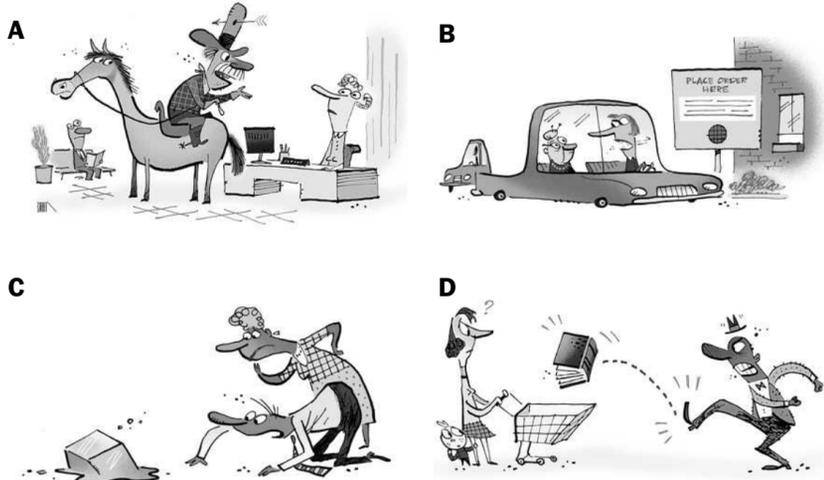


DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Har-toons: Winning captions



CARTOONS BY BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1338**, we presented yet another four bizarre renderings by Bob Staake and asked for captions. A dismaying number of you dragged out the apt but so old "Loan Arranger" joke for Picture A.

4th place:

Picture B: "Mama, that's just their name. They don't actually serve panda." (Kyle Hendrickson, Frederick)

3rd place:

Picture C: "Trust me: You don't want to be taken to our leader." (Jeff Shirley, Richmond)

2nd place and the patronizing "Girls' Guide to Grilling":

Picture D: "The plot was thin and the characters one-dimensional!" (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

Picture B: "For crying out loud, Brittany — leave the mask on until I get the senior discount!" (Jean Sorensen, Herndon)

Art blecho: Honorable mentions

Picture A
"Well, howdy there, little lady. Who can I chat with about unsecured nonconvertible debentures?" (John Hutchins, Silver Spring)

"Just thought I'd mention that the third stall in the men's room is now out of toilet paper." (Bob Kruger, Rockville)

"Smoky here doesn't spark joy anymore, so I'd like to trade him in on an F-150." (J. Larry Schott, West Plains, Mo.)

"All us old cowboys sit this way. It's easier on our prostates." (Rick Haynes, Ocean City)

So ma'am, now that I just showed you where the other arrow went, would you kindly tell the vet that this really is an emergency?!" (Kerry Humphrey, Arlington)

"I have more of a brown-chip stock portfolio." (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

"I'd be honored to sign up, but I've got spurs on my feet." (Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)

"So I got you this gift, see, but I

didn't want you to look it in the mouth . . ." (Jesse Frankovich)

"You called for Tex Support?" (Duncan Stevens)

"Ma'am, these days the AAP recommends we stay rear-facing for as long as we fit in the seat." (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station)

As Sally had been quite emphatic on the point, Chet dutifully brought her the horse he rode in on. (Duncan Stevens)

PICTURE B

"Relax, Mom. Dad's funeral doesn't start for another 20 minutes." (Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg, Va.)

"Dammit, Mother, you've repeated that Clara Peller thing 2 million times since 1984! Besides, this is Chipotle." (Ellen Ryan, Rockville)

"Maybe I don't FEEL like ordering a Happy Meal today, OKAY, MOTHER???" (Steve Honley, Washington)

"Zurg, retract your antennae before someone notices we are undocumented aliens!" (Mark Raffman, Reston; Jeff Hazle, San Antonio)

"SHE ASKED IF YOU WANTED SQEEPH PHBLLT MRRPHL." (Jeff Shirley, Rob Cohen, Potomac)

"What do you mean we just stopped? It's been almost a whole MILE since my last Starbucks." (Bill Lieberman, Ellicott City)

"They said, 'We regret to tell you that we're flat out of the Coquilles St. Jacques.'" (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.; George Smith, Frederick)

"You wouldn't get me a Frosty in 1982, you don't get a Frosty now!" (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

Sartre defined hell as being confined with your mother-in-law in a car with no doors. (Mark Raffman)

PICTURE C

"My God, Carl! Gesundheit!" (Jesse Frankovich)

The first microwaveable salads were extremely disappointing. (Frank Osen)

"I wonder if our Incredible Hulk will ever finish potty training." (Jeff Contompas, Ashburn)

"Aw, someone left the cake out in the rain, and all the icing's flowing down! Well, never gonna make that again." (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

"Huh, SpongeBob really can't survive on land." (Steve Fahey, Olney)

"There must be a better way to swat flies than the Jell-O Catapult." (Duncan Stevens)

"You say you bought this ice sculpture on Etsy?" (Jean Sorensen)

Turns out that green smoothies can't quite replace three squares a day. (Pete Morelewicz, Fredericksburg)

At EPA, new appointees were surprised to find that warmer temperatures do, indeed, cause ice to melt. (Mark Raffman)

Bill and Wilma can hardly believe it, yet they thaw it with their own eyes. (Danielle Nowlin)

PICTURE D

"Mommy, why is Governor Northam so angry at that yearbook?" (Bill Dornier, Indianapolis)

Harold was going to make sure little Timmy became one of the 937 winners of the 2029 Scripps National Spelling Bee if it was the last thing he did. (Danielle Nowlin)

When CVS switched to hardcover bindings for its receipts, Bill had finally had enough. (John Hutchins; Mike Gips, Bethesda)

"Here's a cookbook, Barbara. Now can you please make something besides broccoli?" snarled a fed-up George H.W. Bush in 1954, the last time he visited a supermarket. (Bob Kruger)

Agent Ray Sistman flips out upon learning that asylum-seeking families are legally allowed to bring their own cages. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Danno's retirement job as a Costco security guard didn't last long when he began booking people for no apparent reason. (John Kupiec, Fairfax)

"Here's what you can do with 'Anger Management for Dummies!'" (Jesse Frankovich)
Eugene knew the book was defective — it leaked hyphens everywhere. (Sam Mertens, Silver Spring)

Having failed repeatedly as a child, a bitter Charlie Brown now kicked anything that wasn't nailed down. (Tommy Thompson, Richmond)

Still running — deadline Monday night, July 29: our contest for portmanteau words. See wapo.st/invite1341.

New contest for Week 1342: MRGRS: Mash 2 abbrevs.

AirBNBRB: We'll hold your reservation.

TGIFBI: Coming to our office — Undercover Fridays!

NASAARP: For astronauts on their later voyages around the sun.

This week's contest was suggested by Longtime Loser Paul Laporte, and it seems as straightforward as can be (as it always does to the Empress until she's bombarded five minutes later with questions): **Combine two acronyms or other abbreviations, whether of entities or expressions, into one big one, and then describe it**, offer a slogan for the new organization, etc. As always, feel free to enhance your description with a funny sentence showing how you'd use it in the real world. Your entry will probably be a lot funnier if it's obvious what abbreviations you're combining, as in Paul's examples above, but there's a chance that your joke would work even with an explanation. The abbreviations don't necessarily need to appear in their entirety, as long as it's clear what they are.

Submit entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1342 (all lowercase).

Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a **Sarcasm 2-Pack**: a metal "National Sarcasm Society" sign with the motto "Like We Need Your Support"; and a tiny wearable button with the slogan "I never faked a sarcasm in my life." Yeah, right. The sign was donated by Nan Reiner, the button by Christina Courtney.

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, Aug 5;** results published Aug. 25 in print, Aug. 22 online. See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline for this week's results was submitted separately by Chris Doyle, William Kennard and Jesse Frankovich; Jon Gearhart 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 the week's new contest and results. Check out this week's at wapo.st/conv1342.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

"END GAME" By GARY LARSON

ACROSS

- 1 "Welcome" site
- 4 Word clarified by the minute hand
- 8 Rainbows, e.g.
- 12 —Trinity National Forest, California's largest
- 18 Bulling bravo
- 19 In — as found
- 20 Haul contents
- 21 Seafood sauce
- 22 Card game for students?
- 24 Card game for the lovelorn?
- 27 Waffling
- 28 Donnybrook
- 29 Easy —
- 30 Roll call calls
- 31 Hungers (for)
- 34 —Gherardini, memorable portrait subject
- 36 Cub with dingers
- 37 Abbr. on old maps
- 38 Quad minus two?
- 40 Hang (around) as friends
- 41 Medical implants
- 43 Board game for spies?
- 46 Paid military group, briefly
- 48 Herr Schindler
- 49 Stable serving
- 50 Cpl.'s superior
- 53 Spock's father
- 54 ... with — organized crime
- 57 Catch
- 59 "For every child" rights group
- 61 Lyft rival
- 63 Place for a dip
- 65 Morlock victims
- 66 Card game for plumbers?
- 68 Playground game for bellhops?
- 70 Hideous folklore figure
- 71 Bull, say
- 72 Youngsters
- 73 Literature
- 74 Nobelist
- 75 Gordimer
- 76 Big name at The Hershey Company
- 76 Shade tree
- 78 Flax fabric
- 79 Supporter of arms, for short
- 80 Hispanic leader in a beret
- 82 Sandwiches for dessert
- 85 Meted (out)

- 119 Lentil, e.g.
- 120 Pinochle combo
- 121 Eight-time Norris Trophy winner

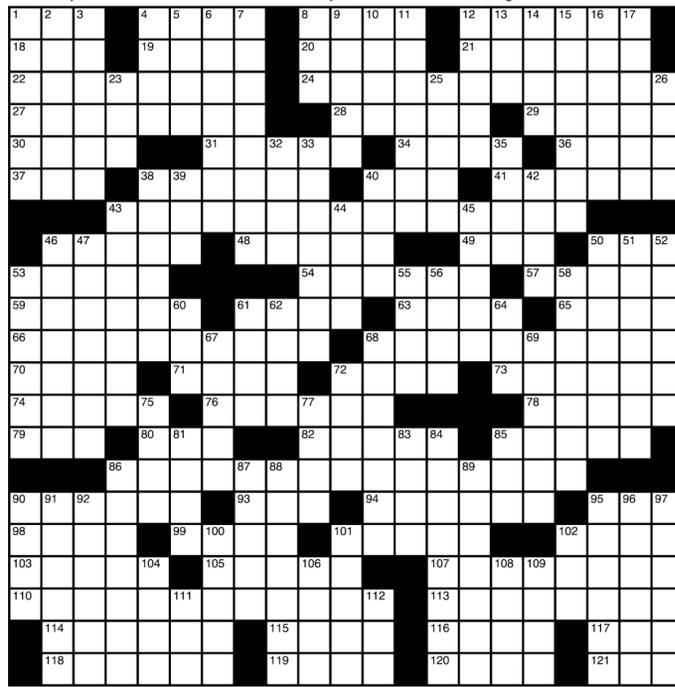
DOWN

- 1 McDonald's drink orders
- 2 They may be blind
- 3 Movie preview
- 4 Subtle "Check this out!"
- 5 Former Sony brand
- 6 Comic book legend
- 7 John of "Quiz Show"
- 8 Apiece, in scores
- 9 Shares a place (with)
- 10 Holiday garland item
- 11 First-rate
- 12 Eye sores
- 13 "I told you so!"
- 14 Specialty
- 15 Nine-time presidential contender
- Harold

- 16 Atlantic game fish
- 17 Con —
- 23 Bro's counterpart
- 25 Bizet opera
- 25 priestess
- 26 High or heavy bodies
- 32 Jazz club units
- 33 Hadd a break between
- 32-Down
- 35 Most populous continent
- 38 Certain wrench component
- 39 Boob tubes
- 40 German : Vater :: French : —
- 42 Santa's sackful
- 43 French for "mangers"
- 44 Strong "pocket" holding in Hold'em
- 45 Flip-flop
- 46 Le Carré's "The Night"
- 47 Land on the Red Sea
- 50 Soup cracker
- 51 Reacted to corn, maybe

- 52 Model Chrissy
- 53 Induce, as
- 54 perjury
- 55 Tater
- 56 Clothing
- 58 In an
- impooverished way
- 60 Big fairy tale character word
- 61 Wrinkly fruit
- 62 "Très —"
- 64 Patrick with a simulcast sports show
- 67 Farm machine
- 68 Center, for one
- 69 In copious amounts
- 72 Golden State Warriors coach
- 75 Amazon speaker brand
- 77 Female
- antelope
- 81 Word before "if you like" on some stickers
- 83 Eclipse, maybe
- 84 Sistine Chapel ceiling figures
- 85 Period, e.g.

- 86 Groove
- 87 Pipsqueak
- 88 Lacking a sound basis
- 89 Pre-head cold feeling
- 90 Keg stopper
- 91 Takes by force
- 92 Start the hand over
- 95 Cuban rum drink
- 96 Bully, often
- 97 Either original brand
- "PTL Club"
- 100 Relieves
- 101 "Storage Wars" network
- 102 Setting for many a joke
- 104 One of four directions
- 106 Paleontologist's discovery
- 108 Neutrogena shampoo brand
- 109 Shake off
- 111 Pup's cry
- 112 Early Great Plains building material



7/28/19 xwordeditor@aol.com ©2019 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | July 28: This year, you open up to many new opportunities. In the process, keep your eye on your spending, as you could go overboard with ease. If single, you will probably meet someone who makes your heart flutter this coming year. If you're attached, the sensitivity you show your mate will be returned. Your bond heats up even more. Gemini loves to joke with you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
You have an abundance of energy, which if misplaced could cause a problem. Decide what you really want to do, keeping in mind that if you can include some physical activity, all the better. A game of racquetball would be beneficial.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
You always seem to be in control; however, you might have noticed that tendency appearing less and less of late. Use caution with an angry elder or authority figure. A backfire could be costly.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
You wake up knowing that the world is your oyster. You start making calls and confirming plans with a great deal of confidence. Use care while you run around today, as you could accidentally be misunderstood. Confirm what you hear before acting on it.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
You often deal with your moody bouts by shopping or indulging in some sort of excess or a favorite pastime. You could get into whatever you are doing while working through some anger. Touch base with an older relative.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
You might invite friends to join you to watch a fun softball game, go fishing or take part in any favorite summer pastime. Your high energy allows you to do more than many of your friends. Be aware that they may be dragging somewhat late in the day.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
You could feel as if someone is pushing you too hard. You might take a stand and demonstrate your independence. However, think about this uncomfortable situation and recognize where it stemmed from. It would serve you well to work it through.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Reach out for a key friend at a distance. As you weigh the pros and cons of a particular matter, touch base with this person. You gain a new perspective as a result.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
One-on-one relating draws a partner much closer than you thought possible. You might want to share some information that until now you haven't. Plan a day together with a leisurely meal — just the two of you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Defer to a partner or several friends who have strong opinions about what might be best to do. For once, you enjoy lying back and letting others make decisions. The nature of the people involved promises a good time.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Do not push yourself too hard. You might have less energy than you think. A loved one might want to have an important discussion or indulge in a favorite physical sport. Your instincts remain excellent. Do take a much-needed nap or some personal time.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
You have strong instincts as to where to go to find like souls, all having a great time. The child within you comes out, and you join in. Whether at an amusement park or at a favorite pool or lake, you relax.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Accept an invitation to join a family member or friend at a favorite spot, which could be at this person's home. You might end up being far more active than you imagined.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



7/21/19