

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

DEFinitions: Winning abbreviations

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1238 we continued three-letter abbreviating through the alphabet with some DEF, FED, EDF, etc., phrases. Some of the inking entries below are a bit of a stretch, but the Empress put on her YJPs — her Yoga Judging Pants — and flexed a little. Not surprisingly, many of the entries contained various forms of the F-word. They canceled one another out.

4th place

**EDF: Electoral District Freshening:** Oh, “gerrymandering” sounds so unsavory. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn, Va.)

3rd place

**EDF: Elf Defies Fate:** Jeff Sessions’s tagline on memos as he keeps his job for one more week. (As of press time.) (Ellen Ryan, Rockville, Md.)

2nd place and the pink rubber octopus fingers:

**DEF: “Don’t Even” Face:** “I was just about to float the idea of having the guys over for poker night, but I got the DEF.” (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village, Md.)

And the winner of the Inkin’ Memorial:

**FED: Flagrantly Elementary Deduction:** Printable euphemism for “No @\$#\$, Sherlock.” (Peter Shawhan, Silver Spring, Md.)

Lo-DEF: Honorable mentions

**Defenders of Flat Earth:** “Our members are fighting for truth around the globe.” (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

**Domestic Fish Eggs:** Low-rent caviar — a.k.a. “skid roe.” (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

**Deflate Foxboro Egos:** Message preprinted at the top of Roger Goodell’s daily planner since January 2015. (Matt Monitto, Bristol, Conn.)

**Dry-Fried Epidermis:** Somehow “chicharrones” just sounds better. (Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.)

**Duh-Face Emoji:** A snarky response to Mom’s painfully obvious text messages. (Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)

**Duplicity For Everyone:** You can fool all of the people some of the time, so let’s go ahead and do that. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase, Md.)

**Extraterrestrial Defense Fund:** Established in Roswell, N.M., to assist illegal aliens. (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

**Electronic Deposit Fairy:** She puts the tooth money right into the kids’ bank accounts. (Julia Shawhan, Silver Spring, Md.)

**Escalators Down Forever:** Revised, pragmatic Metro repair schedule. (David Friedman, Santa Clara, Calif., an ex-Arlingtonian)

**Expressive Digit Fluency:** Sign-language requirement for cabbies. (Jon Gearhart)

**“Emailing For Dollars”:** The most popular game show in Nigeria. (Jesse Frankovich)

**Elaborate Fling Denial:** “I can overexplain everything!” (Tom Witte)

**Ever-Fluid Disclosure:** “Meeting? What meeting? There was no . . . Oh, yeah . . . there was a meeting — but no one important was there. Except a Russian or two. All we talked about was adoption. Emails? Specifying ‘oppo research’ on Hillary? There were no — Oh, right . . . there were some emails. But no one we know was included. Except . . . maybe Don Jr. And Kushner. And Manafort . . .” (Nan Reiner, Boca Raton, Fla.)

**Ego-Feeding Department:** One federal agency that’d be sure to be fully funded. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

**Ex Facie Donaldus** (“From the face of Donald”): Bracketed term used to indicate that the previous statement is an obvious lie. (John McCooy, Rehoboth Beach, Del.)

**Ex Flagrante Delicto:** Caught cheating on your spouse, with your former spouse. (Mark Raffman)

**EFD:** “What do you mean I’m a B-FD? I’m ENORMOUS.” (Ivars Kuskevics, Takoma Park, Md.)

**Freeze-Dried Escargot:** What French astronauts eat. (Jesse Frankovich)

**Fairy Dust Economics.** How to cut taxes and still reduce the budget



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1242: Generation Yux

**Then: Men getting hair plugs. Now: Men getting hair plucked.**

**Then: Baked Alaska. Now: Baked in Alaska.**

**Then: “The Kids Are Alright.” Now: The kids are alt-right.**

Yeah, we’ve been around awhile. In Week 303, in 1999, the Empress’s predecessor, the Czar, ran a contest called “Boom Times,” asking readers to “come up with old and new concerns for the baby boom generation.” The results were classic; the winner, by Elden Carnahan: “Then: Getting out to a new, hip joint. Now: Getting a new hip joint.” (See the rest in this week’s Style Conversational column at wapo.st/conv1242.)

Eighteen years later, there’s a new generation reading the Invite, but lots of the original models are still around — including, like Elden, some of the entrants who got ink in Week 303. Which prompted Biggest Loser Ever Chris Doyle to suggest a multigenerational update. **This week: Give us a “then/now” joke like Chris’s examples above — about (a) getting older or (b) comparing a past generation with the current one, no matter whether you, personally, are a “then” or a “now.”**

Submit entries at this website: [wapo.st/enter-invite-1242](http://wapo.st/enter-invite-1242) (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 officially announce the new design that we’ve been giving to recidivist winners. Second place receives a fabulous **Total Nerd Party Two-Pack**: a holster from which you suspend your wineglass in front of your belly, thus allowing you to dribble your spanakopita crumbs straight into the merlot; and, courtesy of Loser Edward Gordon, a Pizza Pouch, for all those times you need to carry one small slice of pizza across your torso. (Our tip: Don’t get extra cheese.) The holster is dead serious; the pouch, sold by an outfit called Stupidiotic, a tad less so.

**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, Sept. 4; results published Sept. 24 (online Sept. 21). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline for this week’s results is by Jeff Contompasis; the honorable-mentions subhead is by Jesse Frankovich. Join the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](http://on.fb.me/invdev). “Like” Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at [bit.ly/inkofday](http://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](http://wapo.st/styleconv).



PAT MYERS/THE WASHINGTON POST

**Pair pizza and pinot right across your shirt. (Heck, you know it’ll end up there anyway.)**

deficit by 2020. (Mark Raffman)

**Fatal Dating Error:** “So, I’ve asked my mother to join us for dinner.” (Hildy Zampella, Falls Church, Va.)

**Flog Deceased Equine:** “Here’s our 873rd piece on Benghazi,” Fox announced in yet another FDE.” (Duncan Stevens)

**Franklin Delano Eisenhower:** “Probably the third-greatest president after Abe and me.” — D.J.T. (Dave Zarrow, Reston, Va.)

**Foreign Dignitaries’ Entrance:** The back door of the White House. (Josh Feldblyum, Philadelphia)

**Females for Erectile Dysfunction:** Women of a certain age who, quite frankly, have had enough already. (Nan Reiner)

**Front End Deficiency:** Marketing-

agency term for a breast that does not meet Hollywood standards. (Drew Bennett, West Plains, Mo.)

**Firing Every Day:** “Mr. President, what will be your main focus for the remainder of your term?” “I’m gonna keep going with the FED.” (Stephen Gold, London)

**Flat-Earth Day:** The unit of time it takes the world to flip over twice. (Jesse Frankovich)

**Danger! Flailing Elephants!** Warning sign posted outside the Capitol. (Julia Shawhan)

**Executive Daily Flattery:** That folder presented to the president twice a day with only positive articles about him. (Lynne Ann Larkin, Vero Beach, Fla.)

**Emergency Fruitcake Delivery:** A post-Christmas service provided by regifting centers. (Chris Doyle)

**Funky Diaper Examination:** A close encounter of the turd kind. (Chris Doyle)

**Facebook Etiquette Directive:** Don’t feed the trolls! (Chris Doyle)

**Fidelity Enthusiasm Depletion:** Malaise that commonly affects marriages after several years (or three months for those involving professional entertainers, athletes or Kardashians). (John Hutchins, Silver Spring, Md.)

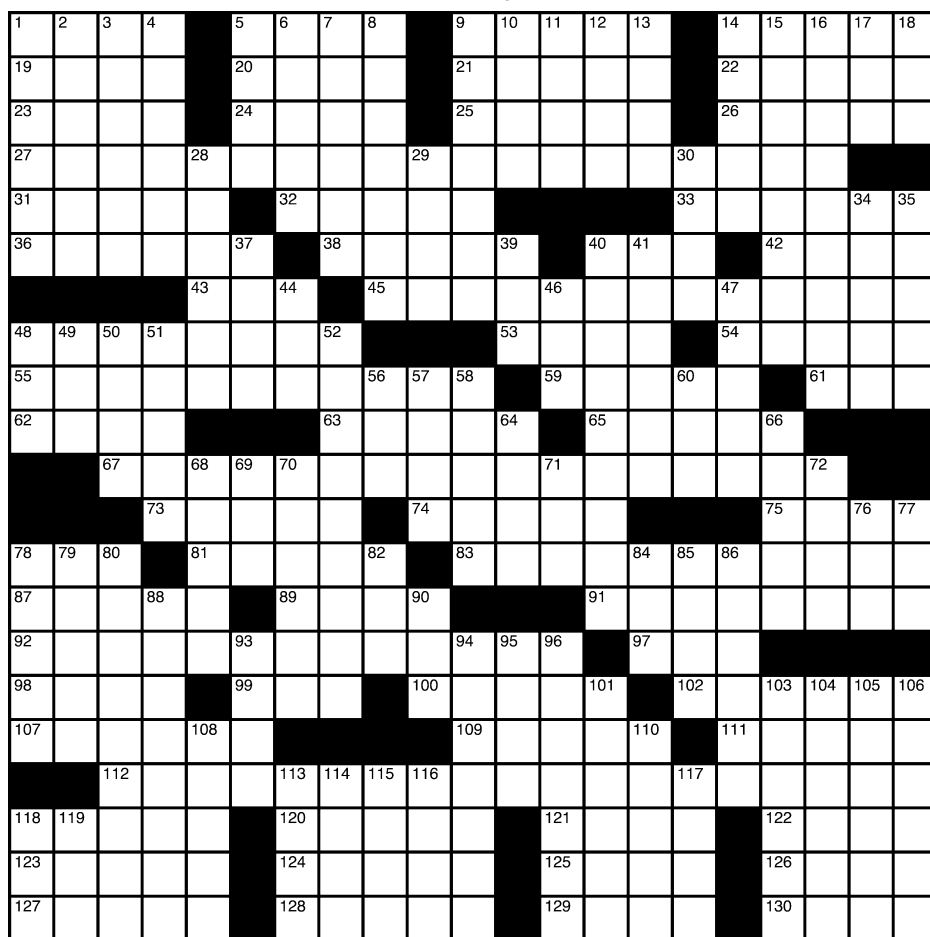
**And Last: Failed-Entry Dumpster:** The Empress’s trash can. “Welp, another whole page for the FED.” (Chris Doyle)

**Still running — deadline Monday, Aug. 28: Our contest to fill in a partial crossword. See wapo.st/invite1241.**

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

- “SPECIAL OPS”** By JEFFREY WECHSLER
- ACROSS**
- 1 Crisscross pattern
- 5 Whole alternative
- 9 Religion that may involve a moon goddess
- 14 Tolerate
- 19 Sticks figure
- 20 Common conifer
- 21 Many a South Pacific isle
- 22 Kosher
- 23 \_\_\_ in the Pod: maternity brand
- 24 It won’t fly on the Sabbath
- 25 Get rid of
- 26 Freetown currency
- 27 Like soup cans to Andy Warhol?
- 31 New York natives
- 32 Traditional meal
- 33 Join
- 36 Position
- 38 More extensive
- 40 Mid sixth-century date
- 42 For two, in music
- 43 “The rules \_\_\_ the rules”
- 45 The musical “1776” reworked with arias?
- 48 Courtesy to parents of a child flying alone
- 53 Refuses
- 54 Carrier renamed in 1997
- 55 Astaire/Rogers 1935 boast?
- 59 Their areas are arias
- 61 Auction unit
- 62 Taunt
- 63 Ballerinas’ supply
- 65 Saltpeper
- 67 Pace of a runaway horse?
- 73 Traffic stopper, perhaps
- 74 Capital SW of Brussels
- 75 Sculptors’ degs.
- 78 “Lou Grant” production co.
- 81 Like some strays
- 83 Why the kennel closed?
- 87 Flew into \_\_\_
- 89 Mexican dirección
- 91 Engine regulator
- 92 Vespa newbies?
- 97 Verizon subsidiary
- 98 Two-balled weapon
- 99 Dangerous African biter
- 100 News story sources
- 102 Absorb, as with toweling
- 107 Brief outline
- 109 Produce chapter and verse?
- 111 Development areas
- 112 #1 rodeo competitor?
- 118 1995 Cecil B. DeMille Award-winning actress
- 120 Marilyn’s birth name
- 121 Swear
- 122 Gp. that includes Venezuela
- 123 Golf shoe feature
- 124 Like some construction sight markers
- 125 Current
- 126 Geometry function
- 127 Accomplishments
- 128 Act with passion
- 129 Acorn, essentially
- 130 Laryngitis docs
- DOWN**
- 1 Ones pressed for drinks
- 2 Grint who plays Ron in Harry Potter films
- 3 Portugal’s region
- 4 Overwhelm with noise
- 5 What manuscripts may be submitted on
- 6 Caber toss garb
- 7 Shortly, casually
- 8 Songlike
- 9 Scrooge’s opposite
- 10 Craving
- 11 Crux
- 12 Show appreciation, in a way
- 13 Boxer’s brand?
- 14 With 113-Down, precipitously
- 15 Draft providers
- 16 Savvy shopper’s cry
- 17 Ruckus
- 18 74-Across season
- 28 Fire \_\_\_
- 29 Makeover
- 30 Swabby’s need
- 34 Collector’s item
- 35 Compassion
- 37 Part of Q.E.D.
- 39 Ticket word
- 40 Home furnishing purchase
- 41 Estonia
- 44 Paul Anka’s “\_\_\_ Beso”
- 46 Silent affirmation
- 47 Montana’s \_\_\_ Falls
- 48 Band performance
- 49 “dreaming?”
- 50 “Forbidden” perfume
- 51 Ideal places
- 52 Appears suddenly
- 56 Harley, e.g.
- 57 “Make it quick!”
- 58 Industry VIP
- 60 Bermudaa’s ocean: Abbr.
- 64 Successor to Claudius
- 66 High-tech worker
- 68 Emulated a street performer
- 69 Investment acronym
- 70 Guiding principles
- 71 Decline
- 72 [It disappeared]
- 76 Require meds, maybe
- 77 Sault \_\_\_ Marie
- 78 Dangerous
- 79 African biter
- 80 Military unit
- 81 It might be tapped
- 82 Since Jan. 1, in P&L reports
- 84 Article in rap titles
- 85 “No \_\_\_!”: “Easy-peasy!”
- 86 Prepare to store, as a blueprint
- 88 Under-the-hood type
- 90 Slim swimmer
- 93 Novelist Bellow
- 94 Church greeter’s target
- 95 Like small star fruit
- 96 Slope apparel
- 101 Wonder on stage
- 103 Lazy
- 104 Half of bowling’s worst split
- 105 Of immediate concern
- 106 Compassionate, creative, submissive sort, it’s said
- 108 Small change
- 110 Undercut
- 113 See 14-Down
- 114 Den, for one
- 115 Bond adventure with Honey Fyder
- 116 Drop
- 117 Was in the red
- 118 Clock readout abbr.
- 119 “Good one, matador!”



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Answers to last week’s puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Aug. 27:** This year you begin a new cycle, where you have more magnetic appeal than usual. You say what you think with clarity. Others hear your message clearly. If you are single, your charm allows you to be slightly more passive, if you so choose. You are likely to meet your soul mate this year. If you are attached, you have a way of looking at your sweetie that ends all fighting between you. Scorpio finds you intriguing.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) Your dream life might haunt your waking hours. If you feel inclined, share your dreams with a loved one. Approach your plans with enthusiasm and refuse to hold yourself back.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) You know how strong-willed you are, and you need not impose your desires or will on others. A close friend or loved one will suggest some exciting plans. You might need to say “no” for now.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) Take some much-needed personal time. You don’t need to give an explanation. Clear out some errands and other matters you would like to wrap up. A partner or loved one might be intrigued, as what you are doing is out of the norm.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) Plug your imagination into your plans and choices. View the moment as being unique and special. Try to enjoy all the different aspects of the day. Look around you, as you rarely take the time to.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) Opting to stay close to home is not surprising, as you have had a hectic schedule as of late. Have you considered that some friends could drop by suddenly, causing a get-together to form?

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You will say what you have been putting off saying. You might not be as concerned about someone else’s reaction as you once were. A serious yet successful conversation is likely to ensue.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) No one can say that you’re stingy, as you often splurge or spend too much. Right now, you feel as if you would prefer to use a little self-

discipline. You feel empowered. You might sense some tension at home. Do you want to sit on it or try to clear it out?

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You’ll feel as if you don’t have a care in the world, though you know otherwise. Let your mind tease you with this idea. Perhaps you will resolve certain issues more quickly. Others are inclined to go along with your wishes, but you must express them first.

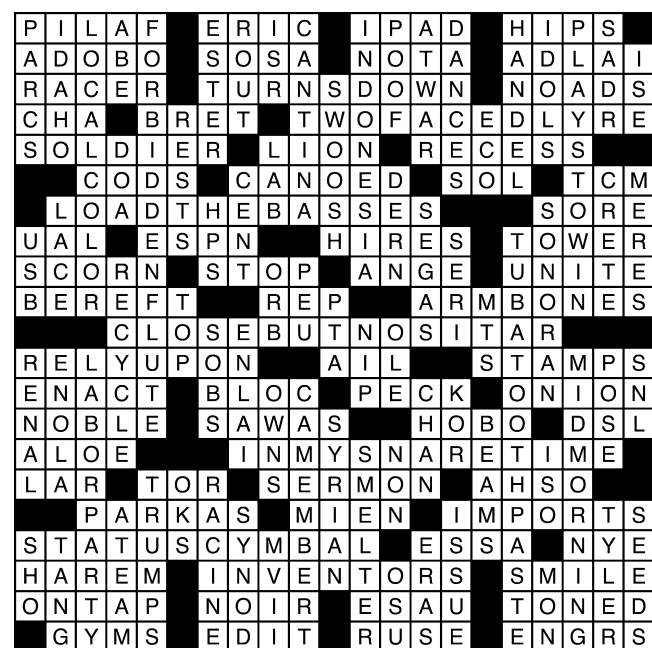
**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) If you have a ritual of loving to read your Sunday paper, do just that. Some of you might opt to do some writing. A friend is likely to appear and try to distract you from your solo time.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You might seem serious to many of your friends, but one of your pals always makes you laugh and open up. Enjoy an entertaining happening where music is likely to be involved. Others will opt to take a walk by the water. Play out your perfect afternoon.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You will need to deal with a responsibility or dote on an older relative or friend. At first you might be resentful, but you will feel good about fulfilling this desire.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) You’ll have an opportunity to go to a new restaurant or indulge in an adventure that you have always wanted to partake in. The only answer to this offer is “yes.” Start living your life more fully.

Answers to last week’s puzzle.



8/20/17