

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

They will rock Q: Ask Backwards ink

BY PAT MYERS

Week 1249 was the 36th running of our contest in which we offered a list of short “answers” and the Losers supplied the questions. Too many people to credit noted that the fidget spinner, the infinity scarf and Cher all seem to go on forever, and that something Whole Foods doesn’t have is half-and-half.

4th place

A. 280 characters.
Q. To staff off helicopter parents, what’s the safest criterion for choosing a high school musical? (Ward Kay, Vienna, Va.)

3rd place

A. Mike Pence’s favorite pastime.
Q. What are cold showers? (Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg, Va.)

2nd place and the T-shirt saying ‘Don’t blame me, I voted for Hillary’ in Maori:

A. Melania’s left shoe.
Q. Can you name one of the three ostentatious heels attached to the first lady? (Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

A. A fidget spinner, an infinity scarf and Cher.
Q. What does your kid think is cool, your mom think is warm and your grandpa think is hot? (Deb Stewart, Damascus, Md.)

Q and nays: Honorable mentions

MELANIA’S LEFT SHOE
Where is the one place in her relationship where the first lady can put her foot down? (Ralph Nitkin, Rockville)

What did Cinderella refuse to try on, for fear that it would fit? (Mark Raffman, Reston)

OOPS, THAT WAS A TYPO
Can we get the seafood platter without the crap cakes? (Jeff Hazle, San Antonio)

What was the president’s tweet right after he accidentally tweeted the missile launch codes? (Kyle Hendrickson, Frederick)

Ironically, what explanation has been used far more often since the advent of spell-check? (Ivars Kuskevics, Takoma Park)

What do you NEVER want to hear a blood bank announce? (Steve Honley, Washington)

What the heck is a tyop? (Jesse Frankovich)

A SLIM JIM SMOOTHIE
What’s the centerpiece of the South Dakota Cleanse? (Annie Sawamura, Southbridge, Mass.)

What nickname did Donald Trump discard as not being demeaning enough for James Comey? (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

What do they call a guy roaming the NASCAR after-parties trying to hit on the ladies? (Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.)

What is made to order by a soda jerky? (Frank Mann, Washington)

What is another name for diarrhea? (Bird Waring)

280 CHARACTERS
What do you get by doubling Twitter, or halving “Game of Thrones”? (Andrew Elby, Arlington)

What is 140 characters more than most people need to fully demonstrate their complete banality? (John Hutchins, Silver Spring)

What is the recommended length of passwords for Equifax accounts? (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

What would double the president’s workload? (Brian Allgar, Paris)

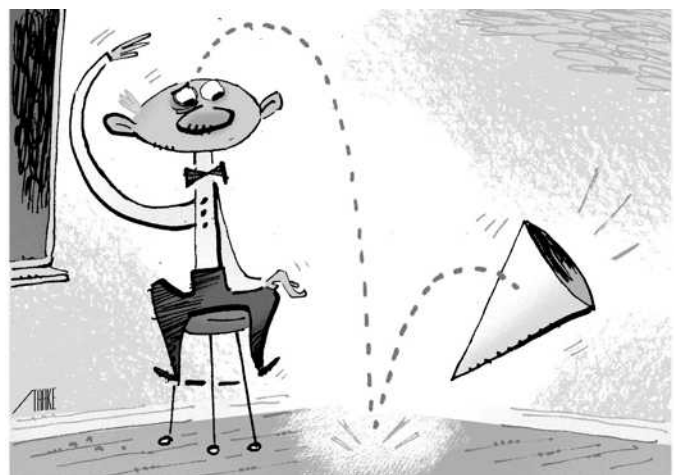
What do Twitter programmers hope will be “enough rope” for the president? (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

I DON’T THINK THEY HAVE THAT AT WHOLE FOODS
Honey, will you pick me up a bag of frozen GMO batter-dipped manatee nuggets? (Bill Dorner, Indianapolis)

Where do I go to get buns of steel? (Hildy Zampella, Falls Church)

Have you ever had to eat humble pie? (Bird Waring)

What did Alexa keep saying to Jeff Bezos when he kept telling her to “buy Whole Foods”? (Ivars



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1253: Fashion x fiction: More fake trivia

In his original concept drawings for the **dunce cap**, inventor I.M. Becile suggested it be worn with the opening facing up and the point balanced on the head. (Bob Staake)

Joseph Ascot created the **necktie** when his wife bet he couldn’t come up with an article of men’s clothing that was totally useless and still make money off it. (Neal Starkman)

Veteran ballerinas do not need to wear the usual reinforced **toe shoes**, because the bones in their feet have become fused en pointe. (Paul Kocak)

The Style Invitational — since 1993 your go-to place for Genuine Fake News — presents its latest call for fictions, in a category suggested long ago by Loser Christina Courtney: **This week: Tell us some totally bogus trivia about clothing or fashion**, as in the examples above from our various earlier Invite fctoid contests, plus our artist Bob Staake’s Own Loopy Mind.

Submit entries at this website: wapo.st/enter-the-invite-1253 (all lowercase; note the slightly different wording from the usual).

Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place, apropos of this week’s contest, receives this just-completed and clearly highly fashionable “Style Ink” knit hat, meticulously handcrafted and donated by Catharine Mefford of Manassas. Cat isn’t a Loser but is a (dub) big fan of the Invite — “One good read and I was hooked,” she lamented to the Empress — and a member of the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook.

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. 20; results published Dec. 10 (online Dec. 7). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline for this week’s results is by Chris Doyle; Kevin Doport wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. 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 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/conv1253.



HAT BY CATHARINE MEFFORD

Proclaim your Loserness from on high with this week’s custom-knitted second prize.

Kuskevics)

WYNKEN, BLYNKEN & STYNKEN
What medical office has two specialists in eye surgery and one in hemorrhoid removal? (Mark Raffman)

What poem tells the story of three children who sailed off in a wooden loo? (Mark Calandra, Sudbury, Mass.)

How did the film industry spend 20 years dealing with Harvey Weinstein? (Ira Allen, Bethesda)

Hey, what was goin’ on at Syngles Night at Ben’s Chili Bowl? (Steve McClemons, Arlington)

MIKE PENCE’S FAVORITE PASTIME
What is crossing the days off the giant calendar in his kitchen? (Susan Kaplan, Tucson, a First Offender)

FLUFFY OR SOMETHING
Congrats on getting that film studio job in the Valley, honey! What’s your title? (Ben Aronin, Washington; Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.; Mark Raffman)

Mr. President, what was the name of your most beloved childhood pet? (John McCooley, Rehoboth Beach, Del.; J. Larry Schott, West

Plains, Mo.)

Mr. King! Larry King! We understand you’re getting married for the ninth time; what’s the new bride’s name? (David Garratt, Silver City, N.M.)

FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
What U.S. city has had exactly as many NFL, MLB, NBA and NHL champions as Washington in the last three decades? (Peter Jenkins, Bethesda)

What city is nicknamed “The Town That Always Sleeps”? (Rob Huffman)

Where do you need a background check to buy a wood chipper? (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

How far do I need to travel outside the Beltway to find affordable housing? (David Kleinbard, Mamaroneck, N.Y.)

THE COMMA BEFORE THE STORM

Of the Vietnam War, Watergate, and Hurricane Katrina, what still gets the most debate on Twitter? (David Garratt)

What comes after every Trump tweet that starts with “Believe me”? (Kathy MacDonald, Columbia, Md.)

What’s Italian for “momentary truce”? (Steve Glomb, Alexandria)

NOSE HAIR EXTENSIONS
What made the prince suddenly retch when he finally reached Rapunzel’s window? (Jeff Shirley, Richmond)

What did my son seek out as part of his “Dad” Halloween costume? (Mark Raffman)

What’s one way to score a “0.0” in Date Lab? (Tom Witte)

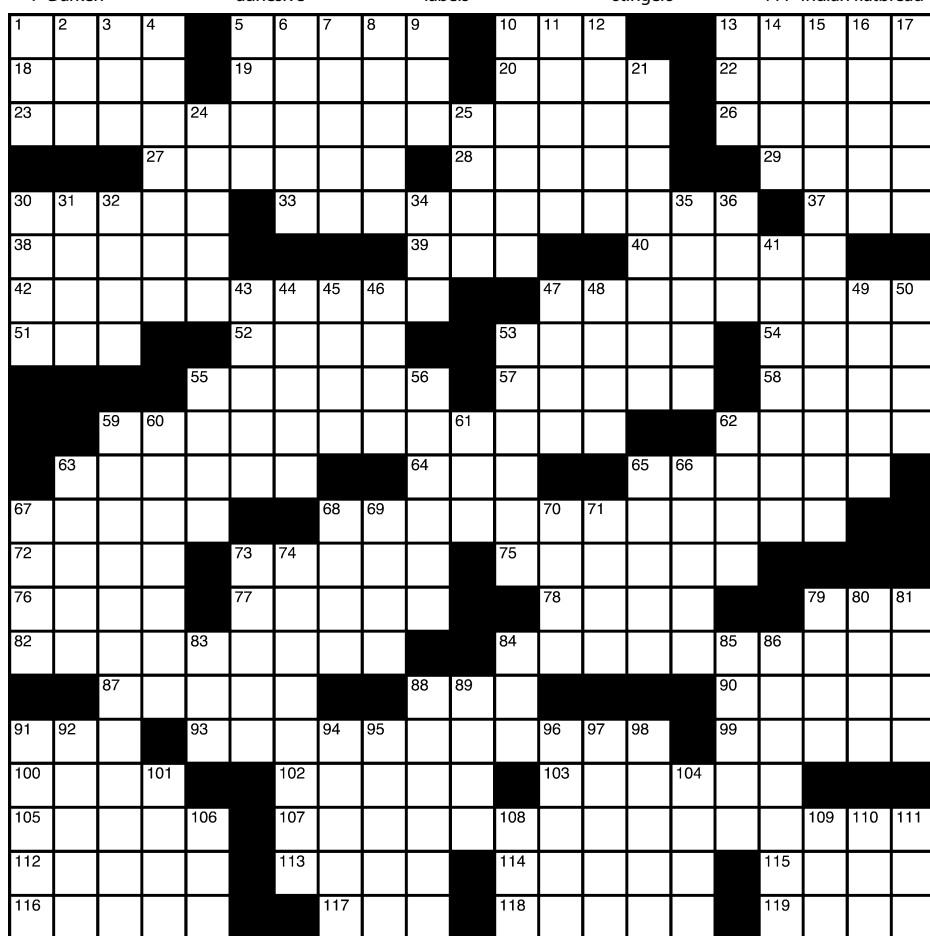
What’s an anagram of “No sex is near in those”? (Jesse Frankovich)

Still running — deadline Monday night, Nov. 13: Our contest to name a new medication. See wapo.st/invite1252.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

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|--|---|--|--|---|---|
| <p>YOUR EYES BECOME YOU By THOMAS TAKARO</p> <p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 Ball stars</p> <p>5 Baseball’s Hammerin’ Hank</p> <p>10 Latin foot</p> <p>13 Cline portrayer in “Sweet Dreams”</p> <p>18 It comes from the head</p> <p>19 Bunkum</p> <p>20 Meter preceder</p> <p>22 Thrown for ___</p> <p>23 Traffic jam?</p> <p>26 ___ Rossi: Gallo brand</p> <p>27 View from Anchorage</p> <p>28 What may be intended by inadvertent wordplay?</p> <p>29 Theater giant?</p> <p>30 Verdi’s “Un ___ in maschera”</p> <p>33 Serve leftover rolls?</p> <p>37 “news?”</p> <p>38 “It’s Only a Paper Moon” composer</p> <p>39 Watch</p> <p>40 Bay Area county</p> <p>42 Dispute over young flowers?</p> <p>47 Below average</p> <p>51 Rescue squad initials</p> <p>52 “What should ___?; dieter’s quandary</p> <p>53 Totally lost</p> <p>54 Boating implements</p> <p>55 Goose cooked in its own fat, say</p> <p>57 Takes another tack</p> <p>58 Night in Nantes</p> <p>59 Last pat?</p> <p>62 Low areas</p> <p>63 Hawaiian non-natives</p> <p>64 “___ any drop to drink?” Coleridge Grammarians’ concerns</p> <p>67 Strong sharks</p> <p>68 Coin-making tool?</p> <p>72 Words before “of rules”</p> <p>73 Beaded counters</p> <p>75 Sealy alternatives</p> <p>76 Ma playing music</p> <p>77 Bell sounds</p> <p>78 Traveler’s option</p> <p>79 Filing tool</p> <p>82 Some travelers put them on in winter</p> <p>84 Mediocre deli item?</p> <p>87 “___ Gold”: Fonda film</p> | <p>88 Green Giant orb</p> <p>90 Letter-shaped 95-Down opening</p> <p>91 Birdie plus one</p> <p>93 Mallard’s beard?</p> <p>99 Agreements</p> <p>100 Some dadaist art</p> <p>102 Fear-inducing</p> <p>103 Not acceptable</p> <p>105 Made level, with “up”</p> <p>107 Pair of vehicles in a plot?</p> <p>112 Vanzetti’s partner</p> <p>113 Price-slashing event</p> <p>114 Eight-related island near Corsica</p> <p>116 Westernmost Canadian territory</p> <p>117 Confident ending?</p> <p>118 Italian’s “That’ll do!”</p> <p>119 Similar</p> <p>DOWN</p> <p>1 Darken</p> | <p>2 School URL ending</p> <p>3 Garden area</p> <p>4 Like polo ponies</p> <p>5 Davidson</p> <p>College’s NCAA conference, for most sports</p> <p>6 Like a crowd in full voice</p> <p>7 Go through hastily, as drawers</p> <p>8 Vision-related</p> <p>9 Bk. after Ezra</p> <p>10 Prisoner’s reward</p> <p>11 Take off to get hitched</p> <p>12 Outfielder Rusty who played for four different expansion teams</p> <p>13 Place to swim, in Paris</p> <p>14 Jai ___</p> <p>15 Viking descendant on a rampage?</p> <p>16 Heights: disputed</p> <p>Mideast region</p> <p>17 Powerful adhesive</p> | <p>21 SSA-issued info</p> <p>24 Actress Téa</p> <p>25 Suffix with consist</p> <p>30 5-Across broke his record, with “The”</p> <p>31 Lily family member</p> <p>32 Honorary law degs.</p> <p>34 “You bet ___ boots!”</p> <p>35 Grandmas</p> <p>36 Welcome sign for concert promoters</p> <p>41 Early metalworking period</p> <p>43 Sorrowful mother of legend</p> <p>44 Group of related species</p> <p>45 Float on the breeze</p> <p>46 WWII firearm</p> <p>48 Broken in</p> <p>49 Sign of spring</p> <p>50 WWII carriers</p> <p>53 Some printer labels</p> | <p>55 Cartoon components</p> <p>56 Game with yellow balls</p> <p>59 “Don’t forget the rubber disk?”</p> <p>60 Nocturnal hunter with a distinctive call</p> <p>61 Mets sports commentator</p> <p>Darling</p> <p>62 Morse code tones</p> <p>63 Is attired in</p> <p>65 Preposition often shortened to one syllable</p> <p>66 Skull covering</p> <p>67 Giant of a Giant</p> <p>68 Window ___</p> <p>69 Drs.’ orders</p> <p>70 Biodiverse South American country</p> <p>71 River to the Caspian</p> <p>73 “Later, Louis!”</p> <p>74 Sour red soups, briefly</p> <p>80 Everyone, in Essen</p> <p>81 Fliers with stingers</p> | <p>83 “Ideas worth spreading” acronym</p> <p>84 Father figure</p> <p>85 “Nice Work Can Get It”: 2012 Broadway musical</p> <p>86 Handler with a self-named Netflix talk show</p> <p>88 Package</p> <p>89 Irish New Ager</p> <p>91 Cline of country</p> <p>92 Pianist Claudio</p> <p>94 Japanese piano maker</p> <p>95 Instrument with two 90-Acrosses</p> <p>96 Joshua tree’s</p> <p>44-Down</p> <p>97 Half hitch and bowline</p> <p>98 Showiness</p> <p>101 Vno ___: dry wine</p> <p>104 Southwestern pot</p> <p>106 Author DeLillo</p> <p>108 Hijack, e.g.</p> <p>109 Sort</p> <p>110 Wrap for Cio-Cio-San</p> <p>111 Indian flatbread</p> |
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11/12/17 xwordeditor@aol.com ©2017 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Answers to last week’s puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Nov. 12: This year you enter the first and luckiest year of a 12-year life cycle. You are likely to enjoy yourself more than you have in the past. You could meet someone of great importance to your life as a result. If you are single, do not worry about your status. Your age will determine the type of bond you create. If you are attached, the two of you agree to acquiesce to each other at times. Learning to be more specific could make all the difference. Taurus knows how to have fun.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
Be willing to dote on a loved one who remains quite close to you. Know that your intuition could be slightly off. You can look at a situation only from your own experiences, which is likely to affect your sixth sense.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Your creativity and willingness to express your feelings become evident. You will become more in tune with others because of a newfound openness. Let go of a belief that you have held since you were a child, and you will see life differently.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
Keep reaching out to someone close to you, perhaps a relative whom you have not seen very often. Make plans to visit this person over an early dinner or a late brunch. Enjoy this interaction to the max.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
A conversation should not be postponed any longer. You will find that having this talk frees you up to enjoy more time with a partner. Don’t allow your imagination to get out of control. Be more forthright about your feelings.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
You generally take the high road and avoid harsh emotions. However, at the moment you could have an attack of the green-eyed monster. Know that your feelings might be based on a misunderstanding. Find the person in question and clear the air.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
You could feel insecure or confused by everything you hear today. Know that your feelings might be based on a miscommunication that needs to be cleared up.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Reticence might not be your

normal style, but it will work for you today, at least as a defense. Try making yourself a little uncomfortable by remaining more open. You might not be aware that a friend or loved one is receiving mixed messages.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Don’t allow anyone to drag you down by implying that your values could be stronger. You might need to have a discussion here. Remain polite, but spend more time with someone who feels positive about your goals.

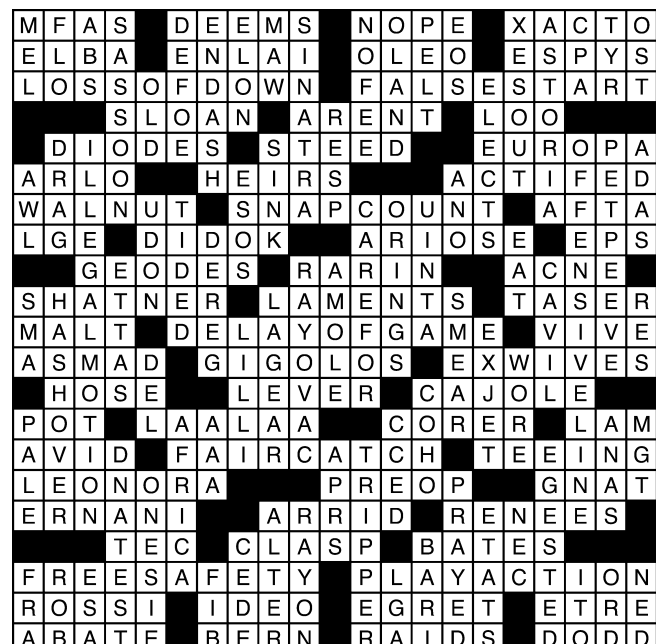
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Your upbeat attitude and willingness to share some personal feelings open many doors. A new friend seems to appreciate how you express yourself. Still, you might not be willing to reveal more of your deeper thoughts and ideas.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Your words hold weight. In fact, how you share an important concept defines how the idea will be received. Deal with questions more openly, but know that there might be a sense of confusion in the other party’s mind.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
You won’t hesitate to express yourself in a powerful way. Others stop to listen to what you have to say, and they will try to learn from you. Do not underestimate the power of your words.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
You often wander into the fantasy world of your imagination. Your dreams express a fertile creativity and a deep resilience. Learn to take notes and be more sensitive to what is being offered.

Answers to last week’s puzzle.



11/5/17