

# DIVERSIONS

## THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

# Now here this! Winning homophones.

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1333** we asked you to create a homophone — a sound-alike — of an existing word or name. The Empress was fairly generous on what counted as “alike,” but still wasn’t going with, say, “Germ Annie” for Germany.

### 4th place:

**Mnuchiae:** Trivial expenses, like a \$15,000 flight from New York to D.C. (David Peckarsky, Tucson)

### 3rd place:

**Sain't:** Sinner. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

### 2nd place and the two-homophone “Dali llama” T-shirt:

**SerPhDom:** Trying to eke out a living as an adjunct professor (Pete Morelewicz, Fredericksburg)

### And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

**Diss, cuss:** The current state of our national discourse. (Mark Richardson, Takoma Park)

### Sound-eh-likes: Honorable mentions

**Altarcation:** What ensues when “the bride says “I do” and the groom says: “Uhhh . . .” (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

**Barbiequeue:** A lineup of potential contestants for “The Bachelor” (Eva Monastersky, Mountain View, Calif., a First Offender)

**Independunce Day:** “And I’ll have fireworks behind me as I give my speech in front of the Lincoln Memorial!” (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

**Reprodeuce:** To have twins. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

**No-it-all:** A 2-year-old. (Pete Morelewicz)

**Indescribable:** Covfefe. (Sam Mertens, Silver Spring)

**Barr code:** “I will support and defend the President of the United States against all enemies, real and imagined.” (Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)

**Barney:** “I love you, you love me, I will lie as your AG . . .” (Duncan Stevens)

**Adoltery:** To give your paramour your headline number. (Barbara Turner, Takoma Park)

**Anglofile:** A portfolio of Trump appointees. (Bob Kruger, Rockville)

**Asfault:** A pothole. (Bob Kruger)

**Bern out:** Part with your last \$27. (Bob Clifford, Brookeville)

**Buyble:** The holy book of the “Prosperity Gospel”: “Blessed are the moneymakers.” (Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg)

**Buygoners:** Those you’ve gotten rid of with hush money. You hope. (Howard Walderman, Columbia)

**Catasstrophe:** Let’s say that Fluffy was not quite cooperative in having his temperature taken. (Dan Gibson-Reinemer, Alamoso, Colo.)

**Catastrophee:** You neglected to read the fine print when booking your “all-inclusive” vacation. (Maggie Haring, Leesburg)

**Cemetarry:** To wait. Forever. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

**Crewedly:** How the losing boat was sailed in the regatta. (Marli Melton, Walnut Creek, Calif.)

**Cursery:** Short on substance, long on name-calling. (Jeff Loren, Seattle)

**Dairy air:** How you know if someone is lactose-intolerant. (Steve McClemons, Arlington)

**Dear crossing:** A hazard in spousal discourse. (Bill FitzPatrick, Rochester, N.Y.)

**Diatribe:** What fashion models have to listen to after gaining two pounds. (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

**Dineosaurs:** Those who still eat at Howard Johnson’s. (Tommy Thompson, Richmond, a First Offender)

**Doo diligence:** Always picking up after the pup. (Warren Tanabe, Annapolis)

**Exersize:** The weight you get up to before deciding to do something about it. (Barbara Turner)

**Fidouchiary:** My brother-in-law, the “financial planner.” (Lee Graham, Derwood)

**Furn-itch-ure:** “You’ve got



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

## New contest for Week 1337: Lidder me this: anagram riddles

**Q. What famed institution in Hamelin, Germany, teaches the skills of the Pied Piper?**  
**A. The High School of Music and Rats.**

**Q. What’s the name of the dullest metal band ever?**  
**A. Motley Ecrú.**

This week’s contest was the sudden brainchild of Child Brain Gene Weingarten, who just a few days ago sent two urgent emails to the Empress with the examples above. And opposed to some of our recent contests, the concept is simple: **Write a Q&A joke (or an A followed by a Q, if you’re into “Jeopardy!”) in which the punchline contains an anagram of one or more relevant words or names, as in those examples by Gene — who, in case you didn’t know, originated The Style Invitational and lorded over it with no byline for a decade until the E, then also anonymous, deposed him in Week 536 so he could go win Pulitzer Prizes and stuff. You may anagram multiple words, and your anagram may consist of multiple words. Note:** For the joke to work, the reader is going to have to recognize which original word(s) you’ve anagrammed; we’re not going to explain the entry to death.

Submit entries at [wapo.st/enter-invite-1337](http://wapo.st/enter-invite-1337) (all lowercase).

Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a prize that was donated to the Invite so long ago that it’s almost as old as its subject: It’s an **Alexander the Great action figure**, complete with helmet and sword, and brand-new as long as you’ll use that term for something that Russell Beland, then the Invite’s highest-scoring Loser, gave us around 15 years ago. Complete with lots of factoids on the back of the molded packaging (“In battle, he always led from the front; rumored to be under 5 feet tall”).

**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, “Too-Weak Notice” or “Certificate of (de)Merit.” First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air “freshener” (FirStink for their first ink). **Deadline is Monday night, July 1;** results published July 21 in print, July 18 online. See general contest rules and guidelines at [wapo.st/InvRules](http://wapo.st/InvRules). The headline for this week’s results is by Mark Raffman; Jeff Contompasis wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](https://www.facebook.com/on.fb.me/invdev). “Like” the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at [bit.ly/inkofday](https://www.facebook.com/bit.ly/inkofday); follow @StyleInvite on Twitter.

● **The Style Conversational:** The Empress’s weekly online column discusses each new contest and results. Check it out at [wapo.st/styleconv](http://wapo.st/styleconv).

bedbugs!” (Dave Zarrow, Reston)

**Ghastley:** What it feels like to be rickrolled. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

**Ghoulash:** That undead casserole at the back of the refrigerator. (Frank Osen)

**Gnulyweds:** Beauty and the Beast. (Ray Gallucci, Frederick)

**Goldilox:** The perfect, not too salty or unsalty, but just right, topping for your bagel. (Dan Helming, Trenton, N.J.)

**Gold meddlist:** A champion kibitzer. (Jeff Contompasis)

**Hideaweigh:** Spanx. (Pete Morelewicz)

**Holzhour:** For quite a while, 7:30 every weeknight on Channel 7. (Gregory Koch, Falls Church)

**Home moaner:** Recipient of a \$4,000 bill to fix the AC. (Duncan Stevens)

**Kinderguardin’:** Where tykes practice their ABCs, their 1-2-3s and their active-shooter responses. In other words, kindergarten. (Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

**Massagynist:** Someone who thinks he can rub a woman’s shoulders without her consent. (Hildy Zampella, Alexandria)

**Mixed Marshall arts:** Eminem albums. (Jesse Frankovich)

**Nightmayor:** Dream in which a younger, smarter, better-looking candidate and his husband come to occupy the White House. — D.J.T. (Mark Raffman, Reston)

**Owanism:** Retail therapy. (Duncan Stevens)

**Phart:** A phone call where something smells funny, like as an “IRS agent” asking for your bank account number. (Ben Aronin,

Washington)

**Philisteen:** A young person who listens to crude, junky music, unlike the vastly superior music from when I was their age. (Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore)

**Pistol-whip:** Administer a very mild punishment. (Steve Fahey, Olney)

**Plaiditude:** A hoary maxim about Scots, like “Kilt is what happened to the last person who called it a skirt.” (Becky Fisher, Madison, Wis.)

**Pursenal space:** Don’t EVER go into a woman’s handbag without asking. (Hildy Zampella)

**Rapid aye movement:** What Trump demands from his aides. (Chris Doyle)

**RKology:** The search for ancient movie reels. (Steve Fahey)

**Rudimentary:** Prone to casting juvenile insults, like calling people “loser” or “little.” (Bob Kruger)

**Secs:** A quickie. (George Smith, Frederick)

**Sinopsis:** What I tell the priest at confession so as not to take all day. (Jonathan Jensen)

**Slight of hand:** The President’s glove size. (Gary Crockett)

**Talagater:** Someone who’s always responding to your anecdote with a better one of her own. (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf)

**LOL-lessness:** What’s wrong with my non-inking Invite entries. (Jesse Frankovich)

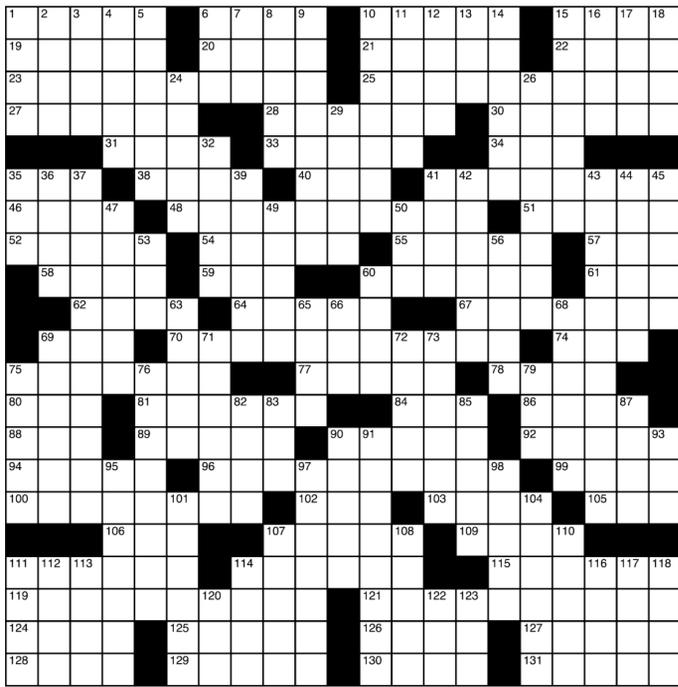
**Stalinvitational:** A humor contest in which the losers simply disappear. (Jim Holt, Washington)

**Still running — deadline Monday, June 24: Our contest for double-entendres. See [wapo.st/invite1336](http://wapo.st/invite1336).**

## L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

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| <p><b>“CRUISE CONTROL”</b> By MARK McCLAIN</p> <p><b>ACROSS</b></p> <p>1 Friend of d’Artagnan</p> <p>6 Organ array</p> <p>15 Cunnning</p> <p>19 Didn’t lose a game</p> <p>20 Site of Italy’s Festival of Festivals, featuring local food and wine</p> <p>21 Parting from 1-Across</p> <p>22 Managed care ggs.</p> <p>23 Interface on old computers</p> <p>25 Crossing with a charge</p> <p>27 Crab in space</p> <p>28 Whenever you want</p> <p>30 Carpenter’s supply</p> <p>31 Herbie of jazz</p> <p>33 Cuts back</p> <p>34 Debatable claim</p> <p>35 Repeated word in the Stones’ “Jumpin’ Jack Flash”</p> <p>38 Suffolk slammer</p> <p>40 Diarist Anaïs</p> <p>41 Landing flight paths</p> <p>46 Camera setting</p> <p>48 Violinist awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1992</p> <p>51 TD Garden skater</p> <p>52 Southern accent feature</p> <p>54 Long-necked wader</p> <p>55 128-Across’ — Vecchio</p> <p>57 —Caps: candy</p> <p>58 Rights advocacy gp.</p> <p>59 German article</p> <p>60 18th-century lexicographer Johnson</p> <p>61 Thrice, in Rx’s</p> <p>62 Taproom containers</p> <p>64 Intend that one will</p> <p>67 “Top Hat” star</p> <p>69 Procure</p> <p>70 Longest serving Secretary of State, 1933-44</p> <p>74 Many desktops</p> <p>75 One getting on in years</p> <p>77 Ice cream serving</p> <p>78 Actor Baldwin</p> <p>80 Okra unit</p> <p>81 Puts on the books</p> | <p>84 Fed. benefits agency</p> <p>86 Student stressor</p> <p>88 “... we good?”</p> <p>89 “Ditto”</p> <p>90 Summer refreshers</p> <p>92 Start of an acting career, ideally</p> <p>94 Nouveau</p> <p>96 Longest-serving Republican senator, 1977-2019</p> <p>99 Location</p> <p>100 Parting words</p> <p>102 The first of two T’s, in a familiar sequence</p> <p>103 Flue residue</p> <p>105 Trawler’s tool</p> <p>106 Caribbean export</p> <p>107 Wet dips</p> <p>109 Secured, in a way</p> <p>111 Actress Lansbury</p> <p>114 Nova</p> <p>115 Single-masted ships</p> <p>119 TV reporting VIP</p> <p>121 Gesture of respect to a monarch</p> <p>124 Piece for two</p> <p>125 Nursed, say</p> <p>126 Tolstoy’s Karenina</p> <p>127 Get hitched in haste</p> <p>128 See 55-Across</p> <p>129 Low in old films</p> <p>130 Foucault with a pendulum</p> <p>131 Candy mogul H.B. —</p> | <p>11 Beloved stars</p> <p>12 Vitamin —</p> <p>13 Slender swimmer</p> <p>14 Rental from a renter</p> <p>15 Petulant complaint</p> <p>16 Source of film trivia</p> <p>17 Opera house section</p> <p>18 River of Flanders</p> <p>24 Tropical veranda</p> <p>26 Region of industrial decline</p> <p>29 Watch holder</p> <p>32 Poked (around)</p> <p>35 Wander (about)</p> <p>36 2000s Saturn midsize model</p> <p>37 Metaphor for an unfair advantage</p> <p>39 Athletic shoe once endorsed by Paula Abdul</p> <p>41 Limo destination</p> <p>42 Like yearbooks</p> <p>43 Simple home in the woods</p> <p>44 NorCal NFL team</p> <p>45 Keep a roomie awake, maybe</p> <p>47 Hooting young</p> <p>49 Sure competitor</p> <p>50 Greener Living org.</p> <p>53 Haul</p> <p>56 Electric wheels</p> <p>60 Unassisted</p> <p>63 One of 20 in “Hamlet”</p> <p>65 Military meal</p> <p>66 Help for a sad BFF</p> <p>68 High points</p> <p>69 Latin carol word</p> <p>71 Figure of speech?</p> <p>72 Biblical prophet</p> <p>73 Sports shockers</p> <p>75 Eye-catching display</p> <p>76 SoCal wine valley</p> <p>79 Set the pace</p> <p>82 Center</p> <p>83 Flocky peak</p> <p>85 Knotted neckwear</p> <p>87 Tone down, as a color</p> <p>90 Arctic people</p> <p>91 Like many reactions</p> <p>93 Vietnam New Year</p> <p>95 Opening words eventually followed by clinking</p> <p>97 Inventor’s jubilant shout</p> <p>98 Raise aloft</p> <p>101 “Mean Girls”</p> <p>104 Employee in a cage</p> <p>107 Tea go-with</p> <p>108 Rhône tributary</p> <p>110 Professor</p> <p>111 Challenger’s creator</p> <p>112 Forever day</p> <p>113 Nerve: Pref.</p> <p>114 Tony-winning Verdon of “Damn Yankees”</p> <p>115 —Pei: dog breed</p> <p>116 Wind ensemble member</p> <p>117 Bursts</p> <p>118 Popeye’s</p> <p>120 Shed a tear</p> <p>122 Card game</p> <p>123 Got into the race</p> |
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Answers to last week’s puzzle below.

## HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY | June 23:** This year, you pick up on all sorts of vibes. You will tend to be more emotional than you have been in the past, as you will be more sensitive to others. If single, you might find dating very exciting, but you could go from one intense tie to another. You will know the right person when they come along. If attached, the two of you seem more devoted to each other than in the recent past. Your bond deepens. Pisces always has a romantic suggestion.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19)  
You have a lot on your mind that you finally choose to share with a partner. You are sometimes very serious-minded. However, expect surprises and good vibes once you open up.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20)  
Right now, you walk hand in hand with the unexpected. Those close to you who are flexible might enjoy this phase of your life. But someone who is dependent on you for stability might become upset. You will be dealing with a variety of different personalities.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)  
Events and people propel you into the limelight. You might not be sure why you are where you are. Willingly take responsibility and allow more give-and-take between you and others.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22)  
You might be far more emotional than you realize. Once you get on the phone with a loved one, you feel the unique intensity that exists between you. Do not fight the inevitable.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)  
You enjoy the romantic quality of relating closely, just you and one other person. Today you can frequently be found cooing and enjoying a loved one. You might be speaking of the future or considering a possible change.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)  
Allow the other party to make the first effort or to make the plans for the day. A sense of well-being surrounds and emanates out. Do not be surprised to receive several invitations.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)  
Show your caring in a manner that means a lot to your sweetie. For

some of you, that might look like a lengthy massage. For others, going out to a favorite dinner works well.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)  
Defer to or indulge a loved one. If you might go to the amusement park before you know it. Go with the moment, enjoying what you are doing as much as the receiver.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)  
A loved one lets you know how valued you are. You both are very different. You like adventure and taking risks. You could be delighted to go kayaking. The other party loves staying close to home.

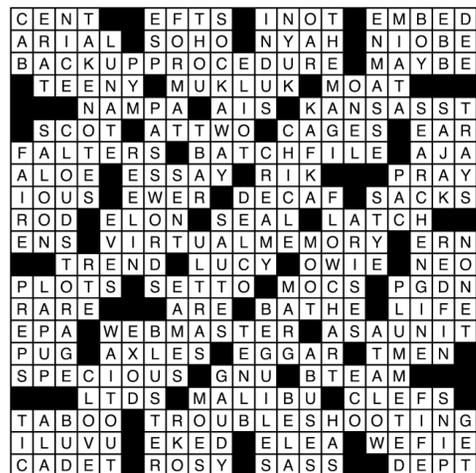
**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)  
Caring seems to naturally emanate

from you. Your sensitivity speaks, and another person is clearly drawn to you. You might note that you nearly know what someone is going to say before they say it.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)  
You might want to do some shopping. You might not even have a list of items, but as you wander, you enjoy the stores. You could easily pick up a token of affection for a special person in your life.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)  
You have a big personality that comes out frequently. Whether inviting everyone over for a spontaneous costume party or an intense game of cards, you attract your closest friends, bringing them together.

## Answers to last week’s puzzle.



6/16/19