

## DIVERSIONS

## THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

## Sung in cheek: Parodies on the news

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1490, the Empress once again went to Loserdom's wheelhouse for songs about the news. Here are just a few; for many more — including several terrific videos — see the online Invite at [wapo.st/invite1494](http://wapo.st/invite1494).

## 4th place:

## To "I Feel Pretty":

I bought Twitter, don't be bitter, I will git'er much fitter, you'll see I'm no quitter — there's no leader more steadfast than me! But the price is a small crisis To think twice is the wisest, I feel My advice is: Twitter must give me a better deal!

Who's that billionaire in the mirror there? Who'll set social media free? It's not Zuckerberg, not that Bezos dude, not the Google guys, Not Bill Gates, it's me! I have Teslas, I have rockets, And with Twitter I have a new toy. All in all, I'm a pretty wonderful boy! (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase, Md.)

## 3rd place:

## Alito's Favorite Plans

## To "My Favorite Things"

Stare decisiv? We say no comprehend! We're dissing women? That's just innuendo. Our rulings govern until we are dead, Just so the Senate's at least one-third red.

We chose a president, spiting the nation. We did the bidding of each corporation. To gerrymanders we give the green light

When they preserve seats for pols on the right. Confirmations! Public speeches! We prevaricate. We'll execute all of the plans we have hatched, So you're fighting back too late! (David Young, Falmouth, Mass.)

## 2nd place and the 1968 Humphrey-Muskie campaign flask:

## The Jan. 6 Committee

## To "I Feel Pretty"

Here's the nitty and the gritty: Our fair city was ransacked by thugs! This committee does not think they came to give out hugs. Lost-election insurrection! Their complexion? We bet you've a sense. It's not pretty when a mob is out to kill Mike Pence.

How did that sedition get organized? Who arranged that violent mob? Who unleashed the gang that was out to hang, turn the Dems and Reps into shish kebab?

Though you're sneering and you're jeering, At this hearing we're clearing the air, And we'll learn who's the culprit for steering them there! (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

## And the winner of the Clowning Achievement:

## If I Only Had a Brain — A Heart — The Nerve: Musing With the GOP Three

**First: Marjorie Taylor Greene:** I could while away the hours on legislative powers, or helping folks in pain, And I might not be rootin' for the folks who are shootin', if I only had a brain. I would get to know some new folk, not just a lot of Q folk — I'd know they were insane; And I wouldn't get crazier with a Jewish space . . . lazier if I only had a brain.

Oh I . . . could tell you why . . . Joe Biden won the vote. I could even introduce a bill of note And never give a stupid quote!

But my voters love the crazy, so why not just be lazy, not cause my head a strain; I could lose their affection, and might not win election, if I only had a brain.

## Then: Mitch McConnell:

When a man's an empty vessel, he never needs to wrestle with conscience for his part. I might start actin' human, though my downfall would be loomin', if I only had a heart. I must cater to the donors, the billionaires and owners, like anyone who's smart. I'd become just like Cupid, which would be kind of stupid, if I only



BOB STAAKE/ILLUSTRATION FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

## New contest for Week 1494: Put it in bee-verse

**"Charadriiform" — oh, what a mouthful! Such abstruse ornithology talk. I'd better forgo the five syllables And stick with "a gull!" or "an auk!"**

Did you see this year's finals of the National Spelling Bee, with the new lightning-round tiebreaker? You rock, 14-year-old Harini Logan, who fired off 22 ridiculously obscure words correctly (plus a few incorrectly) in the space of 90 seconds! You'll be happy to know, though, that YOU, dear Loser, have not 90 seconds but 12 days for this annual contest: **Write a humorous poem of eight lines or fewer that includes at least one of the words used in Round 4 or later of this year's bee, as in the example above from Round 13. OR: Write a joke in Q&A form that uses at least one of the words.** At least for the poems, you must use the word with its real meaning and pronunciation; you can't pretend it's something else (stay tuned for a future contest like this). You may use a slightly different form of the word, such as a plural, adding "-ing," etc. You may add a title, and even use the word in the title and not the poem itself. **To see the words: Go to [spellingbee.com/round-results](http://spellingbee.com/round-results), then click on any of the rounds from 4 through the final spell-off. If you don't want to look up all those words, check out my list of 20 of the words in the online Invite at [wapo.st/invite1494](http://wapo.st/invite1494). Submit up to 25 entries at [wapo.st/enter-invite-1494](http://wapo.st/enter-invite-1494) (no capitals in the web address). **Deadline is Tuesday, July 5** (we'll give you July 4 off); results appear July 24 in print, July 21 online.**

**Winner gets the Clowning Achievement**, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives **the cutest little bedbug you've ever seen**, 2½ inches long, plush and squeezable with big winsome eyes and a velvety exoskeleton. Yet another in our series of noisome parasites that we offer as second prizes. We do recommend that you not decorate your Airbnb rental with it. Donated by Dave Prevar.



**A bedbug you can cuddle in bed! This week's second prize.**

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](http://wapo.st/inviteFAQ). The headline "Sung in Cheek" is by Jon Gearhart; both Chris Doyle and Kevin Dopart submitted 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/inkoftheday](http://bit.ly/inkoftheday); 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/conv1494](http://wapo.st/conv1494).

had a heart. Picture me on your TV, my voice all sweet and slow. Contradicting what I said a year ago Hypocrisy? That's me! When majorities they muster, I use the filibuster. It's really quite an art. I'd turn into a lefty; my remorse would be hefty, if I only had a heart.

## And finally, Lindsey Graham:

Yes, it's sad, believe me, missy, when you're born to be a sissy, without the vim and verve, But I could be a hero, not a bootlicking zero, if I only had the nerve.

I'm afraid there's no denying I've given up on trying to protect and to preserve Our great land's Constitution — but I'd find a solution, if I only had the nerve.

Oh, I'd be in my stride, I'd give a rousing speech! Full fidelity to law is what I'd preach — And bravely vote then to impeach.

I would show that con man Donny a bravery so bonny, no longer would I serve! I'm well read; I am brainy; I could be a Liz Cheney — If I only had the nerve! (Michael Stein, Arlington, Va.)

## Bad news airs:

## Honorable mentions

**Baby formula shortage after lab was shut down over Cronobacter bacteria:** To "Be Our Guest" Pump your chest! Pump your

chest Till our problem is addressed, In our lab up here at Abbott The inspectors weren't impressed. Was there dirt? Was there grime? Or a nauseating slime? Was our cleanliness a factor When they found the Cronobacter? With no stock on the shelves, You'll produce it all yourselves, 'Cause our formula is "Mothers, do your best!" We've gone to no production, so get out that suction, Do not rest! Get expressed! Pump your chest! (Mark Raffman, Reston)

**"Indiana Jones 5" to premiere in June 2023, with 80-year-old Harrison Ford:** To "When I'm Sixty-Four" When his fedora covers no hair, a few years from now Indiana Jones will hunt the Fountain of Youth, Crepe-skinned, half-deaf, long in the tooth If he is streamed or on the big screen, Will they beg for more? Will Indy awe them next time they thaw him When he's 84? (Kenneth McLeod, Bowie, a First Offender)

More honorable mentions in the online Invite at [wapo.st/invite1494](http://wapo.st/invite1494).

**Still running — deadline Monday night, June 27:** Our contest for "feghoots" — mini-stories that end in groaner puns. See [wapo.st/invite1493](http://wapo.st/invite1493).

## L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

*STRETCHES ACROSS' BY ROLAND HUGET	100 Court dividers face	DOWN	27 London luxury hotel that opened in 1889	McGregor	95 Wow
ACROSS	103 Not good at all	1 Snarky remark	28 ___proof	66 Weekly NBC show with a musical guest	96 Part of MVP
1 Lake skimmer	104 Radiate	2 Drop the ball	29 Rookie, casually	67 Go gray, maybe	97 Talk with one's hands
7 Bitterly harsh	105 Lugs around	3 Excessively	30 Tooth trouble	69 Burger order	98 Orbital circuit shape
14 In flames	107 Sandwich letters	4 Graphic novel by Raina Telgemeier about a girl with braces	31 Deking it out	70 Apple TV+ device	101 Water channel
20 Free bakery treats?	110 Motorless aircraft	5 Iron-rich leafy vegetable	35 Not imported	71 "Comprende?"	104 Literary awards named for a Baltimore writer
21 "Orphan Black" star Maslany	112 "Financial report section	6 Rae of "The Lovebirds"	36 Gp. with reserves	72 Razzie Award adjective	106 "The Joy of Painting" prop
22 Prim partner	117 "The Night Watchman" Pulitzer winner	7 Unsteady, quaintly	37 Ancient portico	73 Nobel category	107 Fair, in a way
23 Uses a salamander, perhaps	119 Marshmallow-filled treat	8 "Coming at you!"	39 "Buona ___": Italian greeting	74 Needle hole	108 Jeff of the Traveling Wilburys
24 Hand sanitizer ingredient	120 Bible book with 150 poems	9 Cultural values	40 Over yonder	75 Tip of the Alps?	109 Lukewarm
25 Glossy fabric	123 "___ Restaurant": classic Guthrie song	10 "Knives Out" writer/director	42 Go bad	76 Macramé unit	111 Prefix with gram or cart
26 "Terms for tenants"	124 Quarterback who was MVP of Super Bowls XLII and XLVI	11 Rock groups	43 "Heart & Soul" country singer	79 Coin-in-a-fountain thought	113 "Room" novelist Donoghue
29 "Great" detective of kid-lit	125 Pabst brand	12 How sun-dried tomatoes may be packed	44 "Gnarly, dude!"	82 Sticking point	114 Map line
32 QBs and DHs	126 Smartphone screen borders	13 Pasadena engineering sch.	46 Male sheep	83 Frilly trim	115 "It ___ over till it's over"
33 Winter coaster	127 Supplemented	14 Lhasa	47 IRS convenience	85 Autograph hounds	116 ___ Park: Queens area
34 Kerfuffles	128 "For Your Eyes Only" singer	15 Breakfast cereal	48 The works	86 "Sans" opposite	117 Forensic facility
38 Prefix with tourism	129 Sheena	16 Much, informally	49 "Gnarly, dude!"	87 Test for solvers	118 World Cup chant
39 Back up		17 Big monkey	50 ___tac-toe	88 Keystone figure	121 Old conductance unit
41 Refer to		18 Snooze symbol	51 Swap	89 Big D hoopster	122 ID with two hyphens
44 Stop dithering		19 East end?	52 Kimono sash	91 Schedule component, and what the answers to the starred clues literally contain	
45 "Question in a famous balcony scene			53 Styles	92 Abu Dhabi ruler	
53 Emission from radioactive decay			54 Concert mementos	93 Goes bad	
54 Wrestling legend			55 Fave bud		
55 NYC film festival locale			56 "be darned!"		
56 Actor Epps			57 "Fargo" actor		
57 Ocelot, e.g.					
59 Harmon series					
60 ___O-Honey candy					
62 Bud					
63 "Mudbound" director Rees					
65 Bag-screening org.					
68 "Southeastern evergreen that sounds like a college					
73 "Tennessee Waltz" composer					
77 Run-down theaters					
78 Be a little shy?					
80 Admit defeat					
81 Fury					
82 Test run					
84 Fictional sleuth					
85 Well-known					
88 Device that may display awkward moments on the jumbotron					
90 Abalone eater					
94 "Queen Sugar" creator					
DuVernay					
95 "Leave this to me"					
99 Quick qualifier					

6/26/22

©2022 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Answers to last week's puzzle below.

## HOROSCOPE

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

**Happy Birthday | June 26:** You are a creative, intelligent, interesting conversationalist. You enjoy the company of others and like to be informed. You are hard-working and romantic. This year is slower paced. Your focus is mostly on relationships and partnerships. Look for relationships that benefit you. Take time for yourself.

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

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) Enjoy talking to neighbors, relatives, siblings and daily contacts, because this is an upbeat, friendly day. It's a perfect day for a short trip, and a great day to network. Writers, actors and salespeople also will flourish. (It's a wonderful day to write romantic fiction.)

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) Business and commerce are favored today. Look for ways to boost your income or get a better paying job. Work-related travel is also likely. However, you also might spend money on lovely exciting things.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) This is a feel-good day because the Moon is in your sign lined up with fair Venus and dancing with lucky Jupiter. (It doesn't get much better than this.) In particular, it's a lovely day for romance. Enjoy!

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) This is truly a marvelous day. (You have a warm feeling in your tummy.) Ironically, you will enjoy time alone, especially swinging in a hammock, or you will enjoy the company of others. It's your choice. Work done alone or behind the scenes will boost your reputation and good name.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) Enjoy warm friendships and schmoozing with others today, because people will be glad to see you. This is a great date day. It's also a wonderful day to enjoy the company of creative, artistic types. Make plans with someone to explore future travel or exciting ideas.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) It's a great day for a romantic get-together. You will impress someone.

Someone might want your advice about how to make something look better. (Something also might boost shared wealth today.)

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) This is a glorious day to travel or do anything out of the ordinary. If you can't travel, talk to people from other cultures. In fact, you might fall in love with someone or develop a crush on someone "different."

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) This is a good money day. It's an excellent time to discuss how to divide something, perhaps an inheritance or something to do with jointly held property. Whatever happens, you'll come out smelling like a rose.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Enjoy schmoozing with others today, because this is a romantic, friendly day. You will also like to meet members of the general public. Enjoy social outings, sports

events and fun times.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) This is a positive day at work. Co-workers will be supportive. Work-related travel will please you. Even if you have to work on behalf of someone else or perform a service, you will find it rewarding and satisfying.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) This is a fun-loving day. Enjoy playful activities with children, social outings, the entertainment world, the arts and fun diversions. Have a long lunch. Go for a picnic. Enjoy the company of your kids. There are so many options to please you today. Do something.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) Home and family will be a source of happiness. This is a lovely day to entertain at home. Invite the gang over for good food and drink. Likewise, today is favorable for real estate negotiations.

## Answers to last week's puzzle.

M	A	H	I	R	H	M	A	C	Y	S	O	P	A	B	E	S	T
A	S	A	N	B	O	O	H	O	A	B	U	T	A	L	T	A	
D	U	C	K	S	I	T	T	I	N	G	U	G	L	Y	A	S	S
I	S	I	S	F	A	N	C	Y	P	A	S	S	I	N	G		
I	F	E	A	R	I	T	D	M	I	E	N	P	I	E	T	Y	
D	A	N	C	I	N	G	B	R	E	A	K	E	V	E			
O	D	D	A	N	O	I	N	T	R	I	D	I	N	G	J	O	Y
L	E	A	P	R	O	N	E	B	E	N	D	S	R	E	B	A	
G	E	R	B	E	R	M	A	T	T	Y	M	E	T	A	L		
M	I	S	S	A	L	T	O	N	O	W	S	A	Y	S	M	E	
L	A	D	S	T	E	R	L	I	N	G	P	O	U	N	D	E	A
O	H	I	S	E	E	O	A	T	E	S	K	A	R	A	T	S	
H	A	D	E	S	C	U	R	L	Y	M	A	R	K	E	D		
A	L	I	T	R	A	N	G	E	L	A	N	A	I	D	E	N	S
N	O	T	H	I	N	G	D	O	K	E	L	V	I	N	D	I	A
R	A	E	L	I	S	T	I	N	G	S	T	O	C	K			
A	S	K	E	W	S	H	E	L	A	L	E	T	E	N	K	S	
S	H	A	V	I	N	G	P	O	I	N	T	E	A	S	E		
L	A	B	A	N	I	M	A	L	D	R	A	W	I	N	G	L	I
E	L	O	N	N	E	R	D	R	E	M	A	K	E	A	L	B	A
W	E	B	S	O	N	E	S	Y	E	A	G	E	R	S	L	A	T

6/19/22