# DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

## Di- laughing: 2-for-2 neologisms

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1303,** the Empress asked the Losers to create new words by replacing a two-letter block called a digraph with another digraph. Within nanoseconds after the contest was posted, much confusion and debate erupted over what qualified as a digraph, causing the E to accept pretty much any two consecutive letters, except blocks that retained one of the original letters (see this week's new contest).

### 4th place

**Tweedo:** A brand of coarse woolen swimwear with the unfortunate tendency to shrink when wet. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

### 3rd place

**Schoolhouse Roth!:** A fun and educational TV show about early retirement planning. (Frances Hirai-Clark, Columbia)

### 2nd place and the Squirrel Pot Pie apron and Roadkill jerky:

**Ohmageddon:** It's, like, totally the end of the world. (Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

### And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

**George W. Burp:** Runner-up, Most Uncouth President contest. (Tom Gleason, Lawrence, Kan., a First Offender)

### Nahlogisms: Honorable mentions

**Trimflam:** "I swear, a friend of my sister's lost 25 pounds a week just by vaping dried tapeworms." (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

**Fritter**: Social media platform where you waste your entire day. (Frank Mann, Washington)

**Snitter:** Antisocial media. (Warren Tanabe, Annapolis)

**Twitzkrieg:** "Early this morning he launched yet another Twitzkrieg of outrageous insults." (Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)

**The Rolling Stoics:** They can't get no satisfaction, but they're okay with that. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase, Md.)

**Whine flu:** The sniffles. "My husband was bedridden for three days with the whine flu." (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

**Bluetorch:** What the GOP got burned with in the midterms. (Margaret Welch, Oakton, Va.)

**Bragmire:** "While opening his present, Glen realized he'd gotten himself into a real bragmire by claiming to be an experienced rattlesnake-handler." (Frank Osen)

**Choke on the Water:** The story of the 2016 Cleveland Indians. (Matt Monitto, Bristol, Conn.)

**Coasmella**: Nickname for the Gilroy Garlic Festival. (May Jampathom, Oakhurst, N.J.)

**Commander in grief:** One more role he's incapable of filling. (Chris Doyle)

**Department of the Ulterior:** If you can't drain the swamp, make it official. (Gary Crockett)

**Donald Truth:** We wish. (Gregory Koch, Falls Church)

**Easter Bully:** Steals candy, blames Hillary. (Jeff Swallen, Richmond)

**". . . and the parse you rode in on!"** How to finish telling off a pedant. (Gary Crockett)

**Dropsticks**: Me eating in a Chinese restaurant. (Chris Doyle)

**Grampoo:** Bubbe's blue rinse. (Jeff Contompasis)

**Flocrastinate:** To "hold it" while you play just one more round of Words With Friends. (Eric Nelkin, Silver Spring)

**Fraustrophobia:** Fear of one's mother-in-law. (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

**Freudonym:** A code name psychiatrists use in their notes. "Angry Orange suffers from delusions of grandeur . . ." (Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.)

**Gastroentomologist:** The doctor to visit if you have butterflies in your stomach. (Michael Rosen, New York)

**To Insanity and Beyond!** The catchphrase of Buzz Lightyear's brother Donald. (Gary Crockett)

**Kiltie porn:** Upskirt pics from the Scottish Highland Games. (Chris Doyle)

BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

### New contest for Week 1307: One-for-one for all

**Blabbergasted**: Stuck with a talkative bus seat neighbor. *(Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg)*

**Snarknado:** A celebrity roast. *(Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)*

**Bransit:** What older adults do after breakfast. "After a big bowl of granola, I head to the porcelain library for my daily bransit." *(Dave Airozo, Silver Spring)*

Four weeks ago, the Empress asked the Greater Loser Community to come up with new terms in which a digraph — a two-letter single-sound block — was replaced with another digraph. But she neglected to specify that *both* letters in that pair be changed, although that was the real intention of the contest.

In today's Week 1303 results, all the neologisms have a two-letter change, but it wouldn't be fair — to contestants or readers — to ignore those clever words that replaced "sh" with "sn," or "tr" with "br." So we'll ask for that specifically. **This week: Replace *one* letter in an existing word, name or multi-word phrase with *one* different letter (in the same place in the word) and define or describe the result,** as in the Week 1303 entries above that would have been among this week's honorable mentions. (Heck, I'll even award them Loser magnets.) If you entered Week 1303 with such a word, feel free to use it again for Week 1307.

**So after all these Invite neologism contests,** how do you know if your word hasn't already gotten ink for someone else? Now, thanks to 566-time Loser Elden Carnahan, you can quickly search through the text of all 1,306 previous Style Invitational contests in one big low-tech document. See it at **wapo.st/invite-archive**; you can also reach it on the Losers' website, nrars.org.

Submit entries online at **wapo.st/enter-invite-1307**. Winner gets the **Lose Cannon,** our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives **the Christmas Carol Kazoo,** a three-inch-square box that evidently contains one very little kazoo, plus cards that are sure to make "Jingle Bells" even more annoying ("Jingle Beeps"?). Donated by Christina Courtney. **AND** for third- and fourth-place Losers, back by Loserly demand: We're on our last few "I Got a B in Punmanship" Grossery Bags, so we return to our classic **"Whole Fools"** logo — designed by Bob Staake based on an ink-winning idea by Tom Witte — on a wholefoodsy natural-tone cloth bag (new style this time). The Loser Mug ("You Gotta Play to Lose") remains the other option.

**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, Dec. 3;** results published Dec. 23 (online Thursday, Dec. 20). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline "Di- Laughing" was submitted by both Chris Doyle and Kevin Dopart; Tom Witte wrote this week's honorable-mentions subhead. Join the Style Invitational Devotees 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 this week's contest, check it out at wapo.st/styleconv.

IDEA BY TOM WITTE; DESIGN BY BOB STAAKE

**We're bringing back our previous Grossery Bag prize!**

Doyle)

**Gefillo fish:** Worst. Baklava. Ever. (Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.)

**Get to weird base**: Engage with orifices you didn't know existed. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

**Global walling:** A brilliant plan to keep all that illegal warm air from sneaking into our country. (Roy Ashley, Washington)

**Goulack:** Hungarian vegan stew. (Jeff Contompasis)

**Mooreography:** A sequence of moves used with teenage girls. (Kevin Dopart)

**Phartup:** A bad venture capital project: "The self-driving baby stroller was Gerald's worst phartup ever." (Frank Osen)

**Prose but no cigar:** What to give the reader in your carpool. (Greg Dobbins, Boynton Beach, Fla.)

**Reagan Optional Airport:** How longtime Washington residents view the current name of DCA. (John Kupiec, Fairfax)

**Second-string halfbath:** A creek and a bucket. (Frances Hirai-Clark)

**Shove compartment:** A better name for that thing in your car that's jampacked with everything but gloves. (Jesse Frankovich)

**Stainless stool:** An advancement that would make washing cloth diapers a breeze. (Jesse Frankovich)

**Stychology:** Subtle attempts to persuade your teenager to clean his room. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

**Valley of the Dorks:** The California region that opted for "Silicon" instead. (Hildy Zampella)

**Vlad School:** Preferred alma mater of new State Department appointees. (Chris Doyle)

**The Stove Invitational:** Each week the Autocrat selects a dish, and readers submit terrible recipes for that dish. (Gary Crockett)

**Still running — deadline Monday night, Dec. 3: our contest for song parodies set to holiday tunes. See wapo.st/invite1306.**

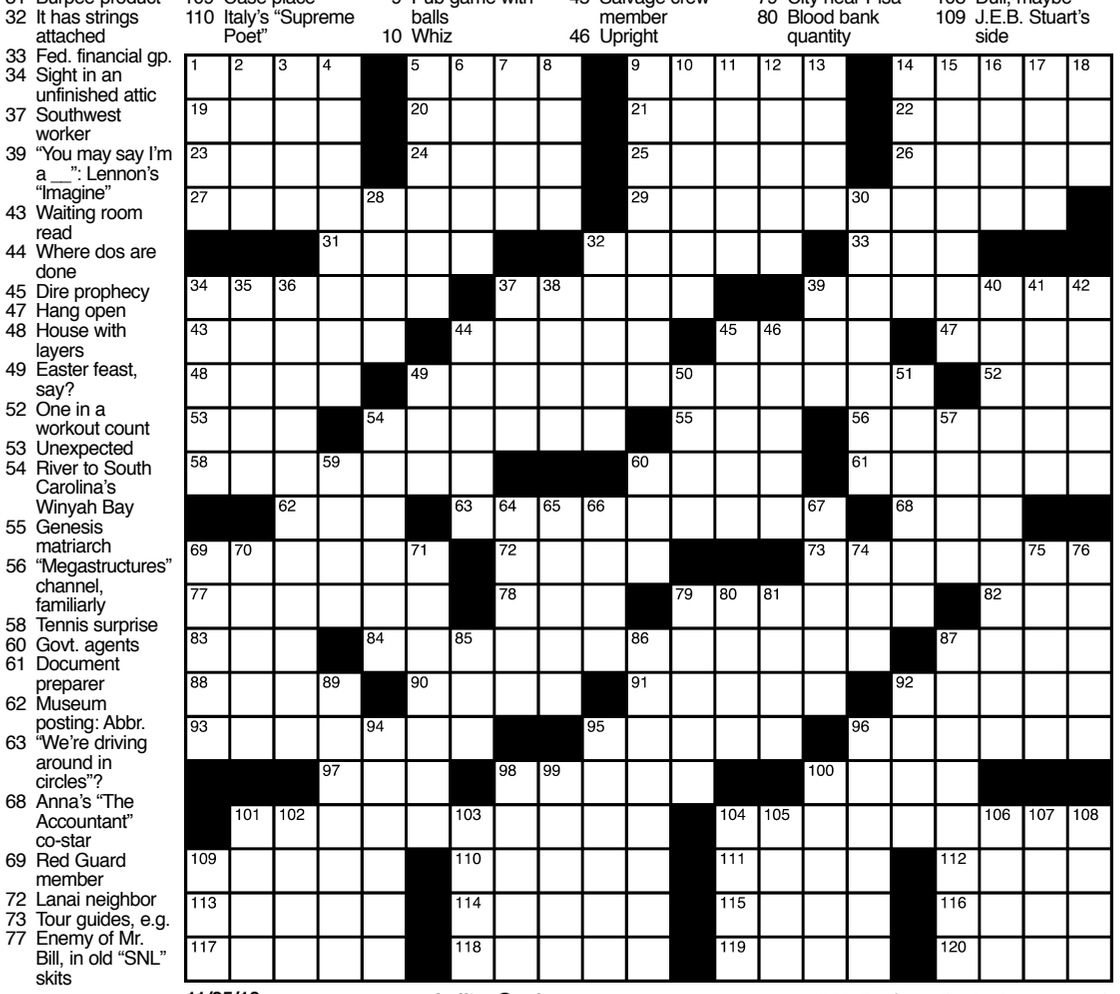
L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

**"FOR-GONE CONCLUSIONS" By GAIL GRABOWSKI**

**ACROSS**
1 Minor dustup
5 Ladder danger
9 Jeff who started an online bookstore in 1994
14 Give form to
19 Free speech org.
20 New Balance competitor
21 Put on, as pressure
22 Development units
23 React to too much sun, perhaps
24 Overcharge
25 "Silas Marner" girl
26 Penetrating winds
27 Horses' feeding period?
29 Nightly newscaster's preparation?
31 Burpee product
32 It has strings attached
33 Fed. financial gp.
34 Sight in an unfinished attic
37 Southwest worker
39 "You may say I'm a __": Lennon's "Imagine"
43 Waiting room read
44 Where dos are done
45 Dire prophecy
47 Hang open
48 House with layers
49 Easter feast, say?
52 One in a workout count
53 Unexpected
54 River to South Carolina's Winyah Bay
55 Genesis matriarch
56 "Megastructures" channel, familiarly
58 Tennis surprise
60 Govt. agents
61 Document preparer
62 Museum posting: Abbr.
63 "We're driving around in circles"?
68 Anna's "The Accountant" co-star
69 Red Guard member
72 Lanai neighbor
73 Tour guides, e.g.
77 Enemy of Mr. Bill, in old "SNL" skits
78 Start a course
79 "Once Is Not Enough" author
82 Nicki Minaj genre
83 Unkind remark
84 Ticket selling for a major golf event?
87 Puff pastry cheese
88 Publisher Adolph
90 Iconic 60-Across boss
91 Consider with care
92 Around the corner
93 Predetermined steps
95 Historic caravel
96 Took in the sights
97 Escape
98 Something in the air
100 98-Across, often
101 Severe dip in contributions during a telethon?
104 Hurricane tracker closeup?
109 Case place
110 Italy's "Supreme Poet"
111 Twitter's bird, e.g.
112 Belgian capital
113 Scorch slightly
114 Actress MacDowell
115 Aviation pioneer Sikorsky
116 Bond was kicked out of it
117 Entered into a deal
118 Cross with
119 Fresh answers
120 Number with words

**DOWN**
1 Brewpub array
2 "Rhyme Pays" rapper
3 Pet peeve?
4 Period, to British grammarians
5 "Hurry it up!"
6 Bypass
7 Hemsworth of "The Hunger Games"
8 Common camp site
9 Pub game with balls
10 Whiz
11 Youngest Marx brother
12 Mythical hunter
13 Team backer?
14 Skeptic's demand
15 Droopy-shaped purse
16 Bow-toting god
17 Cheat, in a way
18 Serious extreme?
28 Garlic relative
30 Agony
32 Without peer
34 Info-gathering mission
35 Quarters
36 What may accompany hunger pangs?
37 Bud on a drive
38 First name in '70s tennis
39 Slip into
40 Result of a faulty tab setting?
41 Pentathlon gear
42 Provide more room for growth
44 While
45 Salvage crew member
46 Upright
49 Pommes frites condiment
50 How-to lesson
51 Maker of Wayfarer sunglasses
54 Turn a Monopoly corner
57 Used Charmin for shenanigans, for short
59 Sea cell
60 Bi- equivalent
64 What diviners interpret
65 Former Swedish imports
66 Bolshoi outfit
67 Part of 1/2
69 Passé PC system
70 "Off with her head!" head owner
71 Star that's a draw
74 USCG rank
75 It's often merit-based
76 Ticket number you don't want to see
79 City near Pisa
80 Blood bank quantity
81 Arcade giant
85 Bard's bedtime
86 Competition in lanes
87 Challenging golf hole starting points
89 Blow the budget
92 Center
94 Hung in there
95 "The Merchant of Venice" heroine
96 Some exposed-beam homes
98 Actress De La Garza
99 Scientific dept.
100 Blocks often disassembled and reassembled
101 Trevi toss-in
102 Polly, to Tom
103 Sistine Chapel ceiling figure
104 Bulldog supporters
105 Discipline with poses
106 Lot purchase
107 Resolve, with "out"
108 Dull, maybe
109 J.E.B. Stuart's side



11/25/18 xwordeditor@aol.com ©2018 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

**Answers to last week's puzzle below.**

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Nov. 25:** This year, you will become more involved with others and their needs. You understand what works on a domestic and emotional level. If you are single, you could meet someone this year who gives you a case of the butterflies. You might want to explore the possibilities. If you are attached, the two of you flow well as a couple. One-on-one relating becomes a precious and important time for you both. Cancer understands your feelings almost better than you do.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) You might find the lack of high-powered excitement today disappointing, but ultimately you do need some quiet time. Nevertheless, you hear others' frustration and are in touch with your own feelings as a result. You could be put off by someone you admire.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) You will share your thoughts with greater clarity than usual. You could be a little taken aback by a friend or loved one who throws a wrench in your plans at the last minute. Closing off this person ultimately won't do you any good. Just go with the flow.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) Be cautious with your spending. You might have a devil-may-care attitude right now, but it could change once you see the results of your frivolous behavior. An older relative or friend could be hard on you. Do what you must.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) You might be more sympathetic toward a co-worker or friend than you have been in a while. Try your best to understand where this person is coming from. Your awareness of their feelings will help more than you might realize.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) After all of the recent uproar and confusion, you won't mind going off on your own for some peace and quiet. If you mention your plans, you will rekindle several people's need to be with you.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Your sensitivity doesn't often come out for others to witness. Today, a key person in your life sees your support of their ideas. You don't need to make a big deal out of what you see. Accept an invitation to be with people you respect and admire.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Others demand your attention. If you do not want to spend time with these people, you can come up with a good excuse. This tactic usually works, but authenticity might be more desirable today. A family member becomes distant.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You will appreciate going inward and choosing a pastime that expands your knowledge. You know what interests you, so follow through on that curiosity. Hearing a lecture, reading a book or finding an expert on the topic at hand could be rewarding.

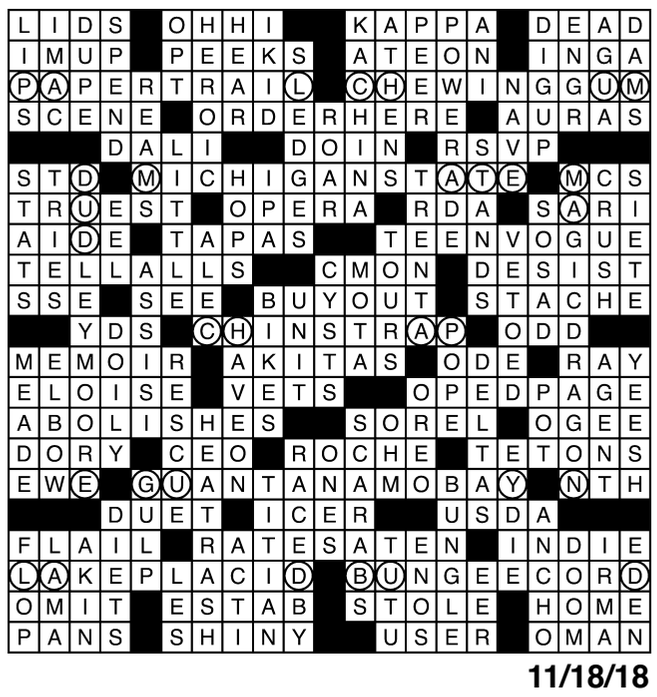
**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Make time for a special person in your life. Whether you're driving together through the country or going to a lecture, your tension lessens. Cater to this individual. You would be wise to keep today and your time with this person on a one-on-one level.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You might be tired or fed up with the recent pace. To many people, you will seem unavailable. You could decide to cocoon at home. You might be in the midst of recharging your batteries, but perhaps you don't know how to explain this.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Listen to what has been shared. Your feelings might be more involved than you'd like. You could feel pushed beyond your limit. Later, think through the comments you heard. You might want to get feedback from a close friend or loved one.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) Tap into your imagination to make plans that you and someone else might enjoy. Loosen up and don't be so uptight about what is happening around you. A friend could disappoint you. Take a step back from the situation, and try to worry less.

**Answers to last week's puzzle.**



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