DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

U-turns of phrase: Good/bad ideas

BY PAT MYERS

Week 1455 was a wordplay contest in which we asked for good ideas changed slightly into bad ideas. The Empress received more than 1,400 entries, many of which were
Good idea: Get covid vaccine.
Bad idea: Get covid-19.

4th place:

Good idea: Having large church coffers.
Bad idea: Having large church coughers.
(Scott Richards, Hollywood, Md.)

3rd place:

Good idea: Putting sugar in your tea.
Bad idea: Putin sugaring your tea.
(Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

2nd place and the Belgian hat with fingers:

Good idea: Striving to be more of a caring person.
Bad idea: Striving to be more of a "Karen" person.
(Frank Mann, Washington)

And the winner of the Clowning Achievement:

Good idea: Getting your cues from science.
Bad idea: Getting your science from Q.
(Ryan Martinez, Takoma Park)

Faintest ideas: Honorable mentions

Good idea: Leave your audience wanting more.
Bad idea: Leave your audience wanting morphine.
(Lee Graham, Rockville)

Good idea: Feeling that you ran the best race.
Bad idea: Feeling that you are the best race. *(Jesse Frankovich)*

Good idea: Rekindle an old flame.
Bad idea: Rekindle an old flame anywhere in California.
(Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Good idea: Trust in science.
Bad idea: Trust in seance.
(Kevin Dopart)

Good idea: Backing up your computer.
Bad idea: Backing up over your computer.
(Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.)

Good idea: "We're off to see the Wizard!"
Bad idea: "We're off to see the Wizards."
(Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

Good idea: A peanut butter and jelly sandwich.
Bad idea: A peanut butter and jellyfish sandwich.
(Mary Giorgis, Crofton)

Good idea: Childproof gates.
Bad idea: Child with Gaetz.
(Becky Foster, Falls Church, a First Offender)

Good idea: Making a resolution on Jan. 1.
Bad idea: Making a revolution on Jan. 6. *(Mark Raffman, Reston)*

Good idea: Conquering your demons.
Bad idea: Concurring with your demons.
(Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

Good idea: Hitting a ball into the crowd after winning in tennis.
Bad idea: Throwing a ball into the crowd after winning in bowling.
(Bird Waring)

Good idea: Disinfect your phone.
Bad idea: Disinfect your phone in the washing machine. *(Lauren Shaham, Silver Spring, a First Offender)*

Good idea: Filling your mouth with a warm beignet.
Bad idea: Filling your mouth with warm Bengay. *(Jeff Shirley, Richmond)*

Good idea: Get coffee on a first date.
Bad idea: Get coughy on a first date. *(Ryan Martinez)*

Good idea: Always handling guns like they're loaded.
Bad idea: Always handling guns like you're loaded. *(Donald Norum, Charlottesville, a First Offender)*

Good idea: Giving Trump a run for his money.
Bad idea: Giving Trump money for his run. *(Frank Mann)*

Good idea: SNL kicks off the season with Owen Wilson.
Bad idea: WFT kicks off the season with 0 and 1. *(Frank Mann)*

Good idea: Brag about partying with Prince Harry.
Bad idea: Brag about partying with Prince Andrew. *(Duncan Stevens)*

Good Idea: Hunting using a blind.
Bad Idea: Hunting using a blindfold.
(John Hutchins, Silver Spring)

Good idea: Inviting schoolchildren to visit your office.
Bad idea: Inviting schoolchildren to visit your orifice.
(Byron Miller, Cobble Hill, B.C.)

Good idea: Make Indian food.
Bad idea: Mock Indian food.
(Michael Cohen, Greenbelt, who last got Invite ink in 2002)

Good idea: Preferred pronouns.
Bad idea: Preferred capItaLizATionS. *(Jeff coNtoMPaSis, Ashburn)*

Good idea: Surprise your kids with the trampoline of their dreams.
Bad idea: Surprise your kids with the trampling of their dreams.
(Coleman Glenn, Huntingdon Valley, Pa.)

Good idea: Doing a cannonball into the pool.
Bad idea: Doing a cannonball onto a pool table. *(Sarah Walsh, Rockville)*

Good idea: Taking a vacation with your boss's OK
Bad idea: Taking a vacation with your boss's SO. *(Jesse Frankovich)*

Good idea: Giving away shots of Johnson & Johnson.
Bad idea: Giving away shots of your johnson.*(Frank Mann)*

Good idea: Vote green.
Bad idea: Vote Greene.
(Steve Leifer, Potomac)

Good idea: Wage a good fight for poor workers.
Bad idea: Fight a good wage for poor workers.
(Ward Foeller, Charlottesville)

Good idea: You want to go golfing and your wife says it's fine.
Bad idea: You want to go golfing and your wife says, "Fine."
(Glen Matheson, Bay Shore, N.Y.)

Good idea: You're in the pink.
Bad idea: Urine, pink. *(Roy Ashley, Washington)*

Good idea: Post pics of your son in his suit on his birthday.
Bad idea: Post pics of your son in his birthday suit.
(Drew Bennett, Rogers, Ark.)

Good idea: Enjoying entering The Style Invitational again.
Bad idea: Being enjoined from ever entering The Style Invitational again. *(Larry Yungk, Wyoming, Ohio)*

Good idea: Being chosen by Pat Myers.
Bad idea: Being chosen by Michael Myers.
(Jesse Rifkin, Arlington)

Still running — deadline Monday night, Oct. 25: Our contest to play around with TV show titles. See *wapo.st/invite1458*.

BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1458: And we quote: 'It's Parody Time'

The Major-General's Song, as rewritten by Sir Mix-a-Lot *(via Duncan Stevens)*
I am the very model of a pro-butt individual,
My derriere enthusiasm's not at all residual.
If someone's claiming otherwise, then that's a tale apocryphal!
There's no dissimulating my proclivities buttockryphal! . . .

Yes, it's time for another song contest! This one was suggested by Astonishingly Prolific Loser Duncan Stevens (especially when it comes to song parodies): **Write humorous first-person lyrics for a song "by" some particular person,** set to any well-known tune (or, if you want to make your own video, you could even write your own tune).

The results that will run in the print Post, including the top four winners, will be songs set to very well-known music so that readers can sing along. (Online the inking entries will appear with links to the music.) While the example above, because of limited space, is just half a verse, your own parody should be at least one full verse. 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 up to 25 entries (hey, we have some amazing songwriters in the Loser Community!) at *wapo.st/enter-invite-1459* (no capitals in the Web address). Since songs (not to mention videos) ought to take some polishing, we give you a week longer than usual: **Deadline is Monday, Nov. 8;** results appear Nov. 21 in print, Nov. 18 online.

Because who doesn't want to pretend to eat the middle of a dog? This week's second prize, one of four not-corndogs.

Winner gets the Clowning Achievement, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a set of four **Dog Corn Holders,** specifically the front and back ends of a dachshund that you push into your cob, rather than the usual corn-shaped holders. Because, uh, you want to pretend that you're biting with gusto into the midsection of a dog? Whatever, the cob impalers are made of an attractive dark poly-something resin. Donated by Loser Sarah Walsh.

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 "U-turns of Phrase" is by Tom Witte; Jesse Frankovich 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*.

The Style Conversational: The Empress's weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. See this week's at *wapo.st/conv1459*.

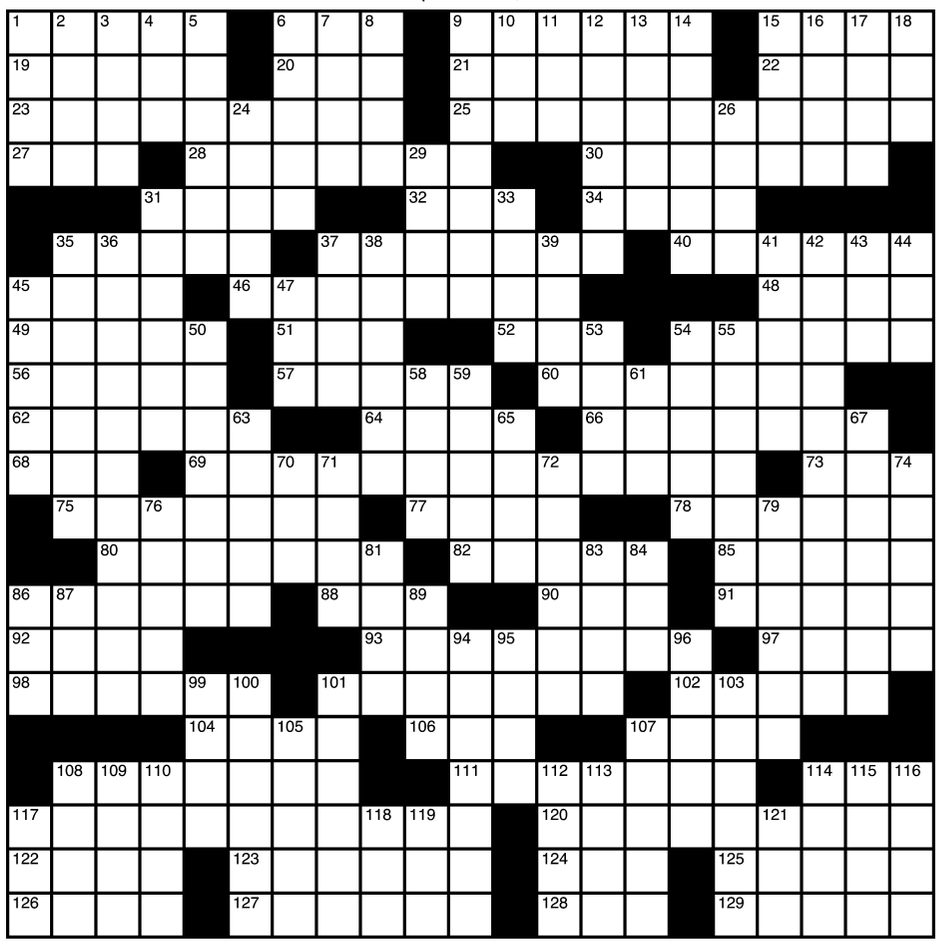
L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

"SPORTING CHANCE" By GARY LARSON

ACROSS
1 Model in the Beach Boys' "Fun, Fun, Fun"
6 "Nightmare" street
9 Middles
15 Demonstrating skill
19 Subtle glows
20 Wasikowska of "Damsel"
21 Allergic outburst
22 Hudson Bay nation
23 *Grizzly, for one
25 *Olaf II of Norway, notably
27 Ornamental vase
28 Earthly
30 MLB Hall of Famer Fox and journalist Bly
31 __ a soul
32 Va. winter hours
34 Genesis twin
35 Hose clamp tightener
37 More klutzy
40 Prepare, as a contract
45 Like some dorms
46 *It goes up in cold weather
48 Sound of shock
49 Sharply hit baseball
51 Relax, maybe
52 Wolf down
54 Guru's residence
56 Pool concern
57 Loses steam
60 Claim no longer allowed on cigarettes
62 Fortune
64 Show with constant cliff-hangers
66 Cell division
68 NL Central club
69 *Nickname for Joe DiMaggio
73 Words of understanding
75 Uses, as a scale
77 Candy bar with a Nordic name
78 Self-reproach
80 Thinks
82 Played really badly
85 Comic book artist
86 Mentally assimilate
88 A musician usually has a good one
90 Originally called
91 Bête __
92 Willing to listen (to)
93 *The sun will eventually be one
97 Button alternative
98 Posse carriers
101 Max Ernst, for one
102 True
104 Yearn
106 Eye, to a poet
107 Pickup relatives, briefly
108 Condemnation
111 Zip one's lip
114 "Rugrats" dad
117 *ICBM booster until 1987
120 They're on the same side ... and a hint to the answers to starred clues
122 Pizzazz
123 Spiritualist Deepak
124 Bagpiper's topper
125 Past pudgy
126 Target of a military press
127 "Dear Evan __": 2015 musical
128 Mahershala of "Moonlight"
129 Grown-up efts

DOWN
1 Perfume that sounds forbidden
2 VP under Jefferson
3 Par-3 choice, often
4 Not even rare?
5 Insurance that covers dams?
6 Manicurist's board
7 Yarn spinner
8 Dark area on the moon
9 Surfboard/kayak hybrid
10 Yellowfin tuna
11 Response to goo
12 Slugger's creation
13 Shades
14 "I'm __ to hear from you!"
15 Smoothie fruit
16 Cheese on crackers
17 Telescope part
18 To this day
24 Docking place
26 Result of one too many, maybe
29 Rookie, briefly
31 "I can't agree to this"
33 Scrabble piece
35 Going places?
36 *Kipling's Shere Khan is one
37 Author Sheehy
38 Relaxed
39 Airline with an all-kosher menu
41 Turkish bigwigs
42 *"Virtuous Woman" reggae singer
43 Solheim Cup team
44 Fluoride-in-water meas.
45 Cat's weapons
47 Little trickster
50 Confirms, as a password
53 Sub
54 China __: showy bloom
55 Use for preservation, as wine barrels
58 Takes off
59 Pass rusher's stat
61 Small intake
63 Attacks
65 Story line
67 Singer Ed featured in the 2019 film "Yesterday"
70 "Just kidding!"
71 Place for a pad
72 Modern Persians
74 __ throat
76 Utopias
79 Knowledge of spiritual matters
81 Bareilles of "Waitress"
83 Without ice
84 Understanding
86 Quote from Homer
87 2012 Facebook event, for short
89 Overhaul
94 Sunbather's pride
95 Poke fun at
96 Best Supporting Actress before Ingrid
99 Merit
100 Discolor by burning
101 Military alert state
103 Jack of "Some Like It Hot"
105 To-do
107 It was added to create an everyday quintet in 1990
108 Tick off
109 Series finale: Abbr.
110 Huff and puff
112 R&B great James
113 Ring at a wedding
114 State of suppressed worry
115 Reason to cram
116 List for a versatile tool
117 Talk acronym
118 Mil. mess duties
119 Before, poetically
121 Presidential nickname



10/24/21 xwordeditor@aol.com ©2021 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

Happy Birthday | Oct. 24: You are perceptive about others. Personally, you are magnetic and charismatic. You are also a perfectionist. This is a wonderful year to enjoy life and socialize with others. You might even find yourself in the public eye more than usual. Because your creativity and zest for life are at a peak, don't hesitate to explore your creative talents to seek fulfillment.
Moon Alert: There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions today. The Moon is in Gemini.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
Have you noticed that negotiations and ideas shared with friends and partners were flowing rapidly this week? (Admittedly, there was a hiccup midweek with the Full Moon.) Today the dust is starting to settle.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Issues related to your work or your health moved forward with acceleration this week. On Wednesday, the Full Moon was a speed bump. Today, it's time to relax. Get more rest. Listen to those closest to you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
Your social life and your desire to schmooze with others increased this week. Likewise, your relations with your kids were likely more active. Today is a good day to catch some downtime.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
Home and family issues that have been stalled finally got the green light this week. Things began to move forward very rapidly! (When it rains it pours.) Today you can position things with more clarity. Enjoy solitude, vacations, fun times with kids and romance.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Although this week began with frenzied enthusiasm, by midweek, you took a rain check because of the Full Moon. Today is a good time to contemplate, study and learn what you need to know.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
You're high-viz today. Personally, you feel reassured that financial matters are moving forward more smoothly, despite a speed bump midweek with the Full Moon. Today is a good day to size up your assets. Knowledge is power.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Before this week, things were on hold because Mercury was retrograde in your sign. Then, at the beginning of the week, everything started to flow forward. Today you feel the ground beneath your feet, and it feels good.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
You are empowered now because the Sun is in your sign. Since this happens only once a year for four weeks, make the most of it! Ask the universe for a favor. When the Sun is in your sign, doors will open more easily for you.

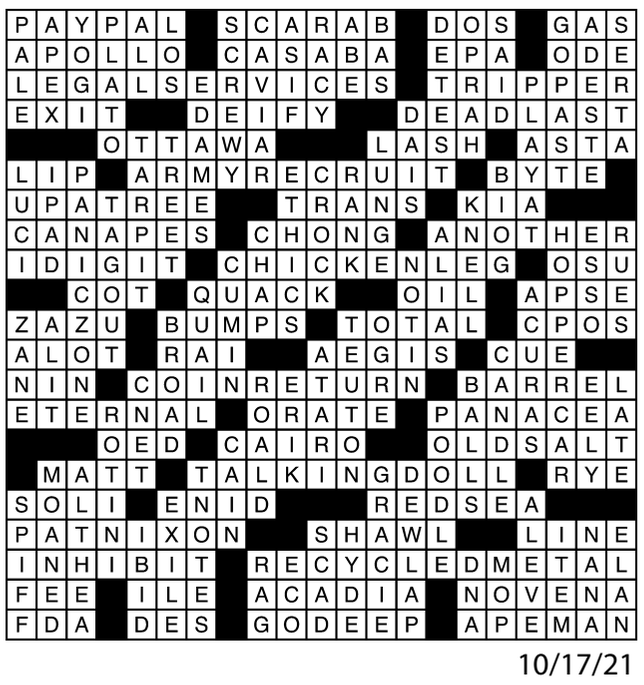
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Your ability to galvanize the energy of groups and organizations improved this week. Suddenly, it was all systems go. Fortunately, with Venus now in your sign, you're charming and diplomatic. Today it's time to relax, regroup and rethink goals.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
It was refreshing to get the go-ahead at the beginning of the week from the powers that be to go after what you wanted to do. Of course, tempo and pacing are important. Too fast is too fast and too slow is dismal. Fortunately, it's all falling in place.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Travel and dealings with foreign countries were energized at the beginning of the week. (Almost too much!) The Full Moon on Wednesday tempered things for you so that now you know how to more skillfully achieve your goals.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Delays with inheritances, shared property, insurance issues and shared responsibilities were released at the beginning of the week. Solutions and results then seemed possible. Probably you had to rethink things midweek, so now you have the right perspective. Enjoy home and family. Travel and explore.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



10/17/21