

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

IGH-jinks: Inking G-H-I (etc.) phrases

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1298**, continuing through the alphabet in a contest we started two years ago, we asked what organizations, practices, etc., might take the abbreviation GHI, HIG, IGH, etc., or GGG, HHH, III, or in between.

4th place

GHI: Graham Hysteria Index: "Well, he wasn't screaming and clawing the drapes, so I'd give today's speech about an 4.3 on the GHI." (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

3rd place

GHI: "Go hump internally": PG-13 alternative to "GFY." (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

2nd place and the gadget that shoots bottle caps:

HIG: Heroes in Government: Committee that now honors the best sandwiches in Washington. (Edward Gordon, Austin)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

GGG: Gentlemanly Gynecological Guidance: Catchy new name for the all-male antiabortion congressional coalition. (Kevin Mettinger, Warrenton, Va.)

HIH: Honorably Inferior Humor

GGG: Golden General Guideline: Treat others as you would wish to be treated, except the ones you don't like. (Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)

HGI: Human-generated imagery: A new special-effects variation on CGI — in which, for example, a filmmaker could make it appear that a character is running by having the actor move from one place to another very quickly. (Hildy Zampella, Alexandria, Va.)

IHG: Inflatable Human Gatherings Corp.: At IHG, we'll make your crowd size look HUGE. (Jeff Shirley, Richmond)

IHG: Intestinal Hijinx Group: First rule: Don't talk about Fart Club. (Jeff Shirley)

HGI: Hansel & Gretel Initiative: This media project exposes greedy business owners who pay their workers bread crumbs. The owners call it a witch hunt. (Greg Dobbins, Boynton Beach, Fla.)

IGH: Instant Growth Hormone: Discreet term for Viagra. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn; Warren Tanabe, Annapolis)

GGI: Graphite-Generated Image: What I put on my invoice for a pencil doodle. — Bob Staake, Chatham, Mass. (Jeff Contompasis)

GHI: Giraffe-hippo interbreeding: After that unfortunate gipporaffe project, a code name for unethical scientific whimsy. (Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.)

GHG: Good Homes & Gardens: A magazine for those who just want to keep up with the Joneses, without the pressure to be Better. (Ken Gallant, Sequim, Wash.)

IGI: International Gathering of Introverts: "Holding Sparsely Attended Conventions Since 1962." (Diane Lucitt, Ellicott City)

And Last: **HIH: Highly Hypothetically Hardly Intelligent Humor:** Ink. (May Jampathom, Oakhurst, N.J.)

And we have extra space this week for some previously unseen losers of past contests:

Insteadlines: More 'typos' from Week 1297

In Week 1297 we asked you to change a real headline by one character, then write a bank head, or subtitle, to explain the resulting story. See the original ink at wapo.st/invite1301.

Immortal comic combat wombat Marvel unveils first marsupial superhero (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

3 charged with huge hug fraud on investors Promised warm embraces, delivered only awkward handshakes (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

FAA bill could cut excessive air fees pees Airplane toilet doors to open after 60 seconds (Chris Doyle)



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1302: Ask Backwards 37

A. The Fair to Middling Pumpkin.
Q. What did Linus wait up for until the Witching Half-Hour?

A. Elon Musk cologne.
Q. What reminds you of burning tire rubber and is so strong you could smell it from space?

- Elon Musk cologne.
- It's a popular drinking game, of course.
- \$3.33 an hour.
- A pith helmet.
- Flake, cake and rake.
- The Fair to Middling Pumpkin.
- The Supreme Court's softball team.
- Superman's hat.
- An almost-everything bagel.
- The room where it happened.
- The womb where it happened.
- This week's least-watched podcast.
- Two man buns.
- And so we named him Kanye.
- Grace at the Trumps' Thanksgiving dinner.

It's the contest that keeps on contesting, ever since the Empress's predecessor, the Czar, introduced it in Week 24, more than 25 years ago: **Above are 15 "answers." Tell us the questions. Do one or more, up to a total of 25 A&Q's.** Write the answer first, followed by the question.

Submit entries at the website wapo.st/enter-invite-1302 (all lowercase). Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives an **Icky Squeezy Two-Pack**: a gratifyingly gooey eyeball with some crudely drawn veins and what seems to be an inadverted cataract starting across the iris; and **Sticky the Poo**, a poop emoji that not only squishes in one's hand but also "splats" & sticks to any flat surface — like walls and doors! We're excited just from quoting the package! Both donated by Loser Dave Prevar.

Other runners-up win our "You Gotta Play to Lose" Loser Mug or our Grossery Bag, "I Got a B in Punmanship" (or perhaps a new design). 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, Oct. 29;** results published Nov. 18 (online Nov. 15). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline for this week's results is by Jesse Frankovich; Jesse also wrote this week's honorable-mentions subhead, "Insteadlines" is by Tom Witte and "Webster Diving" by Jon Gearhart. 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.



Eye-grabbing swag: One of two squeezies for this week's second prize.

Duo's speff smell is unbroken College roommates enter fourth week of 'no deodorant until graduation' pledge (Ivans Kuskevics, Takoma Park)

In the Southwest, it's still full steam stream ahead Feel-the-burn scientists claim chili peppers improve urine flow (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf)

Metro weighing big-pig-event fare hikes Special rates proposed for next alt-right rally (Ann Martin, Brentwood)

Montgomery schools to provide condoms condos "Back seats of parents' cars are too uncomfortable these days," argues county sex ed administrator (Rick Haynes, Ocean City)

Doctor put on probation must inform uniform patients Patients' faces fall over reverse facelifts (Dan Steinbrocker, Los Angeles)

And Last: **Kavanaugh offers details on birth mirth control comments** Judge argues that banning Style Invitational is 'in the public interest' (William Kennard, Arlington)

Webster diving: More new-word poems from Week 1296

In Week 1296 we asked for short poems featuring any of 35 words newly added to Merriam-Webster's online dictionary. See the original ink at wapo.st/invite1300.

Nanobot, a very tiny robotic tool Robots, robots everywhere, At home, at work, at play. They even offer sexbots now, The future is today! Last week the White House ordered one, But when asked "What size? What price?" They said, "Just add it to the debt, A nano should suffice." (Dave Zarrow, Reston)

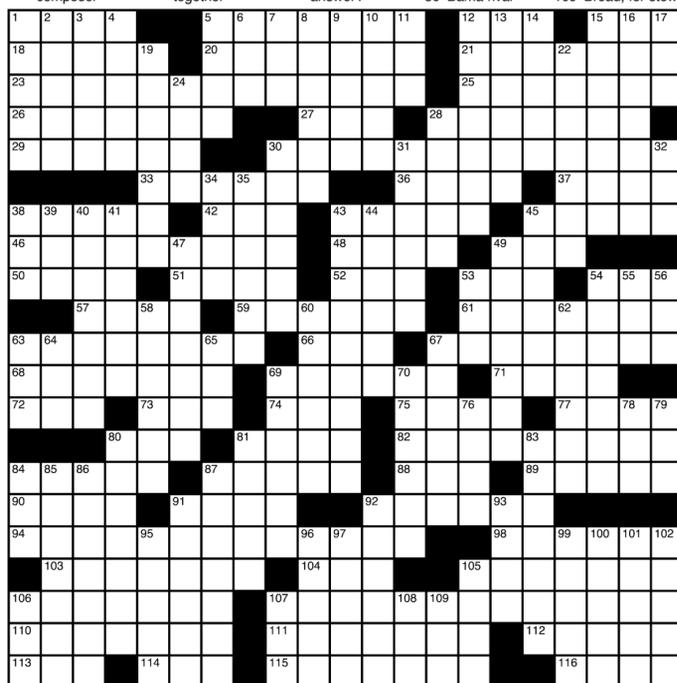
Avo (avocado); guac (guacamole) My recipe for guac is simp — there's not a lot of prep: Two avos, half a mato, some cilan and one hot pep. (Jesse Frankovich)

Still running — deadline Monday night, Oct 22: our contest for "Fib" mini-poems, 20 syllables over 6 lines. See wapo.st/invite1301.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

- "THE FRENCH DISCONNECTION"**
By JOHN LAMPKIN
- ACROSS**
- Dropped-jaw stare
 - Like loving caresses
 - Audio units: Abbr.
 - "The Americans" agcy.
 - First name in erotica
 - Place for a bootee
 - Seedy motel, say
 - Painting of an annoying bricklayer at work?
 - Japan's emperor
 - Like many forest roads
 - Suffer
 - Least obfuscated
 - Football laterals, e.g.
 - 15th-century food-stained collectible?
 - Beachcomber's pace
 - Breezy and open
 - Glimpse
 - Chaotic mess
 - Bot head?
 - Harbor protector
 - Dutch South Africans
 - Fabulist's Cheer alternative?
 - "Exodus" author
 - Chickadee kin
 - Undocumented Nepali?
 - Peak in Thessaly
 - Big D cager
 - Annoy
 - PC linkup
 - Mexican mama bears
 - Slip away
 - Popular Oahu beach
 - Dollar for a shot?
 - "Hm"
 - Dollars for shots?
 - Piles up
 - Captain Hook's creator J.M. —
 - Eight furlongs
 - Caught
 - Erstwhile U.K. recording giant
 - Kind of trading, briefly
 - Sweet Sixteen org.
 - With the bow, in music
- DOWN**
- Full range
 - "That's ___!"
 - Twists
 - Their pockets aren't deep
 - Dutch town
 - Geological period
 - Movement at a boring concert?
 - Twin-but-not-Twins' city
 - Half a fitness motto
 - Freezer ___
 - Allow
 - Window hanging
 - Where brownies come together
 - French article whose singular form is "disconnected"
 - Sets money aside
 - Newsroom VIPs
 - Boot protectors
 - Smartphone component
 - Bios unread by their honorees
 - Universal
 - Endemic
 - Neh. and Esth.
 - Penalty callers
 - Ric of The Cars
 - Opinion
 - French word in bios
 - Home of Elaine, in Arthurian legend
 - Forces fraudulently (upon)
 - Vehicle hired to carry steeplechase horses?
 - Tip for changing your answer?
 - 61-Across wear
 - Cavalier "My bad"
 - Emotional wounds
 - Iconic WWII island, briefly
 - Unlike idioms
 - Going by, for short
 - Tip for solving in ink?
 - Not in class
 - Mystery award
 - "Constant Craving" singer
 - Carousel item
 - Broody rock genre
 - Long-running forensic series
 - Put more varnish on
 - Owie
 - Not out-of-bounds, as a ball
 - Goals
 - Cost-of-living no.
 - Photo possibilities
 - Bama rival
 - Tightly packed
 - Some leave you powerless
 - Miss, say
 - "Tartuffe" dramatist
 - Foes
 - Cute calendar subjects
 - Caught
 - "Blah, blah, blah," briefly
 - Tel
 - Middle
 - Corleone brother
 - Mezzo-soprano Anne ___ von Otter
 - Benefits
 - 18-Across and family
 - Cholesterol letters
 - Tigers' home: Abbr.
 - Vardalos of film
 - Bread, for stew



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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Oct. 21: This year, you enter a new period in which you are more likely to experiment with some ideas. However, you make it okay to nix them, too. If you are single, you meet people with ease. Sometime close to your next birthday, you most likely will meet someone who will make your heart sing. If you are attached, you and your partner manifest a long-term dream. You both will express a lot of excitement over this new step you take together. Pisces senses your next move.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Rather than stepping into another challenging day, you could need to schedule some downtime. How you see a personal matter could change, given some relaxation and distance from the matter in question. Laughter surrounds a key partner.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Zero in on the possibilities; don't worry so much about what you need to do next. Your sense of humor emerges, allowing you to relax in nearly any situation. Sometime during the day, you might want to join friends.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You could be too tired to continue at your recent hectic pace. What you see does not compute with what is occurring around you. Slow down. You might be missing a detail, or perhaps someone forgot to fill you in. Allow more fun into your life.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Your sensitivity to someone at a distance might amaze even you. You know when this person feels off or is not up to snuff. A partner or close loved one could become particularly controlling. Avoid this person for now.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You see a situation differently after a discussion with a partner. This person is not always open about their feelings. Today, however, seems to be a different story. Listen and accept new ideas rather than challenge them.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You might defer to someone else, yet you still feel empowered. If a situation goes off the rails, know that you can handle it. Your ability to move through a problem draws you into a new situation before you realize it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Understand your needs. If you want to take a nap, do just that. Fatigue could mark your actions and decisions. You could be too tired to continue at your recent pace. Take a day off and be a couch potato.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) No matter what situation you find yourself in, your creativity surges. If you are not happy with the present results, don't hesitate to head down a different path. Reach out to a close loved one. Express your playfulness when dealing with this person.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Stay anchored by knowing what you want to accomplish. No matter what goes on, a difficult financial situation could get the best of you. Even if you want to be lazy and do nothing, allow more playfulness into your day.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Keep a conversation moving without incorporating too much ego. You know what you want, and you know what you need. When dealing with a friend, remain as upbeat as possible. This person's mood goes up and down frequently.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Be aware of the costs of proceeding as you have. You need a break from impulsiveness and the unexpected. Remember that fun does not have to cost anything. You simply might need to meet up with a friend.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Your emotional side might be a lot more intense than you realize. A discussion provides many ideas to explore, especially with regard to making plans. A friend can be a stick in the mud. Let go of any heaviness.

Answers to last week's puzzle.

