

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Mock-mock jokes: 'Is that your . . . ?'

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1456 we asked for insult jokes roughly in the form of "Is that your ____, or ____?" The Empress is perhaps relieved that so many of you are really quite pathetic when it comes to trash-talking.

4th place:

Is that your car, or is Fred Flintstone walking to work now? (Jesse Rifkin, Arlington)

3rd place:

Is that your cooking I smell, or have we reached High Heaven? (Greg Dobbins, Boynton Beach, Fla.)

2nd place and the crudely drawn FBI-NYPD mug:

Is that a pistol in your pocket, or are you a Democrat? (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

And the winner of the Clowning Achievement:

Is that your way of encouraging your child's self-expression, or did you fail to tip the exorcist? (Mark Raffman, Reston)

Sneer misses: Honorable mentions

Are those really your eyebrows, or did you use I Can't Believe It's Not a Sharpie? (Chuck Smith, Woodbridge)

Is that it, or do you always do a 10-second practice run? (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

Are those your biceps, or did your arms get matching mosquito bites? (Gary Crockett)

Is that your dog, or did you soak a rat in Rogaine? (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf)

Is that your living room, or did Hoarders release a Zoom background? (Ben Aronin, Washington)

Is that your reasoned opinion, or are you logic-hesitant? (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Is that your husband, or did the English fatberg finally calve? (Stephen Dudzik, Olney)

Are those your dance moves, or should I get the defibrillator? (Gary Crockett)

Is that a toupee, or are you walking your Chia Pet? (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines; Scott Richards, Hollywood, Md.)

Did you just pick up after your dog, or are you wearing Chanel No. 2? (Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore)

Did your CEO just say something, or was that a paradigm-shifting game-changer that delivers impacting synergy for disrupters who move the needle and think outside the box? (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

Do you always shovel your food into your mouth, or do you think this spaghetti is going to escape? (Dave Prevar, Annapolis)

Were you planning to clean up in here, or are you playing an elaborate game of Jenga with your dirty dishes? (Coleman Glenn, Huntingdon Valley, Pa.)

Have you finished your book, or do you still have some pages to color? (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

Do you need a tissue, or are nose-stalactites now a thing? (Frank Osen)

Have you had Botox injections, or did you just not get my joke? (Nancy Della Rovere, Silver Spring)

Is she your trophy wife, or your participation-award wife? (Chuck Smith)

Is that a Great Dane sitting on your lap, or have you become good-looking? (Chiara Juster, Redmond, Ore., a First Offender)

Is that a new deodorant you're wearing, or is DARPA renting your armpits to research chemical weapons? (Bob Kruger, Rockville)

Is that a nickname, or were your parents huge fans of Dr. Seuss? (Eric Nelkin, Silver Spring)

Is that a picture of Your Mama, or do you donate to Adopt a Manatee? (Jeff Shirley, Richmond)

Is that your best Your Mama joke, or did Your Mama write that for you? (Tom Witte)

Is that my pizza, or did someone spill ketchup on an English muffin? (Steve Fahey, Olney)

Is that your beard, or was this your first time eating ramen?



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1460: These new words are on fleek

Sometimes, new words can delight. But sometimes, new words kinda bite — When they're trendy and cloying And downright annoying, Such as this one right here — AMIRITE?

Once again, the folks at Merriam-Webster gave us a heads-up on some of the words and phrases (or new meanings for existing ones) just added to its online dictionary. So let's play!

This week: From the list below, write a humorous poem of eight lines or fewer featuring one or more of these terms, as in the example above by Pulitzer Prize winner Gene Weingarten, who deems it "the best humorous poem ever written" and "perhaps my greatest work ever." Either look up the words at M-W.com or click on the links in the online Invite at wapo.st/invite1460.

Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1460. Deadline is Monday, Nov. 8; results appear Nov. 28 in print, Nov. 24 online.

- air fryer
- amirite
- because (as a preposition, as in "because science")
- bit rot
- cellie
- chicharron
- clickstream
- copypasta
- dab
- dad bod
- deplatform
- digital nomad
- doorbell camera
- elbow bump
- faux-hawk
- flash freeze
- fluffernutter
- fourth trimester
- FTW

- halotherapy
- hippotherapy
- jacked
- kumbaya
- OG
- on fleek
- Oobleck
- otaku
- overclock
- petaflop
- small ball
- street food
- super-spreader
- TBH
- teraflop
- the stuff of legend
- vaccine hesitancy
- vaccine passport
- whataboutism
- wiener roast

Winner gets the Clowning Achievement, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives an adorable plush and squeezy-soft coronavirus, about the size of a softball (or 1 million times life-size). Full disclosure: The giant googly eyes on Pet SARS-CoV-2 are not strictly biologically accurate. Donated by Loser Dave Prevar.



May this cuddly covid be the only covid you'll ever get.

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 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 "Mock-Mock Jokes" is by Jesse Frankovich; Chris Doyle 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 at wapo.st/conv1460.

(Hannah Seidel, Alexandria)

Is that your boyfriend, or is somewhere a wooden bridge lonely for its lost troll? (Lawrence McGuire)

Is that your DIY sealing job, or did the Exxon Valdez run aground in your driveway? (Chris Damm, Charles Town, W.Va.)

Is that your face, or are you setting the record for world's longest mooning? (Seamus O'Connor, Arlington)

Is that your football team's owner, or did Snidely Whiplash and Harvey Weinstein have a son? (Duncan Stevens)

Is that your hair, or have you not dusted your head for a few weeks? (Hannah Seidel)

Is that your idea of sex, or are you worried about a shot clock violation? (Jeff Shirley)

Is that your lawn, or are you doing Scorched Earth for Halloween? (Edward Gordon, Austin)

Is that your new tux, or did the Penguin have an estate sale? (Frank Mann, Washington)

Is that your Postal Service improvement plan, or did you

copy from Dr. Kevoorkian's how-to guide? (Bruce Carlson, Alexandria)

Is that a selfie, or were you checking for nose hairs? (Craig Matthiessen, Burke)

Is that your shirt, or is it Bring Your Own Tablecloth night at the diner? (Amanda Yanovitch, Midlothian, Va.)

Is that your trampoline, or did you borrow it to put on your makeup? (Lee Graham, Rockville)

Is this your wedding reception, or is "Squid Game" filming a second season? (Todd DeLap, Fairfax)

Is that a Fitbit on your wrist, or is your fence electrified? (Craig Dykstra, Centreville, Va.)

And Last: Is that your kindergartner's art project, or did you win The Style Invitational again? (Hannah Seidel)

And Even Laster: Is that your weekly "humor contest," or is a Russian troll farm at work undermining American society? (Gabriel Goldberg, Falls Church)

Still running — deadline also Nov. 8: Our contest for first-person songs. See wapo.st/invite1459.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

"A&E NETWORK" By PAUL COULTER

- ACROSS
- 1 Leader who succeeded Muhammad
- 7 Tried to get home, say
- 11 Boiling state
- 14 Beliefs
- 18 Keys on a piano
- 19 100 cents
- 20 "I, Claudius" then
- 22 Texter's "Then again ..."
- 23 Govern in Austin?
- 25 Set of rules for a jury?
- 27 Sault __ Marie
- 28 Throttle
- 29 Pretentious
- 30 Anthem
- 31 Group name derived from the Dutch for "farmer"
- 32 __ blanche
- 33 Like crazy
- 35 Graceful antelopes
- 38 Volume subtitled "100 Good Excuses?"
- 40 Car bar
- 41 Bodies usually bigger than bays
- 43 Mercury Theatre co-founder
- 44 Welles
- 44 Farm units
- 45 Lawyer's filing
- 46 "The Texan" star
- 48 The Eagle, e.g.
- 51 Eric the Red's son
- 52 Comedian
- 53 Shecky
- 53 Currency exchange abbr.
- 54 Mozart's " __ Kleine Nachtmusik"
- 55 17.2-million-square-mile area
- 57 __ metal: dark '80s-'90s music genre
- 59 "Snakes" weapons
- 60 Party garb for one going as a pollution inspector?
- 65 Historic period with a lot of risks?
- 68 Bob of "Fuller House"
- 69 Explode
- 71 Full of slime
- 72 Breezed through
- 73 Animation frame
- 74 Family reunion

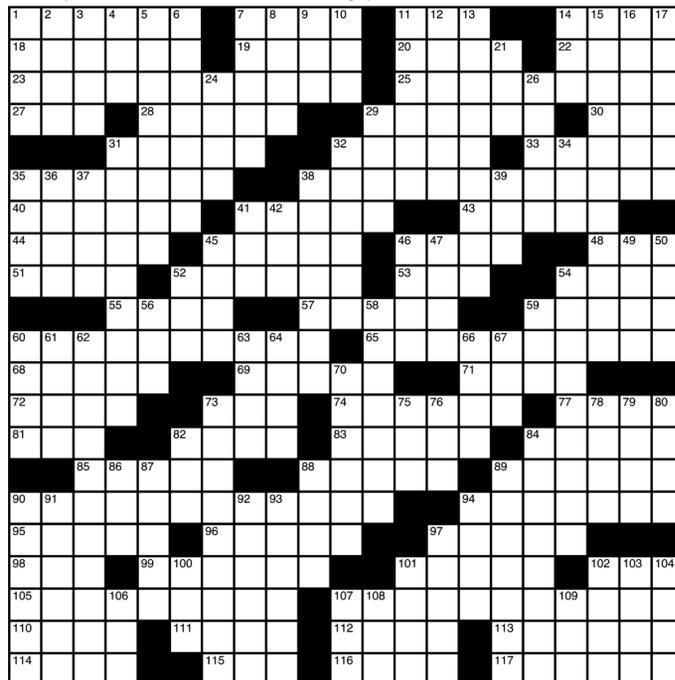
- attendee
- 77 Botch
- 81 " __ so you!"
- 82 "No problem!"
- 83 Name of two presidents
- 84 Privilege
- 85 Broadcaster
- 88 A lot
- 89 State bordering Baja
- 90 Cube-shaped stones for a fireplace shelf?
- 94 Overly optimistic
- 95 "Chicago Med" pro
- 96 Location
- 97 Clamorous
- 98 Color TV pioneer
- 99 H.S. exam for college credit
- 101 Brownish gray
- 102 Cacophony
- 105 Wizard's communications device?
- 107 Braided Greek cheese?
- 110 Biblical plot
- 111 Blood type, briefly

- 112 Lash mark
- 113 Shade
- 114 Fit together compactly
- 115 Classified ad abbr.
- 116 Comply with
- 117 Slow-moving mammals
- DOWN
- 1 Bounders
- 2 Settled (on)
- 3 Euros replaced them
- 4 Coolers?
- 5 Winds also called ottavinos
- 6 Result of keeping a cap on too long
- 7 Goes after
- 8 Elegance
- 9 401(k) alternative
- 10 Big affairs
- 11 Out of gear
- 12 Entertain at bedtime, as a tot
- 13 "Sixteen Tons" singer whose nickname is his

- birth state
- 14 Games gp.
- 15 Waited, not always patiently
- 16 Roadster in the Henry Ford Museum
- 17 Crow with Grammys
- 21 Brit. lexicon
- 24 High spots
- 26 Metal-threaded fabrics
- 29 Golden Triangle country
- 31 Shameless
- 32 Eye-opening cupful
- 34 Spanish span
- 35 Emphatic type: Abbr.
- 36 They actually prefer fruit and grains to cheese
- 37 "Frasier" actress
- 38 Kitchen counter staple
- 39 Cocktail order
- 41 Coll. senior's test
- 42 One-eighty

- 45 Cookout choice
- 46 Babe with a bat
- 47 Dept. of Labor arm
- 49 Tech sch. alumnus
- 50 Big butte
- 52 Base figs.
- 54 Fast bucks
- 56 Barfly
- 58 Represented oneself to be
- 59 Casbah
- 60 Morales of "NYPD Blue"
- 61 Agreement
- 62 Seemingly forever
- 63 Lyft rival
- 64 Paragon of stubbornness
- 66 Denials
- 67 Dairy grazer
- 70 Light fare
- 73 Street edging piece
- 75 Crash site?
- 76 Royal Navy initials
- 78 Pizzeria chain, familiarly
- 79 Motorist's

- decision point
- 80 Donnybrook
- 82 Frites seasoning
- 84 Holiday guests, maybe
- 86 1995 court VIP
- 87 Go over
- 88 Cottontail's tail
- 89 They usually don't have laces
- 90 Mythical males with tails
- 91 Game keeper?
- 92 Homeowner, vis-à-vis the bank
- 93 Cooperstown's lake
- 94 Attack, as of an illness
- 97 Foul
- 100 Saigon soup
- 101 Word game piece
- 102 Bit of progress
- 103 Allergic reaction
- 104 Dundee
- 105 disagreements
- 106 Tolkien creature
- 107 Wee hour
- 108 Information source, with "the"
- 109 __ Schwarz



10/31/21

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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

Happy Birthday | Oct. 31: You are strong-willed, perceptive and intelligent. Not only are you astute and persistent, you are courageous. These qualities help you achieve what you want and deal with obstacles when they arise. This year is the first year of a nine-year cycle, which means you can explore many areas and open any door. You might take on a leadership role.

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19) As Mercury dances with Jupiter today, conversations with partners and close friends will be upbeat, informative and expansive. Everyone's got an idea. Everyone wants to get into the act. Why not spitball ideas to see what happens?

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Stay light on your feet so you can respond to changing social plans today. Meanwhile, something related to your health, your pet or your job will delight you. It could be a solution to a concern that you have. Look for ways to improve your closest relationships.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Minor interruptions at home might occur today. (Be wise and stock the fridge.) Enjoy playful activities with kids, social outings and any chance to express your creative talents. This is a fun-loving, upbeat day. You get an opportunity to boost your health and improve your work.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Family discussions will be positive today. People might gather where you live, perhaps to discuss home repairs. Meanwhile, you're open to big, ambitious ideas. It's a playful, passionate time. Value your creativity.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Keep an eye on your assets today, because something unexpected could occur. You might find money; you might lose money. You're enthusiastic about short trips and discussions with others. Enjoy conversations with others. Look for ways to improve home and family.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You feel eager and excited about something, which is why you might be impulsive. The reason might be a better-paying job, a raise or a

major coup when shopping will make your day.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Today Mercury is in your sign dancing with Jupiter, which promotes positive thinking about the future. This is an excellent day to make plans, because you feel hopeful about whatever is around the next corner. Discover better ways to handle money and possessions.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) A friend might surprise you today, or you might meet someone who is different or unusual. Meanwhile, you feel restless with excitement about something in your future. The New Moon in your sign is your chance to become the best you can be.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Pay attention to what you're doing, because you might have a surprise encounter with someone in authority (including the police). This

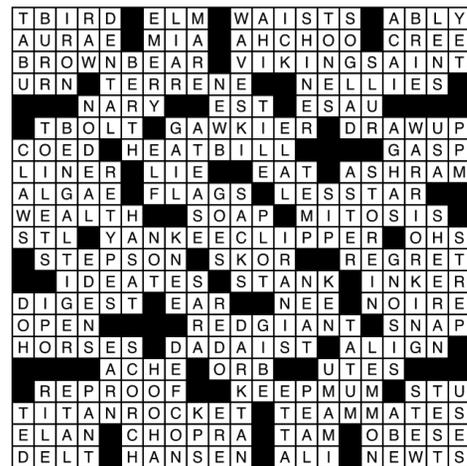
is a perfect day to join a club. Focus on inner values and spirituality.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You will impress bosses, parents and VIPs today, because you have big ideas that are futuristic and ambitious. You will be effective when discussing plans with people from different backgrounds.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) This is a fabulous day to make travel plans. It's also a great day to make plans for further education or training. Some of you will explore big ideas in publishing, the law or medicine. Examine your life direction in general. Are you headed where you want to go?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Discussions about shared property, inheritances or how to divide or share something will go well today. This is a good day to make financial plans that include partners or joint efforts.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



10/24/21