

## DIVERSIONS

## THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

## Ad ribs: Product plugs from space, etc.

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1407, inspired by NASA's efforts to bring in some bucks by offering to shill Estee Lauder moisturizer from the space station, we asked for some more ideas for ads from space — or from a prison, a football team, a kindergarten or the White House.

## 4th place:

**From space:** *Female astronaut:* "Mine never sag up here, and yours won't sag down there — if you beat gravity with a Playtex bra." (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

## 3rd place:

**From a kindergarten:** "Elmer's Paste: It's what's for lunch." (Frank Mann, Washington)

## 2nd place and the plush urine beaker mascot:

"Start your day with Breakfast Cereal, the official cereal of the Washington Football Team." (Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore)

## And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

**From space:** "A great void. We make it happen. Ex-lax." (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

## From ad to worse: Honorable mentions FROM SPACE

An astronaut is floating outside the space station, looking at his giant watch. A small reentry vehicle floats up, and he jumps in. "Right on time!" he says. And away he whisks as the voice-over says, "Download the Uber app today." (Jon Ketzner, Cumberland, Md.)

"Reactivate YOUR docking station with Viagra." (Bob Kruger, Rockville)

"With Imodium, you'll never have to tell Houston you have a problem." (Frank Mann)

For a brothel: "Open the bod-pay door." (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

"Kohler is pleased to supply its new noise-canceling urinal for the International Space Station. Because in space, no one wants to hear your stream." (Stephen Litterst, Newark, Del.)

## FROM A FOOTBALL TEAM

*The Washington Football Team for Pepperidge Farm:* "Trust us, nobody knows more about turnovers." (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

*New York Giants:* "Garmin GPS: The only way we can find the end zone." (Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.)

"After every third down, we on the Washington Football Team like to kick back with a bottle of our official sports drink — yep, it's time again for another Punt." (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

*Washington Football Team:* "Do you fumble with your condom? Afraid the play is over before you're prepared? Use ReadySkins, with the easy-open package!" (Drew Bennett, West Plains, Mo.)

"More hits, less brain trauma: Download Spotify." (Kevin Dopart)

## FROM A KINDERGARTEN

"Bota Box chardonnay: The juice box for mommies" (Bird Waring).

A photo of a kindergarten class. All the tots are all well scrubbed and smiling, except for one scruffy little guy who's giving the finger to the camera. Tagline: "When you're looking for that talented maverick, call ZipRecruiter." (Jon Ketzner)

## FROM A PRISON

*Warden in prison corridor:* "With Verizon Wireless, your cell will get even more bars than theirs." (Kevin Dopart)

*Massive riot. Officer is in the control room with his feet up, wearing headphones and smiling.* "With the Bose patented noise-canceling system, you'll never know that all hell broke loose." (Frank Mann)

"When you carve a pistol out of soap, a rich, solid coat of black isn't just a fashion statement. That's why I use Kiwi shoe polish." (Jeff Shirley, Richmond)

"When you're in for armed robbery, you need things that will last. Good thing my Accutron watch is guaranteed for 20 years. Accutron: Nobody does time better." (Jonathan Jensen; Mark Raffman, Reston)

*Medtronic endoscopes:* "If it's in there, we'll find it." (Kevin Dopart)  
*Association of public schools:* "Next time, fund us instead." (Sam



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

## New contest for Week 1411: Back end of a Bulwer

As he left, the captain flashed a smile — a wide, satisfied grin with lips parted a quarter-inch, the right corner of the mouth raised slightly above the left, and a dry lower lip slightly stuck to the teeth — that defied description. (Jay Shuck, Week 788)

First the infarction, then the ambulance ride, now going under the knife, he drifted away under anesthesia, humming Celine Dion's tune "My Heart Will Go On." But it didn't. (Larry Miller)

In the tradition of the Even Older Than the Style Invitational Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest, which has been seeking hilariously bad first sentences to a novel each year since 1982 (the 2020 winner: "Her Dear John missive flapped unambiguously in the windy breeze, hanging like a pizza menu on the doorknob of my mind," by Lisa Kluber), we offer the obvious variation, as we did back in 2008: **Write a humorously awful final sentence or two to an imaginary novel**, as in the examples above from our previous go at this. Given the season, holiday stories wouldn't be out of line. The Empress isn't going to count words, but don't go on forever: The first example is about 40 words and it's plenty long for us.

Submit up to 25 entries at [wapo.st/enter-invite-1411](http://wapo.st/enter-invite-1411) (no capitals in the Web address). **Deadline is Monday, Nov. 30**; results appear Dec. 20 in print, Dec. 17 online.

**Winner gets the Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy, or more likely its replacement trophy (TBA). Second place receives this really just too cute velvety dragon hat with all those velvety spikes down the back. While it's modeled here by the Empress's adorable 3-year-old neighbor Maxwell Matthews, the hat also fits an adult's head, or at least the E's. Donated by Dave Prevar.

**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 '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](http://wapo.st/InvRules). The headline "Ad Ribs" is by Roy Ashley; Kevin Dopart wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](http://on.fb.me/invdev); "like" the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at [bit.ly/inkoftheday](http://bit.ly/inkoftheday); and follow @StyleInvite on Twitter.

**The Style Conversational** The Empress's weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. See this week's at [wapo.st/conv1411](http://wapo.st/conv1411).



Maxwell Matthews, 3, models this week's second prize. (No, you can't have her doll.)

Mertens, Silver Spring)

"Having trouble taking it off? Come to beautiful San Quentin, California, to lose those unwanted pounds in a highly supervised, temptation-free environment. Failure is NOT an option!" (Brett Dimairo, Cumberland, Md.)

## FROM THE WHITE HOUSE

Is your child impulsive? Unable to focus? Out of control? Ask your doctor if Ritalin can help. (Jeff

Hazle, San Antonio)

*Wearing sunglasses, the new president smiles his signature smile, and it's so bright, everyone around him has to put on sunglasses also. Voice-over:* Colgate — because we're all going to be smiling a lot more these days. (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station)

**Still running — deadline Monday night, Nov. 23: our contest for bogus trivia about autumn.** See [wapo.st/invite1410](http://wapo.st/invite1410).

## L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

## "CH-CH-CH-CHANGES" By JOE GRZYBOWSKI

**ACROSS**  
1 Respectfully tip  
5 Shopper's delight  
9 Four-time NFL Pro Bowl safety  
12 Computer addresses:  
15 Newscaster  
18 Garfield's foil  
19 Elemental bit  
20 Street in Montréal  
21 Farm equipment  
23 Headline announcing  
28 Poet's "in a trees"  
29 Secret supplies  
30 English cheese town  
33 Ovid work  
35 The Beatles' "Loser"  
36 Gimlet garnish  
37 Breakfast product made from trees?  
43 "Hold your horses!"  
46 Approx. landing time  
47 Carnival city  
48 Mid-12th-century date  
49 Place for the good guys?  
51 Tissue swellings  
54 Medical suffix  
55 Little laughs  
56 From the top  
57 Ancient German  
59 Eye layer  
62 Fast-food franchise started in Rocky Mount, NC  
65 Do penance  
66 Mad Hatter's cup?  
69 Pants fabric  
70 Tops that bare arms and midriffs  
71 Bites  
72 Vinegar  
74 Secluded valley  
75 Lad in Limerick  
76 MD's request  
77 Field and ride  
79 Apex predator at the feeder?  
85 Gets steamed  
87 Golfer's concern  
88 Part of a split  
89 Worth remembering

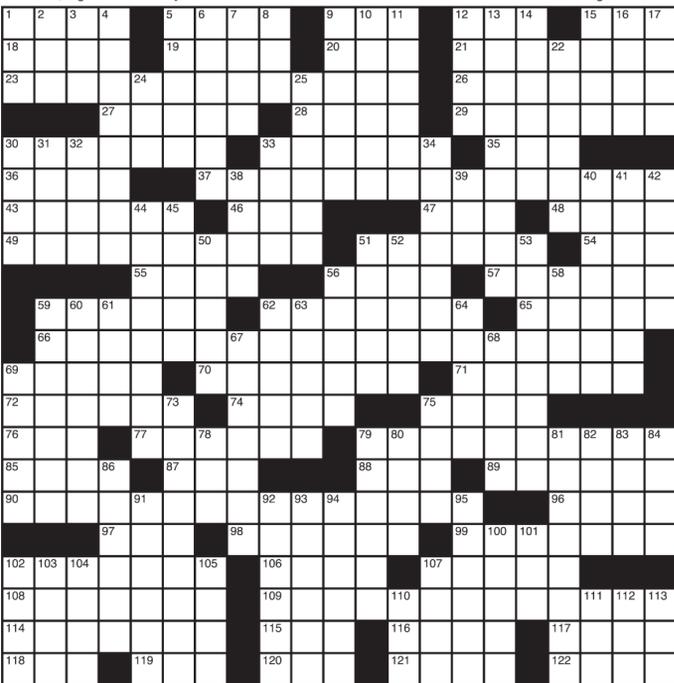
90 Literary slugger making cookies?  
96 Email button  
97 Soong \_\_\_ling:  
Madame Chiang  
98 All but one of the balls in 9-Ball  
99 D.C.'s \_\_\_ Row  
102 Composer Saint-Saëns  
106 Lift one's spirits?  
107 Bike part  
108 Low-tech traveler's reference  
109 What keeps the church singers healthy?  
114 Puts on a pedestal  
115 Give a leg up  
116 Legal claim  
117 Promo on the tube  
118 Sault \_\_\_ Marie  
119 2000 Peace Prize recipient  
120 Apt. listing abbr.  
121 Pain in the neck, e.g.

**DOWN**  
1 \_\_\_ double take  
2 Consumes to excess, briefly  
3 It's thrown in anger  
4 Courageous  
5 Vanzetti's partner  
6 Greek goddess of wisdom  
7 Daily Planet name  
8 Ambulance initials  
9 Swedish monetary units  
10 Second-largest Illinois city  
11 Skin Bracer maker  
12 Beliefs  
13 Ruffled-edge undershirt  
14 Kind of oil used in hummus  
15 Phnom \_\_\_  
16 Wrath, in a hymn

17 5-Across alert  
22 Win over  
24 Informer  
25 Bigelow, echaically nicknamed  
30 Remote  
31 Spork prong  
32 Somali-born supermodel  
33 Voice above tenor  
34 Attached with spiral hardware  
38 Many August births  
39 That guy  
40 Transition area between plant communities  
41 Nuts that put the joy in candy bars?  
42 Former NPR host  
44 Levels of authority  
45 "SNL" alumna  
50 Get to

51 Home of the Ewoks  
52 Cook Paula et al.  
53 Closes securely  
56 Half-elf married to Aragorn  
58 Home of Canyonlands National Park  
59 Astronaut Walky  
60 Habaneros and jalapeños  
61 Turner on a screen  
62 Like sledding terrain  
63 Feeds the pot  
64 Tijuana mister  
67 Aerie newcomers  
68 Pulitzer-winning Chicago journalist  
69 Demetri Martin, e.g.  
73 Exiled religious leader  
75 Judge's seat  
78 Ignited  
79 "The Blacklist" star

80 Top numbers  
81 Extreme foolishness  
82 Negatives  
83 UPS boxes  
84 Actress Lamarr  
86 Arab or Hebrew  
91 Showed anger, perhaps  
92 Wheels involved in a crime, maybe  
93 Hebrew God  
94 Two-legged supports  
95 Conning laugh  
100 ESPN journalist  
101 Trending  
102 Lines before yours, say  
103 Admin. aide  
104 Pal  
105 Latin 101 verb  
107 \_\_\_ Slit:  
retractable Bic pen  
110 In the manner of  
111 Night before the big day  
112 Rural regrets  
113 Magazine VIPs



11/22/20

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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

## HOROSCOPE

BY MADALYN ASLAN

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Nov. 22:** Challenge-loving, free and exciting, your energy this year surpasses all else. In 2021, you learn to work quietly behind the scenes to achieve your ends, and you do so brilliantly. You experience financial and creative success. You improve the lot of many. If single, one pines over you, but you will be happier with someone else. If attached, you and your sweetie share love and wild ideas. Gemini loves to make you smile.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19)  
Today finds you growing more introspective. Use visualization to find inner peace. A lost love or abandoned project could suddenly assume new importance. You are highly imaginative and creative.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20)  
Your rewards are just around the corner. A serious state of mind prevails. You are juggling to balance domestic and professional responsibilities. Write a list of desired goals and affirmations for your upcoming week.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)  
Clashes will be resolved amicably among children. Today creates harmony with friends as well. There could be some recognition for you for a past triumph. Don't take others for granted. Associates aren't as they first appear.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22)  
Today promises a whole new meaning to philosophical concepts and spirituality. Be open to new experiences. Spiritual books and recordings can be especially helpful now. It is a favorable cycle for hosting a virtual meditation group.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)  
Identified with the sun, Leo is synonymous with royalty. Blending confidence with affection, the Lion shines with genuine charisma. Great things tend to happen to you.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)  
Today highlights your relationship sector. Brush away illusions regarding love and commitment. A dream offers surprising new insights about a partnership. Stay comfortable and get plenty of rest.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)  
The health of others has directly impacted your personal wellness for many years. Take precautions if

you're in direct contact with those who create stress in your life. Don't let friends offer what you know aren't healthy choices.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)  
A really nurturing and promising relationship is likely to become part of your life. Invest in an existing partnership or seek a new love. Try attending virtual concerts and art gallery openings or enrolling in art classes.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)  
Your mind is working overtime. A tidal wave of energy seems to engulf you. Projects you've postponed suddenly can't wait. Control angry impulses. Be constructive and proactive instead. Exercise provides the perfect outlet and mood balancer.

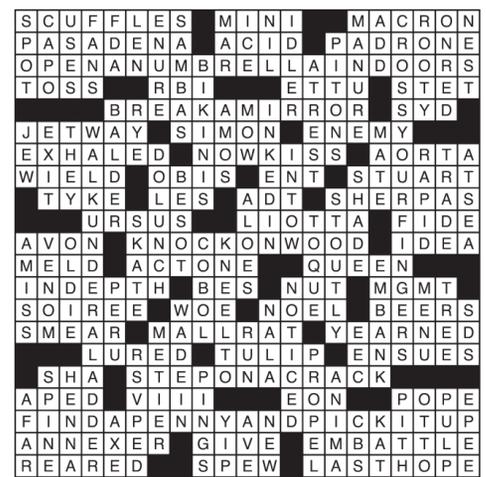
**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)  
Read between the lines. There is

much to learn through listening and observing. Others will make suggestions and issue invitations. Use care in communication during this time, for messages can be lost or misconstrued.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)  
You've been concerned about your and your family's security. Today's pattern indicates that a creative idea or hobby could turn into a profit-making venture. You will be able to formulate good goals and make the best choices.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)  
Guidance comes from within following a dream or deep meditation. You are rewarded with greater mental energy. It's also easier to solve problems and make wise choices. Contact a longtime acquaintance who has been out of touch.

## Answers to last week's puzzle.



11/15/20