

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Of me I sing: First-person parodies

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1459 we sought songs whose lyrics were “sung” by a particular person. Here are just a few of this week’s winners; see lots more — including videos — at [wapo.st/invite1463](http://wapo.st/invite1463).

4th place:

**Donald Trump** (to “I Will Survive”) At first I was annoyed, just a year ago, Kept thinking I could never lose to old, befuddled Joe. So then I spent so many months telling you we were deceived And you believed That I was right to feel aggrieved.

You’re putty, guys, right in my hands I look upon you at the rallies, up there cheering in the stands You think my lies are gospel truth, you hang upon my every word; There’s no theory too far-fetched and not a rumor too absurd.

Go on now go, spread all this crap! Just go repeat it, Wearing your snazzy MAGA cap. Those Democrats have said the fraud stuff is a crock You think that stops me? You think I’d let down my flock?

Oh no not I, I will contrive To return by any method to that crappy White House dive. I’ll be back, you can be sure At latest 2024, and I will thrive If I connive! Hey hey. (Hildy Zampella, Alexandria)

3rd place:

**Sen. Joe Manchin** (to “I Can’t Say No”) I’m just a guy who must say no, Giving my fellow Dems fits — They want to save the planet, so I’ve gotta blow it to bits. When a person has constituents

Who’d flush the ecosystem down the potty, He will fight for bigger carbon prints (Why do you think I drive a Maserati?) I just want fuels that burn and glow: I can’t be looking ahead, Hearing what Greta T. said, Caring if folks wind up dead — They’re not me, bro. (Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

2nd place and the dachshund-shaped corncob holders:

**Trump serenades Virginia’s governor-elect** (To “Ben” by Michael Jackson) Glenn, I went out to campaign for you, MAGA voted in the rain for you, Now, come 2024, I hope that you’ll ensure The vote will my way go — Remember who you owe. (Remember who you owe).

Glenn, the RINOs say you’ll be untrue, Sad! ‘Cause I know I can count on you! If the tally comes out wrong, I know that you’ll be strong And do just what I say To throw the vote my way (Just throw the vote my way . . .) (Mark Raffman, Reston)

And the winner of the Clowning Achievement:

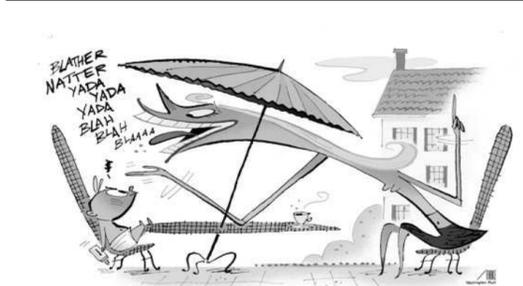
**Sen. Susan Collins** (to “If I Only Had a Brain”) I can talk of moderation — adept dissimulation! A centrist stance I’ll feign, The conclusion is foregone I’ll go and side with Mitch McConnell And I’ll con the folks in Maine. Odds are good, indeed the surest, I’ll confirm those right-wing jurists — “Roe’s safe!” I will maintain. It disturbs me very little to accede to Trump’s acquittal As I con the hicks in Maine.

Yes, ma’am, I’ve learned to scam the people up the shore, “Take your rights away? The thought I just abhor!” And then I vote, and slam the door.

My concerns are deep and thorough! Just watch my brow line furrow! My head might cleave in twain! As my forehead sadly puckers, I will play them all for suckers, Yes, I’ll con the rubes in Maine. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

Parody crashers: Honorable mentions

**Leonard Cohen**, to “Battle Hymn of the Republic” (“Glory, glory, hallelujah”) When I wrote “Hallelujah” back in 1984,



BOB STAKKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1463: Fork over some (new) Spoonerisms

How is a piece of lawn furniture like a talkative nanny? One is a **patio chair**; the other is a **chatty au pair**. (Helen and Miriam Dowtin, Week 124)

How is adoration of a pop group like a PBS documentary on an obscure European country? One is **Beatlemania**; the other is “**Meet Albania!**” (Steven Papier)

How is a champion golfer like a genetic engineer? One makes **big-money putts**; the other makes **pig-bunny mutts**. (Paul Sabourin)

This week the Empress brings back a contest she judged back when she was a wee proto-empress, filling in for the vacationing Czar for four weeks in 1995, and identified only as “a trusted toady.” (The toady finally deposed him permanently in 2003.) **This week: Write an original Q-A joke featuring a spoonerism**, the transposition of the beginnings of different words, as in the entries above from our 1995 contest. The eponym for the term is the legendarily tongue-tied Rev. William Archibald Spooner (1844-1930); in two weeks, catch the results of our own eponym contest.

**Submit up to 25 entries at [wapo.st/enter-invite-1463](http://wapo.st/enter-invite-1463)** (no capitals in the Web address). **Deadline is Monday, Nov. 29**; results appear Dec. 19 in print, Dec. 16 online.

**Winner gets the Clowning Achievement**, our Style Invitational trophy. **Second place receives a Toilet Timer** (“Set the small level”): The exiting loo user (or, as we condense it, “loser”) turns a knob to circle a dial past “Hold Your Nose” and “A Little Smelly” until it dings at “Safe to Enter.” Donated by Michael Rose. In our generosity, we’ll also toss in some **Fart Putty**, some colorful goo that produces certain noises with which the Empress has no familiarity. Donated by Kathleen Delano.

**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/inviteFAQ](http://wapo.st/inviteFAQ). The headline “Of Me I Sing” was submitted by both Beverley Sharp and Tom Witte; Chris Doyle and William Kennard both sent in the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](http://on.fb.me/invdev); “like” the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at [bit.ly/inkofday](http://bit.ly/inkofday).

**The Style Conversational:** The Empress’s weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. See this week’s, in which she’ll share the ink from that 1995 contest, at [wapo.st/conv1463](http://wapo.st/conv1463).

I was thrilled to have a song that everybody would adore. But a thousand versions later, I can’t take it anymore. I cannot stand that song!

I am sick of “Hallelujah”! All I hear is “Hallelujah”! I would shout a “Hallelujah” If I could stop that song!

I used to love to hear my song, but that was long before It was played in every elevator going floor to floor.

I can hear it play in Beaumont and Bayonne and Bangalore. I cannot stand that song! (Chorus)

I am sick of hearing “Hallelujah” after all this time. I am weary of the words with every stilted “ooya” rhyme.

And I cringe in horror when I hear the chorus start to climb. I cannot stand that song! (Chorus) (Barbara Sarshnik, Vienna, Va.)

**Eve** (To the “Addams Family” theme) If Genesis you’re readin’, You’ll find me there in Eden. A snack is what we’re needin’, The Adam family!

I find it pretty neat here; I must say, life is sweet here! But still, we’ve gotta eat here — Say, what’s up in that tree? Snake . . . spake: “Partake!” Well, hesitate? I might’ve . . . Until I got a sight of And got to take a bite of That apple from the tree!

How dumb I was to dare it; My conscience couldn’t bear it, And so I had to share it! (It brought us misery.)

‘Cause just as God predicted, The tree had been restricted; So now we’ve been evicted,

The Adam family. (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

**Arnold Schwarzenegger** (To “You’ll Be Back” from “Hamilton”)

You say — I shouldn’t have made any sequels beyond “Judgment Day.”

You sigh — as I trot out another one, “Why won’t this cyborg just die?”

If they’re bad, still the bling that they bring tends to jingle in quite a nice way.

It’s the best role I’ve had — mechanical acting’s a plus for the part that I play. So . . .

I’ll be back, like before For some cockamamie future war. I’ll be back; terminate Any hope there won’t be seven or eight.

Profits rise, profits fall; I get paid regardless through it all, So despite all the flak, Though they claim they’ve killed the series, don’t be shocked if I come back.

Da da da dat da . . . (Coleman Glenn, Huntingdon Valley, Pa.)

**The Velveteen Rabbit** (To “Yellow Submarine”)

Yes, it’s true, I wasn’t born, But the Boy, he doesn’t care, Hence my ears are frayed and torn: Dude has hugged off all my hair. Dang! He’s sick, so I’m to burn. Scarlet fever: crummy deal. Glad that fairy thought to turn My stuffed butt to something Real. Not so bad for a rabbit velveteen . . . (Duncan Stevens)

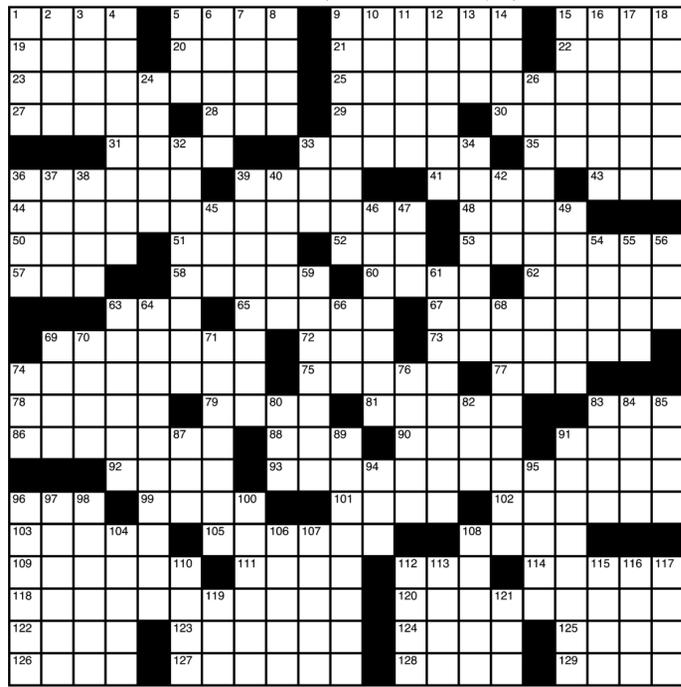
Videos and more lyrics in the online Invite at [wapo.st/invite1463](http://wapo.st/invite1463).

**Still running — deadline Monday night, Nov. 22: Tell what would happen if any two people switched professions. See [wapo.st/invite1462](http://wapo.st/invite1462).**

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

- \*SEE TO IT\* By DAVID ALFRED BYWATERS
- ACROSS
- 1 Order not to pay
- 5 Attention-seeker’s word
- 9 Make up one’s mind
- 15 Half of a theoretical duality
- 19 Frankfurt article
- 20 Make over
- 21 Serving from a buffet station
- 22 Versed in
- 23 Part of a successful baker’s rep?
- 25 Ice-cream shop cry?
- 27 Irritable
- 28 Where to find Bend and Bandon: Abbr.
- 29 Mosaic part
- 30 Centers
- 31 Joie de vivre
- 33 New Age physician
- 35 Bundles that may be cylindrical
- 36 Nocturnal nuisance
- 39 Critter that doesn’t sound interesting
- 41 Fish in a spread
- 43 Has too much, briefly
- 44 Report on a sucker?
- 48 Expressed, as a farewell
- 50 Initiated
- 51 Early Iranian
- 52 Simple Simon’s request
- 53 Try to live up to
- 57 Blue-striped ball
- 58 Amer. attorney’s study
- 60 Proofer’s “Leave it alone”
- 62 Chihuahua kisses
- 63 W. alliance since 1948
- 65 “Hadedtown” creator Mitchell
- 67 Ice skater’s small talk?
- 69 Verify
- 72 Metaphor for a mess
- 73 Talked pompously
- 74 Shell game item?
- 75 Brown ermine
- 77 Dumbbell abbr.
- 78 “Abandon all hope, ye who enter here” poet
- 79 Puerto Rico, por ejemplo
- 81 Company with orange-and-white trucks
- 83 Friend
- 86 Golf club without much loft
- 88 Smashed
- 90 Humble response to praise
- 91 South Africa’s Town
- 92 Sound of disgust, in comics
- 93 Salon receptionist’s job?
- 96 One side of many rulers: Abbr.
- 99 Composer of the opera “Alfred”
- 101 Oil cartel letters
- 102 Smartphone sounds
- 103 Attempts to beat on foot
- 105 Bowler’s aversion
- 108 Desierto’s lack
- 109 Listing in a revision, perhaps
- 111 “Juno” actor
- Michael
- 112 Many a bottom line
- 114 Wear away
- 118 Cowardly committee head?
- 120 Farmers market IOU?
- 122 Bob with jokes
- 123 Back fin
- 124 Move like honey
- 125 Manual reader
- 126 Some farm moms
- 127 Swift
- 128 Potential opponents of us
- 129 Carry
- DOWN
- 1 Group within a group
- 2 Lose energy
- 3 Taxing task
- 4 Wouldn’t leave be
- 5 Rainbow, e.g.
- 6 Egret, for one
- 7 River to the Fulda
- 8 Sleep
- 9 Tweak for better
- flavor, say
- 10 Text alternative
- 11 Quartet in many a string orchestra
- 12 Least healthy
- 13 Bit of OED info
- 14 Thames campus
- 15 Desert plant in the asparagus family
- 16 Lunar program
- 17 “You don’t have to”
- 18 Pleasant-sounding rock?
- 24 Polk predecessor
- 26 Sound from a nursery rhyme trio
- 32 Aesthetic notes
- 33 “Caught you!”
- 34 Sleeveless garment
- 36 Vocal improv
- 37 “Uh-uh!”
- 38 Kitchen fixture
- 39 Late-night reading aids
- 40 Arctic, for one
- 42 ‘60s conflict site
- 45 Guys
- 46 Greeting card sentiment
- 47 Carrier rider
- 49 Chooses
- 54 “A Hard Road to Glory” author
- 55 Hopper on a pad
- 56 Fixer’s proposed amt.
- 59 Hot holiday drink
- 63 How police might act
- 64 Wine drinker’s bonus
- 66 Big comm. company, once
- 68 Dawdle
- 69 Tobacco plug
- 70 Winery prefix
- 71 Making a mess of
- 74 Summer setting in K.C.
- 76 “Take \_\_\_!”
- 80 Inc. cousin
- 82 Keats’s “foster-child of silence and slow time” is one
- 83 Two together
- 84 Cal. entry
- 85 Not so pricey
- 87 “The Fault in \_\_\_ Stars”: 2014 film
- 89 Badly timed, sometimes
- 91 Easy to see
- 94 Life-saving proc.
- 95 Like crossword answers
- 96 Christmas display
- 97 Bone \_\_\_
- 98 Abrasion
- 100 Trump game often with 24 cards
- 104 Icicle sites
- 106 Gibe
- 107 G-B-D, say
- 108 Fill with wonder
- 110 Added stipulations
- 112 Lipton of tea fame, for one
- 113 Cry of trepidation
- 115 Very
- 116 Nutrition regimen
- 117 Basic French verb
- 119 Filch
- 121 Sleep phenomenon, briefly



11/21/21 xwordeditor@aol.com ©2021 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Answers to last week’s puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

**Happy Birthday | Nov. 21:** You are a playful, passionate person. You have an upbeat, sunny personality; however, when you want to achieve your goals, you are focused and serious. You give a lot of serious thought to what you want. This is an exciting year for you, because you are at the threshold of a new nine-year cycle. Be courageous. Open any door!

**Moon Alert:** Avoid shopping or making important decisions from 10:45 a.m. to 10:45 p.m. After that, the Moon moves from Gemini into Cancer.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) Today you might learn new information about someone else’s wealth and assets, especially your partner’s. Be smart and observe the Moon Alert.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) A discussion with a partner, spouse or close friend is intense today, but the result of this discussion might bring an improvement. Be open to what might be, but agree to nothing important during the Moon Alert.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) You are in a resourceful frame of mind today, which is why you see ways to introduce improvements to your job or your work. Likewise, you might see how to improve your health. You might even improve some kind of protocol related to your pet.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) Today your love of mystery is heightened. You will love puzzles, whodunit’s, mystery novels and crime TV shows, and be interested in the love life of others. Scandals related to sports and the entertainment world might be revealed.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) Today you want to introduce improvements to your home, especially improvements related to laundry areas, bathrooms, plumbing, recycling and garbage. You want everything working. It’s time to clean up things.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Today you are persuasive, possibly intimidating. Because your mind is focused in a laserlike way today, not only will you make your point, you also will see the subtext of things around you.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You might have some excellent moneymaking ideas today. Don’t dismiss them, because they really might be worthy of consideration now or in the future. Or perhaps you can see new uses or applications for something you own. Respect your clever ability to see things in a new light today.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Take a realistic look in the mirror to see how you might improve your image. Because you’re in an inventive, resourceful frame of mind today, this means you will see ways to enhance your appearance or improve your immediate environment.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Treat carefully, because most of today is a Moon Alert, which is actually a wonderful time for creative activities but a poor time to make practical decisions or spend money on anything other than food and gas. Look for

solutions to old problems.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Enjoy conversations with others, because people will be frank and honest with each other. This could lead to an exchange of creative ideas. You might encourage each other with future goals. Note: Agree to nothing until after the Moon Alert is over.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) A discussion with a parent, boss, the police or someone in authority will be powerful today. People are looking for solutions and ways to improve things. However, wait until the Moon Alert is over to decide on anything.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) Today you’re interested in travel plans, encounters with people from other cultures, as well as a chance for a bit of adventure — something fresh and different. Explore your world but be aware of the limitations of the Moon Alert.

Answers to last week’s puzzle.

