

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Mot-foolery: Winning anagram jokes

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1337**, we asked for jokes in a Q/A format that included an anagram of a relevant word or name in the punchline. Many of you cited President Trump's reliance on **Vladimir Input**. (Can't figure out an anagram or two? I'll explain the less obvious ones in this week's Style Conversational column at wapo.st/conv1341.)

4th place

Q. How did the senator explain his cowardly vote to his constituents?
A. **"I fee your pain."**
(Brett Dimairo, Cumberland, Md.)

3rd place

Q. What condition is epidemic on overcrowded Metro cars?
A. **Irritable elbow syndrome.**
(Ira Allen, Bethesda)

2nd place and the Alexander the Great action figure:

Q. What is Bill de Blasio sick of being called by Big Apple haters?
A. **Mayor of Yer lcky Town.**
(Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

Q. With what inscription would the White House like to replace Emma Lazarus's poem ("**Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free ...**") on the Statue of Liberty?
A. **Never send me your rapist, free-rider, s-hole, drug army. Out! Goodbye! I hate you.**
(Mark Raffman, Reston)

Next of ink: Honorable mentions

Q. Which campaign slogan did the former veep definitely not plagiarize?
A. **"I need job."**
(Frank Mann, Washington)

Q. Under pressure from the left, who changed his position about his support for the Hyde Amendment?
A. **Joe I-Bend.** (Mark Raffman)

Q. In what movie does Marty McFly time-travel to stop Brexit?
A. **"Back to the EU Turf."** (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

Q. What's the new novel about the Hogwarts test-cheating scandal?
A. **"Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Notes."**
(Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf)

Q. What appropriately shaped D.C. structure commemorates the city's longest-ever orgy?
A. **The Swingathon Monument.**
(Sam Mertens, Silver Spring)

Q. What was constructed to commemorate D.C.'s blizzards of 2009-2010?
A. **The Snowhating Monument.**
(Ken Liss, Brookline, Mass., a First Offender)

Q. How does the North Korean dictator refer to the American president and first lady?
A. **Dotard 'n' Plum** (Mark Raffman)

Q. I hear that our president is going to open a hotel in Haiti that's the opposite of his one in D.C. What's he going to call it?
A. **Trump Latrine Nation.** (Chris Damm, Charles Town, W.Va.)

Q. Which longtime jurist was just banned from an Alabama mall?
A. **Judge Roy Romeo.**
(Eric Nelkin, Silver Spring)

Q. Who hid state secrets inside a beer bottle in his backyard?
A. **Lager Hiss.** (Harold Mantle, Walnut Creek, Calif.)

Q. After Bob got his hand stuck in the garbage disposal, what was left?
A. **An arm and a gel.** (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

Q. If the fossil fuel industry had its druthers, in what building would Congress convene?
A. **The U.S. Coalpit.** (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

Q. What company has introduced a line of see-through athletic wear?
A. **Nuder Armour.** (Chris Doyle)

Q. What wine famously burst into flames in the 1970s?
A. **Pinto noir.** (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Q. In what dystopian movie does a government agency ban all research into climate change?
A. **"Planet of the EPAs."** (Mark Raffman)

Q. What road trip movie features a pair of fugitives debating whether to flee or not to flee?



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1341: Portmanteautapping from E to R

Parmesand: What ends up sprinkled all over the meatball sub you get at the beach. (*Bob Staake*)

Frigidiot: That shirtless guy at a January football game. (*Jimmy LaCaria*)

Estrogeniality: The attribute that compels women to go to the restroom in pairs. (*Joy Vizi*)

Among the innumerable neologism contests put up by the Empress and, before her, the Czar have been those for portmanteau words — words that combine two existing words. Reading back through the Comprehensive Style Invitational Archives, maintained as the ever-growing magnum opus of Loser Elden Carnahan at NRARS.org, the E discovered that many years ago, she ran a contest for portmanteau words beginning with A through D, and another one for S through Z . . . and then forgot the rest of the alphabet. **This week: Coin a portmanteau word beginning with E through R, in which the words overlap by at least two letters, and describe it,** as in the examples above; the non-Bob ones are from Week 476 (2002), our first portmanteau contest. As always, you're welcome to make your entry funnier with a funny sentence showing how the word could be used.

Submit entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1341 (all lowercase).

Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives an oval decal like the "26.2" one that marathoners like to put on their cars (or perhaps across one of their ruined knees) — but this one brags **"O.O."** Donated by Loser Barbara Turner.

Other runners-up win our "You Gotta Play to Lose" Loser Mug or our "Whole Fools" Grossery Bag. Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, "Too-Weak Notice" or "Certificate of (de)Merit." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). **Deadline is Monday night, July 29;** results published Aug. 18 in print, Aug. 15 online. See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline for this week's results is by Chris Doyle; Jesse Frankovich wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](https://www.facebook.com/on.fb.me/invdev). "Like" the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at [bit.ly/inkofday](https://www.facebook.com/bit.ly/inkofday); follow @StyleInvite on Twitter.

► **The Style Conversational:** The Empress's weekly online column discusses the week's new contest and results. Check out this week's at wapo.st/conv1341.



Brag about your unmarathon with this week's second prize.

A. **Hamlet and Louise.** (Eric Nelkin)

Q. Which military sitcom suffered from constant overacting?
A. **"H*A*M*S."** (John McCooney, Rehoboth Beach, Del.)

Q. How did the proctologist make his patients promise to use their hemorrhoid ointment?
A. **The Pledge of Anal Ice Gel.** (Nicole Caruso Garcia, Trumbull, Conn., a First Offender)

Q. What did Jeff Sessions do when he resigned from the Trump administration?
A. **He rescued himself.** (Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)

Q. What did Sheriff Woody say when Mr. Potato Head joined a coup to oust him?
A. **Et tu, tuber?** (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

Q. The candidate wants to attract more young voters by changing his name? To what?
A. **Bernie Radness.** (Matt Tietze, Rockville, a First Offender)

Q. What iconic Wyoming locale does the administration want to open up for oil drilling?
A. **Ye-Ton-o'-Wells National Park** (Mark Raffman)

Q. What did the printer ask the customer placing an order?
A. **"You want serif with that?"** (Jesse Frankovich)

Q. What did the Romans call the Dacian revolt against their empire in the year 157?
A. **The CLVII War.** (Jeff Contompasis)

Q. What directions are at the top of every Russian presidential ballot?
A. **Put In Vladimir.** (Christopher Thorpe, Millbrae, Calif.)

Q. It's this summer's biggest hit, but what do some people call Lil Nas X's song?
A. **Download rot.** (Bill Dornier, Indianapolis)

Q. Which famed large-"nosed" drummer went on to appear in porn films?
A. **Groin Starr.** (Jesse Rifkin, Arlington)

Q. Who sang "If I Had a Hummer" and "Blowin' Up in the Wind"?
A. **Peter, Paul and Army.** (Chris Doyle)

Q. Who started an online forum to rate U.S. Marine bases?
A. **Gomer Yelp.** (Chris Doyle)

Q. Who was that rotten committee who denied Samuel L. Jackson an Oscar nomination?
A. **Snakes on a panel!** (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station)

Q. Who was the hero of the Tales of the Swedish Nights?
A. **Ali ABBA.** (Ray Gallucci, Frederick)

Q. In a poll of Style Invitational contestants, who tied for favorite fantasy president?
A. **Teddy and Franklin D. Loservote.** (Chris Doyle)

And Last: Q. In what (assuredly fictional) contest do witty raconteurs find that they are irresistible to the opposite sex?
A. **The Style I-Attain-Lovin'** (Mark Raffman)

More honorable mentions in the online [Invite at wapo.st/invite1341](http://wapo.st/invite1341).

Still running: TWO contests due Monday night, July 22: Week 1339: Song parodies on the themes of Modern Woes (see wapo.st/invite1339)

Week 1340: Change a famous name slightly and describe the new person (wapo.st/invite1340)

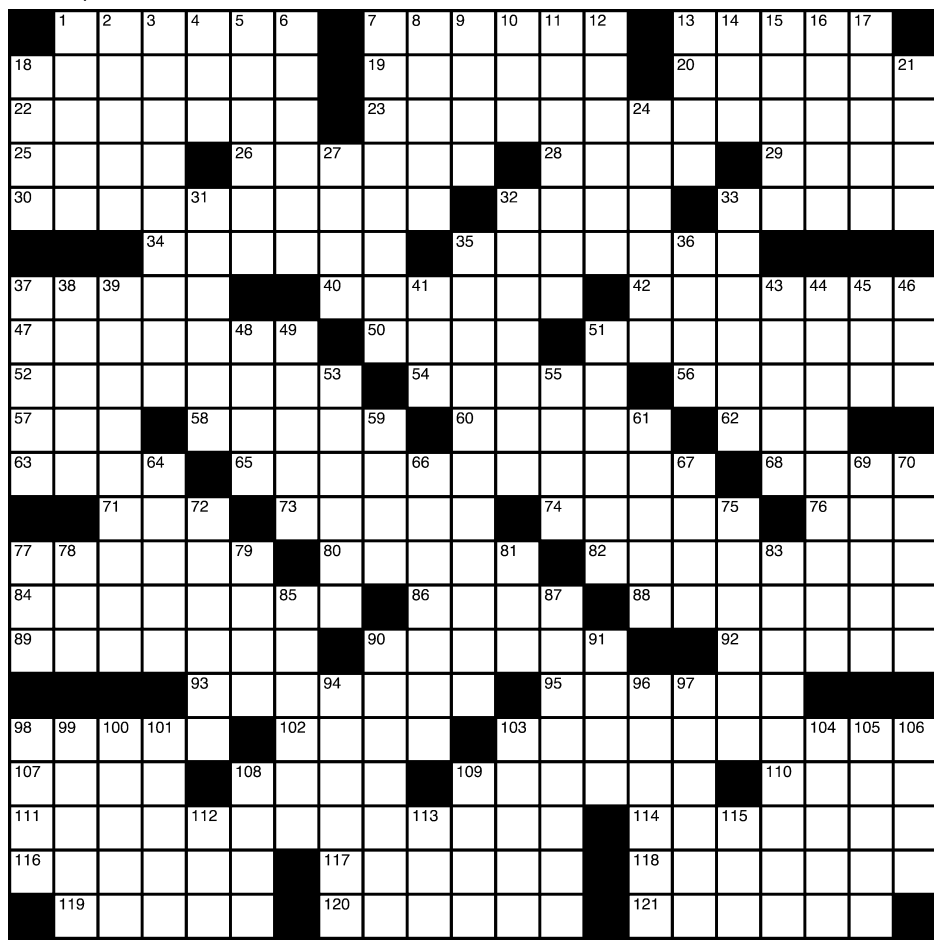
L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

"TOUCHDOWN" By ALEX VRATSANOS

ACROSS
1 One of the Magi
7 Exotic pet
13 Bushel quartet
18 Largest of the British Virgin Islands
19 Future loole, perhaps
20 Hot wings did him in
22 Pass receiver somewhat separated from the offensive line
23 Male reproductive system part
25 Antique clock mending
26 Brawls
28 Nautica competitor
29 EARTH
30 Advice pseudonym for 56 years
32 Bouncing baby?
33 Cloth-dyeing craft
34 MARS
35 Venice vessel
37 Big name in Scotch
40 Chuck who wrote "Black Belt Patriotism"
42 Farmwork
47 In opposition to
50 Easily seen sign
51 Christmas tree decorations
52 Plainsong singers
54 Bat used in practice
56 JUPITER
57 Tailor's line
58 Afro-Asian land
60 Grieg's language
62 Bread holder
63 Hitchcock's wife and collaborator
65 Immiscible combo
68 "Good golly!"
71 "dum tootin'"
73 SATURN
74 Clog cousin
76 1972 host to Nixon
77 Unsettled one?
80 Cosmonaut Vladimir
82 Hunter's quarry
84 Orally defames
86 Greeting from Kermit
88 Neckwear in some Native American traditions
89 URANUS
90 Pain
92 Devoted

DOWN
1 ___ of vantage: favorable
2 "I met a fool i' the forest" forest
3 Post-apocalyptic 1987 Patrick Swayze film
4 Suffix with multi- and cocka-
5 Boosters, often
6 Like entertainment software with a "17+" restriction
7 Face-to-face
8 '90s second family
9 Juan's "some"
10 Rm. coolers
11 Whims
12 Blew away
13 Like some horses
14 Common ER test
15 ___ lily
16 Wurst topping
17 Branch of Islam
18 Old draft deferment
21 St. with the second-smallest capital
24 Nikkei index
27 Former secretary of defense Panetta
31 Gas up?
32 Icon after "Not a member?"
33 Shape, as dough
35 Source of electrical interference
36 Old Pisa dough
37 Russian retreat
38 "I Love Lucy" role
39 Electric guitar vibrato producer
41 Ringmaster?
42 Calif. NFLer
43 Witness
44 Eton measure
46 Pueblo pronoun
48 ___ Park: Queens area
49 "Have a taste"
51 Attend by oneself
53 Leaves
55 Mardi ___
59 Filmmaker Jacques
61 Barbecue fare
64 Big name in insurance
66 "Famous" Coney Island contest sponsor
67 Ex-Cowboy quarterback Tony
69 Renata Tebaldi contemporary
70 Swiss Roll-like snack
72 Comic Dangerfield
75 "I'm listening"
77 Mil. award
78 Skull and Bones member
79 Pryne's stigma
81 Old tape initials
83 Metaphorical self-help aid
85 Most endangered
87 Traditionalist
90 Workstation shared by employees on different shifts
91 Middle proof word
94 Sentimentalism
96 Website with study guides
97 "Meek," in "Blessed are the meek"
98 Math subj.
99 Missouri River city
100 ___ colony
101 Gyneco-'s opposite
103 Verse alternative
104 Sherlock's adversary
105 Greases (up), as hair
106 Court pair
108 Sicily's only landlocked province
109 Friendly honk
112 "Interesting!"
113 Combat sport, briefly
115 Cody Bellinger stat



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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | July 21: This year, you will experience many different people with various personalities. With some people, you could tumble into a power play. With others, communication flows. If single, you could meet more than one person this year to whom you can relate for a sustained period. Your biggest problem will be deciding with whom to relate. You might date others until you become sure of yourself. If you're attached, the two of you need to avoid getting caught up in power plays and respect your different opinions. Pisces understands your emotions, no matter how intense they might be.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
Read between the lines to get to the bottom of what another person really wants from you. Your sensitivity comes to the rescue and allows what could be a difficult situation to flow into an easier one.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Friends surround you. As a result, others come toward you, and they would like to spend time with you. Confusion surrounds plans in the morning, as people don't agree on what to do. Remind them that it is the experience of togetherness that counts.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
Tension could evolve between you and an authority figure or older relative. You would like to be fancy-free, yet you feel you must meet another person's request. Do not fight the inevitable. You will be happier.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
Reach out for a friend or loved one at a distance. Some of you might opt to write a letter rather than call. Go off to the movies or a jam session where your mind cannot overthink.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
One-on-one relating is highlighted. How you feel in the company of another person could mark your plans and actions. You will see another facet of this person. You cannot underestimate the importance of personal interactions in your life.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Listen to a loved one even if you feel on some level that this person is harping on you. You might need to acknowledge what this person is saying to get them to hush up.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
You could have a project in mind, or

perhaps a day trip. Though you are certainly a sign that enjoys companionship, you might opt to go alone. Much that is being said around you easily could annoy you at this point.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Do not underestimate your desirability and attractiveness. You have a lot to share, and share you will. You might, if single, meet someone of interest. Meanwhile, couples start to act like lovebirds.

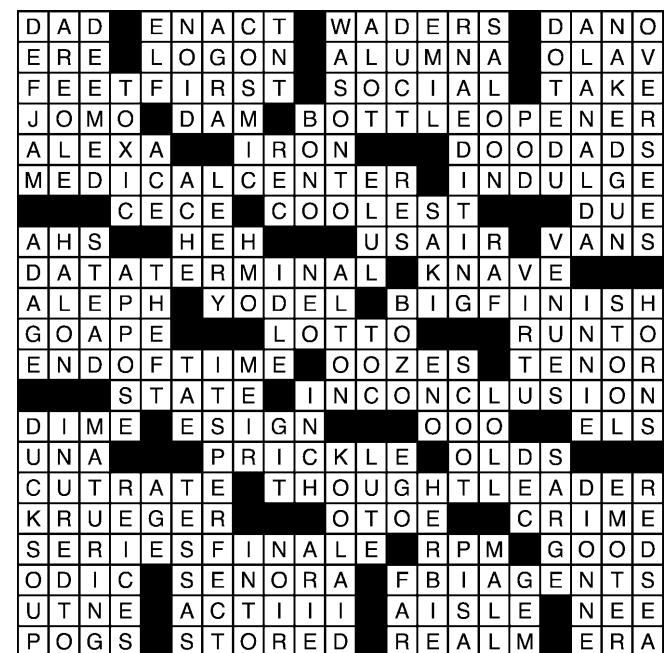
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
You might be a sign that is not associated with being a homebody. Nevertheless, you can get into a few days at home. You might opt to invite a friend over. Be careful; a power play could ensue. Relax rather than being right.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
If there is someone with whom you need to make amends, call this person. The sense of relief that you gain will be well worth it. Do not be rigid about being right. Everyone has a different right.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
You might feel as if you are spending too much once you stop and eye the damages. Sometimes, money runs through your fingers as if it were water. Try to use more self-discipline.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
You can be very emotional when pressured. Someone you look up to could be stubborn, difficult and possibly on the warpath. Try not to take this person's mood personally and continue being your own self. You may be amazed at what occurs.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



7/14/19