

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Har heads: Top alliterative headlines

BY PAT MYERS

We're bringing you the results of **Week 1237** a week early — does the Empress have it together or what! Actually the answer would be (b), "what": In a stunning achievement not equaled in Invite history except perhaps When the Czar Totally Skipped Week 64, the E spent the week judging 1237, not realizing until too late that it was Week 1236's turn. So the bogus-portmanteau words will be here next week.

In Week 1237 we asked you to rewrite a headline from July 21-31 using alliteration, with most of the words beginning with the same letter or letter-sound (e.g., C and K). That period turned out to be one heck of a news week — encompassing the entire career of Anthony Scaramucci as White House communications director in waiting.

The inking headlines below are accompanied by either the original headline or a paraphrase.

4th place

Original: North Korea tests ballistic missile that experts say could hit California

Mini-Me meshuggenah's mighty mega-missile might make Maibu (Phil Frankenfeld, Washington)

3rd place

Kelly steps in to impose order for president

Hardy Homeland headliner hastily hired to hamstring Head Honcho's harebrained histrionics in hotbed of haphazard, hostile happenings; holds high hopes for harmony in hobbled headquarters (Mae Scanlan, Washington)

2nd place and the legging with a human-muscles pattern:

CEO pay 271 times that of a typical U.S. worker

Exploited exclaim, '[Expletive] executives exact [expletive] extraordinary [expletive] excess!' (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn, Va.)

And the winner of the Ink-in' Memorial:

Random recipients rejoice reallocated riches' release

Original: "Lotteries" (Jeff Contompasis)

Seconds. So sad: honorable mentions

Abrupt chain reaction for Trump Spin shop staff shake-up: Spicer splits, Sanders supplants Sean; scyophant schmoozer Scaramucci slithers in; sources cite satanic snickering (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Trump ousts Priebus as chief of staff

POTUS punts previously precious Priebus Pluto-ward, points to puny, pathetic production (Roger Dalrymple, Gettysburg, Pa.)

Scaramucci unloads on Priebus in vulgar tirade

Volatile vermin vehemently voices vulgar, vehemence, violent, vile, vituperative vortex of vomit

(Nan Reiner, Boca Raton, Fla.)

Missed manners: Mooch's manure-mouth makes mockery of managed media messaging (Kevin Dopart)

Scaramucci out as White House communications director

Foulmouthed financier fails to finish first fortnight (Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)
Marine makes Mooch march; motormouth multimillionaire media manager muted (John Glenn, Tyler, Tex.)

Sessions plans to stay, despite Trump's remark

Land's leading lawyer (lackey), lovelorn and lacking leverage, leery of leaving (Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.)

Nationals trade for Twins closer

Brandon Kintzler to help steady nagging late-game situations Beltway ballclub bolsters beleaguered bullpen because bunch of bums blows ballgames beyond belief (Jesse Frankovich)

These college students lost access to legal pot — and started getting better grades

Could kibosh on crimeless cannabis cause climb in college kids' cognitive caliber? 'Course, clowns!



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1240: We GIVE you Limerixicon XIV

Most election reformers believe Contributions are bad. (How naive!) But my Bible instructs What to do with my bucks: Says it's better to **give**, *then* receive.

Well, hickory dickory dock — or, we should say, gickory gickory gock: It's time once again for the Limerixicon, our 14th annual check-in with OEDILF.com, the project by Chris J. Strolin and his merry team to compile a dictionary of limericks featuring every word in the English language. OEDILF projects a completion date of Sept. 25, 2016 (exactly what it was last August), and more than 99,000 limericks have been submitted to the website — which means that with this week's contest, the Loser Community could very well turn over Chris's limerodometer. Last August the Oedilfers asked us for ger-words; the year before that, we did the ga-. **This week: Supply a humorous, previously unpublished limerick significantly featuring any English word, name or term beginning with "gh-" or "gi-,"** as in the example above by Chris Doyle that got ink in the *bd-to-bi-* contest in 2005. See wapo.st/limericks2017 for our fairly strict rules on limerick rhyme and meter (in a nutshell: "perfect" rhyme, and a strong "hickory-dickory-dock" rhythm in Lines 1, 2 and 5; a "dickory-dock" in Lines 3 and 4; plus "weak" syllables on either side). See OEDILF.com about submitting limericks there after this contest is over.

Submit entries at this website: wapo.st/enter-invite-1240 (all lowercase).

Winner gets the **Inkin' Memorial**, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy — one of the last few before we come out with a new design. Second place receives — brought back from Italy by Loser Elden Carnahan — a T-shirt listing 66 *parolacce*, or extremely crude Italian terms, complete with English (or in some cases, broken-English) translations. Note: If you have the *slightest* amount of decency, the Empress will happily substitute a more decorous prize.

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, "No Childishness Left Behind" or "Magnum Dopus." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). Deadline is Monday night, Aug. 21; results published Sept. 10 (online Sept. 7). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline for this week's results is by Nan Reiner; the honorable-mentions subhead is by William Kennard. Join the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](https://www.facebook.com/invdev). "Like" Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at [bit.ly/inkoftheday](https://www.facebook.com/inkoftheday); follow @StyleInvite on Twitter.

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

(Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

Rick Perry thought he was talking to a world leader about pig manure. It was a prank call.

Putative politico pranks Perry with palaver pertaining to pig pies. Piffle? Persiflage? P'Ooops . . . ? Nan Reiner)

Kushner details more than 70 assets that he failed to disclose **Derelict in duty? Da Donald's darling daughter's dearie didn't disclose dozens and dozens of denominations, deductions, distributions, Deutsche debits** (Mae Scanlan)

'I did not collude,' Kushner asserts **Collusion? Cray-Cray, Claims Kid K** (Dave Airozo, Silver Spring, Md.)

Trump lawyers asking about presidential pardon powers **Pettifoggers plan to proffer plenty of potentially practical pretexts for pardoning political pals** (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

Trump dictated son's misleading statement on meeting with Russian lawyer **Disclosure: Dad Donald drafted dauphin's deceptive declaration on discussion of disrupting, diddling Democrats** (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

Obituaries: By being himself, the pioneering news anchor Jim Vance broadcast straight into the heart of the District

Vance: a valiant video voice, with a vigilant viewpoint in a volatile village; venerated for

verve, versatility. With his vanishing: Vacuum. Void. (Mae Scanlan)

Trump's Scouts speech brings backlash

Commander in chief cannonballs into captive kids' campground with campaign claptrap (Dave Prevar, Annapolis, Md.)

Jolly Jamboree jolted by jawing jackass jamming junk on juveniles (Annette Green, Lexington, Va.)

Trump announces ban on transgender people in U.S. military **Prohibitive president proclaims: Privates, preserve privates!** (Jesse Frankovich)

The military spends five times as much on Viagra as it would on transgender troops' medical care **Defense doctoring dollars dealt to dingus dysfunction drugs demonstrate dubious deliberation on discriminatory decision** (Nan Reiner)

There are a lot of gross microbes on a dollar bill

Begrimed banknotes bear bounteous bugs, bacteria, butt-borne bits (Jesse Frankovich)

Heroic effort by Seychellois man saves 5 people in distress at sea **He saved sailors to the seashore in the Seychelles** (Roy Ashley, Washington)

Still running — deadline Monday night, Aug. 14: our contest to combine two movie titles, See wapo.st/invite1239.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

"PAST DUE" By PAUL COULTER

ACROSS
1 Make out
5 Barley brew
8 Swedish cinematographer
12 Candy mogul
17 Brazilian berry
18 Subject for a bar discussion
19 Pew's place
20 Certain Ukrainian
22 Chant by lumberyard workers during a lockout?
25 Brunch cocktails
26 Scene of sworn statements
27 Finish second
28 Gothic architecture feature
30 You can dig it
31 Chop off
33 "Be _ _": "Help me out here"

34 Like real estate moguls
35 Hit hard
37 Citi Field shortstop or second baseman?
43 WWII org. that froze food costs
44 Ring spot, maybe
46 Old Nair competitor
47 "Manhattan" Oscar nominee
48 Hound
49 Anti-Abbr. Adversaries
50 Adversaries
52 Advisors
53 Timid FBI agent?
56 Beverage with a lizard logo
60 Moore of "G.I. Jane"
61 Fen
62 Off-quoted auth?
64 Fall lead-in
66 Canadian capital?
67 Bunch of cattle reading menus?
72 Lith., once
74 To be, in Tours
75 It may be raised at a party
76 Accustomed (to)
79 Jack of "Rio Lobo"
81 Narcissus' love
83 One evoking yawns on an Alaskan island?

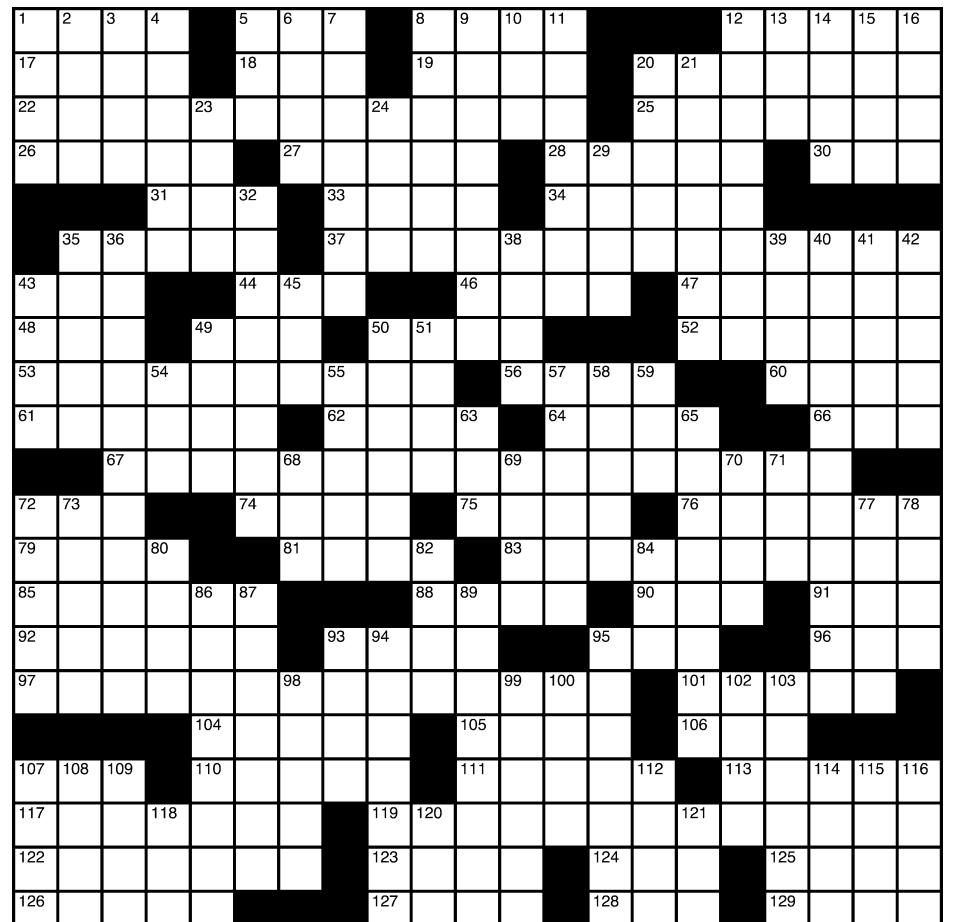
85 Chinese temple
88 Bring down
90 Flue residue
91 Church kitchen server
92 Hunk
93 British submachine gun
95 ER personnel
96 Crit sheet user
97 Help when it's time to give up?
101 Hidden
104 Sarducci in early "SNL" skits
105 Pastoral plains
106 Iowa campus
107 Entrepreneur's deg.
110 Like Cheerios
111 Pays to play
113 "Transcendental" Liszt piece
117 Place with care
119 Provide with surfacing material, as a pool parlor?
122 Fountain treats
123 Sheltered at sea
124 Baseball rally killers, briefly

125 Hang loosely
126 Counter seat company
127 Lays down the lawn
128 '60s radical gp.
129 Direction in Durango
DOWN
1 "The Lion King" lion
2 Earth Day subj.
3 Prominent angle
4 Capital of Rwanda
5 Ring master?
6 Spot for a bulb
7 Young female sheep
8 Vehicle with caterpillar treads
9 Healing aid patented in 1872
10 Actress Mendes
11 Historic London feature
12 Like some summer school classes
13 Spaniard's "that"

14 "Happy Motoring" company
15 Moselle tributary
16 Bay State motto opener
20 Old card game named for the Spanish for "man"
21 Fix
23 Horse race pace
24 Where small animals may be picked up
29 Eight, in Essen
32 Bugbear
35 Hall of Fame pitcher Warren
36 Puff, notably
38 Capone nemesis
39 1856 Stowe novel
40 Beeline
41 "I can help"
42 Dinsmore of kid lit
43 First word of "The Raven"
45 "Buffy" aier after The WB

49 Rock band known for quirky, viral videos
50 Aromatic herb
51 Carbon monoxide's lack
54 Wheels
55 Laissez-
57 Alternative spot
58 Stigmatize
59 Evis, e.g.
63 Japanese computer giant
65 Period of the first dinosaurs
68 Sci-fi staples
69 Storytelling pseudonym
70 Pharaoh's symbol
71 Essence
72 Flower part
73 English glam rockers since the '70s
77 Diamond flaw
78 Bad impression?
80 Alpes sight
82 Guitar line
84 "At Seventeen" singer Janis

86 Slash
87 Soften
89 With sustained force
93 Pro or con
94 1992 presidential also-ran Paul
95 Tends to a lawn's bare spot
98 Positions
99 1598 edict city
100 Like the Pope: Abbr.
102 Carol
103 Irritate
107 Come together
108 Champagne designation
109 New Yorker cartoonist Peter
112 Bay Area cop gp.
114 Froswell sightings
115 Chowderhead
116 Agatha contemporary
118 Big deal
120 "Eldorado" rock gp.
121 Double curve



8/13/17

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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Aug. 13: This year you will be more fired up than you have been in years. Once you get an idea in your mind, it will be almost impossible to stop you from pursuing it. If you are single, you have the magnetic energy to draw others to you. You do not have a lot of free time, so choose the person whom you would most enjoy being with. If you are attached, you can't seem to emphasize the importance of this relationship enough. Dote on your sweetie more often. Taurus is very demanding, but can be important to you professionally.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

You could surprise others with a change of mind, though the course you have chosen to head down right now might not be easily changed. A loved one seems a bit depressed and just wants to avoid socializing. Do not push this person.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

You might wonder whether you have made enough of an effort toward a partner or a close loved one who often seems overly serious. This person lights up when you are around.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

You might feel as if you have pushed too hard to get certain results. Be careful, as you could experience a backfire. Pull back for the moment, and you will feel much better. Indulge yourself for the day.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

Emphasize what is important to you, and don't allow yourself to be distracted. You could worry about accomplishing everything that you want to get done. You will find a way to complete your tasks and still have time for friends.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

You could be pushed beyond your normal limits. Some of you will have to check in on an older friend or relative who might not be as jubilant or upbeat as they would like to be. Accept this role for now, and know that it could rapidly change.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Detach and look at the big picture before you make a determination as to which way you want to go. Keep smiling and stay present in the moment. You will have an opportunity to take off and be part of an adventure.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

You have an unusual way of

expressing yourself to a key person in your life. You like the specialness of your communications. Others might not pick up on the unique bond that exists between you.

direction. Someone could be very disappointed and not ready to deal with this change. As a result, it might be easier to keep your plans as they are.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

You might feel roped in by certain constraints, but you'll be able to break through them despite some minor hassles. Allow yourself to express the party animal that lies within you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You could be ready for a fast change of pace. However, you might wonder what is holding you back from just leaping right into a personal situation. Make calls and catch up on news with those at a distance.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Investigate an opportunity to change plans or head in a different

Answers to last week's puzzle.

