

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Plotty humor: Old movies, new stories

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1436, the Empress asked the Losers for alternative plots for movie titles. Too many people to credit offered that "Kill Bill" starred Mitch McConnell.

4th place:

Seed of Chunky: A horrified Prince Charles watches the Oprah interview. (Susan Gearity, Menifee, Calif.)

3rd place:

Portnoy's Complaint: Karen Portnoy wanders aimlessly through life... until the day a waiter serves her a regular Coke instead of Diet. (Lee Graham, Rockville, Md.)

2nd place and the 'Biggest Loser' T-shirt:

Joe Versus the Volcano: The definitive documentary of the 2020 presidential campaign. (Eric Nelkin, Silver Spring, Md.)

And the winner of the Clowning Achievement:

Paper Moon: In Part 1 of "Back to Our Offices: 2021," a hilarious documentary about a contest for best butt photocopy. (Ann Martin, Brentwood, Md.)

Second unit: Honorable mentions

12 Angry Men: Soon after Christmas, a young man rounds up a dozen pipers against their will and gives them to his true love. (Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore)

28 Days Later: With humor and resignation, 12-year-old Emma sees "my next 40 years" as she enters her second month of puberty. (Todd DeLap, Fairfax)

8½: At age 64, Bo Derek is still impressive in this long-awaited sequel. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn, Va.)

A Raisin in the Sun: Undocumented Mara-Lago workers enjoy their daily snack. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

All About Eve: A suspense-filled urban documentary: Will the ball drop? (Dave Zarrow, Reston, Va.)

Avatar: Can picking just the right World of Warcraft character change the life of a shy teen? Spoiler alert: No. (Todd DeLap)

Baby Boom: A Japanese hospital records two births in a single week. (Steve Leifer, Potomac, Md.)

Breakfast at Tiffany's: Or "How I lost my job with the Secret Service." (Pam Sweney, Burlington, Mass.)

Duck Soup: The Robinson "Dynasty" guys wring out their beards in a vat of hot water. (Frank Mann, Washington)

F9: Vin Diesel schools John Cena in refreshing Word documents fast and receive Outlook emails furiously. (Jeff Rackow, Bethesda, Md.)

Five Easy Pieces: Humiliated by his performance at the jigsaw tournament, a man decides to start over in the beginners' division. (Jeff Shirley, Richmond)

Friday the 13th: A man on a desert island is shocked to learn the grisly fates of Robinson Crusoe's 12 previous helpers. (Sam Mertens, Silver Spring, Md.)

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner: The Canadian rock band is reduced to playing "American Woman" in supper clubs. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase, Md.)

Knives Out: Martha Stewart's tutorial for making your table settings just right. (Matthew Zimmer, New York)

Life of Pi: Mathematician parents celebrate their child's 3.14159265359th birthday. (Duncan Stevens)

Mean Girls: The story of three young women of average height, weight and intelligence from Normal, Ill. (Rob Cohen, Potomac)

Nomadland: Everyone's anger ceases when Prozac is quietly added to a city's water supply. (Bruce Carlson, Alexandria)

Pride and Prejudice: Quietly but assertively defying Lady Catherine de Bourgh's homophobia, Mr. Darcy and Mr. Bingley marry and settle down together at Pemberley. (Sarah Walsh, Rockville)

Psycho: A hotel owner can't understand why no one wants to stay at his fancy establishment in downtown Washington. (James Bershon, Leonardtown, Md., a First Offender)



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1440: It's parody time!

It's been six months since the last Style Invitational song parody contest; for that one, the Empress asked for songs for or about certain jobs. And before that, more than a year ago, was one for "life in the Age of Corona." Which means we're woefully late for... This week: Write a satiric song about anything in the news these days, set to any familiar tune. Videos are welcome as well (send us a YouTube link along with your lyrics); in fact, if you make a video, feel free to write your own music. The results that will run in the print Post — including the top four winners — will be set to very well known music so that readers can sing along without a reminder. See this week's entry form for more instructions about how to submit your entries, and this week's Style Conversational column for more about Invite songs in general.

Submit your entry or entries on the form at wapo.st/enter-invite-1440 (no capitals in the Web address). You have a week longer than usual this week: Deadline is Monday, June 28; results appear July 11 in print, July 8 online.



Winner gets the Clowning Achievement, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives an amazing prize that we wish we had last week for the cicada diorama contest: it's "The Seventeen-Year Buzz," a bottle of vintage 2004 home-brewed mead with an intact 2004 cicada floating inside. Becky Ross of Gaithersburg, Md., tells us that her late husband, Bill Mitchell, had been a fan of the

Invitational, "so I know he would have been tickled to have you offer it as a prize." You bet, Becky; we're genuinely touched.

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, "No 'Bility" or "Punderachiever." 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 "Plotty Humor" was submitted by both Howard Walderman and Jesse Frankovich; Jesse also wrote 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. Especially if you might enter a song for Week 1440, see this week's at wapo.st/conv1440.

Pulp Fiction: A Washington Post reporter discovers that there is no pandemic toilet paper shortage. (Allan Zackowitz, Brookeville, Md.)

Raging Bull: Ferdinand has finally had enough with the flowers. (Kara Laughlin, Leesburg, Va., a First Offender)

Raise the Red Lantern: Colorblind foster parents welcome a superhero child into their home. (Sue Lin Chong, Baltimore)

Ruthless People: No woman is safe after a supremely judgy gang in D.C. loses its moral center. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Saw 2: A reporter searches for GOP congressmen willing to acknowledge that Trump lost. (Ryan Martinez, Takoma Park, Md.)

Silent Running: High water bills lead a man to replace his toilet bowl flapper. (Mark Calandra, Wenham, Mass.)

Sons and Lovers: Oedipus and Jocasta meet cute. (Michael Doyle, Arlington)

Stripes: Rep. Matt Gaetz models a potential new wardrobe. (Joel Cockrell, Damascus, Md.)

The 39 Steps: A woman begins her Fitbit regimen slowly but with great resolve. (Daniel Galef, Tallahassee)

The 39 Steps: Documentary peeks in on AA's new "premium plan." (Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.)

The 40-Year-Old Virgin: A food connoisseur embarks on a quest to find a bottle of 1981 vintage olive oil. (Brian Cohen, Winston-Salem, N.C.)

The Bad News Bears: Longtime rivals Smokey, Yogi and Pooh unite to warn the world about the impact of climate change on our forests and on honeybees. (Alan Horowitz, Silver Spring, a First Offender)

The Best Years of Our Lives: The Beatles reminisce about their pre-Ringo days. (Chuck Helwig, Centerville, Va.)

The Lovely Bones: Does Kirk have a thing for McCoy? (John McCoey, Rehoboth Beach, Del.)

The Magnificent Seven: A rookie learns that wearing Joe Theismann's number will not enable success with the WFT. (Jim McCormack, Fairfax, a First Offender)

The Remains of the Day: "So, Igor, did you bring me anything interesting this evening?" (Mark Richardson, Takoma Park, Md.)

The Thing: A woman fights covid brain fog to recall concrete nouns. (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf, Md.)

This Is the End: The teacher in Proctology 101 starts with the basics. (Duncan Stevens)

Total Recall: A man remembers what he had for breakfast. (Ellen Raphaeli, Falls Church, Va.)

And Last: Les Misérables: Hundreds of Style Invitational entrants fail once again to get ink. (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

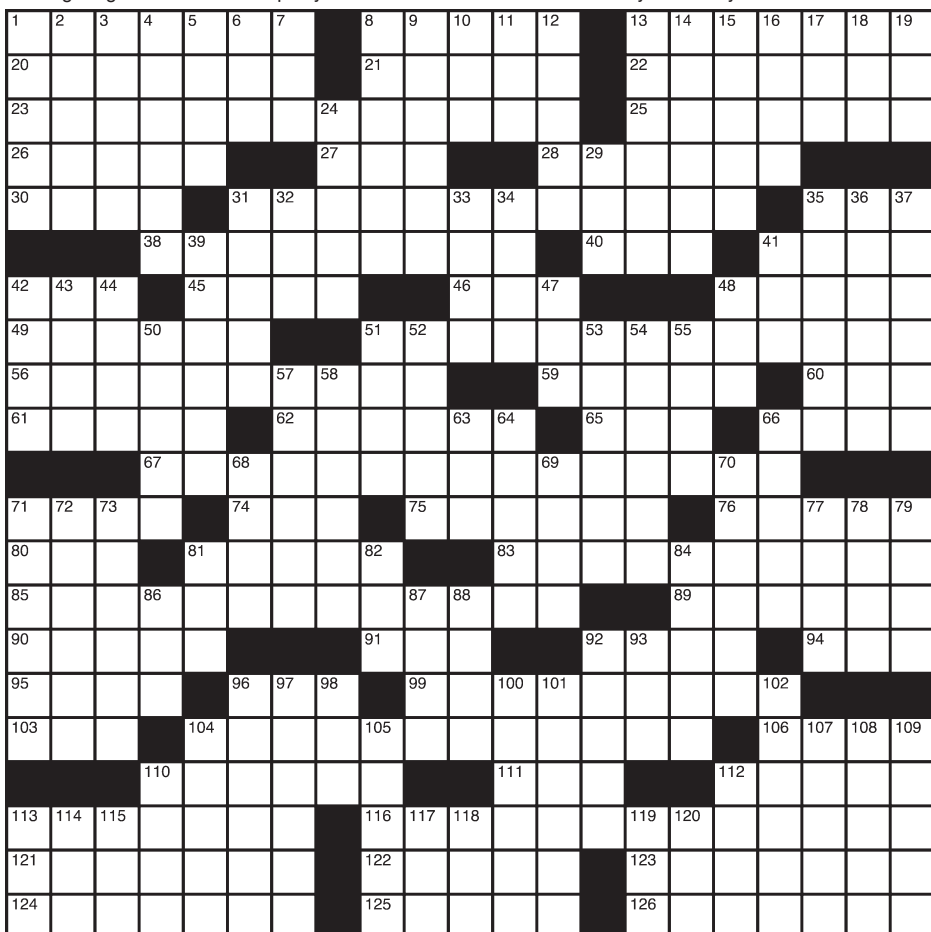
More honorable mentions in the online Invite at wapo.st/invite1440.

Still running — deadline Monday night, June 14: our Vowel Play contest for song titles. See wapo.st/invite1439.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

- 'GET WISE' By MATT SKOCZEN 94 Remote needs 95 "Do-Re-Mi" critter 96 Three Kingdoms Chinese state 99 Trading post visitors 103 Nutrition fig. 104 Young farm animals' taxi company? 106 Radio switch 110 Middle Jackson sister 111 Uzbekistan, once: Abbr. 112 Farm song letters 113 Coup member? 116 Cues from the Miracles' lead singer? 121 Loom power source 122 White-plumed heron 123 Hot air 124 Gave the okay 125 Framing supports 126 Night flights 94 Remote needs 95 "Do-Re-Mi" critter 96 Three Kingdoms Chinese state 99 Trading post visitors 103 Nutrition fig. 104 Young farm animals' taxi company? 106 Radio switch 110 Middle Jackson sister 111 Uzbekistan, once: Abbr. 112 Farm song letters 113 Coup member? 116 Cues from the Miracles' lead singer? 121 Loom power source 122 White-plumed heron 123 Hot air 124 Gave the okay 125 Framing supports 126 Night flights 94 Remote needs 95 "Do-Re-Mi" critter 96 Three Kingdoms Chinese state 99 Trading post visitors 103 Nutrition fig. 104 Young farm animals' taxi company? 106 Radio switch 110 Middle Jackson sister 111 Uzbekistan, once: Abbr. 112 Farm song letters 113 Coup member? 116 Cues from the Miracles' lead singer? 121 Loom power source 122 White-plumed heron 123 Hot air 124 Gave the okay 125 Framing supports 126 Night flights



6/13/21 xwordeditor@aol.com ©2021 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | June 13: You are bright, clever, fun-loving and spontaneous. You like to plan ahead; nevertheless, you are excellent at adapting to change. You live by your own unique, moral code. This year, your idealism will be aroused, which is why you might work on behalf of a charitable organization or do something to help society. This is the year to work hard.

authority figures want.

close friends are confusing.

Moon alert: Avoid shopping or making important decisions from 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Eastern today (4 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Pacific). After that, the Moon moves from Cancer into Leo.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Mixed-up communications and confusion related to travel are classic today. Therefore, if you are traveling, double-check all your facts. Be wise and give yourself extra time to have wiggle room.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You hate to lose money out of foolishness or carelessness. Therefore, be careful today, because you might have definite ideas about something, and yet you might not have all the facts.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Be aware that this is a loosey-goosey day. The Sun is at odds with fuzzy Neptune, and yet, this afternoon the Moon is lined up with fiery Mars. This means you might think you know what you know, but do you really?

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You might make a mistake about a financial matter, especially something to do with shared property, taxes, debt, the government or insurance issues. Make no assumptions. Forewarned is forearmed.

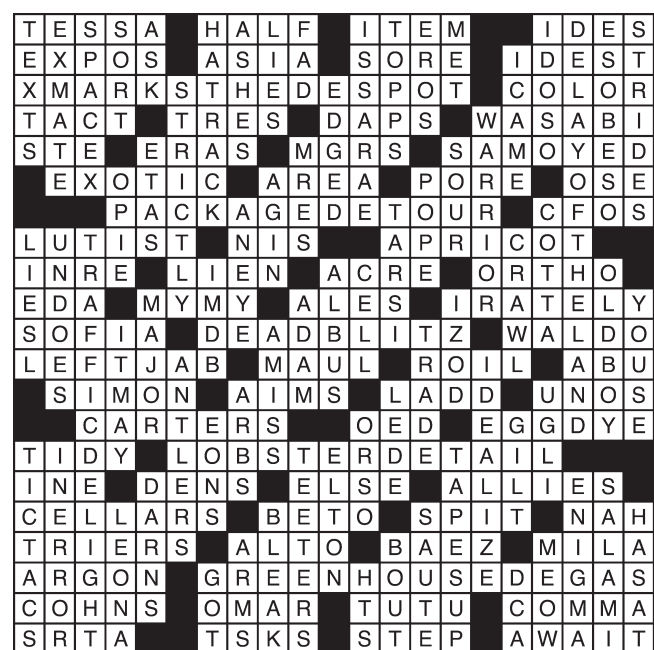
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You might make a mistake about a financial matter, especially something to do with shared property, taxes, debt, the government or insurance issues. Make no assumptions. Forewarned is forearmed.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) When it comes to financial matters today, be extra careful, because some kind of confusion is present. It could be worse than confusion. There might be deceit. Don't believe everything you see or hear.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You're excited about travel plans, or politics, religion or perhaps a racial issue. You feel there is something at stake. Meanwhile, conversations with partners and

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Something related to your health or perhaps a pet might get you excited today and trigger confused communications with a parent or family member. Be aware that all these things are possible.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



6/6/21