

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

The kitchen sing: Parodies about food

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1503 we asked for songs about food — growing it, buying it, cooking it, eating it. And wouldn't you know, the Loser Community had to add digesting it — and egesting it. The lyrics printed here are just a few of this week's instant classic parodies and videos — especially Marty Gold, kids and dog turning "YMCA" into "Chinese Buffet." See wapo.st/invite1507.

4th place:

To "Downtown": What brings me joy when life is really annoying? I can always throw

Ketchup! All of my crudeness just brings out my dudeness when I make it flow. Ketchup! There's nothing else that I can do that's quite as satisfying As flinging out my arm and making condiments go flying. Such a big thrill! I like to throw different kinds. Get me a jar of Del Monte, a bottle of Heinz. I throw ketchup when I am feeling cross! Ketchup! This is my favorite sauce. Ketchup! Makes me feel like a boss now. (Barbara Sarshik, Vienna, Va.)

3rd place:

To "Yesterday" Yesterday, how I pigged out at the free buffet Now the nausea won't go away I should have dined home yesterday. Sirlain steak, Then the double-chocolate layer cake Topped with ice cream, was a big mistake Will I survive this stomachache? And the apple pie, my oh my, it was delish! But now I could die, don't know why — maybe the knish? Saturday, Hope my diarrhea goes away There's a wedding up in Rockaway I hear they have a great buffet. (Rob Cohen, Potomac)

2nd place and the souvenir bags of chocolate 'poop':

To "Eye of the Tiger" Fifty-plus, hardly petite, Out of sorts, constipated. Now I know I have to watch what I eat, For a chance just to reach sixty-five. So I'll add, at every repast, Something raw and organic, And I pray the Lord will let it work fast, 'Cause I need that relief to arrive ... It's a high-fiber diet that will loosen what's tight, Clear me out! (Else I fear for my survival). Unmilled bran? Yeah, I'll try it! And I'll savor each bite, 'Cause I'm changing my life with a high-fiber diet! (Mark Raffman, Reston)

And the winner of the Clowning Achievement:

To "Wouldn't It Be Nice": Pumpkin-flavored spice in your espresso, Nutmeg, ginger, cloves there, in your mug. "Just what you were wanting!" Um, I guess so; Not the kind of blend I've really dug. Do you maybe find it disconcerting? Autumn means your loins you'd best be girding: Pumpkin-flavored spice in Belgian waffle, Pumpkin-flavored spice potato chips, Pumpkin-flavored burgers — that's just awful! Pumpkin-flavored Spam? Not on my lips! You know, I think I'm now prepared for winter; Six feet deep I'd like this blend to enter. That too-pervasive spice! (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

Cordon Blah: Honorable mentions

To "If I Only Had a Brain" ("sung" by Count Dracula) I could while away an hour And happily devour A magnum of champagne; Better yet (and delicious!) Would be blood (it's quite nutritious!), If I only had a vein. I would love to taste your



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1507: State slogans all over the map

- MINNESOTA: We Must Insist On Politeness! (Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania)
IDAHO: We Now Make KETO-Organic Potatoes! (Wyo., Neb., Mo., Ky., Ohio, Pa.)
CALIFORNIA: A Noxious, Overbearing World Infested With Narcissists (Ariz., Nev., Ore., Wash., Idaho, Wyo., Neb.)

The idea for this contest, Bob Staake told the Empress, came to him, fully formed, in a dream. Which makes it even more abundantly clear, far beyond his cartoons, that Bob is in his own Bobworld. It's a little complicated to explain, but we think it'll be fun to do. Bear with us here. This week: 1. Choose one of the contiguous 48 U.S. states or D.C. Then write a funny slogan for that state by "traveling a route" from that state into several others. Use the first letters of the states in your route as the first letters of the words in your slogan, as in Bob's examples above. (You may either use or skip the state you're writing about.) 2. The route has to be an unbroken line, but it can twist and turn in every direction, and can cross the same state more than once. 3. You may add "a," "an," "the," "and" and "or" anywhere in your slogan even if it doesn't refer to the state you're going through.

Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1507 (no capitals in the web address). Deadline is Monday night, Oct. 3; results appear Oct. 23 in print, Oct. 20 online.

Winner gets the Clowning Achievement, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a genuine whoopee cushion, that venerable, ever-so-droll idiom aid that emits a "braaap!" fart noise when it's sat on. Nanoseconds of hilarity ensue! Donated by Dave Prevar.

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 "The Kitchen Sing" is by Chris Doyle; William Kennard wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev; follow Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at bit.ly/inkofday; 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 wapo.st/conv1507.

plasma; (Might even help my asthma!); I know it sounds insane; Have a heart! Did I mention That my thirst I could be quenched, If I only had a vein.

Oh, I can't tell you why It's blood that I adore; After biting, when my collar's stained with gore, I spray with Shout! (That's what it's for!) Though my pointy teeth may pain ya, We'll fly to Transylvania — I'm sure they have a plane; We'd be sitting by the campfire — You would get to be a vampire, If I only had a vein! (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

To "More Than a Feeling" I build up the fire, the light was gone Break off some chocolate to melt my way I might lose my marshmallow in the lawn I close my eyes and it slips away! ... This s'more that I'm eating (s'more that I'm eating) When I sear it just like a warm souffle (s'more that I'm eating) It begins heating (this s'more that I'm eating) Hope my marshmallow turns out okay I see my marshmallow turning to gray .... (Sarah Walsh, Rockville; see the full song and video online)

Two to "Supercalifragi ..." Because we were afraid to eat a fish that sounded bad, PR types gave its name a tweak — which soon became a fad. Now toothfish, slimehead, yelloweye and witch are swallowed whole As "sea bass," "roughy," "snapper," and of course the

"Torbay sole." Yes super-clever marketers can make things seem less crummy — Still, there is a limit to the stuff that we'll find yummy. Listen, spin docs: Quit rebranding pols who've acted scummy! They're the kind of bottom-feeders who upset the tummy. (Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

Super smart refrigerator, what an innovation! Tells you how much food you have and dates of expiration If it can do one more thing, it gets my admiration: Super fridge if you're so smart, please cook — I'm on vacation! (Hildy Zampella, Vienna, Va.)

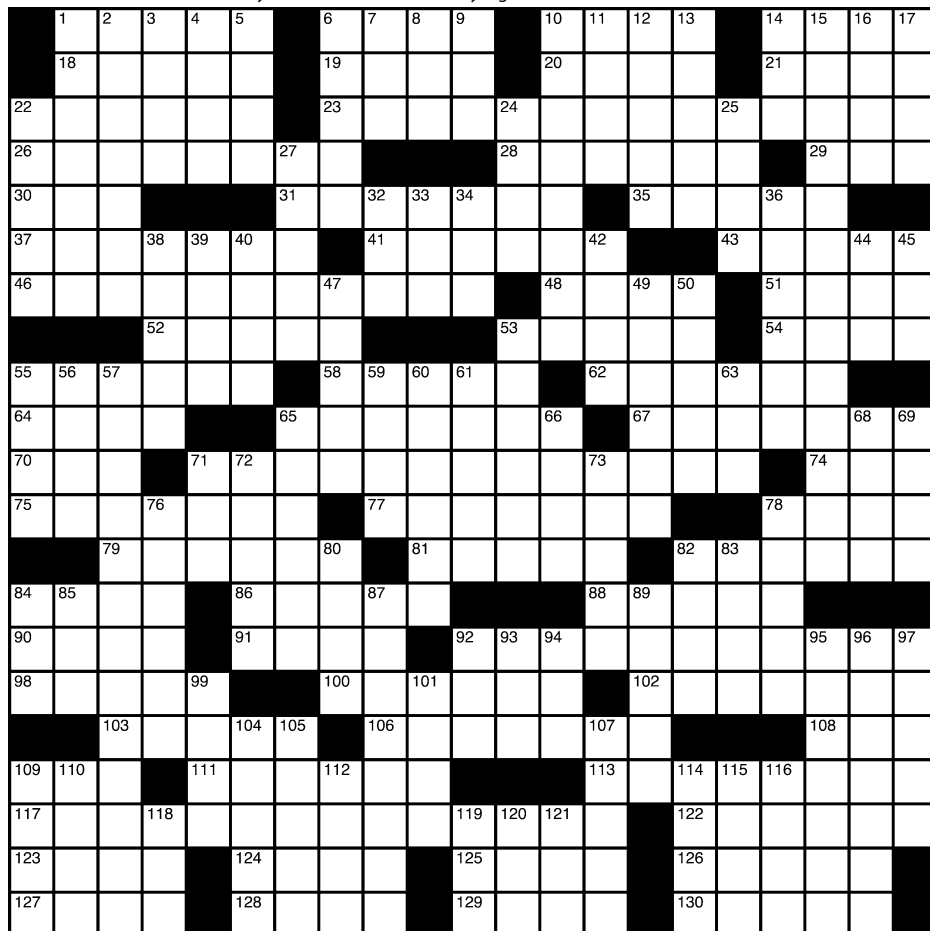
To "My Favorite Things" Passion fruit smoothie with Brussels sprout topper, Food that can never taste good as a Whopper, Bean sprouts and quinoa, we're so out of touch; These are the things that we don't like so much. Cucumber-melon does not go together; We need more substance to get through this weather. Shiitake tacos taste just like they sound, I guess we're forever resigned to be round. When my spouse cooks with no cookbook, We'll be eating in, We simply keep eating our favorite things, So maybe we're not . . . so thin. (Nancy McWhorter, Isle of Palms, S.C.)

Lots more lyrics and videos in the online Invite at wapo.st/invite1507. Still running — deadline Tuesday night, Sept. 27: Our contest to use any of 32 new dictionary words in a short, funny poem. See wapo.st/invite1506.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

- "PLUSH" BY GARY LARSON & AMY ENSZ
ACROSS: 1 Little rascal, 6 Crunchy brownie piece, 10 Natural bandage, 14 Storm relief org., 18 Sierra Nevada lake, 19 Connections, 20 Skyline obscurer, 21 Ruck of "Spin City", 22 Semis followers, 23 Dormitory where honor roll students sleep?, 26 Name of Davy Crockett's rifle, 28 Enjoy again, as a favorite book, 29 Cubbies home, 30 "Fun Factory" clay, 35 Tuft of feathers, 37 Name of B.B. King's guitar, 41 Actor Mulroney, 43 Santa-tracking org., 46 Ingredient for discerning brew masters?, 48 Jazz lick, 51 Sudoku digit, 52 Birdie topper, 53 Historical record, 54 App symbol, 55 Suzuki with 10 MLB Gold Gloves, 58 "Yosemite Valley Winter" photographer, 62 Do needlework, 64 Dietary fiber forecast, 67 Charge for using, as an apartment, 70 Apple platform, 71 Take care of eggs by sitting on them?, 74 New "cap brand", 75 Cream cheese serving, 77 Genre revitalized by Britney Spears, 78 Thicken, as cream, 79 Some year-end lists, 81 Calf's suckling spot, 82 Turns way up, 84 Stadium level, 86 Rivendell inhabitants, 88 Island, 90 Tacks on, 91 Went platinum?, 92 Learns about crops like maize?, 98 Lost cause, 100 Words on an orange juice container, 102 "Way to go, fellas!", 103 Dodge, 106 Edible part of a pistachio, 108 Mystery writer Grafton, 109 Many pop-ups, 111 Refuse, 113 Baggage handler?, 117 Cheap toupee?, 122 Duel choices, 123 Morales of "Ozark", 124 With 112-Down, fish story, 125 Song that might prompt a "Brava!", 126 Cast, 127 Texter's "until next time", 128 Turow book set, at Harvard, 129 Burt's Bees product, 130 Fragrant compound, DOWN: 1 Not in bed yet, 2 Parker who was the 2020 WNBA Defensive Player of the Year, 3 "Pequod" captain, 4 Mexican sauce flavored with chocolate, 5 Fly, e.g., 6 alcohol, 7 Jueves, por ejemplo, 8 Spanish lake, 9 Subj. for some citizenship applicants, 10 Help for a tight fit, 11 "Virgin River" novelist Robyn, 12 Tenochtitlan native, 13 "Joy Shtick" writer/comedian, 14 Terrific, 15 Light-up pumps?, 16 Classic TV series set in Korea, 17 Averse to, 22 Farm young, 24 Gift tag word, 25 Genesis plot, 27 Be in a bee, 32 Bustle, 33 "Okey-doke", 34 OB-GYNs, e.g., 36 Former Seattle team, familiarly, 38 Trap during a winter storm, say, 39 False witness, 40 Spanish lake, 42 Sardine cans, 44 "I'll take that as", 45 Cub's home, 47 Ticker, 49 Fistfight souvenir, 50 Circular, 53 Go up, 55 Sacred Nile bird, 56 Colorful dog, 57 Weekly night for leftovers?, 59 Shoulder muscle, for short, 60 Parting words, 61 Ready to be recorded, 63 Bit, 65 To some degree, 66 Sealing stuff, 68 Home run run, 69 Stallion feed, 71 HRH part, 72 Lightened (up), 73 Drill, e.g., 76 Bite, 78 "Julius Caesar" role, 80 Kristoff's reindeer in "Frozen", 82 Dab at, as lipstick, 83 British elevator, 84 Graffiti signature, 85 Rite answer?, 87 Three-time "Modern Family" Emmy nominee, 89 Future JDs' exams, 92 Simple shelter, 93 Furniture wood, 94 Animal that beats its chest, 95 Witness, 96 Not as flat, 97 Russian rejections, 99 Govern, 101 Smooth engine sound, 104 "Likewise", 105 One of the filmmaking Coen brothers, 107 Crack squad, 109 Turn off the security cameras for, maybe, 110 Roomba target, 112 See 124-Across, 114 Queens, New York, stadium namesake, 115 Dazzles, 116 Capricorn critter, 118 Hodges who managed the Miracle Mets, 119 Chemist's workplace, 120 401(k) kin, 121 Not a thing



9/25/22

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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

Happy Birthday | Sept. 25: You tend to see things in black-and-white terms. You work hard for success. You value your independence; nevertheless, you are empathetic with others. This year is a time of hard work and construction for you. It's time to build things, perhaps literally, as well as inner structures in your world.

Moon Alert: Avoid shopping or making important decisions from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. After that, the Moon moves from Virgo into Libra.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You have strong ideas about how to improve your workplace or your job, or perhaps a relationship with a co-worker. Your wisest course will be to seek the cooperation of others. Be diplomatic.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Romantic feelings are intense and passionate. However, feelings related to sports events and your kids might be equally as intense. The best way to work today is to form units or work in partnership with someone else.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You might have strong ideas about how to make where you live look more attractive. Perhaps these feelings relate to ideas about entertaining others. Be willing to listen to the input of someone with more wisdom and experience. Group interactions will be successful.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Your communication skills are excellent. You will be diplomatic and charming and yet very persuasive. However, when dealing with family matters or family discussions, be prepared to defer to your elders or someone in a position of authority.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Because you're in a resourceful frame of mind, you will see new uses and applications for something that you own. You also might see new ways to earn money or spend money in an enterprising way. Listen to the input of someone, especially a relative, sibling or neighbor.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You have strong feelings about your appearance, how you want to look and how you want to relate to someone. Meanwhile, you might be

tempted to spend too much money on luxurious items or on others, especially a group.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You feel optimistic because relations with others are upbeat and friendly. You are a people pleaser because you want harmony in your surroundings. Nevertheless, something going on behind the scenes or privately in your life matters a lot to you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Your feelings toward a friend or a group are strong. (A friend could become a lover.) No matter what happens, basically, this is a happy day for you because you have a warm feeling in your tummy.

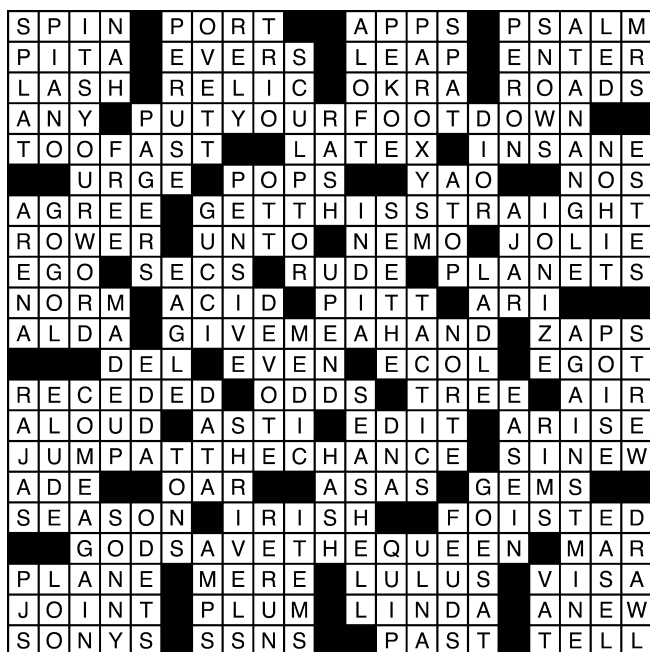
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Someone in authority might expect a particular response from you. Or, perhaps, vice versa. You might be waiting for a message or a signal from a parent or boss. Relations with groups and organizations are

positive today. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You are noticed by others. Your involvement in something, perhaps dealing with other countries or different cultures, will call attention to you. You have strong feelings about political and religious matters.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You are intrigued with any chance to expand your horizons. If you can do this through travel, fine. However, you also will be excited with fascinating discussions about philosophical, spiritual or political ideas.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Discussions with partners and close friends will be intense because people have a vested interest in something. Meanwhile, you have specific ideas about financial matters or perhaps a pending purchase, and you will welcome advice about this.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



9/18/22