

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Do wit right: Conservative humor

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1492, in response to a skeptical reader's challenge, the Empress asked for conservative-leaning humor — the first time we've run such a contest since 2004.

So could the mostly-libs turn the tables? By "conservative," the Empress didn't mean racist, hateful, truth-denying or stupid (though she did get such "jokes" among the 700-plus entries; sample of one with a demonstrably false premise: "What do you call two members of the Squad? Half a brain").

4th place: Q. What is the main problem with the Democrat Party? A. Its left hand doesn't know what its far-left hand is doing. (Steve Honley, Washington)

3rd place: Q. What's the difference between Trump and Biden? A. Joe's managing to bring us together — soon nobody will approve of how he's doing. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif)

2nd place and the boxing-Trump pen: Q. What do Democrats call a bunch of losers? A. "Persons temporarily experiencing defeat." (Ira Allen, Bethesda)

And the winner of the Clowning Achievement: Q. How do you spot a liberal wearing cowboy boots? A. He's holding a trick-or-treat bag. (Leif Picoult, Rockville)

Lefty losey: Honorable mentions How does a liberal clean his gun? He empties out the water. (Leif Picoult)

How can you tell a liberal customer at Starbucks? They ask for a cappuccinx. (Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore)

How do you know when your school's PTA is too liberal? There are signs to "Defund Crossing Guards." (Dan Helming, Whitmarsh, Pa.)

How is Sen. Cory Booker like an Upton's Finest? They're both vegan hotdogs. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

How does a liberal prove she's not a racist? By calling someone else a racist. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

Knock, knock. Who's there? Martin Luther King. Martin Luther King who? You don't know who Martin Luther King is? You're canceled! (Frank Mann, Washington)

What's the difference between a conservative and a liberal? A conservative says "NASCAR!" A liberal says "Nasty cars!" (Karen Lambert, Chevy Chase)

Why do liberals love toothy British smiles? Nobody expects them to be straight and white. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Why shouldn't you label leftists "fragile"? Because it may trigger them. (Jeff Contompassis, Ashburn)

Why were the liberal's shoes too tight? He was trying to reduce his carbon footprint. (Karen Lambert)

How do Dianne Feinstein and Patrick Leahy try to persuade their Senate colleagues? "As a participant in the original Constitutional Convention, I can assure you ..."

What would you call Sen. Dianne Feinstein going out with Sen. Bernie Sanders? Robbing the cradle. (Chuck Smith, Woodbridge)

What's the difference between Biden and Trump? Trump knows better than to ride a bicycle. (Frank Osen)



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Week 1496: Same Difference — compare two items on this list

The difference between being back at the office and the recurring exam dream: At the office, it's way easier to get back to sleep.

A flushable wipe is like the LIV golf tour: Hold your nose all you want, but you can't get rid of the residue and stench.

- The recurring exam dream • Borscht • A terrible SNL sketch • Cat hair • A magnetometer • 8 percent inflation • A flushable wipe • A romance novel • Being back at the office • Elon Musk • A banned book • Six Supreme Court justices • A hypersonic missile • Old Bay • A worn-out toothbrush • The LIV golf tour • A period-tracking app • A Style Invitational second prize

The Style Invitational is, of course, beyond compare, but we're confident that the items above are not. It's one of our most enduring contests: Tell us humorously how any two (or more) items on the list above are alike or different, or linked in some other way, as in the examples above; the items were chosen willy-nilly from among hundreds of suggestions that the Empress sought from the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook.

Winner gets the Clowning Achievement, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a brand-new set of 20 assorted Face Coasters, which are nice absorbent squares that each have (a) a photo of someone else's mouth in one expression or other; and (b) a cut-out spot so you can hang it from your nose, over your personal yap. Donated by Loser Steve Smith.



Just put on a [?] face: Michele Uhler wears Face Coaster at the Losers' Flushies awards picnic.

The headline "Do Wit Right" is by Chris Doyle; Chris and Jon Gearhart both submitted 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.

The Style Conversational: The Empress's weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. See this week's at wapo.st/conw1496.

What's the only branch of the military a leftist would want to join? The U.S. Safe-Space Force. (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

Did you hear Nancy Pelosi and Chuck Schumer's idea for turning out the youth vote? They'll send everyone voice-mail messages encouraging kids to mail in letters while they listen to the radio and wait for Joe Biden's whistle-stop train tour. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

A. Biden. Q. Who is the only Hunter the left doesn't go after? (Gordon Cobb, Marietta, Ga.)

How do you know the California Forty-Niners were liberals? They used the proper pronouns referring to "gold in them/their hills." (Bill Cromwell, Keswick, Va.)

What's the difference between Republicans and the Washington Commanders? D.C. only has about 50 of each, but at least the Republicans work toward a strong defense. (Jesse Rifkin, Arlington)

How many Democrats does it take to change a lightbulb? Don't we need a permit for that? (Diana Oertel, San Francisco)

What one-piece garments do liberal dancers wear at rehearsal? Leo-special-needs. (Kevin Dopart)

What's the difference between conservatives and liberals? Conservatives want to eliminate taxes; liberals want to eliminate Texas. (Karen Lambert)

Where do nouveau-riche liberals live? In McPersonsons. (Kevin Dopart)

How can you tell someone from Texas is a liberal? Because they're from Texas." (Donald Norum, Charlottesville)

How do you spot a liberal Facebook user? He posts a proactive apology for all of the ignorance he currently manifests but won't be aware of until 2035. (Leif Picoult)

Why did the liberal refuse to go to the Amnesty International gala? She didn't want to be seen carrying the same New Yorker tote bag as someone else. (Karen Lambert)

What did the liberal restaurant owner do when his dishwasher was busted? Hired an immigration lawyer. (Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.)

What do you call a liberal at a gun range? A reporter. (Chris Doyle)

What's the difference between a gallstone and a Biden initiative? A gallstone's journey is also excruciatingly painful, but it eventually passes. (Frank Osen)

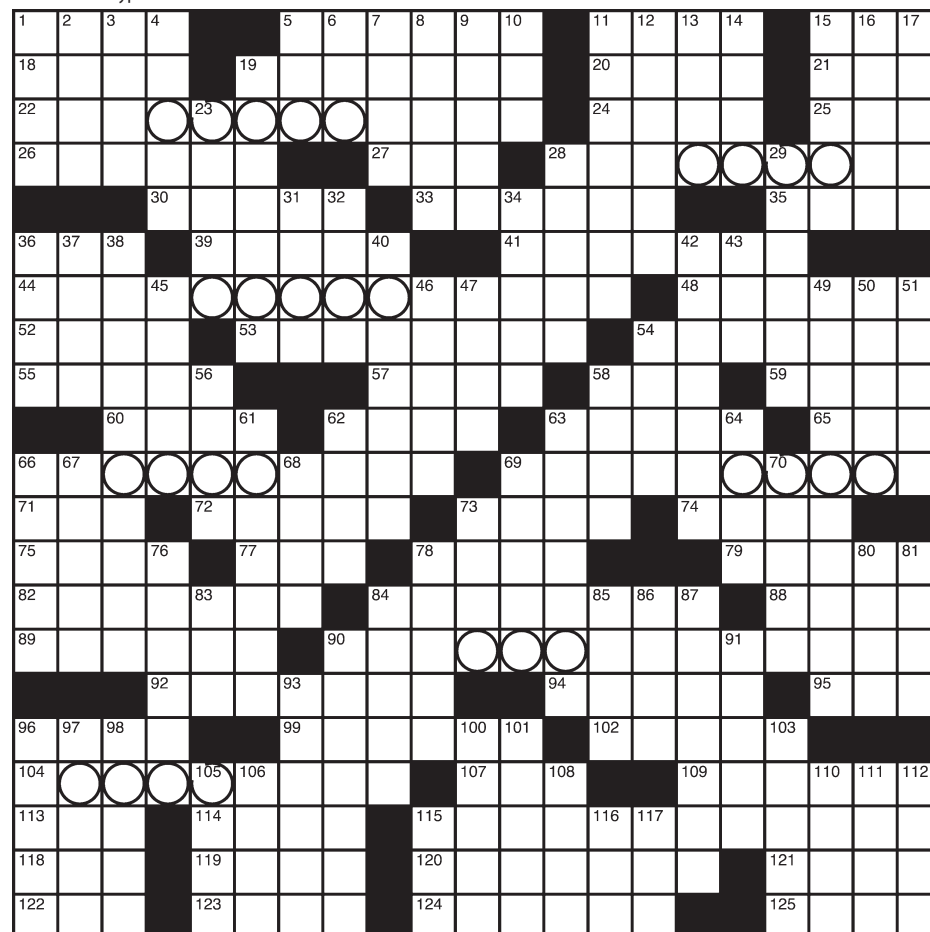
Q. Hey, longtime Washington Post reader, did you hear the one about Hunter Biden's laptop? A. Who's Hunter Biden? (Tom Witte)

And Last: What's the price of a liberal's soul? A refrigerator magnet, apparently. (Marty Gold, Arlington)

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

- "DIVINE INSPIRATION" BY AMIE WALKER & CHRISTINA IVERSON ACROSS 1 Money of Manila 5 Bronze finish? 11 Swindle 15 Shade tree 18 "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" writer/illustrator Carle 19 Tequila-based cocktails 20 [Sigh] 21 Nanny's bleat 22 "Daikon, for one 24 ___ beer 25 With 110-Down, geometric style 26 Bagel option 27 23andMe sample 28 "Pay attention!" 30 Substance 33 Collects little by little 35 [Sigh] 36 Braz. neighbor 39 Old Testament prophet 41 New Orleans nickname, with "the" 44 "Protective sorts 48 Extinguishes 52 Red Muppet who refers to himself in the third person 53 Time to hustle? 54 Marketing jargon 55 Specifics, informally 57 "Dateline NBC" anchor Lester 58 Watchdog warning 59 "Watress" composer Borelles 60 Collaborative site 62 Ice cream purchase 63 Fibber's admission 65 Diner fave 66 "Meme featuring a cartoon dog sitting calmly in a room on fire 69 "Pre-anthem request 71 Chewie's shipmate 72 Posh digs 73 Faint 74 Grasps 75 Half of zwei 77 Singer Orbison 78 "Project Runway" fashion icon Tim 79 Asian gambling mecca 82 Swindles 84 Permanently, informally 88 Breathing organ 89 Saint of Ávila 90 "Roku service 92 "3.15.20" hip hop artist 94 ___ wool 95 Quaint contraction 96 Top spot 99 How detectives might act 102 Stiff "Me too" 104 "Hairstyle made famous by Jennifer Aniston 107 Evergreen tree 109 Talking head 113 Rotten 114 "Succession" cousin 115 Divine feminine energy, and what can be found in each of the answers to the starred clues 118 Singer Grandé's debut fragrance 119 Tomato type 120 Spotted Jackie Robinson Stadium sch. 122 SHO subsidiary 123 Maker of some Chromebooks 124 Like some experimental music 125 Skyrocket DOWN 1 Laser tag sounds 2 City halfway between Buffalo and Cleveland 3 Transgressions 4 Set of eight 5 Norm 6 Ga. neighbor 7 Mary ___ Lincoln 8 Chatting on Slack, for short 9 Stuffy-sounding 10 Fire proof? 11 Some beach wraps 12 Pick 13 Frantically 14 Like a crossword clue that refers to itself 15 "Inbox zero" hindrance 16 Cocoon creator 17 Partners 19 Like some cellphones 23 Correct, as text 28 First name in boxing 29 Simple buckets 31 Pad see ew cuisine 32 Attila and his colleagues 34 Critic whose final blog post ended, "I'll see you at the movies" 36 Kept underground, say 37 "No jumping on the couch," e.g. 38 Walk-off home run, e.g. 40 Word before learning or language 42 221B Baker Street, e.g. 43 Shipwreck signal 45 Indian flatbreads 46 Nary a soul 47 Hanukkah coins 49 Laura Hillenbrand book about a racehorse 50 Some "Bridgerton" characters 51 Do figure eights 54 Solo for a diva 56 Hits the slopes 58 ___ club 61 "You betcha!" 62 Feel sorry for 63 Malady 64 Judge to be 66 Robbery 67 Track and field great ___ Gebrselassie 68 Verizon bundle 69 Breadcrumbs choice 70 Domain 73 Free of contaminants 76 Folk legend Pete 78 Title character who is never onstage 80 Latin years 81 Brand of sheepskin boots 83 Farm-to-table endeavor, briefly 84 Big exam 85 Jazz great James 86 Board mtg. exec 87 Vanilla bean, e.g. 90 Salad dressing component 91 For all to hear 93 "Rent" song "La Vie ___" 96 Up, in baseball 97 Bracelet dangler 98 Combat doctor 100 Otherwise 101 ___ bean 103 River through Pakistan 105 Taj Mahal city 106 Gator kin 108 Bridle strap 110 See 25-Across 111 "Godmothered" actress Fisher 112 Ruler until 1917 115 Cookbook writer Garten 116 Early TV brand 117 Come together



7/10/22

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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

Happy Birthday | July 10: You appear confident and relatively tough on the outside, when, in fact, you're sensitive on the inside. Because of this, you'll work hard to establish security for yourself and loved ones. This is a year of exciting changes and a chance to explore more personal freedom. Travel will appeal to you.

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19) This is a happy day at home and with family members. Stock the fridge, because you might impulsively entertain friends and family. People are in an upbeat, interesting mood.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Today is fascinating because of new faces, new places and new ideas. A spontaneous short trip might occur. Stay light on your feet so you're ready to go in any direction.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) This is a classic day for impulse buying and sudden shopping sprees. Some will have clever, original moneymaking ideas. You also might see a new way to repair or take care of something that you own.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Today will be full of enlightening experiences. Your normal routine will change. You might encounter new adventures or put a new spin on how you see or do something. One thing is certain, it will be relatively easy to act freely.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You might feel restless, but this restless feeling will be exciting. You're ambitious to entertain others and have a good time. In particular, you might be more involved with children today. Enjoy today's adventurous, exciting energy.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Interactions with friends and groups will be stimulating and uplifting today. Someone might surprise you. Possibly, you will meet someone new and interesting. Get out and meet others, because this is a promising day for socializing.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Parents, bosses or someone in authority might surprise you. Fortunately, this surprise will probably be pleasant. It might be an invitation to go somewhere. It might be a word of praise. Whatever happens will trigger new avenues.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) A sudden chance to travel somewhere might fall in your lap. If so, this window of opportunity will be brief, so act quickly. Or perhaps some of you will meet someone who is unusual or different, probably from another country or a different culture.

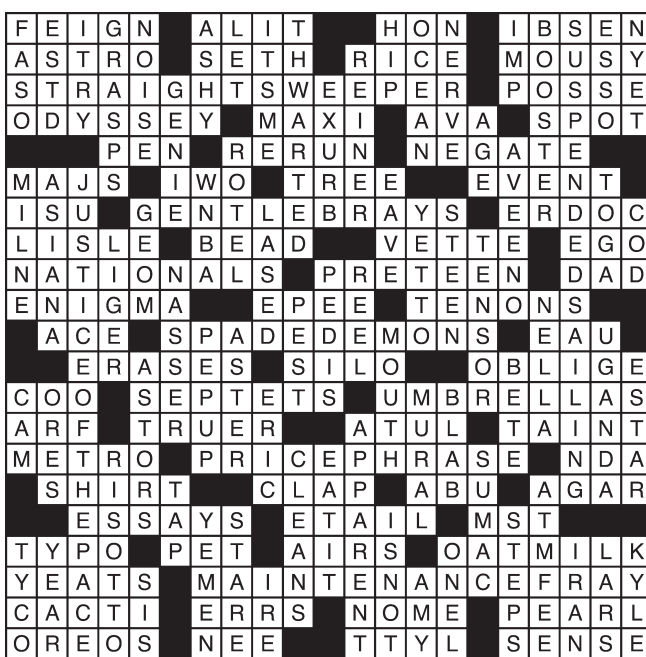
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Double-check banking details and anything to do with shared property or shared responsibilities, because something might change suddenly. It's a positive change; nevertheless, you need to stay informed and current about what's happening.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Someone close to you might throw a curveball your way. The placement of fiery Mars right now supports you and, indeed, encourages social interactions, competition with physical sports and playful adventure.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You want the freedom to do exactly what you want. Fortunately, you will get this opportunity. Most likely it will relate to your job or a task that you set for yourself or, possibly, something related to a pet.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Fun invitations might come your way. Act quickly if you're interested. Social plans, sports events, playful activities with kids and a romantic rendezvous are all unexpected delights. Nevertheless, parents should be vigilant to make sure their kids are safe.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



7/3/22