

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Thoughts and pairs: Winning linkages

BY PAT MYERS

Week 1284 was our perennial contest in which the Empress put up a list of random nouns (solicited from the Facebook group Style Invitational Devotees) and asked you to explain how any two were similar, different or otherwise connected. "A deck of 51 cards" led to a slew of entries about Florida Man, Kim Jong Un or the Current Occupant "being short of a full deck," and to Alex Ovechkin's smile missing something as well. And then there were the valiant if convoluted efforts to make some connection, like: "Oscar Wilde: Penned 'The Importance of Being Earnest.' Roach Motel: Pinned roaches, but also they import ants, if being earnest."

4th place

How is **Florida Man** like a **pound of scrapple**? Both are usually cooked before breakfast. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

3rd place

A **Roach Motel** is like a **North Korean beach vacation**: Neither one has ever gotten a bad review from a guest. (Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg)

2nd place and the coffee snake head inside:

How the **World Cup** is different from **dust bunnies**: In the World Cup you see Lionel Messi, and dust bunnies you see Iyin' all messy. (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

The difference between the **print version of The Washington Post** and **Florida Man**: I'm happy to find one of them lying on my doorstep at 5 a.m. (Jerome Uher, Alexandria)

Wishful linking: Honorable mentions

Dust bunnies are often found under a bed. **Florida Man** is often found under arrest. (Jeff Contompanis, Ashburn)

The difference between an **emotional-support peacock** and **Justify's tail**: When the peacock's tail is raised, it reveals one of nature's most beautiful sights. With the other, it's a bit less inspiring. (Peter Jenkins, Bethesda)

A **North Korean beach vacation**: Better not grab that poster! **Justify's tail**: Better not grab that poster! (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

Alex Ovechkin's smile and an **emotional-support peacock**: They have approximately the same number of teeth. (Russell Beland, Fairfax)

A **deck of 51 cards** and **Kim Jong Un's Porta-John** each contain a least a few deuces. (John Hutchins, Silver Spring)

For both the **World Cup** and a **North Korean beach vacation**, one of the main activities is taking a dive. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna)

The difference between the **World Cup** and the **new Duchess of Sussex** (the former Meghan Markle): The World Cup has floppers, while the duchess is still a young woman. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

How are the **World Cup** and the new **Duchess of Sussex** the same? Neither has anything to do with America anymore. (Nick Semanko, Washington)

Dust bunnies vs. a **North Korean beach vacation**: One's bound to be found under your bed, with the other, you're found bound and underfed. (Frank Osen)

The difference between **Kim Jong Un's Porta-John** and **Justify's tail**: One is found *above* a horse's arse. (David Smith, Stockton, Calif., traveling in Japan)

The difference between **dust bunnies** and **Justify's tail** is that my dust bunnies are more than three years old. (Jeff Hazle, San Antonio)

Cold, hard facts: Shocks. An **emotional-support peacock**: Struts. (Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)

Both the new **Duchess of Sussex** and the **print version of The Post** involve a splash of color on a whole lot of gray. (Duncan Stevens)

The new **Duchess of Sussex** and the **print Post**: You won't find either



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1288: Your results may vary

"Do not let this bottle serve you as an inspiration to call your ex in a pathetic attempt to get back together. Some very fine grapes have died in the making of this wine. Show some respect."

That disclaimer, shared all over the Internet and who knows where else, appears (in a photo, at least) on a bottle of "Soggy Bottom Boys Sauvignon Blanc 2012."

That particular vintage — or even the label — doesn't seem to exist, alas. But that doesn't make it any less useful as an inspiration for a contest, this one suggested by 65-time Loser Bill Spencer: **Write a funny disclaimer or warning for some product or service**, as in the example above that Bill showed us. Be sure not to say untrue bad things (at least that anyone could think was real) about a particular real person or organization; we don't want to libel anyone.

Submit entries at the website wapo.st/enter-invite-1288 (all lowercase). Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives, courtesy of Loser Nan Reiner of South Florida, a **SnoBall Battle Pack**: "Create your own snow for all year round snowball fights." Not only are the balls (which you make from a bag of powder) not cold; one of the ingredients is "Parfum (strawberry)." In Florida, you take what you can get, I suppose. And of course you're wondering: Is there a warning on the package? Yup, nine lines of it, including **DO NOT EAT**. And it's supposed to be a snowball.

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, "We've Seen Better" or "IDIOT Card." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). **Deadline is Monday night, July 23**; results published Aug. 12 (online Aug. 9). 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. "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.



VAT19.COM

Snowballs in July, donated by Florida Woman.

at Mike Pence's lunch table. (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

The **print Post** vs. a **pound of scrapple**: One uses a lot of ink, the other a lot of oink. (John McCooey, Rehoboth Beach, Del.)

Cold, hard facts: Dismal reality. **A Roach Motel**: Dismal reality. (Beverly Sharp)

Neither the **Roach Motel** or **cold, hard facts** seem to have much checking out going on. (Edward Gordon, Austin)

A **Roach Motel** vs. the **print Post**: The Post gets the job done faster. (Dave Prevar, Annapolis)

The **print Post** vs. a **Roach Motel**: You might actually find a Roach Motel in a D.C. millennial's kitchen. (Mike Gips, Bethesda)

A **pound of scrapple** vs. **armpit hair**: You'll never catch a European with a pound of Scrapple. (Michelle Stupak, Ellicott City)

A **pound of scrapple** vs. an **emotional-support peacock**: If you're really hungry, I suppose you could eat the peacock. (Stephen Dudzik, Olney)

A **pound of Scrapple** vs. **Florida**

Man: The pound of scrapple has more gray matter. (Tom Witte)

Edible glitter: Messy. **The World Cup**: Messi. **Florida Man**: Methy. (Jesse Frankovich)

Kim Jong Un's Porta-John vs. an **emotional-support peacock**: One is the UTMOST KOREAN PLACE I CAN POOP! The other is an anagram of that. (Jesse Frankovich)

A **coffee mug with a ceramic snake head inside** vs. **Kim Jong Un's Porta-John**: One has a scary head sitting inside the mug; the other has a scary mug sitting inside the head. (Cathy Lamaze, Silver Spring)

Unlike **Justify's tail**, a **coffee mug with a ceramic snake head inside** is going to belong to a Loser. (John Hutchins)

Dust bunnies and **cold, hard facts** are both easily swept under the rug in the White House. (Jon Reiser, Hilton, N.Y.; Stephen Dudzik; Frank Osen)

Cold, hard facts and **Florida Man**: Both are certifiable. (Jesse Frankovich)

Kim Jong Un's Porta-John and **armpit hair**: No one has to pretend that armpit hair smells wonderful. (Duncan Stevens)

Kim Jong Un's Porta-John and a **deck of 51 cards**: You wouldn't want to play Go Fish with either one. (Frank Osen)

The **print Post** and **cold, hard facts**: Both are things the president doesn't subscribe to. (Jesse Frankovich)

Kim Jong Un's Porta-John and the **print Post**: One is full of crap and one belongs to a great leader. — D.J.T., Washington (Cindi Rae Caron, Pawleys Island, S.C.)

Still running — deadline Monday, July 23: Our contest for song parodies about the news. See wapo.st/invite1287.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

"WATT'S HAPPENING" By JOE KIDD

- 1 Beginning
- 7 Arnold's Terminator, e.g.
- 13 Arboretum feature
- 18 Some ski lodges
- 20 Longhorn rivals
- 22 Island
- 23 Pratt & Whitney helicopter
- 24 Unsteady walk while using social media?
- 26 Fuel for a lorry
- 28 Leslie Caron title role
- 29 "Count me in!"
- 30 Field in acting
- 32 Detroit labor org.
- 34 Prefix meaning "billionth"
- 36 In reserve, with "on"

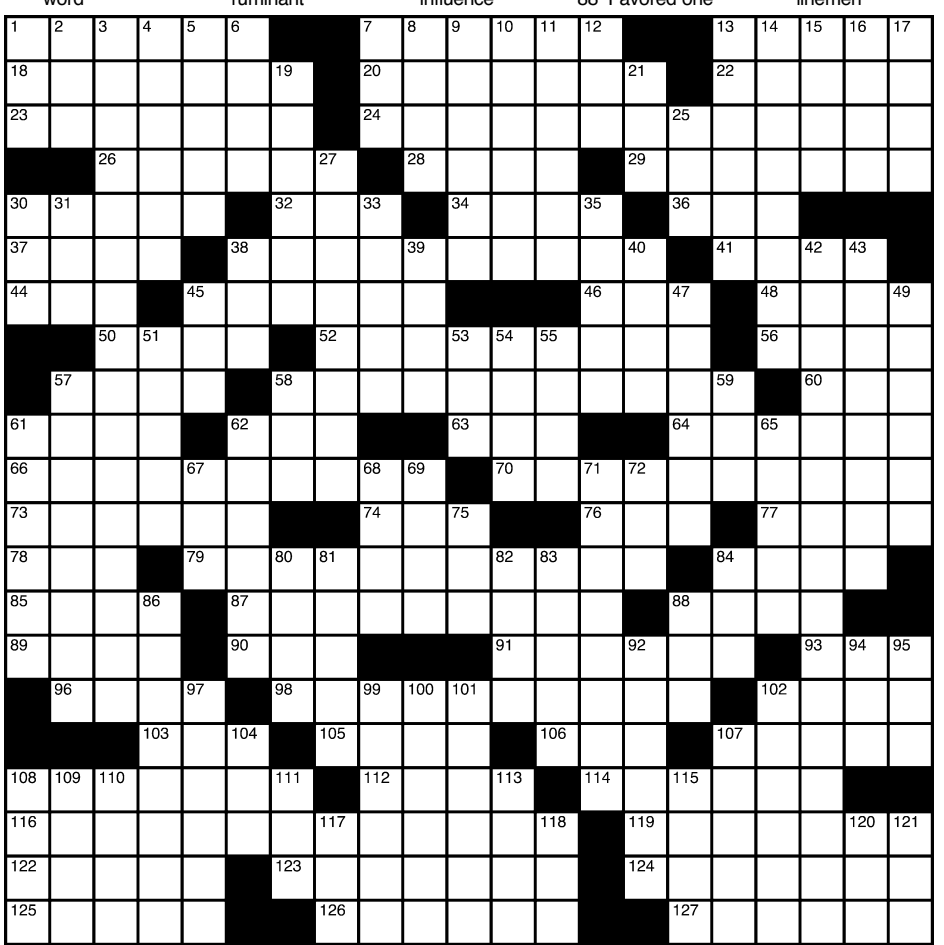
- 87 Like top
- 88 Toonism's Le Pew
- 89 Flood barrier
- 90 "Ahem" relative
- 91 Spoke
- 93 Maple extract
- 96 Big top, for one
- 98 Return from a salamander farm?
- 102 Work unit: Abbr.
- 103 Bo
- 105 Stadium reaction
- 106 PC hookup
- 107 Thai currency
- 108 Easily bent
- 112 Kristen of "Bridemaids"
- 114 Nullify
- 116 Drawback of the best place to watch the fight?
- 119 Dispute decider
- 122 En pointe, in ballet
- 123 Give an oath to a hole
- 124 Enlarging, as a word
- 125 Contradictory word

- 126 Some Dadaist paintings
- 127 Brings honor to
- DOWN**
- 1 Bit in a horse's mouth?
- 2 Agric. labor group
- 3 Dessert for a large legal firm?
- 4 In a reasonable manner
- 5 What "E" may mean
- 6 Get emotional, with "up"
- 7 Wisconsin winter hrs.
- 8 Distressed cry
- 9 Enola Gay manufacturer
- 10 Track circuit
- 11 Eye layer
- 12 M.A. seeker's hurdle
- 13 Ben Nevis, e.g.
- 14 Easily riled types
- 15 It's tossed into a pot
- 16 Road sign ruminant

- 17 Thornfield Hall governess
- 18 Searches carefully
- 19 Indian term of respect
- 25 "Didn't wanna know that!"
- 27 Bomb big-time
- 30 Like A/C in most cars
- 31 Radio host Shapiro
- 33 Heiress, perhaps
- 35 Have credit from
- 38 Marshland
- 39 Uncool one who lately is sort of cool
- 40 Scot's nots
- 42 Number for the weight-conscious?
- 43 Like Howdy Doody's face
- 45 Crime boss
- 47 Accord
- 49 Judge's announcement
- 51 Lack of influence

- 53 Comics scream
- 54 Warring son of Zeus
- 55 Bygone Persian title
- 57 "Don't change anything!"
- 58 Actor Chaney
- 59 Disturbing bank msg.
- 61 Like some closet doors
- 62 Last down
- 65 Exaggerate on stage
- 67 Crowd around
- 68 Coastal raptor
- 69 Overflowing
- 71 Mat regular
- 72 Dorm VIPs
- 75 Polite online letters
- 80 "Two owls and ...": Lear limerick line
- 81 More twisted
- 82 Suffix for fabric
- 83 Pope John Paul II's given name
- 84 Went before Big brass
- 86 Big brass container?
- 88 Favored one

- 92 Karaoke performer's problem
- 94 PC key under Z
- 95 "Masterpiece" ailer
- 97 Word processing function
- 99 Humdinger
- 100 Formosa, now
- 101 Buttinskies
- 102 Bluebeard's last wife
- 104 Rooter for the Bulldogs
- 107 Picture book pachyderm
- 108 Figurehead spot
- 109 Director
- 110 QB's stats
- 111 Mag honchos
- 113 Walk or trot
- 115 Norman on the links
- 117 Girl in the pasture
- 118 Shipping wts.
- 120 Vegas-to-Denver dir.
- 121 Some NFL linemen



7/15/18

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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | July 15: This year, you will learn how quickly your mood can change. You will be unusually strong in brainstorming situations, as you easily can see both sides. Your finances will reflect a change, as you will expand your budget. If you are single, your multidimensional personality attracts many suitors. You are likely to meet someone who seems perfectly suited to you. If you are attached, you often are the dominant party in the relationship. Be more nurturing. Leo knows how to spend money, and has great ideas for yours.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You are likely to get into a project that has been on the back burner for some time. You hear news that might stun you and give you pause to think. Perhaps the less said right now, the better. Be aware of what is happening around you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Others notice how happy you have become. You might find it nearly impossible to slow down. Should you decide to stop for a while, a loved one will try their best to prevent you from cocooning. Look at the big picture.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You could be dragging and somewhat tired. If you really are in such a mood, consider curling up with a good novel or watching a movie that you love. Take some downtime for yourself, and you'll emerge feeling refreshed and energized.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You have a light and easy way of handling matters that sometimes distresses others. You cannot change a situation, but you can move into a neutral head space. Your ability to stay carefree is the result of your past experiences.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You might approach a challenging situation with more buoyancy than usual. On the other hand, you might prefer not to think about the problem. The unexpected occurs, which could change the very nature of the issue. Go for a walk, if need be.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You'll finally feel as if your efforts have paid off. Your feelings and thoughts now make their way into an important conversation. With your defenses down, you can see the big picture.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Deciding to cocoon for the day might be the right decision for you. Clearly, others do not agree, and are likely to express some surprisingly bad behavior. Still, hold your ground. You know when it is time to cast away from shore and take a timeout.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You might have been coerced into playing a stronger role in a certain area of your life. Focus on the social aspects of this role, whether they include managing a Little League team or getting friends together for a barbecue. You'll be happy with the outcome.

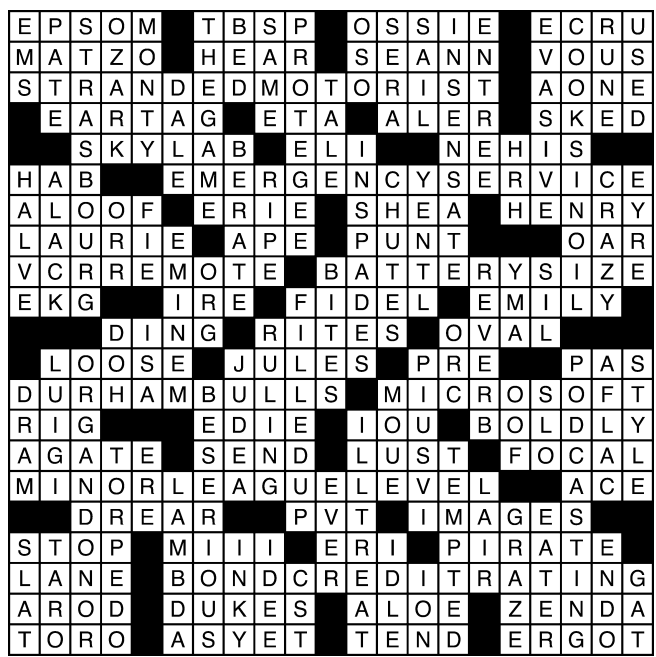
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) A surprise visit from a friend or acquaintance might catch you off guard. Embrace the spontaneity, and choose to go with the flow. Be prepared to hear an unusual request.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Reach out to a loved one at a distance. You could be surprised by this person's response. You might not want to do anything about what you are hearing, but you also could be flattered.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You could be very busy, but keep in mind that you have made a commitment to a friend that needs to be handled. You will surprise others with how easily you deal with this situation. Think seriously about the implications of saying "yes" to a friend.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You step out the door and find smiles greeting you left and right. You might be meeting friends for brunch or going off to do some shopping. Others seem most appreciative of you and your habits. Continue the spirit of the day by joining friends for some fun.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



7/8/18