

New contest for Week 1329: Shakespeare + Thee: Tailgaters

Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears! (*William Shakespeare, "Julius Caesar"*) **My Bluetooth headphones haven't worked for years.** (*Duncan Stevens*)

My bounty is as boundless as the sea. (*"Romeo and Juliet"*) **That's all the storm relief you'll get from me.** — D.J.T., Washington (*Duncan Stevens*)

Who will believe my verse, in time to come, (*Sonnet 17*)

Was used for something so completely dumb? (*Brian Allgar, Style Invitational Week 970*)

They're called tailgaters: You choose a line from a famous poem, then write a second, rhyming line yourself. The Empress ran a tailgater contest back in Week 970 (2012) as well as one in Week 1171 (2016) in which the first line was from a song. Serious Recidivist Loser Duncan Stevens suggests a Bardic spinoff. **This week: Select any line from a work by Shakespeare (poetry or prose) and pair it with your own line to create a humorous rhyming couplet,** as in the examples above. Your line may be either the first or second line in the tailgater (if it runs first, should we call it a hooder?). You may add or change punctuation at the end of a line. **OpenSourceShakespeare.org** has Will's whole output. Please include the name of the work that contains the line you're using.

Submit entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1329 (all lowercase).

Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy.

Second place receives a pack of **Shakespearean Insult Gum** — a set of seven eensy-weensy book-shaped boxes, each containing two mini-gumballs and a different Shakespearean insult printed inside each box ("Bless me, what a fry of fornication is at the door," from "King Henry VIII"). Donated by Loser Nan Reiner in approximately 1612.

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," or quite possibly one of the new models. First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). **Deadline is Monday night, May 6;** results published May 26 in print, May 23 online. See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline "Har Pressed" was submitted by both Kevin Dopart and William Kennard; 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" the Ink of the Day at 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 this week's contest, check it out at wapo.st/styleconv.



he sends his regards. Really, **he loves the White House correspondents** — in fact, he worships the quicksand you walk on. (Jon Ketzner, Cumberland, Md.)

Congratulations to the **University of Virginia men's basketball team**, which just won the championship after last year's inexplicable, humiliating loss to an inferior opponent. Unfortunately, that's giving Hillary Clinton ideas. (Duncan Stevens)

I'm not saying the president **has it in for Speaker Pelosi**, but he recently offered a new option for her government travel — a 737 Max. (Jeff Contompasis)

You gotta love Fox News, always asking the president the really hard-hitting questions, you know,

like what **his favorite animal** is. Speaking of which, I'm gonna guess that he'd pick barnacles, because there are fine ones on boat sides. (Jesse Frankovich)

Security at Mar-a-Lago is so lax, seems they just let in a Chinese spy! No harm done, but the Russian spies no longer feel quite as special. (Mark Raffman)

Jeff Bezos will be coming late, but I just got a text that he's nine stops away and will be here no later than 9 p.m. (Bruce Alter, Fairfax Station)

Still running — deadline Monday night, April 29: Our contest to retell a bit of literature as someone else would have written it. See wapo.st/invite1328.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

"OOH, I GET IT!" By JEFFREY WECHSLER

ACROSS

- Some old Eur. republics
- Brownstone-front hangout
- Homer's "rosy-fingered" time
- One looking badly?
- Astute
- Aquatic predators
- "Nasty" Nastase of tennis
- Good, to Giovanni
- "... la Douce"
- Grinch victim in the Wasatch Range?
- High point
- College domain
- Large wardrobe
- College dorm figs.
- Legal memo phrase
- Pro Football Hall of Famer Merlin
- Modigliani subject
- Set (on)
- Bliks corporate bigwigs?
- Airhead
- Bit of trickery
- Chris of "American Pie" films
- Urn turner, perhaps
- Puff's ailment?
- Real-estate holding account
- D.C. VIPs
- ___-B: hygiene brand
- Nickname for a seafaring Smurf?
- ___-Locka, Fla.
- Arena roarer
- In cahoots
- Swahili honorific
- Meal with a crust
- "Ghosts" playwright
- Shoulders, e.g.
- "God ___ refuge and strength": Psalm 46
- Traded (in)
- Like honey
- 2000 Richard Gere title role
- Amphibian College curriculum?
- Way back when, once

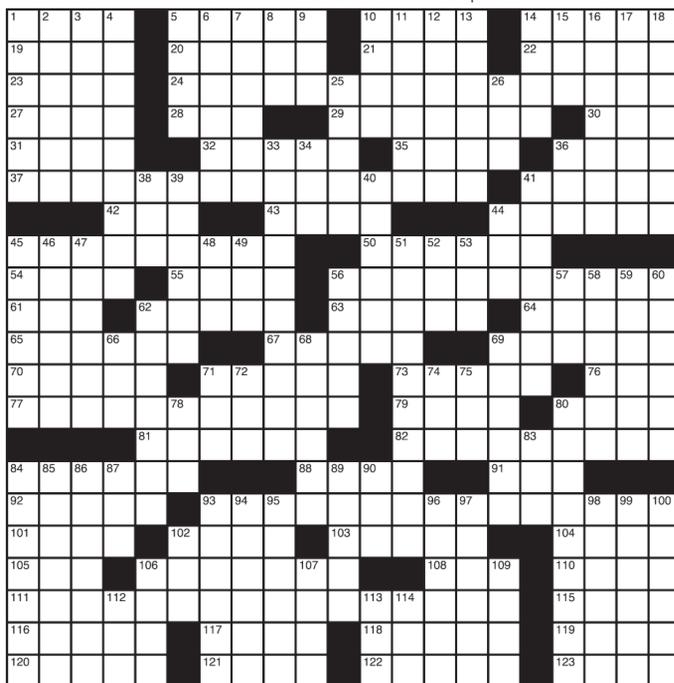
- Coll. students' access codes
- Tony's cousin
- Staple
- Inexpensive, as housing
- Improve
- Wake-up call provider
- Minister's house that
- "There you ___!"
- Uncertain query
- Before a query
- "Yuck!"
- On the other hand
- ___ Paulo
- Pass over
- Mild angst
- Warning about overexuberance
- Pasty food
- Surprise with a visit
- Chanel competitor
- Many college donors
- Succeed despite obstacles

DOWN

- Let's not do that
- Sister of Venus
- Say casually
- Whence some garters?
- Hot under the collar
- Walked over
- Like Hogwarts lore
- Sturdy tree
- 101 class
- Involving Freud: Abbr.
- Chanel competitor
- Many college donors
- Succeed despite obstacles
- Stress-relief tool

- UPS unit
- Actress Issa
- Play lists
- Airport near D.C.
- Alit
- Like perjured testimony
- Cal. locale of the Latino Walk of Fame
- Basic electrical component
- Delay, with "off"
- Runs in the wash
- Beetle relatives
- It doesn't go off
- NW Penn. airport
- Hockey legend
- Columbus campus: Abbr.
- Choose
- Endearing quality of puns
- Often pointy-eared figure
- Kitten handles?
- Hard work
- Sailing competition

- Braying beast
- Expiate, with "for"
- Rank of Brit. TV sleuth Morse
- Indiana Jones' hat
- Filled with rage
- Ready to play again
- Dawn goddess
- Goosebump-inducing
- Employs so that one may
- Connects logically
- Editing app on Google Play
- Orbiter for 15 years
- Philosopher
- Descartes
- Rather
- Wordsworth works
- Musical success
- Small ammo
- Tedious situation



4/28/19

xwordeditor@aol.com

©2019 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | April 28: This year, you suddenly show your depth and spirituality to others who often find you to be flaky. If single, your diverse personality could be hard for a suitor to handle. Give yourself space and see what develops. If attached, your sweetie might not be as surprised as you think by this duality. They have had glimpses before. Pisces encourages you to dream.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Visit with friends. Some of you might also prefer to use this day to finally go off and indulge in a favorite pastime. Use the moment to draw someone in closer. Get to the bottom of a low-level hassle.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Your take-charge attitude has certain liabilities. For one, you often find that you carry more responsibilities than the majority of people. Understand your attitude and where it comes from. Could it be time for a change?

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You could be reaching beyond your limits, or so you might think. You might surprise yourself as you teeter on the edge of a major step. Communication flourishes, and others seem to have many new concepts to present.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Your emotional display will be noticed. Your energy could point toward breaking barriers previously established in a relationship. A partner will respond as they will. While you might get a "no" at first, given a little time, you will get a "yeah."

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You might be more challenging than you think. You could feel as if you deserve what you are asking for. You do, but the other party might not. Do not push beyond obvious and established boundaries.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You could be overwhelmed by all that you need to complete. You could be angry without exactly knowing what is challenging or irritating you. Stay upbeat if you can, as situations could change rapidly.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You generally do not border on the

outrageous, yet today you could. You feel almost like a kid at present, enjoying every moment. A talk might prove to be too good to be true, but by all appearances, you are heading in a new direction.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Stay close to home. If you are in the mood to indulge, read the Sunday paper and catch up on your favorite TV shows — you might delight in this day. Invite a favorite person to join you on an adventure or to go to a preferred spot.

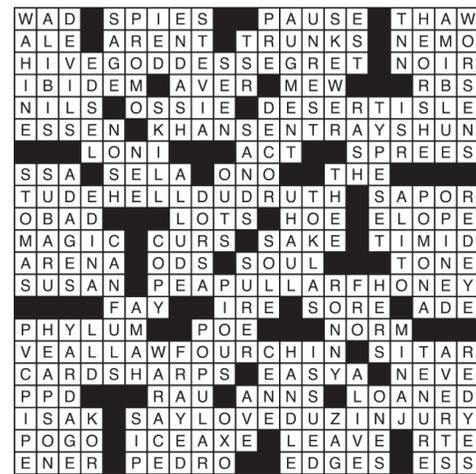
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You might want to join friends for brunch. You have a lot on your mind that you might want to share. Be positive about the feedback you are getting, even if you feel "off." These few hours could have long-range implications.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Some of you might experience moments of stinginess as you hold your budget in place. Consider other ways to keep the budget, and perhaps opt for less-expensive outings.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) A friendship or the possibility of a long-term wish being fulfilled keeps you quite content. You feel as if you are walking on top of the world. Later in the day, decide to indulge and treat a friend or loved one to dinner.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Lie low in the daytime hours. You might need extra sleep to feel as good as you would like. Dedicate today to you and your needs. You will beam others in toward the evening. They notice a difference in you.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



4/21/19