

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

45 Farm units

46 Lawyer's filing

47 "The Texan" star

48 The Eagle, e.g.

51 Eric the Red's son

52 Comedian

53 Shecky

54 Currency exchange abbr.

55 Mozart's " __ Kleine Nachtmusik"

56 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

42 One-eighty

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 Headgear

61 Morales of "NYPD Blue"

62 Agreement

63 Seemingly forever

64 Lyft rival

66 Paragon of stubbornness

67 Denials

68 Dairy grazer

70 Light fare

73 Street edging piece

75 Crash site?

76 Royal Navy initials

78 Pizzeria chain, familiarly

79 Motorist's

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

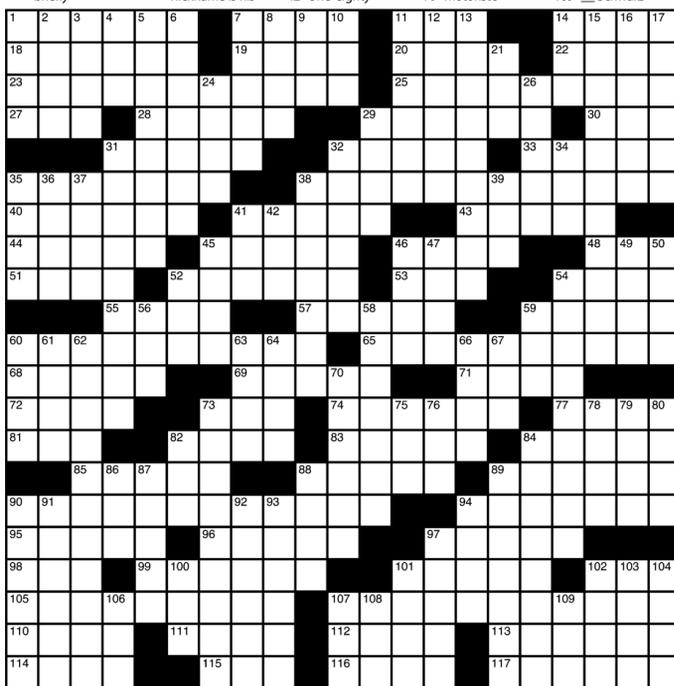
105 Disagreements

106 Tolkien creature

107 Wee hour

108 Information source, with "the"

109 __ Schwarz



10/31/21

xwordeditor@aol.com

©2021 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

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