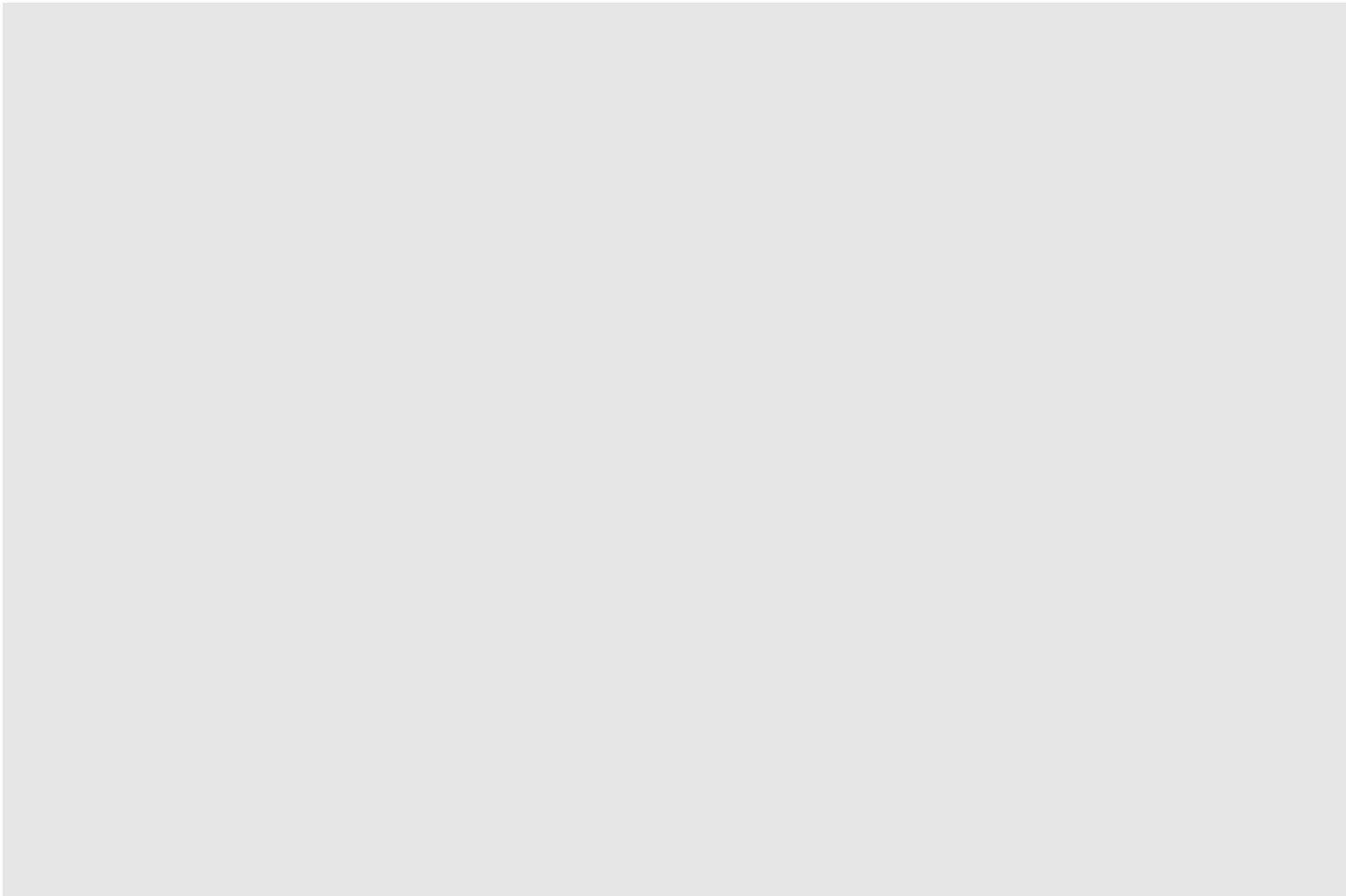




Entertainment

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Rant about The Post! (Or another paper.) Plus winning ways to fill in a partial crossword.



“We’re in a war on terrorism and you print a convenient map of the Washington area ... Why not just put up a “Welcome Terrorists!” sign?” Time for more idiotic rants. (Bob Staake for The Washington Post)

By Pat Myers 
September 14

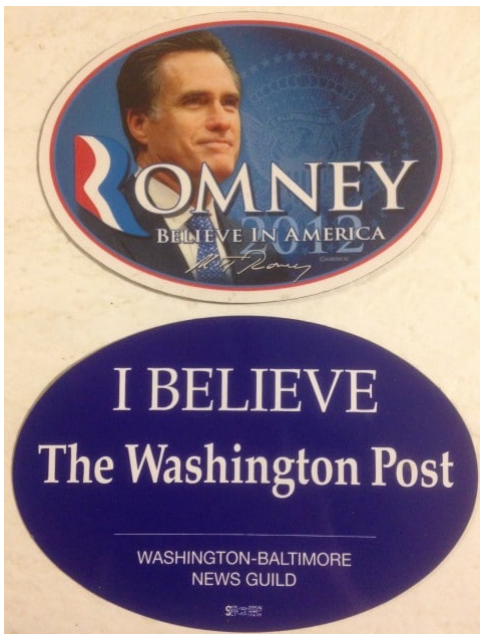
(Click [here to skip down](#) to the winning words and clues for a partially finished crossword)

We’re in a war on terrorism and you print a convenient map of the Washington area right there on Page A14. Why not just put up a “Welcome Terrorists!” sign? (Dave Zarrow, 2003)

The typeface of your front-page masthead is horribly incomprehensible. It looks like “CtheWa8hingtonPo8t.” You should consider Comic Sans, which is a very readable font. (Drew Knoblauch, 2011)

Does The Post so hate America that you wish to deliver our national secrets into the hands of our enemies? I refer of course to The Post’s publication of page after page of “Classified” information, blatantly labeled as such in type so large that even the most dimwitted spy can hardly fail to miss it! (J.J. Gertler, 1998, back in the pre-Craigslist days)

It happens surprisingly seldom — once every few *years*, on average — but occasionally someone writes a letter to the editor complaining about this column. A week ago a reader [wrote in](#) to protest one of Chris Doyle’s examples for the [Week 1242 “then/now” joke contest](#): “Then: ‘The Kids Are Alright.’ Now: The kids are alt-right,” charging that “changing the name of the Who’s well-known song . . . is reprehensible.”



If your entry is too good to earn an honorable-mention Loser Magnet, you could end up with these.

This week: Complain in a humorously missing-the-point way about something that has appeared in The Washington Post (in print or online) recently, or in another publication, as in the examples above from earlier contests we've done along this line. If you're citing a particular article, misreading a headline, etc., please give the Empress enough information (date, page number or online link) that she can see what you're getting at.

Submit entries at this website: wapo.st/enter-invite-1245 (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 stack of oval Mitt Romney 2012 "Believe in America" campaign magnets, donated by Loser Dan Helming, as well as a bonus "I Believe The Washington Post" magnet, issued by the Washington/Baltimore News Guild (the E has one of these on her car; let's hope the Guild doesn't find out about the Invite's bogus-trivia contests).

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. 25; results published Oct. 15 (online Oct. 12). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline for this week's results is by Duncan Stevens; the honorable-mentions subhead is by Chris Doyle. Join the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev. "Like" Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at bit.ly/inkofday; follow [@StyleInvite](https://twitter.com/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.

[And from The Style Invitational four weeks ago . . .](#)

HANKY BLANKY: OUR PARTIAL-CROSSWORD CONTEST

1	S			4	C		6	C		8		9	S		11	S	12	L	13		14
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		47	A		48	D	R				49	I	L								
51	W	I			N			52	C	H				54	A	L	F				
58	I			L				59	O	I	S			60	A		E				
61	E	W						62	A					N	L	I				E	
63			N	S				64	G					T	H	E					D

(Grid by Evan Birnholz/DevilCross.com)

In [Week 1241](#) we presented a crossword grid by Washington Post constructor Evan Birnholz in which Evan had rubbed out one or more letters from every word in the puzzle. Then we asked you to fill in any of the Across or Down words as you liked (regardless of crossing words) and write a clue for it. (The entries below show the words that originally appeared in the grid.)

☹️

38 Down (AREA CODE; _RE_CO_) **A RED CONE:** All of the highway repairs funded in the Department of Transportation 2018 budget (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

☹️

59 Across (NOISEMAKER; _OIS__A_E_) **LOIS IS A TEN:** Graffiti found in a phone booth outside the Daily Planet (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

^

36 Down (ORC; O_) **OXY:** Clever moron (Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)

-o

42 Across (ROCOCO; R__OC_) **RELOCO:** A job transfer to D.C. (Barry Koch, Catlett, Va.)

D

2D (NATE) **GATE:** How to end a scandal (Jesse Frankovich)

3D (ARSE) **IQUE:** Not one-of-a-kind (Jesse Frankovich)

4D (CLUNG) **CLUDE:** Verb with two meanings: "Let's try this again, Jared. On this form you must clude

everyone you've cluded with." (Frank Osen)

11D (SWELL) SPELT: Grain that makes the best alphabet-soup pasta (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn, Va.)

12D (LADIES ROOM) LIDS FOR MOB: The MAGA hat concession at the rally (Joanne Free, Clifton, Va.)

13D (INNER PEACE) UNDERPENCE: Largely ineffective garment intended to prevent leaks. (John Hutchins, Silver Spring, Md.)

15A (PARLIAMENT) GARLIC MINT: Candy on the pillow at the Hotel Transylvania (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

17A (IT'S UP TO YOU) "I TRUST PYON . . .": Naive last words before one is nuked by North Korea (Hildy Zampella, Falls Church, Va.)

19A (TEEN) THEM: Who the bad guys are (Perry Beider, Silver Spring, Md.)

20A (BEER) BERN: Soreness felt after elective procedure in 2016 (Ivars Kuskevics, Takoma Park, Md.)

24A (MAILER) MAIDES: Presidential staffers who have to clean up after the daily messes (John O'Byrne, Dublin)

... or **MAI HAI:** Cocktail made with rum, fruit juice and cannabis (Nan Reiner, Boca Raton, Fla.)

26D: (HANOI) HANOI: A place Vietnam vets aren't fonda. (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

28D (COME ON DOWN) MAMMOFROWN: Facial contortion occurring during yearly smash-o-gram (Lynne Ann Larkin, Vero Beach, Fla.)

... or **DUMP ON LAWN:** Command my neighbor must be giving his dog in front of my house. (Ed Scarbrough, Germantown, Md.)

.. or **COME ON DOWN:** Satanic invitation (Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

...or **TAMPON TOWN:** Kotexarkana (Chris Doyle)

.29A (ORATORS) PRAYOFF: A Lent Madness event. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

31A (SPA) EPD: The newly conceived Environmental Protection and Destruction Agency (Dan Helming, Maplewood, N.J.)

33A (AROUND) A HOUND: "I Get _____," rejected track from the Beach Boys album "Pet Sounds" (Duncan Stevens)

35A (AUTHORED) BUTT OR ID: Either of two ways to get into a nightclub (Matt Monitto, Bristol, Conn.)

37A (NO MSG) VOMIT: It comes up when you're feeling down (Beverley Sharp)

... or **VOMET:** Object that hurls across outer space. (William Kennard, Arlington, Va.)

38D (AREA CODE) PREZCON 1: The alert level for CNN and Mitch McConnell (Tom Panther, Sparks, Va.)

39A (BROAD) BILED: how alt-righters prefer their breakfast eggs (John McCooey, Rehoboth Beach, Del.)

40A (ONE SHARE) ONE SHARK: Lowest rating for lawyers (Steve Glomb, Alexandria)

... or **ONE SHARK:** For the Fonz, the difference between fame and infamy (Ivars Kuskevics)

... or **ONE STARK:** Final population of Westeros (Noam Izenberg, Columbia, Md.)

42A (ROCOCO) REJOCK, to reach age 40 and try to relive high school glory. Followed closely by REHAB

(Lynne Ann Larkin)

44A (OVERSAW) OVENSAP: that stuff that boils over the dish while baking (Tom Panther)

49A (OILS) KILT: What little Davy Crockett did to that bar (Allan Zackowitz, Brookeville, Md., a First Offender)

50D (SHALE) AA ALE: Not-even-close beer (Kevin Dopart)

60D (MAH, as in mah-jongg) RAH: Response to “Okay, EPA employees, let’s hear it for Mr. Pruitt!” (Duncan Stevens)

64A (GETS THE NOD) GILD THE LID: White House bathroom remodeling order (Ellen Ryan, Rockville, Md.)

... or **GETS THE NOD:** Is hired at the bobblehead factory (John Hutchins)

Still running — deadline Monday night, Sept. 18: our contest for creative Amazon.com product reviews. See wapo.st/invite1244.

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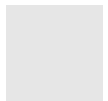
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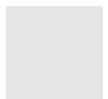
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