

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Unpresidential! Words minus t-r-u-m-p.

BY PAT MYERS

No matter what contest we've hurled into the Loser Community of late, the majority of entries have somehow managed to be about Our President. So in **Week 1243** we presented a neologism contest much like our dozens of earlier ones — except that the terms you came up with couldn't have a T, R, U, M or P (though I didn't say the entry couldn't be *about* T-R-U-M-P, a loophole some Losers dived right into). This contest proved a pretty tall order; the E received a number of last-minute messages noting, "Oops, I didn't notice that word had a U" (or other letter).

4th place

Gagony: That endless split-second between telling a joke and someone laughing. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

3rd place

Lexiconfession: Admitting that you totally made up that Scrabble word. (Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)

2nd place and the set of magnets that look like human molars:

KKK: A quick way of chanting, "Okay, okay, okay!" Trust me, I've heard some very fine people use it that way. — My Dictionary Is the Best Dictionary (Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

Gland-dad: A sperm donor. (Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.)

Hono*able *en*ions

Yo Nana: She's not as fat as Yo Mama, but only because she's so old. (Mark Raffman)

Shindig: The sharp corner of the dishwasher door. (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

Chaoslessness: Gen. Kelly's impossible mission. (Jesse Frankovich)

Basebleah: What Phillies fans have been watching all season. (Frank Mann, Washington)

Liecnese: One of several legal documents required to run for federal office. (Warren Tanabe, Annapolis, Md.)

Shiksa kebab: Barbecued pork on skewers. (Mark Raffman)

Donald: An old cartoon character famous for his ruffled feathers and spluttering outbursts. (Melissa Balmain)

Weddling: Going Momzilla on the nuptials. "We were going to have a simple ceremony, but that was before my mother started wedding."

Bleaking news: Let's face it, it's all bad. (Mae Scanlan, Washington)

Diss-ease: A compulsion to fire off insulting tweets. (Mark Raffman)

Geeze: What really old guys do. (Beverly Sharp)

Wowbegone: Middle-aged. (Brad Alexander, Wanneroo, Australia)

Delivision: Did you ever notice how people stare, entranced, at the "Now Serving No. ___" sign like it's the most entertaining thing they've ever seen? (Hildy Zampella, Falls Church, Va.)

Wensch: The hooker with a heart of gold. (Jeff Shirley, Richmond)

Swindfall: A fake insurance claim. (Beverly Sharp)

Eccheced: To go beyond someone's worst predictions. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn, Va.)

Fiascoincide: To have everything go horribly wrong simultaneously. (Jeff Contompasis)

Nochos: A midnight snack. (Jeff Contompasis)

Hehab: Hooking up with a hot guy after a breakup. (Mark Raffman)

I of a Cyclone: He's so vain, he probably thinks this storm is about him. (Nan Reiner, Boca Raton, Fla.)

Déjàvooodoo: The unsettling feeling that we've tried these economic policies before. (Jesse Frankovich)

Blew-haha: A rejected Style Invitational entry. (Jesse Frankovich)



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1247: Script tease

"Monster's Ball": "No! Elmo says that's not yours to play with! Elmo says it's Elmo's!"

"Birdman": "Mr. President, I know you're frustrated, but stop giving Congress the finger."

"The Fate of the Furious": "Yo, Mooch, now it's YOUR turn to \$%^&^ your #\$\$%."

"Lady Windermere's Fan": "GO LADY WINDERMERE!"

This week's contest was suggested by Loser Phenom Duncan Stevens, who's such an Invite-obsessive that he noted to the Empress that his idea is a variation of contests we ran in Week 625 (2005) and Week 129 (1995); those were to supply an alternative plot to a movie title (winner of Week 625, by Kevin Jamison: "The Asphalt Jungle": In this series finale, Tarzan suffers his untimely death"). **This week: Offer a quote from a script of a movie whose title you've given a different plot, as in Duncan's examples above.**

Submit entries at this website: wapo.st/enter-invite-1247 (all lowercase).

Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, the Style Invitational trophy that we officially announce today. This handsome little creation — really, it's too nice for the Invite — consists of a tiny metal cannon that's really a pencil sharpener, attached to a beautiful wooden base that was crafted by Loser Larry Gray. And it's finished off with a "BNAG" flag stuck, popgun style, into its barrel. The Lose Cannon was inspired by a campaign tweet in which then-not-president Trump called Hillary Clinton that very thing, verbatim. This trophy replaces the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that we've been giving out since 2012.

Actually, for the past few months, the Empress had been sending out Lose Cannons to some Invite winners who'd already won multiple Inkin' Memorials, while awarding the last of the Abes to the less obsessive. Last week, Bruce Carlson won the last bobblehead in the box, so it's all cannons from here on in.

Second place receives, in keeping with this week's contest, **"Who Farted?,"** a little book consisting entirely of classic movie stills in which glamorous screen couples like Astaire and Rogers seem to be asking that question — seem to be, that is, if you are a particularly annoying 12-year-old. Donated by the extremely mature Jeff Contompasis, and offered again after it was passed on last year. And we'll throw in some snacks for the cineplex: two boxes of **Crick-ettes**, yup, real dried crickets. You get Salt 'n' Vinegar and Sour Cream and Onion. Let us know how they were. Donated by Loser Lisa Henderson.

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, Oct. 9; results published Oct. 29 (online Oct. 26). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline for this week's results is by Jon Gearhart; the honorable-mentions subhead is by Jesse Frankovich. 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); follow @StyleInvite on Twitter.

THE STYLE CONVERSATIONAL The Empress's weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. Check it out at wapo.st/styleconv.



MARK HOLT

We present our latest grand-prize trophy, the Lose Cannon — inspired by a T-R-U-M-P tweet about Hillary Clinton.

Nan Doylovich: The cyborg Loser I am inventing to enable me to dominate the Style Invitational! (Bill Dornier, Indianapolis)

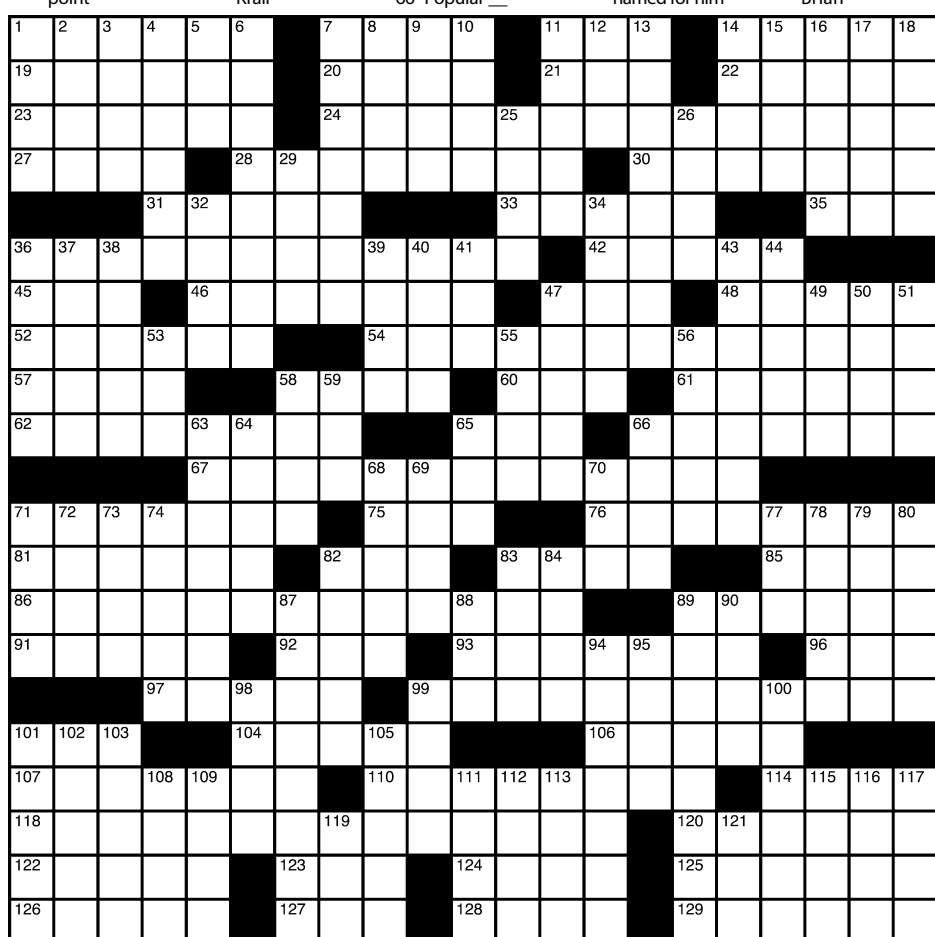
night, Oct. 2: our contest to take any sentence from The Post or another publication and write a question that it might (humorously) answer. See wapo.st/invite1246.

Still running — deadline Monday

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

- 1 "DISPIRITED AWAY" By GAIL GRABOWSKI
- ACROSS
- 1 Financial smartphone download
- 7 Vague feeling
- 11 Shot spot
- 14 Take up or let out
- 19 More profound
- 20 Attention-getting type: Abbr.
- 21 Gunk
- 22 Russian bread
- 23 Crooner Vic
- 24 Software update strategies?
- 27 Urban view obscurer
- 28 Action-filled
- 30 Get by succession
- 31 Stand in a loft
- 33 Title absentee
- 35 Bridge installer's deg.
- 36 Counsel offered by Carlo Rossi?
- 42 Map in a map
- 45 Ristorante suffix
- 46 Pursued
- 47 Slate secrets?
- 48 Container with slats
- 52 Recommend
- 54 Dream about childbirth?
- 57 What alibis may be
- 58 Series of rings
- 60 Ultra-secret org.
- 61 Like yoga devotees
- 62 Naval strength
- 65 Co-host Shapiro of "All Things Considered"
- 66 Celeb's freebie
- 67 Views about poetry?
- 71 "That film is awful!"
- 75 '60s-'80s Brit. sports car
- 76 Frozen fruit-flavored snack
- 81 Soda purchases
- 82 1999 Moviefone acquirer
- 83 Fluency
- 85 Normal beginning?
- 86 Reminded guests that certain casual attire is required?
- 89 Baseless accusation, to an alleged perp
- 91 Yoga pose
- 92 Pic for a doc
- 93 "Dig in!"
- 96 When Le Havre heats up
- 97 Run through a reader
- 99 Uncompromising boss?
- 101 Break down
- 104 Mar. parade honoree
- 106 Shake awake
- 107 Taking in a sunrise: say
- 110 Crowd control weapons
- 114 Headquarters
- 118 Mastering a basic golf lesson?
- 120 Golfer's starting point
- 122 Salon dye
- 123 Scepter top, perhaps
- 124 Salon, for one
- 125 Not leave to chance
- 126 Concepts
- 127 They're often grad students
- 128 Wraps (up)
- 129 Went bad
- DOWN
- 1 Throws into the mix
- 2 Group with lineups
- 3 Exec's reminder
- 4 Orbital high point
- 5 Writer
- 6 Put the squeeze on
- 7 "The Four Seasons" composer
- 8 It might follow a bullet
- 9 Zinger
- 10 "Frozen" princess
- 11 Disco phrase
- 12 Pal of Harry
- 13 Summon silently
- 14 St. Louis landmark
- 15 Renaissance instrument
- 16 1954 Ford debut
- 17 Legendary Spanish hero
- 18 Intervals of inactivity
- 25 "Picnic" playwright
- 26 Queen's subjects
- 29 Princess from Alderaan
- 32 Spy-fi figs.
- 34 Grammy-winning singer
- 36 Medical containers
- 37 Common film festival entry
- 38 Skin lotion brand
- 39 Menlo Park middle name
- 40 Justice Gorsuch who replaced Antonin
- 41 DJ's stack
- 43 8/21/2017 celestial event
- 44 Vagabond
- 47 Violinist's need
- 49 Quartet named for its members
- 50 They're usually seen with sandals
- 51 Miscalculates Connection method: Abbr.
- 55 Cross inscription
- 56 Spark producer
- 58 Apt to mouth off
- 59 Critical care ctrs.
- 63 Supervised
- 64 Houdini's family name
- 65 BOLO equivalent
- 66 Popular ___
- 68 Expressive online image
- 69 Take in the wrong way?
- 70 Apple mobile platform
- 71 Rick calls her "kid"
- 72 Google successes
- 73 Quattro competitor
- 74 Cold weather word
- 77 Turntable letters
- 78 Took a little off
- 79 Give a keynote, say
- 80 Morning read
- 82 TV spot seller
- 83 U.S. dept. with a windmill on its seal
- 84 Wine city near Turin
- 87 Unimproved property
- 88 In-flight fig.
- 89 Railing feature
- 90 Western natives
- 94 Earl with a three-finger banjo-picking style named for him
- 95 Berkshire boarding school
- 98 Castaway's home
- 99 Foment, with "up"
- 100 If all goes right
- 101 Rolls with rice
- 102 Withdrew, with "out"
- 103 "Moneyball" baseball exec
- 105 Mettlesome mounts
- 108 Paquin of "True Blood"
- 109 Pioneering TVs
- 111 Column on the right
- 112 Smartphone display
- 113 Nibble
- 115 Be flush with property
- 116 Ill-tempered
- 117 Struck (out)
- 119 Period that may be named for a president
- 121 "Lux" composer
- 122 Brian



10/1/17 xwordeditor@aol.com ©2017 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY|Oct. 1: This year you express your strong will, and as a result, you create much more of what you want. Your finances build, especially if you don't get too wild with your spending. If you are single, you are unusually confident, which makes you more of a challenge to wannabe suitors. If you are attached, the two of you might have a disagreement from time to time. Being right is not as important as having this person in your life. Aquarius knows how to make you laugh.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You often feel challenged by others. If you are single, you might be unlikely to experience any feelings beyond a desire for friendship and companionship. Get involved in a physical sport or some other kind of tension-reducing activity.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You could be tired from all the excitement at work or in a community involvement. You might be taking the situation more seriously than others, who seem to be a bit frivolous. Trust that you have enough energy to handle what you need to.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Reach out to someone at a distance or to the person to whom your thoughts keep returning. You will need to make several calls to handle or activate a situation.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You will feel touched by a partner's desire to share more with you. Try to sit on some harsh words, as they might be difficult to take back once spoken. Honor a fast change of pace. Don't allow a loved one to push you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You enjoy all the attention that seems to surround a loved one right now. You often feel as if you get too much attention, so it will please you to see the situation reversed. You might want to make a big purchase, but the timing could be off.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Toss yourself into a project or a list of to-dos. You'll feel good clearing out what you feel you must. Understand where a friend is coming from; this person might just want to spend some quality time with you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Ask a loved one to join you for the day. How you treat this person and the type of conversations the two of you have will determine whether this time together will be a repeated event.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You attract more energy and fun than you realize. Others want to be near you, as they can relax and enjoy themselves more. Do allow the unanticipated visit of friends or loved ones to create more work for you.

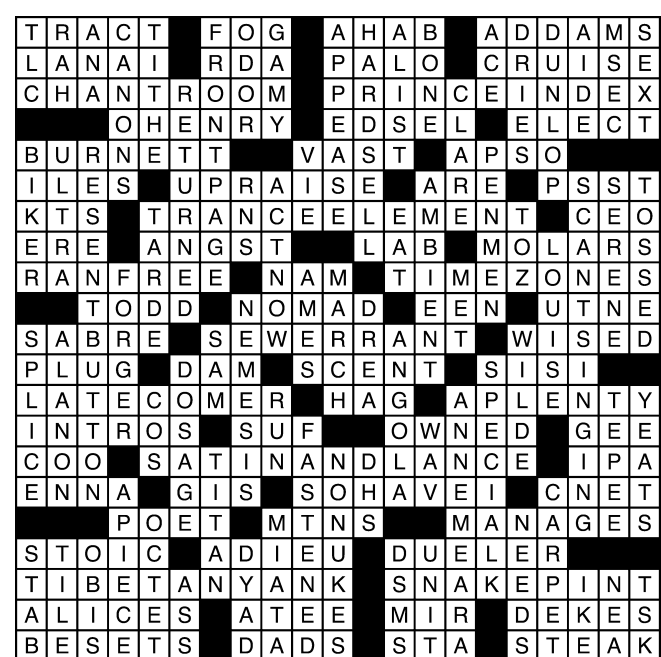
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You might find an older person's stance to be somewhat irritating. Because you cannot change this person's views, opt to let it go. Friends might be waiting for you to join them for a fun happening. Do not be late. Confirm plans.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You often use your self-discipline, but you might not be able to restrain yourself right now. Wherever you go, you seem to treat a friend or two to a meal. You recognize that the purpose of having money is to spend it, at least once in a while.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You make an excellent friend, but you aren't known to take the lead. Others find your example fun to follow. You might decide to go to the movies or head out for some Chinese food. Whatever you do, enjoy yourself to the fullest.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You might enjoy a low-key few days much more than you thought you would. Catch up with someone on the phone, but don't push yourself to do anything that doesn't feel comfortable.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



9/24/17