

## DIVERSIONS

## THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

## Auguration Day: The year in preview

BY PAT MYERS

Week 1414 was our annual contest in which those ever-prescient Losers (*prescient*, adj. meaning wildly off base but funny anyway) contributed to the 2021 timeline below. The events in this crowdsourced timeline sometimes contradict one another, but what, you expected *logic*?

## 4th place:

**Jan. 19:** Rudy Giuliani, wearing a colander on his head, holds a news conference at the Air and Space Museum, claiming Martian votes were not properly counted. (*Drew Bennett, West Plains, Mo.*)

## 3rd place:

**September:** Coming as no surprise to entomologists and social media, murder butterflies are discovered in Florida. (*Kevin Dopart, Washington*)

## 2nd place and the glittery Hallmark poop emoji ornament:

**Jan. 21:** Following a frank closed-door meeting with Vice President Harris, President Biden pledges to never again say “woke” in public. (*Dave Airozo, Silver Spring*)

## And the winner of the Clowning Achievement:

**October:** A video teaser for “Borat III” reveals that Sidney Powell is actually Sacha Baron Cohen. (*Steve Smith, Potomac*)

## Non-prophets: Honorable mentions

**Jan. 15:** Trump’s presidency ends in confusion after someone mixes up his lists of last-minute pardons and executions. (*Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.*)

**Jan. 20:** Dr. Jill Biden doubles down by wearing a mortarboard to the inauguration. (*Greg Dobbins, Boynton Beach, Fla.*)

**Jan. 20:** Fox News cuts away from Biden’s swearing-in ceremony to show Trump’s cussing-out ceremony. (*Mark Raffman, Reston*)

**Jan. 20:** Trump tees off precisely at noon and is expected to remain teed off for the next four years. (*Kevin Dopart*)

**Jan. 21:** Federal marshals gently nudge Ben Carson awake and escort him from the building. (*Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.*)

**Jan. 21:** Finally unshackled from Trump’s control, Republicans open communications to “Former Vice President Biden” in a letter addressed to “current occupant.” (*Drew Bennett*)

**Jan. 25:** Vladimir Putin gets a raw deal when he gives Trump a Moscow hotel in exchange for all the top-secret intelligence Trump can remember from his briefings. (*John Hutchins, Silver Spring*)

**Jan. 31:** Louis DeJoy refuses to leave office, claiming that President Biden’s letter relieving him of his duties was lost in the mail. (*Duncan Stevens*)

**February:** Not understanding that he really, truly is not allowed to continue his presidential duties anymore, Donald Trump insists on watching cable news all day and playing golf every weekend. (*Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station*)

**Feb. 2:** Punxsutawney Phil refuses to come out until he can get his second dose of the vaccine. (*Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.*)

**Feb. 14:** Trump’s new reality sinks in when Kim Jong Un doesn’t respond to his Valentine’s Day card and chocolates. (*John Hutchins*)

**Feb. 15:** As roads remain congestion-free, WTOP begins reporting “Zoom traffic and crashes on the 8s.” (*Steve Smith*)

**Feb. 25:** Most popular T-shirt at this year’s CPAC conference: “I Got Pardoned!” (*Mark Raffman*)

**March:** Donald Trump Jr. writes an op-ed insisting that President Biden’s son isn’t entitled to call himself Hunter, since he’s never shot a single elephant. (*Frank Osen*)

**March:** Not to be upstaged by Cleveland, the Boston baseball team is renamed the Sox of Color. (*Kevin Dopart*)

**March:** Venezuelan officials reveal that Hugo Chávez’s last words in 2013 were “Program the Dominion voting machines to help out Joe Biden!” (*Duncan Stevens*)

**April 22:** Kids miss school nationwide for the first Take Our Daughters and Sons to Telework



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

## New contest for Week 1418: Tour de Fours XVII: Just UNDO it

**OUND:** Alice in Wonderland: The tale of a girl who falls down a rabbit hole and lands in an unsupervised skateboard park.

**OUND:** Quarter-mounder: A four-ounce burger with 12 ounces of toppings.

**UDON:** PseudoNoms: The plastic replicas that bakeries and sushi shops put out instead of the fresh ones.

“UNDO” should be The Word of 2021, suggests Hall of Fame Loser Jeff Contompasis. No, no, not the election results, but almost everything else that erupted last year. In any case, it’s a good four-letter block for our 17th annual Tour de Fours neologism contest.

**This week: Coin a word or multi-word term containing the letters U-N-D-O — consecutive but in any order — and describe it,** as in Bob Staake’s example for his cartoon and JefCon’s other neologisms. You may insert a space or hyphen between the letters. It’s likely someone else will send the word you thought of, so the ink would go to the more clever description, or the word used in a funny sentence, especially if it shows how the neologism could be used in real life.

**Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1418** (no capitals in the Web address). **Deadline is Monday, Jan. 18;** results appear Feb. 7 in print, Feb. 4 online.

**Winner gets the Clowning Achievement,** our new Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a fabulously annoying **electronic Elvis-impersonator penguin;** tap his foot as he sways back and forth to a recording of “Jailhouse Rock.” We won’t be blue when he leaves our building. Donated by Loser Steve Smith.

**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, “No ‘Bility’ 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](http://wapo.st/InvRules). The headline “Auguration Day” is by Kevin Dopart; both Tom Witte and Chris Doyle submitted the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](https://www.facebook.com/on.fb.me/invdev); “like” the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at [bit.ly/inkoftheday](https://www.facebook.com/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/conv1418](http://wapo.st/conv1418).

**The “You’re Invited” podcast:** Eight half-hour episodes, including dish from the Empress and the Czar, and tips from top Losers. **See [bit.ly/invite-podcast](http://bit.ly/invite-podcast).**



**When you return to the office, the singing Elvis penguin is a must-have desk accessory.**

Day. (*Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn*)

**April 25:** Envious of Chadwick Boseman’s Oscar, Trump tweets, “Why hasn’t anyone given ME a posthumous award? SADI!” (*Bill Dorner, Indianapolis*)

**April:** The Cleveland baseball team moves 172 miles west and changes its name to the Indianans. (*Dave Zarrow, Reston*)

**May:** In an effort to increase gender diversity, the Washington Post Fact Checker replaces Pinocchio’s with Kayleighs. (*Beryl Benderly, Washington*)

**May:** Wuhan street vendors celebrate the success of the coronavirus vaccine by offering a 75 percent discount on bat sandwiches. (*Scott Straub, Winchester, Va.*)

**June 10:** Forty-seven Proud Boys are blinded after Dr. Fauci reminds Americans it’s not safe to look directly at today’s solar eclipse. (*Kevin Dopart*)

**June 14:** To celebrate Trump’s birthday, a crowd of people in hooded masks gather in Alabama and burn a big wooden “L.” (*Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.*)

**June:** The Biden administration officially converts the border wall

into a pole-vault practice facility. (*Duncan Stevens*)

**July 22:** The Golden State Warriors win the NBA Finals and mistakenly reject a White House invitation out of habit. (*Jesse Rifkin, Arlington*)

**July 24:** In Tokyo, an Olympic fencer is injured in preliminaries after getting the all-clear memo to athletes to participate without a mask. (*John Bauer, Gaithersburg*)

**July:** Responding to complaints from progressives, President Biden appoints a bipartisan commission to study whether his administration has taken an “establishment approach” to governing. (*Steve Smith*)

**August:** The Cleveland Browns are renamed the Cleveland Latinx. (*Ira Allen, Bethesda*)

**August:** The Washington Football Team announces its new name: the Senators. The players immediately refuse to play under such a slur. (*Edward Gordon, Austin*)

**August:** Three thousand passengers set sail on an anti-vaxxers-only cruise. Ten days later the ship plunges over the edge of the earth. (*Lee Graham, Rockville*)

**Oct. 7:** In his new memoir, “I, Fly,” an insect tells how he rose from a fetid outhouse to share the debate stage with the vice president of the United States. (*Mark Raffman*)

**Nov. 3:** To get back into the headlines, Donald Trump shoots somebody in the middle of Fifth Avenue. (*Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.*)

**Dec. 31:** The 9 p.m. broadcast of CNN begins, “Some disturbing news tonight out of Wuhan, China . . .” (*Jon Ketzner, Cumberland, Md.*)

A fuller timeline is at [wapo.st/invite1418](http://wapo.st/invite1418).

**Still running — deadline Monday night, Jan. 11: our contest for poems about people who died in 2020. See [wapo.st/invite1417](http://wapo.st/invite1417).**

## L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

**“GIMME A HAND!”**  
By FRED PISCOPO

**ACROSS**

1 Fighting, after “at”  
5 Fabled loser  
9 Battle of heavyweights  
13 Nail alternative  
18 Turkish currency  
19 Not quite round  
20 Luxury sheet material  
21 Slopping the hogs, e.g.  
22 “Smell awful  
24 “Do a garage job  
26 Shove off  
27 Like loud  
29 Applied fragrant hair dressing to  
30 Tire pattern  
32 Golden  
34 Hanoi holiday  
35 Social function  
38 “Cast of thousands” member  
40 Davis Cup org.  
42 Many Eng. degrees  
45 Othello and kin  
46 Titled women  
47 Last checkbox, often  
48 Set aflame  
49 Misfortunes  
50 Tom and buck  
51 SAT prep teacher, often  
52 Firecracker part  
53 “Toy Story” bully  
54 Evaded the bouncer, maybe  
55 Bat-maker’s tool  
56 Go through quickly  
57 Reserve, as a date  
59 Home with smoke flaps  
60 Dancing pro  
61 Suffix suggesting wealth  
62 Ulna locale  
64 Chaplin of “Game of Thrones”  
65 Drew out  
67 Many airport rides  
68 E is the only vowel that doesn’t begin any of their names  
72 Napkin material  
73 Unemotional  
74 Destiny and source of the phoenix  
75 Managed care 9P.

109 “Winning everything”  
110 Austen classic  
111 Stains on reputations  
112 Knocks out, in a way  
113 Flat-nosed dogs  
114 Like some pockets

**DOWN**

1 Auto pioneer  
2 Potentially ruinous  
3 “Doggone it!”  
4 Reacted to a punch  
5 More saintly  
6 St. Teresa’s home  
7 “Norma \_\_\_” sheet  
8 Designer  
9 Roughly one-third of Africa  
10 Where embryos develop  
11 Emcee’s lapel attachment  
12 Like Glis in the kitchen  
13 Cream cheese serving  
14 Play badly?  
15 Cross above an altar  
16 Vowel-rich lake  
17 Join with a blowtorch  
20 Rubs clean  
23 Anna of “The Emoji Movie”  
25 Wobble  
28 Hotels.com quotes  
31 “Speculate, in a way  
33 “Have what it takes  
35 Horse-and-buggy group  
36 Four-page  
37 “Do a washday chore  
39 Magneto’s enemies  
41 Slipper, for one  
42 “Try to deceive one of the base runners  
43 Big-box store division  
44 Rodeo bovine  
46 Take out  
47 \_\_\_ Banks  
50 Minibike relative  
51 Cantina  
52 Shrek’s love  
54 “The Elements of Bridge” author Charles  
55 Having one’s doubts  
56 Turnips and parsnips  
58 Prepares ham for an omelet, say  
59 Gain popularity on Twitter  
60 Car washer, at times  
63 Bassoon  
65 Send to the Hill  
66 Currency of Jordan  
69 Migratory herring  
70 Portray fury or fear  
71 Spread, as seed  
73 X-Acto knife cut  
74 Skin cream additive  
77 Venice features  
78 Respond to reveille  
79 Manufactured  
81 Homes for gliders  
82 Suds maker  
83 Placement word  
86 Ducklings’ dads  
87 Reaches a peak  
88 Chesapeake Bay, e.g.  
90 Offer a view  
92 Winery process  
93 Worker during a walkout  
94 Dark cloud  
95 Choral part  
96 Kett of old comics  
98 Faucet annoyance  
100 Point a finger at  
101 Coin depicting a torch  
102 Totally lose it  
104 Obey the coxswain  
106 Pac-12 sch.

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1/10/21 [xwordeditor@aol.com](mailto:xwordeditor@aol.com) ©2021 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Answers to last week’s puzzle below.

## HOROSCOPE

BY MADALYN ASLAN

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Jan. 10:** Realistic, authoritative and uncompromising, you tell it like it is. This year, a project you initiate and head is a tremendous success. You might feel it has opponents when it doesn’t. If single, allow yourself to need and be needed, and you’ll find your mate this year. If attached, you’re fiercely loyal and require your partner to be equally so. You both create a beautiful family. Capricorn has your back.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19)  
Resist the influence of a close partner — a loved one could be a bit too adventurous or optimistic. Your own hunches offer the best guidance. Pleasure comes from doing a good deed or favor quietly.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20)  
Today creates a subtle psychic connection with some people. Seek creative and spiritual companions. Avoid those who drift or prove unreliable. You have had a recent experience with an untrustworthy one and you have learned your lesson.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)  
Today brings wonderful conversations with those you love. In action, others might not be all they seem to be, but tolerance brings pleasure. It is a lazy, intimate Sunday. You enjoy it immensely.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22)  
New faces appear and longtime associates are ready to move on. Be cautious with changes in health care, medications and your fitness regimen. Stay aware of how your body responds and all will be well.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)  
You’ll appreciate a supportive partnership. The winter season is warmed by true love. An admirer plans a wonderful surprise for you. Sincerity, a love of music and stability are qualities that you would best seek in a romantic partner.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)  
You work at home today, even though it is a Sunday. A family member guides your career path. Bring sanctity to your residence by adding plants to an exposed window, exchanging harsh lights for more subdued lamps or selecting new drapes.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)  
Humor and patience are your best defense against a cantankerous individual. There may be a subtle feud to resolve. But love magic can be a success today. Fulfillment on many levels is promised.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)  
Today cautions you to investigate financial decisions and commitments carefully. Learning a new skill and being aware of the latest developments in your field will assure success and security. Prepare for offers and suggestions.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)  
You mediate a dispute or receive a proposal. Leisure hours are brightened by intellectually stimulating games. Try chess. Others are elusive, charming and independent. Enjoy your companions as they are. Don’t try to change them.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)  
A valuable day of reflection. Look to see how you can be your own best friend or worst enemy. Time spent alone restores peace and helps release stress. Heed the messages sent by your dreams.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)  
Today blesses a cherished relationship with loving affirmations. Offer an exchange of small, meaningful tokens. Mild exercise helps restore balance and provides a release of aggravation.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)  
Others depend on you. Your visibility comes to the fore. Put your best foot forward and strive to make the best possible impression. You’ll have an opportunity to demonstrate your highest potentials.

## Answers to last week’s puzzle.

V	A	N	S		M	A	S	H		M	E	L	T		S	N	A	G						
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