

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Blunderachievers: Jokes about typos

BY PAT MYERS

"Gosh. Crafting a joke is way harder than making puns," noted one longtime Loser with hundreds of inks to his name . . . who didn't get ink this week. True enough, the challenge of **Week 1369** — to tell a joke involving a typo or misheard word — proved impossibly daunting to all but a few Loserly efforts. In fact, some of the funnier tales turned out to be true.

4th place

The bride's friends were taken aback when she got a boob job immediately after the honeymoon. She explained: "We exchanged notes at the wedding about our wishes for each other. Mine said, 'Always be kind.' And his said, 'Just do your bust and we'll be happy forever.'" (*Mark Raffman, Reston*)

3rd place

"I'd like some new boots for my birthday," my wife said. "Nice ones like Nicki got." "Nicki's are spectacular," I agreed. Do you know the name of her plastic surgeon?" "Boots! Boots!" (*Jon Ketzner, Cumberland, Md.*)

2nd place and the monkey-butt tissue dispenser:

At the National Spelling Bee: *Pronouncer:* Your word is "Missouri." *Contestant:* Use it in a sentence, please
P: Kansas City is located in Missouri.
C: Missouri: K-A-N-S-A-S. Missouri.
P: I'm sorry, that is incorr . . . Ahem, I'm being informed that we have now been instructed to consider that the preferred spelling. (*Hildy Zampella, Alexandria*)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

Police later determined that the stampede began when Cy's cousin arrived with beer and announced to the party, "I've got the Coronas, Cyrus!" (*Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.*)

Oops C's: Honorable mentions Diner looking at menu:

"Whoever runs this restaurant must be nuts! Why would anyone want to eat a half-fried chicken?" (*Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.*)

So yeah, I texted my mother-in-law pictures of my bare butt on the beach. Well, look here at my phone: She asked me to send her photos of the hineymoon at Cabo. (*Mark Raffman*)

Note on a doorstep: "Dear trick-or-treaters: I am away for the evening but please help yourself to a treat from my bowel." (*Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.*)

Q. Why did the British millennial spend the night in the bathroom at work?
A. His boss sent him an email asking him to "stay in the loo in case I need you on this new deal." (*Mark Raffman*)

Sign in a hotel lobby: "The sofa cushions are currently being cleaned. We apologize for the incontinence." (*Jesse Frankovich*)

Sheila was spending her first semester away from home when her parents received this text: "Doing everything to raise \$1,000, sort of dropping all my classes to become a paid escort."
She waited 10 minutes, then followed up: "Sorry, that should read 'short of,' not 'sort of' — and only need \$100!"
She got \$500. (*Frank Osen*)

"Jeez, you guys," Barr complained. "Nice tighty-whities, but all I said was this was no place for Pence." (*Sam Mertens, Silver Spring*)

A man was asked to care for his neighbor's cat over the weekend. The neighbor explained that the cat was very constipated and required four to six doses of medicine over the next two days.
"When the neighbor returned Sunday evening, the man met him outside. "I never made it to forty-six, but when you step inside your house, you'll know your cat is no longer constipated." (*Drew Bennett, on a cruise ship in Tahiti*)

Correction: Last week's bulletin meant to say that the church is looking for couples who SING. We regret the added "w" and thank the many who responded. (*Ryan Martinez, Takoma Park*)

"U wanna do the wankathon with



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1373: Prime time for some Amazon reviews

From 2019: Flat shoelaces, 5/16-inch wide: My doctor told me to get a neti pot, but these were way cheaper! The plastic bits on the end hurt, though, so only 4 stars. (*Todd DeLap*)

From 2012: Emery boards, 24 count: I file my fingernails for hours and hours every day, and these boards never let me down. They're so gratifying that lately I've been compelled to stop young women on the street and file their nails, too. Thanks, Revlon! (*Rob Cohen*)

From 2014: Cotton balls, 200 count: I can't believe you call them durable for everyday cleanup — when I used them to scour my frying pan, they fell apart in a minute! (*Edward Gordon*)

Black elastic hair ties, 200 pieces

100 latex balloons, 11 inches, 10 each of 10 colors

Gold unicorn-horn headband

Brave Person men's micro thong underwear

10.25-inch cast iron skillet

13-inch nonstick slotted spatula

3-by-3-inch yellow Post-it notes, 12 pads of 100

It's the latest installment of a contest the Empress has been running since 2012, before The Washington Post needed to include the line "Amazon founder and chief executive Jeff Bezos owns The Washington Post" in every story mentioning Mr. B's other little venture. **This week: Send us a humorous "review"** (like the samples at top from our earlier contests) for any of the Amazon-listed items above. Keep them brief; 75 words would be long for us. The reviews must not cause harm to the manufacturer or seller. Feel free to post the reviews on Amazon itself after we post the results.

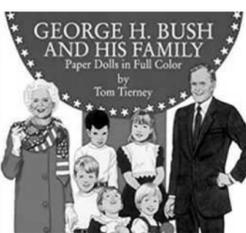
To find the exact items we're using this week, click on the links included in this week's entry form as well as in the online Invite.

Submit up to a total of 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1373 (no capitals in the Web address). Deadline is Monday, March 9; results will appear March 29 in print, March 26 online.

Winner gets the Lose Cannon, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a fabulous book of **paper dolls of "George [H.W.] Bush and His Family,"** dated 1990 — during his presidency — and featuring pictures of many descendants as children, including a teenage George W. But what made the Empress flutter her little fan were the long-legged President 41 wearing only a T-shirt tucked into white briefs, and Barbara Bush looking like a Lingerie Model of Age in a slinky black slip and, of course, pearls. Fortunately, you can cover them up in 24 matronly and, uh, patronly suits. Donated by Pie Snelson.

Other runners-up win their choice of our "For Best Results, Pour Into Top End" Loser Mug or our "Whole Fools" Grocery 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). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline "Blunderachievers" is by Kevin Dopart; Jesse Frankovich 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/inkoftheday; follow @StyleInvite on Twitter.

The Style Conversational: The Empress's weekly online column reviews each new contest and set of results. Check it out at wapo.st/conv1373.



Read their lips. See their hips. This week's second prize.

me? Come on, it'll be fun. We'll go for the whole day and we can do it side by side. TMB." (*Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.*)

AND SOME TRUE STORIES:

My new French teacher had an unfamiliar Belgian accent. Which is why I couldn't figure out why she told us to put late assignments in her *boite de toilette*, or "toilet box." It turned out to be nothing so odd: it was the similarly pronounced *boite*

aux lettres, letter box. (*Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn*)

A good friend told me she was having bad pain from cancer. I meant to text her, "Sending you virtual hugs" — but it auto-corrected to "Sending you burial hugs." I caught it before sending, and now I've used up all my luck for the day. (*Alex Blackwood, Houston*)

My young nephew had trouble saying "sh"; "hush" came out as "huss," "mashed" as "massed." One day he and my son were jostling each other in the supermarket checkout lane — and my nephew complained to his mom in his loudest 5-year-old voice: "CHRIS IS GETTING PUSSY WITH ME!" My sister-in-law never went back to that store. (*Dave Davies, Locust Grove, Va., a First Offender*)

Still running — deadline Monday night, March 2: our "Balliol rhyme" contest. See wapo.st/invite1372.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

"LO AND BEHOLD"
By MIKE TORCH

ACROSS
1 They cross in sights
6 "Hmm ..."
13 Aetna competitor
19 Store, as fodder
21 Giving it one's all, theatrically
22 In-groups
23 Battery terminal-related
24 Film VIP's influence?
26 Passport extension, say
28 Lacking face value
29 Eroded
30 Granola tidbit
31 Bookmarked item
33 Official motorcade protection
35 Derision of a parade entry?
41 "Dancing With the Stars" judge Goodman
42 "... one, think ..."
46 Transvaal settlers
47 More in order
49 "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" rhyme scheme
50 Tax return?
53 Orbital point
54 Performed in the street for tips, in London
56 Give an address
57 Calligrapher specializing in punctuation?
60 Frozen Wasser
61 Unilever men's brand
62 Check writers
63 Surgical inserts
65 Biological groups
66 Not rented
67 "... español?"
70 Thin batteries
72 Pats or Jags
74 Roof window
75 It parallels the radius
76 Blood test letters
77 Hardwood seller's markup?
81 Supply
82 WWII threats
84 Starts the pool game
85 Cactus features
86 One may be common

87 Rhythm instrument usually played in pairs
88 Israelite patriarch
90 Banks on a runway
91 Nocturnal acronym
92 Period when Lindsay ruled?
97 Clothing giant that's lost an article over the years
100 Daughter-in-law of 88-Across
101 Fair-hiring letters
102 Two-handed Greek vase
105 Davis of "Dr. Dolittle"
10 Former tykes' clothing chain
112 "Two Women" actress teaming up with a cartoon cat?
115 Tot's foot

116 Lincoln Center landmark, familiarly
117 Elemental variant
118 Reduced
119 Gamer's venue
120 Ski report highlight
121 Softens

DOWN
1 Learn about
2 Temper
3 Knows about
4 Disney World attraction
5 Side for a dog
6 Commanded
7 "Lose Yourself" rapper
8 Barcelona bull
9 Part of a process
10 Italian
11 Neorealism film pioneer Vittorio De
11 Between, to Berliz
12 It may be inflated
13 Ben-Hur portrayer
14 Stomach woe
15 Armed forces units
16 Heaps
17 Like Switz. in WWII
18 Concerning
20 Went by
25 Indy competitor
27 Cowardly Lion portrayer
32 Road trip need
34 Wintry pellets
36 Boundary
37 Musical pitch
38 Tied up at the harbor
39 Bright signs
40 Lady of song
43 Prosthetic eagle claw?
44 Bow or curtsy
45 X-ray doses
48 Thrice, in Rx's
50 Part of RFK, briefly
51 Gofor guy
52 Imitation semolina?
53 Sheltered, at sea

54 Bright, blue-white heavenly body
55 Multi-purpose vehicle, briefly
57 Playground retort
58 Toondom's Olive
59 Key
62 Knitting loops
64 Izod competitor
67 What the Wonderland caterpillar smokes
68 Sounds from pounds
69 Dietitian's calc.
71 Fifth Avenue retailer
73 Pond dweller
74 Harsh Athenian lawmaker
76 Pursuit
78 President who appointed Justice Kagan
79 Educ. basics
80 Toll
81 Hand measurement
83 Cursed thing
85 Greet informally
87 Fox of "Transformers"
88 Like Vivaldi's "Spring"
89 The Missouri R. runs through it
91 Upgrade, as on Yelp
93 City of NW Syria
94 Perfect Sleepers, e.g.
95 Rumble
96 "Absolutely!"
98 Refined
99 Entourage
102 Utah ski resort
103 "Jerry Maguire" actor Jay
104 Occurring before: Abbr.
106 Put in a hold
107 Watches tykes
108 "It's showtime!"
110 Cooked
111 Slugger Sammy
113 Hubhub
114 Red-berried tree

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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | March 1: This year could see you emerge with greater authenticity and openness. You can hide only so much, and you will feel better when you are honest with your immediate circle. If single, you see life from a new perspective and make an adjustment in the selection of people who surround you. If attached, you might be more open with your significant other. Fewer games and more authenticity will deepen your bond. Gemini knows how to tease you and make you laugh.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
You might not be prepared for rapid change. Give thought to a financial matter, whether it is lending a child money or holding off on a major purchase. You will have plenty of time to consider your options.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
You note that others could be unusually responsive during the first half of the day. Do not try to figure it out. Simply enjoy the easy moments, laughter and catching up — perhaps over brunch.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
You might be running on a low level of energy until later in the day. Accept an invitation for a late brunch or get-together in the afternoon. Catching up on a friend's news could stun you.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
Use the morning to accomplish a specific chore or complete a project. You will have reason to celebrate with a dear friend. You could be stunned by another person's reaction.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Deal with an older family member midmorning. They need and appreciate your time and attention. Do not underestimate your role in this person's life. In the afternoon, get together with friends.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Tension mounts between you and an authority figure. You will need to make the change this person demands. Once you do, much will fall into place. You will not have to deal with unpredictability around plans.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
News floats in from faraway friends. You will be intrigued by some of what you hear. You change plans because of the news.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
One-on-one relating takes over. You could find it difficult to come to terms with a demanding associate. This person is inflexible about their desires. Clearly someone will need to change their attitude.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Get into a project you want to complete early in the day. You will liberate yourself for more fun. A friend or loved one comes up with quite a proposition. Respond and express your authentic feelings.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
You might want to touch base with a loved one this morning. They might have made fun plans for the two of you. Midafternoon fatigue could encourage lounging. You could opt to stay close to home, too.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
You are coming from a more solid base than you thought possible. Have an overdue domestic meeting early in the day. Afterward, you can allow your inner child out, and the naughtiness and fun will begin.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Make important calls. News you hear might change your plans or at least encourage you to do so. You could be happiest relaxing with a loved one later on. Often, you push too hard.

Answers to last week's puzzle.

A	C	L	A	S	S		H	A	N	D	I	C	A	P		S	A	F	E	R
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