

## DIVERSIONS

### THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

# Yuk of the draw: Winning captions

BY PAT MYERS

Week 1425 was the umptieth in a series of Bob Staake cartoon caption contests.



CARTOONS BY BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

### 4th place:

**"Actually, it's technically not a cat. Or a tree."** (John Folse, Bryans Road, Md.)



### 3rd place:

**"Pa Kent learned never to try to take little Clark's bottle."** (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn; Jeff Shirley, Richmond)



### 2nd place and the backward-running wall clock:

**"NASA neutralizes the threat of asteroids hitting the Earth with its new low-budget, all-volunteer program."** (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf)



### And the winner of the Clowning Achievement:

**"Jack hopes his inflatable-luggage gag goes viral."** (Dave Prevar, Annapolis)

### Doodly squat: Honorable mentions

#### PICTURE A

**"I was checking for shorts in the electrical grid and I think I found some."** (Scott Straub, Winchester, Va.)

**"I guess that clown thought the slogan was 'Hang Mike's Pants.'"** (Duncan Stevens, Vienna; Mark Raffman, Reston; Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

**"At least 12 of them** crammed into my car and then they just drove off! I couldn't see their faces, but one left behind a clue." (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

### New contest for Week 1429: Forsoothsayers

**Neither a borrower nor a lender be, for loan oft loses both itself and friend.** ("Hamlet")

Or: **"I have a good way to really screw over the hedge funds that are shorting GameStop."** (Duncan Stevens)

**There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy.** ("Hamlet")

Or: **"What if HUGO CHAVEZ and GEORGE SOROS STOLE the ELECTION with JEWISH SPACE LASERS?"** (Duncan Stevens)

Once again we have fun with our favorite public-domain, Web-available writer, the Bard Himself, in a contest suggested by Hall of Fame Loser Duncan Stevens, whom perhaps we should call Duncan Who Hath Been So Clear in His Great Office. **This week: Quote a line or so from any Shakespeare work, and exemplify it with a contemporary quote, real or imagined,** as in Duncan's examples above. You may use any Shakespeare edition you happen to have or find, but tell me which work you're quoting from.

**Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1429** (no capitals in the Web address). **Deadline is Monday, April 5;** results appear April 25 in print, April 22 online.

**"The good news, Senator Cruz,** is that we've found them and they are not literally on fire." (Lani Jacobson, Herndon, who last got ink in 1995, also with a caption)

**"Hi, Joe. Yes, Secretary Pete,** bless his heart, is doing his best to make infrastructure sexy." (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

**"Let's keep this between you,** me and the lamppost." (Carol Lasky, Boston, a First Offender, Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

**Hello, Acme Cleaners?** I think you misunderstood me about giving my shorts a light pressing." (Larry Yungk, Wyoming, Ohio)

**"Yes, officer, I realize** it's after midnight. I'm assuming they're late bloomers." (Barry Koch, Catlett, Va.)

**"PLANTS! You were supposed to hang** PLANTS from the streetlights!" (Bob Kruger, Rockville)

**Combing his nose hairs** on his way home from Mardi Gras, Ralph suddenly realized why his nether regions were feeling so drafty. (Ivars Kuskevics, Takoma Park)

#### PICTURE B (below left)

**On long flights,** Al always brought his own bidet. (Chuck Smith, Woodbridge)

**"Quiet, Senator Cruz,** we're almost to the gate." (Frank Osen)

**"You're ready to board,** ma'am. And when your husband steps up with your support warthog, I'll make sure you're seated together." (David Shombert, Harrisonburg, Va.)

**If that box ended up in front of her,** Sue sure hoped it wouldn't tilt its seat backward. (Ellen Ryan, Rockville)

**Louis found no joy** when he had to personally deliver all the delayed mail. (Robyn Carlson, Keyser, W.Va.)

**"When I fly United,** I like to bring along a spare engine." (Jon Kezner, Cumberland, Md.; Leif Picoult, Rockville)

**Always disappointed** by the airplane overhead storage, Tom now brings his own. (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station)

**Gerald knew airline food** was really expensive, so he brought a box lunch. (Art Grinath, Takoma Park; Lawrence McGuire)

**Things were never easy for Mr. Atlas,** but the carry-on-baggage hassle was the worst. (Kevin Mellema, Tabor City, N.C.)

**Sidney believed in the "hide in plain sight"** approach to smuggling drugs. (Jeff Shirley)

#### PICTURE C

**By the end of Week 1,** it was already clear that 2021 was not as serene as other New Year babies. (Joanne Free, Clifton; Seth Tucker, Washington)

**Greg soon regretted asking the genie** for a scantily clad babe. (Duncan Stevens)

**Henry was amazed** at the effectiveness of infant karate lessons. (Howard Walderman, Columbia)

**"And then put your legs up like this** for a diaper change! Do I have to do everything for you?" (Wendy Shang, Falls Church)

**"Lucky punch! Two out of three?"** (Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg)

#### PICTURE D

**Hilda quickly regretted** agreeing to be the backup plan for NASA's Perseverance landing. (Sam Mertens, Silver Spring)

**Sally hated working** during Library Overdue Fines Mondays. (Rob Huffman)

**Desperate for wide receivers,** the Washington Football Team held tryouts for walk-ons. (Duncan Stevens)

**"MOM! I've been doing this** tightrope act for years. KNOCK IT OFF!" (Danielle Nowlin)

**Nora immediately regretted** wearing the fishnet skirt during salmon mating season. (Chuck Smith)

**Automation soon eliminated** Mabel's job as the airport windsock. (Kevin Dopart)

**Rita was sure that** once they got to know him up there, her late husband would be kicked out. (Jeremy Roth, Clinton, Conn., a First Offender)

**Still running — deadline Monday night, March 29:** Our contest for new words coined from ScrabbleGrams "racks." See wapo.st/invite1428.

**Winner gets the Clowning Achievement,** our new Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives two little bars of soap: One says **Wm. Shakespeare's Bard of Soap** ("Much ado about bathing"); the other is **Lady Macbeth's Guest Soap** ("Out, damned spot!" of course). Both donated by infinite jester 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 "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/InoRules. The headline "Yuk of the Draw" was sent in by both Jesse Frankovich and Chris Doyle; Jesse also wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev; get the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at bit.ly/inkofday; 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/conv1429.

**The "You're Invited" podcast:** Twelve half-hour episodes, including dish from the Empress and the Czar, and tips from top Losers. See bit.ly/invite-podcast.

### L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

<b>"BODY LANGUAGE"</b> By <b>MORTON J. MENDELSON</b>	108 D.C.'s Pennsylvania and Wisconsin 109 Rose hip infusion, e.g. 110 Locked Asian country 112 FB upload 113 End of the quip 116 Class-conscious gp.? 117 Jeff of ELO 118 Longtime senator Hatch 119 What's left, in Lyon 120 "You betcha!" 121 Feinted on ice 122 Eastwood 123 co-star in "In the Line of Fire" 123 Forest floor growth 26 Was a piece of cake 27 Like brackish water 28 George Orwell's alma mater 29 Fiery felonies 30 Quip, part 2 33 Approximately 2,200 pounds 36 Series of natl. concerts 37 Quip, part 3 44 Remuneration reported in SEC Form 10-K, part 3 48 Excessively expensive 49 MLB statistic 50 To's partner 52 "And so on" word 53 Perfect agreement 54 Author Fleming 55 May, to Peter Parker 57 Write 58 Like <u>noire</u> 59 Quip, part 4 64 Cell centers 67 Trivial 68 Quip, part 5 74 Type type 78 Drift (off) 79 Afghanistan's Tora <u>region</u> 80 Thieves' hideout 81 Knows about 83 Cries of approval 85 Tee options, initially 86 Pasta suffix 87 How a college resident advisor lives 89 Site of Kubla Khan's palace 91 Quip, part 6 93 Overly vivid 96 See 14-Down 97 Quip, part 7 103 Shabbily dressed	5 Greek counterpart of Mars 6 Fall back (on) 7 Cosmetics company that began as Odontorium Products Inc. 8 Like some breakups 9 Promising spot? 10 Shuttle, perhaps 11 Shot put and javelin 12 Got to the top 13 Can's southernmost point is in it 14 With 96-Across, Brazilian city 15 First-class strings 16 Symbolic food to bring home 17 Challenge for a language learner 18 Fem. advocacy group 23 Doesn't fill, as calendar slots 24 New Haven alum 28 Jetson at the Little Dipper School 30 Citi Field player 31 Milk source 32 Letter before ar 34 30-Down's div. 35 Chill in the air 37 Theater memento 38 Actress Skye 39 "No more procrastinating!" 40 Ancient Qumran denizen 41 Piping, perhaps 42 Company with a four-color lowercase logo 43 Match site 45 Big <u>baseball's</u> David Ortiz 46 Mideast gulf port 47 Yin and <u>yang</u> 50 Party chaired by Mahmoud 51 Abbas 55 Russian capital 56 Original D&D co. 59 Warning sound 60 The Himalayan monal is its national bird 61 Onion 62 P.O. alternative 63 Epitomize 65 Port letters 66 Feeling of finality 68 Fortune-filled fort 69 "A Streetcar Named Desire" setting, informally 70 Prime real estate? 71 Dele and stet, say 72 Apt "casino" rhyme 73 Sassy sort 75 Crucifix letters 76 Either of two filmmaking brothers 77 Uncommon blood type: 81 Slope 82 Coerce 84 Wise ones 87 Blues-rockers 88 End of a Brigham Young address? 89 Wedding <u>_____</u> 91 Quieted, but often not quietly 92 Opposite of COD 94 "My performance was awful!" 95 Elegantly groomed 97 Smiling, probably 98 Text with an RSVP 99 Sportscaat staple 100 <u>Bo</u> 101 Dual conjunction 102 '60s jacket style 104 Copland ballet with a hoedown 105 At <u>_____</u> clueless 106 Natural talents 107 One way to play it 110 3-D med. tools 111 "Ooops!" 113 Honorary legal deg. 114 Bit of bridge obedience 115 Um cousins
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3/28/21 xwordeditor@aol.com ©2021 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

Answers to last week's puzzle below.

### HOROSCOPE

BY MADALYN ASLAN

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY | March 28:** Confident, enthusiastic and impulsive, the desire to learn and grow moves you in a positive direction. This year, you acquire knowledge that enhances your ability to connect with people personally and professionally. Keep an eye on your finances, because you may be tempted to spend more than usual for business and pleasure. If single, friendship may lead to love. If attached, your partner is your biggest cheerleader. Capricorn directs your energy.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19)  
Spend the day outdoors with someone special. Make sure there are no crossed wires and you both agree about the game plan. Look forward to a deep conversation. Give your point of view sweetly though firmly.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20)  
You may be preoccupied with an unfinished project. Work on it in the morning, and then set it aside. Children and grandchildren may come to visit. Brush up on your cooking skills. Experiment with herbs and spices.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)  
Get your household chores done early. Take a car, bus or train ride somewhere off the beaten track. You may be invited to a gathering or party. Someone you meet could become an important contact.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 21)  
Attending a sporting event or watching it from home may define your day. Try to persuade an out-of-town relative to come for a visit. If that does not work, arrange to Zoom with several family members.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)  
Enjoy your breakfast and the morning paper before the day takes you by storm. You may want to indulge in a lazy Sunday, but others have different plans. Bite the bullet and go out with friends.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)  
You may discover you have less cash on hand than you thought. Explore online bargains and creative ways to buy what you need. Think of it as a treasure hunt. Involve your family and compare what you find.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)  
Family may make plans without asking you. Be accommodating and assertive. You know how to

bring others around to your point of view. Take advantage of that quality. Make others feel they have gotten what they want.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)  
Be sure to jot down last night's dream. It might contain an illuminating message. Ask someone you love for a favor you have been hesitant to bring up. The positive response may surprise you.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)  
Reflect on advice you recently received from friends. They know you well and can provide the objectivity you need. Think about joining a book club. You will expand your social circle when you widen your interests.

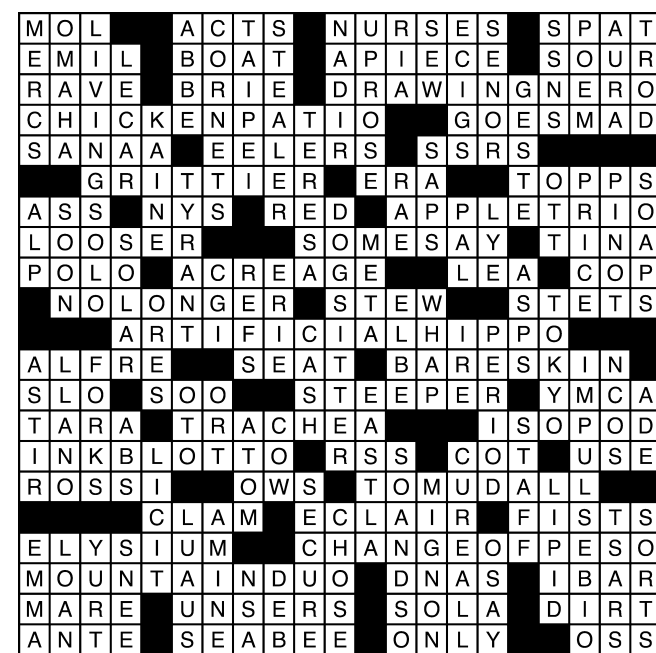
**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)  
Pat yourself on the back for making

it through a challenging week. The recognition you receive will boost your confidence. Share happy thoughts with someone feeling down. Talk them into going for a walk in the park.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)  
Research destinations for a family trip. The good news is, if you do your homework, you'll discover the perfect place at a great price. Children and grandchildren may provide you with surprising tips on where to go.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)  
The entrepreneur in you is ready to emerge. Use your natural charm, and someone may be interested in marketing your ideas or selling your products. Ask an informed friend to guide you through the process.

### Answers to last week's puzzle.



3/21/21