

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Comedy of errors: Inking ‘corrections’

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1466 we asked the Loser Community to coin faux corrections to this paper or other publications. To those submitting “corrections” noting that their entries from old contests should have gotten ink: The Empress has no regrets.

4th place:

An article yesterday incorrectly said Sen. Joe Manchin III wants to put “more minors back to work” in the West Virginia coal industry. Sen. Manchin is actually in favor of automation. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

3rd place:

Because of a typographical error, President Biden was quoted as saying, “Vice President Harris is dead to me.” He actually said she was “dear to me.” (Stephen Gold, London)

2nd place and the cat-butt tissue dispenser:

The feature on Tesla in Wednesday’s business section inadvertently omitted the word “for” from Elon Musk’s statement that the company was “going for broke.” (John Klayman, Fairfax)

And the winner of the Clowning Achievement:

Yesterday’s opinion piece “Bald Is Beautiful” neglected to disclose that The Washington Post is owned by Jeff Bezos. (Sam Mertens, Silver Spring)

Revision-impaired: Honorable mentions

Yesterday’s headline “Delta Infects More Air Travelers” should have been reworded. We apologize to the airline and its lawyers. (Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore)

Our review of Bright Day Vegan Restaurant should have said the dishes were “all really fresh.” The use of “flesh” was inadvertent. (Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.)

Yesterday’s main sports section headline should have been “WFT Is Coach Rivera’s Problem,” rather than “WTF Is Coach Rivera’s Problem?” (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

A recent sports column described Daniel Snyder as having “all the charm of a squashed slug.” The correct quantity is closer to one-third. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

In Tuesday’s profile of calligrapher Otis Scrivener, his wife was incorrectly quoted; she actually spoke of his “magical pens.” (Leif Picoult, Rockville)

Our review of “A Lingering Reek” warned of plot spoilers but neglected to include them: Clive hid the doorknobs; Aunt Janice is really Audrey’s nephew; and Doris murdered the glee club. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

There was an error in our recent coverage of three alien spaceships landing near a Montana town. The corner store is Murphey’s Dry Goods, not Murphy’s Dry Goods. (Terri Berg Smith, Rockville)

Yesterday’s article about the Springfield High valedictorian should have said that she would be pursuing a BS-MD program, a path to medical school, rather than a BDSM program. (Pam Shermeyer, Lathrup Village, Mich.)

We regret that the senator who is holding up all climate change legislation makes his living from the coal industry. There is no correction here; we are just sorry. (Milo Sauer, Fairfax)

A recent review of a new brewery in Bethesda reported that its beer is “poured in pants.” The correct word is “pints.” (Mark Calandra, Wenham, Mass.)

A Retropolis article about the 1991 confirmation hearings for Justice Clarence Thomas incorrectly said that Thomas was accused of putting a “public hair” on Anita Hill’s Coke can. (Peter Jenkins, Bethesda)

An earlier version of this article mistakenly said that Donald Trump hosted “a group of golfers” at Mar-a-Lago. It was a group of golfers. The golfers appeared individually. (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

Because of an editing error, George F. Will’s column on Wednesday consisted entirely of words that readers actually know. (Jesse Rifkin, Arlington)



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1470: Your add here — a prefix feast

RoseBUD LIGHT: Xanadu microbrew. (“Andrew Mueller,” actually Chris Doyle)

toGAS FOOD LODGING: Last exit on the Appian Way. (“Sarah Gay,” also actually Chris Doyle)

BiarRITZ CRACKERS: The Beverly Hillbillies go chichi in France. (Helen Schaffer, not Chris Doyle)

This contest was suggested by Style Invitational GOAT Chris Doyle. Before amassing his 2,000-plus blots of ink with us, Chris got even more than that (under a variety of names) in the old New York Magazine Competition, the inspiration for the Invite. Chris suggests we revisit one of its 973 contests, this one from 1995: **This week: Add a “prefix” — by which we mean at least one syllable of any kind (but not multiple words) — to the beginning of any word in a well-known phrase, name, book title, etc., and describe the result, as in the examples above adapted from the NYM contest.** As always with such new-coinage Invite contests, you’re welcome to make your entry funnier and unique by using the term in a funny sentence. You could even add more than one “prefix” within your phrase; just be sure that the original phrase or name is still obvious.

Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1470 (no capitals in the Web address). **Deadline is Monday, Jan. 17;** results appear Feb. 6 in print, Feb. 3 online.

Winner gets the Clowning Achievement, our Style Invitational trophy. For second place: For those who would not enter our contest in which we offered a cute plush coronavirus with googly eyes — this week we have a **cute plush vial of coronavirus vaccine** with googly eyes. Donated by our drug connection, Dave Prevar.

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. The headline “Comedy of Errors” was submitted by both Chris Doyle and Jesse Frankovich; Jesse also wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](https://www.facebook.com/on.fb.me/invdev); “like” the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at [bit.ly/inkofday](https://www.facebook.com/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/conv1470.



Way more cuddly than a toy virus: This week’s second prize.

Due to a production error, the same “Beetle Bailey” comic strip has been running for the past 47 years. (David MacGregor, Arlington)

Clarification: In our video interview with the New York Jets cheerleading squad, they said that they give the team “chants to win.” (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

Fox News apologizes for cutting into Mr. Hannity’s program last night to project that Donald Trump had been elected to a third term in 2024. (Hildy Zampella, Alexandria)

In Tuesday’s obituary of Martin J. Smith, his widow described him as “a lifelong contrarian.” Mr. Smith disputes that description. (Amanda Yanovitch, Midlothian, Va.)

In the birth announcements in the Your Neighborhood section, statistics were transposed for Kayla Smith-Jones; she actually was 7 pounds and 20 inches long. (David Shombert, Harrisonburg, Va.)

We’re soooo sorry about a backward quotation mark in last week’s article about sarcasm. Thanks evvvr so much for bringing this important matter to our attention. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

In cave Oog paint mammoth with three leg. Mammoth have four leg. Oog sorry. (Jesse Frankovich)

Last week’s cookie decorating guide accidentally gave instructions for pentagrams instead of snowflakes. Readers who inadvertently summoned Baphomet in their kitchen are advised to offer him some tea and a few of the cookies and he will likely return home shortly. (Hannah Seidel, Alexandria)

We regret that next week’s issue of Psychic Digest will contain several factual errors. (Jesse Frankovich; Sam Mertens)

Last week’s Second Glance feature contained 11 differences between the two photos instead of the usual 12. This was a one-time joke designed to irk our most gullible and obsessive readers. Suckers! (Eric Nelkin, Silver Spring)

Clarification: While it does not refute The Post’s motto, the weather was actually sunny on Jan. 6, 2021. (Peter Jenkins)

Monday’s profile of Elon Musk referred to him as “the world’s richest person.” While technically accurate, the story should have emphasized that no matter how wealthy Musk is, Jeff Bezos still owns The Washington Post. (Eric Nelkin)

And Last: Last week’s Style Invitational incorrectly indicated that Losers’ prizes would be nailed to them. The Empress actually will send the prizes via the U.S. Postal Service; the recipients may choose how to display them. (Dave Airozo, Silver Spring)

More honorable mentions in the online Invite at wapo.st/invite1470.

Still running — deadline Monday night, Jan. 10: Our contest for poems about people who died in 2021. See wapo.st/invite1469.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

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|--|---|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| *ACROSS AMERICA" By JOHN-CLARK LEVIN | 75 Base opposite | baseball level, historically | 9 Purplish shade | 45 Hwy, e.g. | way!" |
| 1 Band with horns | 76 Cable station for 45 yrs. | 105 Tackle neighbor | 10 Target of Indy's quest | 46 Clay became him | 86 Lunched to the poor |
| 8 Some fits | 77 "Shape of You" Grammy winner | 106 Giants manager | 11 He-Man nemesis | 47 Worries too much (over) | 88 Corruption metaphor |
| 14 "Or perhaps less" | 80 Moderate, with "up" | 85 Gadot of "Wonder Woman" | 12 Relaxing bubble bath, say | 48 Evokes a "TMI," say | 90 Disappointing social outing |
| 20 Go on a rampage | 82 Religion of Mecca | 84 Some Kias | 13 Food service giant | 49 Strikes (out) | 93 In a watchful way |
| 21 November pardon recipient | 85 Gadot of "Wonder Woman" | 86 What can capture Santa | 14 Pub pick | 51 "Moonlight" actress Harris | 94 Head to sea |
| 22 End of a sentence | 86 What can capture Santa | 87 Barbara, Grand Forks and Boise? | 15 Campaign funders | 53 TV forensics letters | 96 Sandal style |
| 23 Tournament pairings in Fort Wayne, Denver and Kennebunkport? | 89 Journalist Curry | 90 Cry hard | 16 Online harassers | 54 Easy as _____ | 98 Audibly shocked |
| 25 Without delay | 91 Pasta order | 92 Shoe part | 17 Worked to perfect | 56 Easy as _____ | 99 Less tactful |
| 26 Personnel groups | 93 Route-finding app | 94 Writer Bombbeck | 18 Big name in metal | 57 Maine coastal park | 100 "Cheers" waitress |
| 27 A 20-sided one may be used in Dungeons & Dragons | 95 Contractor's no. | 97 Power-washing meas. | 19 Itsy-bitsy | 60 Feminist film-criticism subject | 101 Big name in transmission repair |
| 28 Bit of Lab love | 98 Olympiads in Little Rock, Fresno and Dover? | 102 Modesto Nuts' | 20 Food label fig. | 62 ___horse town | 102 Apple pie-making tool |
| 30 Pericles foe | 99 Power-washing meas. | 103 Olympiads in Little Rock, Fresno and Dover? | 21 "Seinfeld" doofus | 63 Riders, e.g. | 103 Welcoming garland |
| 31 Hot Wheels item | 100 Cry hard | 101 Pasta order | 22 Patronizing words, maybe | 64 Office PC linkup | 104 Bring shame to |
| 33 Regular observance in Bangor, St. Louis, Providence and Mobile? | 101 Pasta order | 102 Modesto Nuts' | 23 Mountain wind | 65 Invites over | 105 FDR's Scottie |
| 35 Grandpa Simpson | 102 Modesto Nuts' | 103 Olympiads in Little Rock, Fresno and Dover? | DOWN | 66 Summer quencher | 106 Not duped by |
| 38 Cheering noise | 103 Olympiads in Little Rock, Fresno and Dover? | 104 They may have EIKS | 1 NFL analyst Collinsworth | 67 Office PC linkup | 107 FDR's Scottie |
| 39 Fill up | 104 They may have EIKS | 105 They may have EIKS | 2 Track | 68 Invites over | 108 New _____ |
| 40 They may have EIKS | 105 They may have EIKS | 106 They may have EIKS | 3 Atahualpa, e.g. | 69 Summer quencher | 109 Not duped by |
| 41 They may be uncut | 106 They may have EIKS | 107 They may have EIKS | 4 Lara of "Tomb Raider" games | 70 Kenyan's neighbor | 110 New _____ |
| 43 ___ Diaz de Vivar (El Cid) | 107 They may have EIKS | 108 They may have EIKS | 5 Try to achieve | 71 Kenyan's neighbor | 111 Migratory seabird |
| 46 Reddit Q&A sessions | 108 They may have EIKS | 109 They may have EIKS | 6 Homers, in baseball lingo | 72 Tie word | 112 Quiet go-ahead |
| 47 Bagel topping | 109 They may have EIKS | 110 They may have EIKS | 7 Gambling initials | 73 "I see" reactions | 113 One looking for a buck? |
| 50 Bread spread in Montgomery, Jefferson City and Fargo? | 110 They may have EIKS | 111 They may have EIKS | 8 Part of a flight | 74 Caesar salad dressing ingredient | 114 Food service trade org. |
| 51 Bread spread in Montgomery, Jefferson City and Fargo? | 111 They may have EIKS | 112 They may have EIKS | | 75 Tie word | |
| 52 Showed the way | 112 They may have EIKS | 113 They may have EIKS | | 76 Gator's tail? | |
| 53 "Murder, She Wrote" setting | 113 They may have EIKS | 114 They may have EIKS | | 77 Texter's "No | |
| 54 Formal topper | 114 They may have EIKS | 115 They may have EIKS | | | |
| 55 Screenwriter James | 115 They may have EIKS | 116 They may have EIKS | | | |
| 56 Fronts divide them | 116 They may have EIKS | 117 They may have EIKS | | | |
| 58 Cleave | 117 They may have EIKS | 118 They may have EIKS | | | |
| 59 Hilton rival | 118 They may have EIKS | 119 They may have EIKS | | | |
| 61 Ancient Dead Sea kingdom | 119 They may have EIKS | 120 They may have EIKS | | | |
| 62 Far less friendly | 120 They may have EIKS | 121 They may have EIKS | | | |
| 64 "A Wrinkle in Time" director | 121 They may have EIKS | 122 They may have EIKS | | | |
| 65 "A Wrinkle in Time" director | 122 They may have EIKS | | | | |
| 66 Tableware in Boston, South Bend, Baton Rouge and Bismarck? | | | | | |
| 70 Old draft org. | | | | | |
| 72 Amazon's sector | | | | | |
| 74 Did | | | | | |

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Answers to last week’s puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

Happy Birthday | Jan. 9: You are practical, reliable, confident and very caring about your loved ones. You take an organized approach to life. You are observant and committed to your goals. This year will involve service to others, especially family. Therefore, you have to take good care of yourself first. Enjoy personalizing your home this year.

MOON ALERT: There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions. The Moon is in Aries.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Don't get your belly in a rash. Guard against knee-jerk reactions. You are energized with the Moon in your sign dancing with your ruler Mars, which means you feel lots of emotions. Avoid creating regrets.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Your ability to talk to bosses and people in authority is strong. You'll be convincing when dealing with shared property or shared responsibilities. Nevertheless, you will probably choose to work from behind the scenes.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You're eager to interact with others because you have something to say or you want to lead the charge. Incidentally, a lively discussion might make you change your goals.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You are high-viz, which means people notice you more than usual, especially bosses, parents and the police. You might have a feisty exchange with someone. Avoid power struggles and a rehash of arguments about shared property.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You have a strong desire to escape and seek adventure. You want to do something different to get more out of life. You might be involved with someone from another culture or a different country.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Expect lively discussions about shared property or shared responsibilities, or perhaps an inheritance. You feel you have something invested in this situation, and you're ready to speak up.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You might meet someone who is confident and cocky. They might want your help. Actually, this is a good time to start a project, because people's energy levels are high.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You will accomplish a lot at work with any task that you undertake because you're gung-ho! You're happy to do something that involves physical labor. You also will be proactive about your health.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) This is the perfect day for a workout at a gym or any kind of physical exercise, because you're pumped with energy. You will enjoy playful activities with kids. You also will enjoy channeling some of this energy into fun, social outings.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Family discussions will be

energetic and lively because you have plans. You want to introduce home improvements or make things better. You also might want to make the peace within a family dispute. Do what you can.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You're keen to talk to others because you have something to say. You want to enlighten someone about something. Because you will put a lot of yourself into your words, you'll be convincing.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You have strong ideas about money and possibly shopping. Because of your heightened emotions and desires, you will stop at nothing to get what you want. This determination applies to shopping as well as negotiating finances or dealing with your possessions.

Answers to last week’s puzzle.

S	I	T	E	A	N	T	I	A	T	E	A	M	M	B	A	S		
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