

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Merriam: New dictionary words

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1296** we listed some of the terms that were just added to Merriam-Webster's online dictionary and asked the Loser Community to write short poems featuring them.

4th place

Meddly-beddly,
Vigilant **hacktivists**,
We're out here striving to
Keep your vote clean;

Da, we're the good guys, it's
Incontrovertible!
See you Election Day
2018. — V. Putin, Moscow
(Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

3rd place

TL;DR: "Too long; didn't read"
The editor sent back my poem.
I found his rejection bizarre.
"Thanks for the haiku," it said,
"But sorry. **TL;DR.**"
(Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.)

2nd place and the mildly risqué dog-themed magnets:

GOAT, "greatest of all time"
To "Danny Boy":
Oh, Donny Boy, the perps, the
perps are singing,
From Flynn to Cohen, and now 'tis
Manafort.
Bob Mueller's here, each day new
charges bringing,
Till soon 'tis you who'll have his day
in court.

Can't go ye back to realty shyster
jefe,
Where you're the **GOAT** at stifling
schmoes you rooked.
The jig is up, and you're in deep
covfefe.
Oh, Donny Boy, oh, Donny Boy,
your goose is cooked!
(Nan Reiner, Boca Raton, Fla.)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

I sent a letter to my love, admiring
from afar,
Returned! A hand-writ note above it
said, "**TL;DR.**"
Though some might think she's
blown me off, still I prefer to dream,
My love's response, in code (don't
scoff!) means: "True Love — Diane
Rehm." (Mark Raffman, Reston)

Not quite the GOAT: Honorable mentions

Marg, *margarita*; **mocktail**, *non-alcoholic mixed drink*; **flight**, *a sampler of small drinks*:
A "**marg**" that's made with
mango? A teeny li' umbrella?
Well out here in Durango, it ain't fit
fer a fella.
We menfolk here drink whiskey, or
Coors (and not Coors Light!)
But **mocktails**? Son, that's risky!
(So's orderin' a "**flight**")
We cotton to bravado. It's just our
Western creed,
So git from Colorado — unless you
got some weed. (Mark Raffman)

To "Walk on the Wild Side":
Chef Jose downtown at the Mex
Cafe
Works at the grill nonstop
throughout the day.
Strangers enter, never stay;
Take a bite and they're red in the
head;
They say, "Hey, man, make your
guac on the mild side.
Jose, buddy, make your guac on
the mild side." (Matt Monitto,
Bristol, Conn.)

Technology has changed our world,
Completely, wholly, totally.
With **cybercrime**, now robbers, too
Can do their work remote-ally.
(Seth Brown, North Adams, Mass.)

Hangry: *Hungry and angry*:
"Let's do a remake!" cried the
young producer.
"You know that film with ticked-off
dudes in ties?
They're on a jury? Yeah, from way
back when.
Our cast'll be way hotter and way
looser
And (Arby's product placement!)
craving fries.
My working title? Duh! Twelve
Hangry Men. (Melissa Balmain,
Rochester, N.Y.)

Now listen, Steve Bannon, that fire
in your belly
Means you're **hangry**, go nosh at a
nice kosher deli,
Because after November the sixth,
you should know,
The alt-right and you will be eating
Jim Crow.
(Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Gochujang, *a Korean condiment*:
Said the heir, with a look that could
kill,



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1300: Botch office sensations

All the President's Men 13: Ben Bradlee is replaced by Roger Ailes. Woodward and Bernstein are reassigned to compiling the garden club meeting calendar.
The Graduate 13: Ben and Elaine jump into a Metrobus. It promptly breaks down.
Thelma and Louise 13: Our heroines get caught and are sentenced to life in the Senate Judiciary Committee room.

Thirteen hundred weeks, people — wish us luck on the next hundred contests until we're out of the superstition zone (Week 1400 should come your way on Sept. 6, 2020). Meanwhile, the Empress received numerous suggestions from the Loser Community for a contest pegged to Week 1300, and was intrigued by this one by Duncan Stevens. Duncan noted that a "13" in a movie title often is a signal that something is about to go terribly wrong; think of "Apollo 13," "Friday the 13th," the horror movie "The Thirteenth Floor." So: **Add "13" to an existing movie title, and some humorous trouble to the plot**, as in Duncan's examples above. For this latest of his many successful contest suggestions, Mr. Stevens wins yet another milkshake from the E; at this rate, the ultra-lanky Duncster will start putting on weight by Sept. 6, 2020.

Submit entries at the website wapo.st/enter-invite-1300 (all lowercase).

Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a big red T-shirt advertising Ben & Jerry's ice cream — in Hebrew. The Israeli shirt (Ben & Jerry's has been in Israel for 40 years) was found in a thrift store and donated by Loser Marleen May.

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, Oct. 15;** results published Nov. 4 (online Nov. 1). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline "Merriam" is by Tom Witte; Jesse Frankovich wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev. "Like" Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at bit.ly/inkofday; follow @StyleInvite on Twitter.



"Gelidat Ben & Jerry": An Israeli T-shirt, our 2nd prize.

"Ugh! This **gochujang** tastes just like swill!
Is it poisoned? Gone bad?
"Cause they served it to Dad,
And I think it's what made Kim Jong Il." (Mark Raffman)

If ever I've a throat so sore
That neither tea and honey nor
Hot toddies bring relief, a **marg**'ll
Be the drink I choose to gargle.
(Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

Mise en place, *setting up food to ensure efficient cooking*:
Tonight I'm giving **mise en place** a
chance,
To make my darling wife a meal
with ease:
I've opened up the box well in
advance
Of when I'll mix and nuke our mac
and cheese. (Jesse Frankovich,
Grand Ledge, Mich.)

Generation Z, *born 1995 or later*:
Tell me, why does old Senator Fred
show disdain
For the young, earnest members of
Gen-Z?
It's because they don't vote —
twentysomethings abstain.
So he's not in a pandering frenzy.
(Duncan Stevens)

Your baby's as cute as can be;
In fact, he is truly **adorbs!**
What? Hold him? Okay, I'll agree
(As long as his diaper absorbs . . .)
(Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

Force quit, *reset a computer page*

In Re the Weather Channel Guy:
Leaning into the squall as the
waves lap his thigh,
Hear him scream, "Storm has
surged! Gale has gusted!"
In the background, what's this?
Folks are sauntering by,
Walking straight, on dry turf.
Now you're busted!
Still he flails and he yells: "This is
huge! All must go!"
At my keyboard, indignant, I **force
quit**.
When another storm comes, will I
heed him? Heck, no!
All his wind shill turned out to be
horse poop. (Nan Reiner)

Zoodles, *zucchini shredded to look like spaghetti*:
On the noodle variety roster,
The **zoodle** is just an impasta.
(Jesse Frankovich)

I went late last night to my **fav** new
Tex-Mex,
For some **guac** and some **margs**
that were better than sex,
And a salad with **avo** and **zukes**
dressed with 'grette,
Then I paid with my AmEx and left
in my 'Vette.
All that may sound **bougie**, but
what gives me chills
Is talking like this, dropping so
many sylls.
(Bruce Niedt, Cherry Hill, N.J.)

And Last:
My mail is unanswered, my house
is a mess;
This contest is truly a **time suck!**
My garden needs weeding, my
shirts need a press;
(To make matters worse, now I'm
rhyme-stuck!)
But hope springs eternal; could this
be a winner?
(I'll just tell my husband, "Aw, fix
your own dinner.") (Beverly Sharp)

More honorable mentions in the online
invite at wapo.st/invite1300.

**Still running — deadline
Monday, Oct. 8: Our contest to
create word chains beginning
and ending with new words in
the Scrabble dictionary. See
wapo.st/invite1299.**

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

"THE IRREVERENT GRAMMARIAN"
By JEFFREY WECHSLER

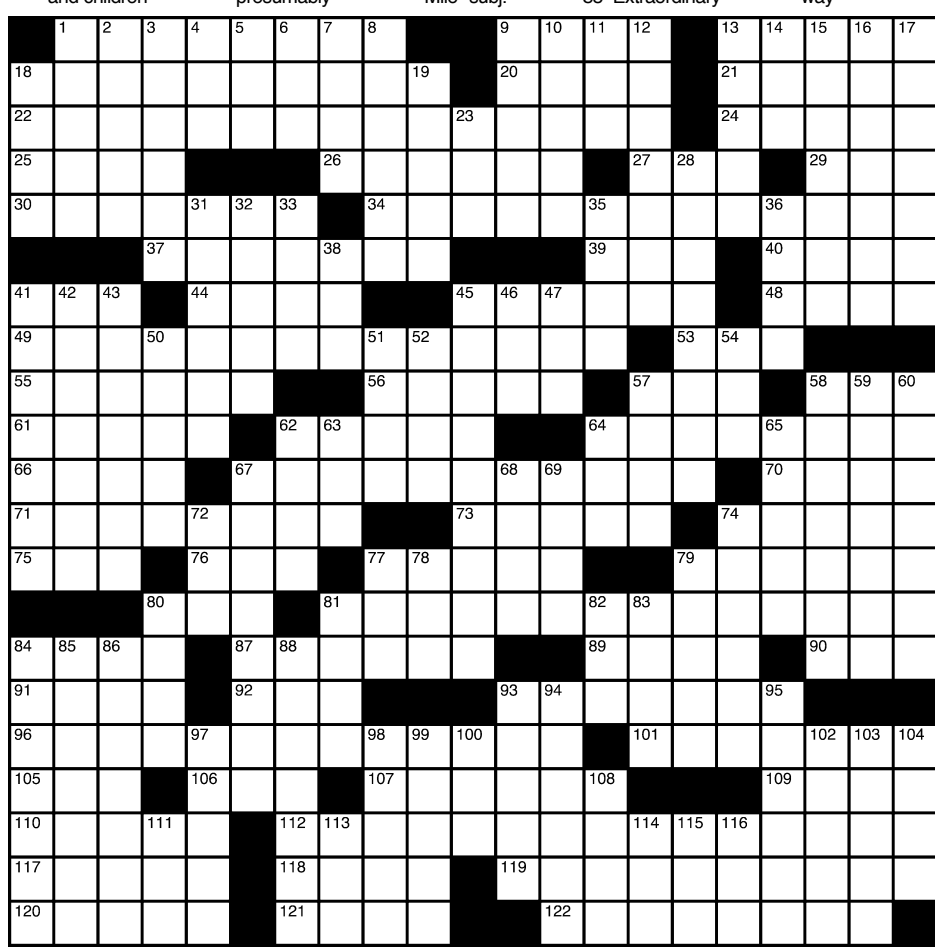
ACROSS
1 Repetitive geometric patterns
9 Collinsworth with many Sports Emmys
13 Showed openly
18 Ricky Martin's birthplace
20 Use a hammock
21 Other side
22 Confident opinion piece?
24 Approach evening
25 Eligibility factors
26 Most in need of water
27 Where Brazil took Olympic soccer gold
29 Concert finale?
30 Pitcher's problem
34 Ammonia and water?
37 Get more precipitous
39 Regret
40 Track event
41 Draw back
44 Aveeno competitor
45 Mark of shame
48 Hot tub feature
49 Overlap in a photo lab?
53 Writer Deighton
55 Remark that hurts
56 Track winnings
57 Ambulance gp.
58 Org. with no "L" in its name, ironically
61 Brings down
62 Disney film starring Auli'i Cravalho
64 Cell pic
66 Author Dinesen
67 Adam?
70 E-commerce icon
71 Officially rebukes
73 Pride group
74 Focus of much TV drama
75 Saint-Tropez summer
76 Title like Bugs Bunny's "Hare Trigger"
77 Harbor sights
79 Macbeth and Macduff
80 Handheld amp?
81 Truce that's barely holding?
84 Olympic contact sport
87 Ad rep's links
89 Adjust for pitch

DOWN
1 Felipe's fire
2 Point (to)
3 Comes up
4 Many an Amazon dely.
5 Nome : yours :: Nice : à
6 Collages and such
7 Wasn't true
8 Not often seen
9 Autumn adjective
10 Page one, generally
11 Part of 77: Down: Abbr.
12 Chest protector
13 Not on deck
14 Carrier with HQ in Tokyo
15 No longer
16 Corrected
17 Zhou or Qin
18 Palm gadgets, presumably
19 Neighbor of Taurus
23 Pro
28 Mr. Fight, presumably

31 Much of Micronesia's makeup
32 Get a new tenant for
33 Indicate
35 Strong desire
36 Sign that may make you nervous
38 Joe-__ weed: herbal remedy
41 Building
42 Supposedly medicinal herb that sounds relevant to chiropractors
43 Restricted road part
45 Like some elegant gowns
46 "Whether __ nobler ...": Hamlet
47 " __ been there" up
51 Honor roll stats
52 Family member
54 "The Green Mile" subj.

57 Slaughter of old baseball
58 Confined, in a way
59 Badger
60 Bears witness (to)
62 Personal bearing
63 Hosp. areas
64 Common ID
65 "Hit the road!"
67 Sugar in much corn syrup
68 Celt's land
69 Actress Salazar of "Maze Runner" movies
72 Venerable letters in global news
74 Glass-aloft salutation
77 Smallest Canadian prov.
78 Place to stay
79 Belief
80 Con __: tempo marking
81 Many a freshman
82 Sporty VW
83 Designer
84 Gavel wielders
85 Extraordinary

86 Unlikely banquet setting
88 Wrong
93 Legal tender substitute
94 Target of suburban cleanups
95 Respectful gesture
97 Approaches
98 Negotiations
99 Expunge
100 D.C. athlete
102 28-Down's opposite
103 Kitchen equipment
104 Proficiency determiner
108 Shore bird
111 Like two-thirds of Austria's flag
113 Dominique's thirst quencher
114 15-season show whose final episode was "Immortality"
115 Driving need: Abbr.
116 Propose, in a way



10/7/18 xwordeditor@aol.com ©2018 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Oct. 7: This year, you will find that your words carry more weight, starting late fall. You also might hear from others more often. Good news heads your way frequently. If you are single, you can get what you want — just be sure you really want it. If you are attached, the two of you break patterns and become less divisive. You might make a purchase that will help you interact more effectively. Libra can be vague at times.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
You could be dealing with a constant barrage of questions and requests. Others seem to seek you out. Your popularity soars. Read between the lines when dealing with a loved one.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Your personality melts boundaries and allows you to flourish with greater ease. Your ability to bypass a problem emerges when facing a challenging loved one. Somehow, you manage to incorporate nearly everyone and also feel good about your plans.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
Invite a couple of friends over for a late brunch or a barbecue. Unless you want to make your plans complicated, opt for something simple. Others care more about your company than anything else.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
If you have already made plans, do not be surprised if you want to update them. A friend or loved one who is very controlling could switch gears and let go. Spend time with this person and enjoy their company.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Be aware of the costs of continuing as you have. You like quality, whether it's an object you are buying or a meal out. Often, you overspend. Do not blame others for your love of indulgence. Stay on top of your budget.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Use the input of others to rethink a decision. You understand that the more suggestions and opinions you receive, the broader your options will be. Get into a game of cards with your friends and loved ones. The atmosphere will lighten up as a result.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
If you want to spend time reading the Sunday paper or catching up on a favorite TV series, do just that. Others will notice that you are not around, and you will become even more desirable.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
If you zero in on your priorities, you are likely to manifest them. Friends support you as you try to make a goal or dream happen. A sense of mischief floats through some plans, and you might not be able to resist it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
A last-minute call involving a request for help could throw your plans into chaos. Being as good-natured as you are, you will pitch in. Those who made plans with you might be disconcerted. Know that you will have to make up for lost time.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Note what is going on behind the scenes, and understand why it is happening. If this situation affects you, seize the opportunity to head in a new direction. You are able to make quite a difference in a loved one's life.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
You will defer to a friend, relative or partner. You might not care what you do — you'll simply be happy to be with this person. The two of you will have a good time and maybe an important talk.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Allowing a loved one or dear friend to make plans for today is likely to give you a better idea of what this person wants and expects from a situation. Lighten up, and don't take this person's choices personally.

Answers to last week's puzzle.

