

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

InaugurAlchemy: A speech rejiggered

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1214** we invited you to pluck some of the 1,400-odd words from the newest president's inaugural address and rearrange them to make some wildly fake quotes, or any other writing. Many of the entries offered lines from an alt-inaugural speech. The Empress thanks Loser Gary Crockett for running the final entries through a validator he programmed to catch any ineligible words (he did find a few).

4th place

"I will be a just and reasonable president to all of our citizens: Americans on the right, Americans on the far right, Americans on the radical right, and Americans striving to transition to the right or who promise to do so in an oath of total allegiance. Not so much to people in poverty, people from Washington, D.C., or anyone to the left of President Bush." (John Hutchins, Silver Spring)

3rd place

**What is it like to be a Washington National?** Many victories throughout the years, but never winning the Big One. With each historic fail, miseries and carnage. So much unrealized promise! Men, your time for success is now — it must be! Because in two years, when the magnificent young power fellow in right leaves to become very rich in another city, we will have to rebuild. (Mark Raffman, Reston)

2nd place and the turtle figurine made from cow manure:

**"What is going on? There are no people here.** Did I get the time right — or is it tomorrow? There should be many people here. Many, many people! It is too empty!

"IS ANYONE HERE???"

"I cannot accept this! Here is a different reality:

"Trillions and trillions of people assembled for my ceremony." (Elaine Lederman, Strasburg, Va., a First Offender)

And the winner of the Ink in' Memorial:

**"Thank you, Chief Justice, stand there for a moment.** People! Did you get a good look at this old Bible? Lift it for us. What is up with that, by the way? Is it from the Goodwill? It's, like, all brown and totally in disrepair. Flush it and get a magnificent new one with a little shine — expense it! All right, you can salute, Roberts. Now, out of here!" (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

Addressing down: honorable mentions

**"I promise you, we will eradicate all other countries** from the face of the earth. Right here and right now, we will transfer all other countries to space, and the American people will be the rulers of the world for many, many years to come, with love to guide us along the way." (Mae Scanlan, Washington)

**"I do not want this job.** Bring back President Obama and first lady Michelle Obama right now." (Kevin Mettinger, Warrenton, Va.)

**"My administration will build tunnels** from Nebraska to Detroit, put highways in the ocean, and fill D.C. with leaves. What for? I do not think it matters. We will have a good time doing it." (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

**"In the new America I decree,** all women will be young and beautiful tens." (William Kennard, Arlington)

**"Thank you, Michelle and President Obama,** it's good to be here right now, because back at your home, at great expense, I have a group of foreign women doing a ceremony that has infused your old room with an ocean of not very pleasant body-by-products." (Frank Osen)

**"Take a look at these hands!** No way, no how are women complaining about what I bring to the party, I can tell you that." (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

**"On the left and the right, have no fear,** Yes, the time of our friendship is near, We can love and not fight, It will all be just right, When we do the good drugs I have here." (Mark Raffman)



BOB STAKKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Week 1218: Mess with our — or anyone else's — heads

Our new interior secretary

(Washington Post headline) Newest Alexa model can be implanted directly into the brain (Fake bank head)

Donald Trump vs. the Food Snobs

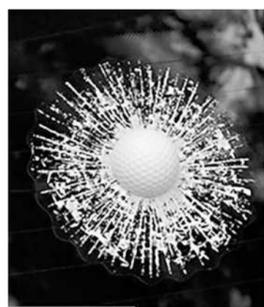
(New York Times) Ketchup, Shallot-Infused Bearnaise Sauce Fly in Dining Room Kerfuffle Over Steak Condiments

Have you noticed that The Washington Post has almost entirely done away with the old-fashioned, elliptical "Dog Bites Man" headline style? Now, in print as well as online, headlines are likely to be full, grammatical sentences (sometimes two sentences) that better explain the point of the story and catch the reader's interest. That's a great benefit to both the articles and the reader — but not to the Invite's perennial contest to misinterpret ambiguous headlines. So the Empress deigns this week to let the Loser Community range farther afield: **Reinterpret (or comment wryly on) a headline appearing in The Post (print or online) or another publication and dated March 9-20 by writing a bank head, or subtitle,** as in the examples above from March 6. Please give the source and date for the headline you use so we can verify it. Note that those real headlines are in the "label" format, with just a subject and no predicate, like a book title; you'll often find them atop essays and reviews. Please give the source and date for the headline so we can verify it. What counts as a headline? Can you use just part of one? The E covers these and other ground rules in **The Style Conversational**, her weekly supplemental column, at [bit.ly/conv1218](http://bit.ly/conv1218).

Submit entries at this website: [bit.ly/enter-invite-1218](http://bit.ly/enter-invite-1218) (all lowercase).

**Winner gets the Ink in' Memorial**, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a fancy decal for your car window that makes it look as if a golf ball has smashed into it — complete with half the golf ball. It's reusable, too. Donated ages ago by Dave Prevar.

**Other runners-up** win the yearned-for "This Is Your Brain on Mugs" Loser mug (or its future replacement) or our Grossery Bag, "I Got a B in Punmanship." Honorable mentions get one of our new 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, March 20; results published April 9 (online April 6). See general contest rules and guidelines at [wapo.st/InvRules](http://wapo.st/InvRules). "InaugurAlchemy" in this week's results headline is by Tom Witte; the honorable-mentions subhead was submitted by both Chris Doyle and Duncan Stevens. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](https://www.facebook.com/on.fb.me/invdev). "Like" Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at [bit.ly/inkofday](http://bit.ly/inkofday); follow @StyleInvite on Twitter.



Stick this to your window and you'll at least look like a Loser.

**"President Obama, you are magnificent.** Your triumphs will be remembered. President Bush left many, many challenges and hardships for you and your victories and triumphs will not be forgotten. There is no room for prejudice in America. Your courage and goodness left America strong. Thank you." (Julie Kehrl, Alexandria, a First Offender)

**"Can we talk? The first lady is constantly complaining** about this small living space. Honestly, it has potential. I want to rebuild it into the likes of which the world has never seen before. Understand — not anything too much, merely glorious and magnificent." (Drew Bennett, West Plains, Mo.)

**Across America, tens of millions** now face great pain from the success of a small, unstoppable group that no one likes. Their victories are stolen, and righteous people dream of a time when we will be free from the miseries of their winning, over and over again. I

speak, of course, about the Patriots. (John Hutchins)

**The Patriots are winning so much now.** A total success. But who likes these people? No one! They are just like small women to us. Sad. (Mary Kappus, Washington)

**President Carter, President Clinton, President Bush and President Obama assembled:**

"Should we tell the new one about our special group? That we get together all the time and enjoy ourselves?"

"Do we have to? We will have to constantly hear complaining about how we let the nation fail, but THIS administration will rebuild and have America thrive again." "

"Honestly, it's not very gracious, is it?"

"Get this: Michelle and I did not flush when we left!" (Hildy Zampella, Falls Church)

And Last: *Trump enters The Style Invitational:*

**"Everyone but you will think this is great.** Only you stand in the way of my triumph. But you are not a righteous lady. For too long you have deprived me of victory. I will be forgotten no longer. The American people are looking for you to tell the public that I win! Understand, my winning is a MUST." (Drew Bennett)

More honorable mentions in the online Invite at [bit.ly/invite-1218](http://bit.ly/invite-1218).

**Still running — deadline Monday night, March 13: our contest to combine two businesses and name the result. See bit.ly/invite1217**

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

"PEACHY" By C.C. BURNIKEL

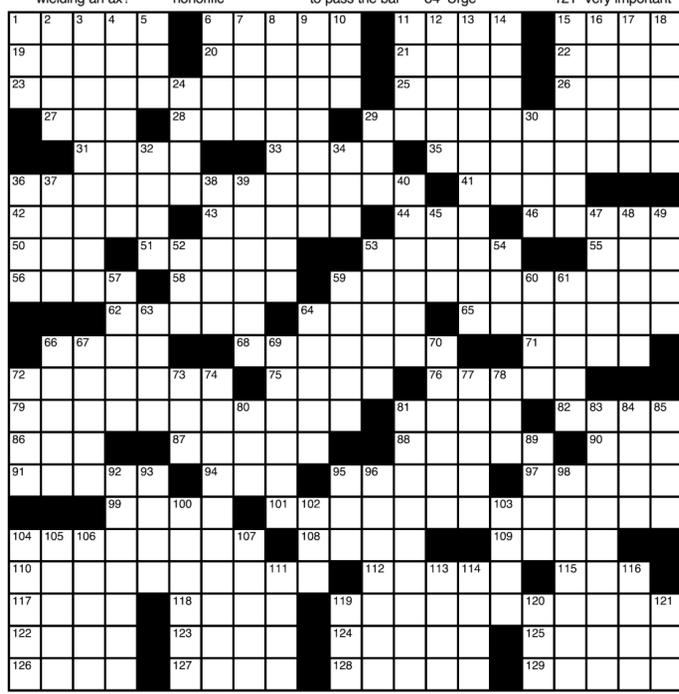
ACROSS

- 1 Baloney
- 6 Novelist Evelyn
- 11 "The Sound of Music" high points
- 15 Risk being burned, in a way
- 19 Impressive dwelling
- 20 Press the point
- 21 One with kids
- 22 One-eyed Norse deity
- 23 Large retailer's overexpansion, perhaps?
- 25 Georgetown hoopsler
- 26 Sign word evoking days of yore
- 27 Watch kids
- 28 Is too sweet
- 29 Welcome summer cold snap?
- 31 In — of
- 33 Terrier of old mysteries
- 35 "Oh, sure!"
- 36 Measure of stress inflicted by a crowd's roar?
- 41 GPS displays
- 42 Monster slain by Hercules
- 43 Printer brand owned by Seiko
- 44 Black Friday
- 46 Autocrats until 1917
- 50 News-selling org.
- 51 Resort in the Caucasian Riviera
- 53 Stout holder
- 55 Copacabana beach locale
- 56 Dole (out)
- 58 Sour
- 59 Storage unit for spray bottles, towels, etc.?
- 62 —Canada: Esso competitor
- 64 Don Juan
- 65 Bairs
- 66 MLBer with 696 home runs
- 68 Subtleties
- 71 Unbelievable one
- 72 Like some spore reproduction
- 75 Worms, to robins
- 76 Deep pit
- 79 Soup for toddlers?
- 81 Marshland

- 122 Genesis setting
- 123 Like Gen.
- 86 Outback native
- 87 To have, to Henri
- 88 Grace starter
- 90 Its PAC is the Political Victory Fund
- 91 Campbell-Martin of "Martin"
- 94 "A mouse!"
- 95 Hawk's claw
- 97 Synthetic silk
- 99 On the road
- 101 Holiday pantomime game?
- 104 Colombian export
- 108 Blockheads
- 109 "My stars!"
- 110 Necklace for a macho heartthrob?
- 112 Curly-tailed dog
- 115 MinuteClinic operator
- 117 Ceramic piece
- 118 "Terrible" Russian ruler
- 119 Little bird wielding an ax?

- DOWN
- 1 Flix alternative
- 2 Sideline shouts
- 3 Post-exam exultation
- 4 First African-American Best Actor
- 5 Ocean bird
- 6 Baby monitor alert
- 7 Folksy Guthrie
- 8 Hard on the eyes
- 9 "Seems to be the case"
- 10 Majesty
- 11 Ottoman honorific
- 12 Not all there
- 13 Cable option
- 14 Visit overnight
- 15 ["That stinks!"]
- 16 Go off-line?
- 17 Move crab-style
- 18 Helped a tot tie a shoelace, say
- 24 Single-serving coffee choice
- 29 Bit of a belly laugh
- 30 Atkins of country
- 32 Time line divisions
- 34 Winery cask
- 36 Ground-up bait
- 37 Fanfare and then some
- 38 Come again
- 39 "Julie & Julia" director
- 40 Major course
- 45 Ref. for wordsmiths
- 47 Where to find fans
- 48 Stairway piece
- 49 They're unlikely to pass the bar

- 52 Slugger Mel
- 53 Fresh
- 54 Spokane-to-Edmonton dir.
- 57 Modeling adhesive
- 59 Lost cause
- 60 Goofy collectibles?
- 61 Lift
- 63 Cabinet dept.
- 64 Closer to being raw
- 66 "Same for me"
- 67 Game inside a Narragansett beer bottle cap
- 69 "Rabbit" series author
- 70 Starbuck, for one
- 72 Conspire with
- 73 "Got it!"
- 74 Demonstratively romantic
- 77 Rodeo mount
- 78 " — out!"
- 80 Blue state?
- 81 Maker of fancy notebooks
- 83 "I'll take all the help I can get"
- 84 Urge
- 85 Right in the head
- 89 Big bore
- 92 Gets tough
- 93 "Never Wave at ...": Fosalind
- Russell movie
- 95 Screening org.
- 96 To blame
- 98 Spider woman?
- 100 "Java" trumpeter
- 102 " — b?": "Which is it?"
- 103 Pick up
- 104 Name on Re-Nutriv products
- 105 Site of the Cave of Zeus, in myth: Abbr.
- 106 Calculus pioneer
- 107 Glide on blades
- 111 Calls off
- 113 " — a pudgy tati"
- 114 Merged news agency
- 116 Move quickly, as clouds
- 119 "Breaking Bad" baddie Fring
- 120 Nonpro?
- 121 Very important



3/12/17

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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!** March 12: This year you often have difficulty making up your mind. You can debate the pros and cons of a situation endlessly. You see value in different approaches and different solutions. Your charisma is high, and you draw people from all walks of life toward you. If you are single, you are likely to not want to commit for a while. If you are attached, your changeability could be viewed as a gift by your sweetie. Virgo often challenges you.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19)

You might feel as if you're being pulled in two different directions. You'll want to stop in your tracks and make a decision about what you would like to handle at the moment.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20)

You might have planned to dedicate your day to a loved one. Know that you have little choice in what the two of you do. It seems as if you have made an agreement to visit a friend as well. Juggling both of these plans could have you feeling tense.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)

Home is where the heart is, yet you have so much happening on the domestic front that tranquility might not be possible. A loved one or dear friend becomes unusually quiet once more. Do not push this person past their boundaries.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22)

You have a lot on your mind. Whether consciously or by accident, you'll start to spill the beans. News from a distance helps you to detach and see the big picture.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)

Use caution with all financial matters. You could feel pushed by a close friend to make a purchase that makes you uncomfortable. Initiate a discussion, and also be willing to say "no" — if you don't take care of yourself, who will?

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Your energy remains high, but it has a nervous quality to it. You might feel cornered or overwhelmed by a situation. Lady Luck could push you in a different direction altogether.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

You have a strong sense of direction, and you know what it

means to make a statement and then move forward. You can be incisive and clear, if you so choose. Generally, though, you tend to be rather vague.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Don't get caught in an either/or situation. You might feel as if you need to make a choice between a friend and a loved one. The less said, the better. However, you could feel the need to say "yes" to both parties.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You could be feeling cornered by an older friend or relative. Your sense of what is appropriate to do is likely to emerge. You might be wondering what connects you to this person to the extent that you feel you must do as they say.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Think before you leap into a situation that might force you to detach or change. A trip is a possibility, even if it's just to meet a friend for lunch halfway between your two locations. You'll have a unique opportunity to change direction.

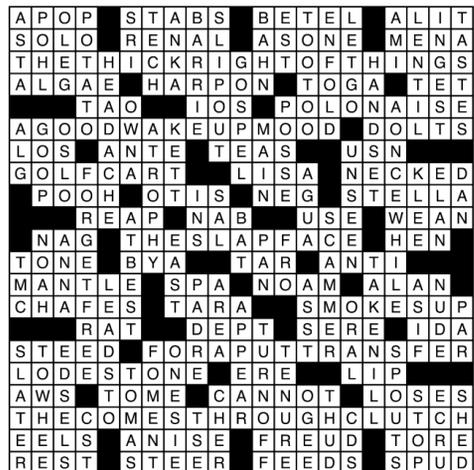
**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

You could be pushing a loved one too far. Know that this person is likely to have a strong reaction. Perhaps you feel as if you can't do enough to please them. A friend will drop by to share what they perceive to be a difficult matter.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)

You might feel as if you have the right response to a situation; however, a close friend or loved one could have a very different perspective. Keep trying to find a point of agreement.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



3/5/17