DIVERSIONS

Read herrings: Plays on book titles

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1453 we asked you to add a subtitle to a book title that would totally change the subject of the book. Hundreds of the 2,200 entries were sent in by Captain Obvious and Friends; the Empress yawned through "A Farewell to Arms: The Story of Venus de Milo" or "A Brief History of Time: 100 Years of the Newsmagazine." But the entries below woke her up.

4th place:

One Hundred Years of Solitude: A Jewish Mother Waits for Her Son's Weekly Visit (Bill Kullman, Washington, a First Offender)

3rd place:

As I Lay Dying: Memoirs of America's Worst Standups (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

2nd place and the 'naturally glowing edible scorpions':

Left Behind: Thirty Days to a Better Butt (Vol. 1) (Seth Tucker, Washington)

And the winner of the Clowning Achievement:

Silent Spring: The Year I Forgot About Valentine's Day (Dave Prevar, Annapolis)

Weakly readers: Honorable mentions

Go, Dog. Go! Ten Steps to Being the Perfect Wingman (Todd DeLap, Fairfax)

1984: The Year That Gave Us Khloé Kardashian (Ivars Kuskevics, Takoma Park)

A Farewell to Arms: How to Fit More Chairs at the Dining Table (Melissa Muckenhirn, Urbana, Ill., a First Offender)

A Raisin in the Sun: The Grapes of Wrath, Part 2 (Luke Baker, Columbia)

All Creatures Great and Small: A Carnivore's Cookbook (Robyn Carlson, Keyser, W.Va.)

All Things Wise and Wonderful: Donald Trump, in My Own Words (Frank Mann, Washington)

And Then There Were None: How Three Persistent Kids Discover Where Mom Hid the Snickers (Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

Apples Never Fall: The Flat Earth Society's Guide to Gravity (Lee Graham, Rockville)

Becoming: My Life, by Melania Trump (Amanda Yanovitch, Midlothian, Va.)

Captain Underpants: History's Worst Commando Unit Leader (Jon Ketzner, Cumberland, Md.)

Catch-22: An Analysis of Last Season's 601 Washington Football Team Passing Attempts (Jesse Rifkin, Arlington)

Dial "M" for Murder: How Automated Messages Have Slowed Down 911 (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

Fahrenheit 451: A Guide to Precision Baking (Dan Galef, Tallahassee)

For Whom the Bell Tolls: A Former "Gong Show" Insider Tells All (Diane Lucitt, Ellicott City)

Goodnight Moon: And Other Inappropriate Endings to Bad Dates (Dave Airozo, Silver Spring)

Great Expectations: That One Week in June Before the Delta Variant Hit (Todd DeLap)

Harold and the Purple Crayon: A Child's Guide to Creating Their First NFT (Marc Sasseville, Burke)

Hop on Pop: Do You Know How Much Caffeine Is in Your Mountain Dew? (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

Howard's End: The Shock Jock Tells About His Colonoscopy (Steve Fahey, Olney)

If You Give a Mouse a Cookie: . . . He'll Ask for a Glass of Milk and Then Medicare: The Dangerous Creep of Socialism (Robin Rowland, Potomac)

It Ends With Us: 1001 Latin Singular Nouns (Mark Raffman, Reston)

Mark Twain: A Maryland Commuter's Daily Nightmare, by E. Fudd (Steve Glomb, Alexandria)

Never Let Me Go: My Quest for the Guinness World Record for Urine Retention (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

No Exit: 101 Cures for Constipation (Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

Smiley's People: The Creators of Emoji (Phyllis Reinhard, East Fallowfield, Pa.)

So Big: Nicki Minaj's Cousin's Friend's Covid Vaccine Memoir (Marty Gold, Arlington, a First Offender)

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People: Delegate, Delegate, Delegate, Delegate, Delegate, Delegate, Delegate (Dave Prevar)

The Bridges of Madison County: Highlights of Page 2,391 of the 2021 Infrastructure Bill (Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore)

The Color Purple: A Photo Essay of Carpenters' Thumbs (Bill Cromwell, Keswick, Va.)

The Hunt for Red October: The

Leaf Peeper's Guide to New England (John Klayman, Fairfax)

The Neverending Story: Climbing to the Next Floor at M.C. Escher's House (Jesse Frankovich)

The Neverending Story: Mrs. Greene Next Door Talks About Her Bunions (Ellen Raphaeli, Falls Church)

The Overstory: How to Convince Friends and Family That the 2020 Election Is Done (Terri Berg Smith, Rockville)

The Ox-Bow Incident: Why You Shouldn't Dress Your Farm Animals in Cutesy Costumes (Barbara Turner, Takoma Park)

The Poky Little Puppy: Caring for Your Dog After a Porcupine Encounter (Coleman Glenn, Huntington Valley, Pa.)

The Story of O: Part 2 of "Tic-Tac-Toe: A History" (Andrew Elby, Arlington)

The Tempest: My One-Hour Career With Kelly Services (David Terry, Arlington, a First Offender)

Wuthering Heights: A Collection of the World's Finest Wuthering (Todd DeLap; Peter Jenkins, Bethesda)

Little-Known Facts About Well-Known People: Did You Know Jeff Bezos Owns The Washington Post? (David Shombert, Harrisonburg, Va.)

And Last: Pat the Bunny: The Empress Goes Undercover at the Playboy Mansion (Jesse Frankovich; Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn; Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

Still running — deadline Monday night, Oct. 11: our contest for "Is that your ___, or . . . " insults. See wapo.st/invite1456.

BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1457: What is Ask Backwards XL?

- Ken Jennings
- Zen Jennings
- Spinal Jeopardy
- Six hours without Facebook
- Curry Spice
- John Jacob Jingleheimer Fudd
- Not the next TikTok dance craze
- 30,000 steps
- Roads and Bridges
- A self-driving pogo stick
- 3 1/2 pounds
- A bun in the oven
- Still a Googlenope
- Not a future "Jeopardy!" category
- Such a stupid question
- Ask Backwards XL

At 40 go-rounds, it's *the* most repeated Style Invitational contest over our almost 29-year history. Unlike the contest it's vaguely modeled on, this one (like the Invite itself) passed from chief to chief without brouhaha (but, I hope, sufficient haha). **This week: You are on "Jeopardy!"; above are various "answers." You provide the questions,** up to 25 of them to any or all. AND! "Jeopardy!" legend and now co-host Ken Jennings has volunteered — as he did last year — to weigh in on the Empress's shortlist of Jeop-centric entries.
Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1457 (no capitals in the Web address). **Deadline is Monday, Oct. 18;** results appear Nov. 7 in print, Nov. 4 online. *See the entry form for easy formatting directions.*
Winner gets the Clowning Achievement, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a real collector's item: a mint-condition **2004–08 Style Invitational Loser T-shirt** regifted by Invite GOAT Chris Doyle, who won it as one of his 188 runner-up prizes and never wore it, possibly because it's a generous XL and Chris is a generous S. The pocket-dripping-ink motif was created by Bob Staake Himself based on a contest-winning idea by Sarah Worcester. Loser Steve Langer models his own shirt here; he sported it last month at the Losers' Flushies awards.
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 new 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/InvRules. The headline "Read Herrings" is by Chris Doyle; Jon Gearhart 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. Doers this week's at wapo.st/conv1457.

Steve Langer's managed to keep this Loser T-shirt roughly white since 2008.

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

"MOONLIGHTING"
By DAVID ALFRED BYWATERS

ACROSS
1 Milk consumer
5 2017 Dan Stevens fantasy title role
10 Units of resistance
14 Stop running, with "out"
18 Like zeroes
19 Aerie occupant
20 Heartless
21 Shortly, once
22 Exec working as a lifeguard?
24 Speaks in Spanish
25 Stalwart political group
26 "Accidents will happen," e.g.
27 Accessory for Astaire
28 .000001 meters
29 Head for the hills
30 Word of technique
32 Sailors working as aromatherapists?
35 Narrow opening
38 Sole
41 City near Nîmes
42 Rough words?
43 Truckload unit
44 Source of perfection, so they say
46 Crossword constructor's chore
49 Committee head working as a lead guitarist?
51 Stimulate
53 Fawn's mom
53 Bolt with great speed
54 Get a look at
55 Site of Napoleon's exile
56 "The ___ is silence": Hamlet's last words
57 Good guy
59 "To repeat ... "
62 Puts to work
63 NBA players working as Instacart employees?
68 Badly hurt
71 Not in time
72 "I'm not buying that!"
76 Bone: Pref.
77 Inform
78 St. with a panhandle
81 "Uh-oh!"
82 Rehab symptoms
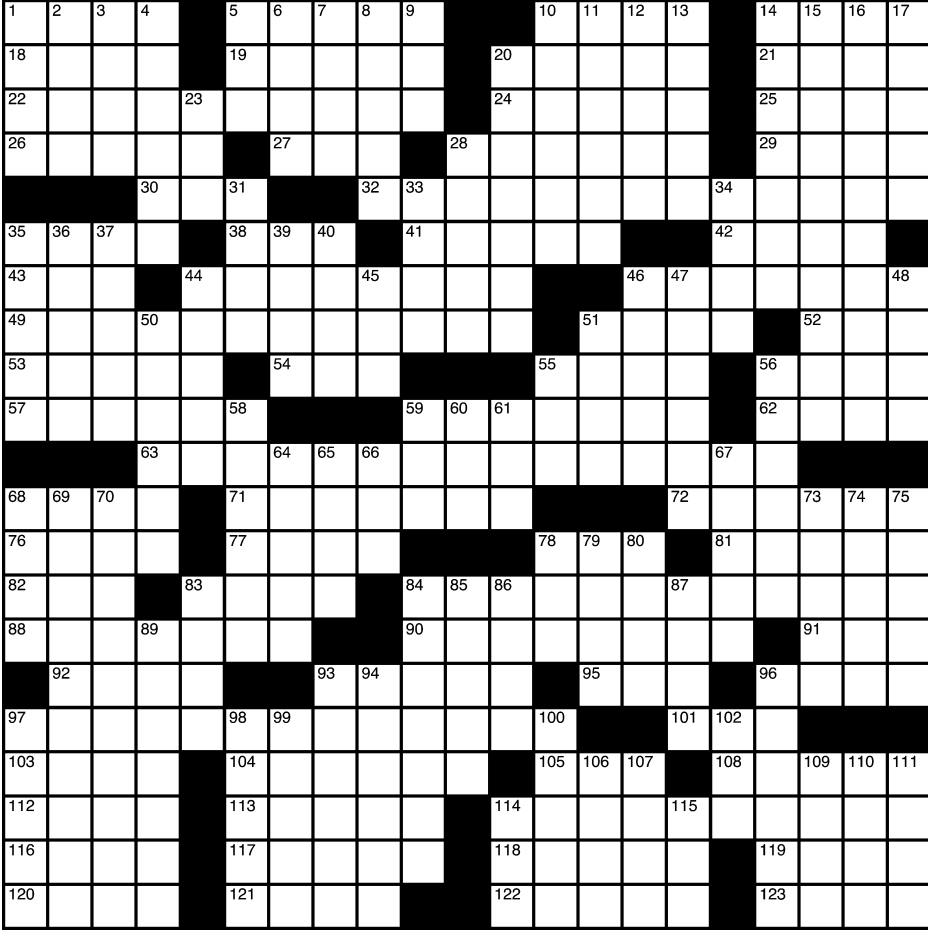83 It might be on a stickie
84 Comics working as phone solicitors?
88 Correction tools
90 Traditional song with the line "Je te plumerai"
91 Call ___ day
92 Workplace standards org.
93 Sunlit lobbies
95 "Gloria in Excelsis ___"
96 Overdo the sweetness
97 Author's rep working as a janitor?
101 Chic retreat
103 Security device
104 Church official
105 "___ Dark Materials": HBO fantasy series
108 Sound
112 Farm prefix
113 Hanukkah potato pancake
114 Football player working as a tailor?
116 React to a shock
117 Cultural values
118 City map, sometimes
119 Not just dislike
120 Pretentious
121 Equine hue
122 Cleopatra's kingdom
123 Walked

DOWN
1 Composition conclusion
2 Ardent
3 Volcanic output
4 Small sampling, as of various beers
5 Implore
6 "It is the ___, and Juliet is the sun": Romeo
7 Liquido claro
8 Loses traction
9 Asian festival
10 Expert in futures?
11 Overreaching self-confidence
12 Dieter's breakfast
13 Much street talk
14 A subway rider
15 From every direction
16 In close opposition
17 Joints with caps
20 Scary story
23 Modernist
28 Word of Gallic gratitude
31 Frayed
33 Greek goddess for whom a spring month is named
34 "Divine Comedy" focus
35 Neither bow nor pick
36 Unsecured
37 Like ancient Peru
39 Bugs
40 Pilate's "Behold!"
44 Small recipe quantity
45 With 100-Down, 1951 horror film whose title role was played by James Arness
46 Ark unit
47 Heavy
48 Comes into
50 Affectionate invitation
51 Custard dessert
55 Salem-to-Boise dir.
56 Nation in a Fleming title
58 More torrid
59 Santa ___ winds
60 Army NCO
61 Cooling cubes
64 Poe output, aptly
65 Game played on horseback
66 Badly
67 Auto pioneering partner
68 Fashion
69 Studier of signs
70 "I can't tell"
73 National Poetry Month
74 Brought about
75 Long exam answer
78 Seasonal affliction
79 Wasn't true
80 Poker hand
83 Intend
84 Freighters' loads
85 From far away (perhaps very far)
86 Bank offering
87 Pontiac muscle cars
89 With uncertainty
93 Mystery award namesake
94 Add at the end
96 Came down with
97 Philanthropist Barton
98 Do-nothing
99 Cool kin
100 See 45-Down
102 Critical critique
106 Wee
107 Dance part
109 Letter opening
110 Fond of
111 Binged (on), as junk food
114 "Shame on thee!"
115 Hairy Addams family member

10/10/21   xworded@aol.com   ©2021 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Answers to last week's puzzle below.

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

Happy Birthday | Oct. 10: You're charming and entertaining. At times your enthusiasm can make you confrontational. You like to surprise. Personally, you are well-organized. This year is a time of learning and teaching for you. Many of you will explore your inner, spiritual world so you feel stronger and more grounded. This will also be an exciting year for you.

Moon Alert: There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions today. The Moon is in Sagittarius.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) This is a great day to study or make travel plans. You also might want to explore opportunities related to publishing, the media, the law or medicine. Doors will open for you, and things will tend to go your way.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You are the financial wizard of the zodiac. You'll be glad to know that this is a good day for discussions about shared property, inheritances, taxes, debt or shared wealth. Tonight: Your attitude is positive and proactive!

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You will encounter energetic people today, which is one of the reasons it's in your best interests to go more than halfway when dealing with others. Today it's best to go along to get along. It's a playful, fun-loving week for sports, children's activities and social plans.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You will get a lot done today. You're motivated, energetic and not afraid to begin something challenging. This is also a fun day to play with your pet, because your energy is high. Tackle home repairs and family discussions, and enjoy entertaining at home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Enjoy playful activities with children today. Accept invitations to party and enjoy social outings. Sports events will appeal to you. It's a busy week full of short trips, fun outings, romance, study and writing.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You also might be involved with family in an energetic discussion. Someone wants to get the ball rolling about something. Focus on money and earnings. Redecorate and enjoy entertaining at home.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Discussions with others are enthusiastic. You won't hesitate to share your thoughts. Because you are so mentally alert, this is also a good day to study or travel. Romance, vacations, parties and short trips will please you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Write down your moneymaking ideas today, because you are mentally alert and creative, especially about financial matters and your possessions. It's a good money week. You might boost your earnings and make a big purchase.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Today the Moon is in your sign dancing with Mercury, Mars and the Sun. This heightens your energy and determination. It's the perfect day for you to wrap up old business. Schmooze with friends, groups and organizations. Shop for wardrobe goodies.
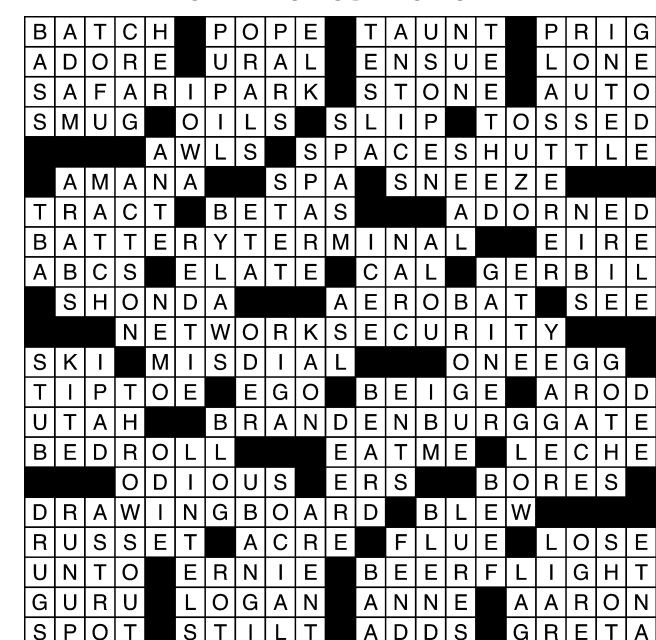
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You have been high-viz. This also means you have had to stick your neck out about a few issues. Nevertheless, the publicity has been good. Today, however, you want to hide and hibernate. Be gone. People admire you. You might boost your earnings.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You will enjoy schmoozing with others today, especially with a female acquaintance. Group interactions, political matters, foreign events and higher education will go well. Be friendly. Travel and further education appeal to you. An artistic friend will be good company.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) People notice you today. Some are discussing the personal details of your private life. You might be involved in a public discussion about how to spend a certain amount of money or how to do raise funds. You look good. Bosses and VIPs admire you. Meanwhile, financial matters and shared property look good.

Answers to last week's puzzle.

10/3/21