DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Bardy har har: Misused-word poems

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1498 we asked for poems in which a word is used with a meaning it doesn't really have - like "literary" describing someone who litters. In some poems below, the word works both with the faux meaning and the real one, like "flagellate" to hit with a flag.

4th place:

Betsy Ross, when she sewed those few yards, Never dreamed it would be in the cards That her stripes and bright stars Would be used to give scars And to flagellate Capitol guards. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

3rd place:

Hadn't seen or heard from my daughter dear, Nor on social media, for nearly a year, So her post of a baby sure hit with a bam -Just like that, voilà! I'm an instagram! (Jeff Rackow, Bethesda)

2nd place and the desktop woodpecker toy:

At cursing, I'm not slow, I answer to the call: Six languages I know -I'm effluent in all! (Mark Raffman, Reston)

And the winner of the **Clowning Achievement:**

Just think: If at our nation's birth The views of QAnon abounded, We'd have to teach our children how Our country was dumbfounded. (Bob Kruger, Rockville)

English muffin': Honorable mentions

I caught a whiff of peppermint Or was it wintergreen? Coming from the piggy bank I gave my daughter Jean. "What are Altoids doing here Inside your piggy, honey?' "Don't you see," she grinned and said, "I'm minting my own money."

(Fran Ludman, Baltimore)

Queer animals? What a surprise! Who knew how a bird or beast



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BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1502: It's Hi- time for Limerixicon XIX

My doorman will never say HI. He won't even look in my eve. Why's he wishing me dead? Was it something I said? (Hm, my anti-tip stance could be why ...)

As we have every August since 2004, when his life's work was a wee little dictionary-baby, we check in once again with limerick impresario Chris Strolin and his quest to create a full English dictionary with every entry in limerick form, one letter at a time. With more than 115,000 five-liners, from thousands of writers, approved for inclusion, Chris currently estimates the finish date for OEDILF.com at Nov. 3, 2063 (a couple of years from last year's projection). And for the third year running, our 19th sliver of the dictionary is still in the H's. This week: Supply a humorous, previously unpublished limerick significantly featuring any word, name or term beginning with "hi-," as in the example above by Our Bob Staake, who's been taking it upon himself to contribute the zamples these days. By "significantly," we mean that "him" or "his" won't count as the word unless your limerick focused on that word — if it were about gender, say, or using pronouns.

Please see our guide "Get Your 'Rick Rolling" at wapo.st/ limericks1502 for our fairly strict rules on limerick rhyme and meter (in a nutshell: "perfect" rhyme, and a strong "hickory-dickory-dock" rhythm within Lines 1, 2 and 5; a "dickory-dock" in Lines 3 and 4; extra unaccented syllables on either side are fine). Read the example above out loud, with big accents on the accented syllables, and you'll see what we mean. See OEDILF.com about submitting limericks there, if you like, after this contest is over.

Submit up to 25 entries at *wapo.st/enter-invite-1502* (no capitals in the web address). Deadline is Monday, Aug. 29; results appear Sept. 18 in print, Sept. 15 online.



Winner gets the Clowning Achievement, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives the handsome new book "The Museum of Bad Art: Masterworks," which

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

yearns? But musing I soon realize I don't know just how one discerns If birds on the beach are two guys Or hetero mating cisterns. (Terri Berg Smith, Rockville)

The bride-to-be, distraught and sad, Lamenting her father's estrangement, To walk the aisle, put out an ad, To seek a pa-rental arrangement. (Mark Raffman)

Cucumbers crunchy, celery munchy, Pass the asparagus, carrots and peas! I'm not that cool with the kids at my school, But I think it's rad-ish to eat what you please. (Sarah Walsh, Rockville)

The puppy ate my Visa bill Before I'd read a word. Consequently, I can't say What charges were incurred. (John Glenn, Tyler, Tex.)

In selecting the hit man to whack Jimmy Hoffa, The Mafia don chose his very best offer. (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

I know a guy from Baltimore Who throws his trash right on the floor.

When driving, either near or far, He chucks his empties from the car.

It's very plain to see: this man Has no use for a garbage can. He's messy, selfish, thoughtless, rude;

He's quite a literary dude! (Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

Here's a novel production I've planned: "Mr. Ed" on the stage! Could be grand! But we'll need a good start, So the star learns his part, Or this horseplay could get out of hand. (Mark Raffman)

They'd munched the Tree of Knowledge food, Said Eve and Adam, "Whoa, we're nude!" They gave their loins discreet figleafing -The very first to get a briefing. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

ROM THE COVER OF "THE MUSEUM OF BAD ART" own World's Worst Painting.)

"Mana Lisa," from this week's second prize.

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 treeshaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/inviteFAQ. The headline "Bardy Har Har" is by Jesse Frankovich; 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.

Description The Style Conversational: The Empress's weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. See this week's at wapo.st/conv1502.

I still can recall how I shuddered and shivered As they asked me, "Delivered?" when I placed my call. I answered "Of course I want pizza delivered -But why would you put liver on it at all?" (Marcus Bales, Cleveland)

Captain thought the coast was clear First mate thought the same When the torpedo hit the ship Subconscious they became. (Tom Rymsza, Chambersburg, Pa., a First Offender)

When you don't know if someone's "hello" was for you There's a widely used trick that can save You both from embarrassment; barely respond With an easily missed microwave. (Coleman Glenn, Huntingdon Valley, Pa.)

All men, as they age, amass midsection fat (A beer belly, to be less formal). You won't catch me crunching to sculpt my obliques: I'm happy just being abnormal. (Bob Kruger)

Can it save precious space? Yes, it's able But your meals might be slightly unstable When it comes time to sup

Just hold on to your cup While I pump up your new InflaTable. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

The Chinese leader's book of quotes Is, unlike Mao's, not red. Instead, it's titled cleverly; It reads: "That's What Xi Said." (Kevin Ahern, Corvallis, Ore.)

Oh, my meat-loving dad liked to curse. And at dinner it sometimes got worse. When raw veggies were served I have often observed That the crudites flew in free verse. (Roy Ashley, Washington)

If your tailor fights change It will mean aggravations When you come for a fitting You'll get altercations. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

I hear there's a new Galaxy phone: They claim it ranks a 10. But I just saw it and I'm afraid It's the Samsung all over again. (Kevin Ahern)

More honorable mentions at wapo.st/invite1502. Still running — deadline Monday night, Aug. 22: Our contest for unhelpful "acts of kindness. See wapo.st/ invite1501.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Today is a day for you to work hard

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

and party hard. But mostly you want to party, at least in a low-key way. Do be aware that confusion about your pet, your job or your health might be a factor. Therefore, don't believe everything you hear or see. Check it out.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You will enjoy relaxing at home.

However, romantic relationships are subject to confusion and disappointment. Be careful that this confusion doesn't blur something financial or related to something that you own. Be aware.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) The Moon is still in your sign at odds with Neptune and dancing nicely with the Sun. Basically, this makes everything fine and secure. Nevertheless, discussions with authority figures might be like two ships passing in the night. Be clear in your communications.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You might spend time daydreaming or being lost in flights of fantasy, which is quite all right. We all need to do this from time to time. Nevertheless, don't be so distracted that things that matter are ignored or missed. Something going on behind the scenes is a bit fuzzy.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) This is a lovely day to schmooze. Having said that, do be wary of decisions about money, finances and your possessions. Make sure everything is clearly understood. Make sure you're not expected to pick up the tab - as usual.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Conversations with partners and close friends are confusing. Factoid. Meanwhile, you are highviz, so people notice you more than usual. If you think there's something fishy going on, there is.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Happy Birthday | Aug. 21: You are intelligent, independent and creative. You have strong moral values and high

expectations for yourself. You are fun-loving, skilled and talented. This is a strong year for you because you will get

recognition that you deserve for past efforts. Expect awards, a promotion, kudos and acknowledgments. Bravo.

You might be dealing with secrets and hidden information because something is going on behind the scenes. Relations with friends and groups will be positive and reinforcing. However, something to do with your work, a pet or your health might be confusing. Be aware of this.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) The expectations of a friend or a

group might not be clear to you. Well, if this is the case, speak up. Find out what others expect of you. Don't leave people guessing. Likewise, make sure they know what you mean.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Go gently. Travel if you can. See new people and explore new ideas. However, be aware that partners and close friends might not be on the same page as you. Make no

Answers to last week's puzzle.

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assumptions.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) This is a classic day for confused communications, especially because of an assumption that people make. "But he always takes that route." This is minor. Mostly this is a day to relax.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Be extra clear in discussions about responsibilities for others as well as shared property, shared money and shared expenses. Put your cards on the table.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Today you can work efficiently and get a lot done. Nevertheless, conversations with partners and close friends might be confusing. Do not assume that someone is trying to be deceptive. Chalk it up to a miscommunication.

8/14/22

