

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Extra! Extra! More inkworthies.

BY PAT MYERS

The Empress is just getting back from vacation, so this week she's offering some extra honorable mentions from several recent contests. The Losers below who didn't already get ink in those contests will get Loser magnets when the E catches up with the prizes. They will wait patiently.

FROM WEEK 1223,

a contest in which entrants wrote misleadingly juicy (though technically true) headlines for real non-juicy articles in this and other papers:

OHIO MAN TO MISS WORK AFTER ATTACKING PENGUIN WITH STICK

NHL's Columbus Blue Jackets' Matt Calvert suspended after hitting Pittsburgh player (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

SCHOOL OFFICIALS AIM SHOTS AT CHILDREN, HIT TARGETS

Mandatory vaccination program increases California's immunization rate (Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.)

WILL OUR GALAXY EXPLODE?

Samsung's newest phones to be released (Drew Bennett, West Plains, Mo.)

TRUMP SENDS SECRETARY TO HOLOCAUST CENTER

Rex Tillerson and family tour museum (Karen Van Buren, Los Altos, Calif., a First Offender)

NSA AGENTS MAKE MICROSOFT EMPLOYEES TAKE LEAKS OUT OF WINDOWS

Agency addressed Windows 10 security flaws (Edward Gordon, Austin)

LOCAL CHILDREN ORDERED TO SEARCH FOR FOOD AMONG DEADLY TOOLS, DANGEROUS CHEMICALS

Hardware store hosts Easter egg hunt (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

STUNNING DETAILS OF HANGINGS IN UPSCALE HOTELS EXPOSED

Guests discover super-luxurious bathrobes in closets (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn, Va.)

From Week 1224,

in which we presented a list of items and asked you to tell us how any two were the same or different:

The difference between an intentional walk and a flight on United Express: One gets a man on base and the other gets a man on face. (Annette Green, Lexington, Va.)

A response by Sean Spicer is like the April the giraffe cam:

After you've waited days and days for something worthwhile, the camera shuts off. (Warren Tanabe, Annapolis)

The difference between lunch with Mike Pence and World War III

is that women can participate in World War III. (John Hutchins, Silver Spring, Md.)

From Week 1230,

dialogues or monologues portraying a Creator's thought process while creating various creatures:

Creating crabs: GOD: Imagine a cross between a giant scorpion and a spider. ANGEL: This should be good. GOD: It eats garbage but tastes delicious. ANGEL: Look at you! Mr. IRONY! (Frank Mann, Washington)

Creating humans:

GOD: You what? ANGEL: We already made something in your image. Remember? You called it a paramecium. GOD: Okay, but this next one will be allowed to think it's My image. (Ken Gallant, Oslo)

Creating fireflies:

GOD: Remember when I divided light from darkness? ANGEL: Yeah, it was earlier this week. GOD: Makes it kind of hard to read at night. ANGEL: I got this leftover jar you could fill with something. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn, Va.)

Creating snails:

ANGEL: Hey, what should we do with this leftover garlic butter? GOD: I think I have just the thing . . . (Mark Raffman)

Creating birds:

Make 'em poop out their babies inside ping-pong balls. (Warren Tanabe, Annapolis)



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1238: D-E-F Comedy Jam (or E-D-F, etc.)

E-D-F — Environmental Destruction Fund: The administration finds ONE part of the EPA budget to increase.

E-F-D — "Energy For Dummies": "A great read for three reasons: the pages are numbered; I learned some energy things; and . . . ummm" — R. Perry

D-F-E — Donald For Emperor: The RNC tests some early 2020 election slogans.

Here's Installment 2 of a contest that will march intermittently through the alphabet. Last summer in Week 1179, we asked you to come up with three-word phrases whose words began with A-B-C, C-B-A or any other arrangement of those letters (winner by Chris Damm: "Cot And Bagel: a low-budget bed-and-breakfast"). And so: **This week: Coin a three-word phrase (you may add an insignificant word or two) whose words begin with D, E and F — in any order — and describe it,** as in the examples above by Jeff Shirley, who suggested this contest in the first place. You might also come up with a brilliantly clever description of an existing phrase. See the A-B-C results at bit.ly/invite1183.

Submit entries at this website: wapo.st/enter-invite-1238 (all lowercase).

Winner gets the **Inkin' Memorial**, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy — one of the last few before we come out with a new design. Second place receives a pair of long, rubbery, pink, curly "octopus fingers" (or, as their Danish label puts it, "blaekspruttefingre") that fit over your own fingers for, well, we don't know what for. To make your hand look like an octopus. Donated by Roy and Inge Ashley.

Other runners-up win our "You Gotta Play to Lose" Loser Mug or our Grossery Bag, "I Got a B in Punmanship." Honorable mentions get one of our 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, Aug. 7; results published Aug. 27 (online Aug. 24). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. Join the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](https://www.facebook.com/on.fb.me/invdev). "Like" Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at [bit.ly/inkofday](https://www.facebook.com/bit.ly/inkofday).

THE STYLE CONVERSATIONAL, the Empress's weekly online column, isn't happening this week, but the E will take questions at pat.myers@washpost.com.



Don't call them tentacles. They're arms. Okay, these would be fingers.

Creating the Boston terrier: GOD: I can't tell which is the back and which is the front. ANGEL: What if I make it snort a lot? DOG: Pfft. ANGEL: Okay, so snorting won't help . . . (Warren Tanabe)

From Week 1154,

parodies about animals: **My Florida Things** (to "My Favorite Things") Here in the tropics, we've got us some critters Might give the pet lover justified jitters. Pythons with coils and anhingas with wings: These are a few of my Florida things.

You'd have good reason to question my sanity If I leashed up a lugubrious manatee. Or a flamingo — they won't fetch or beg; Just stand around in the pond on one leg.

Don't want a tortoise or an armadillo: They're not the sort one would use for a pillow. And if I took in some gators or crocs, I'd be a schnook with her head full of rocks.

If you wanna friend this fauna, I suppose you can . . . But one critter here can't be

taught, trained, or tamed: The infamous Florida Man! (Nan Reiner, Boca Raton, Fla.)

The Cat Song (to "The Jet Song") When you're a cat, you're the king of the house! Every creature knows that, Every dog, every mouse. When you're a cat you're the lord of the realm Every human knows that It's a cat at the helm.

It's been you all along, the law remains unwritten; They've heeded your song since you were just a kitten. Bizarrely smitten!

When you're a cat and you enter a room They all know where it's at, they all know who owns whom They all KNOW WHO KNOWS WHOM. (Kel Nagel, Salisbury, Md.)

From Week 1219, faux-medieval "lik the bred" poems:

My name, Ivanka. Mark this thynge: I aim to make My Daddy Kyng. I knoweth well He be a clowne. I knock him off. I seize the crowne. (Nan Reiner)

I'm Kim Jong Un. I have no qualms At offing uncles, Testing bombs, Yet now it really Chafes my butt. Folks look at Trump; They fear that nut. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

Still running — deadline Monday night, Aug. 1: our contest for alliterative headlines. See wapo.st/invite1237.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

"DOUBLE TROUBLE" By C.C. BURNIKEL

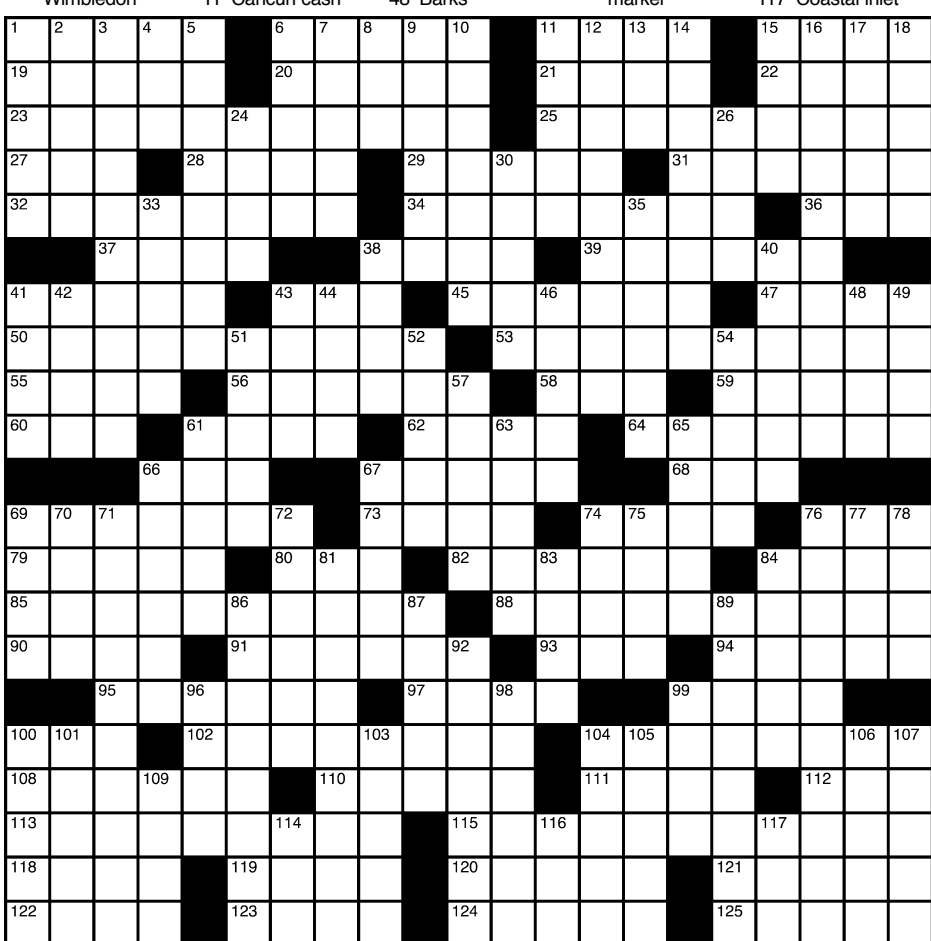
ACROSS
1 Moving manga
6 Celebratory smoke
11 Cause of inflation?
15 Winter Palace ruler
19 "Hallelujah" songwriter
20 Mozart work
21 Sport involving protective suits
22 Sch. publishing the Daily Bruin
23 Gathering of zombies?
25 Vacation including Caribbean dance lessons?
27 Currency exchange table letters
28 Dietary figs.
29 Goad
31 Faithfully following
32 Awards originally for radio only
34 Is strongly held, as a belief
36 Long while
37 Burro bellow
38 Chatty bird
39 Line in an Ellington classic
41 Company with a spokesduck
43 South American squeezer
45 Bundle up
47 Eyelid melody
50 Dumpster illumination
53 Case with a strict time limit?
55 Screen door stuff
56 Ranch rope
58 Leader who resigned in his sixth yr.
59 Wings it, in jazz
60 Matching pair
61 Subdue, in a way
62 City WSW of Bogotá
64 Attorney general before Dick Thornburgh
66 Water gate
67 Pricey mushroom
68 2015 Verizon purchase
69 "Kojak" actor
73 Tinseltown pooch
74 Blighted urban area
76 Commonly injured knee ligament, briefly

79 "Like You": Young Rascals hit
80 Baggage-opening org.
82 Exactly right
84 Harbor sound
85 Semi driver's superstition?
88 Bugs' wealthy heir?
90 Antoinette's head
91 Remove forcefully
93 Apnea-treating doc
94 Come in
95 Like some interviews
97 Note at the office
99 "And step on it!"
100 Sailor
102 Flipped before serving, perhaps
104 Gmail lifesaver
108 Safari runner?
110 Pub fun
111 American assignment
112 John in Wimbledon
113 Photo including six-pack abs?
115 Vocal technique used at seders?
118 Theater section
119 Unlikely to bite
120 Irritated
121 Kindergarten refrain
122 Slaughter of the Cardinals
123 River of Flanders
124 Drops of sorrow
125 Risk taker

DOWN
1 Cause a ruckus
2 Like Thor
3 "It's been fun"
4 Kings and bishops
5 Make gradual inroads
6 Number at a doctor's office
7 "Count me out"
8 Lang, where all nouns are capitalized
9 Major route
10 Futuristic arms
11 Cancún cash
12 "Time to start the day!"
13 Brooks of comedy
14 Heckled
15 Sugar Plum Fairy's dress
16 Hours often set
17 O'Connor successor
18 Knock at
24 Whirlpool
26 Plucked instrument, in Padua
30 Chews (on)
33 Hardly humble
35 Hydrocarbon gas
38 When doubled, fish often grilled
40 Its anthem is "Hatikvah"
41 Devices with shielded keypads
42 On the house
43 Slant
44 Mythical monster
46 National Pecan Month
48 Barks

49 Besides
51 Guanaco cousin
52 Fiesta fare
54 Marge Simpson or June Cleaver
57 Knave of Hearts' loot
61 Score
63 Moved like a kangaroo
65 Unnerve
66 Dim
67 Auto-painting franchise whose name reverses three letters of a transmission franchise
69 Margarita flavoring
70 Fever and shivering
71 Quasimodo's creator
72 Mark on a bass
74 Leave thunderstruck
75 Going around in circles, say
76 Only state capital without a McDonald's
77 Roadwork marker

78 Nearly six trillion mi.
81 Saint's home
83 One may be crumbled on a sundae
84 Albacore and yellowfin
86 Sham
87 Harold's movie pal
89 Lit
92 Radon detection aid
96 Honky-tonk
98 Indian city known for its silk production
99 Purim month
100 Pope, for one
101 Splash guard
103 Food processor?
104 Lead to a seat
105 Has to have
106 "Seriously!"
107 Sorrow
109 Slot machine inserts
114 Exhibits, as doubts
116 Calypso offshoot
117 Coastal inlet



7/30/17 xwordeditor@aol.com ©2017 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

Happy Birthday | July 30: This year, you create a lot of excitement. As a result, you open up emotionally and enjoy yourself more. There also is a side of you that is intense and secretive, which emerges once in a while in social occasions. If you are single, you could attract people who like one aspect of your personality but not the other. Remember that you need to be accepted as a total person — only then should you consider making a major commitment. If you are attached, the two of you might have a difficult dynamic at times, where you say one thing but do another. Scorpio cannot help but be drawn to you, and vice versa.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Relate to others directly, but know that you might have a problem dealing with your temper when speaking with a key family member. Your intuition helps you make a good choice about how to interact with this person.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Defer to others. Ask questions to come to a conclusive understanding, if not an agreement. You might not have the same solutions, but you have the same issue. Respect your differences.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You could be tired. Take today off for some extra R and R. You need to honor your needs if you want to go full steam ahead more often. A conversation with a friend could become testy for some reason. Pull back before you have an argument.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Your imagination comes into play with a loved one. Let go of a problem, and refuse to get into a squabble. Get into the moment. A call or email from someone at a distance makes you smile. You might sense that more is going on than was revealed.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You could be in the mood to change direction. Stay close to home, and invite a friend or two over for a late lunch. You might like not being as much on the go as usual. A partner understands how you feel, so you don't need to say much.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Speak your mind, but also listen to what a loved one has to say. The more you share, the better your understanding of one another will become. You see a loved one as being nearly perfect. Be careful, as this person could fall off his or her pedestal.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Be aware of how possessive you can be. You might want to ask yourself why you are so insecure. On the other hand, this possessiveness also reflects how much you value this person. Open up a discussion and find your way through this issue.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Understand what is happening with a respected associate. Listen carefully and help this person to gain a new perspective. Your ingenuity and creativity come forward to solve a problem and come up with solutions.

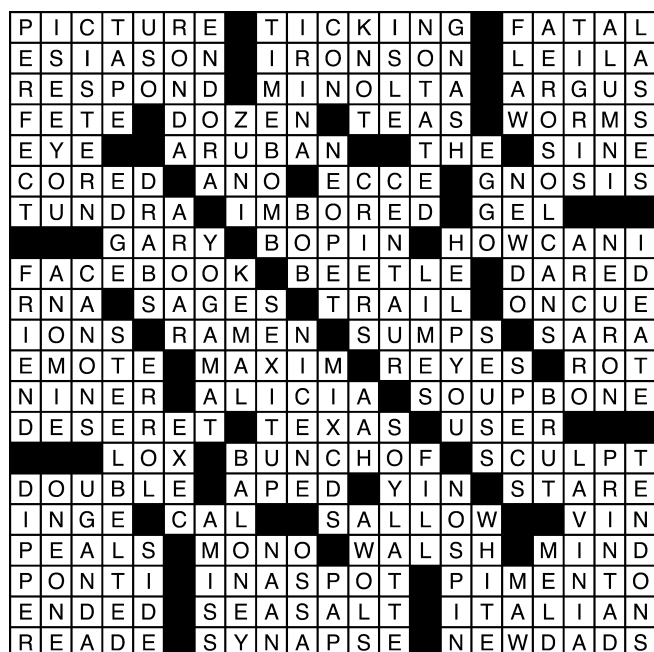
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You could feel out of sorts and not understand what needs to happen to change your mood. Perhaps it is your perspective mixed with a little insecurity. Talk to a trusted family member who has known you his or her whole life and get some feedback.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You might be easily drawn into a happening hosted by some friends. Whether it's a cookout or a softball game, you'll enjoy yourself and let go of stress. Try to keep this attitude going as long as you can. A partner could be argumentative.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Take charge and help others free themselves up for a fun afternoon out. The more relaxed you are, the better next week will be. Others could be somewhat argumentative. Avoid having an argument or playing into someone's negative mood.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Reach out to someone at a distance. You could be delighted by this person's news. You might not know how to handle the information. Direct some of your frustration into a physical activity.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



7/16/17