

## DIVERSIONS

## THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

## Caught in the cross-hairs: Week 1207

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1207** we asked you to supply creative clues for any of the words in a grid by Washington Post Sunday crossword constructor Evan Birnholz; here are the best among them. (To see Evan's original clever clues, go to bit.ly/devilcross2 and scroll down to the blank grid.) Note that you have to look at many of these clues flexibly; even the hint "2 wds" might mean that one of them is an abbreviation (e.g., "Ew, OK") or a single letter ("Alp O").

## 4th place

**CHESTS:** Besides booty, what pirates and pageants have in common (Jeff Hazle, San Antonio)

## 3rd place

**ALPO:** "What is \_\_\_?" — Gary Johnson to starving dog (Dave Matuskey, Sacramento)

## 2nd place and the Chia Homer (Simpson) plant-growing sculpture:

**AKA:** Three letters few imagined would ever appear between "The Leader of the Free World" and "The Donald" (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

## And the winner of the Ink in' Memorial:

**PLETHORA:** "Daffy Duck request the \_\_\_ your company at the marriage of his daughter." (Hildy Zampella, Falls Church, Va.)

## Nada clue: honorable mentions

**ITSATRAP:** Where the music scene is these days (3 wds) (Mae Scanlan, Washington)

**MEINHERR:** Fraulein's excuse: "Sorry, I have to wash \_\_\_" (2 wds) (George-Ann Rosenberg, Washington)

**IPHONE:** What I do when the telegraph's down (2 wds) (Steve Fahey, Kensington, Md.)

**SENTENCE:** The only instance where commuting is a relief (Bruce Ryan, Bellevue, Wash., a First Offender)

**DEIDRE:** Latin for "Headphones of God" (2 wds) (Ivars Kuskevics, Takoma Park, Md.)

**CITE:** Shift all blame to previous researchers (Peter Boice, Rockville)

**CITE:** What Dan Quayle enjoyed flying as a child (Dave Matuskey)

**LPS:** Scalped scalps (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

**AWFUL:** Like a new parent's Facebook page (Leonard Williams, Fort Wayne, Ind.)

**ALAS:** The Nationals' traditional season-ending cheer (Jeff Hazle)

**ALAS:** Chicken King and Pie Mode (Steve Glomb, Alexandria)

**SPITS:** Next baseball stat they'll track? (Michael Rosen, New York)

**HEARSE:** Box cars (Jeff Hazle; Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg, Va.)

**HEARSE:** Practices only once (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

**IDOTOO:** How I make two circles look like boobs (3 wds, sort of) (Steve Langer, Chevy Chase, Md.)

**ITALY:** Home of the leera (Howard Walderman, Columbia, Md.)

**AKA:** What a Bostonian might use to get around (2 wds) (Duncan Stevens)

**ELSE:** The alternative that no kid is brave enough to make Mom use (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station, Va.)

**SOBS:** Tear/jerks (Danielle Nowlin; Chris Doyle)

**SOBS:** Textspeak to reply to your no-count boyfriend's excuses (2 wds) (Jesse Frankovich)

**IDARE:** Expression seldom heard in N. Korea (3 wds) (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

**TORSOS:** Greek island famous for topless beaches (Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.)

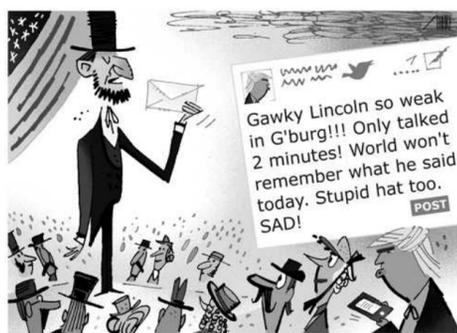
**NECKLINE:** When this goes down, eyebrows go up (Hildy Zampella)

**NECKLINE:** "Wanna make out?" (Mark Raffman)

**SWEETENS:** Try these if M&M's are too bitter for you (David Peckarsky, Tucson)

**TEE:** Devo follower (Chris Doyle)

**SINCLAIR:** Response of zero men to "Who's your favorite Upton?"



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

## New contest for Week 1211: The best tweets in history

This week's contest was suggested by 166-time Loser Howard Walderman. The Empress has *no* idea what might have inspired him. This week: **Write a stupidly disparaging tweet (140 characters or fewer, including spaces) about some laudable figure of past or present, true or fictional**, as in the example above. You may attribute it to anyone. Please don't actually post it on Twitter until we post the results of this contest.

**Submit entries at this website: bit.ly/enter-invite-1211** (all lowercase).

**Winner gets the Ink in' Memorial**, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place gets, apropos of the dignity of this week's subject matter, Fishin' for Floaters, a bathtub game in which the child (presumably) uses a little rod and net to snag some googly-eyed foam poos. Donated by Nan Reiner.

**Other runners-up** win the yearned-for "This Is Your Brain on Mugs" Loser mug or our Grossery Bag, "I Got a B in Punmanship." Honorable mentions get one of our new lusted-after Loser magnets, "No Childishness Left Behind" or "Magnum Dopus." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). Deadline is Monday night, Jan. 30; results published Feb. 19 (online Feb. 16). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline for this week's results is by Jesse Frankovich; the honorable-mentions subhead is by Jon Gearhart. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev. "Like" the 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.



(Mark Raffman)

**THETA:** "Who do I have to sleep with to pass this class?" (2 wds) (Ward Kay, Vienna, Va.)

**RENEWS:** What you hear from the Glass-Enclosed Nerve Center if you listen more than 10 minutes (Lindsay McClelland, Fairfax, Va.)

**PRELUDE:** Part of a visit with Cosby that both parties can remember (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

**GODARK:** The Trump yacht (2 wds) (Barry Sackin, Murrieta, Calif.)

**HASH:** How the librarian responded when she liked your joke (2 wds) (Jeff Shirley, Richmond)

**ALPO:** A "peak" achieved on the Matterhorn — the real Mile High Club (2 wds) (Jeff Shirley)

**FIRSTAID:** Birch brush, but \_\_\_ (2 wds) (Steve Langer)

**STRIPTEASE:** Patron saint of fart jokes (Jesse Frankovich)

**STRIPTEASE:** Will Blondie get in the tub with Dagwood? Find out tomorrow! (Ricardo Rodriguez, Springfield, Va.)

**EWOK:** "That's disgusting! . . . Oh, what the heck, let's do it" (2 wds) (Seth Christenfeld, New York, a First Offender)

**EWOK:** Range of response to the "Access Hollywood" tape (hyph) (Dave Silberstein, College Park)

**EWOK:** "Mr. Fudd, where did you say Baghdad was?" (Jesse Frankovich)

**SEGA:** Genesis of Genesis (Amy Harris, Charlottesville)

**SEGA:** What Benjamin Button does backward (John Hutchins, Silver Spring, Md.)

**CHESTS:** What plastic surgeons get their treasure from (Jesse Frankovich)

**CHESTS:** What Guevara wore under his dress shirts (2 wds) (Chris Doyle)

**UNSURE:** An odorant/prosperspirant (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase, Md.)

**UNSURE:** Nikki Haley's response when Trump offered her a job (2 wds) (Steve Glomb)

**ALSACE:** What wasn't up Gore's sleeve in 2000 (2 wds) (Kevin Dopot, Washington)

**ITSY:** Site where DJT buys his custom-made gloves (Barry Sackin)

**YES:** Type of man dictators prefer (Howard Walderman)

**YES:** Being English, they couldn't title their big hit "Traffic Circle" (Roy Ashley, Washington)

*More honorable mentions in the online Invite at bit.ly/invite1211.*

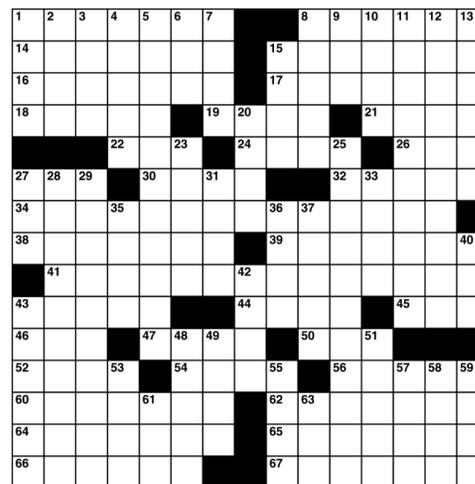
**Still running — deadline Monday night, Jan. 23: our "joint legislation" contest. See bit.ly/invite1210**

## SUNDAY CHALLENGE

BY DOUG PETERSON © 2017 CROSSNERGY SYNDICATE LLC

- ACROSS**
- Liberate
  - Trade secrets, say
  - Popular kitchen color of the '70s
  - Esteemed sage
  - Peak's opposite
  - Cardigan and leotard, e.g.
  - Drop off
  - Unfortunate outbreak
  - Persian's pupil, at times
  - Crater feature
  - Imported wheels
  - Bowie's "Berlin Trilogy" collaborator
  - Michael of "Saturday Night Live"
  - Emanuel of Chicago politics
  - "Night Moves" rocker Bob
  - WNBA team that plays its home games inside a casino
- DOWN**
- Extra action
  - Barbecue receptacles
  - Amarillo's area
  - Actor Cenac of "People of Earth"
  - Sucrose source
  - Off-rd. ride
  - Use a stiletto on
  - Radio format
  - Flub, as a grounder
  - Greek gratuity, perhaps
  - Kung fu movie staple
  - Jumper that misses everything
  - Cocreator of Professor X and Magneto
  - At pique's peak
  - Opportunity to take notes
  - Oreo alternative
  - Parlor piece

- Aid in choosing starters
- Undergarment with spaghetti straps, briefly
- Gladiators' bashing weapons
- "Well, shut my mouth!"
- Hypo units
- La-di-da
- Did one's darndest
- Letters in an address window
- 1979 TV debut
- Almost up
- Candy shape
- Leading man?
- "What the problem is ..."
- St., ave., or blvd.
- River on the Illinois/Indiana border
- Obsolete means of communication
- Word heard at a New Year's Eve party
- Bygone Ford
- Alpine transport
- Modern-day name of Christiania
- Low
- Olympian who punished Echo
- Nancy Drew, for one
- Ovid's "I love"
- Holiday that may fall near Valentine's Day



Answer to last week



## HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** Jan. 22: You demonstrate an ability to manifest your desires more than ever before. This skill will prove to be very useful for you. If you are single, consider what type of person would be your ideal sweetie. Once you decide, you will be able to find what you are looking for. If you are attached, stay in sync with your significant other in order to decide what is next for the two of you. Sagittarius has a different perspective from you but not an incompatible one.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) You know how to relax and revive your energy levels. You must also do the same for your mind. You could get into a fabulous book, lose yourself in a favorite piece of music or go off to the movies. You will see a difference in how you feel.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) One-on-one relating adds another dimension to a special relationship in your life. Spending some quiet, lazy time with this person helps to strengthen your bond.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) Keep reaching out to someone at a distance. News you hear could be surprising, and you might want to consider what is going on here. You barely will have time to make any calls, as others seem to find you first.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) You have a lot of work to dive into. Understand what you want to accomplish today, and don't push yourself too hard. You will want to spend some time with a family member.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) Embrace your charisma and creative energy. A loved one finds you close to irresistible — hopefully the feeling is mutual. You could find it difficult to say "no" to someone so eager.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You might not want to be responsive to anyone but those in your immediate circle. Make this is a lazy day, when you read the paper, veg and maybe watch a movie. You need more days like this.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You could go back and forth about reaching out to someone. You might not be up for all of the uproar that this action could result in. On the other hand, you will find it satisfying to catch up on this person's news.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Your financial concerns will be justified after a conversation. Recognize that everyone has limits, just as you do. You easily could have crossed a self-imposed boundary.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Your upbeat attitude and carefree nature make those around you relax. Friends and loved ones have seen you become very uptight over the past few years, but you seem to be much more relaxed now that a long-term issue seems to be dissolving.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You have maintained a high profile as of late. Take time with a friend with whom you can be yourself and relax. You don't feel as if you have to be a certain way with this person.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) As you might be aware, you are the sign of friendship. What activity could be more perfect for you than spending the day with several friends? You have a common hobby or pastime that draws you all together. Laughter surrounds you.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) A parent or boss could be demanding, or perhaps you simply have a self-motivated deadline or project. You are a force to be dealt with, but you'll attempt to play it more low-key.

## Wife dreads plan to get another dog

## Ask Amy

AMY DICKINSON

**Dear Amy:** Shortly after my husband and I began dating, he bought a large-breed puppy. He

took the dog everywhere he went. We then moved in together; we got a small, mixed-breed dog that we hoped would keep the large dog busy, since he was always demanding my husband's attention.

One evening, the large dog snapped at me (He was 6 years old at this point). My husband was very upset, and he was going to put him down, for fear that he had "turned."

I begged him not to. About four months later, the large dog growled at me, and my husband took him to the pen outside. While outside, the dog bit my husband several times, so he was put down.

My husband now wants to get another dog of the same breed from a breeder.

I have no desire for another dog. I'm just not a dog person, and after the one we have is

gone, I want to be done. My husband and I have very heated discussions about this.

He is determined to get one, regardless of how I feel about it (even though I'm always the one cleaning up after it and taking care of it), and I'm seriously at the point where I would rather not live in the house if another big dog is in it. I'm beside myself . . . please help!

Upset Wife

**Upset Wife:** Your husband should not own any dog. He set up an exclusive relationship with his puppy and didn't train the dog to accept you into the family's pack. His solution to his dog's biting problem was to conclude that the dog had "turned" and then to kill the dog. No respectable shelter would let him adopt an animal, although there is nothing preventing him from purchasing one from an unscrupulous breeder.

Your husband seems to want a dog more than he wants you.

This issue has brought you two to a crisis point in your marriage, and you should seek professional counseling and mediation to work this out.

**Dear Amy:** "Sad Mom" is a bipolar woman in a troubled relationship with her daughter, who is also bipolar.

Please point readers toward the National Institute of Mental Health for information and support.

Been There

**Been There:** Definitely. Thank you. NIMH is an invaluable resource. Readers can get information on its website: nimh.nih.gov.

Amy's column appears seven days a week at [washingtonpost.com/advice](http://washingtonpost.com/advice). Write to [askamy@amydickinson.com](mailto:askamy@amydickinson.com) or Amy Dickinson, Tribune Content Agency, 16650 Westgrove Dr., Suite 175, Addison, Tex. 75001. You can also follow her @askingamy.

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