

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Quip draws: Inking cartoon captions

BY PAT MYERS

As we insist on doing year after year, we put up some inscrutable Bob Staake cartoons and asked for captions. The Empress received more than 1,300 entries, as many as 400 for a single cartoon. See the cartoons in color at wapo.st/invite1468.



CARTOONS BY BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

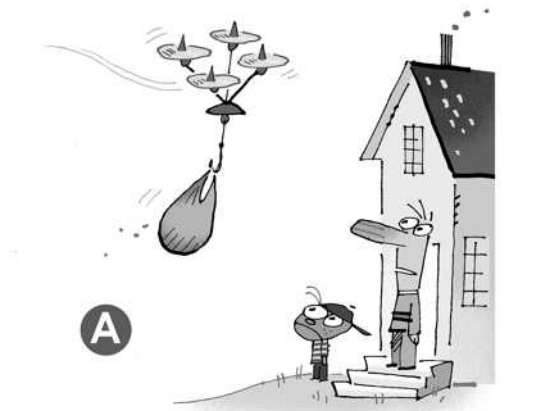
4th place:

"Tough night, Mr. Gumby?" (Phyllis Reinhard, East Fallowfield, Pa.)



3rd place

"I think I'll shop here — the D store is about to cost another \$2 trillion." (Jesse Rifkin, Arlington)



2nd place and the New Jersey Fun Facts playing cards:

"Remember when I told you where babies come from? I lied." (Lee Graham, Rockville)



And the winner of the Clowning Achievement:

Denise Downer realized it was just no fun watching sad movies with Amy Schadenfreude. (Craig Dykstra, Centreville)

Ouch-a-sketch: Honorable mentions PICTURE B

"I understand, sir, but you still can't come in without a tie." (Jill Fosse, University Park)

"Don't worry about getting the door, I'll just ooze underneath." (Jeff Shirley, Richmond)

"Jerry, it's me. It was a hard day at the lab." (Marni Penning Coleman, Falls Church)

"Looks like Mrs. McGillicuddy's dog's been eatin' her avocado toast again." (Jeff Rackow, Bethesda)

"Please ignore the 'No Vacancy' sign, sir. There's always room for Jell-O." (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines; Rob Huffman, Frederickburg)

"I happen to know I'm not the first slime to put his name on a hotel." (Sam Mertens, Silver Spring)

"You can always reapply to the co-op board in 10 million years, sir." (Daniel Galef, Tallahassee)

Washed-up stars are often drawn to red carpets. (Amanda Yanovitch, Midlothian, Va.)

PICTURE C

After the state voted down Obamacare, the Springfield pharmacy could no longer afford the full Rx sign. (Leif Picoult, Rockville)

"Wow, Sears really has downsized!" (Jon Ketzner, Cumberland, Md.)

"Sesame Workshop bought up 26 of our abandoned buildings for its new marketing concept." (Stephen Dudzik, Olney)

Fresh out of rehab, the Toys R Us R has a new job and a new direction in life. (Ted Weitzman, Olney)

"Patti works here. She says she's been selling her R's off all week." (Jon Gearhart)

"I'm telling you, these owners are really pirates!" (Ira Allen, Bethesda)

The store only sold rabbits, robots and rings; still, it did better than the one next door, which sold only Quidditch supplies. (Mark Raffman, Reston)

"This one shouldn't be quite as bad as that NC-17 place." (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

PICTURE A

"Look, it's the new robot stork, the Womb-a!" (Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.)

"Yeah, I think it's your new sister. Go ask your mom if she paid for expedited delivery." (Hildy Zampella, Alexandria)

"Looks like the labor shortage has even reached the North Pole." (Bill Dorner, Indianapolis)

Because of the stork's supply chain issues, Bobby's twin brother arrived a bit late. (Lewis Lesansky, Burke)

"It sets it on the porch, and then it rings the bell, and just before it flies away a little lighter comes out and ignites the bag." (Sam Mertens)

"Well, that's one plastic bag removed from the ocean; only 5,000,000,000,000 more to go." (John Hutchins, Silver Spring)

Bowling Ball Land's "You Buy It, We Fly It" delivery service lasted all of one day. (Leif Picoult)

"And this is why McMurray's Pizza is bowl-shaped." (Barbara Turner, Takoma Park)

Phil quickly began to regret having booked his flight in Economy Minus. (Craig Dykstra)

PICTURE D

The NRA found that showing "Bambi" to groups of job applicants was its most effective screening tool. (Larry Yungk, Wyoming, Ohio)

"Hah! Ten minutes in I said, 'That dog's gonna die.' Dang, it feels good to be right!" (Coleman Glenn, Huntingdon Valley, Pa.)

"I'm really sad, too, but you know, Botox." (Marilyn Melton, Carmel Valley, Calif.)

Wedding planners and divorce lawyers tend to view movies differently. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

"Honestly, Ashley, I know sharks have rights, too, but it's just a movie." (Jon Ketzner)

Still running — deadline Monday night, Dec. 27: Part 1 of the retrospective, for Weeks 1314-39. See wapo.st/invite1467.

Week 1468: The Year in Redo, Part 2: Enter 25 recent contests

Week 1444, new sports: Marrython: The only endurance sport where you try not to reach the finish line. (Melissa Balmain)

Week 1449, overlapping names: Roald Dahlyl Parton: Beloved author of "James and the Giant Melons." (Pam Sweeney)

Week 1451, bad "first drafts" of famous lines: "And you, my pink-eyed girl..." (Kevin Dopart)

This week we finish our two-part opportunity to revisit the past year's contests; the 25 in this second half of our Kook's Tour include everything from haiku to insulting questions to song parodies to captions for the cartoons published today. This week: Enter (or reenter) any Style Invitational contest from Week 1440 through 1464. You may enter multiple contests as long as you don't submit more than 25 entries in all. You're free to use updated references, and contests involving headlines will use current ones.

Get links to those contests, plus essential details and instructions, in this week's Style Conversational column at wapo.st/conv1468. (If you don't subscribe to The Post, email me at pat.myers@washpost.com and, after I ask you why the heck not, I'll give you alternative

directions.)

Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1468 (no capitals in the Web address). Deadline is Monday, Jan. 3; results appear Jan. 23 in print, Jan. 20 online.

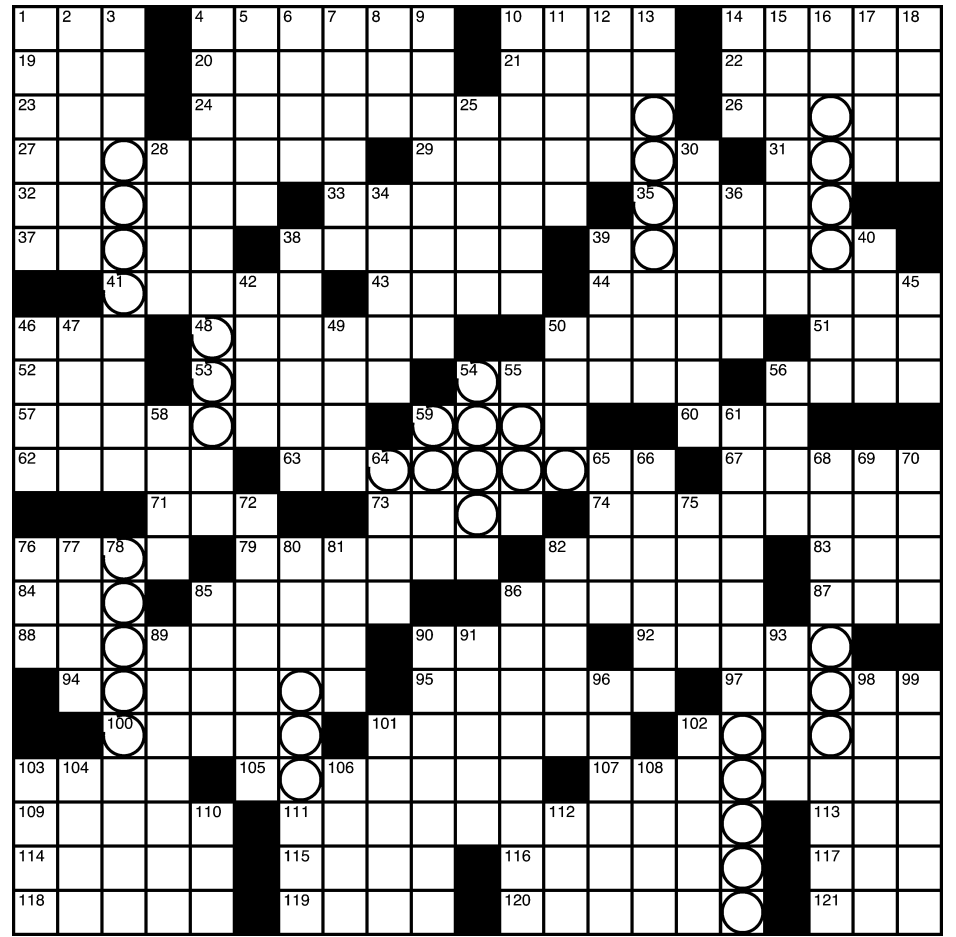
Winner gets the Clowning Achievement, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a board game called Really Bad Art, in which you have to scribble an illustration of one of "500 unexpected phrases!" in six seconds. Donated by the artful Loser Daphne Steinberg.

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/inviteFAQ. The headline "Quip Draws" is by Chris Doyle; Tom Witte 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.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

- "GOING GREEN" By ED SESSA ACROSS 1 [Yawn] 4 "My ___ Amour": Stevie Wonder hit 10 Transition point 14 Old PC platform 19 Antacid brand since the 1800s 20 Mark who plays Luke 21 Avalon contemporary in pop music 22 "Einstein on the Beach," e.g. 23 Dove's call 24 Road safety feature 26 Eponymous engineer Ray 27 Climactic Wembley Stadium event 29 Big name in camping gear 31 Make up partner 32 Like some illegal employment practices 33 Lure into a lair 35 SoFi Stadium NFLer 37 Mine feature 38 Looked at too long 39 Select members for, as a jury 41 Swab over 43 Petting zoo animal 44 Academic hiatuses 46 Disconcert 48 Sorkin of "Days of Our Lives" 50 Dinsmore of kid lit 51 Inclusive word 52 Form 1040 fig. 53 Circus barkers 54 Read 56 "Well, ___ that special!": "SNL" catchphrase 57 Oater sound effects 59 Legal scholar Guinier 60 Mole, maybe 62 Aqua ___ gold dissolver 63 Ease, as one's mind 67 Nigerian seaport 71 HBO rival 73 ___ Goose vodka 74 Large green-winged flier 76 Open ones are welcoming 79 Honey-do-this response 82 Baron Cohen's components 109 "Not ___ out of you!": "Shh!" 111 Signed, as an agreement 113 Canine order 114 Greek-American New Ager 115 Headliner 116 One of three in "Macbeth" 117 "___ seen worse" 118 Pilgrim John 119 Kitchen amts. 120 "Forrest Gump" actor 121 Rogue DOWN 1 Tourist draws 2 "I've had it" 3 Round jewelry item 4 Yuletide entrée 5 Frequent 6 Austen title heroine 7 Barbecued morsel 8 Needing TLC, say 9 Kind of 109 "Not ___ out of you!": "Shh!" 111 Signed, as an agreement 113 Canine order 114 Greek-American New Ager 115 Headliner 116 One of three in "Macbeth" 117 "___ seen worse" 118 Pilgrim John 119 Kitchen amts. 120 "Forrest Gump" actor 121 Rogue microscope 10 Angela Martin, e.g., in "The Office" 11 Intl. delegate 12 Brush (over) 13 Solemn periodic Vatican event 14 '60s chic 15 Gonzaga University city 16 Sub fillers 17 Bubbles and blueberries 18 Comes out with 25 "Either/Or" author Kierkegaard 28 Wind with a drum 30 Dover diapers 31 Shaving spots 36 Comical Martha 38 Evidence of egg toss errors 39 House, in Inuit 40 Dianetics creator Hubbard 42 Treat often eaten filling-first 45 Lush 46 13-time NHL all-star Jaromir ___ 47 Flu symptom 49 "What ___ can I do?" 50 New York canal 54 British pop 55 Eliza's elper 'gginis 56 Start of Popeye's credo 58 Is in session 59 "___ Croft: Tomb Raider" 61 Subject never quite resolved in "When Harry Met Sally..." 64 Neutrogena shampoo brand 65 Gin flavor 66 Clunker 68 "Oh Happy Day" genre 69 Bart's bus driver 70 Open-and-___ case 72 Rounds up 75 Kid-lit's ___ the Great 76 "Selma" director DuVernay 77 Massage deeply 78 Atlas feature 80 Adidas Yeezy collaborator 81 Talk trash about 82 Back at Belmont 85 Sioux City state 86 Rationality 89 Healthy routine 90 Overly dramatic types 91 Airport fixture 93 World Golf Hall of Famer Aoki 96 "The Omen" child 98 '90s-00s IBM PC 99 Sprayed gently 101 Put another hole in, as a keg 102 Web or camp follower 103 DaCosta of "Chicago Med" 104 Iridescent gem 106 Rhinitis docs 108 Years in Caesar's time 110 Stick with it 112 Rank of Brit. TV sleuth Morse



12/26/21 xwordeditor@aol.com ©2021 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

Happy Birthday | Dec. 26: Once you are committed, you are dogged, determined and persevering. Personally, you are warm and affectionate to others. People often turn to you for advice because you are practical as well as caring. This year you have learned something important. You also might have shared your knowledge with others. Next year expect promotions, awards, kudos and recognition.

Moon Alert: Avoid shopping or making important decisions from 3:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. After that, the moon moves from Virgo into Libra.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Today you are sensitive to the wants and needs of parents, bosses, teachers and the police. This is because your antennas are fine-tuned. Difficulties with friends will melt into easy relations with authority figures.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Your idealism is aroused today, along with your appreciation of beauty. However, you might easily fall for the rhetoric of someone who is preaching from a soapbox. Therefore, trust your hunches.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Today you feel concerned about someone's welfare, especially if they're less fortunate. If so, you will use your wealth or the wealth of others to help them.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You are unusually sensitive when talking to others today, which will give you a clearer sense of what is going on in their mind. Trust your hunches more than your logic. A clash about money, friends and kids merges into happy times with others.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) This is a poor day to do work that requires attention to detail. Instead, look for ways to help others, especially work colleagues. Difficulties with authority figures fade as others help you at home.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You will appreciate the arts today, which is why this is a productive day for creative projects and artists. You also will discover the joy of children and seeing the world through their eyes. Romance will sizzle.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Today the moon will move into your sign, which improves your good luck. It will also heighten your feelings. You will help a family member who needs it. Money squabbles dissolve into family peace.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Today you will spend time daydreaming and being lost in a world of fantasy. On the upside, your ability to visualize or imagine something is excellent. It's a poor day to focus on anything that requires attention to detail.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) If shopping today, be careful about being extravagant, because you will be tempted to buy luxurious, fanciful items. Make sure you keep your receipts and the box, because you might change your mind in a day or two.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Today Mercury is in your sign dancing with dreamy Neptune, which makes you more sensitive and aware of the subtler aspects of the world around you. You want to do something to make things more beautiful.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Today your psychic abilities are finely tuned. (In fact, some of you are picking up acid rock through your mercury fillings.) Nevertheless, this is not a good day for performing any task that requires clarity and attention to precise details.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You might admire a friend today. You also might want to help someone in need. Some of you will lend your efforts to a charitable organization to do this.

Answers to last week's puzzle.

