DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Malady melodies: Parodies on 'woes'

BY PAT MYERS

So that the Empress could slip away from her domicile, Mount Vermin, and tour her dominion — she and the Royal Consort have been meeting up with several out-of-town Losers in various out-of-town locales as far away as Chicago — we skipped one contest and this week share some more of the many inkworthy parodies from Week 1339, all on the theme of "modern woes." In fact, there are even more in this week's online Invite at **wapo.st/invite1347**.

BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Modern woe: SHARK ATTACK
(To "Food, Glorious Food" from "Oliver!")
Food, glorious food! This swimmer
or that one?
I'm ravenous, dude — let's go for
the fat one!
My teeth are arranged in rows,
conveniently double;
One chomp and a swimmer knows
He's in trouble!
Keep eating all day (don't mind all
the screeches)!
Chow down before they start
closing the beaches!
Two arms and a leg to start (let's
face it, they're screwed!)
Oh, food, tasty fast food, soon-to-be
chewed, glorious food!
(Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

Modern woe: PHONE SPAM
(To: "Another Brick in the Wall")
I don't need more interruptions,
Keep your "low-rate" insta-loan.
All this pitching has me twitching;
Rachel, please don't call my
phone.
Hey! Rachel! Eat this dial tone!
All in all, you're just another fake
robocall. *(Duncan Stevens, Vienna)*

Modern woe: EVERYONE'S SO UNFAIR TO THE PRESIDENT
(To "The Major-General's Song")
I am the very model of a modern
problem sufferer —
No leader's first 900 days in office
ever rougher were.
The nations that I threaten aren't
keen on just surrendering;
The people on my staff excel at
resignation-tendering.
I'm always getting questions from
reporters unprofessional;
My conduct is reviewed by nosy
oversight congressional.
I couldn't do an interview without
committing perjury;
I'm surely fooling no one with my
scalp reduction surgery.
I work as hard as any really rich
important fella works,
And so I don't have time to figure
out how an umbrella works.
My golfing buddies say, "You are
the quintessential duffer, sir."
I am the very model of a modern
problem sufferer!
(Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)

Modern woe: DISILLUSIONMENT
(To "Just My Imagination)
Each day on the Fox News
I listen as he tries to speak.
I write in my blog,
"I'm some kinda lucky freak
"To have a man like him,
It's like winning the Powerball!
Out of all politicians in the world,
Trump can fix it all."
But it was just my miseducation,
running away with me.
In my zeal for the MAGA Nation, it
bigly got away from me . . .

Every night, on my couch, I pray:
"Dear Lord, lookit, see?
Don't let those lib'rals get up in
here this-a-way or will we surely
die.
"Those satanic libertines,
When their schemes ensnare us,
There'll be a million guillotines!"
But in reality, it was Fox just trying
to scare us.

Call it autointoxication,
Running away with me,
Ever since the inauguration,
running away with me.
(Elden Carnahan, Laurel)

Modern woe: CAMPAIGN PROMISES
(To "The Candy Man")
Who can serve a sunrise
In a crunchy cone,
Cover it in chocolate and forgive
your student loan?
The candidates! The candidates
can!
The candidates can 'cause they stir
it up with love
And make the future taste good.

Who can take a rainbow, wrap it in
a sigh,
Add Medicare-for-all and make a
Never-Orange Pie?
The candidates! The candidates
can . . .

The candidates will make
News that's never fake
But satisfying and delicious!
Grant your most progressive
wishes!
Cover preexisting condishes!

Who can take tomorrow, spritz with
Spanish quotes,
Skirt around the sorrow and collect
up all the votes?
[Blurt out 20 names
simultaneously] can!
(Steve Bremner, Philadelphia)

Modern woe: COLLEGE ADMISSION FRAUD
(To "Born in the U.S.A.")
Ranked last in my high school
class;
Teachers told my parents that I'd
never pass.
Father knows best but Mom knew
better,
She even drafted my acceptance
letter.
Got . . . into USC; Mom bribed . . .
Half of the faculty. She laid . . .
Down lots of cold hard green, told
them . . . I was the rowing queen
. . . *(Frank Mann, Washington)*

Modern woe: FOOD POISONING
(To "Born in the U.S.A.")
Got back from the dive in town;
The illness struck and I was feelin'
down.
Wound up on all fours like a little
pup,
And I spent half the night just a-
throwin' up.
Borne in the food I ate! It was
borne in the food I ate!

Went to a little corner stand
Where they put a taco in my hand.
Sent me off to the bathroom, man,
To go and fill the whole damn can
. . . *(Jesse Frankovich)*

Modern woe: REVENGE PORN
(To "Hey Jude")
Hey! Nudes could come to light
On a site for embittered exes,
I hope you don't send them steamy
stockpiles,
Listing the files where all of our sex
is.
Bed-cam set to record,
Vids were stored as we worshiped
Venus,
And now this misgiving's troubling
my sleep:
Has every creep on Pornhub now
seen us?
'Cause often, when we got our
kicks, I heard some clicks,
Your camera was right there
digitizing,
'Cause if that stuff gets passed
around, I'll be renowned —
I don't need co-workers fantasizing.
Hey, dude, our thing is done,
Had our fun — now, erase our
nooky,
It's better for both of us if they're
gone —
That back-hair lawn! You're like a
Wookiee. (Wookiee, Wookie,
Wookiee, Wo okiee, like a Wookiee,
yeah!) *(Duncan Stevens)*

More parodies, with links to the tunes, in the online Invite at **wapo.st/invite1347.**

Still running — deadline Tuesday night, Sept. 3: Our contest for "alphabetically balanced" words. See wapo.st/invite1346.

New contest for Week 1347: Reologisms

Every year the Invitational runs several contests that ask readers to create new words (under various requirements) and define them, or show how they'd be used. Always, the Empress gets dozens of funny neologisms with funny definitions — and also always, some funny neologisms that made the E say, "There has to be *something* better for this word."

This week: Write a clever, funny definition for any of the recent Loser-concocted words and names below, and/or show how they'd be used. NEW: Instead of the usual "Word: Definition" format, you may opt to describe the word first, then say something like: "This would be called a [word on the list]." Or you could present it in Q&A form: "What do you call a ...?" Or even A&Q, a.k.a. Ask Backwards. The E just wants to give the best chance to these inkworthy words. As with any contest in which everyone's working with the same list, we'll surely get lots of entries with the same general idea, so it'll come down to the wording. And yes, if one of these words is yours, you can try again; the Empress doesn't remember who wrote them, anyway.

From Week 1333 (words that sound the same as existing words): **Bankquet • Canonbawl • Cusstomer • Exersighs • Fauxbia • Growtesque • Lacksative • Lewdicrous • Mediochre • Nahledge • Quizine • Sughgestion • Veritabull**

From Week 1340 (plays on names): **Attila the Hon • Bill DeBlasé • Captain Rehab • Cardi O • F*** Scott Fitzgerald • Gen. William Tecumseh Charmin • Genghis Cohen • Henry David Thorough • Horatio Algebra • Ikea Turner • IMHOtep • Joan of Arkansas • John F. Kidney • Kevin Costco • Lady Maga • Marco Pollo • Millard Feelmore • Richard Outhouse Nixon • Rupert Nerdoch • Rutherford B. Hazy • Samuel Morose • The Hardly Boys • The Right Brothers • Thomas Uvula Edison • Useless S. Grant**

From Week 1341 (combinations of two words): **Congressence • Egoliath • Epigrammar • Feloony • Fiberserk • Flexicon • Foreplaywright • Governmentality • Humanemia • Humdrummer • Humortician • Kindergartenerd • Mitcharade• Politicalisthenics • Prignoramus • Quarrelative • Recantankerous • Robottleneck • Rumortality**

Submit up to 25 entries at **wapo.st/enter-invite-1347** (all lowercase).

Winner gets the **Lose Cannon,** our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a kind of perverted Mr. Potato Head called **Mr. Turdy**. You actually form Mr. T yourself with the enclosed modeling clay, then stick on the appendages. Donated by Nan Reiner.

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, Sept. 9;** results published Sept. 29 in print, Sept. 26 online. See general contest rules and guidelines at *wapo.st/InvRules*. The headline "Malady Melodies" is by Jesse Frankovich. 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 will return next week, but you can email her with questions at pat.myers@washpost.com.

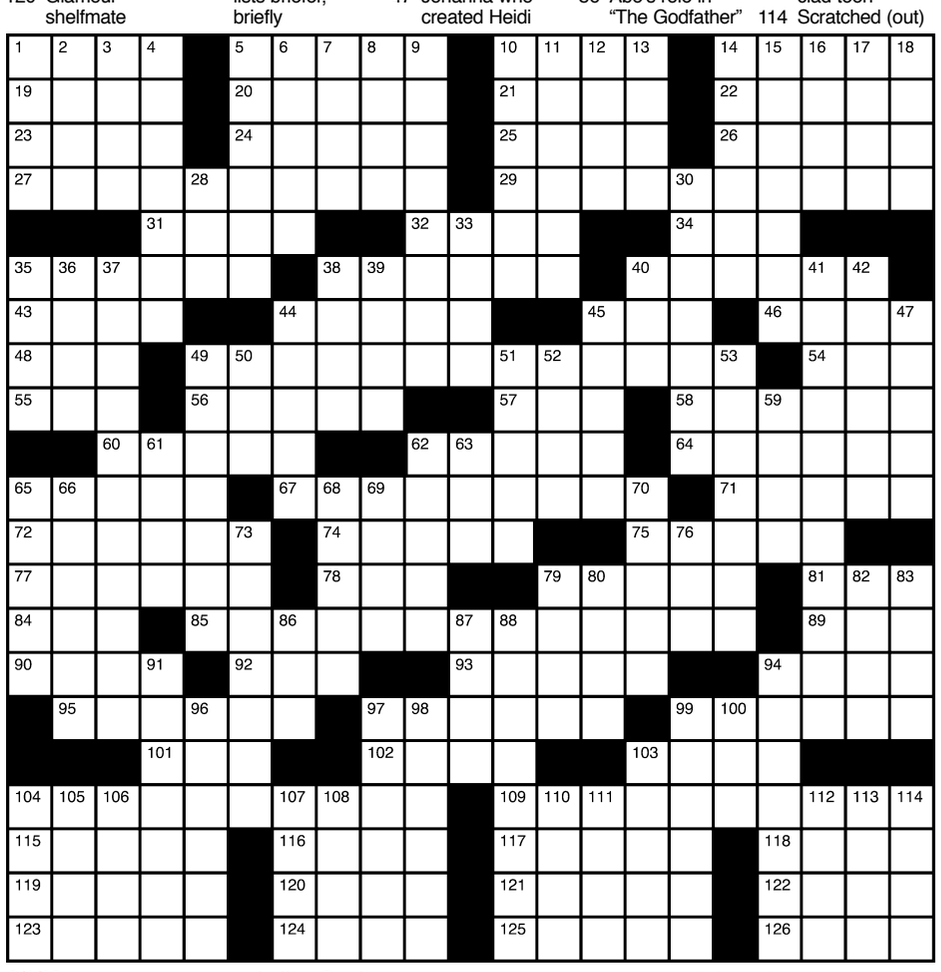
L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

"WIDE-SCREEN DISPLAY" By GAIL GRABOWSKI

ACROSS
1 Moussaka ingredient
5 Angular pipe fitting
10 Motion carriers
14 Distorts
19 Hesse-based automaker
20 Portmanteau breakfast brand
21 Pic, in ads
22 Like a fog-enshrouded cemetery
23 Trendy farewell
24 Join the contest
25 Aussie greeting
26 Slender-billed marsh bird
27 Aircraft carrier storage area
29 Performer using hand motions
31 Jobs in clubs
32 Ever so slightly
34 Somme soul
35 Arrival announcement
38 Holy sanctuary
40 Singer at Barack's 2009 inauguration ceremony
43 Dispense drinks
44 Murmured romantically
45 Crimp-haired critter
46 Towel designation
48 All-hrs. convenience
49 Just okay
54 Electrical unit
55 Opioids watchdog org.
56 Ready to blow
57 Kitchenware brand
58 How many rumors spread
60 Almost reaches
62 Gross portion
64 More sharp
65 Navy Cross, e.g.
67 Interior designer's concern
71 Emmy winner Christine
72 Macron's palace
74 Shirt tags may irritate them
75 Birthplace of the violin
77 Karaoke singer's liability
78 "Evil Woman" gp.
79 Pain-relief brand
81 Grumpy companion?
84 Picasso's here
85 "ER," for one
89 "Rosemary's Baby" novelist Levin
90 Capital south of Quito
92 __ Adams
93 Piano piece?
94 Come off as
95 Throat tissue
97 Chicken serving
99 Style popularized by the Beatles
101 Bout ender, briefly
102 Sommelier's suggestions
103 Pacific Coast country with a 22,000-foot peak
104 Pointer, e.g.
109 Certain downpour downside
115 Vast, in verse
116 Hibernation spot
117 Attracted
118 "I heard you the first time"
119 Backpack feature
120 Glamour shelfmate
121 Type similar to Helvetica
122 Late hours, in ads
123 All lathered up
124 Source of many tweets
125 Basket contents, perhaps
126 How most TV shows air, and a hint to nine puzzle answers

DOWN
1 Nessie's hangout
2 Samoan capital
3 Have in mind
4 Writer with a website
5 Come to light
6 Reels in
7 Part of MB
8 Gp. with pipelines
9 Place to do a job
10 Throw on the couch?
11 "Hey, bro"
12 What makes lists briefer, briefly
13 Tofu source
14 Bagel choice
15 Fashion house founder Cole
16 __ Burdon, the Animals' frontman
17 Moist towelette
18 Visionary
28 Natural drier
30 Be loath to
33 Spruce (up)
35 2010 Apple debut
36 Floater in a sunbeam
37 Real go-getter
38 Like either "g" in "George"
39 British general at Bunker Hill
40 Leave wide-eyed
41 Nutritionist's recommenda-tion
42 Biceps band
44 Don't play well together
45 Thrifty, in brand names
47 Johanna who created Heidi
49 Historic Florida racetrack
50 Part of ETA: Abbr.
51 Drifts off
52 Boardroom VIP
53 Cheerful refrain
59 Word near Kazakhstan on Asia maps
61 Minimal effort
62 Stop on a line
63 Commemorative lines
65 Black Sabbath's genre
66 Bring forth
68 Hr. when the sun is strong
69 Niger neighbor
70 Romantic triangle figure
73 It formed some features of Arches National Park
76 Director Burton
79 Mixes in
80 "Phooey!"
82 McFlurry flavor
83 Sleep out, say
86 Abe's role in "The Godfather"
87 Did a takeoff on
88 Regulation affecting boxers?
91 Raid product
94 Layered Italian dessert
96 Like Speedos
97 Suffers from the heat
98 Feel sorry about
99 Stick one's nose where it doesn't belong
100 Man-mouse link
103 Kilt feature
104 Pianist Dame Myra __
105 "Do __ others ... "
106 Romance novelist Roberts
107 Secluded spot
108 Secluded spot
110 Surrounding atmosphere
111 Camera lens feature
112 Comparable (to)
113 Many a black-clad teen
114 Scratched (out)



9/1/19 xwordeditor@aol.com ©2019 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Sept. 1: This year, you open up to many new possibilities. You become slightly less detail-oriented and enjoy a more artistic, creative perspective. If single, you meet people with ease, but a potential sweetie gets confused by your need for distance at times. Take your time in allowing someone to get to know you. If you're attached, the two of you seem to adjust to each other's personality quirks with ease. Libra knows how to charm you and get a yes from you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
The unexpected could have an impact on you when you least expect it. Use good sense with finances and anything involving possessions or work. Go along with plans, especially if you're celebrating Labor Day weekend.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Even if someone does not ask for your help getting a project completed, volunteer. You will enjoy the people involved and naturally have a great time. Make an additional effort to help others relax as well.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
Your flirtatiousness comes out even if you try to be more subtle. Be careful, as you could hurt someone's feelings. Your sense of humor helps you get over a difficult moment.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
Tension builds. You feel as if another person might be making unreasonable demands on your time. Even if you are not aware of those feelings, they pick up an attitude.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
You seem to be in the right groove this Labor Day weekend. You make calls to friends, and before you know it, you have created a spontaneous get-together. Keep it simple and fun.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
You could easily defer a project and let someone else handle it. However, you also enjoy being involved with others. Do not forget a token gift for a dear friend who might be distant for a while.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
You understand the importance of ceremonies and events. Drawing a formal end to summer frolic and special friends might make you sad, but you will completely enjoy yourself.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
You might want to handle a personal matter right now. Make it okay to head in your chosen direction. You have a lot to discuss with a friend who sometimes clams up. Try to help this person open up.

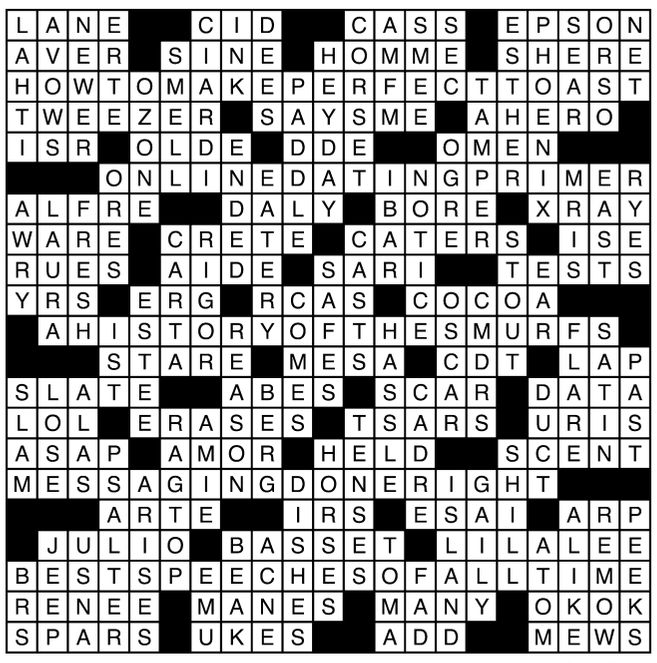
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
You love getting together with others, especially if there is some physical activity or sport involved. You might be difficult to hold back at the present moment. You could be found at a softball game at one point in the day and suddenly show up at a dance marathon.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
You could be bummed out thinking about summer, your friends and the serious nature of the next few months. You might not feel like buckling down and assuming a more serious exterior.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Your mind drifts from topic to topic. Follow through on an invitation, and you might have more fun than you thought possible. Tune in to someone new who seems very different, comes from a different culture, or lives far away.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
One-on-one relating is highlighted. Though you might be invited to a last-minute summer get-together, you will be a lot happier if you simply hang with a special person in your life. You often do not get time alone for the two of you.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



8/25/19