

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

LOL clear: 'Plain English' translations

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1447 we asked readers to find some sentence in an article or ad, then translate it into "plain English" and tell us what it really meant.

4th place:

Washington Post article: "The exemptions for law enforcement-related records in public records statutes are often broadly worded and are often given deference by the courts."

Plain English: "You'll see Elvis and Jimmy Hoffa on a beach sharing a margarita before you see the complaint files on those cops." (Mark Raffman, Reston)

3rd place:

"A St. Louis couple who gained national notoriety for brandishing guns at peaceful protesters last year and pleaded guilty to firearm charges have been pardoned by Missouri Gov. Mike Parson."

PE: "White votes matter." (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

2nd place and the jaunty conical hat:

George F. Will: "Equal opportunity is an aspiration forever imperfectly realized. But the steady pursuit of it is as noble as today's progressive abandonment of this aspiration in favor of 'equity' is ignoble."

PE: Pursuit of equal opportunity: noble.

Having equal opportunity: ignoble. (Ira Allen, Bethesda)

And the winner of the Cloning Achievement:

Spelman College's study-abroad program has pivoted to "a systematic internationalization of the curriculum that infuses virtual exchange opportunities."

PE: You can study a broad section of your Zoom screen. (Drew Bennett, West Plains, Mo.)

Poor and simple: Honorable mentions

Gov. Andrew Cuomo talking about his 2019 harassment law: "Let's honor the women who have had the courage to come forward and tell their story."

PE: "Well, not ALL the women." (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

As covid cases rise — again — doctors in D.C. area are "holding their breath"

PE: As covid cases rise — again — doctors in D.C. area are holding their breath. (Seth Tucker, Washington)

"Among other things, many ignored the reality that millions of African Americans were quite pleased with the decidedly subliminal consolations of equal protection under the law."

PE: "I like using decidedly fancy words." (Jon Ketzner, Cumberland, Md.)

"I think there's a misperception of robots taking jobs away from people. Robots are tools. Throughout time, tools have increased the productivity of people."

PE: "My new boss, who is both a robot and a tool, has asked me to give a short statement on my last day at work." (Hannah Seidel, Alexandria)

Pinder . . . draws on fundamental and quantitative research and used a proprietary algorithm for predicting dividend revisions.

PE: Pinder also crosses his fingers and wishes on his birthday candles. (Chris Damm, Charles Town, W.Va.)

NBC's announcers, to be fair, have been respectful of the Australians, Russians and other out-of-towners who have bested the Americans in some of the main events.

PE: And also happy to have U.S. athletes sling doping allegations against them. (Sam Mertens, Silver Spring)

Rarely are video games as wholly bent on creating a feeling of serenity as "Mythic Ocean."

PE: BORRRRRING. (Steve Brevig, Springfield, Va.)

"You can shovel gobs of information into his brain, and he can analyze it and spit it out in a useful and comprehensive manner."

PE: "Haha, see how my 'compliment' makes the guy seem totally repulsive?" (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

"At [Marlboro maker] Altria, we're focused on moving beyond smoking and our 2030 Vision to responsibly lead the transition of adult smokers to noncombustible



CARTOON BY BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST; WEEK 108 ENTRY BY DAVID M. KING

New contest for Week 1451: Could have said it worse ourselves

"And God saw that it was scumiddlyumptious." (Kevin Mellema)

"The Giants win the NLCS! The Giants win the NLCS!" (Paul Kocak)

"I float like a butterfly and sting like a really, really angry butterfly." (Ken Krattenmaker)

"We hold these truths to be, like, duuuuh . . ." (Joseph Romm)

Looking through the archives for classic entries to turn into Style Invitational Ink of the Day graphics on Facebook, the Empress realized that it's time for some new classics in a contest we first did in 1995: Give us a humorously bad "first draft" of a famous line from history, literature or entertainment, as in the examples above from waay back in Week 108 (the Declaration quote won the contest). Obviously it needs to be clear to the reader what the original quote was, but please include the name of whoever said it.

Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1451 (no capitals in the Web address). **Deadline is Monday, Sept. 6;** results appear Sept. 26 in print, Sept. 23 online.

Winner gets the Cloning Achievement, our new Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a little box of cards labeled "50 of the Best Excuses and Lies for Every Occasion." "best" seeming here to mean "absolutely lamest." I guess that if you're in a bind, all you do is pull out one of these numbered cards, from "I wanted to give you extra time to get ready" to the simple "Who, me?," and wave it at your ticked-off questioner. (I did admire No. 23, "My



Ohhhh. Well, then. Three of the 50 in this week's second prize.

stigmata's acting up.") Donated by Loser Cheryl White.

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" (FirStink for their first ink). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline "LOL Clear" is by Jesse Frankovich; Kevin Dopart 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 she'll share more results from Week 108 and related contests, at wapo.st/conv1451.

The "You're Invited" podcast: The latest 30-minute episode features Invite legend and anagram savant Jesse Frankovich. He's amazing. See bit.ly/invite-podcast.

products."

PE: "We're focused on offering only the most modern additions." (Leif Picoult, Rockville)

Sen. Mitch McConnell: "I think this is awfully important that we continue to push to get more Americans vaccinated."

PE: "We need somebody left to vote for us." (Karen Golden, Prince Frederick, Md.)

Newly traded Max Scherzer: "It is what it is."

PE: "This sucks." (Mark Raffman, Ira Allen)

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis: "We can either have a free society or we can have a biomedical security state, and I can tell you, Florida, we're a free state."

PE: Give me liberty AND give me death! (Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore)

Sarah Palin on the possibility of running for the Senate: "If God wants me to do it I will."

PE: "If Trump wants me to do it I will." (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

"It's an existential feeling. I don't know how to put it. What is love? It's kind of that same thing. I'm meant to be here. All I know is that."

PE: "Whoa, that was some pretty good weed." (Craig Dykstra, Centerville)

Since the start of the pandemic, China has sealed off entire cities and tightly controlled borders to keep infection rates down."

PE: "Since the start of the pandemic, China has sealed off entire cities and tightly controlled

borders to keep infection reports down." (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

Show renovation ad: "Don't believe we can do it in as little as a day?"

PE: "Good thing." (Kevin Dopart)

NASA: "We're trying to partner public and private partnership with commercial industry to head back to the moon, and we're very excited about that."

PE: Yo, Elon! Jeff! Richard! Want to take a moonwalk? (Coleman Glenn, Huntingdon Valley, Pa.)

And Last: *Horoscope:* To focus on your favorite interest to the exclusion of all else isn't exactly healthy.

PE: Really, you don't have to send in 25 entries every single week! (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala., who has entered virtually every week since 2006)

And Even Laster: "Here's a contest that we haven't done in years, but — as you can see from the examples above — is as timely (and timeless) as ever."

PE: "The Empress is out of fresh ideas again." (Jeff Contompasis; John O'Byrne, Dublin, Ireland; and John F. Cissel, Potomac, who last got ink in 1994)

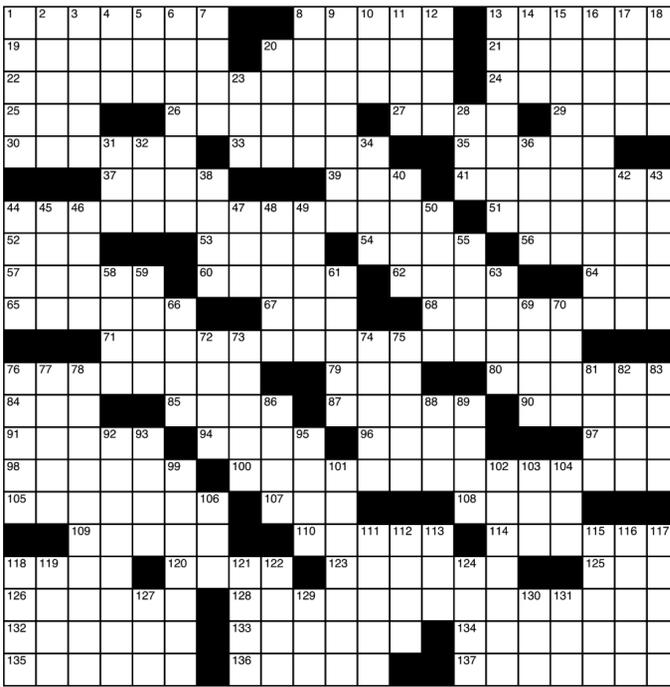
More honorable mentions in the online Invite at wapo.st/invite1451.

Still running — deadline Monday night, Aug. 30: Our contest to describe an aspect of our lives as a space alien or future anthropologist would describe it. See wapo.st/invite1450.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

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|--|--|---|---|---|---|
| "BEGONE" By MARK McCLAIN | 96 Blackthorn fruit | 2 First-class Totaled | 28 Vinyl revival items: Abbr. | Windsor Org. created by the 1933 Banking Act | 103 Corn unit |
| | 97 FD employee | 3 Reindeer cousin | 31 Low USMC rank | 70 Sense | 104 Fast flight by the 1933 U.K. military award |
| | 98 Magnate | 5 Japan's Mount ____ | 32 MLB Hall of Farmer Brock | 72 Shades | 111 Goal of an accord |
| ACROSS | 100 Advice for runners' practice sessions? | 6 Disobedient | 34 Family guys | 73 Early number? | 112 Flanged fastener |
| 1 Impressive sights at affairs | 105 Feeling guilty | 7 Org. concerned with youth substance | 36 Bar on a truck | 74 Buzzed | 113 Fashion initials |
| 8 Fendi rival | 107 Ducks org. | 40 Cavern abuse phenomenon | 38 Chef's creation | 75 Familiar greeting | 115 ____ face |
| 13 Paved | 108 Frozen Four org. | 42 [Bo-ri_] | 40 Cavern abuse phenomenon | 76 Fall mall hiree | 116 Peace goddess |
| 19 Victim of river diversion in Asia | 109 Tough goings | 43 Absorbent fabric | 44 Many an MIT grad | 77 Ship-to-ship greetings | 117 "The Gondoliers" bride |
| 20 Like some R-rated films | 110 Like some promises | 45 Lawless role | 46 Coup d'__ | 81 Actor Schreiber | 118 Playwright Simon |
| 21 Comfortable | 114 Swan dive revelation | 47 Routing word | 48 Respected figure | 83 Moistens | 119 Sierra's "other" |
| 22 Sports venue where the home team hasn't won in years? | 118 Expected result | 48 Respected figure | 49 Concerto finale, perhaps | 86 Country whose name ends in the same three letters as its capital | 121 Carpenter's wedge |
| 24 Boulevard feature | 123 Not as relaxed | 50 Depend | 55 Poetic contraction | 88 Debtor's note | 122 "Auld Lang ____" |
| 25 Invoice no. | 125 Smeltery input | 55 Poetic contraction | 58 Hot spot service | 89 Gull relative | 124 Cork's home |
| 26 Brainstorm | 126 French star | 59 ER demand | 61 Research university with a Boston campus | 92 Lynn's father worked in one | 127 Maya ____ Vietnam |
| 27 Dreyfus defender | 128 Powerful fall cleanup tools? | 61 Research university with a Boston campus | 63 Agronomist's concern | 93 Primate genus | 129 ISP option |
| 29 Heavy weight | 133 Bug, for one | 63 Agronomist's concern | 66 School near | 95 Pain pill target | 130 French king |
| 30 Hubbub | 134 Gets back to business | 66 School near | 102 Harder to get | 99 Ignore | 131 Just right |
| 33 Trimming plans | 135 Sorrowful tune to smile about | 137 Red Sea land | | 101 Provider of shade | |
| 35 Industrial site | 136 Free-for-all | DOWN | | | |
| 37 Like memories | 137 Red Sea land | 1 Mother of Isaac | | | |
| 39 Sock part | | | | | |
| 41 Hottest, in a way | | | | | |
| 44 Cattle farm run by bigwigs? | | | | | |
| 51 ____ Stephens: 2017 US Open Women's Singles champ | | | | | |
| 52 Tennis feature | | | | | |
| 53 Isolated work group that hinders corporate efficiency | | | | | |
| 54 Bone near a calf | | | | | |
| 56 Belgian artist James | | | | | |
| 57 Chews like beavers | | | | | |
| 60 "I ____ noticed" | | | | | |
| 62 Change for a ten | | | | | |
| 64 Drop the ball | | | | | |
| 65 Bird rarely on the wing | | | | | |
| 67 Pitt URL ending | | | | | |
| 68 Toys "R" Us giraffe mascot | | | | | |
| 71 Epithet for Henry Ford? | | | | | |
| 76 Stayed to the bitter end | | | | | |
| 79 NBA impossibility | | | | | |
| 80 Hide out | | | | | |
| 84 Sushi bar order | | | | | |
| 85 Company named for the exaggerated height of its tallish bottles | | | | | |
| 87 Bowling headache | | | | | |
| 90 "Crazy" vocalist | | | | | |
| 91 Mountain gap | | | | | |
| 94 Blood bank fluids | | | | | |



8/29/21 xwordeditor@aol.com ©2021 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Aug. 29: You are warm and passionate, and care about whatever you do. You have humanitarian values and a straightforward way of dealing with others. You work to do good and have a positive outlook on life. This year you will play an important role in helping others, which is why you must take care of yourself. Others will depend on you.

Moon Alert: Avoid shopping or important decisions from 10:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. today. After that, the Moon moves from Taurus into Gemini.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) This is a productive day. You have energy, ideas and plans, and you're motivated to get things done. Make a to-do list. Roll up your sleeves and get busy.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) It's a fun day. Enjoy sports events or playful activities with kids. Relations with work colleagues are excellent. You might plan a social occasion, perhaps competitive. You'll work hard and party hard.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Despite increased activity at home, sports and fun outings appeal to you. After the Moon moves into your sign today, your luck will improve slightly. Things will tend to go your way. Focus on home and family plus fun outings.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) This is a busy, fast-paced time. Appointments, errands, increased time with siblings and friends, plus short trips will keep you hopping. Some of you will tackle DIY repairs at home or redecorating projects. Keep working. Entertain at home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You might make a big purchase today or an important decision about earnings. If so, be aware of the restrictions of the Moon Alert in the morning. This is a busy, productive day. Boost your earnings. Enjoy schmoozing with others.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) "Able to leap tall buildings in a single bound!" You're a superhero today because you have so much energy with both the Sun and fiery Mars in your sign. Use this energy to get stuff done. Shop for pretty things. It's all about you. Money looks good.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Today Mercury moves into your sign to stay for two weeks. This makes you talkative and eager to share your ideas. Meanwhile, your ruler Venus is also in your sign, which makes this a great time to buy wardrobe goodies. (Check the Moon Alert.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You will get a lot done today, especially through the cooperation of others. You might be involved in a competition, especially through sports or physical activities. Organize details about shared property. A friendly competition will stir the pot.

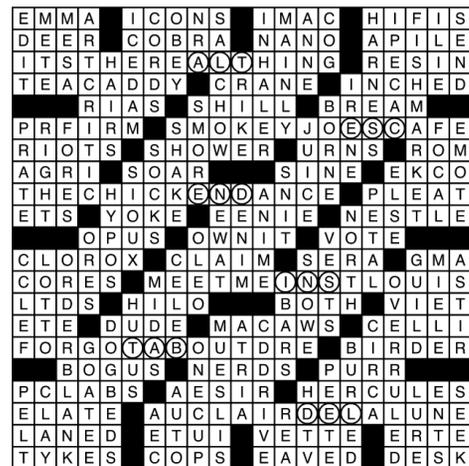
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Your ambition is aroused, which is why you are motivated and keen to accomplish a lot today. This is a great day to interact with younger people as well as creative, artistic types. People will be keen to do your bidding.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Today Mercury moves to the top of your chart to join Venus, which means that relations with bosses, parents, teachers and the police will improve in the next few weeks. Others will listen to you and respect what you have to say.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Disputes about shared property might be resolved today, because your ability to sweet-talk others is remarkable. In fact, your communication skills will be excellent in the next few weeks.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Be patient with partners and close friends while the Sun and fiery Mars are opposite your sign. Fortunately, this is also a time when you will benefit from the wealth of others, because gifts and goodies can come your way. This afternoon, you will prefer to cocoon at home.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



8/22/21