

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

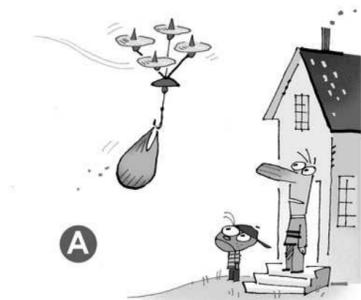
4th place:

"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, Fredericksburg)

"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 Dornier, 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 Dahly 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 Climatic
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
Swab over

41 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

Kazakh
journalist

83 Name in
alphabetical
order?

84 Intl. broadcasting
initials

85 Letter-shaped
track segment

86 Hope that one
may

87 See 105-Across

88 Swiss winds

90 Maine, to
Macron

92 Start of a few
choice words?

94 Bird migration
routes

95 Elegy for one
voice

97 Five Pillars faith

100 The same, on
the Seine

101 Ivanhoe's love

102 Trattoria entrée

103 Jellystone Park
bear

105 Make more
tempting, as the
87-Across

107 Ad campaign

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
drum

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

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

28 Wind with a
drum

30 Dover diapers

34 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-

77 Massage deeply

star Jaromir ___

47 Flu symptom

49 "What ___ can I
do?"

50 New York canal

54 British pop

55 Eliza's elper
'ggins

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

98 Years in
Caesar's time

110 Stick with it

112 Rank of Brit. TV
sleuth Morse

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

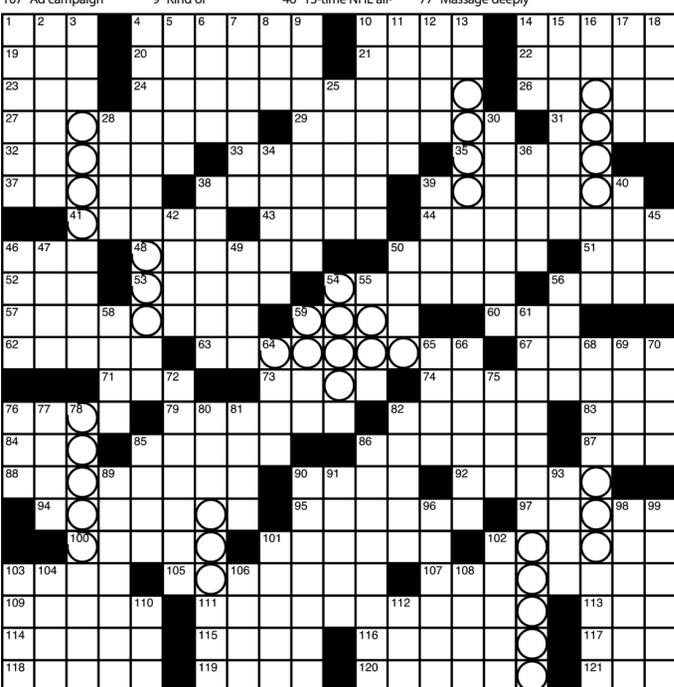
102 Web or camp
follower

103 DaCosta of
"Chicago Med"

104 Iridescent gem

106 Rhinitis docs

108 Years in



12/26/21

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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