

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Ha for teacher: Education parodies

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1265** we asked for songs falling into the deliberately broad topic of “education,” set to familiar tunes. As with all our song parody contests, there were dozens of inkworthily clever, funny lyrics among the several hundred entries. Some more appear in the online Invite, and I’ll feature more of the over the next week or so in the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook (on.fb.me/invdev).

4th place

Home Economics 1963

(To “Be Our Guest”) Sew a dress! Sew a dress! Learn to launder and to press! Be a winner cooking dinner And then cleaning up the mess! Writing checks is complex For the weaker, fairer sex, But you need to have this knowledge To get married before college! While the boys are in shop You can learn to use a mop Or bake brownies that are destined to impress! Come get your education in subordination: Your success — being less — sew a dress! (Mark Raffman, Reston)

3rd place

“You’re at the final exam and never attended class. It’s that dream again.”

(To “I Dreamed a Dream”) I dreamed a dream in time gone by When I found college courses thrilling. I dreamed my schooling would supply A way to make my life fulfilling. Though I was on financial aid, Professors knew me as a scrapper. By sticking to the plans I’d laid, At last I made Phi Beta Kappa.

But now the terrors come at night In a dream that drags me under: I’m back in college feeling fright And a sudden sense of shame.

I took a course but never went To any classes. What a blunder! There’s not a chance I can prevent A grade of F beside my name! (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

2nd place and the “Dirty Mind, Clean Body” photo bag featuring a tote of perky lemons:

(To “Be Our Guest”) Beat the test, beat the test, Don’t you mind about the rest, We will teach you how to better guess the answers we want guessed. Taking tests — just a game, And each subject is the same: No one cares if you have knowledge; “They’ll take care of that in college.” Every question has a clue How to answer, what to do So your strategy is never second best. Go on, get out your pencil And even the most dense’ll Beat the test, beat the test, Beat the test.

Math or poems, you won’t care; We will help you to prepare. All the questions have suggestions of their answers — they’re right there! Eliminate two of four And you’re sure to raise your score; Don’t be such pathetic chancers — Hey, we’re giving you the answers!

We will show you little tricks Filling boxes in with ticks And to stay inside the lines and be repressed. If you’ll just come to class, we’ll guarantee you’ll pass, Just take the test (we suggest That you cheat like all the rest), Beat the test, beat the test, beat the test! (Marcus Bales, Cleveland)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

“D.C. schools increasingly absent students, report finds” (To “Jumpin’ Jack Flash”) I was raised in the D.C. public schools, Where the suits make their own achievement rules. But it’s all right now, this slacker’s morass. Yeah, it’s all right — I’m never in class, still I pass pass pass! Turn in junk, get the teachers’ dirty looks. Still don’t flunk, cause they’re cooking all the books.



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1269: Mess with our (or other) heads

**Real headline:** Roasting a chicken is easier than you think  
**Fake bank head:** Just start your speech with ‘Hey, you dumb cluck . . .’

Cousins will file grievance if tagged  
Litigious relatives ruin reunion picnic game with legal threat

Along with song parodies — which we enjoy this very week — Mess With Our Heads remains one of the Empress’s favorite Style Invitational contests. Even though The Post’s headlines (thankfully) aren’t as “newspapery” as they used to be, and now often read more like conversational sentences, there’s still plenty to play on, especially since you can use any paper anywhere. **This week: Reinterpret (or comment wryly on) a headline appearing in The Post (print or online) or another publication and dated March 1-12 by writing a bank head, or subtitle, as in the examples above, which play on recent headlines in The Post and its Express tabloid. Please give the source and date for the headline so the E can verify it.**

What counts as a headline? Can you use just part of one? May you write a bank head for a bank head? The Empress explains just how to Mess With Our Heads in **The Style Conversational**, her weekly supplemental column, at wapo.st/conv1269. Submit entries at the website wapo.st/enter-invite-1269 (all lowercase).

Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives two-count-’em-two fine volumes: “**Red Flags! How to Know When You’re Dating a Loser**,” a self-help paperback that tragically fails to warn the reader to look discreetly for refrigerator magnets; and “**Expletive Deleted: A Good Look at Bad Language**,” which explores the history and many uses of various words we can’t say here.

**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, March 12;** results published April 1 (whuh-oh) in print, March 29 online. See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline “Ha for Teacher” is by Dave Matuskey. Kevin Dopart and Tom Witte both submitted the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev.

THE STYLE CONVERSATIONAL The Empress’s weekly online column discusses the new contest and results. Especially if you plan to enter, check it out at wapo.st/styleconv.

And it’s all right now — to college for me. Yeah, it’s all right . . . accepted I’ll be into UDC! (Nan Reiner, Boca Raton, Fla.)

Song and dunce: Honorable mentions

**Inside the Girls’ Room** (To “Under the Boardwalk”) Though I’m a boy-turned-girl, like other kids I need relief, And there’s a place I’d like to go without the school officials’ grief . . . Inside the girls’ room to take a pee . . . yeah, In a stall with the door closed tight is where I’d be. Inside the girls’ room! (It’s not really that fun) Inside the girls’ room! (To sit and go number one) Inside the girls’ room! (Why on earth does the guv) Inside the girls’ room! (Think I’m lookin’ for love) Inside the girls’ room! Girls’ room! (Mark Raffman)

**Kansas School Funding** (To “Wonderful World”) Don’t know much about history, don’t know much biology, ‘Cause my state has gone completely nuts, pushed through education budget cuts, Now there’s 45 kids per class; if you show up, then you’re sure to pass, Ain’t a wonderful world here for me.

Don’t know much about geography, don’t know much trigonometry, ‘Cause my district has been starved of funds, can’t learn much about the Goths and Huns, But if they throw out those right-wing fools, and start funding all the public schools, What a wonderful world this could be. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

**Potty Training** (Hey, that’s education, too) (To “Hallelujah”) Well I heard you’re 2, you’ve entertained Thoughts of getting potty-trained ‘Cause you don’t really care for diapers, do ya? Well if you want to have a chance To graduate to big-boy pants There’s quite a simple test, I’ll give it to ya: When you do the Pee and poo, ya, Use the loo? Yah? Hallelujah! (Hildy Zampella, Falls Church)

**The English Major’s Song** (To “The Major General’s Song”) I am the very model of a modern English major grad, Where my degree will take me next, I wouldn’t care to wager—sad! I diagram my sentences and have a special expertise At spotting misplaced semicolons, commas and apostrophes, At assonance and consonance and matters quite poetical I’ve theories both rhetorical and also hypothetical, I can expound on anything from Albee plays to Zeno’s work— So, patience, please, while I refill your mocha Frappuccino, jerk! (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

More parodies, along with links to the original melodies so you can sing along (or at least listen), are in the online Invite at wapo.st/invite1269.

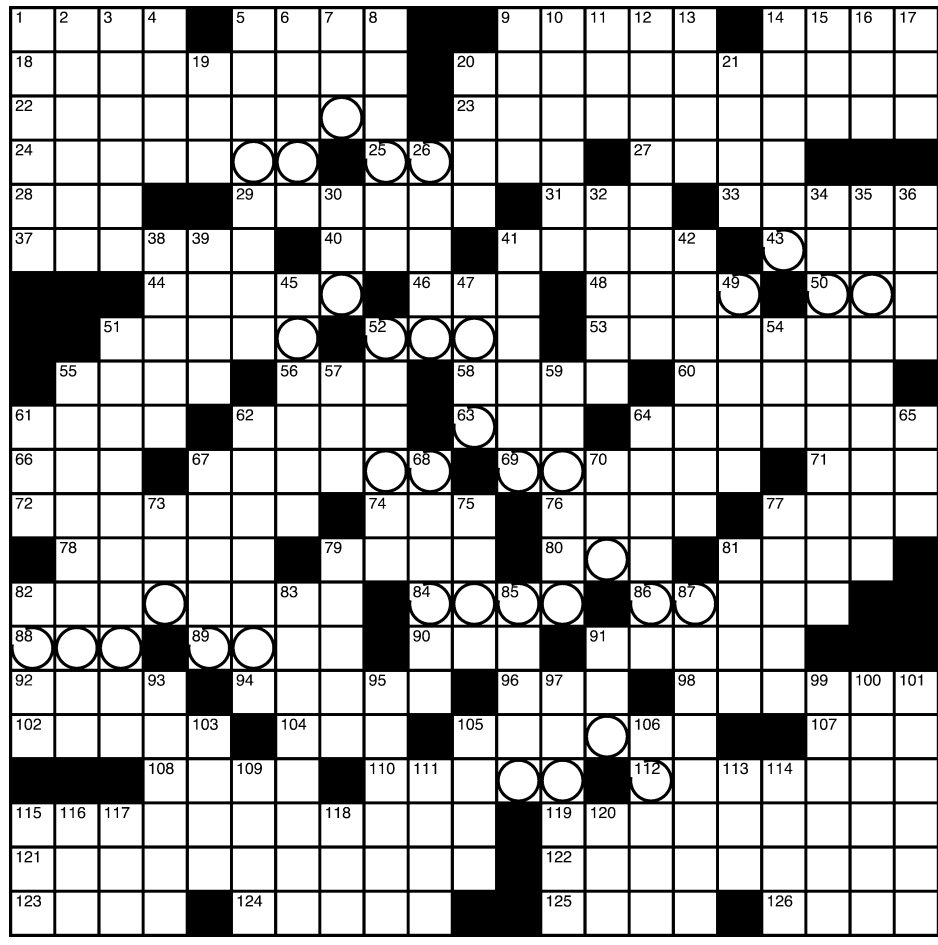
**Still running — deadline Monday, March 6: our contest for fake trivia about the media, publishing, etc. See wapo.st/invite1268.**

**Next week:** It’s The Style Invitational’s 25th birthday — we started on March 7, 1993. We’ll be able to rent a car! (Still, nobody will accuse us of being grown up.)

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

- “ISLAND HOPPING” By JOHN GUZZETTA
- ACROSS
- Clues with a dash are intentionally blank.
- 1 Pond organism
- 5 Traffic sound
- 9 Spin, for one
- 14 Nigger neighbor
- 18 Slight mitigation?
- 20 One dressed for dinner?
- 22 “I didn’t mean that”
- 23 Defense opponent, briefly
- 24 Preliminary negotiations
- 25 -
- 27 Bivouac structure
- 28 Sportage automaker
- 29 Olympic skater
- 31 Mag. edition
- 33 Obliterate
- 37 Blow bubbles into
- 40 Canberra school
- 41 Benjamin of “Private Practice”
- 43 Italian peaks
- 44 “Seriously?”
- 46 Teachers’ org.
- 48 Former Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale component
- 50 Fluorescent bulb element
- 52 -
- 53 Functions
- 55 Ring holders
- 56 Fish eggs
- 58 Toffee candy bar
- 60 Alloys, e.g.
- 61 Corner office excess
- 62 Word spoken con affetto
- 63 Fine-grained wood
- 64 Sleep it off
- 65 “Shame!”
- 67 “On the Good Ship Lollipop” performer
- 69 -
- 71 Tach figure
- 72 Youth support group
- 74 Antique
- 76 Storage facility sometimes found underground
- 77 New Mexico’s Ski Valley
- 78 “What \_\_\_.”: “Ho-hum”
- 79 Scoop
- 80 Part of TNT
- 81 Show some teeth
- 82 Washington soccer team
- 84 Lesser clergy member
- 86 -
- 88 Confirmed
- 89 -
- 90 Balaam’s mount
- 91 Vade \_\_\_
- 92 Old Vatican bread
- 94 Port of \_\_\_
- 95 Trinidad and Tobago’s capital
- 96 Fashion initials that
- 98 Hundreds, slangily
- 102 Plane wing parts
- 104 Driver’s lic. figure
- 105 Lacking what it takes
- 107 Mauna \_\_\_
- 108 Blood prefix
- 110 Check out a wreck, perhaps
- 112 -
- 115 Babysitters’ woes
- 119 Romcom, perhaps
- 121 Piton user
- 122 How titles may be written
- 123 Sludge
- 124 Wonder Woman’s \_\_\_ of Truth
- 125 Chinese: Pref.
- 126 From Denver to Topeka
- 16 Bloke
- 17 Early civil rights activist \_\_\_ B. Wells
- 19 Pro, country-style
- 20 Colombian city
- 21 Clear-minded
- 26 “Single Ladies (Put \_\_\_ on It)”: Beyoncé hit
- 30 Pair
- 32 Relish
- 34 ATV part
- 35 Watches secretly
- 36 Legal titles: Abbr.
- 38 Actor Lew
- 39 Some action figures
- 41 Successful shot
- 42 Vocal effect
- 45 Subway line with a Yankee Stadium stop
- 47 “Whoa!”
- 49 Payoff
- 51 “Laughing” Australian bird
- 52 “SNL” alum
- 54 Paul Bunyan tool
- 55 Chicago Museum of Science and Industry showpiece
- 57 Bobby on the ice
- 59 Has a loan from
- 61 Windy City transp. org.
- 62 Frito-Lay product with a spokes-feline named Chester
- 64 Put together, as film
- 65 U.K. heads
- 67 \_\_\_ A: Italian soccer league
- 68 “The Simpsons Theme” composer Danny
- 70 105-Down launch
- 73 Slew
- 75 “... the worst thing you can \_\_\_ nothing”: Teddy Roosevelt
- 77 Clobber
- 79 Attache attachment
- 81 African bovines
- 82 Two-baggers: Abbr.
- 83 High
- 85 Timberlake’s former band
- 87 Approve
- 91 Commissioner’s Trophy org.
- 93 Swedning fuel
- 95 “And So \_\_\_”: Billy Joel song
- 97 Riyadh residents
- 99 Kid-lit pig
- 100 Elixirs
- 101 Like the best film
- 103 Paving stone
- 105 70-Down launcher
- 106 Classic language
- 109 Dinner, for one
- 111 It has a Double Stuff variety
- 113 The Beatles’ “\_\_\_ Loser”
- 114 Burrowing rodent
- 115 Aetna offering
- 116 Tic-tac-toe win
- 117 Spanish light
- 118 ER workers
- 120 Young Skywalker’s nickname



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Answers to last week’s puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY | March 4:** This year, you follow your intuition and land well. Your instincts help you to improve the image you project in your community and your profession. You will receive many kudos as a result. If you are single, you seem more attractive and desirable to potential suitors. If you are attached, the two of you often enjoy each other’s company. Emphasis is on your relationship and on maintaining good communication. Libra brings out your more caring side.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) You dreams and goals are the topic of conversation in the morning. Pressure builds when dealing with an older person or relative. Your temper could rise if you feel pushed too much or too hard.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) You once more win over the heart of a loved one. Your consistently gentle personality really does make a difference. To others, you seem kind and trustworthy. Understand that you could stumble into a power play over a potential new adventure.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) A child delights in your company and lets you know in no uncertain terms. You could be more vocal than you realize about a key matter. Do not underestimate the importance of this trait in your choices.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) Your creativity and dynamic energy often center on your home and family. You might be experiencing some intense feelings right now. A loved one could be unusually demanding and controlling.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) A neighbor or close friend wants to tap into your thoughts. Once you start opening up, the conversations become more vital and interesting. Flex with others’ plans, if need be. Know when you have had enough.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Your finances might be out of whack right now. Your self-discipline will come through for you, should you decide to liberate yourself from an addiction you have been battling. Dive into some work or attempt to get some errands done.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You have a lot to share right now, but first you’ll want to focus on what is important to your well-being. Your softer side emerges when dealing with a difficult family member.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Be careful about how much you choose to invest in the moment, especially if it involves making an adjustment to spend more time around friends and family. You’ll become much calmer once you have thought through various options.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) What might be hard to imagine is a partner’s or loved one’s reasoning behind making an adjustment to already-set plans. Expect a difference of opinion. The more feedback you receive, the better your ideas and thought process will be.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You naturally do the right thing and wind up taking charge of a happening involving your friends and loved ones. Expect to be out and about a good part of the day. When you go home, you might opt to have a lengthy discussion with a family member.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You have the desire to approach a romantic relationship or interaction with as much care as possible. How you express what is on your mind could make all the difference in how your message is received.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) Deal directly with someone you usually try to bypass. What is going on between you might be difficult but noteworthy. You both need to understand that you cannot control the other person, or anyone for that matter.

Answers to last week’s puzzle.

