

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Prewrites: Famous lines' 'first drafts'

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1451 the Empress asked for "first drafts" of famous quotes, and promptly got 2,200 of them. So it wasn't surprising that lotsa losers suggested something like **"Call me Ishy"** and had Samuel L. Jackson opine that **"I've had it with these pesky snakes on this darned plane!"**

4th place:

"A census taker once tried to test me. I ate his liver with some jelly beans and a Yoo-Hoo." — Hannibal Lecter (*Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.*)

3rd place:

"I grow old . . . I grow old . . . I shall wear the tops of my trousers at the level of my nipples." — T.S. Eliot (*Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station*)

2nd place and the 'Best Excuses and Lies' cards:

"Because I could not stop for death . . ." — Emily Dickinson (*Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg*)

And the winner of the Clowning Achievement:

"Torpedoes?? Damn." — Adm. David Farragut (*Mari Melton, Carmel Valley, Calif.*)

Late-round draft picks: Honorable mentions

"Two all-beef patties, some ketchup and mayonnaise mixed together, lettuce, cheese, pickles, onions on a sesame seed bun." (*Mark Raffman, Reston*)

"A man is not finished when he is defeated. He is finished when he quits. Oh, and because of the whole Watergate thing, I quit." — Richard Nixon (*Leif Picoult, Rockville*)

"A woman is like a tea bag: hot for a short time, then lumpy and soggy." — Eleanor Roosevelt (*Marni Penning Coleman, Falls Church*)

"All happy families are alike; each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way: I'll try to explain in the next 800 pages." — Tolstoy (*Greg Dobbins, Boynton Beach, Fla.*)

"And you, my pink-eyed girl . . ." (*Kevin Dopart, Washington*)

"Elementary, Watson, you stupid quack!" — Sherlock Holmes (*Roger Dalrymple, Gettysburg, Pa.*)

"Et tu, bruh?" (*Marni Penning Coleman*)

"Fourscore and seven years ago — raise your hand if you know how many that is — our fathers . . ." (*Mark Raffman*)

"Fourscore and seven years four months fourteen days nineteen hours and [checks watch] about seventeen minutes ago . . ." (*Todd DeLap, Fairfax*)

"El ex ex vee eye eye years ago . . ." (*Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.*)

"Fourscore and seven years ago, our fathers, well, our fathers weren't born yet, but metaphorically speaking . . ." (*Emma Daley, Greenfield, Mass.*)

"Government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall . . . oh, I'd give it about 160 years." (*Noah Meyerson, Washington*)

"Here's my wish list." — MLK (*Frank Mann, Washington*)

"I see dead people. Like you! Because you're dead, see you." — Cole Sear, "The Sixth Sense" (*Coleman Glenn, Huntingdon Valley, Pa.*)

"If you think the cops cheat, put him back on the street!" — Johnnie Cochran (*Tom Witte, Montgomery Village*)

"It ain't over till the trailing team hits or runs into the third out of the ninth or subsequent inning." — Yogi Berra (*Eric Nelkin, Silver Spring*)

"Mama always said life is like a box of chocolates: You never know what you're going to get, which is why I turn each one over while no one's looking and dig a little hole in the bottom to check." (*Francesca Kelly, Highland Park, Ill.*)

"Mama always said life is like a filthy restroom: You never know what you're going to get." (*Laura Clairmont, Venice, Fla.*)

"No, but it wasn't a dream. It was a place. And you and you and you — and you were there. Not you, though." — Dorothy Gale (*Eric Nelkin*)

"Of all the gin joints in all the towns in all the world, mine has the best sliders." (*John Hutchins, Silver Spring*)

"One of the happiest places in Anaheim." (*Coleman Glenn*)



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1455: Good idea! Or not.

Good idea: Wiping out poison ivy.
Bad idea: Wiping with poison ivy. (*David Patch, 2014*)

Good idea: Reply to all sensitive emails.
Bad idea: Reply All to sensitive emails. (*Eric Yttri, 2014*)

Good idea: Wash hands after using toilet.
Bad idea: Wash hands using toilet. (*Jay Snyder, 1995*)

We've run this contest only twice before in The Style Invitational's 28-plus years: The Czar ran it in 1995, and the Empress offered it again in 2014. Let's give it another go: **Cite a "good idea" and, with a small change of wording, a "bad idea,"** as in the examples above.

Important formatting note! Please write both halves of your entry — the good idea and the bad idea — on the same line, *not* as it's shown above. This will let the Empress shuffle up everyone's entries so she'll have no idea who wrote what.

Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1455 (no capitals in the Web address).

Deadline is Monday night, Oct. 4; results appear Oct. 24 in print, Oct. 21 online.

Winner gets the Clowning Achievement, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a hat in the colors of the Belgian flag, promoting the native Primus beer and sporting two giant fingers sticking up, three sticking down. One has Velcro. What? Donor Dan Huff knows only that a friend brought it back from Europe. After considerable research, our best guess comes from Loser Laura Clairmont in the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook: The Belgian soccer team is the Red Devils, and the hat resembles the French Sign Language word for devil horns. But still, why the ring finger?

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 new lusted-after Loser magnets, "A Small Jester of Appreciation" or "Close, but Ceci N'est Pas un Cigare." 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 "Prewrites" was submitted by both Tom Witte and Kevin Dopart; Tom and Chris Doyle both came up with the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](https://www.facebook.com/invdev); "like" the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at [bit.ly/inkoftheday](https://www.facebook.com/bit.ly/inkoftheday).

The Style Conversational: This week the Empress's weekly column shares ink from the previous good-idea/bad-idea contests, plus highlights of the Losers' Flushies awards/parody-fest last Sunday. See wapo.st/conv1455.

Ever-obliging Royal Consort Mark Holt with this week's second prize on his head.

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"Stella DuBois Kowalski! Stella DuBois Kowalski!" (*Mike Caslin, Round Hill, Va.*)

"Technically speaking, I am not a crook." — Richard Nixon (*Craig Dykstra, Centreville*)

"My name's Bond. Bond comma James. That's how it's printed on my payroll slips at M16, you know, where I work as a spy. Oops." (*Daniel Galef, Tallahassee*)

"The only thing we have to fear is fear itself — and to a lesser degree, trepidation." (*Chuck Smith, Woodbridge*)

"The only thing we have to fear is a collapsing bank system, plus huge unemployment, dust all over the Great Plains, and some nut in Germany." (*Stephen Dudzik, Olney*)

"The unexamined life is, well, who knows? No one has ever examined it." — Socrates (*Frank Mann*)

"Toto, I've a feeling we're not in black-and-white anymore." (*Rob Cohen, Potomac*)

"Wastin' away again in Gin & Tonicville . . ." (*Craig Dykstra*)

"When they go low, we go, I'm just going to pretend I didn't hear that." — Michelle Obama (*Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.*)

"A penny saved is, at 2 percent interest, 2 pennies after 35 years, before adjusting for inflation." (*Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase*)

"Now the chipmunk was more subtle than any other wild creature

that the Lord God had made." (*Bill Collinge, Gettysburg, Pa.*)

"I beg your pardon, Adrian, will you kindly look my way? It is I, Rocky Balboa." (*Terri Berg Smith, Rockville*)

"In the beginning was the word, and the word was 'aardvark.'" (*Steve Bremner, Philadelphia*)

"I just want to say one word to you: polytetrafluoroethylene." (*Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.*)

"My name is Inigo Montoya. You killed my father. You'll be hearing from my attorney." (*Steve Leifer, Potomac*)

"The first rule of Fight Club is to please refrain from discussing our meetings with nonmembers." (*Hildy Zampella, Alexandria*)

"The first rule of Fight Club is newest member brings the doughnuts." (*Duncan Stevens*)

"That concludes our scheduled activities for this program." — Looney Tunes (*Roy Ashley, Washington*)

"You say So-LAY-num lycopersicum and I say So-LAH-num lycopersicum . . ." (*Jonathan Paul, Garrett Park*)

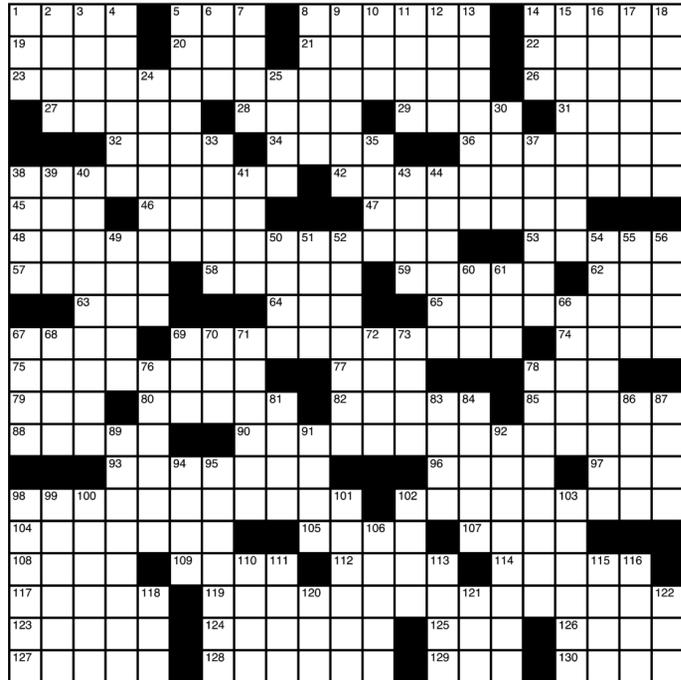
And Last: "Democracy dies if you don't read The Washington Post, so subscribe today!" (*John Klayman, Fairfax*)

Still running — deadline Monday night, Oct. 4: Our contest for haiku containing puns. See wapo.st/invite1454.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

- "ELONGATION" By MICHAEL LIEBERMAN**
- ACROSS**
- 1 Chunk
 - 5 Spill stopper
 - 8 Beetle in Egyptian hieroglyphs
 - 14 Old Eurasian rulers
 - 19 Many a restaurant website page
 - 20 Addr. line ending
 - 21 Brother of Scar
 - 22 Juice box go-with
 - 23 Censor of controversial parts of "Messiah"?
 - 26 Hold forth
 - 27 "Top Chef" host Lakshmi
 - 28 Knish seller
 - 29 — Morris, "Saved by the Bell" protagonist
 - 31 Award for good plays
 - 32 Bagel feature
 - 34 Spots
 - 36 Emergency delivery method
 - 38 Family tree woman
 - 42 Cause of restaurant complaints?
 - 45 Intraoffice IT system
 - 46 Memo start
 - 47 Get around
 - 48 Conventional rubies?
 - 53 Choir accompaniment
 - 57 20th-century Argentine leader
 - 58 Room in Clue
 - 59 Original "Star Trek" actor
 - 62 Nice way to say yes?
 - 63 Stubbom animal
 - 64 Family room
 - 65 Group email function
 - 67 A, in Aachen
 - 69 Sign of a cat burglar?
 - 74 Shoppe modifier
 - 75 Brand mentioned in the Beatles' "Come Together"
 - 77 Golf club part
 - 78 "I ply the fool" speaker
 - 79 Word that's a homophone of its first letter
 - 80 Willing subjects
 - 82 Melodious
 - 85 BILLY bookcase sellers
 - 88 Big dipper
 - 90 What people
- and leopards have in common? 96 — top
- 97 Kinshasa's country, briefly
- 98 Stallone hero putting more film in his camera?
- 102 Research staples
- 104 Sister of Laertes
- 105 Like yellow bananas
- 107 Look for gifts, say
- 108 Green and white
- 109 Almost never
- 112 Greenish-blue
- 114 Allow to fluctuate, as a currency
- 117 Type of navel
- 119 Enjoy the track meet?
- 123 Can't live without
- 124 Bible book read during Purim
- 125 Hardly walking distance
- 126 Neutral shade
- 127 Doesn't do much
- 128 What a broken escalator can serve as, apply
- 129 "Go for it!"
- 130 Loafer, e.g.
- DOWN**
- 1 "This can't be," in texts
 - 2 Faithful spring?
 - 3 Actress Kendrick
 - 4 Founder of an Eastern religion
 - 5 Euphoria
 - 6 Providers of liquid assets?
 - 7 Out of juice
 - 8 Cheese alternative?
 - 9 Adorable ones
 - 10 "100 Years... 100 Movies" org.
 - 11 Heckle
 - 12 On the briny
 - 13 Chain of pubs with beer and video games
 - 14 General on a menu
 - 15 Tot totter
 - 16 Peninsula between the Red Sea and Persian Gulf
 - 17 Sanction
 - 18 Candy store buys
 - 24 Personified things in Pixar's "Inside Out"
 - 25 Sticky home?
 - 30 Isn't serious
 - 33 Money in Münster
 - 35 It may be cracked
 - 37 Prepare for new planting, as a garden
 - 38 Zero-star fare
 - 39 Not seen often
 - 40 Spellbound
 - 41 On deck
 - 43 Upbeat melody
 - 44 "Master of None" co-creator Aziz
 - 49 Book after Daniel
 - 50 Dame Dench
 - 51 First place
 - 52 Musical Lynn contemporary
 - 54 Commits a hoops violation
 - 55 "Lang Syne"
 - 56 River to the Mediterranean
 - 60 "The Masked Singer" panelist Jeong
 - 61 Able, facetiously
 - 66 Radiohead lead singer/songwriter Thom
 - 67 Subj. including the study of extinctions
 - 68 Field of Dreams setting
 - 69 Nemesis, e.g.
 - 70 Late philanthropist Broad
 - 71 Like tadpoles
 - 72 Combine
 - 73 A.G. under Clinton
 - 76 "Curb Your Enthusiasm" actress Hines
 - 78 Biscuit whose name describes its shape
 - 81 Part for one
 - 83 Men's grooming brand
 - 84 Exams for future atlys.
 - 86 Decent-sized lot
 - 87 Brief periods
 - 89 Summer cabin site
 - 91 Sport
 - 92 Racing the deadline
 - 94 Chamber music work
 - 95 Spirited events?
 - 98 Corkscrew pasta
 - 99 Warmmed up the crowd
 - 100 French fashion house
 - 101 Agitated state
 - 102 Like Beethoven, late in life
 - 103 Pie fruit
 - 106 Pie fruit
 - 110 Ones getting a lot of props?
 - 111 "At Last" singer James
 - 113 Split
 - 115 A pop
 - 116 Halal cart offering
 - 118 Supergirl symbol
 - 120 Greek X
 - 121 Tolstoy title word
 - 122 Refuse to settle



9/26/21 xwordeditor@aol.com ©2021 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Sept. 26: You are entertaining, witty and charismatic. You are also determined and forthright and have a lot of self-discipline. You enjoy being helpful. Your theme this year is simplicity. Work to build stronger, inner structures in your life, possibly physical structures as well. This is also an ideal year to take care of your health, especially through diet and exercise.

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Today you are energetic, bold and proactive when talking to others. This is a great day if you have to convince someone of something. Ex-partners and old friends are back in your world.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You will make an effort to earn money today. Likewise, you will make an effort to spend it, because your cash flow and your possessions are in a state of flux today. Work hard and be patient with goofy mistakes and delays.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Today the moon is in your sign lined up with fiery Mars, which makes you emotionally energetic and eager to begin something. You want to start projects or, at least, start to engage someone in conversation. Old flames are back on the scene. It's a good week for a vacation.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You're excited about something going on behind the scenes today. Perhaps you will choose to work alone in private. Actually, some of you are involved in a hot and heavy love affair. Tread carefully.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Today you might be the leader of a group. Of course, as a Leo, you are a natural leader anyway. Tonight: You're in charge. Allow extra time for everything.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You have lots of energy to work and earn money today. You might convince a boss or a parent about how to boost earnings or save money by spending money. Checks in the mail are late. Ditto for financial transactions.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You might be excited about something in the media today, or something to do with publishing, legal matters or medicine. This is an excellent day to study. You've got what it takes. People and issues from your past are back on your plate, which might be helpful.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) This is an excellent day to tidy up loose details about shared property, inheritances, taxes and debt. If you are in conversation with others, they will listen to you. Check your finances.

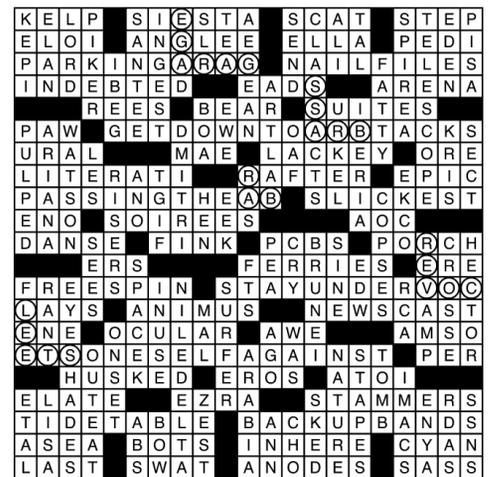
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You inspire others to do your bidding today because you're energetic and enthusiastic. Others are ready to jump on your bandwagon or join your team. Enjoy old friends. It's good to have history with others.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) This is a productive day for you, no question. Whatever you do today, you will do it with courage and confidence, which will impress co-workers and anyone else with whom you are involved. You might use your high energy to benefit someone today.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) This is a great day for physical activity, because your energy is high and you will be turned on by some fun athletics, even physical labor or exercise. You might lead or teach others, especially kids.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You will get a lot done at home today. You're motivated and, furthermore, because you are enthusiastic, very likely others will help you, which means you will accomplish much. Wrap up disputes about inheritances and shared property.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



9/19/21