

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Hai-comedy: 'So' jokes in 5-7-5

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1401 the Empress asked for "X is so Y" jokes, roughly, in haiku form (5, 7, 5 syllables).

4th place

My hair's now so long, I'm like Rapunzel — and she Couldn't leave either. (Sarah Walsh, Rockville)

3rd place

Your Mama's so loud When she snores that I can't hear Kimberly Guilfoyle. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

2nd place and the Compost Cookies:

My state's so blue that Trump replaced our mailboxes With recycling cans. (Steve Smith, Potomac)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

I'm so embarrassed, When I fly abroad I say I've been deported. (Frank Mann, Washington)

So-so 'so'-etry: Honorable mentions

There's such a rush to Make a vaccine that "warp speed" May turn to corpse speed. (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

California's sky Was so orange, you couldn't find the president. (Spencer Lu, Gaithersburg)

"WAP": So NSFV I'm SMFH. (Mark Raffman, Reston)

My team is so bad, When I saw the empty seats It just seemed normal. (Craig Dykstra, Centreville)

Ellen is so kind She lets her crew take a bow From the Ellen store. (Mike Ostapiej, Ravenel, S.C.)

CD sales have sunk So low they're behind records — It's the vinyl straw. (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

He's so dishonest That his nose campaigned across Four swing states at once. (Leif Picoult, Rockville, a First Offender)

Charlotte the spider's So careful, she's always sure To keep eight feet apart. (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

It is so dang hot, Even the humidity Says it is the heat. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

He's so untruthful, He can travel the world on Frequent-liar miles. (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf)

Trump is so giving, He paid 140K to Help a single mom. (Jesse Rifkin, Arlington)

Falwell's such a chump, When his wife is naughty he Sits in the corner. (Jon Ketzner, Cumberland, Md.)

This year's been so tough, It made 1929 Cry for its mommy. (Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

She's so bad at math She has to study "Math for Dummies" for Dummies." (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

Such a narcissist That in prison he'll only Print vanity plates. (David Young, Falmouth, Mass.)

How Stressed Am I? Stressed? My doctor asked If I took my blood pressure In an Instant Pot. (Madelyn Rosenberg, Arlington)

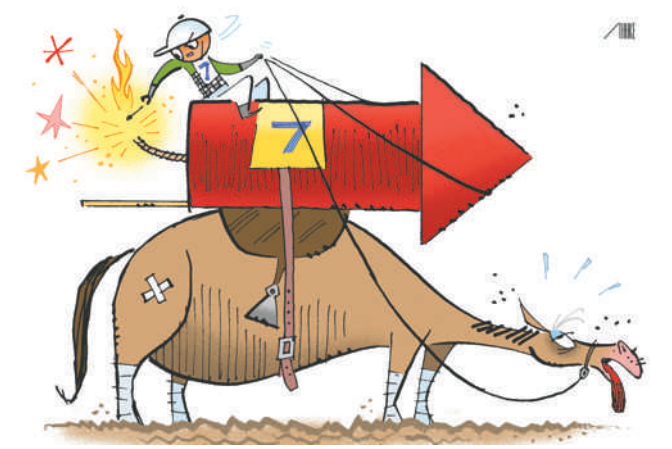
How Bad Is 2020? This year is so bad We will need a new cliché To describe hindsight. (Sam Mertens, Silver Spring)

Do I Miss Theaters? I miss them so much, I now hire people to talk When I stream Netflix. (Duncan Stevens)

How Contagious Is It? It's so contagious Even a Jets receiver Can almost catch it. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

How Cold Is It? It's as cold as when Trump gets his hand brushed away By Melania. (Drew Bennett, West Plains, Mo.)

I'm such a rebel I always thumb my nose at rules,



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1405: Okay, once more around the track

Breed Hello, Mother with Regret Later and name the foal Still on Phone Howls of Montezuma x Jarhead Kushner = Rotten to the Corps The Real Dill x JamWow = Putting Pickles Up

Because This Crazy Year included the postponement of the Kentucky Derby, the Invite ended up running its big-deal "foal breeding" contest not only in May, but with another set of horse names in September, whose results ran last week. Also in May, we ran the annual spinoff contest to pair any two of the inking foal names from that first contest to produce "grandfoals."

So three horse contests in a year! Enough already, right? Nope! After last week's foal names were announced, Losers and even just-readers wrote to the Empress, asking, "Aren't you going to do the grandfoals contest again?"

Noblesse oblige, we guess. This week: Below are the foal names that got ink in Week 1400. Now, "breed" any two and name the offspring to reflect both parents' names, as in the examples above. As always, the names may not exceed 18 characters including spaces, but one or more characters may be numerals, punctuation marks or other symbols. You may run words together, but the name should be easy to read.

Table with 4 columns: Name, Parent 1, Parent 2, Offspring. Includes examples like 'Amen Coroner' x 'House of Flusher' = 'How Great Dow Art'.

Use the format Name A x Name B = Grandfoal Name for each breeding, as in Examples 2 and 3 above. Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1405 (no capitals in the Web address). Deadline is Monday, Oct. 19; results will appear Nov. 8 in print, Nov. 5 online (as if you'll have anything else to think about that week).

Winner gets the Lose Cannon, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a pair of socks that look like fox paws, even on the soles. The E had sent away for ones that looked like horse hoofs but . . . well, it's 2020.

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 lusted-after Loser magnets, "No Bilty" or "Punder-achiever." 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 "Hai-comedy" is by Jesse Frankovich; Tom Witte 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, and follow @StyleInvite on Twitter.

The Style Conversational: The Empress's weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. Especially if you're new to the grandfoal contest and would like to give it a try, see this week's at wapo.st/conv1405.

Even in a haiku. (Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore) Still running — deadline Monday night, Oct. 12: our perennial Ask Backwards contest. See wapo.st/invite1404.

More honorable mentions in the online Invite at bit.ly/invite1405.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

YES, BUT IS IT ART? BY JOHN LAMPKIN

- ACROSS 1 They often offer free Wi-Fi 6 Julie's "East of Eden" role 10 Bygone Swedish wheels 14 Suit material 19 Tickle 20 Fruity commercial prefix 21 Up-in-the-air bear 22 "Do \_ \_?" 23 Molding okra likenesses? 25 Accumulation after many oil changes? 27 Therefore 28 Clotheshorse's collection 30 Singer? 31 Cube-ic Rubik 33 " \_ Rebel": 1962 hit 34 Handles 35 Housekeeper-artist barber agreement? 40 Dirty Harry's org. 43 Lab eggs 44 Classic pops 45 Like no-see-ums 47 Schwarz of toys 48 Therapist's concern 50 Bait 53 Employing 55 Stuffed shell? 56 Asset for sketching the human body? 60 Two-handed tool 63 Unable to find the way 64 Rates highly 65 Stand-up's goals, informally 68 Philippines' highest peak: Abbr. 69 Decision maker 72 Very little, to Vivaldi 75 "Yikes!" 80 Traditional Western song to sing while cleaning up the atelier? 84 Flu symptom 85 "Coffee \_" 86 Minimal 87 High-level banking aids 90 Wanna- 91 Augustus' devious wife 94 Place to make waves 95 Conservatory subj. 96 Bucolic lines

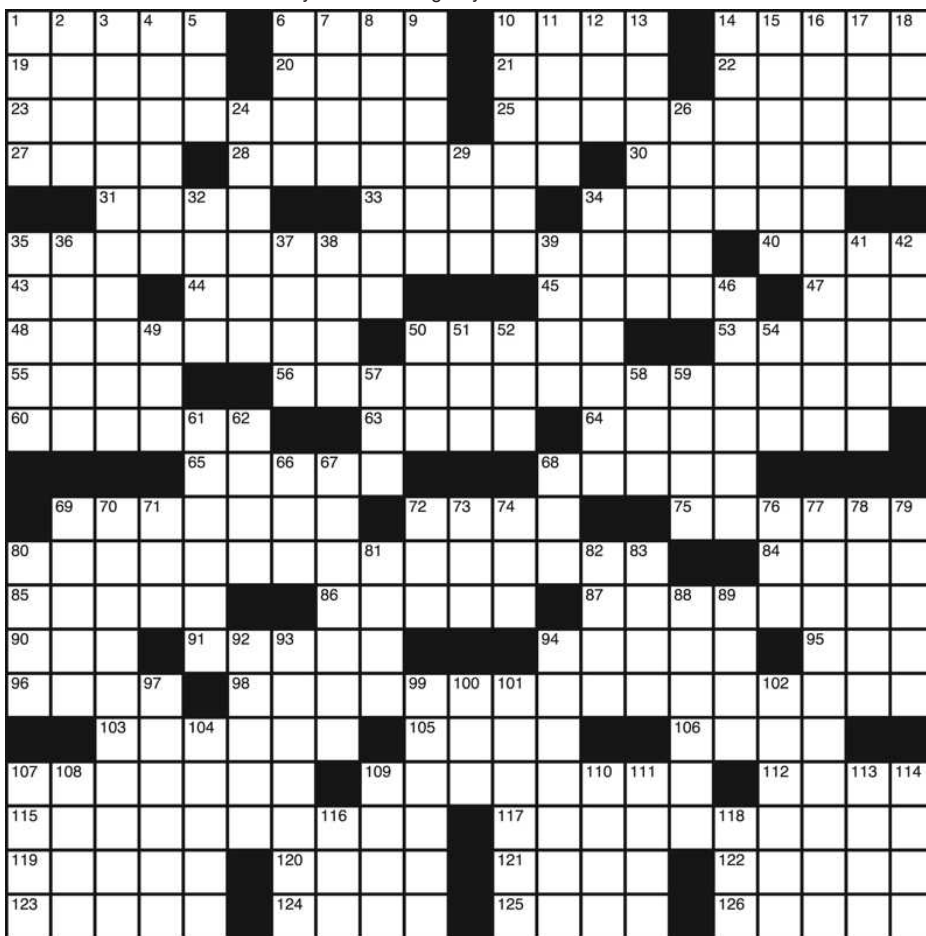
- 103 Precepts 105 Pickle pick 106 They're depressed during recitals 107 Resolve 109 Introspective Randall Thompson choral work with a joyous title 112 Jr.'s exam 115 Foundation for nude sketches? 117 Color for a "Starry" Dutch classic? 119 Golfer's cry after holing a long putt 120 Unceasingly 121 Boxer Oscar Hoya 122 Sister of Geronil 123 "I think of slaying Holmes ... He takes my mind from better things" writer 124 Stitches

- 125 Like Florida scrub 126 Immobility DOWN 1 Batgirl garb 2 Love in Spain 3 Thick dessert topping 4 Source of protection 5 It has a watery bed 6 All of Albee's "The Zoo Story," essentially 7 French wheel 8 Spanish spreads 9 One catching with flies, maybe 10 Good in golf ... otherwise, not so much 11 LAX touchdowns 12 Sun Devils' sch. for short 13 Short-legged hounds 14 Slimming procedures, informally

- 15 Some how-to book targets? 16 Unusually energetic sort 17 " \_ Went Mad": Riley poem 18 \_-majesté 24 Gems 26 It's a blast 29 MSN, for one 32 El \_ 34 Show disdain for bed 35 Prohibitions 36 Type of eye layer 37 Karmann sports car 38 It might be caught with a fly 39 \_-facto 41 Philatelist's buys 42 Hounds, e.g. 46 Manga series about gaming 49 Retinal receptor 50 Lao Tzu's "way" 51 Text changers, for short 52 Back in a shell 54 Big 57 Scullers' pair? 58 OTC drug

- 59 Rapsallions 61 All-encompassing 62 \_-chair 66 Ante, e.g. 67 Romps 68 Reply of feigned innocence 69 Prepared, as apples for strudel 70 Copacetic, in slang 71 Thomas Gray's "The Bard," e.g. 72 Smooching on a plane, for short 73 Photo possibilities 74 Tractor brand, family 76 Vibration sensor 77 Flattery 78 First light 79 "Demian" author 80 Mongolian dry 81 Fail to be kept private 82 Pakistani bread 83 Slant 88 Carefully consider

- 89 Bay State motto opener 92 Intestinal tract division 93 Grub 94 More over the top 97 Legume family bean 99 Ones just hanging out 100 Zlich 101 British actress-politician 102 Wi-Fi connection? 104 Very disappointing turnout 107 Kin of op. cit. 108 \_-Rooter 109 Over 110 Jamaican citrus 111 " \_ no idea" spot 113 29-day Hebrew month 114 Traveling carnival sight 116 " \_ been thinking ..." 118 Indian title



10/11/20 xwordeditor@aol.com ©2020 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY MADALYN ASLAN

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Oct. 11: Charming, gracious and secure, you have a vivid imagination. The question is, will you use it? This year, you must buckle down and overcome challenges to succeed. If single, it's not for long, as you do better in a relationship. You meet them this year. If attached, you are very settled and blissful and have a strong family unit. Pisces loves the dolce vita you create together.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Accept invitations to meet friends. This can bring a delightful series of new contacts. You can expect great happiness to be accompanied by a change regarding love. A hobby shared with others also can invite a closer intimacy.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) A sage smudge would do wonders if used to bless the home today. It's very important not to give way to anger or recklessness. Keep trying. Rewards go to the determined and consistent ones.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) This is a good day for talking through problems and finding answers. Honesty and ethical behavior provide the standards for success. A neighbor or sibling expresses strong opinions and makes suggestions. Be a good listener.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Seek a bargain and enjoy all you have rather than longing for that which is costly. Be aware of old habits regarding money management. It's tempting to procrastinate today.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Today favors looking at a variety of options, especially regarding travel. Welcome the day by taking some time to revel in the quiet and peace of nature. Release old anger and anguish. A new love can brighten your life.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) There might be some unvoiced anxiety or frustration to deal with. A companion could offer sympathy and help. Learn from disappointments and delays, then plod ahead patiently. Rewards for this are great.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) It's tricky to balance family life with

professional goals today. Resolve to understand what isn't working and why. It's an optimum time to perform a space clearing or house smudging. Confidence and security will build.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Old resentments will melt away. People you were disappointed in before are growing. Friends are helpful and interesting. You'll discuss projects for the future. The healing power of love and forgiveness will be very apparent.

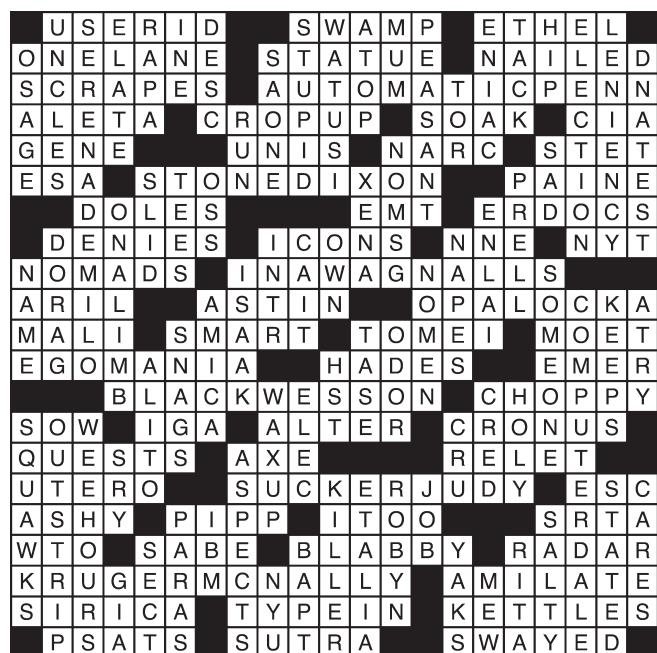
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You'll experience renewed ambition and dedication. A breakthrough might come. Promote your image and display your talents. At the same time, today can bring sudden meetings and partings.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Today can bring a gambler's aspect. Keep credit cards in check and exercise great care in speculation. Plan carefully for the payment of taxes, insurance policies and in meeting your financial obligations to others.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) A confrontation might be brewing; seek legal counsel if need be. Pull away from those who demand too much. This is not the time for marriage or other commitments. Today heightens your intuition.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Be patient with your body. Take care of yourself today. Time-honored home remedies can treat minor ailments successfully. Massage can be helpful. Take steps to maintain comfort amid temperature extremes too.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



10/4/20