

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Apparel of laughs: Fashion fictoids

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1253, in The Washington Post's ongoing campaign to deliver lies to its readers, we asked for bogus trivia about fashion and, more broadly, anything you wear.

4th place

Naugahyde is not made from the hide of naugas. It is from the linings of their digestive tracts. (Dave Prevar, Annapolis)

3rd place

The suit of armor was never intended to actually be worn, but was rather designed to serve as spooky hallway decorations in haunted castles. (Daniel Galef, Montclair, N.J.)

2nd place and the custom-knit "Style Ink" ski hat:

The ceremonial sword that is part of the Air Force officer's dress uniform was modeled on the plastic one used to spear martini olives. (Drew Bennett, West Plains, Mo.)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

In a show of support for their tax reform bill, Republican congressmen have been wearing wool pullovers. (Warren Tanabe, Annapolis)

Just sew-sew: Honorable mentions

Under pressure from feminist groups, American Apparel has rebranded its white tank top as the "Spouse Discussa." (Mark Raffman, Reston)

Last year, the leading seller of edible gym socks went bankrupt. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

When working women asked for "honest pay" in the 1960s, male executives made an anagrammatic compromise and gave them "pantyhose." (Jesse Frankovich, Grand Lodge, Mich.)

"Muumuu" comes from the Hawaiian word for "Your Mama's swimsuit." (Jesse Frankovich)

Leonard Velcro narrowly survived an assassination attempt by shoelace hit men. (Roy Ashley, Washington)

Since the debut of Facebook in 2004, the size of most thinking caps has steadily decreased. (Stephen Dudzik, Olney)

In response to popular outcry, Paris fashion models are now required to weigh at least four times as much as the outfits they wear on the runway. (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

Before the invention of plastic, buttons were made from fruitcake. (Kyle Hendrickson, Frederick, Md.)

The first tuxedo was worn by Adm. Richard Byrd, who commissioned the design in 1928 after his voyage to Antarctica. (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

"Haute couture" is French for "WTF." (Jesse Frankovich)

If not kept at the proper humidity, snakeskin boots will continue to molt every two years. (John Hutchins, Silver Spring)

In 1878 the King of Morocco mandated that a tassel be added to the fez after foreign dignitaries asked him why all the men wore wastebaskets on their heads. (David Garratt, Silver City, N.M.)

When Men's Wearhouse bought Jos. A Bank in 2014, it got three other businesses at no additional cost. (Jon Ketzner, Cumberland, Md., a First Offender)

Paper hospital gowns were introduced after patients complained that fabric gowns were too warm, comfortable and modest. (Dudley Thompson, Cary, N.C.)

The highest-quality faux fur comes from free-range fauces raised without hormones or antibiotics. (Drew Bennett)

Michael Jackson broke his left ankle while wearing just one sequined shoe during a dance number, prompting him to choose another signature look. (John Shea, Philadelphia)

Tinfoil hats will not protect you against alien brain control unless you wear them with the shiny side facing outward. (Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.)

The sporrin, the leather purse



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Week 1257: The year in redo, Part 1

Winner of Week 1225, novel protest marches and slogans: The Million Middle Managers March: If It Were Up to Me, I'd Say Yes (Gary Crockett)

Winner of Week 1215, "X is so Y..." jokes: My chiropractor is so unscrupulous, he charges Paul Ryan the same price as people who have backbones. (Jeff Shirley)

Have you ever wished you could just hit rewind on the whole year? More to the point, "ever" as in these past 12 months? The Empress is here for you, at least Invitationaly, with our annual retrospective contest — this year spread across two weeks: This week we invite you to revisit Invite contests dating from last December through May — a time when some of us had trouble feeling the funny. This period covers some of our most popular perennial contests: obit poems, foal "breeding," joint legislation, neologisms, jokes, headlines. And some zingy one-off contests as well.

Enter (or reenter) any Style Invitational contest from Week 1203 through Week 1229, except for Weeks 1205 and 1206, last year's do-over contests. You may enter multiple contests as long as you don't submit more than 25 entries in all. For contests asking you to use that week's paper, use papers and online articles dated Dec. 7-18. For the obit poems, Week 1208, continue to write about people who died in 2016. You may resubmit non-inking entries from earlier contests.

How to find all these contests: Oh, this is where the Empress really owes the Loser Community. Go to the Losers' own website, nrars.org, click on "Master Contest List," and scroll alllll the way down to 1203 and beyond. Read the contest descriptions, choose one (or two, or 25), then click on the "E" icon for the online version of the week's contest, or the "WP" for the print version. And check the results of that week's contest (usually four weeks down the chart) to make sure your idea didn't already get ink. Please give the week number of the contest you're using. See this week's Style Conversational column at wapo.st/conv1257 for other ways (maybe better ones for you) to see all the contests.

Submit entries at the website wapo.st/enter-invite-1257 (all lowercase) — NOT the entry forms for those old contests.

Winner gets the Lose Cannon, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a Holiday Snack Pack consisting of one bag each of Ohio Cow Poop and Cincinnati Pig Poop, which are really chocolate-covered peanuts obtained by Loser Duncan Stevens; and, in a six-inch coffin-shaped box, "one deadly tortilla chip, flavored with fiery Carolina Reaper pepper. Loser Edward Gordon actually spent \$6 plus shipping to buy this single tortilla chip on Amazon and send it to the Empress. She hopes he wins it back.

Other runners-up win our "You Gotta Play to Lose" Loser Mug or our Grossery Bag, "I Got a B in Punmanship." Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, "No Childishness Left Behind" or "Magnum Dopus." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). Deadline is Monday night, Dec. 18; results published Jan. 7 (online Jan. 4). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline for this week's results is by Chris Doyle; Jon Gearhart wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev. "Like" 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. Check it out at wapo.st/conv1257.

that men wear in front of their kilts, doubled as crotch protection for Scottish warriors. That is why it's positioned in the center rather than the side —nobody wants to come out of a fight "out of kilter." (Bill Spencer, Cockeysville, Md.)

A ten-gallon hat actually holds only about 1.5 liters of crude oil. (Daniel Galef)

The Gap paid model Lauren Hutton a licensing fee for inspiring the store's name. (Karen Duffy, Geneseo, N.Y., a First Offender)

According to a nationwide survey, 97.2 percent of veterans who don their uniforms for Veterans Day pop at least half the buttons off. (Edward Gordon, Austin)

Although many shoes have tongues, they actually taste with their laces. (Steve McClemons, Arlington)

As a child, Christian Louboutin worked stomping grapes in his family's Bordeaux winery, causing the soles of his feet to be turned permanently red. (Mark Raffman)

TWA's all-first-class Concorde in the 1970s had Birkin barf bags. (Roy Ashley)

Savile Row tailors confirm that Tory MPs always specify "dress right" for bespoke trousers. (John McCooney, Rehoboth Beach, Del.)

Spanx founder Sara Blakely began her career as a floor manager at a Jimmy Dean sausage plant. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

The band of Roy Moore's cowboy hat is specially constructed to emit the aroma of strawberry ChapStick. (John Hutchins)

The first codpieces were actually made of flounder. (Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg, Va.)

The jerkin was repopularized in the 21st century by Louis CK. (William Kennard, Arlington)

Voted the scariest Halloween costume in 2017 was "Sexy Steve Bannon." (Jesse Frankovich)

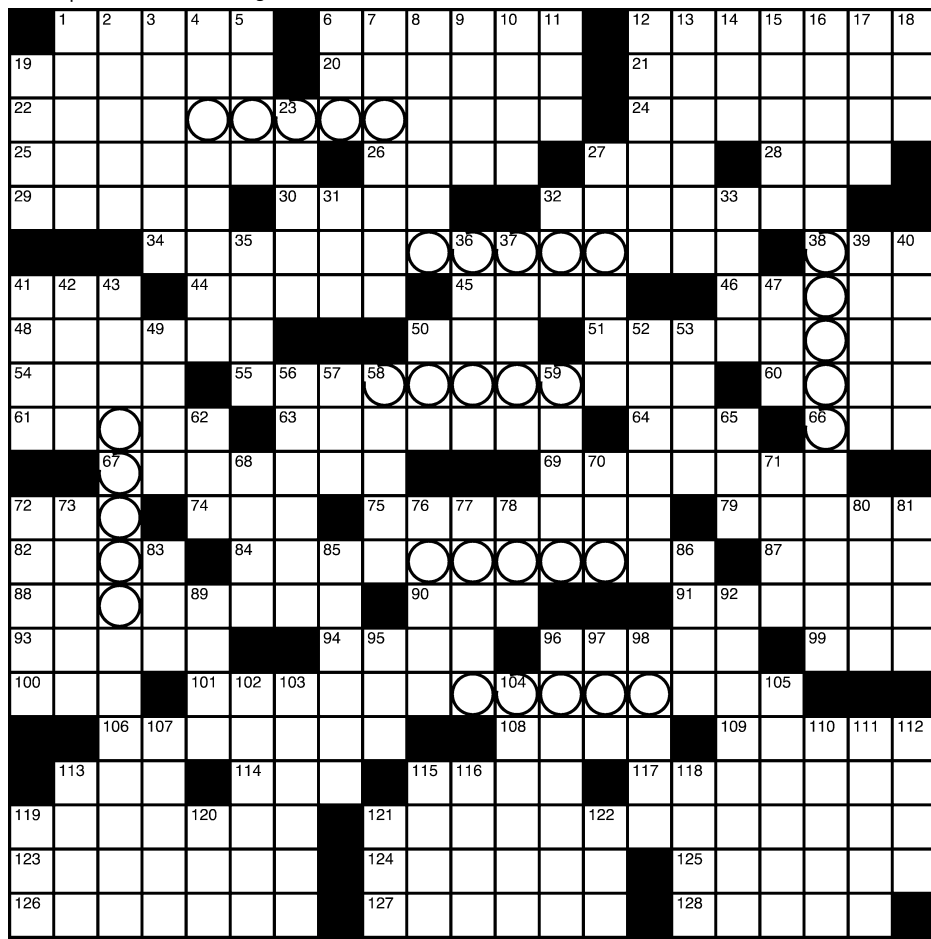
What was originally called the "foreskin sweater" began to sell much better when it was renamed the turtleneck. (Drew Bennett)

Still running — deadline Monday night, Dec. 11: our caption contest for Bob Staake cartoons. See wapo.st/invite1256.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

- "IT'S AMAZING" By C.C. BURNIKEL
ACROSS
1 /, on some score sheets
12 Herbal tea
16 Premier League powerhouse
19 Ascended
20 Calligraphy container
21 Top-seller
22 Tehran
24 Getting on in years
25 Asthmatic's device
26 Super, slangily
27 Batman after Michael
28 Google: Android: Apple
29 Got the word
30 It borders three oceans
32 Resort near Boston
34 Making the Guinness Book, say
38 Wander (about)
41 Took charge of
44 Long stretches
45 Netflix alternative
46 Down tune
48 Ocean rings
50 Earned
51 Some charges
54 Investment firm T... Price
55 World Cup events
60 Plummeted
61 Ne'er-do-well
63 Catch of the day, perhaps
64 Inc., in Toronto
66 Euro divs.
67 Workout addicts
69 "That's no kidding"
72 Sault... Marie
74 Pull
75 Jerry-rigged, in a way
79 Ekberg of "La Dolce Vita"
82 Crime scene figure
84 Recycling center item
87 Stable baby
88 National summer sport of Canada
90 Luanda is its cap.
91 Mourning on the court
93 Distant
94 Sudden attack
96 Dish alternative
99 Lush
100 Lady Tigers' sch.
101 Log holder
106 More offensive
108 Queen in "Frozen"
109 Lackluster finish
113 And the like: Abbr.
114 Sweetie
115 Mother of Castor
117 Choice word
119 Get going, as item
121 It's not all good... and it's literally found in this puzzle's circles
123 Roll call discovery
124 Figure of speech?
125 Oddball
126 Agreement often reluctant but still respectful
127 Mischief-makers
128 Thrills
DOWN
1 Teahouse treat
2 Lara's husband in "Doctor Zhivago"
3 Wedding
4 Genuine article
5 Barely beat (out)
6 It may be nervous
7 Reduced to rubble
8 Aspen traveler's
9 Cathedral recess
10 Detective fiction genre
11 Movie makeup dept. creations
12 Inferior
13 Cry out loud
14 Flight takeoff fig.
15 '60s protest
16 What a Facebook post might draw
17 Fish trapped in pots
18 Adams of "Her"
19 Tzu
23 Sister of Cleo
27 Space devoid of matter
31 Lust, e.g.
32 Dopey frame, e.g.
33 Short lines at the post office?
35 Hardy's "Pure Woman"
36 Now, in Nicaragua
37 Climbing aids
39 Mole, perhaps
40 Classroom array
41 Shenanigan
42 School since 1440
43 Violet Crawley's title in "Downton Abbey"
47 Uncertainties
49 Impose, as a tax
50 Bug catcher
52 One-named Tejano pop star
53 This, to Picasso
56 Plains folks?
57 Belgium winter hrs.
58 Social division
59 Remark to the audience
62 Pro with a siren
65 Paternity test letters
68 Uses elbow grease on
70 Comfy slip-on
71 Skinny
72 Impact sound
73 Dabbling ducks
76 Thin as...
77 Important animal in '70s U.S.-China diplomacy
78 Future chicken
80 "Unexpected blends" tea brand
81 Heaps
83 Golf course figure
85 Ben of "Roots"
86 Film iouness
89 Send...: farewells
92 "Hmm..."
95 What "4" may mean: Abbr.
96 Porcelain with a pale green glaze
97 Justice Dept. bigwigs
98 Beaming aftermath, sometimes
102 Odysseus' kingdom
103 Revolving sort?
104 Formally give
105 Takes courses at home?
107 Felt the pain
110 "Hot corner" base
111 Ministers
112 Cartesian connection
113 Kathryn of HBO's "Oz"
115 Old Parmesan bread
116 Eye...
118 Adheres (to)
119 Settle up
120 Bilioti-to-Mobile dir.
121 Like Twigg's style
122 Places to crash, in ads



12/10/17

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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Dec. 10: This year you excel, especially when you need to clear your mind and take the lead. Others might be highly provocative at times, but you develop an inner focus that allows you to remain unaffected.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You can push yourself only so far to achieve the results you desire. Fatigue marks your behavior. Be wise and squeeze in a nap when you can. You could be very busy this week.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Allow greater give-and-take between you and others. You might shock yourself by revealing something you mainly keep to yourself. Feeling so comfortable with someone is a good indication of the potential intimacy that exists between you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You could be getting into the holiday spirit and going through your list of to-dos. Honor a change of plans that involves an older relative. If you think about it, confusion tends to surround this person.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Don't hesitate to speak your mind, but expect others to respond. A friend could be quite defensive, depending on how you approach a certain topic. You might need to calm the situation for the moment and not worry about resolving it just yet.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You might be busy running holiday errands and crossing things off your gift list. A surprise call or interaction with someone at a distance could trip up your plans, or at least your concentration.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You seem to have all your ducks in a row and might be in the process of completing quite a few holiday-related errands. Try to understand where a friend is coming from. Join this person for a late lunch or some other fun activity.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Your whereabouts might be difficult to determine during the day. You might opt to play it low-key during the daylight hours. You are able to make quite a difference in someone's life once you reconnect.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Though the holidays are only temporary, having fun with your friends will revitalize you for a while. You might share a confusing moment or two with a loved one.

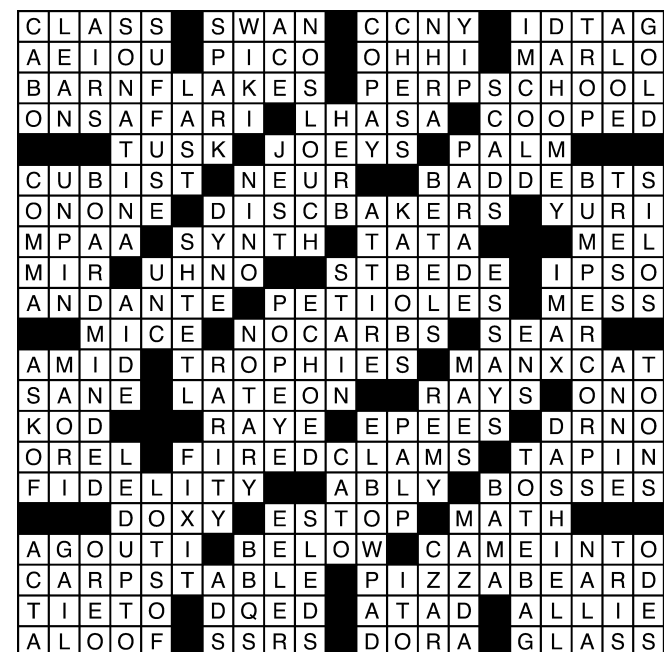
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Pressure to bring others together with a holiday gathering will be quite intense. You need to honor your feelings and know when to say "enough is enough." You carry an inordinate amount of responsibilities on your shoulders, and you need a break.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You could be quite tired and not know which way to go in a personal matter. If you had a better sense of direction, you would be able to act. Opt to listen to some great music.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) One-on-one relating points to a quiet yet meaningful day. Whether you go off on an adventure or help a friend with holiday shopping makes little difference. The company you keep tends to be rewarding and fun.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Defer to a partner, as they have strong ideas about how to manage the next few days. You'll want to join in on the excitement that this person has for the holidays. You might even spread some holiday cheer on your own.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



12/3/17