

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

DogGRel: Winning ‘gr-’ limericks

BY PAT MYERS

Week 1344 was our 16th annual Limerixicon, in which we help out OEDILF.com — a project to create a whole dictionary in limerick form — by seeking limericks featuring a word from one sliver of the dictionary. And for the fifth year running, we're still on the G's.

4th place

Aunt Elizabeth's gifts used to bore us
Till she told us we'd get a thesaurus.
We were thrilled past belief
Till we found, to our **grief**,
She had *not* bought a dinosaur for us. (David Smith, Stockton, Calif.)

3rd place

"I'm the richest, with all the best clout!"
Crowded the Prez. "Folks keep talking about
All the profits I've **grossed!**"
Sighed his wife, "Darling, most
Are just saying you're **grossing**
them out." (Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

2nd place and the World's Smallest Men's Swimsuit:

In the churches of Santo Domingo
You will find no more popular **gringo**
Than the cardinal who
May one day be the new
Holy Father: Pope John Paul
George Ringo. (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

At his rallies, they **gripe** by design,
'Bout the other-hued folks they malign.
Though the Prez doesn't drink,
It is easy to think
He's a very big fan of white wine. (Mark Raffman, Reston)

Grimmer 'ricks: Honorable mentions

To tell me "You're pregnant!" is rude.
I get comments and queries most crude.
For beer I am avid,
So my gut sticks out "**gravid.**"
But don't ask when I'm due — I'm a dude. (Sam Mertens, Silver Spring)

It's **grotesque**: Trump sends tweet after tweet,
With supremacist comments replete.
Does he send these from bed?
'Cause it seems, from what's said,
That these thoughts come from under a sheet.
Paul VerNooy, Hockessin, Del.)

A New Mexican tourist named Sheila
Was attacked by a lizard near Gila.
Though **grotesque** is the swelling,
The discomfort she's quelling
With a couple of shots of tequila. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

Some contend that impeachment makes sense,
But I'm not on the side of the fence
That believes this morass could be Solved
or the grass would be **Greener**
with President Pence. (Bill Dorner, Indianapolis)

"Here's a stock that's made folks millionaires,"
Said two techies while peddling shares
To The Fridge, Jim McMahon,
And Mike Ditka — a plan
That Chicago called "Geeks **Grifting**
Bears." (Chris Doyle)

For birthdays that come in two weeks
I've bought Spartan friends just what each seeks:
Admission for each
To a cool nudist beach.
I love giving gifts baring **Greeks**. (Beryl Benderly, Washington)

Grotesqueries suddenly seem
To have broken the bounds of a dream.
Nightmares are one thing,
But we wake to our Sun King,
Who makes "**grossly**" seem quite un-extreme.
(Rick Fouchoux, Silver Spring, a First Offender)

Will Brexit occur? Let's just wait
And hope that, whatever its fate,
At the end of the day
We will still get to say
That Britain somehow remains **Great**. (Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.)

My new website does not get much traffic,
It's erotica (straight, gay and Sapphic).
There's no pix, only prose —



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1348: Same difference

The difference between charred mollusk on a stick and the 50,000 people of Greenland: It's possible that Denmark would sell out the mollusk.

- A hard Brexit
- A bicycle built for 20
- Charred mollusk on a stick
- The 50,000 people of Greenland
- Albert Einstein's tongue
- Clown shoe Friday
- Will Shortz
- Jockey shorts
- Hand-marked ballots
- 50-yard-line Redskins tickets
- Bedbugs
- Boris Johnson's hair
- Russian dressing
- John Bolton's mustache
- Sean Spicer doing the tango
- Avocado toast
- A dot matrix printer

It's our more or less annual contest in which we supply you a motley list of nouns and noun phrases — this time most of them were volunteered by members of the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook — and ask the Greater Loser Community to think up some clever, surprising connections among them, as it always manages to do. **This week: Explain humorously how any two or more of the items above are alike, different or otherwise connected**, as in the example above.

Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1348 (no capitals in the Web address).

Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a **pink T-shirt brought back from Germany** by Loser Elden Carnahan with the famous photo of Albert Einstein laughingly sticking his tongue out. It's advertising the renowned bistro in Garmisch whose name isn't printable here but begins with "Mukke" and ends with a word that more or less rhymes with it.

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. 16**; results published Oct. 6 in print, Oct. 3 online. See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline for this week's results is by Tom Witte; Mark Raffman wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](https://www.facebook.com/on.fb.me/invdev). "Like" the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at bit.ly/inkofiday; 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.

And the ratings disclose
That reviewers say: it's "poor: no **graphic.**" (Mark Raffman)
She escaped the witch, showing her mettle,
But her brother's in not-so-fine fettle:
Grew a long, **grasping** tail
While the hag brewed her ale.
They're now known as "Prehensile and **Gretel.**" (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

After hiking o'er hills and o'er dales,
Said the campers: "Good night; happy trails!"
Said the bear: "What a scent!
It's a meal-in-a-ent!"
(I will spare you the **grizzly** details.) (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)
If you're tempted to kiss or embrace
A stranger whose beauty and **grace**
Make her hard to resist,
Don't do it! Her fist
Just might land in a delicate place. (Madeleine Begun Kane, New York)

When the markets are tanking, he **grows**,
His face twisted with hideous scowls.
But to say "It's on me"
Is a thing we won't see
Cause the blame (he will claim) is all Powell's. (Frank Mann, Washington)

The young suitor was hot for the game,
But the lass thought his moves were just lame
When a kick to the **groin**
Did his ardor enjoin,

That's how "her-knee-ya" first got its name. (Mark Raffman)
The doubters should think about how
Things'll be much more peaceful than now
If the liberal crew
Gets their **Green New Deal** through,
'Cause they won't allow having a cow. (Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)

Ride a bike — don't consume gasoline!
Stop your AC and washing machine!
Now we all can confirm it:
That message from Kermit
Was true — it's no cinch bein' **green.** (Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore)
Oscar Wilde, in a Bangkok cafe,
Caught a whiff of a fruit in decay
That gave rise to a dread
Of putrescence and led
To "The Picture of Dorian **Gray.**" (Chris Doyle)

And Last: Chris at 3: "Dolly, send in the clone!"
Of Kate Moss: "Does she read Rolling Stone?"
His wordplay's precocious,
His puns are ferocious;
We're braced for the day he's full **groan.** — Mr. & Mrs. Doyle (Duncan Stevens)

More honorable mentions in the online [invite at wapo.st/invite1348](http://wapo.st/invite1348).
Still running — deadline Monday night, Sept. 9: our contest to come up with funny definitions for some brand-new words we supply. See wapo.st/invite1347.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

- "OH, IT'S YOU AGAIN!"** By PANCHO HARRISON
- ACROSS**
- 1 "Righteous" in the '90s
 - 5 Capital of Turkey
 - 9 Speed deterrents
 - 14 Like cried-over milk
 - 19 Apiece
 - 20 Fever with chills
 - 21 Caver's cry?
 - 22 Vaughan of jazz
 - 23 Kiss during a nature walk?
 - 25 Showy parrot
 - 26 Muse for Shelley
 - 27 Protein-building acid
 - 28 Matter basics
 - 30 First-year law student
 - 32 Has ... knows someone
 - 33 Optimist's words
 - 35 Window installer's course of instruction?
 - 38 Jam component?
 - 42 Creator of Horton the Elephant
 - 43 Paulo
 - 44 Life's work
 - 45 Largish chamber group
 - 47 Part-time player
 - 51 ... standstill
 - 52 Rich kid in "Nancy" comics
 - 54 Charles Goodyear, notably?
 - 57 Breather
 - 59 Hurler weapons
 - 61 Breaks down
 - 62 LiMu ... bird in Liberty Mutual TV ads
 - 63 Tiny dividers
 - 65 Strikes lightly
 - 68 Soothes
 - 70 Eccentric who has status in the community?
 - 74 Quaker in the woods
 - 77 Like most pretzels
 - 78 Porcupines and prairie dogs
 - 82 Arthur of "The Golden Girls"
 - 83 Thriller writer
 - 85 Four-door, usually
 - 87 Court filing
 - 88 Big galoot serving as first mate?
 - 93 Site of Hercules' first labor
 - 95 Self-esteem
 - 96 Promising young actress
 - 97 Café container
 - 99 Narrow shard
 - 101 Its Jun. 2019 additions include "bae" and "yeesh"
 - 102 Cook-off dish
 - 104 Dent in the hockey arena's protective shield?
 - 106 Cesar Millan specialty?
 - 111 Linguist
 - 112 Deposed Iranian despot
 - 113 Quod ... demonstrandum
 - 114 Daggers of old
 - 116 Shore thing for a sailor?
 - 120 Hanna-Barbera's ...
 - 120 Doggie and Doggie Daddy
 - 122 Cybercurrency
 - 124 Measure of complacency?
 - 126 Cornered, in a way
 - 127 British county
 - 128 Domus Aurea builder of 64-68 AD
 - 129 Not mad
 - 130 Flippant
 - 131 Calcutta wraps
 - 132 Good name for a tuxedo cat
 - 133 Defib specialists
 - 14 Lincoln-to-Topoka dir.
 - 15 What "strikes deep," in Stephen Stills' "For What It's Worth"
 - 16 Tabriz native
 - 17 Language for the Masses?
 - 18 Barely-there beachwear
 - 24 Gym storage
 - 29 Is required to
 - 31 Some beams
 - 34 Circus swinger
 - 36 "Swan Lake" skirt
 - 37 Two-syllable foot
 - 38 Milan's La ...
 - 39 Stride pianist Art
 - 40 Seventh planeta
 - 41 Wad in a pocket
 - 46 Formal jacket feature
 - 47 Ready to proceed
 - 48 JFK but not SFO
 - 49 "La Dolce Vita" setting
 - 50 Responsibility
 - 53 MGM co-founder
 - 55 Expands
 - 56 City on the Rhine
 - 58 Code carrier
 - 60 Satirist Mort
 - 64 Carl's Jr. bread
 - 66 L.A. setting
 - 67 Notre Dame figs.
 - 68 Terminate
 - 69 A month of Sundays
 - 71 Schools of thought
 - 72 Apothecary's weight
 - 73 "Rhinosceros" playwright
 - 74 Basics
 - 75 Politician's pursuit
 - 76 Bearded Smurf
 - 79 New, in Nicaragua
 - 80 Clemson athlete
 - 81 Baby carrier?
 - 83 Colorful tee
 - 84 Tiny farm
 - 89 Prizes on the mantel
 - 90 Brewpub orders
 - 91 Gas or elec.
 - 92 Rainy day wear
 - 94 Acid neutralizer
 - 98 Symptom
 - 100 Colossal
 - 102 Cuban dance
 - 103 Gasbag's bagful?
 - 105 On the fence
 - 106 H.S. exams
 - 107 "Star Trek" officer who famously kissed Kirk in 1968
 - 108 Novelist's output
 - 109 Pungent salad green
 - 110 ... question
 - 115 Retired, as a prof.
 - 117 Rock's Queen + Lambert
 - 118 Let off steam
 - 119 Former flames
 - 121 Big name in ice cream
 - 123 Indian title
 - 125 Half a musical doll?

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9/8/19 xwordeditor@aol.com ©2019 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Sept. 8: This year, you can be counted on to find the right solution or come up with an unusual idea. To some people, you have a magical quality. If single, you draw several admirers who would love to get to know you better. Choose who you want. If you're attached, you as a couple nourish each other naturally. You will zoom in on a long-term desire. Capricorn likes your style.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
Be willing to take the lead. Despite a feeling of abundance and goodwill, others need some direction when following through on a project or their plans. You follow through on your intuition. Rethink a decision.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Stay steady and do not ask too many questions. You experience a change of feeling and thought about a domestic matter. This change becomes you and allows more flexibility from you with others.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
You are in your element right now. However, you might find that others could test your thoughts or ideas. Having an animated discussion could change your mind. Be aware of how nebulous you might be in the way you express your thoughts.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Reach out to someone at a distance whom you care about enormously. You might feel as if you are wandering from one idea to another. A friend often inspires you, and once more they appear with a great idea.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
You speak your mind and allow greater give and take from others. You might not be as interested in being right as you are in what others are thinking about and considering. Be aware of what a neighbor or relative seems to be offering.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Assume a low profile right now. You have a lot on your mind, or you need some quiet down time. Do not hesitate to accept this period, as it gives you time to recharge and rethink a project or a key relationship.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
One-on-one relating takes you down a new path. A discussion you have could be quite provocative and lead you down another new path. Understand what is happening with the other party. They are transforming right in front of you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Be aware of the changes you are experiencing around funds and your chosen direction. You could want to ask questions and understand what is happening. You have more of a say than you think.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Speak your mind and get to the bottom of a problem. Zero in on what remains a high priority for you. You are unusually inspired even when others resist what you think is a great idea.

Answers to last week's puzzle.

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