

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

'Gram scheme: Astonishing anagrams

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1318** we asked you to produce anagrams — text with all the letters rearranged. Prepare for some serious mind-blowing.

4th place:

The opening of "A Tale of Two Cities": It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair.

Anagram: Sigh, how to begin? "It was London, it was Paris. It was the stain of woebegone teeth, it was the spot of amput hair. It was the time of awful foods, it was the time of less cheeky help. It was wan, fetid cheeses. It was soft, soft cheeses." These spoofs: It is the far, far worse thing I do. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

3rd place:

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife.
Anagram: BS! I often itch to gnaw her hot love-tushy. (Mark Raffman, Reston)

2nd place and the poop emoji slippers:

"I, Donald John Trump, do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States."

"I, Donald J. Trump, attest that I will offend you, expel the White House staff, and fleece the country for side millions." (Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledger, Mich.)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

A total anagram of the entire Gettysburg Address:

Dig this, my men. A few decades back, some hep, cool creative guys hath invented a sovereign country somewhere right around here that was devoted to increasing human equality. It's true, man; I saw, ah, documentation on the teevee. I call that radical! Too hot, hot, hot!

But now, there's definitely a bad vibe. Wretched indignation advanced to total hatred, bitter warfare, and terrible attrition. Thousands of hale men, both Northern-trained Federal and hotheaded, pro-apartheid Confederate, everyone frightened, fighting with revolvers and rifles to decide whether survival of that great, progressive doctrine of reform and human tolerance is necessary — or a total menace. We have gathered at the, ah, scene tonight to give high props to a thin, fantastic posse that hitherto laid it all ten-tenths down for the cause. That be word. Word is bond.

Nay, do listen to this oath, congregation: Whatever grateful oration we, ah, bother to deliver ain't near enough. Not near appropriate or worthwhile. Here, a dreaded Death flowered beneath the feet of, and collected, honored men. The, ah, righteous thugs and heroic hos that we celebrate achieved the whole deal; all we can do is riff charming, insignificant stuff that people will never recall. So we all gotta keep on keeping on, in order to see to it that things evolve better for our, ah, descendants so the worthwhile peeps rule twenty-four/seven. Be real. Yahoo. Whatever. (J.J. Gertler, Arlington)

MINOR LOONS BENEATH: Honorable mentions

Build the wall!
= White lad bull. (Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore)

"We're building the wall":
= We draw in the gullible. (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

Make America great again!
= I make a migrant cage area. (Bill Dorner, Indianapolis)

There was no collusion!
= So unethical loser won. (Mark Calandra, Wenham, Mass.)

"There was no collusion!" says Trump
= A sorry, shameless Putin clown. Out! (Chris Doyle)

"Please inform him that I too have a Nuclear Button, but it is a much bigger and more powerful one than his."
= A bitter orange buffoon thumbs nose at autocrat. Phallic euphemism thrived online. Huh,



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1322: Back to the drawing board

- **A special security device for office buildings that recognizes someone by analyzing his spinal fluid.** (Brian Broadus)
- **Caramel-coated popcorn and peanuts, with a surprise algebra problem in every box.** (Greg Dobbins)
- **Home delivery of fresh milk, via a trailer of cows driven to customers' doors.** (Russell Beland)

Here's a contest we did a full 20 years ago, and surely there are lots more bad ideas to be found since then. **This week: Come up with an idea for an invention that still needs a bug ironed out**, as in the inking examples above from **Week 323** in 1999.

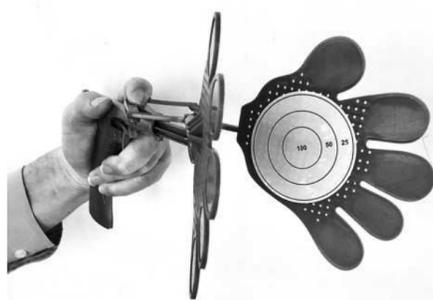
Submit entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1322 (all lowercase).

Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy.

And speaking of crappy inventions: Second place gets a fly swatter . . . well, it doesn't swat, exactly; you pull a trigger on this sort of gun, and a pair of cartoonish green plastic hands "claps" the insect to death. There's even an archery-style target on one of the palms, so that you can give yourself a score for accuracy. The Empress finds this prize far more tasteless than the poop emoji slippers and even the Trump brand coffee pods we've offered recently. Donated by Mike Creveling, a retired biology teacher and an active naturalist who wouldn't hurt a fly.

Other runners-up win our "You Gotta Play to Lose" Loser Mug or our "Whole Fools" Grossery Bag. 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, March 18;** results published April 7 (online April 4). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline "'Gram Scheme" is by Jesse Frankovich; Jesse and Chris Doyle both submitted the anagram of "honorable mentions." 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, check it out at wapo.st/styleconv.



PAT MYERS/THE WASHINGTON POST

Shag flies with your hands? What's wrong with you?

egomania writ.

(Luke Baker, Columbia, Md.)

Trump's base
= Must reap BS. (Jonathan Jensen)

Florida Man
= Random fail. (Chris Doyle)

First lady Melania
= Rats, I'm a fiend ally! (Jon Ketzner, Cumberland, Md.)

Carpe diem:
= Crap! Me die! (Ann Martin, Brentwood, Md.)

I lift my lamp beside the golden door.
= No more! My bold light is dead!

Tip: Flee! (Elliott Shevin, Oak Park, Mich.)

I never met a man I didn't like
= Amend: I like tainted vermin. (Mark Raffman)

I do solemnly affirm that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.
= "Dote on tot Trump — I'll need dynamo fixer staff," puffed the fatty suit. "Coot help needed! Toady Michael Cohen and Sheriff Steve Bannon left."

I'll tweet to abet the fruitiest fictitious lies, sir, with style. (J. Larry Schott, West Plains, Mo.)

The Washington Nationals

= What, nothing sensational.

The Baltimore Orioles
= Hoo, ol' team is terrible! The New York Giants
= We groan, "They stink." (all by Jesse Frankovich)

Democracy Dies in Darkness
= Cry. America kissed Don's end. (Kevin Dopart) OR
= Dark money is cressed in D.C. (Jesse Frankovich) OR
= Damn! I scored sacred ink! Yes! (Chuck Helwig, Centreville)

The Style Invitational:
= That loveliest inanity (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.; Jesse Frankovich) OR
= Have I not little sanity? (Duncan Stevens) OR
= Ain't it a silly event, tho? (Jesse Frankovich)

The Empress of the Style Invitational
= She is that fit, neat, lovely person I met.
= The flattery's vital. Is she open to mine? (Jesse Frankovich)

Oh, no need to check this one, Empress. I promise you it's an anagram.
= Success! Yea, I hope it gets me honor and ink, not more pain or shame. (Bill Dorner) [We checked.]

Still running — deadline Monday night, March 11: our contest for creative reviews of several boring household products. See wapo.st/invite1321.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

"EU TRADE" By JIM HOLLAND

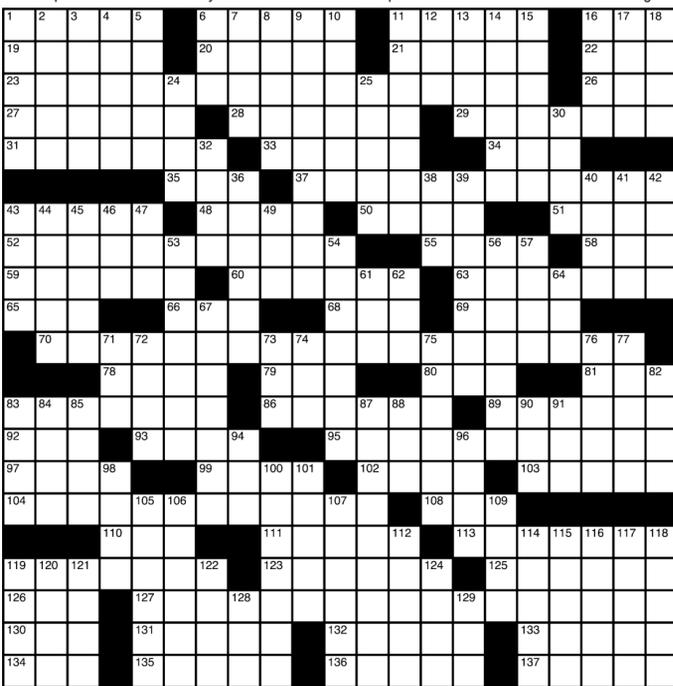
- ACROSS**
- Dutch actress Verbeek of "Outlander"
 - Chews (on)
 - "Point Break" plot, e.g.
 - One coming out
 - Type of eye layer
 - 348-seat Parisian body
 - __ drab
 - Talkative fighter
 - Red misplays?
 - Three sheets to the wind
 - Completely
 - Lab do-over
 - Gophers and gardeners, say
 - Word from the French for "clear the table"
 - It's usually the
 - DDE's domain
 - Cry during an argument between siblings
 - Golf pro's instructive stroke?
 - Hard shoe
 - Inventory acronym
 - Greek portico
 - Slaughter of old baseball
 - Loser who finds a silver lining?
 - Online marketplace
 - "__ Believer": '60s hit
 - Prius producer
 - Becoming an item, maybe
 - Worrisome engine sound
 - __ Paulo
 - Furious state
 - Thieves' home?
 - Major Hindu deity
 - Mysteriously-appearing debris?
 - Mark not to play
 - Red or Black
 - Red Baron's conflict, briefly
 - Berlin article
 - Like Earth
 - Call for assistance
 - Annoying type
 - __ du lieber!
 - The littlest bit
 - Groans from a Russian egg producer?
 - Virginia __

- DOWN**
- Clear
 - Sheepish?
 - Big tops, e.g.
 - Folded food
 - Upper crust
 - "Catch 21" airer, initially
 - Approaching
 - Starts a pot
 - Stay put until the storm ends
 - "Venerable" Eng. monk
 - Something in your eye
 - Mor. neighbor
 - Stack
 - Score-tying shot
 - Starts over
 - "Lobster Telephone" artist
 - Tahari of fashion
 - Pieces' partners
 - Regular at Sam's bar
 - 25 "directed"
 - 30 Gloomy Gus

- 137 Playoff rankings**
- 32 Vegan staple
 - 36 Fungal plant coating
 - 38 Low-tech weed whacker
 - 39 Consumes without cooking
 - 40 __ price
 - 41 One in a researcher's stack
 - 42 Title derived from "Caesar"
 - 43 Some NCOs
 - 44 Like a delirious crowd
 - 45 Catfish habitat
 - 46 Nebraska native
 - 47 Saigon holiday
 - 49 OTC drug
 - 53 Is unsuccessful in
 - 54 Finished 50% (of)
 - 56 Typographer's concern
 - 57 Arizona county or its seat
 - 61 Classical beginning
 - 62 African antelope

- 64 19th Greek letter**
- 67 Follow again
 - 71 Frat guy
 - 72 Composer
 - Bartók
 - 73 Language suffix
 - 74 Good place for driving
 - 75 Some junior high students
 - 76 Marsh plant
 - 77 Word before ball or after figure
 - 82 Untouchables leader
 - 83 Old MacDonald surely had one
 - 84 Big name in frozen treats
 - 85 Sound of relief
 - 87 Choosing to skip
 - 88 Many a CEO's credential
 - 90 20-volume ref.
 - 91 Francine's "For sure"
 - 94 __ Pérignon
 - 96 Part of CD-ROM

- 98 With 122-Down, Eagles classic**
- 100 One involved in a sweeping gesture?
 - 101 Pong maker
 - 105 Hinder
 - 106 Complained
 - 107 Expanses of land
 - 109 Salon offering
 - 112 Quick bread choice
 - 114 Ring features figure
 - 115 When required
 - 116 Move like a crab
 - 117 Fished with pots
 - 118 Scold, with "down"
 - 119 Parlor purchase
 - 120 What gamblers weigh
 - 121 Scandinavian capital
 - 122 See 98-Down
 - 124 Sommer of cinema
 - 128 Prefix with cardinal
 - 129 Patriotic org.



3/10/19 xwordeditor@aol.com

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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | March 10: This year, you often act as if you're the most confident person in the world. This stature is natural for you. Your intuition guides you. If single, you have many potential suitors from whom to choose; however, remember to have a concept of the type of relationship and person you desire. If attached, you seem to enjoy conversation and company with your sweetie. At times, you could find that squabbles break out. Let them go; accept your differences. Gemini knows how to trigger you — and does.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
Use care with finances. Don't allow your spending to get out of control. You might not realize that you've gone overboard until after the fact. You will tend to follow your instincts.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
You perk up and finally feel more like yourself. You could surprise someone with your demands or requests. You might be out of sync with an older friend or relative. Express your friendship.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
You suddenly might opt to make today a lazy day. Unfortunately, your immediate circle might not know of this plan and could be reaching out for you. Screen calls. Follow your instincts with an older person.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
Zero in on a friend who might like to spend some one-on-one time with you. Your call might come as a surprise, but this person will be touched and delighted by your invitation. News from a distance could confuse you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
You could receive a surprising call from an older friend or relative. You opt to accept this person's invitation; however, on some level, you will be on new ground. A partner might not get the essence of what you're doing.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Be willing to look beyond the obvious. Some of you might need to totally escape the here and now by going to the movies or taking a day trip — whatever clears your mind and allows you to think.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
One-on-one relating could help you be more in touch with your values as well as a partner's. You might

gain through a sudden realization. You may want to do some thinking. Pace yourself. Relax. Go to a relaxing happening.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Defer to a loved one or close friend. This person will be delighted and surprised to call the shots for one day. Your imagination delights a child or a new friend. A partner might become jealous. Be careful.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
You might be more imaginative and creative than you think you are. You could be upset about a slow realization involving your family or a domestic situation. Don't take this insight as a final statement.

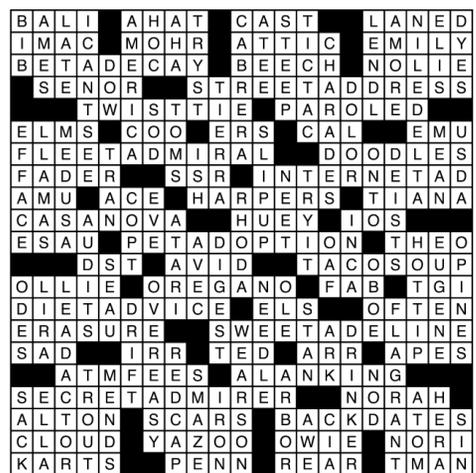
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
When questioning what needs to happen, refer to basics. You know what makes you comfortable. A

child or a loved one delights in spending extra time with you. Your instincts will guide you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Be aware of what a family member wants and needs. You could be very tired and not content with news that's coming forward. Resist totally cocooning, and invite a pal to join you. Not every weekend has to be wild and exciting.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Your instincts carry you through any hassle that might head your way. You could hear unexpected news or have an unanticipated problem with your vehicle, your cellphone or another form of communication.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



3/3/19