

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

In snark contrast: Week 1348 winners

BY PAT MYERS

Week 1348 was the latest of our perennial compare/contrast contests: The Empress supplied a list of 17 random objects, and the Loser Community had to explain how any two were similar or different. Submitted too frequently: The difference between **Sean Spicer doing the tango** and **crossword guru Will Shortz**: Only one doesn't have a clue. And how are **Redskins tickets like a dot matrix printer**? They were last desirable in 1992.

4th place

A dot matrix printer: You get to watch it make a lot of noise and print. **Fifty-yard-line Redskins tickets:** You get to watch them make a lot of noise and punt. (Warren Tanabe, Annapolis)

3rd place

Clown Shoe Friday: Flopsy. **Boris Johnson's hair:** Mopsy. **Jockey shorts:** Cotton tail. (Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)

2nd place and the German T-shirt with Einstein sticking his tongue out:

Charred mollusk on a stick and **Sean Spicer doing the tango:** Each could be described as a slug with a stick up its butt, but only the mollusk would be described as well done. (Mary McNamara, Washington)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

A hard Brexit and **Jockey shorts:** Two things we hope we never see Boris Johnson pull off. (Jon Ketzner, Cumberland, Md.)

Poor relations: Honorable mentions

Sean Spicer doing the tango and **a hard Brexit:** For the tango, everyone voted "leave." (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

How are **a hard Brexit** and **avocado toast** the same? Both are toast. (Steve Smith, Potomac; Brett Dimaio, Cumberland, Md.)

Charred mollusk on a stick: Oyster gets skewered. **A hard Brexit:** Ulster gets skewered. (David Peckarsky, Tucson)

With **a hard Brexit**, you're done with the E.U. With **Sean Spicer doing the tango**, you're just getting started with the eewwww ... (Mark Raffman, Reston)

A hard Brexit: Bye-bye, E.U.! **Jockey shorts:** By and by, P.U.! (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

A hard Brexit and **Boris Johnson's hair:** There's no parting in sight. (J. Larry Schott, West Plains, Mo.)

A bicycle built for 20 and **Boris Johnson's hair:** It would be preferable to get rid of 90 percent of both. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

The difference between **a bicycle built for 20** and **Sean Spicer doing the tango:** The first has 18 more left feet. (Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg)

A bicycle built for 20 and **Will Shortz:** With both, you'll often see 20 down. (Mike Gips, Bethesda)

A bicycle built for 20 and **Jockey shorts:** With both, telltale skid marks can indicate an internal mechanical problem. (Rick Haynes, Ocean City)

The main difference between a **charred mollusk on a stick** and **John Bolton's mustache:** the stick. (Warren Tanabe)

John Bolton's mustache and **the 50,000 people of Greenland:** With both, lots of Danish tend to be sprinkled throughout. (Frank Osen)

What do **the 50,000 people of Greenland** call **a bicycle built for 20**? Mass transit. (Pia Palamidessi, Cumberland, Md., a First Offender)

The 50,000 people of Greenland vs. **charred mollusk on a stick:** The former could be called Denmark's Ultra-cool Hicks; the latter is an anagram of that. (Jesse Frankovich)

Clown Shoe Friday and **50-yard-line Redskins tickets:** The Redskins usually play on Sunday. (Duncan Stevens)

Clown Shoe Friday and **Boris Johnson's hair:** Both are likely to be accompanied by nonsensical antics and a big red nose. (Duncan Stevens)

The difference between **Will**



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New for Week 1352: Hee-rotica — Steamy prose for unsteamy life

"As a bearded barista pours my coffee, he discreetly reaches below the counter. My eyes can't help but follow his hand — down, down — until, to my delight, he pulls out his big, bulging carton of oat milk. 'I was hiding this from the other customers,' he tells me, with a wink. 'But you can have as much as you want.'"

"I find a lunch in Midtown that costs less than ten dollars. 'Yes!' I cry out. 'Oh, God, yes!' The cashier hands me a surprisingly substantial sandwich."

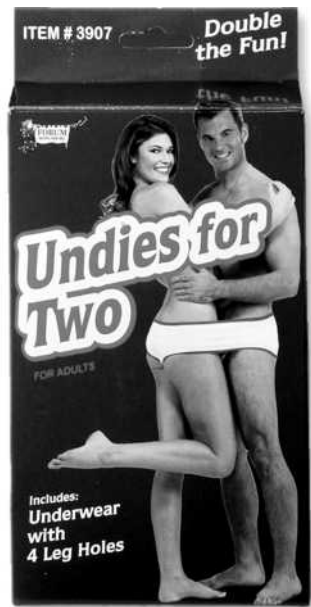
This week's contest was inspired by "Sexual Fantasies of Everyday New Yorkers," a recent humor piece in the online New Yorker by Mark Cognata, and shared with the Empress by Always-on-the-Lookout Loser Daphne Steinberg. Let's broaden Mark's idea. **This week: Write a short steamy scene (100 words would be considered long) about a non-steamy event**, as in the vignettes above from Mark's article. You might want to attribute the scene to a relevant person: An accountant? A plumber? Mitch McConnell?

Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1352 (no capitals in the Web address).

Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives, apropos of this week's hot-'n'-heavy contest, receives **Undies for Two**, a polyester bikini that might have just two kinis, but it has four leg holes; the idea is that two (thin) people somehow wriggle into it facing each other, supposedly in anticipation of ensuing high jinks, though I'm not sure how the wearers would actually *move*. Donated (new, yes) by Style Invitational Devotee Kathleen Delano, then declined — can you believe it! — by whoever "won" it when I first offered it a year ago.

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, Oct. 14;** results published Nov. 3 in print, Oct. 31 online. See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline "In Snark Contrast" is by Bill Dorner; Gary Crockett, Kevin Dopart and Jeff Contompasis all submitted 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 [bil.ly/inkofday](https://www.facebook.com/bil.ly/inkofday); 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/conv1352.



The ultimate in intimate apparel: this week's 2nd prize.

Shortz and **50-yard-line Redskins tickets:** With Shortz, you'll eventually get to see a solution to the weekly problem. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Will Shortz and **50-yard-line Redskins tickets:** With the first, you spend Sunday morning; with the second, you spend Sunday mourning. (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

Clown Shoe Friday vs. **Sean Spicer dancing the tango:** More people would want to observe Clown Shoe Friday. (Sam Mertens, Silver Spring)

Jockey shorts: tighty-whiteys. **Bedbugs:** mithey-biteys. (Chris Doyle)

Jockey shorts and **Boris Johnson's hair:** Jockey shorts cover an ass less embarrassingly. (Duncan Stevens)

Jockey shorts are like **Sean Spicer doing the tango:** With

both, you might report "crowded ballroom." (Joe Neff, Warrington, Pa.)

Jockey shorts and **hand-marked ballots:** Chad won't be hanging in either. (Frank Osen; Robyn Carlson, Keyser, W.Va.)

Fifty-yard-line Redskins tickets and **bedbugs:** More people are comfortable admitting they have bedbugs. (Frank Osen)

The difference between **bedbugs** and **John Bolton's mustache:** One makes you look away in pure revulsion, and the other can be treated by using a dryer with a high heat setting. (Stephen Dudzik, Olney)

Bedbugs and **the 50,000 people of Greenland:** Bedbugs will have somewhere to live in 30 years. (Duncan Stevens)

Fifty-yard-line Redskins tickets and **Will Shortz:** With the tickets, you end up with a lot of crass words. (Mike Gips)

Avocado toast: "Yum!" — Millennials. **Bedbugs:** "Yum! Millennials!" (Hildy Zampella, Alexandria)

How **John Bolton's mustache** is different from **bedbugs:** Mar-a-Lago guests still report seeing bedbugs. (Steve Smith; Larry McClemons, Annandale)

The difference between **avocado toast** and **Russian dressing:** Donald Trump didn't go backstage at the Miss Universe pageant in Moscow to see avocado toast. (Jesse Frankovich)

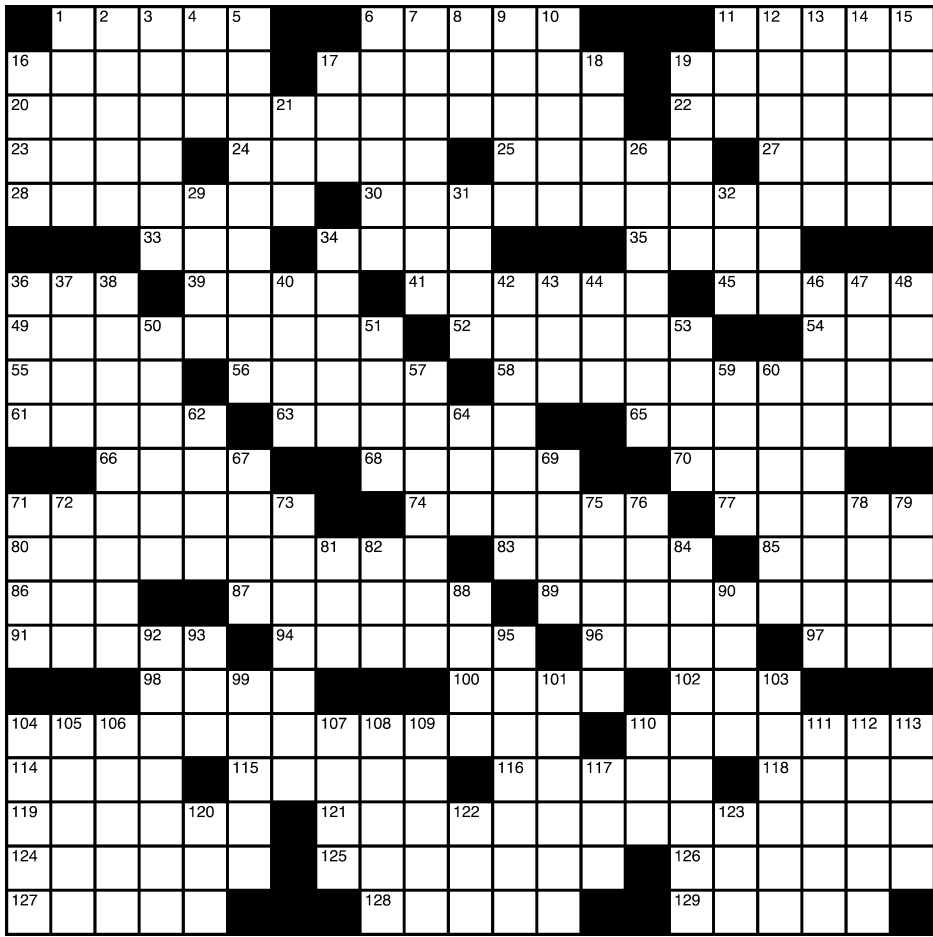
A dot matrix printer and **a hard Brexit:** The printer actually has some resolution. (Mike Gips)

Still running — deadline also Oct. 14: our contest for **timely Halloween contest ideas — or photos of actual new costumes.** See wapo.st/invite1351.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

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| <p>"TIME FOR 'A' CHANGE" By DAVID ALFRED BYWATERS</p> <p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 Followers who may be friendly or hostile</p> <p>6 Word of Gallic gratitude</p> <p>11 Voltaire's faith</p> <p>16 Bring up to date</p> <p>17 "Am I awake?"</p> <p>19 Game for two or four</p> <p>20 Sumo wrestler's asset?</p> <p>22 Car starter</p> <p>23 Agenda entry</p> <p>24 Avid</p> <p>25 Source of ignition</p> <p>27 Altered by time</p> <p>28 Skunk cousin</p> <p>30 Consequence of overtweezing?</p> <p>33 Halloween follower: Abbr.</p> <p>34 Gutenberg's movable invention</p> <p>35 Comic-Con attendee</p> <p>36 Met acquisition</p> <p>39 Revolver, maybe</p> <p>41 Rent what you've rented</p> <p>45 Dizzy's jazz genre</p> <p>49 Hawaiian tour company specialist?</p> <p>52 Greeted, with "to"</p> <p>54 Him, to Henri</p> <p>55 Cannes concept</p> <p>56 Locations</p> <p>58 Common sight on "L.A. Law"?</p> <p>61 Disproportionate reactions</p> <p>63 Disgraced</p> <p>65 Three-syllable limerick foot</p> <p>66 Like much testimony</p> <p>68 Restorative</p> <p>70 Social climber</p> <p>71 Current site of ancient Carthage</p> <p>74 Gazed lasciviously</p> <p>77 Go wild on Twitter</p> <p>80 Mid-morning coffee, say?</p> <p>83 Presidents' Day phenomena</p> <p>85 Crosby, Stills & Nash, e.g.</p> <p>86 Previously</p> <p>87 Problem for a claustrophobic driver</p> | <p>89 Problem for Roman Britain?</p> <p>91 Kidney-related</p> <p>94 Standard of measurement</p> <p>96 Loyal</p> <p>97 "___ Blues": Beatles song with the line "Even hate my rock and roll"</p> <p>98 Help to withdraw</p> <p>100 Confront</p> <p>102 Natter</p> <p>104 Said goodbye, dog-style?</p> <p>110 Some chalets</p> <p>114 ET vehicles, in theory</p> <p>115 Lariat</p> <p>118 Overhang</p> <p>118 Main squeeze</p> <p>119 Hired escort</p> <p>121 Low-voiced choir member's goal?</p> <p>124 Tony winner</p> <p>125 Do</p> <p>126 Niños' needs?</p> <p>127 Affirmatives</p> <p>128 Support framework</p> <p>129 Base stealer's asset</p> <p>DOWN</p> <p>1 Socrates' pupil</p> <p>2 Eurasian blackbird</p> <p>3 Many mariners</p> <p>4 Word of respect</p> <p>5 Attempts</p> <p>6 King novel that shared the first Bram Stoker Award (1987)</p> <p>7 Covers completely</p> <p>8 1929 purchaser of Victor</p> <p>9 Wind instrument?</p> <p>10 -(story, maybe</p> <p>11 Lair</p> <p>12 Sword-wielder's cry</p> <p>13 Architect Jones</p> <p>14 Tendon</p> <p>15 Advanced teaching</p> <p>degress: Abbr.</p> | <p>16 Dip holder</p> <p>17 Wrinkly little dog</p> <p>18 Suffix with kitchen</p> <p>19 Tiny chuckle</p> <p>21 Nose bag</p> <p>26 Nixon of "Sex and the City"</p> <p>29 Encrypt</p> <p>31 Consort of Hera</p> <p>32 Texter's "I will return shortly"</p> <p>34 What a plighter</p> <p>36 Landed</p> <p>37 Try again</p> <p>38 Had a few ruminant</p> <p>40 Medical suffix</p> <p>42 No-goodniks</p> <p>43 Make up a story, maybe</p> <p>44 Eponymous ice cream maker</p> <p>46 Muffin fruit</p> <p>47 Hers and mine</p> <p>48 Surname of father-and-son British prime ministers</p> <p>50 Geographical symbol of Middle America</p> <p>51 Cool</p> <p>53 Hosteries</p> <p>57 Burn without flames</p> <p>59 Tilt</p> <p>60 Iberian wine city</p> <p>62 Regina's prov.</p> <p>64 KC-to-NYC dir.</p> <p>67 Hoist</p> <p>69 Outcropping</p> <p>71 Vanishing ski lift</p> <p>72 Hankering</p> <p>73 Bryn Mawr graduates</p> <p>75 Induce euphoria in</p> <p>76 Road sign</p> <p>78 Pleasant</p> <p>79 One who doesn't just think about it</p> <p>81 French article</p> <p>82 Pass gone seriously astray: Abbr.</p> <p>84 Hard-hitting contests</p> <p>88 ___ insurance</p> <p>90 Cause of tremors, at times</p> <p>92 Fab equivalent</p> <p>93 Conducted</p> <p>95 Inensitive</p> <p>99 Locks that are picked</p> <p>101 Chin</p> <p>103 Blather on</p> <p>104 Full of glitches, as programs</p> <p>105 Flaming</p> <p>106 Hindu mystics</p> <p>107 Steamed state</p> <p>108 Kindle reading, e.g.</p> <p>109 Do a gardening task</p> <p>110 Growth-oriented field?: Abbr.</p> <p>111 Civil War general</p> <p>112 Abated</p> <p>113 Figure (out)</p> <p>117 Cease to function</p> <p>120 "___ Misérables"</p> <p>122 Big 12 rival of Baylor: Abbr.</p> <p>123 Bit of inside information</p> |
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10/6/19 xwordeditor@aol.com ©2019 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Oct. 6: This year, you find that you land safely no matter what goes on. A serious demeanor does not reveal the authentic you, but you often use that front. The playful personality within delights others. If single, you could meet "the one" this year. You will know when this person enters your life. If attached, the two of you evolve to a new level of closeness. If at the correct age, you may witness a new addition to your family. Aquarius is your friend.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You use spontaneity and the unexpected to gain within your immediate circle. You welcome change more than others realize. Be gracious in dealing with a loved one or child.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Reach out for someone at a distance whom you often do not speak to. You love catching up on news. You express a willingness to adapt plans if need be. Curb a tendency toward excess.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) A partner makes an effort and appears to have reevaluated a problem that keeps emerging. You have a tendency to go to extremes, no matter what occurs. Be more open to this person's suggestions.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Your emotional nature seems to be tamer than usual. What might prove interesting is how a partner or loved one starts acting moody when you don't. The less said, the better. Be caring in your dealings with this person.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You seem to be dragging your heels around a project, causing a delay in getting to the more fun aspects of the day. A loved one misses you and wants to pitch in. Let it happen. You might enjoy yourself more.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You cannot and should not hold back at present, especially if a friend or loved one seems more flexible than usual. Just be yourself and allow the child within to emerge. Fun will simply happen and will come with good vibes.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Your thoughts revolve around your home, investments and the possibility for change. You see a

situation differently than in the recent past. Be more open and fun-loving in how you approach a personal matter.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You might be jammed between several choices and not sure which way to turn. A conversation with a relative or dear friend might suggest which way to go. Ultimately, trust yourself and your intuition.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Be aware of the costs of proceeding as you have. Fatigue marks your thoughts, and you might prefer not to make a decision at this moment. Try not to let this reluctance flow into your day.

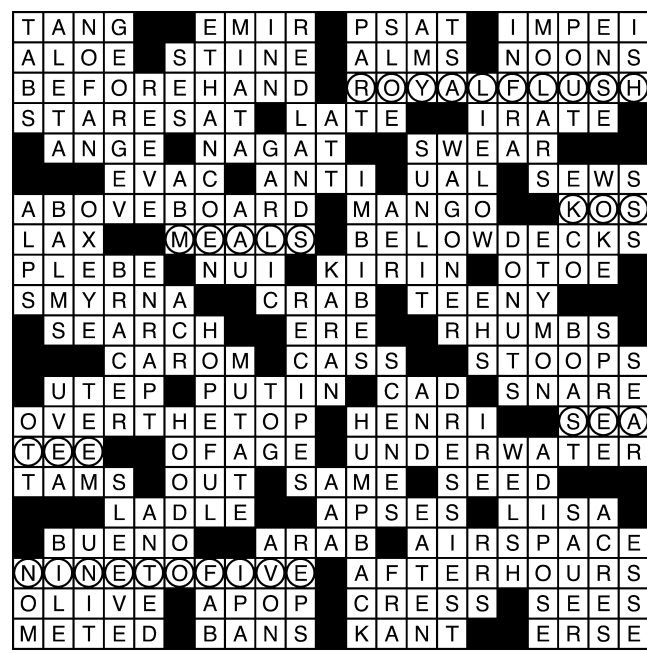
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Others value your attention and

time. No matter which way you turn, you find someone seeking you out. Be gracious. Enjoy visiting, yet make time for a child or loved one. Sometimes, you can be overly serious. Relax.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You might want to hunker down and get into a project, a book or even the Sunday newspaper. You are a gregarious sign, but also one that loves your downtime. News from a distance puts a smile on your face.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You might want to greet a friend and let this person know how much you value them. A little craziness or silliness with friends or loved ones becomes likely as you relax. Help an uptight person get past their rigidity.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



9/29/19