

## DIVERSIONS

## THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

## The Ask Capades: Inking questions

BY PAT MYERS

**Week 1383** was an installment of our Questionable Journalism contest, in which readers chose a sentence from The Post or another paper and paired it with a question — totally out of context — that the sentence could answer.

## 4th place:

A. "Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life."  
Q. What advice is not usually given at drama school orientation? (*Tom Witte, Montgomery Village*)

## 3rd place:

A. "It is a great transportation option for folks as states and localities start to reopen."  
Q. Why are car manufacturers eagerly announcing new lines of hearses? (*Sam Mertens, Silver Spring*)

## 2nd place and the Japanese version of Dave Barry's American history book:

A. "Will some people be affected badly?"  
Q. Stephen Miller, what goal do you set for yourself at the start of each workday? (*Kevin Dopot, Washington*)

## And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

A. "The District will open 20 voting centers from May 22 to June 2 so voters can stagger the days they go to the polls."  
Q. What's being done to encourage drunks to vote? (*Ellen Raphaeli, Falls Church*)

## Who chose THESE? Honorable mentions

**A. It received a \$10 million loan.**  
Q. How is the pandemic affecting the Kushner tots' lemonade stand? (*Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.*)

**A. At the moment, social distancing is the only effective countermeasure.**  
Q. How do I get my parents to stop asking me when I'm going to give them grandchildren? (*Hannah Seidel, Alexandria, a First Offender*)

**A. "I'm just a big lump," he yells out. "Poopyhead. Poopyhead!"**  
Q. How is the president practicing for this fall's debates? (*Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.*)

**A. "If you don't need it, don't apply."**  
Q. What instructions are on every bottle of Three-Alarm Habanero Crab Lice Ointment? (*Mark Raffman, Reston*)

**A. There would still be time for hockey on the trampoline.**  
Q. What's a line from "The Love Song of Salvador Dali"? (*Duncan Stevens*)

**A. It's become a movement.**  
Q. Mr. President, how is your famed gut instinct today? (*Kevin Dopot*)

**A. "I nap more than I ever did before."**  
Q. Jen O'Malley Dillon, what's it like being Joe Biden's campaign manager? (*Steve Smith, Potomac*)

**A. "He eventually dumped me, and with distance and perspective I saw that he was obviously a terrible match for me — and one who treated me poorly in public."**  
Q. What sentence appears simultaneously in the memoirs of Jeff Sessions, Sarah Sanders, Rick Perry, Kirsten Nielsen, John Kelly, James Mattis, Rex Tillerson . . . (*Tom Panther, Sharps, Va.*)

**A. 52 percent agreed there is a "significant" reproducibility crisis in science.**  
Q. Do most physicists and biologists report having too little sex? (*John Hutchins, Silver Spring*)

**A. This is close to a carbon copy — maybe just a few degrees cooler."**  
Q. Isn't this newfangled mimeograph machine awesome? (*Adrienne Cadik, Alexandria*)

**A. "You do need to do that dance — how far away can I stand without you being able to reach the thing?"**  
Q. How did Adam remember his early awkwardness with Eve? (*Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase*)

**A. Add cilantro to the pot.**  
Q. How does one stretch one's stash while in isolation? (Asking for a friend.) (*Sue Lin Chong, Baltimore*)

**A. "This is a humbling job."**  
Q. What tweet immediately led the FBI to realize that the president's Twitter feed had been hacked? (*John Hutchins*)



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

## New for Week 1387: Movie clips — drop letters from the middle of a title

**FINDING (N)EMO:** A father tries to reconcile with his estranged son by pretending to love angry teenage music.

**THE (L)EGO MOVIE:** "Everything is Awesome" about the Dear Leader. Brought to you by Fox News.

**BA(b)E: PIG IN THE CITY:** A Manhattan millennial introduces her boyfriend from Flyover Country to her snotty parents.

Just over a year ago, the Empress ran a contest asking readers to delete letters from the beginning or end of a movie title to make a new film. Now, at the suggestion of Hopelessly Addicted to Loserdom Duncan Stevens, we present the sequel. **This week: Delete one or more letters (they must be consecutive) from the middle of a movie title, and describe the resulting new movie, as in Duncan's suggestions above. You may change spacing, capitalization and punctuation.**

Submit up to 25 entries at [wapo.st/enter-invite-1387](http://wapo.st/enter-invite-1387) (no capitals in the Web address). Indicate the deleted letter(s) in parentheses; don't use contrasting typefaces, strike-throughs, etc.; the entry form's primitive little brain can't handle them. **Deadline is Monday, June 15; results will appear July 5 in print, July 2 online.**

**Winner gets the Lose Cannon, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a genuine big Bush-Quayle campaign button, from either 1988 or 1992, so it was for either a winning effort or a losing one. Picked up by the Empress at an estate sale, it's sure to evoke a little nostalgia even from your lefties for An Era of Some Sanity.**

**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](http://wapo.st/InvRules). The headline "Ask Capades" is by Chris Doyle; Roy Ashley wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](https://www.facebook.com/invdev); "like" the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at [bit.ly/inkoftheday](https://www.facebook.com/bit.ly/inkoftheday); follow @StyleInvite on Twitter.

**The Style Conversational:** The Empress's weekly online column reviews each new contest and set of results. See [wapo.st/conv1387](http://wapo.st/conv1387).



The GOP in the Before Times: This week's second prize.

**A. Now here we are in our homes, and we have to face the domestic sphere.**

Q. So has your spouse gained any weight during the lockdown? (*Duncan Stevens*)

**A. "Despite its smaller size, it had better airflow and speed."**  
Q. How did John Bobbitt see the silver lining? (*Chris Damm, Charles Town, W.Va.*)

**A. You'll love the way people light up around you.**  
Q. What's the best thing about cleaning up a nuclear plant after an accident? (*Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.*)

**A. Jehovah's Witnesses are not knocking on doors right now. They stopped back in March.**  
Q. Why have two women been standing on my front porch for three months? (*Steve Smith*)

**A. "Write down everything you've done today starting from the moment you woke up."**  
Q. What did your bride say on the second day of your marriage that made you say "whuh-oh"? (*Chris Doyle*)

**A. Fifty arms, no brain at all.**  
Q. So who showed up at the Michigan capitol to protest the stay-at-home order? (*Chris Doyle; the*

original was describing certain starfish)

**A. In key ways, America's representatives in Washington aren't much like America.**

Q. Did you know that most members of Congress can name their district's member of Congress? (*Jesse Rifkin, Arlington*)

**A. "If you can change the world, why can't you change your appearance?"**

Q. What was the one question everyone wanted to ask Bill Gates? (*Alex Steelsmith, Kailua, Hawaii*)

**A. To the delight of the kids, the family decided to add more concrete.**

Q. What creative solution did the Smiths use to win the world record for the heaviest stuffed turkey? (*Drew Bennett, West Plains, Mo.*)

**A. Depending on market conditions, it could also be at or even below fair market rental value.**

Q. Why shouldn't I supplement my income by selling my body to the night? (*Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn*)

**A. A flexible putty knife, a stiff brush and a vacuum might be helpful.**

Q. "I need to fill in for the president's valet and do his hair and makeup! How will I even start?" (*Frank Mann, Washington*)

**A. "Some of us could make a party of just the fried appetizers."**

Q. What did the alligators say about the people flocking to Florida beaches? (*Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.*)

**A. "This is not a joke."**  
Q. What does the Empress say about most of my Invite entries? (*Sam Mertens*)

**Still running — deadline Monday night, June 8: Our annual "grandfoals" contest. See [wapo.st/invite1386](http://wapo.st/invite1386).**

## L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

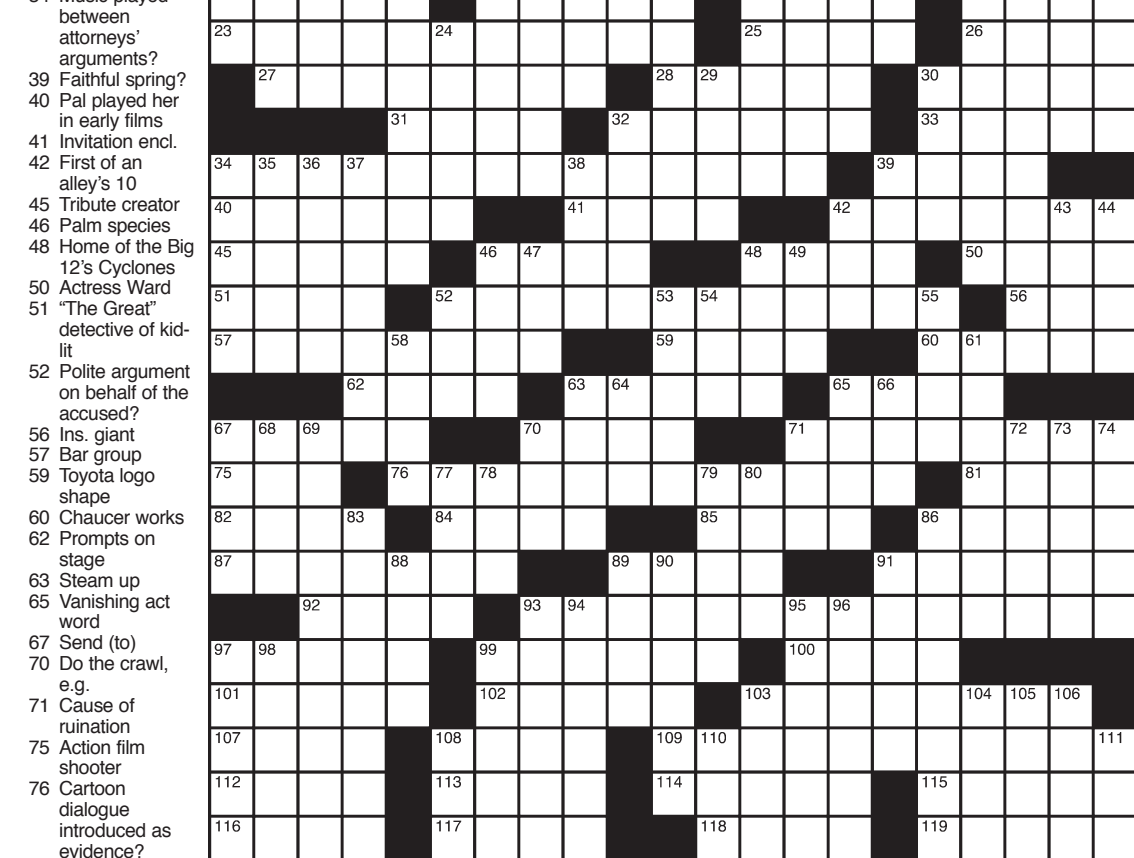
EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

"CASE IN POINT"		81 Garfield's foil		115 "Neon" fish		14 Truckers' cargoes		52 So-so mark		80 Title for Gaga	
By MARK McCLAIN		82 Place for a nest		116 After that		15 High-hat challenge of a conviction?		53 Firm belief		83 Pole, for one	
ACROSS		84 Vishnu's quartet		117 Scientist deGrasse Tyson		17 Little shavers		54 Genesis patriarch		86 Farm workers of old	
1 Jousting's wear		85 Solemn promise		118 Alan in old films		20 Goes for oil		55 Town across the Thames from Windsor		88 Canterbury's county	
6 Language of 100,000+ Canadians		86 Get a hard copy		119 "My bad, Francesca"		24 Foster with Oscars		58 Composer Weill		89 Companion of Dorothy	
10 "Waterloo" group		87 Persian hunting dogs		DOWN		29 Bounder		61 Makes available to		90 Camel cousin	
14 Jr. challenge		88 Sing the praises of		1 Clemson's NCAA div.		30 Tiler's calculation		63 Hole-making tools		91 O'Connor who played Gabrielle on "Xena"	
18 Early "Masterpiece Theatre" host Alistair		89 Turn into cash		2 Large cross		32 Sickly		64 Pen part		93 Italian treats	
19 Got the news		90 Scott in an 1857 case		3 Pouty face		34 Flaxen, as hair		65 Milne creation		94 Handy	
21 Champagne word		91 Satisfaction for a prosecuting attorney?		4 Often-fried veggie		35 Speed gauge		66 Control		95 Selling for, with "at"	
22 Toy owner in "Toy Story" films		92 Mustard town		5 Upgrade technologically		36 Question in Matthew		67 Wagon road features		96 Waited in hiding	
23 Bailiff who keeps the jury in stitches?		93 Blow a gasket		6 blank: Loire Valley wine		37 Heart and soul		68 Biblical scribe		97 First appearance	
25 Hotel unit		102 Justice Kagan		7 Take exception to		38 "Titans"		69 Magistrate who specializes in agricultural litigation?		98 "Fighting" Indiana team	
26 Egg-white omelet's lack		103 Aggressive singers		8 Digs in		39 Not as much		70 "Cheers" bartender		99 Lofly home	
27 Close friends, say		104 one's time: wait		9 Prior to, in verse		42 Female lobster		71 URL element		100 World Cup org.	
28 Dramatic technique		107 Tennis great		10 Out of the country		43 "Would ___ to you?"		72 "Ta-ta, Thierry!"		101 Tiny bit of a min.	
29 "The Sandbox" playwright		108 Tennis great		11 Literary Yorkshire family name		44 Pesters		73 Big ship		102 Titles of respect	
30 Frigg's spouse		109 Action brought by a cowardly plaintiff?		12 Channel markers		46 Refreshes, with "out"		74 "I can do that"		103 "Family Feud" reruns channel	
31 Parade features		110 Links org.		13 Drive-thru device		47 Walgreens rival		77 Carefully timed operation		104 "Good" cholesterol initials	
32 Bull alligator sounds		111 In ___: unmoved		14 Spot cost		48 Way over yonder		78 E-file org.		105 Mai ___	
33 Music played between attorneys' arguments?		112 In ___: unmoved		15 Awkward sorts		49 Filmmaker Gibson		79 Awkward sorts			
34 Faithful spring?		113 In ___: unmoved									
35 Pal played her in early films		114 Spot cost									
36 Invitation encl.											
37 First of an alley's 10											
38 Tribute creator											
39 Palm species											
40 Home of the Big 12's Cyclones											
41 Actress Ward											
42 "The Great" detective of kid-lit											
43 Polite argument on behalf of the accused?											
44 Ins. giant											
45 Bar group											
46 Toyota logo shape											
47 Chaucer works											
48 Prompts on stage											
49 Steam up											
50 Vanishing act word											
51 Send (to)											
52 Do the crawl, e.g.											
53 Cause of ruination											
54 Action film shooter											
55 Cartoon dialogue introduced as evidence?											

6/7/20

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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

## HOROSCOPE

BY MADALYN ASLAN

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY | June 7:** Charming and entertaining, you have broken many a heart. This year, expressing enthusiasm and team spirit, as well as learning to trust someone to represent you, assures career success. If single, you need to be clear about your intentions, as many fall for you and then are disappointed. If attached, you have a decidedly sensuous bond and may well stay together forever if you also continue the verbal connection. Aquarius has many far-flung ideas.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19)  
You will be enthusiastic yet serious about your aspirations today. Others are impressed by your dedication and self-sufficiency. It's not a good day to ask for favors. Instead, see how you can help an elderly — probably female — relative.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20)  
It is an optimum day to enroll in classes or catch up on reading. If you have always wanted to try your hand at writing, now is the time to begin. You have a new depth of understanding about yourself.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)  
You will probe beneath the surface of events and companions. It is a day when mysteries and puzzles are clarified. Be very honest with yourself. It is not a time to practice denial. You will recover from past disappointments well.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22)  
It is a day of paradox in your life, as you move forward by looking back. Forgive yourself for mistakes and resolve to create a wonderful new cycle. You get organized, which leads to more productivity for the new week.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)  
Your positive state of mind wins admiration from others. Short journeys are productive. Your superb communication skills and charm carry you forward. You have a lighthearted inner glow that cheers all those whose lives you touch.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)  
Your mental attitude is brighter. Look at alternative solutions to old problems. Select reading material that is short and contemporary. Discussions of plans and feelings with your beloved brings new depth to most important bonds.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)  
Background music played softly

adds greatly to your hours at home. You use your artistic skills to make your residence more attractive. Encourage family members to entertain you and make you laugh via FaceTime or Zoom.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)  
You experience amazing developments today. You will be able to analyze your surroundings, including your neighborhood, and improve your life in practical ways. Casual conversations or news stories become a catalyst for new opportunities. React quickly to assure success.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)  
You budget and shop wisely. Finances are on firmer ground. Gifts might be the wrong size or color, so keep all receipts. Double-check addresses. Adopt a live-and-let-live attitude in coping with an eccentric relative.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan 19)  
Today generates enthusiasm and well-being. A glowing new vitality rushes through you. Sing to the lush growth unfolding all around you. This is not the time to gamble. Secure your belongings and finances.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)  
Today favors introspection, meditation and creativity. You will discover more about yourself. Memories and the momentum of past habits will affect you and become very clear as patterns.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)  
A softer trend emerges today. People listen to your ideas with more patience. The spirit of cooperation assures success. It is a perfect time to break a bad habit. The upcoming week is off to a good start already.

## Answers to last week's puzzle.

B	W	A	N	A	M	E	L	D	C	R	E	S	T	A	W	L	S			
A	O	L	E	R	A	L	I	O	M	P	H	G	A	I	N					
D	R	E	W	A	B	L	A	N	K	C	A	M	B	L	E	A	R	E	A	
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