DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Creepsakes: Gift shop ideas from Week 1085

BY PAT MYERS

Inspired by reports of the new Ground Zero gift shop — whose inventory sports 9/11 kitsch ranging from cheese plates to toy rescue vehicles — we asked for humorously bad (or even humorously good) items for real or fictional gift shops. Sent by too many: NSA souvenir package of your best phone conversations.

The winner of the Inkin' Memorial

At the Little Bighorn Battlefield gift shop: Incredibly lifelike toupees. (Mike Duffy, Butte, Mont.)

2nd place and the Titanic snow dome and tote bag:

At the Detroit Vistors Center: Buy a cap, snow globe and T-shirt, and they'll throw in a three-bedroom house on a quarter-acre. (Nancy Schwalb, Washington)

3rd place

At the Texas election board: An "I Couldn't Vote" sticker. (Randy Arndt, Clarksville)

4th place

At the Van Gogh Museum: An earmuff. (Steven Steele Cawman, Poughquag, N.Y.)

Nixed knacks: honorable mentions

At the NHL Hall of Fame gift shop: The actual teeth of hockey's greatest players. (Warren Tanabe, Annapolis)

At the FedEx Field gift shop: A jersey that says "Washington's NFL Team." (Frank Mann, Washington)

At the Caesars Palace gift shop: Previously lost shirts. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

At a Paris gift shop: A guillotine-shaped cake cutter that says, "Sorry, we have no bread." (Thomas Young, Rockville, a First Offender)

At the National Enquirer gift shop: Elvis. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

At the Redskins store: A Joe Theismann bobble-leg doll. (Ward Kay, Vienna)

At the Richard Nixon Library: A Nixon-head soccer ball. (Pam Sweeney, Burlington, Mass.)

At the Westboro Baptist Church gift shop: Souvenir closet organizers. (Nancy Schwalb)

At Anthony Weiner's new restaurant: An "I'm With Stupid " T-shirt, with a down-pointing arrow. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

At the Florida Welcome Center: Chad globes. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

Vendors outside CIA headquarters: Maps to the homes of the spies. (Art Grinath, Takoma Park)

From a gift shop for hajj pilgrims: "My husband went to Mecca and all I got was this stupid burqa." (Jon Graft, Centreville)

At the Museum of Constitutional Monarchy gift shop: A Queen Elizabeth II rubber stamp. (Jeff Contompasis)

At Barnum's American Museum gift shop: Fresh all-day suckers — restocked immediately! (Jeff Contompasis)

Branded-edition Viagra is now available for purchase at the **Toronto Space Needle, Washington Monument** and **Eiffel Tower.** And for half the price, you can buy a Mexican-made knockoff at the **Leaning Tower of Pisa.** (Jacob Aldridge, Virginia, Australia)

At the Texas governor's mansion shop: A three-in-one gift set – hair gel, reading glasses and ... um ... (Nan Reiner, Alexandria)

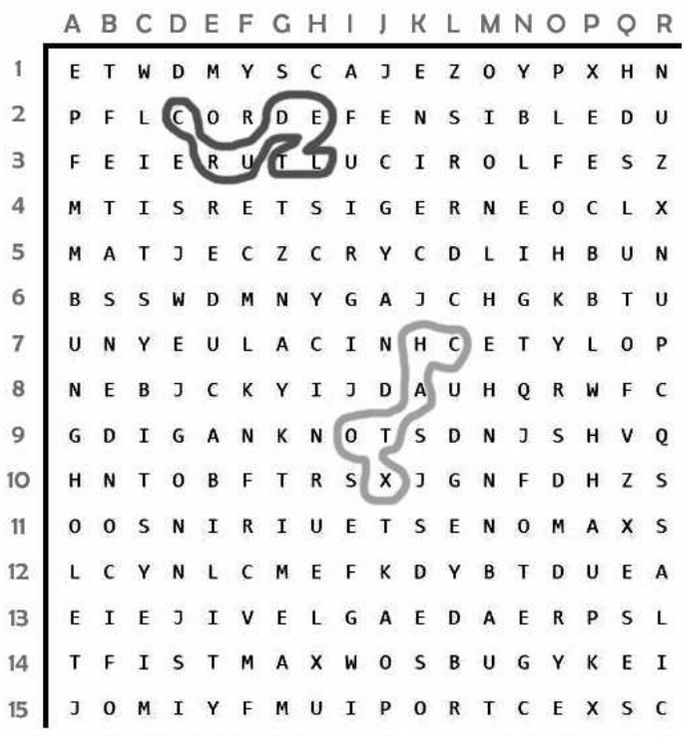
To commemorate the 2011 earthquake, **Washington Monument** bobbleheads. (John Duffy, Manassas)

At the Capitol Visitor Center: A mix of Impedi-Mints, Impeach-Mints and Indict-Mints, but no Accomplish-Mints. (Frank Osen)

— Congressional inaction figures — collect the whole set of 435. (Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

— A Capitol dome-shaped lemon squeezer. Twist left, twist right. Repeat until you have a sour taste in your mouth. (Ben Aronin, Washington)

— Sausage. (Jonathan Hardis, Gaithersburg)



GRID CONSTRUCTED WITH THE INSTANT ONLINE WORD SEARCH MAKER AT PUZZLE-MAKER.COM

New contest for Week 1089: It's E-Z Find-a-Word — your own!

L-7: CHATOX: A substance injected into the face to keep someone from running at the mouth.
D-2: CRUDLET: A little nasty thing that your floss — or your vote — can dislodge.

The Empress was positively chartreuse with envy a few months ago when The Post gave lots of attention to the news that it was reinstating one of its most popular Sunday magazine features: Second Glance, a game in which readers try to figure out what's different between two almost identical photos. The E used to have great fun with a lower-tech version of this game, and would eagerly await her monthly issue of Highlights in the mail.

The Style Invitational can't really do such a puzzle — for one thing, our print version is now a wash of gray — so the Empress instead tried to think of something else that might draw lots of eager puzzlers all decked out in their thinking caps.

Okay, we were kidding: It's not really a regular word find puzzle. C'mon, now: It's an *Invite* neologism contest. **This week: Create a word or multi-word term that consists of adjacent letters — in any direction or several directions — in the grid above, and provide a humorous definition,** as in the examples shown. **You may also give an especially clever definition for an existing term you find.** You might want to use the word in a funny sentence.

IMPORTANT: Because the Empress would go batty otherwise, **you must state the coordinates of the first letter of your term (e.g., C-12);** the E can trace it from there. **Note that the word doesn't have to appear in a straight line;** you may snake your word around the grid as in the game Boggle: Each letter only has to be adjacent to the previous one; it can go forward, backward, up, down, at an angle, changing direction repeatedly, as long as you don't skip over letters or use the same spot on the grid twice. If you don't give me those coordinates, I'm going to skip your word.

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a cheap little paperback book titled "The World's Worst Jokes": "Why did the cookie go to the hospital? Because it felt crummy." Yup. Donated by Chronic Loser Tom Witte. (We might be persuaded to also send you one of the prizes listed below.)

Other runners-up win their choice of a yearned-for Loser Mug or the ardently desired "Whole Fools" Grossery Bag. Honorable mentions get a lusted-after Loser magnet, either the Po' Wit Laureate or Puns of Steel. First Offenders receive a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). E-mail entries to losers@washpost.com or, if you were born in the 19th century, fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday, Sept. 22; results published Oct. 12 (online Oct. 9). No more than 25 entries per entrant per contest. Include "Week 1089" in your e-mail subject line or it might be ignored as spam. Include your real name, postal address and phone number with your entry. See contest rules and guidelines at *wapo.st/InvRules*. This week's honorable-mentions subhead is by Kevin Dopart. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at *on.fb.me/invdev,* and click "like" on Style Invitational Ink of the Day at *bit.ly/inkofday*.

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.

At the Museum of Russian History: The Leon Tchotchke, a bobblehead complete with removable ice pick. (Frank Osen)

At a Mexico City gift shop: Montezuma toilet paper. (Thomas Young)

At the South Korean DMZ gift shop: Your photo taken by a soldier. **At the North Korean DMZ gift shop:** You taken by a soldier. (Mike Ostapiej, Mount Pleasant, S.C.)

At the only gift shop in Siberia: A snow globe with just snow. No, wait, I think I see a tiny little Edward Snowden figurine in there, too! (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station)

At the Peace Conference Building at Panmunjom: Danceable pinheads (Elden Carnahan, Laurel)

At the Adult Film Museum gift shop: 10-inch all-day suckers. (Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg)

The Empire State Building observation deck: A bucketful of souvenir pennies. (Roy Ashley, Washington)

At the NRA gift shop: A rifle-shaped rattle — baby will love it so much, you won't be able to pry it from his little hands! (Bradley Jamison, South Riding)

At the Graceland Gift Shop: "Love Me Tender" condoms. (John Simson, Silver Spring)

At Ford's Theatre: An Abe Lincoln penny bank, with its little slot in the back of the head. (Dave Airozo, Silver Spring)

— A Lincoln shot glass. (Dave Ferry, Purvis, Miss.)

— The "Too Soon?" Lincoln Assassination Joke Book. (Art Grinath)

At airport duty-free shops: Custom-sized copies of your full-body scan. (Limited editions of complete strangers also available). (Sylvia Betts, Vancouver, B.C.)

Available in any Middle Eastern country: A chess set with pieces that don't do what you think they will. Americans can't resist playing with those things. (Danielle Nowlin)

Still running — deadline Monday night: Our Ask Backwards contest, in which we give you 16 "answers" and you tell us the questions. See bit.ly/invite1088.

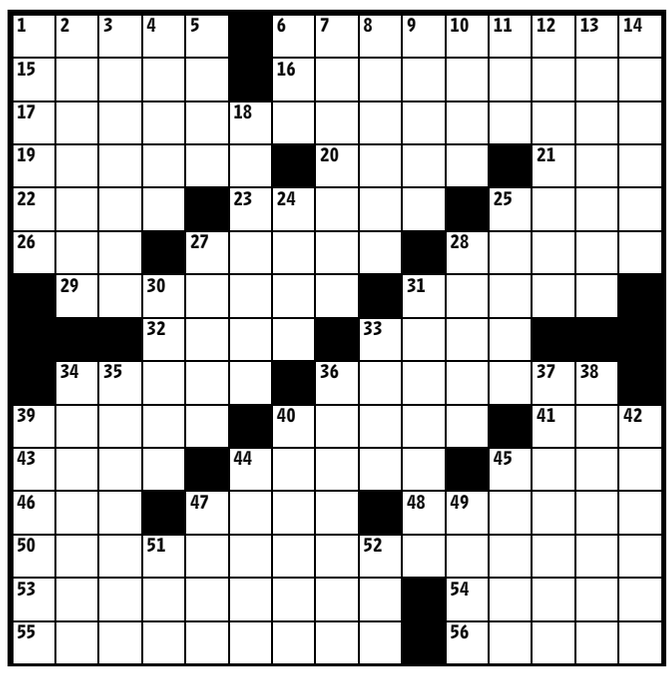
POST PUZZLER

No. 232

BY TRIP PAYNE EDITED BY PETER GORDON • FIREBALLCROSSWORDS.COM

ACROSS
1 Hard-to-skim items
6 Continue
15 Pastis flavoring
16 One way to prepare shrimp
17 Slogan for Skittles
19 Cleave
20 Goes out, in a way
21 Washington's Pennsylvania, e.g.: Abbr.
22 Muckraker of the 1890s
23 What may cause buzzkills?
25 Good things to hold in your hand
26 Word that "run" replaced as the OED entry with the most definitions
27 Obdurate
28 Kosher
29 "April is the cruellest month" writer
31 Dramatic no-show
32 Bug
33 Ripped
34 Bread-devouring?
36 Rids
39 "1984" worker
40 Dahomey, today
41 Matter to the jury?
43 Hogwarts covering
44 Award for "Amour"
45 Stay fresh
46 Fall back
47 Exaggerates
48 Spock's mother
50 Sour note
53 "Archie Bunker's Place" co-star
54 Some gala gowns
55 They're often found on stretchers
56 Perceive

DOWN
1 Group in Crimea
2 Doing South Beach, perhaps
3 Shanks
4 1997 All-Star pitcher Shawn
5 Person who's looking forward to things
6 "Pishposh!"
7 Polished
8 Appraiser's concern
9 Counter acts
10 Provincial flower of Quebec, e.g.
11 Warner or Warren, currently: Abbr.
12 Unhealthy stuff that's cured
13 "This is awesome!"
14 In danger at layoff time, perhaps
18 State under oath
24 Lab report?
25 Attendants
27 Result of two cuts, maybe
28 First actress to win an Oscar in a foreign-language film
30 "Milk" actor Hirsch
31 Hit it big, in a way
33 "Glee" character
34 Like some legal work
35 Holding up
36 Blondie, for example
37 1776 battleground
38 Machines that may be in a rut
39 Advance
40 Where to go in a hospital
42 Hardly overwhelming
44 Crete's capital before Heraklion
45 Suri's mother
47 Start of an Elgar title
49 Rx items
51 School zone
52 "Street Dreams" rapper



Answer to last week, No. 231

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HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | SEPT. 14: This year you discover the power of your words, and you see the result in the way others respond. You are in a completion phase right now, as you will enter a new 12-year luck cycle next summer. If you are single, check out anyone you meet with care. People might not be who they project themselves to be. If you are attached, you and your sweetie often love being alone as a couple. Schedule a fun and long-desired vacation for just the two of you.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19)*
Note the intensity around you. Observe who is trying to please whom. Say what you think, not what you think you should.

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20)*
Be more aware of your spending habits. A direct approach with a loved one will make a difference in the long run. Be willing to pitch in.

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20)*
You'll smile, and others will respond in kind. Add more pizazz to your style of communication and it might make all the difference in how you're received by others.

CANCER *(June 21-July 22)*
You might be surprised by how much your intuition plays into your interactions; you are more in tune with others than you realize. Open up to new possibilities.

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22)*
The Lion roars and people listen, especially since it appears that you know how to enjoy yourself more than other signs. You will opt for a different form of entertainment, and others will follow.

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)*
You have a knack for knowing what will please someone. A partnership might take on a quirky tone. Move forward.

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)*
Spontaneity is the way to go. Honor a family member's need for a change of pace as well. Return calls and respond to e-mail.

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)*
Listen to your sixth sense to find a solution to a personal matter. You know your limits, and you won't make a mistake. Tonight, indulge a loved one.

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)*
You might want to share more of your thoughts, especially if everyone else is being very talkative. Let more people see the real you.

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)*
Be willing to take a risk to grow and move in a new direction. You are changing, and your choices will reflect the new you. You are in touch with what is going on with an older relative.

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)*
Your playfulness will add to the moment and to the day. A child or loved one seems to delight in your humor and lighthearted attitude. Be aware of the effect you have on others.

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20)*
A personal matter may be stressing you out. You will be hindered in moving forward until you find a solution to at least one part of the problem.

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Breaking free from the screens

Ask Amy
AMY DICKINSON

Dear Amy: A new TV *was installed in the break room of the office where I work.*

I stare at a computer screen for eight hours every day, and I look forward to a one-hour break from looking at a screen during my lunch.

The problem is that during lunch the TV is always on (and usually tuned to trashy shows.) I can eat outside some days, but it is extremely hot where I live, so eating outside every day is not an option.

I have to take my lunch at the same time as everyone else. How do I ask for a TV compromise that won't ruffle too many feathers? Am I just stuck in a society where screens run our lives?

Tired of Screens

You should speak with your supervisor about this. This television was recently installed, and you should assume that they are interested in — or at least open to — feedback from employees. The pitch you should make is that you believe the TV will impede workplace morale and productivity.

I agree with you that the last thing most of us need during a work break is more noise, more screens and more trash.

Dear Amy: Is it possible *to love more than once?*

I fell in love a few years ago and had my heart broken. I've dated and have had girlfriends since, but nobody has ever come close to that first love.

I'm with somebody really amazing right now but the feeling is just not the same. I'm beginning to think I will never feel that way about someone else again. What do you think?

Nice Guy

It is definitely possible to love more than once. Most people do love more than once in a lifetime.

You will never feel the same way about any two people. That's a good thing, because no two people are alike.

I don't think it's fair to your current partner for you to stay with her without feeling fully in love with her. It's not your fault — or hers — but this is a truth that should be dealt with.

Dear Amy: I feel you are *talking to me when you recommend some tough love for young adults.*

Our son, at age 19, was drinking and driving home late and showing this behavior to our other children and foster children. We decided to warn him: "If you come home drunk with the car again, you will not be allowed to live here."

Well, he lived in his car for three months. He visited food banks for food, and he got by (he had no job) by asking his friends to buy gas if they wanted rides. We allowed him home once a week for a shower and a good meal.

He is now married and has three children and steady employment. It was a difficult decision for us, but it worked.

Wendy

"Tough love" is not always the answer, but if parents have tried everything else, it is a last resort.

Amy's column appears seven days a week at www.washingtonpost.com/advice. Write to Amy Dickinson at *askamy@tribune.com* or Ask Amy, Chicago Tribune, TT500, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60611.

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