DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Jest of drawers: Top cartoon captions

BY PAT MYERS

Week 1499 provided yet another opportunity to attach ridiculous captions to even ridiculouser Bob Staake cartoons. Among the 1,300 entries the Empress waded through, dozens mentioned "bear necessities" for Picture 2, and many others told Yogi or Smokey that he wasn't in "a bear market."



CARTOONS BY BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

4th place:

\Omega "What do you mean you 'overhibernated'? Now get to work!" (Michael Stein, Arlington)



3rd place:

6 "And how would you like us to arrange your flight: overbooked or canceled?" (Sam Mertens, Silver Spring)



2nd place and the Lactation Cookie Bites: **O** "Mom, if I have to run down here every time your screen freezes, I'm going to flunk gym class." (Allan Zackowitz, Brookeville, Md.)



And the winner of the Clowning Achievement: Well, he did ask if he could take our order." (Carol Lasky, Boston)

Still running — deadline Monday night, Aug. 29: Our contest for limericks featuring a word or name beginning with "hi-." See wapo.st/ invite1502.

SKETCHY: Honorable mentions

PICTURE 2 (BEAR):

"Even if you're smarter than the average bear, it's pretty dumb to forget your wallet." (Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore)

"Ryan, how many times have I told you that your mascot costume scares the customers!' (Jeff Lubbers, Takoma Park)

"For the last time, buddy, you're gonna hafta use Cottonelle!" (Terri Berg Smith, Rockville; Lani Jacobson, Herndon)

"It's in the back and on the right ... but I thought you guys went in the woods ..." (Mark Raffman, Reston)

"Can't you read? This lane is for shoppers with FIVE items!" (Cheryl Gracey, Winchester, Va., a First Offender; Steve Smith, Potomac)

PICTURE 1 (TRAVEL AGENT):

"Perhaps you meant to say 'a ticket to Pittsburgh,' Reverend Spooner." (Jonathan

"I'm sorry, but Viking Cruises does not offer a 'steerage' option." (Jonathan Jensen)

"Ah, yes, the Perth Amboy poster. Let's just say, the Northern New Jersey Tourism Council made me an offer I couldn't refuse." (Mark

"Actually, Mr. Greenblatt, I don't think shoving money up your nose is the best way to avoid pickpockets." (Ward Foeller, Charlottesville)

"I'm afraid that given the dimensions of your nose, you'll also have to reserve the seat in front of you." (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

"For people who've already turned green, Perth Amboy might be lovely!" (Dan Helming, Whitemarsh, Pa.)

"Yes, I'm sure the nose-plug filters are efficient, but they still want you to wear a mask." (Daniel Jarrell, Alexandria, a First Offender)

"Why, yes, we do offer time travel back to when offices had no computer screens." (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

"Honestly, I don't know how the rest of my head stays attached, either." (Richard Franklin,

"You've seen London? You've seen France? Then I'm afraid the 'Netherlands' are off-limits to you, sir." (Stephen Dudzik, Olney)

PICTURE 3 (COMPUTER):

"I sent the file labeled 'Fake Electors' to the 'Electors' folder, and the 'Fake Fake Electors' to the 'Really Fake Electors' file, but then it all got a little confused ..." (Lynne Larkin, Vero Beach, Fla.)

"All I did was ask about your enhanced proxylayered security protocols and you look at me like I've got two heads." (Jonathan Jensen)

"So basically, in Windows 11, you can do all of the same things but they're all located in different places. No, I don't know why, either." (Maier Schreiber, Jerusalem, a First Offender) "Whose password is thisplacesucks123?"

(Carol Lasky) "Done. Now he'll be a panda on his next Zoom call." (Robert Welch, Atlanta, a First Offender) "See? Every time I click, the desk gets a little

PICTURE 4 (RESTAURANT):

shorter." (Chris Parkin, Silver Spring)

"Will you make me the happiest man in the world and pick up the check?" (Gary Crockett, Chevu Chase)

"The owner is really named Chester, but he thought it sounded classier in French." (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

"I thought you said you loved cats!" (Lynne

"I hear it's impolite to call a French waiter 'garçon.' The preferred term is 'skippy.' " (Leif Picoult, Rockville)

How did I know what "couilles de mouton" were? (Pia Palamidessi, Cumberland, Md.) "Just because I voted to strip away your bodily

autonomy doesn't mean we can't make this work!" (Donald Norum, Charlottesville) "Maybe I shouldn't ask this on a first date, but

has anyone ever told you you have a nose like a heron's beak and your legs are two different colors?" (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village) "Don't let on that I'm The Post's ood-fay itic-

cray!" (Gary Crockett) Emma later told Date Lab she appreciated

James's "well-groomed nostrils." (Steve Smith)

More honorable mentions in the online Invite at wapo.st/invite1503.

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

"GAME FOR 78 German-made punctuation 121 The blahs ANYTHING" BY camper 81 Seat in un parc 82 Kilt fold GARY LARSON & AMY ENSZ 122 Gutter spot 84 River through 123 Dublin's land **ACROSS** 124 Again 125 Departed 126 Spud growth 127 Allied flyers 85 Much loved 1 Airplane_ Bridal veil trim cellphone setting 9 Dutch semisof competitions for 13 Spanish "this" DOWN 17 Windows 1 Tight-lipped 96 Baseball competitions Till bill alternative 18 Group activity at a Jewish 3 Appetite for collectors of compact cars? 101 Donkey's bray suppressant 4 Uncredited wedding 102 Parka sleeve actor FedEx, say 19 Corporate 103 Ex-Dodger symbols __ Star State Crafts partner 21 Fireplace outlets Hershise 41 Former quarterback 22 Track 105 Nurse "Pshaw! Manning competitions for Spritelike 106 Emma's "Beauty 43 Persian Gulf nudists? 25 Visual puzzle and the Beast 10 Bratz toy emirate Get old 26 Figures of 108 Some facial 12 Longtime stage surgeries 110 Sky light? name of Yasiin 27 Nada 28 Fragile 111 At work 114 Foreword, for 13 Conductor in a 30 Asian archipelago 32 Cub's home

14 Crosstrek short 115 Boxing automaker 33 Soccer great nicknamed "O competitions for comedians?

competitions for grounds 42 Football competitions

employees? _-mo replay 46 "Star Trek" role

New Age singe 60 Secret drawer full of snacks,

Actor Kaplan o MLB manager Kapler

67 No-holds-barred competitions for mixed martial artists?

states: Abbr. 74 And others,

76 Purina rival

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

Relaxed pace 35 Oscar winner 36 View sharer

for Takei and "The Lion King"

Support 57 One who spins yarns? 59 Irish-speaking

62 Fair-hiring org.

72 __lime pie 73 Old geopolitical

briefly 75 Goes up and 20 Bookcase part21 Workwk. end for

for Pepperidge

48 Lift 51 The Gem State

66 Lifesaving skill, for short

24 Año start 29 Some jeans

30 Binges 31 Six-time MLB All-Star Moisés 32 Pioneering

cardiovascular surgeon 33 Theorize Lifts 38 "Out of Africa" novelist Dinesen 39 Org. with Ducks 40 Coagulate

44 "Eh, either is 49 Jason of "Forgetting Sarah Marshall' 50 Airport shuttle 52 Dried chili

80 Weighty Works 83 Carol 86 Charlotte-to-

65 Historic British 98 Get cozy 99 Yeshiva leader prep school 67 116-Down card 100 Joyous way to 105 "Calvin and 69 Lyft driver's guess 70 Were strongly 107 Upper regions 71 Ride a bike 109 Actor Hamm 110 Wow

54 Rowboat set 56 Makes a request

ploy "You think I'm

58 Without delay

60 Base runner's

kidding?'

64 San Francisco

and environs

62 Follow

61

77 Well-suited London street 111 Body wash name? 79 Finely chopped

& Body contraction

112 Central church section 113 Members' payments 116 Game with an edition for colorblind Raleigh dir.

117 Fixed payment 118 Historical period 119 Slo-mo reviewe

90 Salinger heroine92 Staff note

herbivore

95 Beetle, briefly

96 Santa __: West

pier 97 Patch type

break out

Hobbes" girl

Coast city known for its

94 African

88 __psychology 89 PC key below 15 Ancient German pepper 53 Really pushes 16 Portfolio listings

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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

consider a makeover.

Happy Birthday | Aug. 28: You're kind, generous and compassionate. You are also very alert and precise — you miss nothing. You are playful, young at heart and have excellent comedic timing. This year is about service to others, especially to your family. Because of this, it's important for you to take care of yourself. You might even

Moon Alert: There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions today until 11

ARIES (March 21-April 19) This is a tricky day, because you're full of practical ideas. However, when you try to do something, it's as if someone took the wind out of your sails. Don't worry, because it's a better day for thinking and planning than doing.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) This is an invigorating day because there is much planetary support for Earth signs. Nevertheless, if entertaining at home or trying redecorating projects, you might be stymied by authority figures, regulations or uncooperative people.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You have a lot of energy because Mars is in your sign. You will use this energy to make improvements at home or to improve a family relationship. This is a good day for planning and getting your ducks in a row. Wait until next week to act.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) This is an excellent day for planning and generating ideas. However, when it comes to actually getting things started in the real, practical world, you will meet with obstacles. Therefore, go with what works. Make plans.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Financial matters are a concern. It's also a good time to buy wardrobe goodies. A parent or boss might have a surprising suggestion that could impact your earnings. Don't be discouraged if someone close to you dismisses these ideas.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) This is the perfect time to make resolutions or plans about how you want to improve your life, a situation around you or how you do things. Take some time to come up with some ideas.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Even though things are going on behind the scenes, this is a good "idea day" to communicate your thoughts and hopes for the future with others. People will be receptive and interested to hear what you have to say.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) There's a lot of friendly, social energy in the air, and people are interested to discuss plans. Family elders or bosses might not get on board. Hey, don't worry. Consider your options.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Discussions about purchases, work and pets, especially with bosses or parents, will go well. However, travel plans might not get off the ground. Just go with what works today. Write down your ideas.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Travel and ideas about publishing, medicine, higher education and legal matters will interest you. This could lead to a social outing or something to do with your kids. Unfortunately, the financial backing you hoped for might not be there.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You're full of innovative thoughts about future possibilities, especially related to the financial cost of doing something that you want to do. Can you pull it off? Partners might not agree.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) This is a strong day to share ideas, gossip and the latest news. Because the Sun and the Moon are opposite your sign, you will attract opinionated people. Be agreeable and listen to what they have to say. But wait until next week to take

New for Week 1503: Sing of your supper — food parodies

Along with the recurring song contests that focus on the news, the Empress likes to toss in a few that don't necessarily play off the headlines (though they're welcome to!). In the past we've done songs on the general themes of animals and work; this year, at the suggestion of both Marcus Bales and, more recently, Mark Raffman: Write a humorous song on the subject of food — growing it, cooking with it, eating it, whatever — set to a well-known tune or your original tune (for that, of course, you'd need to make a recording). Videos are an increasingly popular option in our song contests we've had some fabulous "video ink" in recent years — but lyrics are still the main thing, and parodies that run in our print edition must be set to very familiar tunes. See this week's Style Conversational column for more guidance on doing songs for the

Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1503 (no capitals in the web address). We give you an extra week for songs: Deadline is Monday, Sept. 12; results appear Sept. 25 in print, Sept. 22 online.

Invite.

Winner gets the Clowning Achievement, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives, apropos of this contest, an Invite Gourmet Variety Pack consisting of souvenir bags of chocolates labeled Canadian Beaver Poop (donated by

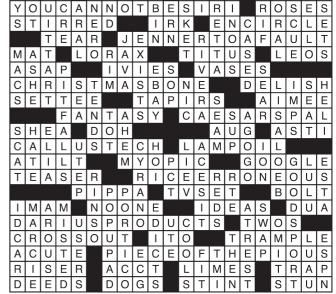
Jonathan Hardis during our Niagara Falls Loserfest trip), Ohio Cow Poop and Cincinnati Pig **Poop** (both given to us long ago by Duncan Stevens) as well as a tin of Alien Poop Mints from Elden Carnahan.

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 "Jest of Drawers" was submitted by both Jon Gearhart and Chris Doyle; Barbara Turner and Jeff Contompasis both sent in 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/ conv1503.

Answers to last week's puzzle.

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action.

8/21/22