

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Update your Will: Bard modernized

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1429 we asked you to exemplify a Shakespeare quote with a modern one, real or imagined. The Empress was looking for the same idea expressed in today's language by today's people, but some of the funnier entries took the words totally out of context, and so what the heck, she threw in a few of those, too.

4th place:

Shakespeare: "Alas, poor Yorick! I knew him, Horatio, a man of infinite jest." ("Hamlet")

Now: **yorick lol**
(Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

3rd place:

"I have no spur to prick the sides of my intent, but only vaulting ambition, which o'erleaps itself, and falls on the other." ("Macbeth")
"I announce my candidacy for president of the United States."
(Nancy McWhorter, Isle of Palms, S.C.)

2nd place and the Shakespeare-pun soaps:

"May I, sweet lady, beg a kiss of you?" ("Troilus and Cressida")
"Hi! I'm Governor Cuomo."
(Frank Mann, Washington)

And the winner of the Clowning Achievement:

"If it be a sin to make a true election, she is damned."
(Cymbeline)
"Ms. Abrams, the Georgia legislature thinks there's been way too much voting going on."
(Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

The Errors of Comedy: Honorable mentions

"How like a winter hath my absence been
From thee, the pleasure of the fleeting year!" (Sonnet 97)
"Two weeks since my second shot — here I come, Cheesecake Factory!" (Bruce Alter, Fairfax Station)
"Devouring pestilence hangs in our air, and thou art flying to a fresher clime." (Richard II)
"There goes Ted off to Cancún!" (Richard Franklin, Alexandria)
"Vengeance is in my heart, death in my hand/ Blood and revenge are hammering in my head." (Titus Andronicus)
"I'm having a really bad day." (Ellen Rphaeli, Falls Church)
"Away with the dotard!" (The Taming of the Shrew)
"OK boomer." (Duncan Stevens)
"I do desire we may be better strangers" ("As You Like It")
[Swipe left.] (David Stonner, Washington; Jim Sproules, Alexandria, a First Offender)
"But men may construe things after their fashion, clean from the purpose of the things themselves." (Julius Caesar)
"I never really felt threatened at the Capitol" . . . they're people that truly respect law enforcement, would never do anything to break a law." — Sen. Ron Johnson (Karen Golden, Prince Frederick, Md., a First Offender)
"Nature teaches beasts to know their friends." ("Coriolanus")
"It is even said that he likes beautiful women as much as I do, and many of them are on the younger side." — Trump on his pal Jeffrey Epstein (Mark Raffman, Reston)
"Now I see the bottom of your purpose." ("All's Well That Ends Well")
"Please don't stand up during a Zoom meeting." (Kevin Dopart, Washington)
"Alas, poor wenches, where are now your fortunes! Shipwreck'd upon a kingdom . . ." ("Henry VIII")
"Ladies, I'm afraid your Amazon orders are stuck in the Suez Canal." (Drew Bennett, West Plains, Mo.)
"The empty vessel makes the loudest sound." ("Henry V")
"The chair recognizes Senator Cruz." (Nancy McWhorter)
"Stray lower, where the pleasant fountains lie." ("Venus and Adonis")
"Bring a bucket and a mop." — Cardi B (Jeff Rackow, Bethesda)
"Let the candied tongue lick absurd pomp, and lick the knee, where advantage may follow fawning." ("Hamlet")
"Is Kevin McCarthy going to Mar-a-Lago again?" (Dan Helming, Trenton, N.J.)
"Wisely, and slow. They stumble that run fast." ("Twelfth Night")



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1433: Questionable Journalism

Sentence in The Post: "I'm encouraged that it hasn't been an overwhelming number of cases."
Question it might answer: What's it like being an airport baggage handler as people start flying again?
(Duncan Stevens)

A. "Adults over 16 in all 50 states, plus D.C. and Puerto Rico, are eligible."
Q. Who can try out to be the next host of "Jeopardy!"?
(Ken Rosenbaum)

Sometimes news reports can raise more questions than they answer. They don't necessarily raise good questions . . .

And this is where, once again, you come in. This week: Choose any sentence (not a headline!) in an article or ad in The Washington Post or another publication dated April 22 through May 3, and write a question that it might humorously answer, as in the examples above from the April 19 Post, which the Empress solicited from members of the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook. You don't have to use the entire sentence (and you can use two consecutive ones) but don't drop words out of the middle that would change the meaning of the sentence. Please include the name, date and page number of print papers and magazines, and a link to the Web page for online ones.

Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1433 (no capitals in the Web address). Deadline is Monday, May 3; results appear May 23 in print, May 20 online.

Winner gets the Clowning Achievement, the Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives an oversize hardcover collection of 13 Dr. Seuss stories, including several being taken out of print because of old-time racist content. Donated by 85-time Loser Pie Snelson.

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 "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 "Update Your Will" is by Tom Witte; Tom also wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the lively 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. See this week's at wapo.st/conv1433.

"Take your time, Mr. President — the plane won't leave without you." (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines; Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

" . . . Then might I not say so, To give full growth to that which still doth grow." (Sonnet 115)
Urologist: "You really should have called me after the fourth hour." (Sarah Walsh, Rockville)

"Round about the cauldron go; in the poison'd entrails throw." ("Macbeth")
"You can't beat home cooking." (Diana Oertel, San Francisco)

"Out, damned spot." ("Macbeth")
"Delete! Delete! Delete! My confirmation hearing is in an hour." (Bob Kruger, Rockville)

"We cannot be here and there too." (Romeo and Juliet)
"I just can't cope with Zoom AND the classroom any longer!" — "Remote-plus" teacher (Karen Golden)

"All strange and terrible events are welcome, but comforts we despise." ("Antony and Cleopatra")
"Welcome to Marine Corps basic training, maggots!" (David Stonner)

"Good night! Good night! Parting is such sweet sorrow!" ("Romeo and Juliet")
"You hang up first." "YOU hang up first." "Okay, on the count of 3 . . ." (Mark Nocera, Alexandria; Francesca Kelly, Highland Park, Ill.)

"Haply your eye shall light upon some toy you have desire to purchase; and your store, I think, is not for idle markets, sir." ("Twelfth Night")
"It's impossible — no one can ever 'just grab one quick thing' at Target." (Sarah Walsh)

"Heat not a furnace for your foe so hot that it do singe yourself." ("Henry VIII")

"Be careful what you're doing with that filibuster, Senator Schumer." (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station)

"If thou hast no name to be known by, let us call thee devil!" ("Othello")
"Mr. Snyder says the Washington Football Team has received a helpful suggestion." (Duncan Stevens)

"I'll rant as well as thou." ("Hamlet")
"I'd like to speak to the manager." (Jeff Contompassis, Ashburn)

"O, what a scene of foolery have I seen, Of sighs, of groans, of sorrow and of teen!" ("Love's Labour's Lost")
"I resign as Matt Gaetz's communications director out of principle." (Bill Dorner, Indianapolis)

"Out with it boldly: truth loves open dealing." ("Julius Caesar")
"Here's the deal, we will be transparent as soon as we are in a position to implement what we're doing, but I don't know when, to be clear." — Biden's news conference (Drew Bennett)

And Last: "Oft expectation fails, and most oft there where most it promises." ("All's Well That Ends Well")
"If you think you're getting ink this week, think again." (Rob Cohen, Potomac, David Shombert, Harrisonburg, Va.)

And Even Laster: "This is the pearl, that pleased your empress' eye." ("Titus Andronicus")

"Hey, Pat; thanks for the magnet! So I guess you got that little package I sent?" (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

More honorable mentions in the online Invite at wapo.st/invite1433.

Still running — deadline Monday night, April 26: Our contest for novel takes on fairy tales, nursery rhymes, etc. See wapo.st/invite1432.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

"DIRECTOR'S CUT" By JOE DEENEY

ACROSS

- Get gray, say
- Knighted English composer
- Bust of Pope Paul V sculptor
- Language family including Finnish and Hungarian
- "Hope You Dance" singer
- Marvel hero with a red-white-and-blue costume
- "Soviet newspaper
- Like a racehorse's hooves
- Apple pie order
- Last-second online auction bids
- OXO tool
- Comet, to some
- Summer hrs. along the Mississippi
- Humdingers
- "Hunk
- "Take only the best
- Android alternative
- Halloween decoration
- "Family Guy" kid with a football-shaped head
- Beta Kappa
- Diva's numbers
- Base-level rideshare option
- Host before Carson
- Instrument played with mallets
- "Citrus used to flavor tea
- Cattle catchers
- Cantina fare
- '60s-'70s epithet based on a 21st-century Emmy-winning drama
- Appliance found in Provence?
- Survivalist
- Okra or orca unit
- "Dracula" author
- Phisher's crime
- Threat problems
- Grand Canyon sights
- Turkey's area
- "Symbol of worthlessness
- Cravings
- Slightly lit

DOWN

- Ottawa-based media org.
- Take on, as tenants
- Mythological lyrist
- Boundless
- Jeweled headgear
- Oxford, to Oxonians
- Fruta en una colada
- City in NW Germany
- "Breaking Bad" actor Paul
- Arrived headfirst, perhaps
- General Mills cereal
- Landmark health legislation, briefly
- A la King?
- Jump to one's feet
- Talked back to coach Smith
- List-shortening words
- Finish by
- Rock's Lynryd
- Fish sauce taste
- Health care provider: Abbr.
- Floating above, say
- Like Waldo's shirt, in kids' books
- Inflation meas.
- Russian cabbage?
- MTN
- Mountain footwear, maybe
- Pass out
- All-Del
- Heat up again?
- Matches, as a bet
- Stage backdrop
- Gives a thumbs-up
- Raised
- Leaning
- Spend time in a cellar, perhaps
- Returned, as a football kick
- Cultivated
- Houston Texans coach
- "Carmen," e.g.
- Henri's "Hi"
- Symbol of authority
- Pfizer rival
- More than just talk
- Language of southern India
- Temperamental
- (The) big leagues
- Bank charge
- French alternative
- Has at
- Dandy fellows
- Move surreptitiously
- Bengals, on scoreboards
- Accompanying
- Bite like a puppy
- Tight-lipped
- Do something
- Bit of fishing tackle
- Santa Monica Mountains' Canyon
- U.S. 1, East Coast hwy.
- Immune system component
- Picturesque language
- English church honorific
- Furry friend
- WWI battle city
- One of a quartet of '50s singing siblings
- Domed top for a threaded fastener
- Relatives of Tonys
- Polite two-word English term of address
- Oranjestad native
- Actress Davis
- Fast-food NYSE ticker symbol
- Beer foam
- Mad word game
- Rule that Gandhi opposed
- "_ pasa?"
- Starkey, longtime drummer for The Who
- Once possessed

4/25/21 xwordeditor@aol.com ©2021 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Correction: In the April 4 and 11 issues, the answer grids to the Los Angeles Times crossword puzzles provided the solutions to that week's puzzle, not the solutions to the previous week's puzzle.

Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY MADALYN ASLAN

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | April 25: Artsy, slow-moving and pragmatic, your smile lights up the room. This year, you present original ideas that you normally keep to yourself. Follow your instincts, and professional success will be yours. Because of your sensible approach to fiscal matters, you will be in good financial shape with money to spare. If single, don't make snap decisions about people you meet. If attached, be your partner's greatest cheerleader. Cancer softens you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
Take whatever time you need to clear up a communication mix-up. Talk it through rather than text or email. It is never too corny to tell people you love how much they mean to you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Household chores are overwhelming, but the faster you work, the sooner you move on to pleasures. Exercise outside and create a healthy menu. Getting in tip-top shape will prepare you for professional challenges that lie ahead.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
Take a break from watching sports all afternoon. Spend the day outdoors and get a taste of the real thing. Join an amateur team or cheer one on. Work up a sweat with a hike or bike ride.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
Track down cousins who can fill gaps in your family tree. Make your home more cheerful. A fresh coat of paint will do the trick. When you host a dinner party, the effort will have been worthwhile.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Neighbors, siblings and relatives provide a respite from pressures in your work life. Now that warmer weather has arrived, a potluck meal or block party held outside can lay the foundation for a deeper connection.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Keep your eye on several vacation spots that have something for everyone. If your financial calculations are correct, you will be able to afford first-rate accommodations at a destination you can all enjoy.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Don't fight the urge to spend a relaxing day without distractions.

Putter around the house and take your time getting things done. Read a page-turning memoir about a celebrity you admire.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Take time away from social commitments and reflect on your next moves. Think about how to use innovative ideas to make a lasting impact at the workplace or an organization in which you are active.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Get together with friends you haven't hung out with for some time. Share your deepest emotions with each other. Act as a sounding board for someone's problems. Brainstorm about a project that is starting to germinate.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Count on friends and family to cut

you some slack while you solve a work quandary. Master the art of multitasking to keep up with various projects. A support system will ease your ability to move ahead.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Satisfy your inquisitive mind with an in-person or online lecture. Meet with a close friend who has equally strong opinions and craves intellectual discussions. Whether you agree or disagree, you never take it personally.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Explore an emotional reaction you had while talking to a family member. Talk to someone you love who is objective and nonjudgmental. Own up to what you said and deeply apologize. Hopefully they will accept and move on.

Answers to last week's puzzle.

D	E	L	I	S	H	K	E	R	M	I	T	M	A	I	N	M	A	N
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S	E	T	T	E	R	S		S	E	N	N	A	S		T	O	O	T