

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Amuse as directed: Product warnings

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1288, we asked for some amusing (and fictitious) product warnings or disclaimers. Too many people to credit quoted the White House, Fox, etc., with "Any resemblance to actual persons or events is purely coincidental."

4th place

On Roach Motel packaging: "Roaches not included." (Russell Beland, Fairfax)

3rd place

On a beer can: "Asking another person to hold this container creates a serious risk of personal injury." (Dudley Thompson, Cary, N.C.)

2nd place and the artificial-snowball powder:

On the president's Twitter page: "May be harmful or fatal if followed." (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

Slim Jim: "Not a diet food. Nice try, Jim." (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station)

Not-so-fine print: Honorable mentions

Scrapple: "Not for oral use." (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

"We'd love to be able to call 'carmine color' what it actually is—the juice from squashed red bugs—but then you wouldn't have bought this strawberry yogurt." (Ivans Kuskevics, Takoma Park)

Car: "Not to be used as a phone booth." (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

Amazon Echo: "Every breath you take, every move you make, we'll be watching you. Well, technically Alexa is listening, but we can turn on the cameras in your house, too—like the one in your laptop. Hey, nice bathrobe!" (Cheryl Davis, Arlington)

ED medication: "Do not use near exposed spinning fan blades." (Jeff Contompassis, Ashburn)

iPad: "May cause high-pitched whining if used near children." (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

My paycheck: "Warning: Contains peanuts." (Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)

"Keep away from small children. They are loud, messy and annoying." (Jesse Frankovich)

The president: "Caution: Contains vitriol. Irritating to the eyes, ears and mind. Skin contact may cause discomfort. Potential global security hazard." (Jesse Frankovich)

"Though this vehicle operates reliably on fuel that contains up to 15 percent alcohol, this does not apply to its operator." (Frank Mann, Washington)

Baggy flannel pajamas: "Not guaranteed as a birth control device, though studies have demonstrated that they are 99 percent effective." (Hildy Zampella, Alexandria)

"The makers of Candy Crush Saga are in no way responsible for novels unread, films heard of but not seen, missed meditation sessions, undiscovered creative solutions, lost moments when you could be visualizing a better future for yourself, or for your failure to make genuine human contact with the stranger seated next to you. Now, get back to Candy Crush!" (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf)

Camping toilet: "Do NOT void where prohibited." (Kevin Dopart, Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

"Warning: This aircraft could plummet from the sky, falling thousands of feet and crashing in a fiery ball, spreading its contents over multiple acres, but that rarely happens." (Russell Beland)

On an infant: "Do not refrigerate; however, product may be spoiled while in care of grandparents." (Dudley Thompson)

"The Ouija board is not a certified investment adviser. User assumes all financial risks." (Susanne Pierce Dyer, Green Valley, Calif.)

Pen: "May not necessarily prevail in a sword fight." (Tom Witte)

On a Ford F-350 SuperCab pickup truck: "Warning: This truck



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1292: Golly gosh, it's Limerixicon XV

GLENN Close, who's a popular star, Went into a Hollywood bar. They told her, "My dear, You can't smoke in here." And so it was Close, no cigar. (Mae Scanlan, Week 726)

We return once again to our Augusty drop-by at OEDILF.com, where, year by year, letter by letter since 2004, founder Chris Strolin and more than 1,000 contributing authors have been creating an Omnificent English Dictionary in Limerick Form, starting with "The very first word here is a..." and inching through the alphabet (predicted completion date: Sept. 25, 2076, a target that has not changed in at least two years). Chris & Co. are right on the edge of the 100,000-limerick mark as they've made it through GI- Let's help put them over:

This week: Supply a humorous, previously unpublished limerick significantly featuring any English word, name or term beginning with "gl-" through "go-", as in the example above by Mae Scanlan that got ink in the el-to-co- contest in 2007. (Okay, maybe it's not quite OEDILF-ish to use a first name as the pertinent word, but the Empress doesn't care, and Bob Staake, when she showed him this limerick, noted that "my longtime nickname for Glenn Close is 'potato chin'—which really made me want to see his cartoon.)

Please see wapo.st/limericks2018 for our fairly strict rules on limerick rhyme and meter (in a nutshell: "perfect" rhyme, and a strong "hickory-dickory-dock" rhythm in Lines 1, 2 and 5; a "dickory-dock" in Lines 3 and 4; additional unaccented syllables on either side are fine. See OEDILF.com about submitting limericks there after this contest is over.

Submit entries at the website wapo.st/enter-invite-1292 (all lowercase).

Winner gets the Lose Cannon, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a Super Two-Pack of Weirdly Shaped Soft Candy: The Candy Burger, which comprises 22 little puzzle pieces of candy that form a pretty good (visual) replica of a Big Mac; and, for the second time, the Pet Rat, a dark-colored, six-inch-long gummy Rattus rattus—although actually shaped more like a Rattus flatus. The burger was donated by Kyle Hendrickson, the rat by Melissa Yorks. 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, "We've Seen Better" or "Idiot Card." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). Deadline is Monday night, Aug. 20; results published Sept. 9 (online Sept. 6). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline for this week's results is by Danielle Nowlin; Jesse Frankovich, David Peckarsky and Mark Raffman all submitted the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the lively 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. Especially if you plan to enter, check it out at wapo.st/styleconv.



PAT MYERS/THE WASHINGTON POST

No cholesterol! Gummy-candy burger and rat.

will not increase penis size." (Stephen Litterst, Newark, Del.)

ED drug: "Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results." (John O'Byrne, Dublin)

Presidential limo: "Driver does not carry cash or valuables." (Kevin Dopart)

Invisalign hidden braces: "Your smileage may vary." (Gary Crockett)

Guide to Tautologies: "Read this label before using." (Duncan Stevens)

Hefty trash bag: "Not intended for use as a birth control device, no matter how well endowed you think you are." (Mark Raffman, Reston)

Angel Soft toilet paper: "We have not yet done comparison testing

for this product by wiping our butts with angels." (Duncan Stevens)

Bump stock: "Please kill responsibly." (Tom Witte)

Plastic wrap: "Do not use as condom; we especially want people like you to use functional birth control." (Kevin Dopart)

"Do not let the foregoing disclaimer dissuade you from having fun with this product, which, with a little ingenuity, can be modified to make a cool slingshot, a rockin' dart gun, or even a neat flamethrower. Remember, YOLO!" (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

The Washington Post: "While democracy dies in darkness, sometimes, even with the lights on, jackasses may get elected." (Jon Ketzner, Cumberland, Md.)

The Washington Post: "If you don't subscribe to this paper, then democracy will die and it will be your fault. You don't want to live with that." (Jeff Hazle, San Antonio)

"All federal, state and local income and other taxes are solely the responsibility of the Loser..." hmm, does anyone know the going rate for dried yak vomit? — Undisclosed runner-up, Style Invitational (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

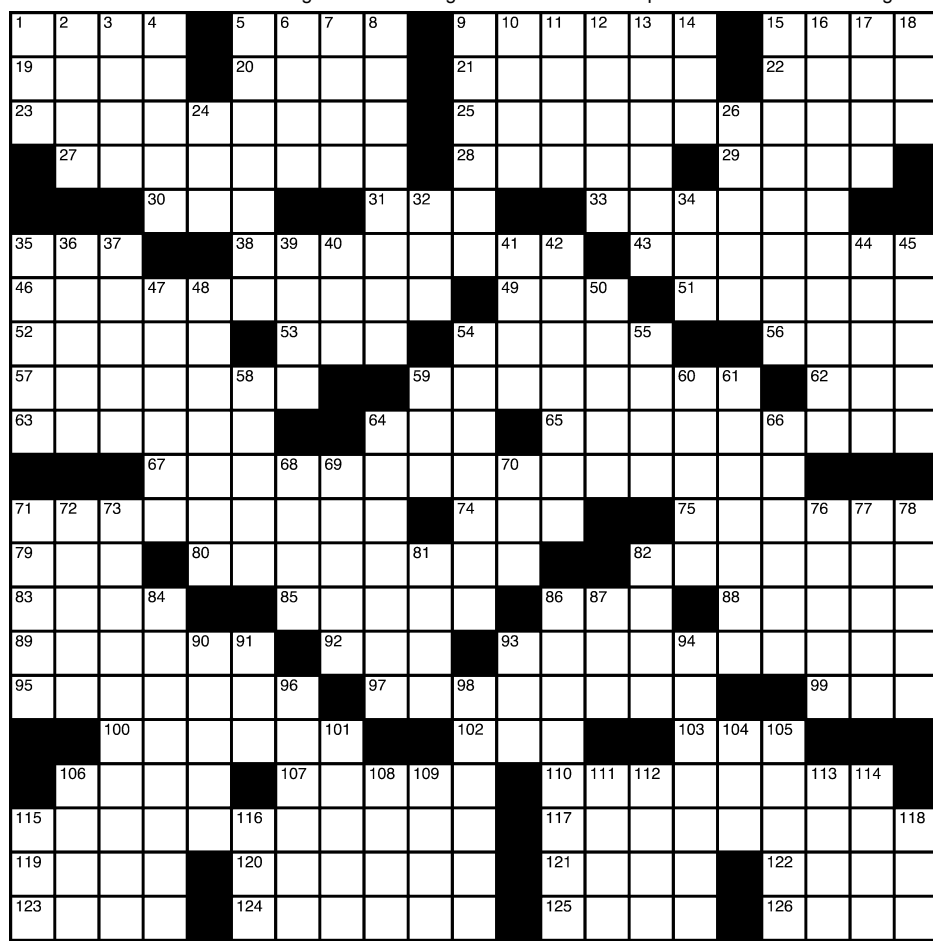
The Style Invitational: "Contains no actual style." (Duncan Stevens)

Still running — deadline Monday night, Aug. 13: our contest for anagrams of movie titles. See wapo.st/invite1291.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

- "SOUNDS LIKE A SNOOZE" By GARY LARSON
ACROSS: 1 Door feature, 5 Butcher shop section, 9 Minor, 15 Bridge, 19 "American Gigolo" star, 20 Pocket often filled, 21 Get there, 22 First name at Woodstock, 23 Liquor store?, 25 Feeding time for the herd?, 27 Post-Thanksgiving dinner feeling, for many, 28 City near Dusseldorf, 29 Bring down Dante's half-dozen, 31 L.A. Clippers' org., 32 121 Ness' feds, 33 Disqualify (oneself), as a judge, 35 One of many on most phones, 38 Second Amendment concern, 43 Kicks out, in a way, 46 Caribbean island chain?, 49 Hydroelectric project, 51 Capital NNW of Albany, 52 Home subcontractor, 53 Literary tribute, 54 Gets promoted, 56 Like neat freaks, 57 Ravaged by time, 59 Updates, as a reference book, 62 Actress Scala, 63 Oil, 64 Sound file extension, 65 2007 Will Smith sci-fi flick, 67 Make change for a five?, 71 Itemized deductions form, 74 Yellow Sea peninsula. Abbr., 75 Phrase often abbreviated, 79 Spat suffix, 80 Paul's letters, 82 Trash collectors, 83 Good sound at the garage, 85 Hedgepods, 86 Flower starter, 88 Property owner's income, 89 Insurgency troops, 92 Back at sea?, 93 Funding for cops?, 95 Reclusive, 97 Rats, 99 Trains over roads, 100 Use as support, 102 Cartoon collectible, 103 Some laptops, 106 "Master of None" star Ansari, 107 Many a Bob Marley fan, 110 Toy mentioned in "The Chipmunk Song", 115 "No legumes for me, please?", 117 Slept through the alarm?, 119 Phi Delt, e.g., 120 Discomfort, 121 Gather, 122 Ness' feds, 123 News pg. units, 124 Co-star of TV's "Dr. Kildare", 125 Drops off, 126 First name in desserts, 24 '50s political monogram, 26 Blow, 32 relief, 34 4-Down, e.g., 35 Serve in the capacity of, 36 He pitched in the majors at age 59, 37 Gomer and Goober of old TV, 39 Computer symbol, 40 "Awesome!", 41 Year Columbus' fourth and last voyage began, 42 More impertinent, 44 Clemens, familiarly, 45 fork, 47 Waste, 48 Trite comment, 50 Small plateaus, 54 Takes back, 55 Sport for heavyweights, 58 Gun, as an engine, 59 "Norma...", 60 Fabled northern workers, 61 Transparent, informally, 64 Alternative scenarios, 66 Favored, 68 Former Belgian prime minister Di Rupo, 69 Edison contemporary, 70 Rejections, 71 Old Toyota, 72 Hints, 73 Withhold enthusiasm?, 76 "Tootsie" Oscar winner, 77 Silicon Valley giant, 78 Staff members: Abbr., 81 1990s-2000s Senate majority leader, 82 Axlike tool, 84 Box office, 86 Megaphone kin, 87 Special forces weapon, 90 "Mephisto Waltz" composer, 91 Idled, 93 Other side, 94 C equivalents, 96 Ochoa who was the top-ranked female golfer when she retired, 98 Dublin-born playwright, 101 Scruffs, 104 High deg., 105 Blackens, in a way, 106 Flight prefix, 108 Overwhelming quantities, 109 Electrify, in a way, 111 Eye layer, 112 Logical omission, 113 Baum princess, 114 Jury member, 115 Prominent poultry purveyor, 116 Run smoothly, 118 It's in our genes



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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Aug. 12: This year, you will open up to different possibilities that could affect your lifestyle and interactions. Know that you are making the final decision to go down a new path. You also can decide to stay put. If you are single, you might attract someone who can be touchy. If you are attached, you need to express acceptance, understanding and trust toward your significant other. During difficult periods, these characteristics will help both of you ride things out. Virgo fusses so much that you might want to avoid them.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Settle in after you deal with an expense that could affect the quality of your life. Stay on top of an issue that involves an older friend or family member. This person knows what they want. The issue remains: Can you both agree on a solution?

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Your imagination decides to hop into the driver's seat, which could affect plans. Others might be starting to see you as unpredictable as opposed to the bedrock of your crowd of friends.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You might be needing some time with a friend in whom you often confide. What is shared might cause you to pull back and take another look at a key relationship. Someone in your life could become quite remote; give them space to think.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You need to weigh the pros and cons of a situation. You can think of various ways of airing out a problem. Stay open to communication from a friend who will shed some light on a hassle.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Sometimes you cannot get away from an expenditure. Today provides a prime example of that limitation. You might need to do some price comparison. A family member could surprise you with a different perspective.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Your outgoing personality will emerge, as others seem to pull back for various reasons. Someone from a distance will surprise you with a total change of perspective. You want to get a certain project done, so make it happen sooner rather than later.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You won't be able to evoke the reaction you desire, no matter what you do. Fatigue will mark your day. Be sure to take some personal time. You have a handful of projects to get through, but remember to give yourself a break.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Stay near your friends, as they know the right path to have a great day. You could be mulling over a decision and not be present with others. A family member might be difficult. Know that you will get better results if you don't pressure them.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You might want to understand an older friend or a loved one better. Be observant about this person's comfort levels. As you strive to merge different interests with this person, you are likely to feel uncomfortable.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You could be tired of an issue that keeps repeating in different areas of your life. As this hassle emerges one more time, you will be tempted to greet it with mental fatigue. Turn your energy around and attempt to tackle the problem one more time.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Your upbeat style touches many people and helps them relax or at least gain a new perspective. As friendly as you might be, you could be hiding some regret. Discuss an issue that you might be trying to work through by yourself.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You might want someone else to make the first move. You might decide to wait out the situation until the other party takes the first step. Honor this person's needs. At the same time, do not negate certain principles from which you work.

Answers to last week's puzzle.

Grid of crossword puzzle answers: SAL YODA ADCOPY CARAT ELI EVEN BERNIE AWARE LAP LASTTALE INSURANCE IMPEL KIR PCS PERSON GOLFERS COFFEE CREDO ULNAE IRIS POOR MAP EMMA STAKED FOMO ONTO POPTOP IADOREPOTATOES IVE SEND ADD SPITAT CEREBRA ENVIOUS POEMS NOSYELECTRONICS MAHER ALBERTA AMOEBI C ETERNE MOD OPE D ORO LARGEFLOWSBANK AERIAL TREY FIRS OLESON USED SISIS SAFE SLEW ANIME TINCT INACARTONMILK AGORAE ONE GAM EYDIE MAYORSRACCEWINEERS ANY OZONE CRAZED GABS HEE SEUSS ASSETS ELIE ODD