

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Wit's in a name: Week 1370 ink

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1370** the Empress asked you to write about someone using only the letters in that person's name, along with an optional short title. We got some amazing entries, including a full-page synopsis of "Hamilton" and a full-on Trump tweetstorm; see more at wapo.st/invite1374.

4th place

Stormy Daniels: Donald meets me, eyes my sensational t-tas and smiles. I'm stary-eyed. Soon I'm led to a room and, er, nailed. Ardor? Nada. It seemed sorta seedy to me, a one-and-done tryst. At any rate, ten years later I'm sent an NDA and money (a lot!) to stay silent. I'm told, "Don't mention it to anyone — or else." I'm really rattled, and I do it. So yesterday I retained an attorney, and I'm not intimidated anymore. I intend to tell my story — in all its messy, nasty details. And a Mario toadstool's in it! (Sorry, Melania.) (Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

3rd place

Michael Bloomberg: Commercial, commercial, commercial . . . (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

2nd place and the nifty noodly hat:

Gwyneth Paltrow: Hot new talent, hype galore. Won the top honor! Then went totally loopy, won the lottery with Goop — e.g., Goopglow, Goop Glow-Getter. What are they? Plant taproot? Hog tallow? Eagle poop? Are they healthy? Worry not. They were on Oprah. The wealthy now want, want, want! (Steve Smith, Potomac)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

Senator Elizabeth Warren: She's so able, so aware! Nah, we want a bro. (Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

Appellation fail: Honorable mentions

Neil Armstrong: Millions stare at sets as Eagle settles on moon. Astronomers see timeless glories as original images roll in. A stage is set, soon more great NASA missions to sail again to stars — an' Mars. Neil orates: "One small stroll to me, one giant milestone to man" (more or less). (Donna Saady, Rockville)

Kim Jong Un: "I'm nuking Kokomol!" (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

Stephen Miller: "Pile them in steel pens — the little peeps, the preteens. This is the repellent!" His enemies? Helpers, lenient men. His limits? Nein. (Frank Mann, Washington)

Charles Darwin: He sailed, saw hidden areas, was in awe. His science ideas were called chic, and derided as insane. And see! Here is his award: Dan and Earl's idea: a dare, a wild car race in hail and rain! Dawn, red cars race . . . Earl's ahead! And here's Dan! Whaaa? Slides! A wall! Crashes! The news headline: "New Darwin Award winners." (Diane Lucitt, Ellicott City, Md.)

Attorney General William Barr: "I agree." (Angry Twitter rant by T.) "I no longer agree." (Steve Smith)

Composer Ludwig van Beethoven: He lost his hearing, but his marvelous music is loved all over the world: overtures, sonatas, concertos — we treasure it all. But the best was last: In the Ninth he hit a home run! (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

Rush Limbaugh: I'm a bigass humbug, a brash liar. I laugh as I bash libs. USA! (Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore)

Rush Limbaugh: Ugh. (Nan Reiner, Boca Raton, Fla.)

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez: "An elected Latina socialist! A ditz!" cries Not At All Sexist Don. "A terrorist! Exit! Reenter old lands!" cries Not At All Racist Don. Donnie, AOC is a local. (Sam Mertens, Silver Spring)

Christopher Columbus: I suppose this is the spot! Cool! It's ours! Uh, hello, people . . . (Sarah Walsh, Rockville)

Alan Dershowitz: Does Don's dirt, shreds law. (William Kennard, Arlington)

Vladimir Putin: "Mai dir Trump, u did vut I vantid. Vail dun." (Sarah Walsh)



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1374: 'Versus' verses in a rap battle

And it's **Che Guevara, 1950s Latin revolutionary turned left-wing middle-class icon!** vs. **Guy Fawkes, failed plotter against the British crown in 1605!** in an **Epic Rap Battle of History!**

CHE: I got my face on a magnet on your roommate's fridge! Your head is on a spike up on London Bridge!

GUY: I'm Catholic, I've got Mass when I'm rappin'! You're an ump-Che! (That's Bay of Pigs Latin.)

Mother Teresa vs. Sigmund Freud! Jacques Cousteau vs. Steve Irwin! Joker vs. Pennywise! Ronald McDonald vs. the Burger King! These are just a few of the recent Epic Rap Battles of History, a hugely popular series of videos — 14 million YouTube subscribers — that The Style Invitational last saluted all the way back in 2012, at the suggestion of Loser Mike Gips.

It's time to lay down some new ink. And now that it's so much easier to make a video these days — you can even put in the lyrics — we hope some of you will give us something to watch and listen to as well as to read on the page.

This week: **Write a mini-"rap battle" between any two characters, real or fictional, as in the ERB example above**, which quotes two couplets from a 2½-minute video. By mini-, we mean one or two rhyming couplets per character — so four to eight lines total. (If you're doing a video, you can go much longer, but it has to be fun to watch, even without fancy production values. To submit it, post it on YouTube and send us a link, along with the lyrics. You can have an extra week to make it.)

A note on the rhyming: This rap contest differs from other Invite poetry and song contests in that the Empress won't demand "perfect rhyme," especially in a video; normally she'd just trash-toss "rappin'"/"Latin," as in the Che-Guy example. But perfect rhyme is still a big plus — and don't even think of "rhyming," say, "Illinois" and "groin," as does one of the Epics.

Submit up to a total of 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1374 (no capitals in the Web address). Deadline is Monday, March 16 (videos March 23); results will appear April 5 in print, April 2 online.

Winner gets the Lose Cannon, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a **Loser Travel Souvenir 2-Pak:** (a) a snow globe containing a little snowy Seattle Space Needle and some little rings that you try to toss over the Needle when you shake the globe (the Empress succeeded only in dislodging the little Mount Rainier behind it); and (b) one of those oval letter-code decals for your car, this one for the Florida Keys; it says "FK." The globe was donated years and years ago by Loser Cheryl Davis; the decal is from neo-Floridian Nan Reiner.

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, "Too-Weak Notice" or "Certificate of (de) Merit." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline "Wit's in a Name" is by Chris Doyle; Chris and Tom Witte both submitted the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev. "Like" the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at bit.ly/inkoftheday; follow @StyleInvite on Twitter.

The Style Conversational: The Empress's weekly online column reviews each new contest and set of results. Check it out at wapo.st/conv1374.



Not-so-great shakes: A Space Needle ringtoss snow globe.

Melania Trump: I'm lamentin' maintainin' an appallin' unappealin' immature petulant partner in a perpetual marital trap. (Jesse Frankovich)

Senator Lindsey Graham: "My giddiest memory in the last three years is the time I got to slither at Donny's heels and admire his shoes. . ." (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

Greta Thunberg: Be a great nature nagger, get a better Earth. (Kevin Mettinger, Warrenton, Va.)

Prince Harry: Heir epiphany: Happier here in periphery, nary a peer in reach. Rear Archie near an inane, archaic, crappy, creepy hierarchy? Nay! (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

Bernie Sanders: Derides brand-dressed earners as diseased, inbred sinners; disdains insiders as bribed. N.B.: Drab-dressed Bern's addresses raise insane bread! (Duncan Stevens)

Duncan Stevens: Suave Duncan sends aces — vast, decent, even nuanced. Dense Dave S. sends uneven duds. SAD! (Dave Shombert, Harrisonburg, Va., a First Offender)

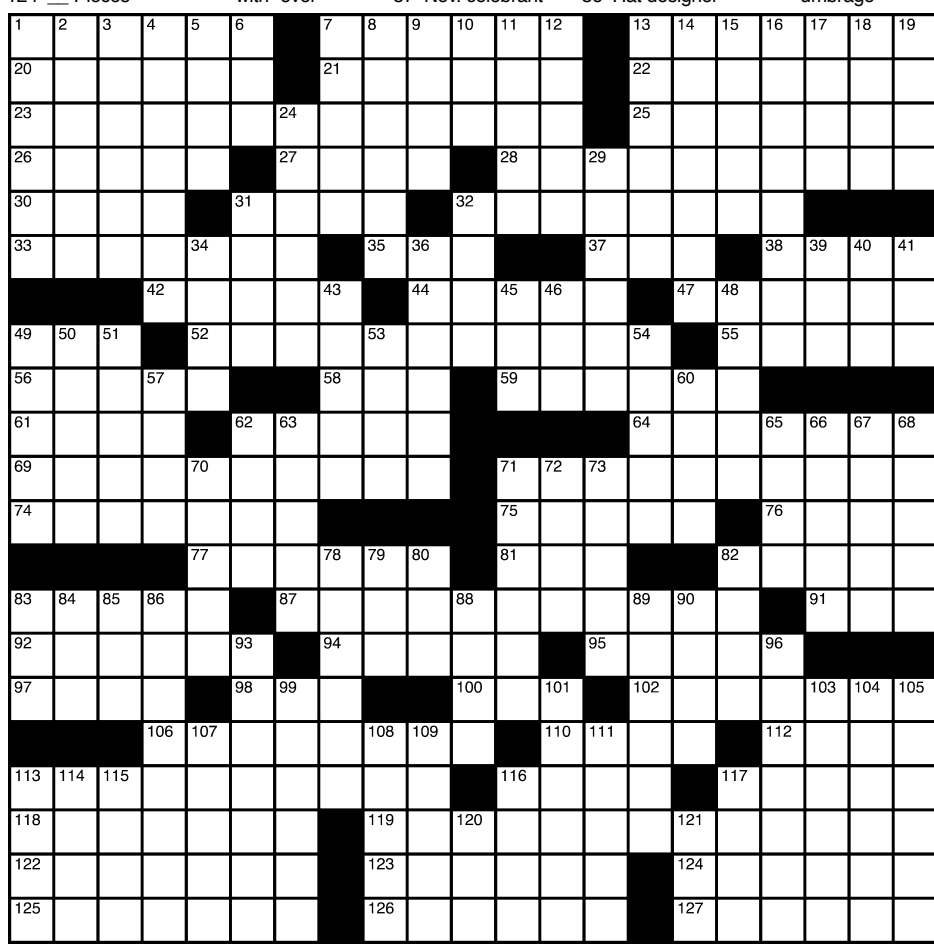
Pat Myers: Psst, Empress! Yes, my yammers rate a pyre. Yet a sap may pray: May my eyes yet see me reap a paper's seamy type? (Nan Reiner)

Still running — deadline March 9: our contest for "reviews" of various items listed on Amazon. See wapo.st/invite1373.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND

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|--|--|--|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| "LOSING AN HOUR" By ROBIN STEARS | 94 Place to stay | 125 Came out | 17 Beatle George's Indian friend | 60 Sorting aid on an env. | 88 Capone nemesis |
| | 95 Romanov royals | 126 Tuning shortcut | 18 Irving Bachelier's "Holden" | 62 Yes-... question | 89 ___ projection |
| | 97 Pitcher and poker pro Hersher | 127 Art supporters | 19 Brontë heroine | 63 Done for | 90 "I...you!" |
| ACROSS | 98 Portuguese pronoun | | 24 Plaster of Paris component | 65 Freddie Mac purchase | 93 Home or FAQ, e.g. |
| 1 ___ copy | 100 Equinox mo. lingo | DOWN | 29 Bite | 66 Aptly named cooler maker | 96 Heavy hammers |
| 7 Stopped the ship, in nautical | 106 Defamatory | 1 ___ dust | 31 I as in Iris | 67 Marty, in "Madagascar" films | 99 Listed at sea |
| 13 Female Plymouth Colony settler, say | 110 Word on an Irish euro | 6 Tandoori bread | 32 Seabiscuit, once | 68 Twisty turns | 101 Dress size |
| 20 Bagel Bites brand | 112 Dwarf planet formerly known as Xena | 7 Is sweet on | 34 Butts | 70 World Court site, with "The" | 103 Easy on the ears |
| 21 Nostalgic numbers | 113 Pointy-bottomed paper cups | 8 Dior skirts | 36 Starts to dicker, maybe | 71 Snarl! | 104 Duettist with Diana in "Endless Love" |
| 22 Cradlesong | 114 Missing their holders? | 9 Pledges that end an engagement | 39 Blanc who voiced Bugs | 72 Mendes and Peron | 105 Do taxing work? |
| 23 Floating flower going under? | 116 Place name from the Greek for "I burn" | 10 Pickles on "Rugrats" | 40 Chi follower | 73 Oxygen's atomic number | 108 Ready in the keg |
| 25 Everywhere | 117 Pablo's last word | 11 They may be gnashed or gritted | 41 HI and OK | 74 Djibouti language | 109 One who helps you find your place |
| 26 Montréal morning Longings | 118 Like the moons Titania and Oberon | 12 Path lead-in | 43 Katniss' "Hunger Games" ally | 79 "Letters From Jima": 2006 film | 111 Fjord, for one |
| 27 Ratio of a synagogue's center column to its roof slope? | 119 "Someone stole our cash box!" | 13 Go by | 44 Early luther family name | 80 Tire-changing spot | 113 Antidote |
| 28 Aeromsmith's "Love Elevator" | 122 Film sequel word | 14 Rod Stewart and David Bowie rocked them in the '70s | 45 Slip eponym | 82 Toxin fighters | 114 City once known as Provo Bench |
| 31 ___ dixit: unproven claim | 123 Make bubbly | 15 Not as healthy | 53 Due | 83 Sign of being full? | 115 Church part |
| 32 They're selective | 124 ___ Pieces | 16 Treating as unimportant, with "over" | 54 Musical "phone" namesake | 84 Yon yacht | 116 Flight sked info |
| 33 Tricolor cats | | | 57 Nov. celebrant | 85 One of 17 Monopoly props. | 117 In the Red? |
| 35 Tony nominee "Phillipa of Hamilton" | | | | 86 Hat designer | 120 Middle of a memorable palindrome |
| 37 Like a prof. entitus | | | | | 121 Extreme umbrage |



3/8/20 xwordeditor@aol.com ©2020 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | March 8: This year could be more significant than you realize. You will be able to understand both sides of an issue. Therefore, fighting to win becomes less important. If you are single, you will draw people who will tend to cause excitement in your life. Enjoy the roller coaster ride but do not make commitments yet. If attached, the two of you often disagree, but you also respect your differences. Virgo tends to be emotional when dealing with others.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You might want to touch base with a dear friend today. You have a lot of projects to get done. Great ideas pop up out of the blue when sharing with this person.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You come out of your cocoon ready to go out and enjoy your loved ones, or perhaps take the kids to the zoo. Wherever you are, a good time is had by all. A conversation points to a fun idea.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You have a tendency to go beyond the call of duty. You cannot get a situation under control with your normal ease. The unexpected runs wild, and an element of confusion could mount.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You speak your mind, and others listen. Someone might become confused and unsure of which way to go. You might need to answer a lot of questions and clarify.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You are high energy, and your creativity emerges. Expenses could go out of whack if you are not careful. Someone you look up to could be unusually unpredictable. Follow through on a loved one's suggestion.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You wake up energetic and ready to break a pattern. You might opt to join a friend who often inspires you to be more adventuresome. Unexpected news comes forward. You could be stunned but might choose to not react.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Every so often you need to take a personal day, sleep in and do what you want. Use today for this type of

rest and relaxation. You might be happiest playing it low-key and not visiting with others.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) An invitation might come forward that tosses you together with friends and people you like. Whatever is happening might not be as important as the get-together.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Pressure builds, and you must check in with an older friend, relative or boss. Responsibilities keep being tossed at you. Allow yourself to say no. You could be a lot happier.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Read between the lines, knowing

full well you might not be able to help another person. Rather, accept where they are coming from. A call could trigger an imaginative idea or fantasy.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You might need to make an important change that could cause some tension between you and a partner. What happens could be a problem, but it will only be short-term if you do not hang on to the issue.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Defer to a loved one who cares a lot about what happens between the two of you. Sometimes you are too emotional to make a good choice. Let the other party reveal their true colors.

Answers to last week's puzzle.

