

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

'He'-haws: Limerixicon winners

BY PAT MYERS

Week 1448 was our 18th annual Limerixicon, in which we provide some material for OEDILF.com, the slowly forming dictionary in which the entry for each word is one or more limericks. This year we did limericks that feature words and names beginning "he-."

4th place:

Some people are sneerin' and scoffin'
At jabs like some anti-vax Waffens.
But they'd better take **heed**,
Get those shots that they need,
Or they're risking a bad fit of coffin.
(Ward Foeller, Charlottesville)

3rd place:

Henry Winkler was hoping to play
Old King Lear, perhaps Hamlet,
one day,
But when "Happy Days" called,
His dramatic plans stalled,
And he went for a role in the
heyyyy. *(Mark Raffman, Reston)*

2nd place and the dog-butt push pins:

There once was a powerful rooster
Who posed as a feminist booster
Till **hen** after hen
Decreed, "Never again!"
And revealed how that rooster had
goosed her. *(Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y., about her ex-governor)*

And the winner of the Clowning Achievement:

A rumor is also called **hearsay**;
It's what gossip people, I fear, say.
And it might not be true —
Only something that you
(After three or four bottles of beer)
say. *(Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)*

Slimmer 'ricks: Honorable mentions

"Bigger government"? Part of the lexicon.
It's the altar the taxpayer's neck's upon.
Someday soon, we may see
An enhanced DoD
In its new, upsized building: the
Hexagon.
(George Thompson, Springfield, Va.)

Junk food makers who want to get wealthy
Need not lie, but they need to be stealthy:
"We've no gluten, you know!
And we're non-GMO!"
Bada-bing, now your ice cream is
healthy! *(Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)*

"Acrophobia," said my friend Paul,
"Fear of **heights**, and the chance I may fall,
Has me going half-mad —
Things have gotten so bad,
I dislike even being this tall!"
(Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.)

The Harley-packed **herd** that converges
Each summer in Sturgis brings surges
Of bikers and boozing.
Now again they are choosing
A fall filled with funeral dirges.
(Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

When my **herbivore** girlfriend repeats
How she loves all her vegan-ish treats
I just cut up my steak
And say, "Give me a break —
Girl, a salad's what my dinner eats!"
(Craig Dykstra, Centreville)

Another one about Andrew Cuomo:
Our **heartthrob** spoke truth to D.T.,
And we swooned as he sought PPE.
"Presidential!" we sighed.
What a turn of the tide!
Just one more grabby creep on TV.
(Robin Rowland, Potomac, a First Offender)

That old rapper's demented now, maybe?
Teamed up with his no-good pal Abie,
Robbed a store — did it twice:
Stole vanilla, then ice. Wrote a tune for the job: "**Heist Heist**
Baby." *(Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)*

So your sappy stuff sells, but you're hitchin'
Your wagon to Real Art? Well, switchin'
Your focus might fire
Your customers' ire:
If you can't stand that **heat**, leave the kitsch in.
(Coleman Glenn, Huntingdon Valley, Pa.)

From the Hill we hear gibing and jeering,
All civility fast disappearing.
Are the rioters back?
Are we under attack?
No, it's just a congressional **hearing**.
(George Thompson)

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T
1 B N T Y N M D I Q N E L A H N I Y V P D
2 A C A C I A Z N T T M E U T R I V U W N
3 L U T O P I A I L O I A K Z T T G W X B
4 R V Q L Q D V M B R Q N I X D U P K Y D
5 E M J U L N Q T T Q L T E I F M C Q P T
6 L V M L M G K M L A I T J T T A W I Q Z
7 G X A U R E O L A A I E Q I R B P D D K
8 R Q P C W O O Q U R N X E T V I L D X P
9 X R W K U U I Q L J R S A L T E M M P N
10 N Y M L I E B L E P U J L T E D U Z B Y
11 M R T E L P E B G O A Z T M M A M P O M G
12 N G O A M L O O I A Z E Z G T A P I R N
13 R V L T E R A D L P T I V N G I Q E Z P
14 E D L D E O O N T E R N P U N L P J J B
15 Y T A A B M Z T O I O Q I U A E B Y J O
16 W L I C R A P K S I T Y N X E A P N I Z
17 G Y G V Y Y V B G O X A M J N X N D N V
18 R L N N N X T A R W T J N R M D U N L L
19 R X M M P I D E K Q R Y Z W W A P G T N
20 K B V J T A A D L B W J D L P V N B N Z

Not your standard word search puzzle: (1) You can snake around the grid in every direction; (2) you can make up the words, like "demating" (P-10) and "widdle" (Q-6).

New contest for Week 1452: As the Word Turns

Starting at P-10: DEMATING: Breaking up. "He gave me the ol' demating call last night."
Q-6: WIDDLE: What dat toot kitty cat is.
E-19: PIDDLEAK: What you get when the Huggies don't hug enough.

It's the sixth of our contests in which we provide a word search grid, generated by the Empress with the help of the nifty app at Puzzle-Maker.com, and ask you to snake through it to "discover" a word or multiword term that consists of adjacent letters — in any direction or several directions, up, down, back, forth, diagonally — in the grid above, and provide a humorous definition, as in the examples above. Don't trace back over the same letters. You can either make up a new word, as above, or give a creative definition for an existing one. Using the word in a funny sentence can help you get the ink over someone else who "found" the same term.

How to format your entries so that the Empress doesn't get all scowly: **Begin each entry with the coordinates of the first letter of your term (e.g., C-12)** as in the second and third examples above; the E will trace it from there. First the letter, then a hyphen, then the number. And pleeeez put your coordinates, word and definition all on the same line — don't hit Enter between them — or they'll become separated in The Big Sort of thousands of entries.

Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1452 (no capitals in the Web address). **Deadline is Monday, Sept. 13;** results appear Oct. 3 in print, Sept. 30 online.

Winner gets the Clowning Achievement, our new Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a **Ruff-Grip**, a little ribbed plastic gadget that you squeeze your fingertips into in an attempt to build up calluses so you can play the guitar without slicing your digits. Loser Sam Mertens received a big box of these from Amazon, when he'd actually ordered a shipment of mealworms to feed his chickens. (Think how the Ruff-Grip orderers felt when they presumably got Sam's box.)

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 'Bilty" 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/InvRules. The headline "He-Haws" was submitted by both Chris Doyle and Jesse Frankovich; Jon Gearhart wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the 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/conv1452.

The lumberjacks train the new guy
To fell trees more than 20 feet high:

As you chop, hear it crack,
Shout "Tim-ber!" Step back.
You could say it's a great **hew** and cry.
(Sarah Walsh, Rockville)

I drive **hearses**. I might make a trip
To a gravesite, a church or a ship
With a coffin in back.
It's like driving a hack,
But the guys in the back never tip.
(Paul VerNooy, Hockessin, Del.)

Two Aussies with good looks galore
Seem — next to their brother —
quite poor.
But their surname is **Hemsworth**
And each one of them's worth
Enough that they say, "We're not
there." *(Coleman Glenn)*

Prince Harry sees thrones as mere
chairs.
His birthright? He chuckles, "Who
cares?"
He flew sea to sea
To be royalty-free.
Now that's what you call splitting
heirs. *(Bob Kruger, Rockville)*

Our champions entered the fray
Making fast food for us at low pay.
While the lockdown endured

They bravely ensured
There were deli shop **heroes** each
day. *(Kevin Dopart, Washington)*

A man owned a yacht, quite a fair
ship.
But his children thought it should
be *their* ship.
So they shouted, "At last!"
When their rich father passed,
And they eagerly boarded their
heirship.
(Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore)

The sins of my youth I repent; I
Rue all the time I misspent! I
Now have just scorn
For Japan's cartoon porn,
So I've tossed my collection of
hentai. *(Perry Beider, Silver Spring)*

And Last:
The Empress is oft put to sleep
By the entries she reads. Some
she'll keep
For the column to fill,
But the bulk of them will
Wind up tossed in a losery **heap**.
(Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

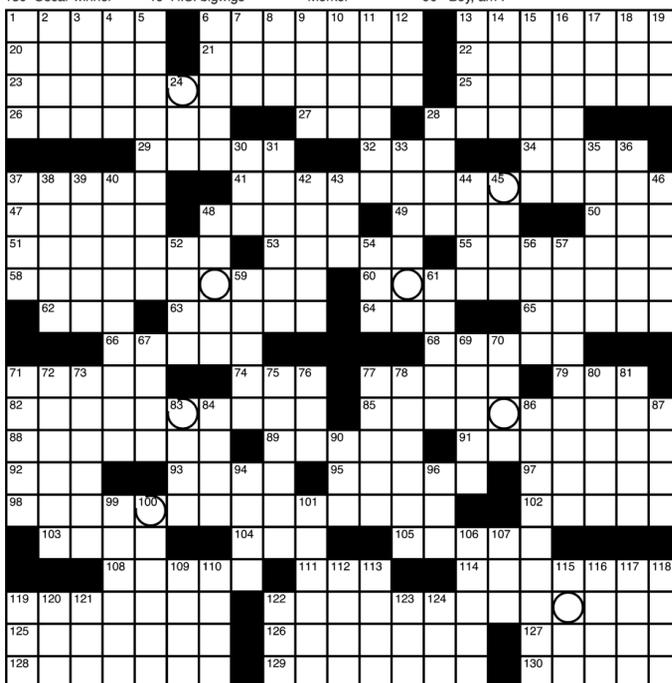
More honorable mentions in the
online Invite at wapo.st/invite1452.

**Still running — deadline Monday
night, Sept. 6: our contest for
"bad first drafts" of famous
lines. See wapo.st/invite1451.**

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

- "PARTING COMPANY" By BRAD WIEGMANN**
- ACROSS**
- Gadgets with teeth
 - Most favorable
 - Nuts seen in bars
 - Look forward to
 - Direct approach
 - Theoretically
 - Longtime ABC News anchor [Hero, 1]
 - "The Odd Couple" couple, e.g.
 - Menu selections
 - Old Tokyo
 - Per ___
 - One of eight Yankee World Series victories
 - P.O. box item
 - Final Four game
 - "Ready Player One" hero Wade
 - Marvel supersoldier [Villain, 1]
 - Asteroids producer
 - Byzantine architecture features
 - Mardi Gras city, informally
 - Jaye's "The Crying Game" role
 - Novel category
 - Third of eight
 - Basic bruise treatment
 - Santa signal [Sidekick 2]
 - Biblical bloomer [Princess 2]
 - Physical exam letters
 - Mystiques
 - Org. for netmen
 - Had the nerve
 - Regional flora and fauna
 - Wanders about
 - Convenient, like some winter resorts
 - Blowup aid
 - Courage
 - Sch. with the mascot SuperFrog
 - Kids' building materials [Sidekick 1]
 - Groups of problem-solving specialists [Princess 1]
 - Film noir plot device
 - Types
 - Attribute
 - Robin Roberts'
- DOWN**
- Darth Vader accessory
 - John Irving's "A Prayer for ___ Meany"
 - "The Simpsons" creator Groening
 - Oktoberfest quaff
 - Freaking out
 - Org. concerned with flight risks
 - Script writer
 - Messi's uniform number
 - Nastase of tennis
 - It's often made up in advance
 - Luanda's land
 - Guitarist Paul
 - Food wrapped in silk
 - Soon, to a bard
 - Union member?
 - Rapper Stanley Burrell, familiarly
 - Prefix with Pen
 - Like a few hours after midnight
 - H.S. bigwigs
 - Yeshiva grad
 - Florence's river
 - Friendly opening?
 - Violinist ___
 - Soldier's helmet
 - Place for a slam dunk
 - Result of a drip, at times
 - Cola
 - Reef formation
 - Cat under control
 - Off-road vehicle
 - Sounds of thunder
 - Original Dungeons & Dragons co.
 - Touched down
 - Nutmeg spice
 - Synthetic resin used in paint
 - Budding star's big moment
 - Former Labor secretary Elaine
 - Something for two, in song
 - Like a few hours after midnight
 - 53-Across, to Merkel
 - Wasted
 - Terpsichore : dance :: ___ : love poetry
 - Julep garnish
 - Model Sastre
 - NBAer-cum-rap star
 - ___ libre: poetry form
 - Immortal football coach Amos Alonzo
 - Last Oscars host (2018)
 - Like talent.
 - Lorelei et al.
 - Chinese culinary general
 - Note taker
 - Energetic type
 - Capital on the Nile
 - Brown shade
 - "Knives Out" filmmaker Johnson
 - Blue ___: Dory's species
 - Knickknack
 - Cong. meeting
 - "Boy, am I dumb!"
 - Encouraging word?
 - '50s prez
 - They may be reserved
 - Core values
 - "Peaceful Easy Feeling" group, with "The"
 - Ed with Emmys
 - Matching pair
 - Influriate
 - Old cereal box stals
 - Piece of work many say
 - Idaho motto
 - Ready to drive general
 - Slanted page
 - Hindu princess
 - Old dagger
 - Elders of the "Little Women"
 - El Al's home: Abbr.
 - Metro stop: Abbr.
 - Renaissance artist ___
 - Anglican lane
 - Wrath



Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Sept. 5: You are a responsible person who is concerned about such basics as family, financial security and establishing a home for yourself. You like the good life. Personally, you are attracted to people who are active and energetic. This year is the beginning of a new cycle for you. Keep an open mind. Stay flexible and get ready to open any door.

Moon Alert: Caution. Avoid shopping or making important decisions from 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. After that, the Moon moves from Leo into Virgo.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
This is a wonderful, playful, creative day. You are the artisan of the zodiac. You can do anything with your hands. This is a great day to explore your hobbies and artistic expressions.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Relations with family members are warm and friendly today. In fact, this is a good day to entertain at home. (Or enjoy your own company.) It's a great day to socialize and relax.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
Today you have a positive attitude, which is why you are upbeat. This is a good thing, because enthusiasm is contagious, which means others will be happy because they're talking to you.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
Most of today is a Moon Alert; be aware of this if spending money. Aside from that, this is a lovely day to socialize, especially at home. Enjoy warm interactions with others.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Today the Moon is in your sign, which means things will tend to go your way. You will run the meeting. Even though this is a positive, upbeat day, when it comes to spending money, check the Moon Alert. Nevertheless, enjoy good times with others.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
This is a positive, energetic day for you, especially because the Sun and fiery Mars are still in your sign boosting your energy and giving you purpose and drive. Prepare for financial bonuses and fun purchases.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
You are a social sign, and today is a great day to socialize with others, especially good friends, groups and organizations. People are in a positive frame of mind and keen to enjoy each other's company.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
You are noticed today — the second day in a row. Once again, some people might know the personal details about your private life. Family conversations will be upbeat and positive today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Travel plans or a chance to explore new turf might excite you today because something will occur that allows you to push the envelope or expand your universe. Discussions about interesting topics might be heady and profound.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Because today's Moon is in one of your Money Houses, it's important for you to know about the restrictions of today's Moon Alert. Aside from that, this is a fun-loving, social day. Be careful about financial decisions, however.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Be cooperative with others while the Moon is still opposite your sign. This will not be difficult to do because today you feel friendly and warm to partners and close friends. It's a great day to socialize.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Relations with co-workers will be warm and friendly today. Some of you might be involved in work-related travel. Be careful that you don't bite off more than you can chew in discussions with others today.

Answers to last week's puzzle.

S P R E A D S P R A D A T A R R E D
A R A L S E A E R O T I C A T E A S E
R I N K O F D I S A S T E R M E D I A N
A M T I D E A T E Z O L A O N U S
H O O P L A D I E T S P L A N T
F O N D T O E S E X I E S T
E X E C U T I V E R A N C H S L O A N E
N E T S I L O S H I N E N S O R
G N A W S H A D N T O N E S E R R
R A T I T E E D U G E O F F R E Y
F A T H E R O F T H E R I D E
S A W I T O U T T I E L I E L O W
A H I N E H I S P L I T C L I N E
N O T C H S E R A S L O E E M T
T Y C O O N R A C E Y O U R S E L V E S
A S H A M E D N H L N C A A
S L O G S E M P T Y A R M P I T
N O R M L O S S T E N S E R O R E
E T O I L E H Y D R A U L I C R A K E S
I R O N I C I N S E C T R E O P E N S
L A M E N T M E L E E E R I T R E A