

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

A load of carp: Winning complaints

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1245** we invited you to complain “in a humorously missing-the-point way” about something in The Post or another publication. Some of you made the mistake of pointing out actual inaccuracies, like the “\$81” that was supposed to be “\$81,000,” or the fact that The Car Pages is actually A Car Page, or that the Weekend section has listings for the whole week. Or you noted valid irritants, like ad stickers covering parts of the front page. We can’t stand those, either, so no ink for you.

4th place

Once again, The Post’s TV critic thoughtlessly ruins the viewing experience. I was eagerly awaiting the PBS documentary on the Vietnam War until Hank Stuever blabbed, “It ended 30 years later in failure.” (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

3rd place

I am appalled by the sexist photo you published that focused lasciviously on men’s muscular buttocks. Of course, it was by a female photographer — a man would never have taken a picture of NFL players bent forward in a huddle. (Dave Prevar, Annapolis)

2nd place and the Romney campaign magnets:

I have experienced your unbalanced coverage firsthand: Two of my obnoxious neighbors — one had a dog that once pooped on my lawn; the other never returned my pruning shears — died in the past year. And each received a glowing obituary — yet not once was I contacted to provide my side of the story. (John Hutchins, Silver Spring)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

My well-intentioned but not-so-bright friend wrote some time ago to alert you that some of the people pictured in your death notices did not look dead. It’s silly, I know. But going forward, you can eliminate this problem simply by superimposing X’s over their eyes. (David Garratt, Silver City, N.M.)

Rants’ tomb: Honorable mentions

If The Post claims to care about the truth when it comes to science, then tell me why the **Sept. 10 “Doonesbury”** shows the crescent moon pointing the wrong way in the Northern Hemisphere! Cancel my subscription immediately. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

I don’t understand why you have a category of advertisement called **“Legal Notices.”** Is there also a page of “Illegal Notices” that I need to look for? (Mark Raffman, Reston)

Enough already with all the **fake news about President Trump!** Now for the truth — please tell us how things have been going for President Clinton all year! (Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)

Why have the media not applied more pressure to Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin? It is patently wrong that **U.S. money** honors a president who forcibly relocated nonwhite Americans into deplorable conditions. The FDR dime must go! (Jeff Contompassis, Ashburn)

Yet again, The Washington Post has entirely ignored the state sales tax battle in Olympia AND the trash pickup controversy on the Seattle waterfront! **#LiveUpToTheName** (Kyle Hendrickson, Frederick)

The White House chief of staff does not own this town! So why does The Post print on Page B3, five times a week, **“John Kelly’s Washington”?** Besides, dude, get a new photo! (Mike Creveling, La Plata)

Tell your owner that we’re on to his subliminal shenanigans. The bottom of the front page of Monday’s A-section directed us to an article on Page 11 — a **prime number. As in Amazon Prime.** And what did I also find on that page? An ad for a kitchen remodeling company. What do you put in kitchens? That’s right, food. Which you can buy from, oh, perhaps . . . Whole Foods? Coincidence? I think not. (Hildy Zampella, Falls Church)

Hey, Gregg J. Fernandes, Washington Post vice president for



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1249: Ask Backwards 36

A. Melania’s left shoe. Whom in the White House — or what — has Trump *not* challenged to an IQ test?

A. Oops, that was a typo. Q. Secretary Tillerson, did you really write “[redacted]” in the stall of the White House men’s room?

A Slim Jim smoothie • Melania’s left shoe • Bleechnit • A fidget spinner, an infinity scarf and Cher • 280 characters • I don’t think they have that at Whole Foods • Oops, that was a typo • Wynken, Blynken and Stynken • Despacheto • Mike Pence’s favorite pastime • Fluffy or something • The comma before the storm • Fargo, North Dakota • Nose hair extensions • There’s still no app for THAT

Yes, it’s the 36th time — at least — that The Style Invitational has run this contest in its almost 25-year history, though the last time was 13 months ago.

This week: Choose any of the 15 items above and follow it with a question that it could humorously answer, as in the examples above. Submit entries at this website: wapo.st/enter-invite-1249 (all lowercase).

Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our new Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a unique prize (except for one other, still in the possession of its creator): **an enormous custom-made T-shirt** that says, in Maori, *“Kaua e uapare mai. I tuku poti ahau ki a Hillary!”* As well as its English translation, “Don’t blame me! I voted for . . .” Donated by Loser Ed Sobansky, who had it made before he and his wife visited New Zealand earlier this year: “It helped me not to have to answer the constant question from the Kiwis: ‘What’s up with this Trump fella, anyway?’” (If you end up in second place but did not vote for Hillary, or just don’t want the shirt, you may have a mug or bag instead.)

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. 23; results published Nov. 12 (online Nov. 9). 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 Chris Doyle. 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/conv1249.



SHIRT BY ED SOBANSKY

Say it in Maori: This week’s 2nd-prize T-shirt.

customer care and logistics: My daughter Olivia, who’s a big fan of KidsPost, was sick today. **But when I called you to come watch her,** you didn’t show up or even arrange for someone to do it! That’s not “care” and it’s not even “logistics!” (Mark Raffman)

Judging by the putrid quality of your publication, I can only assume the name “The Washington Post” was chosen as an **anagram of “That news thing’s poo”** — not to mention an anagram of “What pigs! Not Honest!” (Jesse Frankovich)

Why did you print **the crossword puzzle right below the Sept. 21 KidsPost?** Our 9-year-old figured out the clue “Big glitch” was for “snafu,” then looked it up in the dictionary and learned a disgusting word. Shame on you! (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

I’m tired of trying to decode those **secret messages** that The Post prints in tiny type at the top of its pages, like “EZ RE K” at the top of my Sept. 24 Weather page. Is that a subliminal ad for a tow truck company? And who is “EZ SU?” I’d sure like to meet her! (Ivars Kuskevics, Takoma Park, Md.) [We leak this top-secret code in this week’s Style Conversational.]

Yet again the liberal elite Post shows an insulting failure to understand us regular Americans. That op-ed headline **“Just when you think Republicans can’t get more irresponsible . . .”?** I assure you that I have NEVER thought that Republicans couldn’t get more irresponsible. (Todd DeLap, Fairfax)

Browsing the online classifieds today, I was appalled to discover a link for The Post’s **“Place a death notice”** service. I can’t believe the paper would take money to publish mortal threats! Can’t people make do with a “Place a stern warning” service instead? (Frank Osen)

I am both appalled and terrified that **The Post published my Social Security number** in its Sunday print edition. Sure, you broke up the digits and placed them randomly throughout the page numbers. But it took me less than a minute to hunt down all nine — and surely a sophisticated hacker could do it even faster. (Hildy Zampella)

Must your **lingerie advertisements** be so graphic? I don’t mind having to take cold showers in the summer, but chilly weather is approaching. — M. Pence, Washington (Roger Dalrymple, Gettysburg, Pa.)

So according to your ad, The Post is giving a \$5 discount off Taste of DC — **“the largest culinary festival in the mid Atlantic.”** Like that’s going to help much toward paying for a cruise to the middle of the ocean. (Dave Prevar)

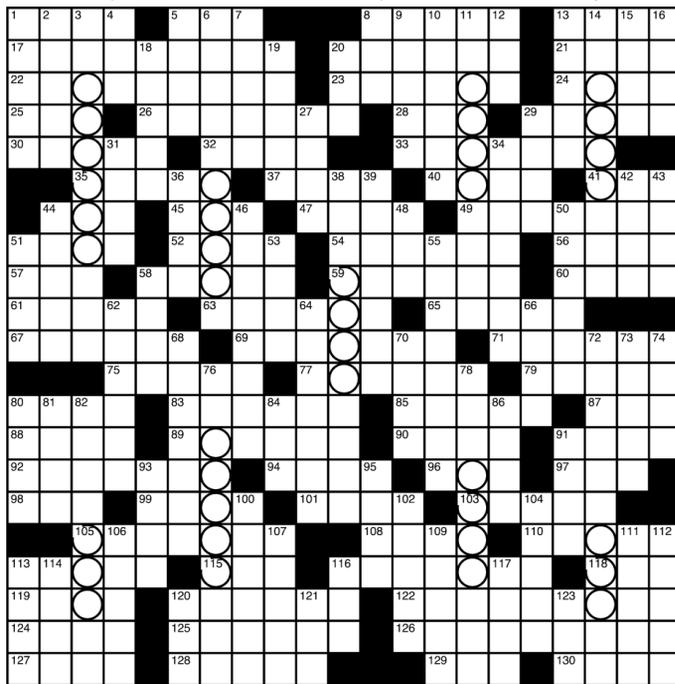
More rants in the online Invite at wapo.st/invite1249.

Still running — deadline Monday night, Oct. 16: our contest for Colbert-style “midnight confessions.” See wapo.st/invite1248.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

- “EATS UP” By C.C. BURNIKEL
- ACROSS
- 1 Octopus octet
- 5 Pro-... fundraisers
- 8 Looks over quickly
- 13 “Hey, you!”
- 17 Backyard raft
- 20 Russian wolfhound
- 21 Jazz home
- 22 “Just kidding”
- 23 On deck
- 24 Pasta sauce brand
- 25 Pandora genre
- 26 Annoyed
- 28 The Heart of Dixie: Abbr.
- 29 They have strings attached
- 30 Comparable to a beet
- 32 Gave the once-over
- 33 Driver’s reservation?
- 35 Run the country
- 37 CDs and LPs
- 40 Like two peas in...
- 41 Supplied in a comedy skit, as straight lines
- 44 The Pac-12’s Golden Bears
- 45 LAX abbr.
- 47 Pitch indicator
- 49 Supply with fluid
- 51 Safari runners?
- 52 The puck stops here
- 54 Reasons for missing school
- 56 Article in Der Spiegel
- 57 Pink Floyd label
- 58 Iridescent shell lining
- 59 Biceps, for one
- 60 Soho stroller
- 61 Perfect...
- 63 “The Piano” actor
- 65 Like a locked bathroom
- 67 “Mmm, delish!”
- 69 Japan is in it
- 71 Fire starters
- 75 Team up
- 77 Brand for cold sores
- 79 Carry...: sing on pitch
- 80 Was visibly moved
- 83 Begin successor
- 85 Harry’s love
- 87 Negative link
- 88 “Dies...”
- 89 Tell the teacher
- 90 Where the Indus flows
- 91 Org. for the Sky, the Stars and the Sun
- 92 Went wild
- 94 Sign of approval
- 96 Chum, in Cherbourg
- 97...Majesty
- 98 Pueblo pronoun
- 99-ish, after a number
- 101 Old theaters
- 103 Firing offense?
- 105 Big Sky Brewing Company home
- 108 PC key used in combinations
- 110 Zoo keepers
- 113 Lasting marks
- 115 Bench for a flock
- 116 “Casablanca” setting
- 118 Kaplan Test Prep focus: Abbr.
- 119 “Funny joke!”
- 120 Loud insect
- 122 Flat key on the pond?
- 124 44-Down shape
- 125 Classic game consoles
- 126 “This looks bad for us!”
- 127 Shelter adoptees
- 128 Heat-resistant glass
- 129 Drops at dawn
- 130 “Symphony in Black” artist
- DOWN
- 1 Temporary lack of inspiration?
- 2 Shangri-La offerings
- 3 Track activity, to Brits
- 4 35mm camera type
- 5 Wings, in zoology
- 6 Lava
- 7 Like miso, typically
- 8 Cry out loud
- 9 Many a University of Zagreb student
- 10 Augusta National shrub
- 11 “Lucky Guy” was her last play
- 12 PBS “Science Kid”
- 13 Holiday in the month of Adar
- 14 Minnesota’s annual one is held in Falcon Heights
- 15 Guru
- 16 As a result
- 18 Luxury handbag
- 19 President between Harrison and Polk
- 20 Spoiled
- 27 Adam’s garden
- 29 Captain of the Adventure Galley
- 31 Sushi fish
- 34 Former FAO Schwarz parent
- 36 Lady of pop
- 38 Time-out at work
- 39 Outstanding
- 42 Sicilian hot spot
- 43 View as
- 44 Engraved jewelry item
- 46 Perfect game, e.g.
- 48 Adam’s love
- 50 Run over
- 51 Team covered at amazonvenue.com
- 53 Princess with a twin brother
- 55 Permit to leave
- 58 Night light
- 62 Sotomayor replaced him
- 64 Mobile home
- 66 Fix, as a pet
- 68 Twist
- 70 Genesis creator
- 72 Boston Marathon Expo display
- 73 Drawer opens
- 74 Toxin fighters
- 76 “Tsk tsk”
- 78 Pet shelter’s concern
- 80 Finish line
- 81 Mound stats
- 82 Topper made from the jipijapa palm
- 84 K2 and Hood: Abbr.
- 86 Wax Ready-Strips maker
- 91 “Easy there!”
- 93 Charged bits
- 95 Bonkers
- 100 Garage capacity
- 102 Juice bar freebie
- 104 “Dilbert” creator
- 106 Doctoral hurdles
- 107 In the know
- 109 Drew (in)
- 111 Max of Dadaism
- 112 Sicilian seven
- 113 Hit the mall
- 114 Way into the mountain
- 116 More, to Miguel
- 117 Backstage staff
- 120 Limit
- 121 Fort in New Jersey
- 123 Toon bartender
- Szyslak



10/15/17 xwordeditor@aol.com ©2017 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Answers to last week’s puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Oct. 15: This year you break many patterns and open up to new and different ways of living and thinking. Your finances could see an upswing, as you are likely to receive a raise or promotion. If you handle your funds with care, this year could be a financial pinnacle for you. If you are single, you often seem tense when dating. If this observation is brought to your attention, try to relax more. If you are attached, you tend to want one thing, while your sweetie wants something else. Virgo sees right through you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You’ll need some time to review a tense situation. A close friend or loved one will spend some time going over this matter with you, as they want to help bring to light any hidden facets that you might not have considered.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You have followed through on an important family matter. Your more upbeat and playful personality comes out as a result. You seem to be able to light up someone else’s life, and vice versa.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You might feel a little off right now. You give so much to others every day that you often forget to take care of yourself. Use today to do whatever you want to do to recharge.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You could be so surprised by someone’s actions that you can barely get a word out. A boss or a parent might add to your stress level unintentionally. Your creativity emerges as you start the process of dealing with others.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Your expectations could be somewhat out of whack, as you have had so much happen in the past few days that has worked out in your favor. Communication is highlighted. You will enjoy being close to home, swapping news, gossip and facts.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You feel energized and more in your element. A partner or loved one could be testing your acceptance of or responses to their actions. This person might feel challenged by your easygoing nature. A call or get-together delights you to no end.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You might need to take a step back

to accomplish everything that you must. Don’t hesitate to take some much-needed time for yourself. You might need to reflect on a recent decision you’ve made. You need to gain a new perspective.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Where your friends are is where you want to be. Use care when trying to convince others of how right you are. They might not like the way you speak to them or your attitude. Get together with friends for a fun happening.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Avoid getting too vested in having your way, especially when dealing with an older friend. This person might feel as if they have years of wisdom on you. Listen well, as you are likely to gain a new perspective.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

You are willing to break a pattern and try something new. At first you might not be sure that you like the results, but eventually you will. Your ability to get past your self-imposed restrictions is admirable.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) A partner will share an interesting idea with you. You might not be willing to get out of your comfort zone, which is unusual for you, yet you see the wisdom of proceeding as this person has suggested. If you can, take that big step into the unknown.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Others seek you out. What you do with their requests is your call. You know your priorities; by all means, honor them. Try not to worsen a situation that could involve a friend and an odd decision. Trust that this person knows what they are doing.

Answers to last week’s puzzle.

