

# DIVERSIONS

## THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

# Hai tops: Inking punku — haiku + pun

**BY PAT MYERS**

Week 1454 was our third contest for punku — haiku that includes a pun or other wordplay. (For our sophomore purposes, a haiku was any three lines whose syllables divided into 5-7-5.) The Empress tried to screen out old jokes, but if one got through, okay, it's 17 syllables. Calm yourself.

### 4th place:

Vaccines ought to be Essential for employment — Jab security.  
(Dave Silberstein, College Park, Md.)

### 3rd place:

Bezos, Branson, Musk: I'm glad they've all avoided Orbitaries.  
(Steve Baldwin, Bethesda, Md.)

### 2nd place

and the Thumb Sumo kit: In Senate showdowns, Why is it Mitch won't buckle? He figures Chuck'll.  
(Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

### And the winner of the Clowning Achievement:

We are not close to Solving climate change, but we Are getting warmer.  
(Laura Clairmont, Venice, Fla.)

### 'Ku cuts: Honorable mentions

The center folded Once Trump made politics a Dirty MAGA-scene.  
(Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Chemistry! Who knew That the smallest of bases Could make a Big Lye!  
(Kathy Hardis Fraeman, Olney, Md.)

When you bet on the Nats And they don't win, it's a shame: You lost your shirt, sir.  
(Keith Ord, Potomac, Md.)

Athenians hate The morning sunlight because Dawn is tough on Greece.  
(Luke Baker, Columbia, Md.)

My dating life is Like a credit card offer: One year, no interest  
(Erika Ettin, Washington)

Biden's plan to spend Trillions on infrastructure: Colossus of roads.  
(John O'Byrne, Dublin, Ireland)

How rich do you need To be for a trip to space? Astronomically!  
(Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

Since Alex passed on, "Jeopardy's" been trying to Make the host of it.  
(Jesse Frankovich)

A foreign substance On my cap? No way! I'm the Pitcher of virtue!  
(Ann Martin, Brentwood, Md.)

Steakhouse waiter: "What Cut of meat would you like, Mitch?" "A filet, buster."  
(Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

Nicki Minaj's Story of her cousin's friend Was totally nuts.  
(Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

Pence may be spineless, But when he could well have caved, I'm just glad he Quayled.  
(Frank Osen)

I overindulged At the Middle East Cafe: Now I falafel.  
(Craig Dykstra, Centerville, Va.)

"Fast and Furious 100" title should be "Pop Goes Vin Diesel"  
(Marni Penning Coleman, Falls Church, Va.)

Indian food jokes Even at one's own expense Don't curry favor. — G. Weingarten, Washington  
(Mark Richardson, Takoma Park, Md.)

Uncle Bob's slide shows Chronicle all his wild travels From hither to yawn.  
(Mark Richardson)

Under DeSantis, Florida has turned into The Shun-Science State. (Chris Doyle)

What keeps us Texans Glued to the news in Austin? The farce of Abbott. (Chris Doyle)

If Lake Mead's water Level drops any farther, It'll be Lake Mud. (Chris Doyle)

Oh, Magic 8-Ball: Should I get my vaccine? "All Science points to yes . . ." (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

## New contest for Week 1458: Do adjust your set: TV anagrams+

Use all the letters in "The Odd Couple" to create "Poled Tech Duo": Felix and Oscar open a strip club with free WiFi.

"Jeopardy!" > "Ye Pea Pod Jar": A cooking show about old-fashioned pea-pickling.

"The Chase" > "The Aches": The cast of "Friends," now in their 50s, reunite to sit around and talk about how everything seems to hurt all the time.

"CSI New York" > "Kooky Wonky Rices": How to prepare the world's most common grain in the weirdest ways.

**This week: Use all the letters of any TV show (including streamed ones), past or present, to create a new show; or it can be a new episode of the original, as in the first example, out of the mind — the out-of-his-mind mind — of Bob Staake. The other examples, of new shows, are by 58-time Loser Sarah Walsh, who suggested this contest and just might have been thinking about her own appearances on both "Jeopardy!" (2017) and "The Chase" (2021). Your entry can be an anagram — the letters simply rearranged — like the first and third examples, or you may repeat any letters as often as you like, like the other two. But if the original has, say, two O's, you don't have to use them both. You can't omit any of the letters from the original, though.**

**Submit up to 25 entries at [wapo.st/enter-invite-1458](http://wapo.st/enter-invite-1458) (no capitals in the Web address). Please type each entry without a line break, as above, so the Empress can sort the entries and not go any more bonkers than she already is. Deadline is Monday, Oct. 25; results appear Nov. 14 in print, Nov. 11 online.**



### Carving is NOT recommended: This week's second prize.

**Winner gets the Clowning Achievement**, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives an **inflatable roast turkey** made of beach ball-type plastic ("Ingredients: Expandable poultry"), a nice 16 inches long and perfect for Thanksgiving dinner, as long as eating is not part of your dinner plans. Donated by Dave Prevar.

**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, "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](http://wapo.st/InvRules). The headline "Hai Tops" was submitted by both Tom Witte and Kevin Dopart; Tom also wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdex](http://on.fb.me/invdex).

**The Style Conversational:** The Empress's weekly online column will return next week.

Underpants that lift  
And separate should be called  
A caboose. (Jon Gearhart)

Nothing's better than  
World peace, but a warm beer is  
Better than nothing  
(Ward Foeller, Charlottesville, Va.)

What is that high coo?  
Pigeons targeting my hair,  
Laughing from the sky  
(Dottie Gray, Alexandria, Va.)

Poor Desdemona  
Died, followed by Othello.  
Co-Moor-bidity!  
(Tom Witte, Montgomery Village, Md.)

Boromir's smashed nose  
Makes it clear that he should not  
Walk into more doors.  
(Todd DeLap, Fairfax, Va.)

Calculus exam  
Flunked after a night of fun:  
Don't drink and derive. (Luke Baker)

The Artifice Deal:  
Trump's new memoir should have  
six  
Chapter 11s.  
(Roy Ashley, Washington)

Hookers who service  
Overweight men learn how to  
Roll with the paunches.  
(Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf, Md.)

Fire reported  
At the optician's office:  
It went up in frames. (Erika Ettin)

Daniel Craig looks great:  
Although his hair's turning gray,  
It's no time to dye. (John O'Byrne)

I followed the signs  
Straight to hell — I should have  
known:  
The font? Sans-serif.  
(Liv Lewitt, Silver Spring, Md., a First Offender)

Why did the wine cork  
Stay in place? The sommelier  
Lacked any screw-pulls.  
(Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.)

He endures spring for  
One day. Then blossoms open;  
He falls to his sneeze.  
(Coleman Glenn, Huntingdon Valley, Pa.)

How often do Smurfs  
Stick their butts out the window?  
Once in a blue moon.  
(Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

The artist would paint  
While high on weed. He called it  
"All-in-a-daze work." (Beverly Sharp)

**Still running — deadline Monday night, Oct. 18: Our Ask Backwards contest. See [wapo.st/invite1457](http://wapo.st/invite1457).**

## L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19							20						21			22	
23						24							25			26	
27						28							29				
			30	31	32							33				34	
35	36	37		38					39	40	41				42		
43			44						45					46			
47								48						49			50 51 52
53								54						55			56
			57											59			60
61	62					63							64	65			66
67						68							69				70
71						72							73	74			75
78			79														81
						82											84
			85	86												88	89
91																	94
95						96											99
103																	107
108																	111
112						113											115

Answers to last week's puzzle below.

## HOROSCOPE

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

**Happy Birthday | Oct. 17:** You are confident, resilient and at times daring and defiant. You are also self-disciplined and an excellent strategist. You have strong ideals and strong emotions. Your personal freedom will be important to you this year, which is why you might undergo some major changes. Don't hesitate to explore new opportunities. Grab every chance to travel and expand your world.

**Moon Alert:** Avoid shopping or making important decisions after 7 p.m. The Moon is in Pisces.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19)  
Be patient with others today, especially partners and close friends, because it's easy to suddenly get in a power struggle. What's the point? Focus on self-improvement.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20)  
You might want to introduce reforms to your job today or to anything you do. This is because you see a better way of doing things. Naturally, this could lead to an argument with someone.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)  
Parents might come on too strong with their kids today. Take a step back and view the whole picture. Is it worth making a big scene about this? The result could be hissy fits and meltdowns.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22)  
Arguments and ego battles at home might take place today, especially with a parent or an older family member. But what will this gain you? Family is forever, and this kind of dissension probably has no upside.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)  
You are determined to persuade others to agree with your way of thinking today. In fact, you might be persuasive. But is it so important that others listen to you? Don't get your belly in a rash.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)  
Power struggles about money or possessions are probable today. People are sensitive about financial matters and what they own. Don't try to change somebody's mind if it's already made up.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)  
Today the way you live might be tested by powerful forces from without and within. This is also a

classic day for a breakdown of machinery or stuff that you own.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)  
Some secrets might come out today, and the secrets might be about you. You might have to explain something or show people why you did or did not do something. Tread carefully and don't say anything that you might later regret.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)  
A power struggle with a friend or a member of a group might arise today. You might want to introduce improvements or changes. Or perhaps they want you to make radical changes where they think your life is not working out.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)  
This is a poor day to challenge bosses, parents, teachers or the police, because you will get caught

up in a power struggle. Unfortunately, this is the kind of power struggle where you will end up with egg on your face. Forewarned is forearmed.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)  
Aquad controversial subjects like politics, religion and racial issues today, because this is a classic day for arguments, disputes and overbearing discussions. (You don't need this.) Is it time to let go of old ideas and prejudices? You make a fabulous impression on everyone.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)  
You might have to give up something today. Perhaps the reason for this is you need to give up something that isn't working out. Maybe you have to take a realistic look at things to do this. Tonight: Your first loss is your cheapest loss.

### Answers to last week's puzzle.

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