

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Vowel-ups: Tinkering with song titles

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1439 we asked you to (a) choose any song title and delete all its vowels, then (b) add any vowels you liked to make a new title.

4th place:

Crazy Train:

Delete the vowels: C R Z T R N

Cure a Zit Area Now! Ozzy Osbourne's new jingle for Clearasil.

3rd place:

Lie Lady Lie: "His clothes are dirty, but his grammar's clean..."

2nd place and the 8-color toilet bowl night light:

Stairway to Heaven > Stairway to Heave In: There's a lady who drinks till she literally stinks

And the winner of the Clowning Achievement:

I'm a Believer > Mob Lover: Sen. Ron Johnson changes his tune after Jan. 6.

What a failing! Honorable mentions

Bye Bye Bye > Boo Boo Boo: 'N Sync attempts, and quickly abandons, a comeback tour.

I Feel Fine > I Fool a Fan: "This guy's good to me, you know, He rampaged in D.C., you know, 'Cause I said so.

A Horse With No Name > Hours With an Enema: A sad song about constipation from a diet of plants and birds and rocks and things.

Borderline > Beardo, a Real Ano: John Boehner's bilingual hit about Sen. Ted Cruz and his rants about immigration.

Please Please Me > Paul Is... Paul Is... Me! (Dave Zarrow, Reston)

The Sounds of Silence > Those Nudes of Sal - Nice! Hello, darkroom, my old friend...

YMCA > You. Me. Ciao.: This "50 Ways to Leave Your Lover" remake cuts out 49 of the ways.

Cocaine > Ice Cone: That summer anthem: If you snort one of those, it's gonna...

Come Together > A Comet Got Her: Finally explains how she got joo joo eyeball and spinal cracker.

"C" Is for Cookie > Case for Cake: The "Sesame Street" monster expands his culinary horizons.

Ain't Too Proud to Beg > Note to Poor: Date Big: The Temptations' guide to the underfunded aspiring gigolo.

Don't Stop > Don T.'s Type: "Please stop thinkin' about Ivanka..."

Hokey Pokey > Eh? Okay, I Puke: A Canadian at an American wedding reacts to being asked to join in the festivities.

Alone Again (Naturally) > Lean Again (Not Really): In a few days from now, if I'm not feeling down to size

Honey Don't > Heinie Donut: Carl Perkins's ode to his hemorrhoid pillow wasn't as popular as the one he wrote to his blue suede shoes.

I Want to Hold Your Hand > Won't They Load Your Hind? The Former Guy continues to prey on his supporters.



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1443: The letters of the laws

The Delivering Envelopes Judiciously On-time Year-round Act — the DEJOY Act — is a real bill introduced this year in both the Senate and the House by four members of Congress and numerous co-sponsors; it would essentially forbid the Postal Service (and the eponymous chief) to slow down the mail.

This week's contest was suggested by the Empress's Royal Consort, who notes the trend of giving silly names to legislation so that they form silly acronyms — witness HELPPP, or the Helping Ensure Life- and Limb-Saving Access to Podiatric Physicians Act — and figuring, surely correctly, that the Loser Community could do it more cleverly.

This week: Propose some law — it doesn't have to be a serious issue — and give it a name and acronym, along the lines of the above but funnier. That can be the whole entry, or you might add a line to elaborate.

Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1443 (no capitals in the Web address). Deadline is Monday, July 12; results appear Aug. 1 in print, July 29 online.

Winner gets the Clowning Achievement, our new Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a fabulous soft rubbery hand puppet depicting a, well, some indeterminate aquatic creature; guesses included a shark, barracuda, alligator and dinosaur.

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" (PirStink for their first ink). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline "Vowel-ups" is by Jesse Frankovich; Jesse 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, in which the E shares some real-life acronym bills, at wapo.st/conv1443.



MARK HOLT

The Empress's dainty hand becomes the Fangs of Fear! This week's second prize.

April Come She Will > Pry Lice, Mash Well: A tune for parents to sing while they comb out their kids' hair after summer camp.

Auld Lang Syne > Ladle Nog, Son: The traditional song to sing at 11 p.m. on Dec. 31.

Both Sides Now > Bath-Suds-on-Ewe: A song about how Mary kept her little lamb so clean; the title later became the name of a charming village in England.

Born to Run > Barney Tran: The inspiring purple dino sings about being true to themselves.

Both Sides Now > But He Said Snowy: Kindergartner learns a hard lesson about D.C. weather forecasters.

Don't Stop > Don T.'s Type: "Please stop thinkin' about Ivanka..."

Hokey Pokey > Eh? Okay, I Puke: A Canadian at an American wedding reacts to being asked to join in the festivities.

Home on the Range > Human Throng: Replaces the roaming buffalo.

Honey Don't > Heinie Donut: Carl Perkins's ode to his hemorrhoid pillow wasn't as popular as the one he wrote to his blue suede shoes.

I Want to Hold Your Hand > Won't They Load Your Hind? The Former Guy continues to prey on his supporters.

Lyric asks: "Are you sure you want fries with that?"

I'm Too Sexy > Emits Ox: A woman gives birth to an 11-pound baby and does not feel too sexy for her shirt.

In-A-Gadda-Da-Vida > No Good, Dude - VD!: Iron Butterfly soundtrack for the Army's STD training film.

Jealousy, Jealousy > Jowls, Jowls: Eighteen-year-old Olivia Rodrigo proactively frets about a potentially sagging jawline.

Let It Snow > Lite, 'Tis, No? Yoda sings about his diet.

Love Me Tender > Leave Me Ten, Dr: "Leave me ten toes, leave them on. Tell me they are mine. I know that I've got frostbite, Leave me at least nine."

Sweet Home Alabama > Sweet Ham > la BAM!: Lynyrd Skynyrd's tribute to Emeril's glazed-pork recipe.

Miss You > Mossy: The Rolling Stones finally start to slow down.

Misty > Musty: "Look at me, I'm the room you need to clean ASAP..."

Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da > Be Loud, Be Lewd!: The anthem of shock jocks.

YMCA > Yay, I'm CIA!: Morale-boosting song for our intelligence agents: "Young man, you are now a real spy! No mere gumshoe at the dull FBI..."

And Last: Born to Run > Borin' to Run: Bruce explains why the Empress didn't print your entries.

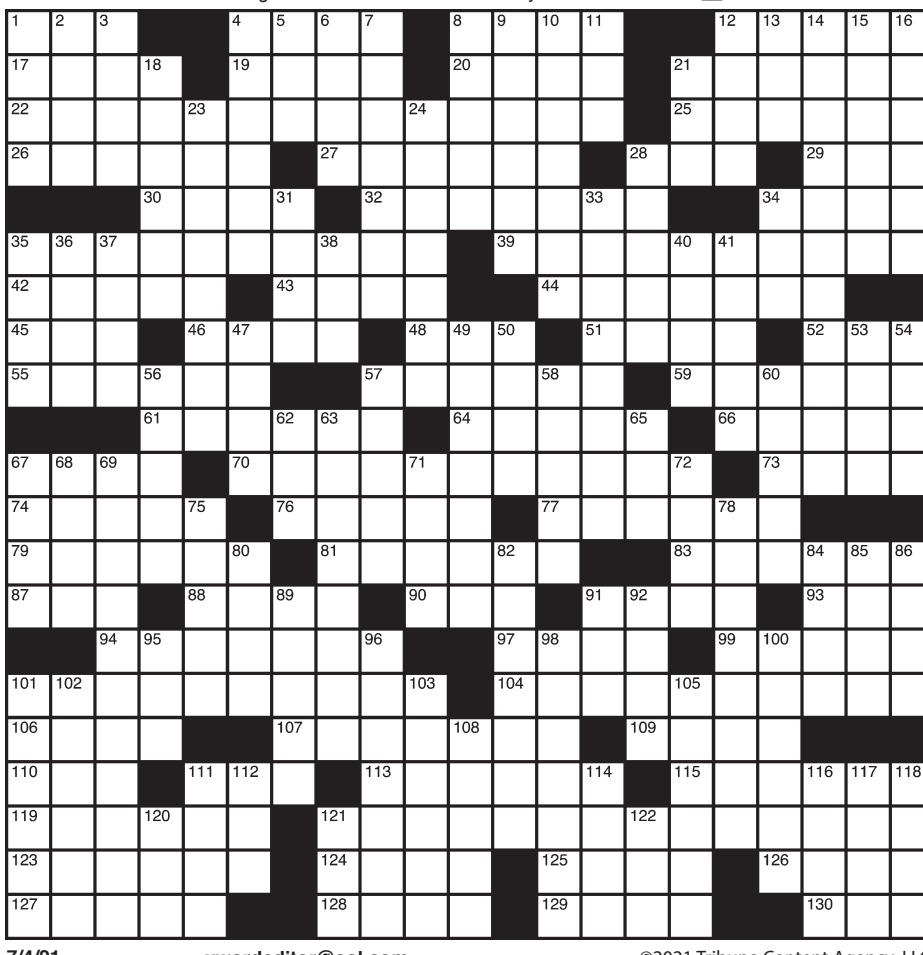
More honorable mentions in the online Invite at wapo.st/invite1443.

Still running - deadline Monday night, July 5: our contest to compare/contrast any two items on our random list. See wapo.st/invite1442.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

- "SURPRISE PACKAGE" By PAM AMICK KLAFFITZER
ACROSS
1 Seuss critter in socks
4 Singer with a Best Actress Oscar
8 Best-of-seven MLB semifinal
12 Put one over on Cupid counterpart
19 Olympics event since 1964
20 Poi source
21 Aquafina alternative
22 "Editorial comment
25 Builds
26 Rainforest rodent
27 Channel with a gate
28 Onboard assent
29 Family tree fill
30 Last word in a popular drinking game
32 Completely wraps
34 "Well done!"
35 "Solid piece of security hardware
39 "Part of a school kid's allowance
42 London driver's unit
43 She's no pro
44 Making a case for
45 Woman on the ceiling
46 Snowballs in a fight, e.g.
48 '60s protest gp.
51 Dashboard nos.
52 AL West team, in crawl lines
55 Doctor's order
57 Belgian lager, familiarly
59 Bethlehem university
61 Jet Ski rival
64 Kaley who played Penny on "The Big Bang Theory"
66 One with dreads
67 Church branch
70 "Online dating coup
73 Govt. accident investigator
74 Shrinking retailer
76 All together
77 Mississippi River explorer
79 "That was a brutal workout!"
81 Solution measures
83 Paper-saving party announcements
87 "I guess not"
88 Space race initials
90 Pocatello-to-Provo dir.
91 One in a bust
93 Raiser with three Olympic gold medals
94 Advice from a loser?
97 Local bond, briefly
99 "Burr, Sir": song in "Hamilton"
101 "Tough talk tension eaiser
104 "Offenbach output
106 Slack-jawed look
107 They might be holy
109 Removed
110 Family card game
111 URL addresses
113 Subject of a 2021 packet shortage
115 It's been shortening for over a century
119 "Broken Arrow" co-star
121 "Fast talk from the on-deck circle
123 Marcus partner
124 It's not butter
125 Vannelli of pop
126 NE syst. with 64 campuses
127 Bond's car starter?
128 Night sch. awards
129 Exxon, formerly
130 Shipping supply that links the answers to starred clues
DOWN
1 Greek salad topper
2 Wash. neighbor
3 Love letters?
4 Crossword constructor's job
5 Group
6 They're beaten in kitchens
7 Put back in a seat
8 Overhead storage
9 Secular
10 King known for
11 John David, to Denzel
12 Double-dog action?
13 Take advantage of
14 "Traveler's aid
15 Lure
16 Man with a World
17 Fog
21 "L.A. Law" actress
23 Flintstones time
24 Orange soda brand
28 Songwriters' org.
31 Gitzzy genre
33 Break in the theater
34 Nice turn-down
35 Winter transport
36 Pioneering DVR
37 Rd. map lines
38 Plastic __ Band
40 Webmaster's code
41 Unlikely GoFundMe donor
47 Deli array
49 Orders
50 Run-down area
53 Movie industry
his wealth
reps: Abbr.
Loved?: 1975 hit
96 Sheet material
98 Sudden spike
100 Reviews of books
101 Dora the Explorer's Isa, e.g.
102 French film
103 Not for kids, firmwise
105 Cold sound played Hermione
108 Four Holy Roman emperors
111 Caspian Sea land
112 Not a good review
114 Trident-shaped frat letters
116 Concert memento
117 Prefix with -zoic
118 Serengeti antelope
120 Word in a Latin love poem
121 Cranberry source
122 Brain and spinal cord, initially



7/4/21 xwordeditor@aol.com ©2021 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | July 4: You are creative and you have good business sense. You have strong family attachments. Nevertheless, you need freedom of action, because you are spontaneous and you have definite ideas.

Moon Alert: There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions today. The Moon is in Taurus.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Today you might find money or you might lose money. Or perhaps something that you had misplaced is found or, instead, you might lose something.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Today the Moon in your sign is lined up with unpredictable Uranus, which could make you impulsive. Guard against doing something rash. Be patient with yourself and others. Entertain at home amid the chaos.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) This is a restless day, which means it's hard to stick with one task or focus on anything for too long. Your mind and energy will flit from subject to subject.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You might meet a real character today — someone unusual or from a different background. Or, possibly, someone you already know will surprise you by doing or saying something you least expect. You might suddenly change your plans for the future.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You might be surprised at something that a parent, teacher, boss or the police does. Think twice before you react. Never forget the power of courtesy. Be polite with authority figures, shop for wardrobe goodies and enjoy physical exercise.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Travel plans will suddenly change today. They might be canceled or delayed or, in turn, you might have to travel when you did not expect to do so. Likewise, news from afar or the media might surprise you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Double-check details related to your bank account or anything that you share jointly with someone else, because something might surprise you today. Possibly, someone will suggest a new arrangement.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You might feel rebellious about restrictions you feel that are related to others. Or, possibly, things are the other way around and someone feels rebellious of the arrangement with you. The key is to be patient today.

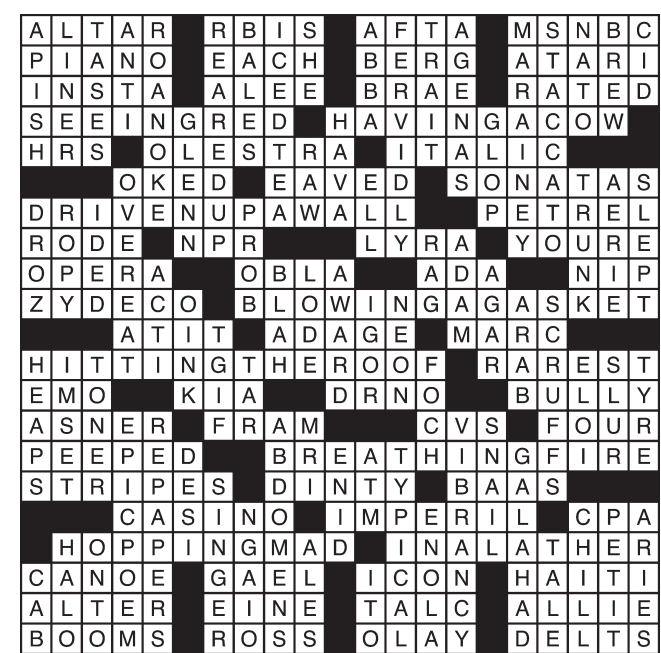
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Your work routine will be interrupted by something unusual today. This is an accident-prone day for any job that you're doing. You might hear surprising news that is health-related. Meanwhile, something unexpected could impact your pet. Be aware of this.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Parents should be vigilant today because this is an accident-prone day for your kids. Meanwhile, you might experience a sudden cancellation of a social event or something related to sports. Conversely, you might suddenly receive an invitation.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Your home routine will be interrupted today. Be patient, because somebody might lose it. Family disputes, especially with females, might take place. Or a small appliance might break down. Surprise company might drop by.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Pay attention to everything you say and do today, because this is an accident-prone day for your sign. However, it's an interesting day. You might see new places, meet new faces or hear new ideas.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



6/27/21