DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

STYLE'S SLYEST: Winning anagrams

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1388 we asked for businesses, products, etc. whose names contained a word or phrase plus its anagram. In other words, all the letters in the first half of the name are scrambled into the other half, like **DREARY MISSES' TENT/ MATERNITY DRESSES.** Amazingly clever finds this week!

4th place:

PATHETIC RUSE THERAPEUTICS: Our placebos are the most effective on the market. *(Byron Miller, Cobble Hill, B.C.)*

3rd place:

BACHELOR CARBHOLE: Beer & Fries R All U Need *(Bill Hilton, Sebring, Fla.)*

2nd place and the potato chip package-motif socks:

BAD TO YOU AUTO BODY: We promise that your car will leave our shop more rusted, dinged and dented than when you brought it in — all for an outrageous price! *(George Thompson, Springfield)*

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

'ALIENS/MY ANUS' INSANE ASYLUM: We get right to the bottom of abduction probe delusions. *(Kevin Dopart, Washington)*

ONE-SMIRK MONIKERS: Honorable mentions

SPECIAL VOTERS POSTAL SERVICE: Agency created by the president that will accept mail-in ballots, but only from his supporters. *(Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)*

'I LOST A BRA IN IT' ITALIAN BISTRO: Trattoria known for its very strong drinks. *(Diane Lucitt, Ellicott City)*

ASCOT TACOS: Our truck is a Bentley. *(Dave Letizia, Pinehurst, N.C.; Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg, Va.)*

RUBE UBER: A ride-sharing service for those without smartphones; a.k.a. a cab. *(Steven Gerstein, Potomac, a First Offender)*

AMPLE CONTOURS CRUMPET SALOON: Featuring an all-day snack and beer buffet. *(Byron Miller)*

BAKER'S FAT BREAKFAST: Start your day with a doughnut with cheesecake topping! *(Raymond Gallucci, Frederick)*

BOREDOM BEDROOM: The worst little whorehouse in Texas. *(Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)*

BURLY DREAM LUMBERYARD: Shop here, ladies, and you'll never need a stud finder. *(Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore)*

'C'MON, EARN SPOUSE TIME' TEA 'N' SCONES EMPORIUM: A romantic outing, for one of you. *(Sarah Walsh, Rockville)*

CHARGE MUCH MEGACHURCH: If you want to find Jesus, you gotta grease some psalms. *(Frank Mann, Washington)*

CIA STOP-IN OPTICIANS: The White House has limited its stock to rose-colored glasses. *(Mark Raffman, Reston)*

'HAD OUTHOUSE FOR ENTERTAINING' SOUTHERN HERITAGE FOUNDATION: It operates the Museum of Unromanticized Dixie Culture. *(Kevin Dopart)*

CLEANSED SITE DELICATESSEN: Where we fumigate the food, staff and customers. *(Stephen Dudzik, Olney)*

COARSE APE AEROSPACE: When we throw bones in the air, they turn into satellites! Serving the industry since 2001. *(Duncan Stevens, Vienna)*

DIET TIDE: The detergent taste you crave, the convenience of pods — now sugar-free! *(Elliott Shevin, Oak Park, Mich.)*

DOORBELL BORDELLO: We'll push your buttons and never expect a ring. *(Kevin Dopart)*

DREARY MISSES' TENT MATERNITY DRESSES: Telling it like it is with the same styles since 1940. *(Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)*

EROS'S SORES: Your reliable STD clinic. *(Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)*

FAKE SCAM FACE MASK: For those who think covid-19 is a hoax: It exposes your nose and mouth but covers your eyes and ears. *(Frank Mann)*

GAME OF THRONES FEARSOME THONG: Wear what the Night King wore beneath that armor! *(Ken Liss, Brookline, Mass.)*

GENITAL FERVOR FOREIGN TRAVEL: Your guide to Amsterdam's red-light district. *(Laura Clairmont, Venice, Fla.)*

HOMER'S IPECAC ICE CREAM SHOP: If you keep these down, they're free! Mmm, ipecac! *(Dave Prevar, Annapolis)*

ICY TOES SOCIETY: Its members would really like to get together, but they have cold feet. *(Beverley Sharp, Montgomery Ala.)*

MINIATURE GOLF FEATURING LIMO: Why walk all those inches between holes when you can travel in style? *(Eric Nelkin, Silver Spring)*

NOSY LOCO COP COLONOSCOPY: It's a free procedure, but you might just want to pay the ticket. *(Roy Ashley, Washington)*

OCEANIC COCAINE: Ride the high seas on this cruise. *(Bill Dorner, Indianapolis; Stephen Dudzik)*

OCHER SLOP PRESCHOOL: The only place in town that welcomes your un-potty-trained child. *(Melissa Balmain)*

RICH MAN CHARMIN: Bath tissue designed for the effluent of the affluent. *(Bob Kruger, Rockville)*

TESLA LEAST: Reimagining the skateboard. Reserve yours now — delivery 2025. *(Brett Dimaio, Cumberland, Md.)*

RANDOM CRUISE INVOICE/ CORONAVIRUS MEDICINE/ VIDEO CORNER MUSICIAN/ ECONOMIC RUIN ADVISER: 2020 Problems Got You Down? Wire U$ Money, We Help All Your Troubles! *(Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station)*

And Last: **LOSER CHOP PRESCHOOL:** Where future Empresses learn to winnow the list. *(J.J. Gertler, Arlington)*

Still running — deadline Monday night, July 20: Our contest for new words and phrases that lack C, O, V, I and D. See wapo.st/invite1391.

New contest for Week 1392: Picture this — caption these cartoons

Back in late January, when we last did our cartoon caption contest, one of the random Bob Staake cartoons was of a woman sitting at home in an armchair and noticing that a bunch of giant circles — spots? bowling balls? dog noses? — had appeared outside her window. What we couldn't yet have known was that they were coronaviruses (or they would have been, if some caption-writing Loser had found a way to make that funny).

Anyway, the point is that we often see things differently from how we did back in the Before Times. Which makes it a good time to try out a new stack of Staakes. **This week: Write a caption, either descriptive or in dialogue, for any of the Bob Staake cartoons above.** It's inevitable that numerous Losers will come up with the same general idea, so the funniest writing will get the ink.

Help an Empress today! Please begin each entry with "Picture A:," "Picture B:," etc., followed *on the same line* by your caption. This will let Ms. E, with the "assistance" of Microsoft Word, group all the Picture A captions together, etc., before scorning the vast majority of them. Thank you — you're so kind!

Submit up to 25 entries at **wapo.st/enter-invite-1392** (no capitals in the Web address). **Deadline is Monday, July 20;** results will appear Aug. 9 in print, Aug. 6 online.

Winner gets the Lose Cannon, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives the latest of our Questionable Culinary Delights: It's durian, the pineapple-size fruit that's beloved in Southeast Asian cuisine. But it's not the custardy pulp; it's the part that's *not* beloved: It's a plastic vial of **"durian aroma paste,"** concentrating a smell that "has been said to reek of gym socks, garbage and rotting meat," according to Science News. Loser Daphne Steinberg, who found it in a D.C.-area international supermarket, didn't break the seal on the bottle, and neither did we.

Other runners-up win their choice of our "For Best Results, Pour Into Top End" Loser Mug or our "Whole Fools" Grossery Bag. Honorable mentions get one of our new lusted-after Loser magnets, "No 'Bility" or "Punderachiever." 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 "Style's Slyest" is by Jeff Contompasis; Chris Doyle wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the 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*.

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/conv1392.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

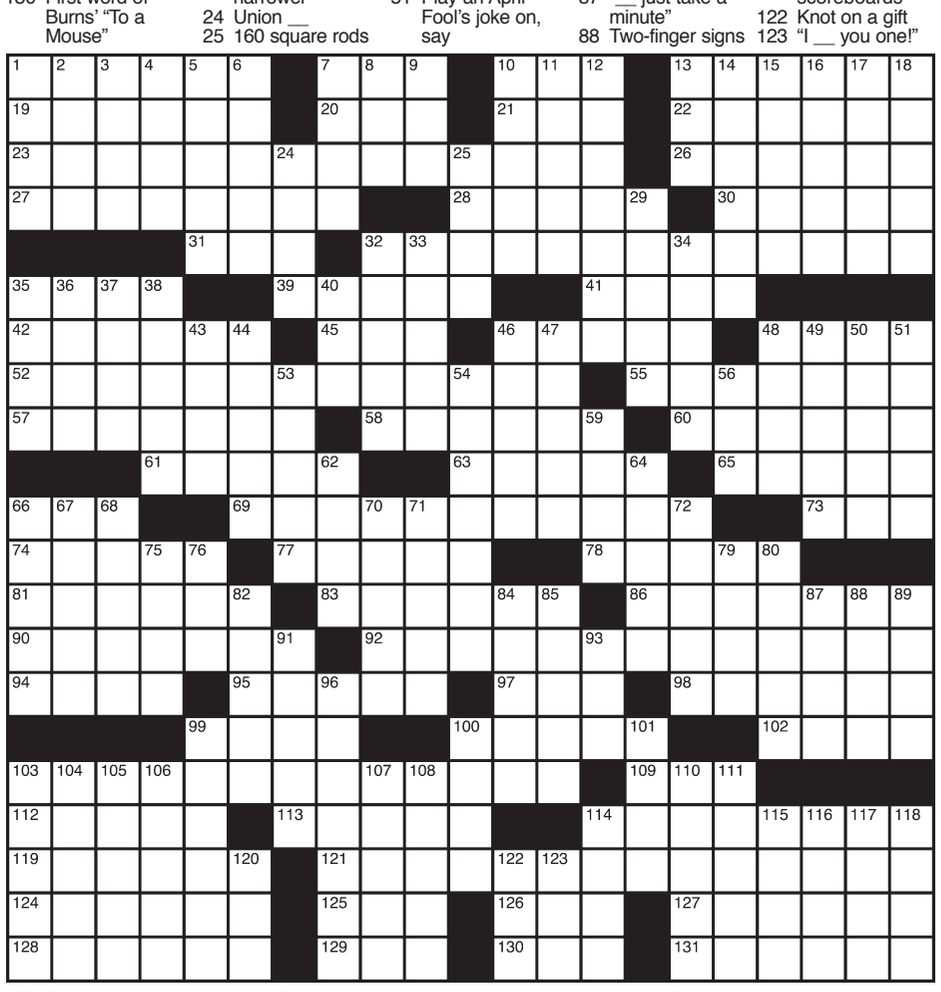
"UNCERTAIN ENDINGS" By MARYELLEN UTHLAUT

ACROSS

1 Human embodiment
7 Prefix with -mance
10 Hat often with a pompon
13 45-Across landing site
19 Chef's asset
20 Musician's asset
21 Command for DDE
22 Caviar choice
23 Dressed like the winning coach after the traditional ice bath?
26 Short revitalizer
27 Balloon operator
28 Boorish
30 Take forcefully
31 Artist's asset
32 Pantry nook for chewy candies?
35 Remarkable deed
39 Really stood out
41 Forsaken
42 Quenya and Sindarin are forms of it
45 13-Across lander
46 Hurry-scurry
48 Foolish
52 Fudd, when being elusive?
55 Café haunter, say
57 In reserve
58 One giving you a hand
60 Watchword
61 Popular video-sharing app, familiarly
63 Diamond smash
65 Salty drops
66 "That __ fun!"
69 Shoe that's really not better-than-none?
73 Cover-crop grass
74 Wide-mouthed pitchers
77 Heath growth also called furze
78 Treats with scorn
81 Part of LPGA
83 Rowland Macy's inspiration for the red star logo
86 Eliciting feeling
90 Bridge framework
92 Regret losing one's straw hat?
94 Dried-up
95 Word with cut or crust
97 Triumphant cry
98 Matters of degrees
99 On the main
100 Important figure in pro sports
102 Otherwise
103 Got a Mini airborne?
109 Eng. majors' degrees
112 Emmy-winning legal drama
113 Military uniform material
114 Wide view
119 Fashion photographer Richard
121 Life-size cutout to promote "Rocky"?
124 Establishment with tastings
125 Had a bite
126 Personal
127 Live
128 Impertinent in tone
129 High-__ monitor
130 First word of Burns' "To a Mouse"
131 Removes permanently

DOWN

1 Samoan capital
2 Spinner in the wind
3 Banned apple spray
4 Tuesday special, in many eateries
5 Make amends
6 __ race
7 Correspondence sign-off
8 Untrained or undressed
9 Source of metal
10 Brightly colored fish
11 Starters
12 Juicy tidbits
13 Epitome of simplicity
14 Logician's asset
15 Change
16 Altercation
17 Unblinking
18 Gradually become narrower
24 Union __
25 160 square rods
29 One just hanging in the forest
32 Removed the center from
33 It's not uncommon to twist it
34 Skincare aid
35 Slug follower?
36 Cockney greeting
37 "It's Your Space" sloganeer
38 Hedren of "The Birds"
40 Something to make on a sunny day?
43 Nine-inch measure
44 Investigative journalist Seymour
46 Sun: Pref.
47 Area of conflict
48 Enjoy a meal
49 Rose petal perfume
50 Like some friends
51 Play an April Fool's joke on, say
53 Attach a new label to
54 Polo clubs
56 Baseball club
59 Whistle blowers
62 Tons
64 Two-time Oscar winner Zellweger
66 Shoemaker's strips
67 Up on the latest info
68 Meal involving charoseth, a symbolic fruit paste
70 Set up for the fall
71 Moving about
72 Cuban dance
75 Become visible on the horizon
76 Chess __
79 Timely benefit
80 Soliloquy site
82 Partly melted snow
84 "Middle Waters" tribe
85 Different
87 "__ just take a minute"
88 Two-finger signs
89 Scots Gaelic
91 Fencing gear
93 Flying Solo?
96 Leader of the track
99 Where time cards are punched
100 Copied
101 Way up the slope
103 Defects
104 Linda of "Alice"
105 2010 Barack appointee
106 Shorebird
107 Speak loftily
108 Fairy tale beasts
110 Travel guide co-founder Michelin
111 Not high
114 Sheet in a window
115 Activist Parks
116 Graph line
117 Ancient Persian
118 "Iliad" war god
120 Bronx Bombers, on scoreboards
122 Knot on a gift
123 "I __ you one!"



7/12/20 xwordeditor@aol.com ©2020 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY MADALYN ASLAN

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | July 12: Powerful and persuasive, you get many projects off the ground that would never have materialized without you. Stymied as you have been this quarantine period, this year is still successful for you. If single, you pursue and win over someone just to lose them because of a personality clash. If attached, your partner adores you, but you must try to be less domineering. Libra is capable of smiling and agreeing while smoldering with resentment.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
This feels like your special day. You will be powerful and effective. There is new warmth and action, which carries you forward. If angry feelings build, examine the consequences before you act. Protect yourself against sunburn, and don't go overboard with exercise.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
You will enjoy nostalgia today, surprised by the reappearance of an old friend. Be as generous as you can afford to be. It is easy to be overly sympathetic. Be patient if it is hard to express your deepest feelings.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
A second opinion helps solve any problems. Children can be demanding today. A second or third attempt at reaching any goal is likely to work out. Be persistent. Do not veer away from long-range goals now.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
Maintain a low profile at parties — virtual or real — and keep your own entertaining simple and comfortable. Social situations can be stressful and expensive otherwise. Enjoy what you have; don't let yourself be tormented by thoughts of greener pastures.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
If you want to write or lecture to groups, proceed with the confidence that you will do well. Plan on involving yourself in learning experiences and travel. Your perspective broadens. It is easy to rise above worries and be optimistic.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Visualize and identify what you want and how you would like to pursue it. Discard old dreams and irrelevant goals. Friends are recovering from difficult times and will provide more cheerful companionship in the immediate future.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
The expectations of others and plans they make involving you may cause you some stress. The art of compromise is second nature to Libra, so employ this skill to smooth away tensions. You feel like you arrive back at the beginning of a journey.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Be sensitive to health messages sent by your body today. You are beginning a cycle that brings consequences if you developed poor health habits in the past. Plan on going to your doctor for a general checkup.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
You will experience a psychic link with your beloved, and after an amazing experience you will establish a stronger bond. Today is also marvelous for creative expression. Let the artist, poet, musician or actor within you surface.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan 19)
Family members are restless. Avoid arguing about mistakes anyone may have made. Humor helps. Focus on comfort and safety of the house itself. A new residence may seem tempting, although it just is not practical right now.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Your positive state of mind wins admiration from others today. Short, interesting journeys around the neighborhood are productive. A neighbor is friendly and helpful. You gather interesting books and magazines to read during the week.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Events happening might tempt you to envy those who seem to be more well off financially. But look to your life and how beautiful it is. Concentrate on the quality. Friends and ideals lift you to a better place.

Answers to last week's puzzle.

S	T	E	F	F	I	■	G	L	O	B	E	■	A	L	I	G	■	H	E	R		
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7/5/20