

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Fool disclosure: (Un)True Confessions

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1248**, we asked for some “(un)true confessions” like the ones in Stephen Colbert’s long-running bit. About a dozen people confessed that *they* were the ones who let the dogs out.

We also invited true confessions. Among them were several that the Empress greeted with “Well, sure, I do that”: They included eating the entire apple, including the core; refilling bottles of brand-name water from the tap; and, of course, singing along with pop songs but correcting their grammar. I mean, doesn’t everyone?

4th place

When I see the sign “Caution! Wet Floor,” I do. (Jonathan Hardis, Gaithersburg, Md.)

3rd place

When people post photos of their children on Facebook, I respond using the “sad” emoticon. (David Kleinbard, Mamaroneck, N.Y.)

2nd place and the big clippy wooden shoes:

The truth is, I trust my husband completely. I just like getting invited to all those fancy business dinners. — K. Pence (Hildy Zampella, Falls Church, Va.)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

I cut my tofu into animal shapes. I usually eat the heads first. (Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg, Va.)

Disc’losers’: Honorable mentions

If I finish the toilet paper roll, I leave a stick-it note on the holder to remind my wife. (Jeff Shirley, Richmond)

I pour my Sam’s Club Scotch into a Costco Scotch bottle so people will think I’m classy. (Bill Dorner, Indianapolis)

I sometimes sneak up behind my co-workers and scare them by popping a paper bag. Look, you’ve got to find ways to pass the time when you’re in the Secret Service. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

Although I have never been there, I have done that. And I would do it again. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase, Md.)

I extend the five-second rule to 10 for spilled beer. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

In public toilets I belt out “Elmo’s Potty Time Song” to mask the gross sounds my body is making. (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

One time a date seemed to suspect my “British accent,” so I started driving on the left side of the road to maintain the ruse. (Ben Aronin, Washington)

Sometimes I call in sick to work when I’m actually sick. (Leigh Giza, Bristow, Va.)

To be completely honest, I kind of went trepidatiously where no man had gone before. — J. Kirk, Riverside, Iowa (Jeff Contompassis, Ashburn, Va.)

I kept my legs crossed for a whole 2½ minutes so that we could have the first baby of the New Year. (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

To toughen my kids up, I throw their old art projects in the recycling bin without turning them face down. (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station, Va.)

In restaurants, I pretend to blow my nose so I can hide that I’m picking my teeth. (Dave Prevar, Annapolis)

I regularly pee in the pool. You do, too? Well, I mean the carpool. (Mike Creveling, La Plata, Md.)

I told the police officer I was texting. Truthfully, I was painting my toenails. (Kyle Hendrickson, Frederick, Md.)

After years of picking up after my dogs, I found that if I first put my



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1252: It’s a med, med, med, med world

**Nadvil:** Relieves post-vasectomy pain. (Tom Witte)

**Non-interferon:** A black-market drug often slipped to unsuspecting in-laws. (Meg Sullivan)

**Herbal Hoover:** A tranquilizer that’s been taken off the market because it was found to cause depression. (Chester Myslicki)

Here’s a contest we haven’t run since 2000 (when it was suggested by the 11-year-old son of the Czar), and surely we could use some more suggestions to cure what ails us: **This week: Invent a clever name for a new medical product, and specify the condition it would treat, as in the examples above from Week 356.**

Submit entries at this website: [wapo.st/enter-invite-1252](http://wapo.st/enter-invite-1252) (all lowercase).

Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives yet another in our series of Tacky Sculptures Made Entirely of Little Shells, and in fact our second of the Shells Playing Poker subgenre. In this one, it’s all shells except for the cards; even the pile of poker chips is an itty-bitty snail house. This fine artwork was donated years ago by either Chronic Shell Art Donor Cheryl Davis of Chronic Shell Donor Nan Reiner; neither can remember, so I’ll call it a nefarious conspiracy between them.

**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, Nov. 13; results published Dec. 3 (online Nov. 30). See general contest rules and guidelines at [wapo.st/InvRules](http://wapo.st/InvRules). The headline for this week’s results was submitted by both Kevin Dopart and Tom Witte; Tom also wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. 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, published late Thursday afternoon, discusses each new contest and set of results. Check it out at [wapo.st/conv1252](http://wapo.st/conv1252).



PAT MYERS/THE WASHINGTON POST

Poker game and shell game in one: a fitting prize for a Loser.

hand in the plastic bag and use it like a glove, I didn’t have to actually touch the poop! (Steve Fahey, Kensington, Md.)

I try to impress girls by telling them I played football for the University of Phoenix. (Larry McClemons, Annandale, Va.)

Instead of using lots of little pet waste bags, I’ll use a 20-gallon trash bag until it’s full. (Jeff Shirley)

Sometimes I eat ice cream out of the carton. But if I don’t like it, I put it right back in the grocer’s freezer. (Bruce Niedt, Cherry Hill, N.J.)

Sometimes I wash my hands after going to the restroom, so I won’t have to tell a lie. (Lee Graham, Washington)

When I’m dissolving a corpse in acid, I can’t help singing the Roto-Rooter jingle: “. . . and away go troubles down the drain.” (Gary Crockett)

Every Valentine’s Day, I send several flower arrangements to

myself at work, each with a large card reading, “To the World’s Greatest Lover.” (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

I always stand during the national anthem, but when I do, I fantasize about moving to Canada. (Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)

I defiantly take a knee for the national anthem. Well, actually, I sit. Well, I stay seated on my couch. So I guess I take a butt for the national anthem. (Duncan Stevens)

I enjoy eating just half of one Lay’s potato chip. (Kevin Dopart)

I watch five minutes of lots of terrible movies on Netflix, just to mess with the algorithm for the rest of the family. (Ward Kay, Vienna, Va.)

One morning I shot an elephant in my pajamas. And I know how he got in my pajamas. (Mike Connaghan, Alexandria)

When I realized I had 13 items in a 12-item checkout line at the grocery store, I avoided the guilt by eating the candy bar. (Dave Prevar)

When I step on a crack, it doesn’t break my mother’s back, but it does give squirrels hemorrhoids. (Steve McClemons, Arlington)

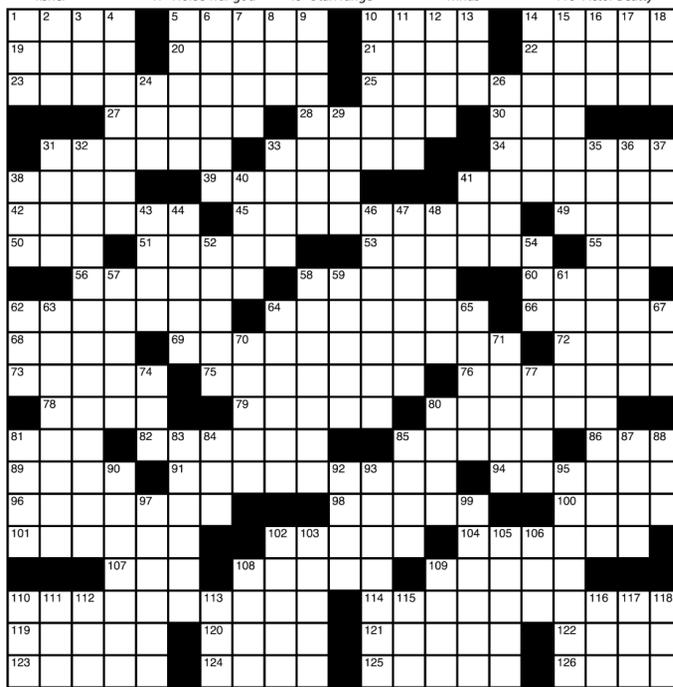
More honorable mentions — including some *Actually True Confessions* — in the online *Invite* at [wapo.st/invite1252](http://wapo.st/invite1252).

**Still running — deadline Monday night, Nov. 6: Our contest for Things to Be Thankful For. See [wapo.st/invite1251](http://wapo.st/invite1251).**

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

- GRIDIRON
- GLOSSARY By MIKE PELUSO
- ACROSS
- 1 Museum curators’ degs.
- 5 Considers
- 10 “Ain’t happening”
- 14 Hobbyist’s knife
- 19 1814-’15 exile site
- 20 China’s Zhou
- 21 Pats on the table
- 22 Tiger Woods has won a record 21 of them
- 23 Goose’s medical concern?
- 25 F?
- 27 Basketball Hall of Fame coach Jerry
- 28 Ain’t right?
- 30 Hastings head
- 31 Two-element tubes
- 33 Energetic mount
- 34 One of Jupiter’s Galilean moons
- 38 Woody’s son
- 39 Ones with will power?
- 41 Discontinued allergy brand
- 42 Sundaes topping item
- 45 Ginger cookie factory statistic?
- 49 Brut alternative
- 50 What “L” may mean: Abbr.
- 51 Fared reasonably well
- 53 Melodious
- 55 Short albums, for short
- 56 Crystalline rocks
- 58 \_\_\_ to go: eager
- 60 Troubling spots
- 62 Longtime priceline pitchman
- 64 Cries over
- 66 Perp stopper
- 68 Beer ingredient
- 69 What results from failure to stop at a deer crossing?
- 72 “\_\_\_ le roi!”
- 73 Equally irate
- 75 Male escorts
- 76 Kenny Rogers quartet
- 78 Socks
- 79 Subject for Archimedes
- 80 Convince using flattery
- 81 Window sill item
- 82 Yellow Teletubby
- 85 Kitchen gadget
- 86 Hasty departure
- 89 Enthused
- 91 So-so haul in the fishing industry?
- 94 Raising a ball, with “up”
- 96 “Il Trovatore” heroine
- 98 Stop before surgery
- 100 Pesky biter
- 101 Verdi title bandit
- 102 Invigorate Dry Spray maker
- 104 Soprano Fleming et al.
- 107 Private eye
- 108 Manila envelope feature
- 109 Infamous fictional motel
- 110 Home security system at no cost?
- 114 “Hamlet” in progress?
- 119 Martini partner
- 120 Logical beginning?
- 121 Long-legged fisher
- 122 Sein, across the Rhine
- 123 Lessen
- 124 Swiss capital
- 125 DEA activity
- 126 Connecticut senator Chris
- DOWN
- 1 2-Down’s boss
- 2 1-Down’s sitcom employee
- 3 Crunch targets
- 4 Hairstyling legend
- 5 Friday creator
- 6 Hyphen relative
- 7 North Carolina university
- 8 Cavernous opening
- 9 Rat Pack leader
- 10 Like some bank services
- 11 Chan portrayer
- 12 Bombard
- 13 Daybreak deity
- 14 Crosses off
- 15 Oregon port
- 16 Auditing pro
- 17 Norse war god
- 18 Opposite of west, in Dortmund
- 24 Stale
- 26 Puts into office
- 29 Court defendant: Abbr.
- 31 Bore
- 32 Prohibited courtroom procedure?
- 33 Go down
- 35 Unpleasant singles bar come-on?
- 36 Tardy people, to some
- 37 Courtroom figs.
- 38 Leatherwork tool
- 40 Those, in Oaxaca
- 41 “Is that \_\_\_?”
- 43 Hokkaido noodle
- 44 Helped through a tough time, with “over”
- 46 Tend to
- 47 Letter-shaped gaskets
- 48 Utah range
- 52 Loosening of gov’t standards
- 57 Take in
- 58 Jones and Duracell competitor
- 59 Whac—
- 61 Nitpick
- 62 Wee, in Dundee
- 63 Discuss in detail
- 64 California-based shoe company
- 65 Feature of a no-holds-barred campaign
- 67 Legal thing
- 70 Actress Palmer
- 71 Joe Namath, notably
- 74 Costa \_\_\_ Sol
- 77 Eroded
- 80 Pacific salmon
- 81 Ashen
- 83 Toto hit that mentions Kilimanjaro
- 84 Routing org.
- 85 Included in the email loop, briefly
- 87 Santa \_\_\_: dry winds
- 88 Corp. big shots
- 90 Proof of paternity, perhaps
- 92 Loan figs.
- 93 The Beatles’ “Day \_\_\_”
- 95 Spewed
- 97 Baby’s first garment
- 99 Implored
- 102 Not leave as is
- 103 Belted tire synthetic
- 105 La Floride et La Virginie
- 106 Japanese chip maker
- 108 Turn over
- 109 Adriatic port
- 110 Monastery title
- 111 Carl’s director son
- 112 Conductor \_\_\_ Pekka Salonen
- 113 It’s not a bad lie
- 115 JFK alternative
- 116 Simpson trial
- 117 Command from a maj
- 118 Actor Beatty



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Answers to last week’s puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY|Nov. 5:** This year, you work well with a partner who is as clever as you are deep. This combination could be powerful, especially if you work with this person directly. Changes made now could send you in a new direction. If you are single, you will meet and relate to someone who clearly is a good match for you. If you want more, there is more to have. If you are attached, your relationship has many dynamics. The attraction between you and your sweetie remains vital and strong. Gemini might encourage you to change your desires quickly.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) Reach out to a friend at a distance. You’ll enjoy catching up on news with this person. Before you realize it, the conversation drifts to getting together. You might be wondering how to work it out. An element of confusion weaves through the day.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) Eye a purchase with a certain amount of cynicism. Double-check the information and do some price comparison. A partner shares a broader point of view. Know that you don’t have all the details you need.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) You say “yes” to more than you can handle, even with your excellent multitasking abilities. Share this quagmire with a loved one who can pitch in. A relative admires your teamwork but might downplay what you are doing.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 21) You will want to pull back and take a good, hard look at what is going on. You might feel pressured about a situation involving your personal life. Figure out how you would like to handle this matter.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) A mixed message could start your day. Don’t allow this matter to color your mood. Your creativity soars, and as a result, your inner child emerges. You have the energy and enthusiasm of a child, as well.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Be careful about not overdressing or overspending for an upcoming event. A partner or dear friend could be confused about plans that the two of you have. Somewhere along the way, you could experience a snag based on a misunderstanding.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Remember that when someone tells you the truth, it is the truth as they see it. People don’t just suddenly change their mind-set or perspective. Be willing to listen to what others have to say.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) The need to satisfy your curiosity takes you down a new path. You might need more questions answered, especially if there are financial implications. Examine your thoughts carefully. Proceed with an important matter more carefully.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You might want to let go of a need to have control over a situation and let others run the show. You often are the center of what is happening. A close friend or loved one who always believes they can do the job better is likely to step up to the plate.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Tension between you and someone who believes they wield power over you could mount and lead to an argument. Take a step back and just try to be polite. You know how you feel here.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Your very active imagination easily could lead to a change of plans. You detach nearly immediately when you sense this possibility. A friend is likely to share their opinion as well as some gossip and other ideas about what is going on.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) You can’t force others to hear your message in the meaningful way that you desire. A partner could be combative. Confusion surrounds plans, but you’ll still make it to an important get-together.

Answers to last week’s puzzle.



10/29/17



“I messed around with the letters on this church marquee . . .” (anagram by Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)