

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

NSTA-grams: Top SANT neologisms

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1255**, our annual Tour de Fours neologism contest, the Empress asked you to come up with a term that contained the letter block SANT, but in any order — which makes for 24 possible permutations. We got literally hundreds of Santa jokes (it was why we used SANT) and hundreds of Nats jokes, but they were remarkably varied.

4th place

Reprehensation: What our elected officials often give us. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

3rd place

Natsurtium: Flower that blooms from April through September, then fades quickly. (Jeff Shirley, Richmond; Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

2nd place and the Christmas Pickle, lumps of coal, and bath fizzies that spell H-O:

Manstruation: Something that, if it happened, would result in three paid days off each month. (Mark Raffman, Reston)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

Amnasty International: The president's new name for the State Department. (Ann Martin, College Park)

WArTS And all: Honorable mentions

Tasnamia: Country located right next to Nambia. (Duncan Stevens)

Antsy Claus: What Mrs. C. calls her husband when he's checked the list twice, rezippered his sack, checked all the reindeer hoofs and started jingling his sleigh keys. (Harold Mantle, Walnut Creek, Calif.)

Cantstand: A vigorous exercise of disapproval. "We were watching 'Sex and the City,' but Dad started doing cantstands, so now we're watching the game." (Frank Osen)

Miles Standing: The mascot of I-66. (Barrett Swink, Gainesville, Va.)

Aghastnesses: What we seem to wake up to every new day. (Elena Helming, Longmeadow, Mass., a First Offender)

Kick in the pantsuit: What the Democrats got in the 2016 election. (Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)

Nats all, folks! Cry heard in Washington area early each October. (Matt Monitto, Bristol, Conn.)

Anonstarter: Procrastinator. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn, Va.)

Santac: What Kris takes to settle his stomach after too many Kringles. (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

Stanless: The Washington Capitals' reputation for 43 years and counting. (Dave Silberstein, College Park)

Standoafish: Unsociable and stupid. (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

Stankh: A symbol placed on Egyptian mummies that got less than royal treatment. (Jeff Shirley; Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf, Md.)

Postnaval drip: A retired sailor who bores you with war stories. (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

SheetsAndGoogles: An online linen store. (Dudley Thompson, Cary, N.C.)

Cantsuit: The old baggy gray sweats for when you are unable to deal with the world so you eat ice cream and watch TV. (Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.)

Branstanding: Making a big deal about your healthful diet. (Dudley Thompson)

Repants (verb): opposite of **depants**. "If only he had repantsed himself more quickly, perhaps he could've avoided jail time." (Ivars Kuskevics, Takoma Park, Md.)

Tyrantsylvania: The terrifying land beneath the swamp. (Christy Tosatto, Brookeville, Md.)

Half-Vastness: What Alaskans call Texas. (Edmund Conti, Raleigh)

Limplants: What's left when a boob job springs a leak. (Duncan Stevens)

Kanyé Nast: The media merger from hell. (Frank Osen)



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1259: Beat the banned with euphemisms

Vomiting: Unplanned reexamination of recent food choices (Bradley Fisher)
Plagiarism: Previously owned prose (Stephen Dudzik)
Cowardly: Challenge-challenged (Wendy C. Leyes)

In an apparent effort to commemorate the work of both George Carlin and George Orwell, budget planners at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have been asked not to use seven particular terms: "transgender," "diversity," "fetus," "vulnerable," "entitlement," "evidence-based" and "science-based."

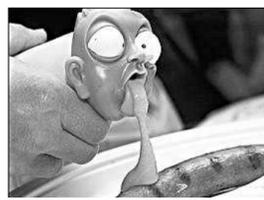
Well, they have to use *some* words, even if they'll be more confusing, and this probably isn't the last instance of word-banning ordered up by the executive branch. So the Loser Community is exhorted to shore up the glossary of alternatives for all kinds of Words Someone Might Not Like. **This week: Come up with creative euphemisms for the words above, or for other words that might offend someone or other, as in the examples above from one of the very first Style Invitational contests, Week 10 in 1993.** You might explain a particular context of how a word would be objectionable — at a different federal agency, say, or among a certain group of enthusiasts, and propose a workaround. **Conversely, you can also suggest dysphemisms: terms that put the term in a worse light, such as "unwanted dreck" rather than "special value."**

Submit entries at the website wapo.st/enter-invite-1259 (all lowercase).

Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place wins a Holiday Dinner Party Two-Pack: First, there's **Mustard Marvin**, a funny face that you use as a lid on a squeeze bottle of mustard — the yellow goo extrudes right out his nose. And then there's a container of **Bean Boozled** jelly beans, featuring a gambler's assortment of not just peach but "barf," coconut but also "stinky socks." We didn't try them. Marvin was donated by Loser Dave Prevar, the beans by Alex Blackwood of Houston, who helps the Empress run the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook.

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, "No Childishness Left Behind" or "Magnum Dopus." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). **Deadline is Tuesday night, Jan. 2;** results published Jan. 21 (online Jan. 18). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline for this week's results is by Jeff Contompasis, who also suggested the dysphemism part of the contest; Jesse Frankovich wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the 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](https://www.facebook.com/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.



DEAN EVANGELISTA

Mustard Marvin lets you do up your dog with panache.

Misspokahontas: "Did I say I was Native American?" (Jesse Frankovich)

Transanta: Kristen Kringle finally loses the beard. (Margaret L. Welsh, Oakton, Va.)

ATNs (Automated Teller Nymphs): The wee folk who pass \$20 bills through the slot when you swipe your card. (Warren Tanabe, Annapolis)

Rantasaur: The codger who goes on and on about how our smartphones make us stupid. (Jeff Hazle, San Antonio)

Ransom: The price teens must pay for having their dads pick them up at 3 a.m. at the police station. (Lawrence McGuire)

Tyrantasaurus Vex: An ancient species that spews venom and clings desperately with tiny hands to survive. (Jon Gearhart)

Santatize!: Don't let your chimney be the one that gets soot all over that nice red suit. (Larry Yungk, Arlington)

Pair-rants: When your mom and dad yell at you simultaneously. (Mark Richardson, Takoma Park)

Santa claws: Device to keep reluctant kids on Saint Nick's lap until the picture's taken. (Howard Walderman, Columbia, Md.)

Standex: Lycra fabric so tight you can't sit down. (Mark and Emily Schwartz, Arlington, First Offenders)

Cowtans: What people wear when they outgrow caftans. (Frank Osen)

Understanding: What Congress and the NRA have. (Kyle Hendrickson, Frederick, Md.)

Trolled substances: Online comment sections. (Jesse Frankovich)

Ubetistan: The nickname for Nevada. (George Smith, Frederick)

Buttsand: The inevitable beach souvenir. (Neal Starkman, Seattle)

Satn: The Weeknd's favorite underwear fabric. (Duncan Stevens)

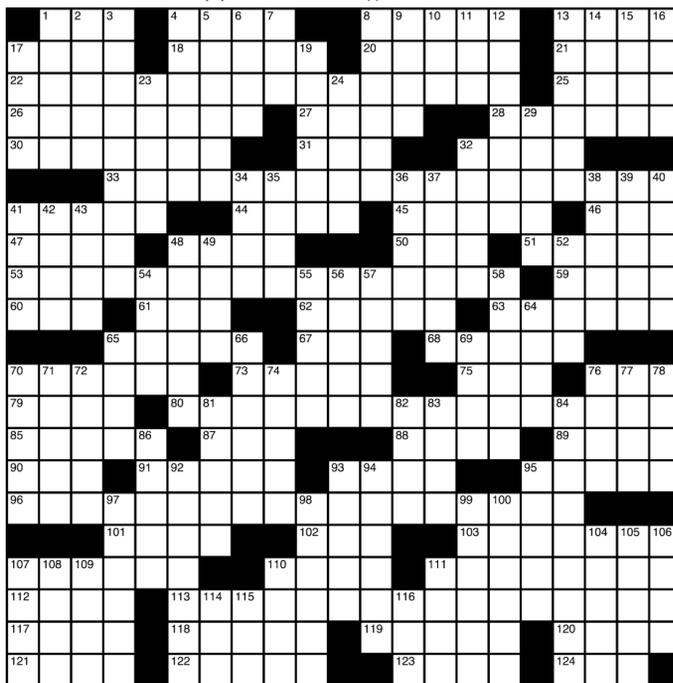
And Last: Decontestants: Disincentives to participate in a competition. "Style Invitational runner-up prizes are powerful decontestants." (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase, who's won 26 of them)

Still running — deadline Tuesday night, Dec. 26: your chance to enter (or reenter) any Style Invitational contest from the past six months. See wapo.st/invite1258.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

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| <p>*MAGNETISM* By PAUL COULTER</p> <p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 16th-century date</p> <p>4 Big name in shoes</p> <p>8 Batted</p> <p>13 See 2-Down</p> <p>17 Rail commonly found in water?</p> <p>18 Perry of fashion</p> <p>20 Kind of acid in proteins</p> <p>21 Any minute, old-style</p> <p>22 "Criminal justice supervisor</p> <p>25 Saturn vehicles?</p> <p>26 Placing side by side</p> <p>27 Cries of support</p> <p>28 Golf shot</p> <p>30 Wrinkly dog</p> <p>31 Common conjunction</p> <p>32 Hanker</p> <p>33 "Hail to thee, blithe Spirit!" poet</p> <p>41 ___ Dictionary</p> <p>44 Arles assents</p> <p>45 Bury</p> <p>46 Amber ___</p> <p>47 Delhi wrap</p> <p>48 A little lower?</p> <p>50 Paper size: Abbr.</p> <p>51 Anime cousin</p> <p>53 "Get worse, with no way to stop</p> <p>59 Do serious damage to</p> <p>60 Hwy.</p> <p>61 "My man!"</p> <p>62 Notched, as a maple leaf</p> <p>63 Back in the bay</p> <p>65 1965 King arrest site</p> <p>67 Shortened, as a dict.</p> <p>68 Ballade's final stanza</p> <p>70 Complete</p> <p>73 Assume as fact</p> <p>75 Assist</p> <p>76 Eats or drinks</p> <p>79 Israel's Golda</p> <p>80 "Hero Wolfe title that plays on the start of an old adage</p> <p>85 Looked like a wolf?</p> <p>87 Oral health org.</p> <p>88 Dovetail</p> <p>89 In the Aegean</p> <p>90 "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" newsmen</p> <p>91 Word coined by writer Capek</p> | <p>93 Creek croaker</p> <p>95 Tube, so to speak</p> <p>96 *1985 #1 hit for Paul Young</p> <p>101 All the time</p> <p>102 Bit of work</p> <p>103 Pretenses</p> <p>107 Poetic foot</p> <p>110 ___-up: hybrid musical piece</p> <p>111 Church contribution</p> <p>112 Wrinkly fruit</p> <p>113 Maxim that applies to pairs hiding together in the answers to starred clues</p> <p>117 Like Beethoven, late in life</p> <p>118 Agree to</p> <p>119 Composer of the short piano pieces "Le Yachting" and "Le Golf"</p> <p>120 Hockey's Bobby et al.</p> <p>121 Go around in circles</p> <p>122 Goes up and down</p> <p>123 Once uncool sort who's now sort of cool</p> <p>124 Inquisitive-sounding letter</p> <p>DOWN</p> <p>1 Transmute</p> <p>2 With 13-Across, write (to)</p> <p>3 Sensation before a delivery</p> <p>4 Specialty</p> <p>5 Medical center</p> <p>6 Sleep like ___</p> <p>7 "Delta of" Venus' author</p> <p>8 Symbols of thinness</p> <p>9 Author Martin</p> <p>10 (Not a typo)</p> <p>11 Arles article composer</p> <p>12 Company whose German pronunciation has two syllables</p> <p>13 Victory symbol</p> <p>14 Dope</p> <p>15 Cozy corner</p> <p>16 Massachusetts motto opener</p> <p>17 Healthful retreats</p> <p>19 André Previn's adopted daughter</p> <p>23 Quaker in the woods</p> <p>24 Dentist's directive</p> <p>29 Heat unit</p> <p>32 2017 World Series champ</p> <p>34 Texter's "seize the day"</p> <p>35 Devotee</p> <p>36 Sword handles</p> <p>37 It's usually just before dessert</p> <p>38 Tiler's tool</p> <p>39 Knighted English composer</p> <p>40 Thirst (for)</p> <p>41 Cold War initials</p> <p>42 Deeply engrossed</p> <p>43 Cracker topper</p> | <p>48 Long-billed wader</p> <p>49 Elementary particle</p> <p>52 Stop on the Turin-Genoa railway</p> <p>54 Upper, in Ulm</p> <p>55 Break off</p> <p>56 Comet's path?</p> <p>57 Needle point?</p> <p>58 Deluxe</p> <p>64 Pop</p> <p>65 Many a retired racehorse</p> <p>66 Tarzan's realm</p> <p>69 Dundee disagreements</p> <p>70 Ham it up</p> <p>71 Israeli desert</p> <p>72 Piña colada</p> <p>74 Declaim</p> <p>76 Boo relative</p> <p>77 Sheltered in the Aegean</p> <p>78 Bed board</p> <p>81 Hard thing to kick</p> <p>82 Slate or Salon</p> <p>83 Change the decor of</p> <p>84 Winding-road sign image</p> <p>86 How Steven Wright jokes are spoken</p> <p>92 Ear specialist's science</p> <p>93 Trunks</p> <p>94 Moral obligations</p> <p>95 "Be silent," in music</p> <p>97 Formally approve</p> <p>98 Baking supplies</p> <p>99 Fling</p> <p>100 Drifted gently</p> <p>104 Book with a lock</p> <p>105 Yves' ink</p> <p>106 PD ranks</p> <p>107 "My man!"</p> <p>108 Kept in barrels, maybe</p> <p>109 Decked out</p> <p>110 Like early Elvis albums</p> <p>111 Bone head?</p> <p>114 Adept</p> <p>115 Wages</p> <p>116 Suffix with Caesar</p> |
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12/24/17

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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Dec. 24: This year you tune in to your intuition more often than not. You are likely to meet someone who will teach you a lot about living. If you are single, you have a flock of admirers, and you might decide to change your status this year. If you are attached, you and your sweetie are likely to plan a long-discussed trip. The planning might be as much fun as the actual event. Pisces is instrumental in getting projects going.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You wake up knowing that you need to follow through on an intuitive feeling. Last-minute confusion could pop up from out of nowhere, but it can be easily resolved. You might want to adjust your schedule to make more time for a loved one.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You will have a wish come to fruition, probably with the help of a friend. A flaky friend or loved one could try to force you to make an adjustment to your plans. Know when to say "enough is enough."

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You continue to play a strong role in the events happening around you. Check in on a friend who appears down. You might need to adjust your plans accordingly. A partner or loved one would like to switch roles with you more often.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You might need to detach several times today, as a loved one becomes demanding. You will try to help this person level out, but know that only they can make the necessary changes.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Be open to a caring gesture from a loved one. You might be surprised by the tenderness behind this person's act. Togetherness seems like the right theme for the two of you, but remember to make time for family, as well.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You might not be sure what is going on, as others seem to be extremely sensitive right now. You could misunderstand what someone else shares with you. Ask questions to clarify what you have heard.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You love having the family together on this holiday, yet you also are

relieved when it's time for everyone to leave. Make the most of this time with your loved ones. Know that someone might misunderstand your intentions; clarify them as soon as possible.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You could enter one of the most memorable holidays of your life. You also might hear some important news. If chaos erupts, remove yourself from the situation.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You could find yourself in the midst of a squabble. Clear the air, but be aware that you are not reading and understanding this person correctly. Buy just one more gift for a loved one.

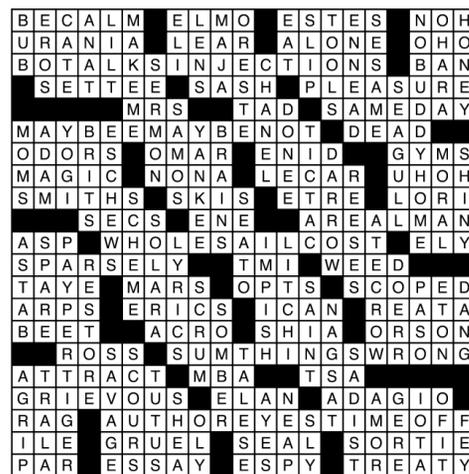
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You are likely to make an adjustment because of a

conversation you have midday. Do not allow a misunderstanding to cause a problem. Trust your instincts and express how you feel in a way in which the other party can hear.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Be aware of a tendency to overindulge. You might not care right now, but expect that mood to change in a few days. A love interest could misunderstand what you are saying or doing. End this potential problem before it can develop.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You sense others' dependence on you. You don't really mind, as you like to help others any way you can. A loved one who is used to having you to his or herself might get jealous.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



12/17/17