

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Wince & repeat: Part 2 of our redo

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1468, the second half of our 2021 Kook's Tour, we gave the Loser Community another chance to enter any of 24 contests that ran from last June to November.

4th place:

Week 1453, change the meaning of a book title by adding a subtitle: No Bad Dogs: Living With Corns, Calluses and Bunions (Jennifer Martin Broadway, Marquette, Mich.)

3rd place:

Week 1450, how future anthropologists would interpret our society: In the early 21st century, it became popular to have one's nostrils professionally cleaned. People would queue up, sometimes for hours, to obtain this service. (John Klayman, Fairfax)

2nd place and the Really Bad Art board game:

Week 1451, bad, first drafts: "Yesterday, December 7, 1941: A crappy day we'll never forget, amirite?" (Hildy Zampella, Alexandria)

And the winner of the Clowning Achievement:

Week 1449, first-person songs: Norman Bates (to "Wouldn't It Be Lovely")

All I want is a motel where No-good dames on the lam I'll snare,
One lonely rural lair,
Oh, wouldn't it be Motherly?

Mom folds towels and she makes the bed,
Shows the guests where to rest their head —
Yes, fine, they end up dead,
But still, it's very Motherly.

Oh, so Motherly when there's lots of lovely blood to spill,
Someday we might have a guest that Mother won't want to kill,
Someone's head resting on my knee,
Where's the rest of her? Don't ask me,
One more maternal spree!
Ah, yes, that's very Motherly.
(Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

Redoofuses: Honorable mentions

Week 1443, legislation with contrived acronyms: The LAUNDRY Act: (Launch All Unwashed, Nauseating, Disgusting Raiment Yonder): A bill allocating three extra hampers to every house under quarantine with teenagers. (Sarah Walsh, Rockville)

Week 1444, Name a new sport: Mixed marital arts: Couples juggle in-law visits when Christmas and Hanukkah overlap. (Bob Kruger, Rockville)
— **The poll vault**: The bar for voting in Texas just got a lot higher. (Lee Graham, Rockville)
— **The modern spintation**: Sitting for consecutive Sunday morning interviews on ABC, CBS, CNN, NBC and Fox News. (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

Week 1446, words and clues from a partially filled in crossword grid: YesNo: How a distracted spouse answers the question "Do I sound like my mother?" (John Hutchins, Silver Spring)

Week 1447, translate a quote into "plain English": George F. Will: "But the incorrigibly non-revolutionary proletariat has disappointed History-worshippers' expectations of a climactic class struggle." *Plain English: Plebeians will be plebeians!* (Steve Leifer, Potomac)

Week 1449, overlapping names: Rand Paul of Tarsus: "Love one another. Except Fauci — everyone hate on him." (Mark Raffman, Reston)

Week 1450, how space aliens or future scientists would interpret our society: Records are fragmentary, but it appears there was once a divine being who walked the earth, performed miracles and was called Chuck Norris. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

Week 1451, bad, first drafts: "You know what's hot and moist? A summer's day!" — Shakespeare (Mark Raffman)
— **"Hey! You! Stay six feet away from my cloud!"** (Mary J. Kelly, Great Falls, a First Offender)
— **"... never send to know for whom the bell tolls. It's for thee obvi."** (Jeff Contompasis)
— **"It's hard to believe it's been**



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1472: Phony money — tell us fake financial trivia

Contrary to popular myth, John D. Rockefeller did not give a dime to every person he met; however, he did offer each of them a spoonful of his tapioca pudding.

In 2015, several PriceWaterCloset executives were forced to resign after the revelations of wild nights of triple-entry bookkeeping.

In seven different congressional sessions, various NRA-supported senators have sponsored legislation to replace the 13 arrows on the \$1 bill with 13 assault rifles.

Once again, The Style Invitational does its best to get taken down by Facebook for spreading misinformation. By the Empress's count, it's our 23rd contest for fake "facts" about various aspects of our world; last year it was the law and judicial system. **This week: Tell us some fake trivia about money or the financial system**, as in the examples above, the first by Our Own Bob Staake and the others by Loser Extraordinaire Duncan Stevens, who still, at least until the results run, works for a federal financial agency.

Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1472 (no capitals in the Web address). **Deadline is Monday, Jan. 31**; results appear Feb. 20 in print, Feb. 17 online.

Winner gets the Clowning Achievement, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives, given our contest's theme, \$130,000. Oops, wait, you don't have anything on us. So second place receives this **adorable weird glitter globe featuring tourist landmarks of Tokyo**, including its version of the Eiffel Tower and a dazed-looking woman who is presumably drowning. From the collection of globe-trotting Loser Cheryl Davis, who deaccessioned several similar gawgaws on the E. This one doesn't leak.

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 "Wince and Repeat" is by Craig Dykstra; both Chris Doyle and Jesse Frankovich submitted 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, featuring classic Invite fictions, at wapo.st/conv1472.



If you have a yen for a knickknack from Tokyo, just place second this week.

80-some years ago . . . (Dottie Gray, Alexandria)
— **"You and the Force have a nice day!"** (Neal Starkman, Seattle)
— **"Bond. Jimbo Bond."** (Selma Ellis, Rolling Meadows, Ill.)

Week 1453, change the meaning of a book title by adding a subtitle: Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy: Career Options for a Gig Economy (Diane Lucitt, Ellicott City)
— **Killing Lincoln**: The Case for Doing Away With Pennies (Donald Norum, Charlottesville)
— **The Green Mile**: Delaware and New Jersey's Twin Toll Bridges (Jeff Contompasis)
— **The Tipping Point**: Dining Out for Dummies, Part III (George Thompson, Springfield)
— **Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee**: A Recent History of Washington Quarterbacks (Mike Gips, Bethesda)

Week 1455, good/bad ideas: "Good: Post videos of your cat. Bad: Post videos of your catheter." (Mark Raffman)
— **Good: The wedding bed on your honeymoon. Bad: Wetting the bed on your honeymoon.** (Craig Dykstra, Centerville)
— **Good: Marry for love. Bad: Marry four loves.** (Hildy Zampella)

— **Good: Getting shots and returning to the workplace. Bad: Doing shots and returning to the workplace.** (Milo Sauer, Fairfax)

Week 1458, use the letters in a TV show name for a new show: Iron Chef > Oh No! Rice Fire!: The paella segment goes awry. (Frank Mann, Washington)
— **Seinfeld > Life in Endless Idleness**: Jerry and his friends hang out and talk in his apartment. Later they go to the diner and talk. (Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore)
— **Dragnet > Red Agent**: Sgt. Joe Friday turns out to be a commie. (Roy Ashley, Washington)

Week 1459, first-person songs: Sung by Vice President Harris (to "I Feel Pretty")
I feel petty, oh so petty,
But so ready to be a VP!
Biden said he
Would surely give a decent job to me.

I'm neglected, and rejected,
But expected to do something grand
I hope this year
My portfolio will soon expand.

See the trashy news in the papers here,
Claiming that my office is a zoo
Such a petty press, such a petty mess,
But I must confess
everything is true!

I feel streamlined, if not sidelined,
But in my mind the next big event:
"25 — when I'll be the president!
Arnie Rosenthal, Silver Spring, a First Offender)

Week 1465, predictions for 2022: Ted Cruz, desperate for acclaim, renames himself "Brandon." (Duncan Stevens)
More honorable mentions at wapo.st/invite1472.

Still running — deadline Monday night, Jan. 27: Coin a word or phrase including the letter block BIDE in any order. See wapo.st/invite1471.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

"NUTS" By MICHAEL SCHLOSSBERG

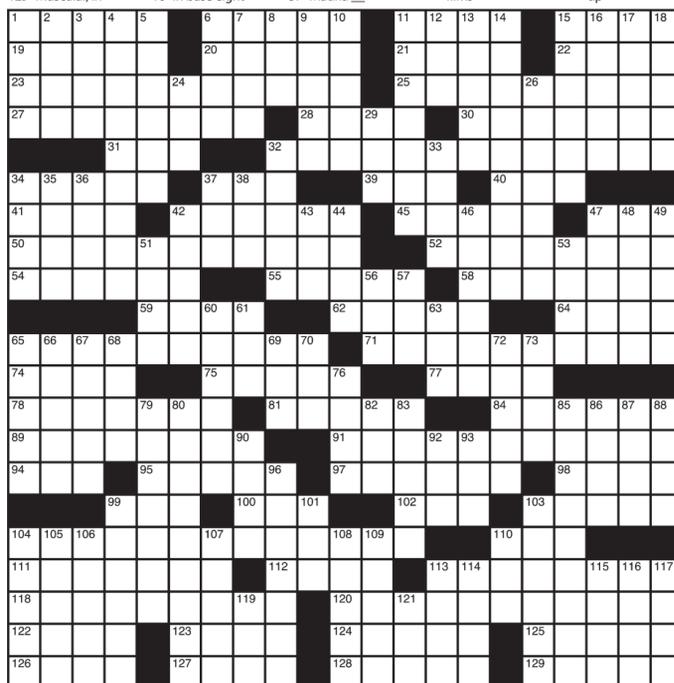
ACROSS
1 Spanish for "prairie"
6 "wind
11 "Carmina Burana" composer
15 Breaks down Verdi creations
19 Milan fashion house
20 Letter-shaped support
22 Hose color
23 Hex nut?
25 Paints the town red
27 Sinus-clearing aids
28 Boilemmaker ingredient
30 Go in for
31 Cool, in a way
32 Palm nut?
34 Encircle
37 "... BoP": Cyndi Lauper song
39 Fiver
40 "Curious George" co-author
41 City on the Skunk
42 Audrey of "The Da Vinci Code"
45 Flavorful
47 It's almost always fishy
50 Date nut?
52 Brewer's gadgets
54 "Sorry, can't do it"
55 Customary
58 Mischivous glance
59 Bit
62 "Sorry not sorry"
64 Old Bruins nickname
65 Wing nut?
71 Butternut?
74 Folksy Guthrie
75 Abdominal scar, actually
77 Earth goddess
78 One in the alley's back row
81 Pueblo building material
84 Breakfast cereal
89 Zigzagged, in a sport
91 Doughnut?
94 Drink with a painful homophone
95 Packed (with)
97 "Phooey!"
98 Family figure?
99 Kind of blanket or paint
100 Bubbly prefix

102 New Haven collegian
103 FDR had three of them
104 Wheel nut?
110 Card game cry
111 "C'est magnifique!"
112 "How ya ___?"
113 Punter's metric
118 Reggie Jackson nickname based on his postseason success
120 Chestnut?
122 Impress
123 "Game of Thrones," for one
124 Dodge
125 Hawaian veranda
126 Squirrels' haunts
127 Train station, e.g.
128 Bob who was the voice of Future Ted Mosby in "How I Met Your Mother"

modern lingo
DOWN
1 First to move, usually
2 Indy champ
Luyendyk
3 Glove
4 Protest group, perhaps
5 Sooty receptacle
6 Allow as a handicap
7 "LOTR" menaces
8 Delt neighbor
9 Tangy Mexican sauce
10 More desirable to collectors
11 Massage parlor services
12 Triple Crown stat
13 Packers QB before Rodgers
14 Streaming service offer
15 "Match Game" regular
Charles Nelson
16 In base eight

17 Fighters' pact
18 Word that's its own synonym when a "b" is added to the end
24 Family title?
26 Fly past
29 Due-in hr.
32 Former embryo
33 Bourbon order
34 "Funny not funny"
35 Pianist
Gilels
36 Arizona College
37 "Here's a thought ..."
38 Center of activity
42 Move en masse
43 Many times o'er
44 Aerial enigmas
46 Old Spanish dough
47 Splash (through)
48 Split to come together
49 Request from service offer
51 "Will do"
53 Novelist
Vaughan
56 Golf green insert
57 Mauna ___

60 Preserved, as sardines
61 Like
63 Chinese sauce additive
65 Prefix with belt, in slacks
66 What a wavy line may mean in music
67 Long bones
68 Advent air
69 Eggs in a lab
70 "Chopped" host
72 Costa ___
73 Sign of boredom
76 Western wolf
79 Skunk cousin
80 "Haven't the foggiest"
82 "Phooey!"
83 Week add-on
85 Inventor's protection
86 Nasty sort
87 Ooze
88 A fourth of doze
90 Out of juice
92 Penn of the Harold & Kumar films
93 Hosp. test in a tube
96 MC Chris genre
99 Big name in jam
101 Maracanã Stadium city
103 Watches
104 "Did my heart love till now?" speaker
105 Main artery
106 As much as possible
107 Capital near Casablanca
108 Empaths pick them up
109 ___ Gay
110 Serengeti bovine
111 One in a wet quintet
119 ___ trip
121 Exposed, with "up"



1/23/22

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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

Happy Birthday | Jan. 23: You are an idealist who is innovative, strong-willed and determined. You can appear tough on the outside, but you are sweet and kind on the inside. This year will be more social for you. Enjoy interacting with others. Very possibly, you will have to make an important choice this year.

Moon Alert: There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions. The Moon is in Libra.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
You will put a lot of yourself into whatever you say. Oh yes, people will sit up and listen to you. You also might be dealing with someone younger from your past.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Discussions with authority will be emphatic. Both sides think they know what they're saying, and they mean it. This will require diplomacy.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
People (including you) are opinionated. Avoid discussions if they're just ego battles. When issues are important, common sense should prevail.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
Discussions about shared property, insurance issues, taxes and debt will be direct and to the point. Whoever you are talking to will also have strong opinions.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
You will probably attract someone to you who is talkative with strong opinions. Give this person the courtesy of listening to them, especially if it's an ex-partner.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Missed paperwork, mixed-up communications, delays, late deliveries and staff shortages are frustrating. Naturally, you want to voice your grievances.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
A discussion with an old flame will be intense. (If your mouth is moving, you can't hear what the other person wants to tell you.) Be patient with chaos at home.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
A discussion with family will be dynamic. If it's about home repairs,

you might make progress. But if it's about relatives camped on your sofa, good luck.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
The Sun and Mercury are in your House of Communications, which means you will say what you mean and mean what you say. (You might encounter someone who is just as forceful.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
You will be emphatic in discussions about money, property and possessions. You are thrifty, and you hate waste. People will listen to you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
You will make great headway if you do research, because you will be persistent and focused. Oh yes, you'll be like a dog with a bone. These qualities should bring results if you're looking for solutions to old problems or answers to old questions.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Old friends and members of groups from your past might be back on the scene. Perhaps this is why you will have a lively discussion with someone. If you have to speak to a group and shift people to your way of thinking, you will be persuasive.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



1/16/22