

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

The puntathlon: Altered sport names

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1444 the Empress asked you to slightly change the name of a sport (or sport-related term) and describe the new one. Too many people to credit among some 1,800 entries offered the **tryathlon** (everyone gets a trophy), **BMX changed to BM** (you can imagine), the **snot put** (ditto) and the **shot putt**, hitting a 16-pound iron ball with a golf club.

4th place:

Offencing: Talk-show hosts compete to say the most reprehensible, dangerous things. The winner gets a prime-time spot on cable so they can complain every night about being “censored.” (*John Hutchins, Silver Spring*)

3rd place:

Worstminton: Instead of a shuttlecock, it’s played with a grenade. (*Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.*)

2nd place and the winner of the book ‘The Gas We Pass’:

American Ninja Warrior: Anxious parents must surmount a series of extreme obstacles, from the devilishly sensible “He’ll probably text us in the morning” to the terrifyingly reasonable “She’s an adult; she can make her own choices.” (*Hannah Seidel, Alexandria*)

And the winner of the Clowning Achievement:

Marrython: The only endurance sport where you try not to reach the finish line. (*Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.*)

Gave only 109 percent: Honorable mentions

Blaséball: Whatever it is that the Orioles do year after year. (*Bruce Carlson, Alexandria*)

Splatform diving: The world’s foremost bellyflopers show what gravity and mass can do to an unsuspecting body of water. (*Diana Oertel, San Francisco*)

Antennis: Contestants find it’s really hard to hit a ball with a racket strapped to your head. (*Mark Raffman, Reston*)

Lagrosse: Players drink huge quantities of beer and try to score by vomiting into the opposing team’s goal. (*Frank Mann, Washington*)

March Adness: Three weeks of commercials, occasionally interrupted by a few minutes of basketball. (*Eric Nelkin, Silver Spring*)

The 20K talk: Two-person teams recite one of Aaron Sorkin’s walking dialogues without taking a breath. (*Ira Allen, Bethesda*)

Microsoftball: Every few innings the umpire updates the rule book, often requiring the game to restart. (*Eric Nelkin*)

Moderna pentathlon: Comprises the Vaccination Booking, the Serpentine Queue Dash, the Immediate Selfie Post, the Info-Sheet-Into-Recycling-Bin Toss and the Two-Days-Later Sore-Armed Sports Bra Removal. (*Pam Sweeney, Burlington, Mass.*)

Poll vault: Would-be voters try to clear the high bar set by their state legislators. (*Diana Oertel*)

100x4-meter relay: It’s all about the baton pass. (*John Klayman, Fairfax*)

Bandminton: Replace rackets with instruments: Amateur level: banjo; pro level: clarinet. (*Craig Dykstra, Centerville*)

Vladminton: Racket sport played shirtless on horseback. Strongly advised you let him win. (*Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.*)

2x4x100 relay: Long pieces of lumber ensure socially distanced handoffs. Just watch for splinters. (*Pam Sweeney*)

50-meter crash: All runners must change lanes before the finish line. (*Marleen May, Rockville*)

Slam donk: Bouncing the ball off a defender’s head and into the basket. Two points. (*Brett Dimaio, Cumberland, Md.*)

Archerry: Shooting an apple off someone’s head? That’s for novices! (*Mike Gips, Bethesda; Drew Bennett, West Plains, Mo.*)

Anarchy: No targets, just shoot at whatever you want. Not a highly attended event. (*Brian Collins, Olney*)

Hibocce: Lawn bowling on a red-hot grill keeps the action moving. (*Connie Ostrowski, Niskayuna, N.Y., a*



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1448: Hear, hear — it’s Limerixicon XVIII

Though she sang with a voice operatic, She ate marshmallows like a fanatic. But then it got tricky — Her tonsils got sticky! Now all we can hear is s’more static. (*Beverley Sharp*)

Just about a year ago, we checked in for the 17th time with limerick guru Chris Strolin, whose mission to create a full English dictionary with every entry in limerick form had worked its way up to the ha- words. (Chris’s current estimate for completion at OEDILF.com: Oct. 15, 2061. “I’ll live to see the Z- section open if I can just make it to my 109th birthday.”) And now for our 18th sliver of the dictionary: **Supply a humorous, previously unpublished limerick significantly featuring any word, name or term beginning with “he-,”** as in the example above from a 2010 limerick contest. By “significantly,” we mean that a “he” or “her” won’t qualify your limerick unless it were really focused on that word.

Please see our guide “Get Your ‘Rick Rolling” at wapo.st/limericks1448 for our fairly strict rules on limerick rhyme and meter (in a nutshell: “perfect” rhyme, and a strong “hickory-dickory-dock” rhythm in Lines 1, 2 and 5; a “dickory-dock” in Lines 3 and 4; additional unaccented syllables on either side are fine). See OEDILF.com about submitting limericks there, if you like, after this contest is over.

Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1448 (no capitals in the Web address). **Deadline is Monday, Aug. 16;** results appear Sept. 5 in print, Sept. 2 online.



In case you’d like to give your bulletin board some scratches: dog butt push pins, the latest second prize.

Winner gets the Clowning Achievement, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a set of **Dog Butt push pins**, the adorable inch-long rears of five assorted breeds plus a bonus half a fire hydrant. The Empress is thinking they could be modified into lapel pins as well. Donated by Style Invitational Devotees member Sheri Sutherland.

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 ‘Bilty” 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 “Puntathlon” headline came from both Chris Doyle and Jesse Frankovich; Tom Witte wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the 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 [bil.ly/inkofday](https://www.facebook.com/bil.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/conv1448.

First Offender)

Arrhythmic gymnastics: Me trying to do a cartwheel. (*Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn*)

Basketball: When a player shoots a hoop, an opposing player blasts at the ball with a shotgun. Shooting another player draws two free throws (not by the fouled player). (*John Kammer, South Riding*)

Biosled: A Winter/Summer Games crossover: Two sumo wrestlers ride down an iced and greased track in pursuit of a bowl of chankonabe. (*Stephen Dudzik, Olney*)

Canoeing: Not much paddling happens in this sport, unless your teammate is Christian Grey. (*Lee Graham, Rockville*)

Clickit: Chinese and Russian teams vie to entice naive Americans into opening email attachments. (*Craig Schopmeyer, Kensington*)

Fig skating: Instead of a garish costume, each skater wears nothing but a simple, elegant leaf. Not for the shy or the easily chilled. (*Tom Witte, Montgomery Village*)

I’ll Pine skiing: Southerners sit

around and long for snow. (*Drew Bennett*)

IdidArod: Madonna and J.Lo are among the participants in this popular New York sport. (*Mark Turco, McLean*)

Mototoss: Bodybuilders compete to see who can fling a Mini Cooper the farthest. (*Terri Berg Smith, Rockville*)

NASCARA: Competitors use the rearview mirror to put on eye makeup while driving 200 miles an hour. (*Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.*)

Po’lo: A street game played on bikes with sticks and a soda can. (*Tom Witte*)

Duper Bowl: The Republican primary. (*Ward Foeller, Charlottesville*)

Ruder Cup: A golf tournament featuring strategic coughing and tactical arm farts. (*Jim Reagan, Herndon*)

More honorable mentions in the online Invite at wapo.st/invite1448.

Still running — deadline Monday night, Aug. 9: Our contest to translate a sentence in the paper into “plain English.” See wapo.st/invite1447.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

“SPLIT DECISIONS” By BRYANT WHITE	93 Tribal emblem	36 Washington city	67 Goddess	in blue
1 Race distance	94 Minty cocktail	where Olympic	with a throne	97 Diamond pro
5 Shrink	96 Gun	skiers Phil and	headdress	98 Location
12 Traditional koa	98 Daredevil’s	Steve Mahre	68 Insignificant	100 Body with arms?
wood product	stock-in-trade	were born	69 Key of	101 1994 rival of
19 “Gentlemen	99 Put out	37 Circle ratios	Schubert’s “Trout	Nancy
Prefer Blondes”	104 *Closely match	38 “Norse	Quintet”	102 “The Cocktail
author Loos	109 *Aconcagua’s	mythology	70 Cornfield sight	Party” playwright
21 Unworthy of	range	battle used as	71 Sundae	103 Fog modifier
22 Started up again	114 Conditionally let	the subtitle of a	72 Big name in	104 Red dessert
23 officer	out	2017 “Thor” film	movies?	wine
24 Bishopric cousin	115 Winning game	39 Egg-shaped	105 From square	one
25 Like aftershave	after game	40 Facer	73 Mann of ‘Til	106 Appraise
after a shave	116 They’re seen	Yarborough	Tuesday	107 Cutting-edge
26 1994 A.L. batting	among the reeds	41 Roasts, in a way	76 Winter Palace	resident
champ Paul	118 Samurai lacking	42 Blind segment	77 Roasting rod	108 Security problem
28 “Wine	a master	43 Brando role	78 Flounding	110 Iditarod terminus
ingredient?”	119 Go back over	in 1978’s	79 Merry-go-round	111 Carpe
29 “Sarah of ‘Suits”	120 Superheroes	“Superman”	tune	35-Down motto
30 Pigment used in	always have	44 Critical layer	80 “Dangerous	113 WWII weapon
rustproof primer	them	45 Fulfilled	strain	116 “It’s next to
paints	121 They come with	47 Defies authority	82 Derby, perhaps	nothing
32 Blood lines	strings attached	49 Flinging	86 Cool	117 JFK arrival, once
34 Bananas or nuts	122 Fine-tuned	50 Half a Balkan	87 Anchorage for a	
37 Monetary “p”	123 Krypton, but not	country	91 Mark down,	
38 Diamonds, in	Tatooine	52 Prefix with	maybe	
slang	124 Canapé spread	-aholic	92 “Place abuzz	
43 Rib-tickler		53 Magnum stopper	with activity	
46 Oval-shaped		56 “Ghost	94 Sent raspberries	
wind		59 Boston-based	to?	
48 Benefit		books	95 Text letters often	
49 “Slip through the		62 Hotshot		
cracks		63 Attract		
50 “Traffic stoppers				
51 Junk bond rating				
54 Yitzhak’s				
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55 Allegro non ...				
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57 Umbrella				
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58 Problematic to				
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60 Gas pump				
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61 Fermented				
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64 Mountain nymph				
65 World Cup “Way				
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66 Product with				
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70 Pol-				
73 Absinthe				
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74 A-line line				
75 Bench warmer?				
77 Stone set alone				
81 Basic card game				
83 1994 Olympic				
gold medalist				
skater Baiul				
84 donna				
85 Triple ... liqueur				
86 “Take by force				
88 “A Clockwork				
Orange” antihero				
89 Keys				
90 South American				
river with				
a crocodile				
namesake				
92 Clumsy boats				

Answers to last week’s puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Aug. 8: You have focus. You are determined, hard-working and creative. Adventure appeals to you, and yet you value security. You’re not afraid to commit. You are an excellent friend to others, always loyal. This year is more lighthearted and sociable. You might explore pleasing changes to your appearance, your routine or where you live. Others might seek your advice this year.

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Today’s New Moon is the time to think about how you can improve relations with your kids. Meanwhile, do you give yourself enough playtime vs. worktime? You need creative outlets. Work to improve your health.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Each New Moon is a time for resolutions. How can you improve your relationships with family members and where you live? Focus on home and family. Enjoy entertaining diversions, sports and fun activities with kids.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Think about how you communicate with others. Are you a clear communicator? Do you listen to others? How can you improve? Learn something new while redecorating and entertaining.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Today’s New Moon is about money, cash flow, assets and wealth. Do you take care of what you own? Do you respect your assets? What do you need to get rid of? Think about budgets. You will have a busy schedule with short trips and errands.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) This is the best day in the year to take a realistic look in the mirror. How can you improve the image you create on your world? New hairstyle? Wardrobe change? Weight? What changes will make you feel better about your image?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Think about your hidden agenda — not only your hidden agenda, but also your spiritual values and the things you think about in the dark. What values guide your life? Are your values worthwhile?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

You are a social sign, and today the New Moon offers you a chance to think about how to improve your relations with casual friends, acquaintances and groups to which you might belong. These are important connections for you. What can you do to make them better?

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) At times we are all judged by parents, bosses, the police or VIPs. Today you are aware of your relationship with authority figures. What can you do to improve these relationships? Meanwhile, are you headed in the life direction that you want to go? Enjoy friendships and groups plus physical competitions.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Use today’s New Moon to think about what further education or training you can get that will improve your life. Furthermore, what travel can you explore or enjoy that will enrich your life? These issues are important to you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Today’s New Moon urges you to be aware of anything related to inheritances, taxes, debt or shared property. Don’t overlook things or be slapdash. Roll up your sleeves and take care of loose details so you feel more confident about these areas. Check your finances. Travel and expand your universe.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Today the only New Moon opposite your sign all year is taking place, which is the perfect time to think about how you can improve your closest relationships. These relationships matter to you. What can you do to enrich these relationships?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) This might be the best day of the year to ask yourself how you can be more efficient and effective in what you do. How can you work harder and smarter? Meanwhile, what can you do to improve your health?

Answers to last week’s puzzle.

K	I	S	S	M	A	A	M	T	A	C	I	T	A	A	H						
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