

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Ha fives: Winning acrostic limericks

BY PAT MYERS

Whoa, **Week 1332** proved more daunting than I'd expected; writing limericks that are both flawless and funny is hard enough — and then there was the extra challenge that they be acrostics: that the first letter of each line spelled out a pertinent word or name. But you know: the Losers. They're good.

4th place

Put his principles off to the side; Enthused, he accepted the ride. No big deal that the Don Cheats and lies — I'll still fawn! Embarrassing, dude. Have some pride. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

3rd place

To the White House: good day from Block C! Really loving Cell 143, Undisturbed and at ease, My . . . achoo! Did I sneeze? Pardon me, Mr. Prez, pardon me. — P. Manafort, U.S. Penitentiary (Duncan Stevens)

2nd place and the mug with a ceramic rattlesnake head inside:

There now is a man (you know who) Who pours out his heart on the loo Each grudge he has held — Empathic, misspelled — The musings of Whiny the Pooh. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

Cory B., Kirsten G., Harris, more: Ryan, Sanders, in all twenty-four! O'Rourke, Warren, Biden, Will the field even widen? . . . Don't DARE, Hillary. Nope. Yeah, we're sure. (Hildy Zampella, Alexandria)

'Rick pshaws: Honorable mentions

To the Prez: May I come by for tea? Right there in the White House we'll be; Undisturbed, we will savor Mugs of brew . . . hmmm, what flavor? Peach and mint would be perfect for me. — E. Warren, U.S. Senate (Duncan Stevens)

Baseball fans and the sport's cognoscenti Really thought he already made plenty. Yet he signed with the Phils — Close to 300 mills — Even though he is hitting .220. (Dave Zarrow, Reston; since this was written, Harper is back up to .251)

Disqualified! My life's ambition — Equestrian race competition — Ruined now: went astray, Bumped a pal; now they say: Your next Derby is tagged "Demolition." — Maximum Security, Stable B (Duncan Stevens)

Body language? I read it like Braille, I'll just nuzzle your hair and inhale. Donald's term has been strange, End it now, make a change! Nominate me — old handsy white male. (Bill Dorner, Indianapolis)

A POTUS with all the right stuff! How on earth can we praise him enough? Oh, what a rare bird! Let's now find a word Evoking him . . . that's not so tough. (Brian Allgar, Paris)

Push the button and watch him say "YES!" Every "Donald" begins with "God bless." Not a robot, but wired 'Cause he knows what's required: Eating up all the president's mess. (Frank Mann, Washington)

No-nonsense Pelosi is known As the one who makes Trump look half-grown. Nancy sets him down hard, Catching Donnie off guard. You can tell she's had kids of her own. (Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore)

"North Korea is now our good friend! Ugly threats are no longer the trend. Kim Jong Un (have you heard?) Even gave me his word, So I'm SURE all that testing will end." — D.T. (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

Come and join me for dinner today! Have a lobster, foie gras, a filet! Even though it's a date — And it's gonna be great! — Perhaps you could offer to pay?



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1336: Two ways about it

What's something that could be said both among **Style Invitational Losers** and **in bed**?

- "That's okay, there's always next week." (Ward Kay)
- "That's the funniest thing I've ever seen!" (Jesse Frankovich)
- "You'd better hurry up — the deadline is midnight Monday." (Elden Carnahan)
- "I like it best with the horses." (Michelle Stupak)
- "Not bad, but you're no Jesse Frankovich." (Jesse Frankovich)

This week's contest was suggested by Loser Alex Blackwood, who helps the Empress out enormously in the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook as co-admin. Alex posed the question above to the Devotees a few days ago, generating a long string of double-entendres including the ones above.

Which got her thinking: What if we made a mix-and-match contest with a bunch of other situations as well? **This week: What's something (printable) you could say in two — or more — of these situations:**

- In bed
- On a game show
- At the supermarket
- During a haircut
- At a restaurant
- At Ikea
- At a doctor's office
- In a job interview
- When Donald Trump visits your country
- Among Style Invitational Losers

Submit entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1336 (all lowercase).

Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a **Loser Personal Care Three-Pack**, featuring a trio of perfectly normal toiletries with perfectly Loserly juvenile names: Boudreaux's Butt Paste, which is plain old zinc oxide rash ointment; Anti Monkey Butt, which is talcum powder and some calamine; and Moco de Gorila, or Gorilla Snot, which is of course hair gel. The Snot was donated by Valerie Holt; Elden Carnahan offered up the other two.

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, "Too-Weak Notice" or "Certificate of (de)Merit." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). **Deadline is Monday night, June 24;** results published July 14 in print, July 11 online. See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline for this week's results is by Jesse Frankovich; Beverly Sharp wrote 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; 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.



More dully, it's rash ointment, talcum powder and hair gel: This week's second prize.

(Beverly Sharp)

Gosh darnit, Excel closed the sheet And then froze. Once again I repeat The third-finger salute, End a task, and reboot. Sick and tired of CTRL-ALT-DEL. (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

I can speak out, but nobody hears Only cornstalks (because they have ears) Whoa, it's pols without end! And each one my best friend. No, really! Well, every four years. (Gary Crockett)

Found on beach making sculptures obscene; Laundered cash in a washing machine; Made some meth, stole a boat, Ate his ex-wife's pet goat; Now in prison for 10 to 15. (Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)

Let others seek Pulitzer Prizes;

Our aim, for which each of us vies, is Some new blots of ink — Empress says we don't stink! — Rejoicing in crap she supplies us. (Ann Martin, Brentwood, Md.)

Pat possesses a sizable case Rich in trinkets that reek of disgrace. If you don't have enough Zero-usefulness stuff, Enter something that takes second place! (Jesse Frankovich)

So I think I might know how to rhyme Terrifically clever this time Yet it stalls about here — Lassitude, dude — it's clear: Everyone's better than I'm. (Marii Melton, Carmel Valley, Calif.)

May her praises be intergalactic; Yes, extol her in phrases didactic! Endless kudos proclaim, Raise her glorious name! Sucking up is my favorite tactic. (David Schildkret, Chandler, Ariz.)

And last: Really TOUGH Invitational week: Half acrostic, half limerick — eek! Yet I'll take on this onus Meta theme: "And Last" bonus? Empress, see how I followed all rules? (Hildy Zampella)

Still running — deadline Monday night, June 17: our contest for poems based on words in this year's National Spelling Bee. See wapo.st/invite1335.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

"LOW-TECH GLOSSARY" By MATT MCKINLEY

- ACROSS**
- 1 Next to nothing?
 - 5 New news
 - 9 Trying to break a tie, briefly
 - 13 Battle zone
 - 18 Journalist
 - 18 Courier
 - 91 Best way to play, teamwise
 - 20 Area below Greenwich Village
 - 94 Bars on the road
 - 21 Equivalent of neener
 - 22 Weeper of myth
 - 23 Part of a parallel parking lesson?
 - 26 "I might"
 - 27 Redundant modifier of "bit"
 - 28 Sealskin boot
 - 29 Castle defense
 - 31 City west of Boise
 - 33 "... for Alibi": Grafton novel
 - 34 Sch. in Manhattan
 - 38 One of Mary Stuart's people
 - 40 When one might have a late lunch
 - 42 Pet store array
 - 43 Lead-in for worm
 - 44 Hesitates
 - 46 Cookie recipe?
 - 48 1977 Steely Dan album
 - 49 Pleasing application
 - 50 Nonfiction piece
 - 52 Mayall of "Drop Dead Fred"
 - 53 Go right to the top?
 - 54 Monetary promises
 - 55 Pretty pitcher
 - 56 Starbucks order
 - 58 Stats for NFL defensive linemen
 - 59 Fishing
 - 60 Tar Heel State campus
 - 61 Corporate agreement finalizer
 - 62 Basic security feature
 - 64 USN rank
 - 65 Déjà vu?
 - 68 Shore bird
 - 71 Graph's depiction
 - 73 Schulz's "psychiatric help" dispenser
 - 74 Tot's scrape
 - 75 New beginning
 - 76 Devious intentions
 - 78 Scrap
 - 80 Soft shoes
 - 81 PC scrolling key

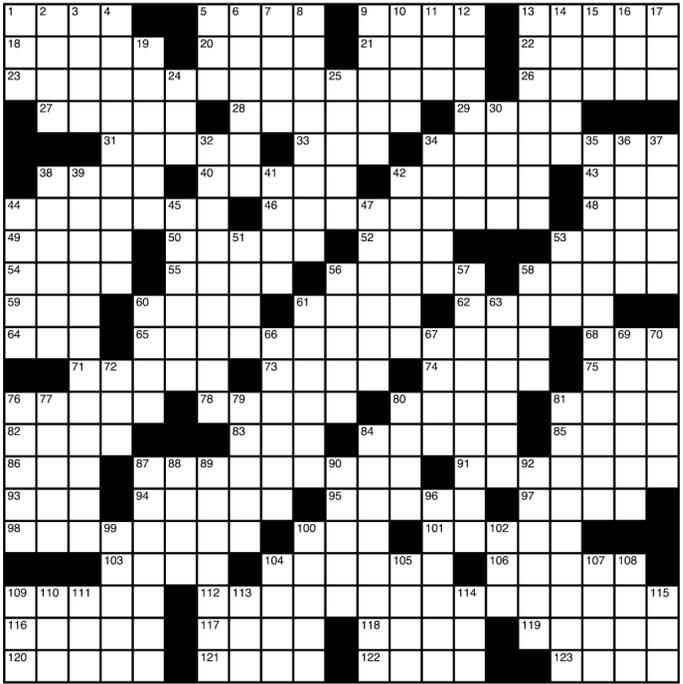
- 82 Not often seen
- 83 "What ___ the odds?"
- 84 Get clean
- 85 Board game with a lawsuit card
- 86 Org. with a two-leaved flower logo
- 87 Spider-Man?
- 91 Best way to play, teamwise
- 93 Wrinkly-faced dog
- 94 Bars on the road
- 95 Actress Samantha
- 97 Tax-evasion acts.
- 98 Deceptively convincing
- 100 Bearded bovine
- 101 Not quite first-stringers
- 103 Fords whose initials didn't actually stand for anything
- 104 West Coast surfing mecca
- 106 Musical symbols
- 109 Just not done

- 112 What a jittery camera operator may be having?
- 116 Candy heart words
- 117 Barely made it, with "by"
- 118 Where Zeno taught
- 119 Crepuscular group pic, in slang
- 120 Military rookie
- 121 Upbeat
- 122 Snippy return
- 123 Macy's div., e.g.

- 13 How tour groups move
- 14 Mazda two-seater
- 15 Youngster
- 16 Go out on the beach?
- 17 Bad mark
- 19 Crescent-shaped
- 24 Poe title
- 25 Jennyanydots' creator
- 30 Turov memoir
- 32 "I'll skip it, thanks?"
- 34 "The Trial" author
- 35 Poirot's note-to-self about locating the Orient Express murder weapon?
- 36 "Solve or spin?" host
- 37 Cafeteria staples
- 38 Swinging-doors site
- 39 Meteorologist's rainfall prediction measure?

- 41 Skier's aid
- 42 Gum source
- 44 Renaissance
- 45 Land with a 59-Across
- 47 Like many shakes
- 51 On its way
- 53 Ms. —Man
- 56 Car battery pioneer
- 57 Tide table?
- 58 Apt rhyme for "eye"
- 60 Times to prepare
- 61 Cooks in oil
- 63 Happens
- 66 Michelob diet beers
- 67 Like arguments no longer worth having
- 69 European perch
- 70 A chamber work by Louis Spohr was the first to bear this title
- 72 W. Coast's 101, e.g.
- 76 Jobs before the main job
- 77 Really enjoy

- 79 Eponymous chair maker
- 80 "CSI" actress Helgenberger
- 81 Crashed
- 84 Enchants
- 87 Bide one's time during, as a storm
- 88 Bk. after Genesis
- 89 Much ado about nothing
- 90 Workout wt.
- 92 As far down as it's been
- 96 Rule violations
- 99 Garlic unit
- 100 Overly showy
- 102 Prefix with tourist
- 104 Springfield bar having
- 105 Composer Bartók
- 107 Wind similar to a piccolo
- 108 Small cut
- 109 Involuntary habit
- 110 Phrase on a menu
- 111 Bar order
- 113 "Top Hat" studio
- 114 Already acquired
- 115 Acquire



6/16/19

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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | June 16: This year, you often defer to another person. You might feel as if you have little choice, but you do. Try to incorporate different and seemingly opposing ideas together. It can be done if you look at the base issue. If single, you might date a lot before you even want to settle down. Make it okay to be single. If you're attached, you work together as a couple to find a new way of gutting problems. You will become closer as a result. Sagittarius encourages you to risk and grow.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Reach out for someone at a distance who gives you a lot of insight, solutions and new ideas. Conversations are somewhat relevant, but check out different facts. Detach and remain positive.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Relate openly with a key person. Allow more openness about a financial matter. You will be able to stretch to make the purchase. The unexpected pops. You will find that excitement surrounds your actions.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Sometimes you might find that deferring to another person who is very different from you can be hard. Look at it as a learning experience about how others work and process.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You might be weighing a decision that involves your health, such as a diet, more frequent visits to the gym or a new sport or hobby. Someone might be pushing you in a certain direction. Do not be swayed.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Express your fun-loving personality. Inevitably, others respond to your actions and choices. You enjoy your friends and loved ones. Nothing pleases you as much as a good flirtation.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Your ability to identify with a roommate or family member emerges. You feel as if you need to understand where they are coming from, especially for domestic peace. You could be surprised by what you hear.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Keep conversations flowing. Do not look for any meaningful or heavy

comments. Just enjoy the company you have. A lightness will feel better anyway. Laughter naturally ensues.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You see a difference in the way you manage a difficult situation as opposed to what a partner does. Try to avoid being extreme or uptight. Your end results and conversations will be more satisfying.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You feel empowered once more. Before you blindly go off and enjoy your day, you might want to consider whether there is something or someone you want to touch base with.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Make it okay to take a back seat

and not get actively involved. In fact, you might want to nix a social event and do your own thing. A must appearance is not inevitable. Opt for a lengthy snooze or time as a couch potato watching a movie.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Friends play a significant role in your planning. Getting together with your pals often provides your most fun times. Let it all hang out when you finally meet up with your inner circle.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Flow with an opportunity. You hear news that you might want to keep hush-hush. You will be able to do that for a while. You could feel confused by all that comes up, which you might not understand.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



6/9/19