

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Witty-griddy: Word-find neologisms

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1216** we presented the randomly constructed word search grid below, and asked you to “discover” words by snaking a line through adjacent letters, in any or every direction. The coordinates before the entries mark the first letter; you can trace the word on the grid from there.

4th place

B-4: DORKRIDER: A guy wearing a leather jacket on a Segway. (Bruce Johnson, Churchton, Md.)

3rd place

L-11: LIAGRA: “I’m only taking it to make it better for YOU.” (Todd DeLap, Fairfax)

2nd place and the Toilet Tunes electronic keyboard mat:

J-4: SEMICOM: A punctuation mark denoting the briefest possible pause between totally random thoughts. “I’m so upset about losing Marsha [semicom] mmm, cupcakes! (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

And the winner of the Inkin’ Memorial:

H-6: IMPEACHIER: Less peachy. “The way things are going in the White House couldn’t be any impeachier.” (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

Path-illogical: honorable mentions

F-6: EPATAPH: What they’re saying now for environmental regulations. (Frank Osen)

D-8: AARPED: Turned 50. “He AARPed on his last birthday and it wasn’t pretty.” (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

H-5: ARFTIME: Mid-program break at the Puppy Bowl. (Frank Osen)

I-5: FAMELIT: Books “authored” by celebrities who write only checks. (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf, Md.)

J-12 DIAREA: A journal documenting your every movement. (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

J-13: COSAG: Grow old together. (Joanne Free, Clifton, Va.)

J-6: FACTTIME: An app that’s banned from all White House devices. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

J-7: ACUNERD: Someone who points out every flawed technical detail. “Acunerd Neil DeGrasse Tyson noted the incorrect constellations shown in ‘Titanic.’” (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn, Va.)

L-9: PMS RAGE: Non compos mentes. (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

N-4: ZILCCI: What you end up when you forget to pack away mothballs along with your expensive Italian suit. (Frank Osen)

B-4: DORKKNOT: A man bun. (Jeff Contompasis)

C-10: TYRUNT: A diminutive despot. A half-pint Hitler. A pocket Pol Pot. A mini Mao. Kim Jung Un. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village, Md.; Mae Scanlan, Washington)

C-16: MYMYMY: The start of a thinly veiled rebuke from your grandmother: “Mymymy, that’s an interesting choice of outfit for a funeral, dear.” (Hildy Zampella, Falls Church)

E-14: NERDPX: The Apple Store. (Frank Osen)

F-7: PRALEAN: Low-fat confection with “nuts,” “sugar” and “cream.” (Hildy Zampella)

G-3 SNOTHURST: Country Day School for the Pretentiously Rich. (William Kennard, Arlington)

J-10: VIAGRA TIME: Often follows extensive Miller Time. (Barry Koch, Catlett, Va.)

J-6: FEARFIT: That hot new cardio regimen in which the instructor chases you around with a chain saw. (Amy Harris, Charlottesville)

J-6: FUTELLA: A low-selling breakfast spread made of toe jam. (Ann Martin, College Park)

J-9: LARDVAC: Liposuction tool. “Your Mama’s so fat she needs the industrial lardvac.” (Chris Doyle)

K-13: VIRGINN: A lodging place that, alas, is not taking bookings. (Tom Witte)

K-9: RAT-A-TAT-A-CLICK: The sound of an AK-47 running out of ammo. (Chris Doyle)

M-15: PLEBVIN: Snooty French



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1220

O pedantry, O pedantry

Whenever a woman tells me that she loves me with all her heart, I patiently explain that the heart is an autonomic blood pump incapable of emotion, and that her statement is therefore without meaning. No woman has made that mistake with me twice. (Joseph Romm)

The expression “You can pick your friends, and you can pick your nose, but you can’t pick your friend’s nose” is woefully inaccurate. There is no physical barrier to picking the nose of another person. The barrier would be one of social acceptability. A more accurate statement would be “You can pick your friends, and you can pick your nose, but you *may* not etc.” (Jamie Eckman)

Those ever so helpful clarifications arrived via Style Invitational Week 330, in the summer of 1999. That contest was inspired by those less imaginative pedants who pointed out incessantly that the next century would not start on New Year’s Day 2000, but on New Year’s Day 2001. Eighteen years later, nobody cares anymore when this century started (okay, maybe *you* do) but surely there’s plenty to faux-quibble about that would make even confirmed acnerds (see today’s Week 1216 results) roll their eyes (but how can they roll with so much connective tissue around the iris?). **This week: Give us some humorous pedantry**, as in the examples above. Don’t make them any longer than those; shorter ones are welcome.

Submit entries at this website: bit.ly/enter-invite-1220 (all lowercase).

Winner gets the Inkin’ Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a tall black-and-white ceramic travel mug with a picture of a flying saucer and the text “GET IN LOSER.” The Empress, who believes passionately in the importance of commas, interprets that line in a way perhaps not intended. Donated billions and billions of years ago by the In Loser Brendan Beary. **Other runners-up** win our new “Gotta Play to Lose” Loser Mug 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, April 3; results published April 23 (online April 20). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. “Witty-griddy” in the headline was sent by both Jesse Frankovich and Stuart Rogers, the honorable-mentions subhead by Beverly Sharp and Jeff Contompasis. 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.

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.

term for Californian wine (Sam Kyung-Gun Lim, Urbana, Ill., a First Offender)

A-2: HUMIDER: What to er is. (Ian Graham, Orp-Jauche, Belgium)

N-5: COXID: The opposite of flaccid. (Stephen Dudzik, Olney)

O-2: SHARM: What the drunk in the pickup bar thinks he has. (Tom Panther, Sharps, Va.)

A-2: HUMIDORK: Guy who gives out cigars when his gerbil has pups. (Tom Murphy, Bowie, Md.)

P-15: BELT-IN-IN-ING: Staying on your diet all year long. (Jack

McBroom, Fort Valley, Va.)

Q-3: TERMMOIL: We’ll have plenty of this the next four years. (Dave Silberstein, College Park)

S-3: WETI: The Abominable Rain Man. (Mark Raffman, Reston)

F-2: NO-INK REINCE: The White House chief of staff fails to impress the Empress of The Style Invitational. (Ed Edwards, Worcester Park, England)

Still running — deadline Monday night, March 27: Our contest for “lik the bred” poems. See bit.ly/invite1219.



GRID CONSTRUCTED AT PUZZLE.MAKER.COM

The word search grid used for Week 1216; the highlighted “piglav” and “reggy” were the contest examples.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

“SECRETLY JEALOUS” By GARRY MORSE

- ACROSS**
- Plush carpet
 - Lunchbox staples, initially
 - Two-time Argentine president
 - Piglike rhino relative
 - Sword handle
 - Beat but good
 - Texas Revolution battle site
 - All-page link
 - Field: Pref.
 - Scrape in the sandbox
 - Hold fast, as one’s attention
 - Get behind, as a desk
 - Pouilly-___: wine
 - Sure thing
 - Sam Spade
 - type
 - Wrote to, nowadays
 - Low-tech travel guide
 - “You can’t fool me!”
 - Explorer
 - Washroom item
 - Nine months, for some tots
 - “Lou Grant” star
 - Wash neighbor
 - Language of many mottos
 - Spikes
 - Reduce in importance
 - Oath
 - Titanic undertaking
 - Really gets to
 - Native of Nigeria
 - Sloppy kiss
 - Cause of a close shave
 - Epidemic-fighting agcy.
 - Belief sys.
 - Investment descriptor that should sound alarms
 - For instance
 - Actor Stephen
 - Suffix with stamp
 - Order to swabs
 - Donizetti opera
 - “The Elixir of Love”
 - Poet’s adverb
 - Emotion indicator, often
 - City NNW of San Diego
 - Gourmet

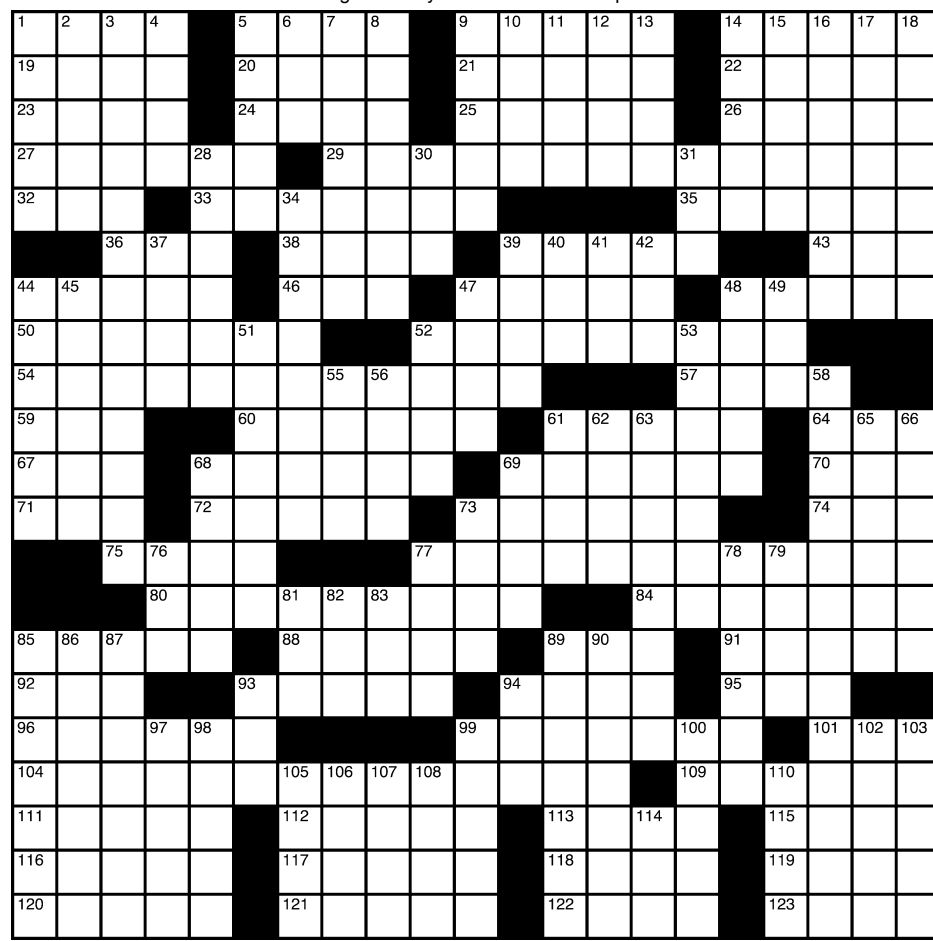
- Hardly fleeting
- Casual tops
- Work well together
- 60’s protest org.
- “If I Were a Rich Man” singer
- Pasta ending
- Pal
- Longfellow’s bell town
- Half a fly
- Like some ancient Celts
- Dessert square
- Long John Silver creator’s monogram
- Many a side dish
- “___ Fideles”
- Little bits
- Base lines
- Oater actor Jack
- Capital south of Helsinki
- Lycée student
- Industry leaders
- Hieroglyphics
- Rise in a big way
- Cold fall

- Exaggerated on stage
- “Eli’s Coming” songwriter
- Word homophonically hidden in the eight longest puzzle answers
- DOWN
- Harsh treatment, with “the”
- World Court site, with “The”
- Tanzanian
- Classic muscle cars
- Go
- Introduction
- Acknowledge applause
- Better, as gossip
- Metal marble
- Medicare Rx section
- Lamb pen name
- Indian musician who influenced Beatle George

- Symbolic warning
- Homework shirker’s punishment
- Puccini heroine
- “West Side Story” girl
- River to Chesapeake Bay
- Hitting the roof
- Enters again
- Pfizer-owned trademark
- One crying foul?
- James’ creator
- Skin-treatment plant
- Go
- Field unit
- Dined
- ___ City: computer game
- Vacation spot
- Look up to
- Wet floor
- Theater option
- Irish truck
- Parrot’s cry
- Not yet interlaced, as yarn

- Putted into the hole
- Like some bad weather
- Up-and-down inventor?
- 2015 World Series winning manager Ned
- Hollywood adaptation
- Trucks with ovine logos
- Mine, to Mimi
- Refines one’s aim
- Dance runner
- King of pop
- Smallish iPods
- Tammany Hall
- Tiger artist
- Childless couple’s acronym
- “I’ll take what I can get,” in classifieds
- R&B singer
- Ray
- Authenticated
- Riles up
- DVD predecessor

- U.N. workers’ gp.
- Cru output
- Tot’s toes
- Hot
- 1992 Kentucky Derby winner
- Entered on tiptoe
- Med. man of ‘70s TV
- MML + X
- NYSE trader
- Go
- A metro area may be shown in
- Low in pitch
- Playground dispute words
- Part of NYSE: command
- Sordid
- Part of NYSE: Abbr.
- Strip
- Final ___
- Semester, e.g.
- First name in legal fiction
- Tune



3/26/17

xwordeditor@aol.com

©2017 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Answers to last week’s puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY|March 26: This year you have the ability to touch people on many different levels. Observers find you to be unusually charming. If you are single, you are likely to be swept off your feet by someone you meet. Avoid putting this person on a pedestal, and try to be more realistic. If you are attached, the two of you enjoy a real sense of happiness and euphoria that strengthens your bond. Pisces understands your fragility even more than you do.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
You might decide not to share as much as you normally do. Perhaps you don’t feel ready, as you are likely to be mulling over certain ideas. It would be wise to touch base with a friend or loved one with whom you enjoy brainstorming.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Make an effort to bring friends and family together for a late brunch or early dinner. If you can, host it at your place. You’ll gain more insight about a loved one who is often distant.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
For some of you, there is a lot of responsibility required from you today. Imagine what you need to do to complete what you must. Remember to make some time for yourself.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
Your moodiness is recognized by many people. You’ll show your ability to detach from your issues. Consider what it is like to walk in someone else’s shoes. You are full of energy, and you want to gain more understanding of a complicated situation.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
An older friend or loved one wants to have much more to do with your life and also wants to spend more time with you. Make a plan to meet halfway and visit with this person soon.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Defer to a key person in your life whom you often take for granted. Stop this behavior while you can, and become more caring and attentive. You will create more happiness by expressing yourself more frequently.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
You might have made a promise to join a friend on a hike or maybe

explore a flea market together. Spending time outside helps you clear out some heavy issues. Do not push too hard to have your way.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Your focus is everywhere but where it should be. You see a situation in a unique way. Changes to plans could be disruptive. Look at the positives when dealing with a loved one.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Tension is high as you experience a schism between home and what you want. In some way, you might view a personal matter as dysfunctional. Bypassing problems isn’t possible unless you take responsibility for the issues.

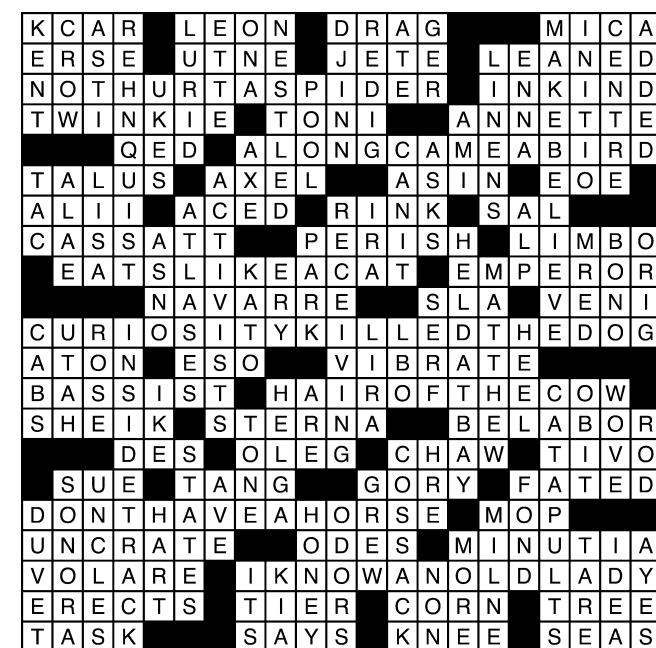
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

You have a lot on your mind now, and as a result, you could be overwhelmed. Understand what others want from you. Determine whether you can do what they ask. Be honest about your limitations.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Take stock of your finances before you commit to any plans today. You could be impulsive and are likely to overspend. Your self-discipline might not kick in to the level that you need. Curb a tendency to cause yourself problems.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Someone who is observing you might find you to be particularly charming. You have a tendency to look at situations and plans with great imagination. Plan more exactly, and you will experience less mishaps as a result.

Answers to last week’s puzzle.



3/19/17