

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL



GRID BY EVAN BIRNHOLZ/DEVILCROSS.COM

Double-yore fun: 2017 redo, Part 2

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1258**, the second half of our Kook's Tour of last year's contests, the Empress invited you to enter (or reenter) Weeks 1230 through 1254, which ran June through November; some entries focus on more recent events.

4th place

Week 1251, things to be thankful for:

I'm thankful for my favorite things to eat, puppies, and Oxford commas. (Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)

3rd place

Week 1242, then/now jokes:

Then: Nazis marching in the streets. *Now:* . . . Well, technically, they're neo-Nazis. (Thor Rudebeck, Chicago)

2nd place and the nose-basketball game:

Week 1235, song parodies about science:

To the tune of "Under the Sea" from "The Little Mermaid":

New houses built on the ocean Are truly a sad mistake. You dream about water views, bud?

Best find yourself some nice lake. Antarctica's calving icebergs; Warm water fills up more space. The coastline you see today will Soon be in a different place.

Under the sea, under the sea, Thermal expansion won't let your mansion stay water-free.

We've got no precious little tyke To keep his finger in the dike. Miami Beachers may become creatures Under the sea.

(Perry Beider, Silver Spring)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

Week 1254, change a company name by one letter:

Philip Mortis: The tobacco company adopts a name that better reflects its business. (William Kennard, Arlington)

So last year: Honorable mentions

Week 1230, creation dialogues:

The chicken: "And at the exact instant, I shall create its egg, thereby vexing humans for eternity!" (Bill Dorner, Indianapolis)

Week 1239, combine two or more movie titles:

"Doctor Zhivago, This Is Spinal Tap": A poorly trained Russian immigrant physician must rely on his nurse's expertise to avert medical disaster. (Hildy Zampella, Falls Church)

Week 1240, limericks with a gh- or gi- word:

Said the daughter, "Let's not have a tiff. Use a hard 'g' like 'giving' or 'glyph.' For this kind of a file, There is only one style —"

No, said Mom: "Choosy mothers choose '.gif.'" (Mark Raffman, Reston)

Week 1242, then/now jokes:

Then: Coal jobs, *Now:* LOL! Jobs?! (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Then: Going to a dictionary to find out what "online" means. *Now:* Going online to find out what "dictionary" means. (Neal Starkman, Seattle)

Then: The Reagan years — More Ron! More Ron! *Now:* The Trump years — (homophone redacted) (Bruce Carlson, Alexandria)

Then: You look forward to your senior prom. *Now:* You look forward to your senior discount. (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

Week 1245, stupid complaints to the editor:

On the front page, you wrote "Tomorrow shower." Please be advised that I shower every day and don't need personal hygiene tips from you! (Mark Raffman)

Week 1246, pair a sentence from a Post article with a question it might answer:

A: "We're dealing with it." Q: "President Trump, what are you and your team doing with that not-

New contest for Week 1262: Clue us in — a backward crossword

ANTIQUÉ: Phone more than two years old **FAQ:** Useful tips at CurseToAvoidFilters.com **ITSPAT:** What the camel did when asked to pass through the eye of a needle

Once again, we present a filled-in crossword grid and ask you to supply clues for one or more of the answers. But it looks to be more of a challenge than usual: This time, Washington Post Sunday Puzzle Guy Evan Birnholz has supplied the Empress with a crossword from his own archives, at DevilCross.com, that's, well, devilish: For one thing, it has a lot of people's names. For another, some of Evan's own wordplay is inky in itself: For instance, his clue for ERASES is "Draws a blank?" But let's give it a go: **This week: Supply one or more creative clues for the filled-in crossword grid above — as many as 25 clues in all.**

Please write each entry on its own line, as "WORDFROMTHEGRID (without spaces even if you interpret it as multiple words): [your clue]," as in the examples at the top of the column. This will let the Empress sort the entries without producing her famous Howls of Utter Judging Despair. You can see Evan's clues at wapo.st/invite-grid-1262 or in list form in this week's Style Conversational column at wapo.st/conv1262.

Submit your entries at the website wapo.st/enter-invite-1262 (all lowercase).

Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives *such* a Loserly prize: It's a how-to video for doing something that hardly anyone does anymore — in a medium that's also almost entirely obsolete. And so deepest thanks to Daphne Steinberg for donating a mint-condition copy of "Dance the Macarena" — on VHS tape.

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," or more likely their successors, now being created. First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). **Deadline is Monday night, Jan. 22;** results published Feb. 11 (online Feb. 8). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline for this week's results is by Beverley Sharp; Tom Witte 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 discusses each new contest and set of results. Especially if you plan to enter, check it out at wapo.st/styleconv.

full deck? (Beverley Sharp)

A: "They got me a stool."

Q: Secretary Mnuchin, what birthday gift did "the American people" leave on your doorstep? (Ellen Ryan, Rockville)

Week 1247, dialogue from a reinterpreted movie title:

"Twelve Angry Men": "And with that penalty for too many players on the field, the Redskins are once again forced to punt . . ." (Roy Ashley, Washington)

Week 1248, (Un)True Confessions:

You know that person at the coffee shop who orders a small (but in a large cup please so it can cool) peppermint half-cappuccino, half-latte with two espresso shots, almond milk, and coffee grinds only from countries that operate sustainable agriculture cooperatives? Well, that's me. (Sean Bender-Prouty, Arlington)

I like to fill an unused poop bag with Tootsie Rolls and eat them at the dog park. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

Week 1250, poems featuring words used in a certain year for the first time:

1989: I'm a HELICOPTER PARENT. When my kid goes to the potty I am there to supervise him As I CAFFEINATE with LATTE, And all day I send him emails (With his dad a :BCC)

Just to tell him he's my baby Though he just turned 23. (Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.)

Week 1252, new medications:

Yomamamine: Treats extreme ugliness, obesity, stupidity and easiness. (Jesse Frankovich)

Effineffin: Provides temporary relief of bad language among teens hanging out, meeting Grandma, etc. Proven as effective as adult-strength Bleepitol. (Frank Osen)

Week 1253, fictions about clothing and fashion:

The now-infamous clothier Frederic Jacque stole the design of the athletic supporter from German clothier Otto Schlongrabbe, to the relief of athletes worldwide. (Stephen Litterst, Newark, Del.)

What Al Gore actually invented was the hairnet. (Jesse Frankovich)

A Chicago haberdasher named his new fur hand-covers "Mittens" in honor of his beloved, very recently deceased cat. (Christy Tosatto, Brookeville, Md.)

Week 1254, change a company name by one letter (or switch two letters):

Breitbart News: Scooping the most purient political dirt. (David Patch, Toledo)

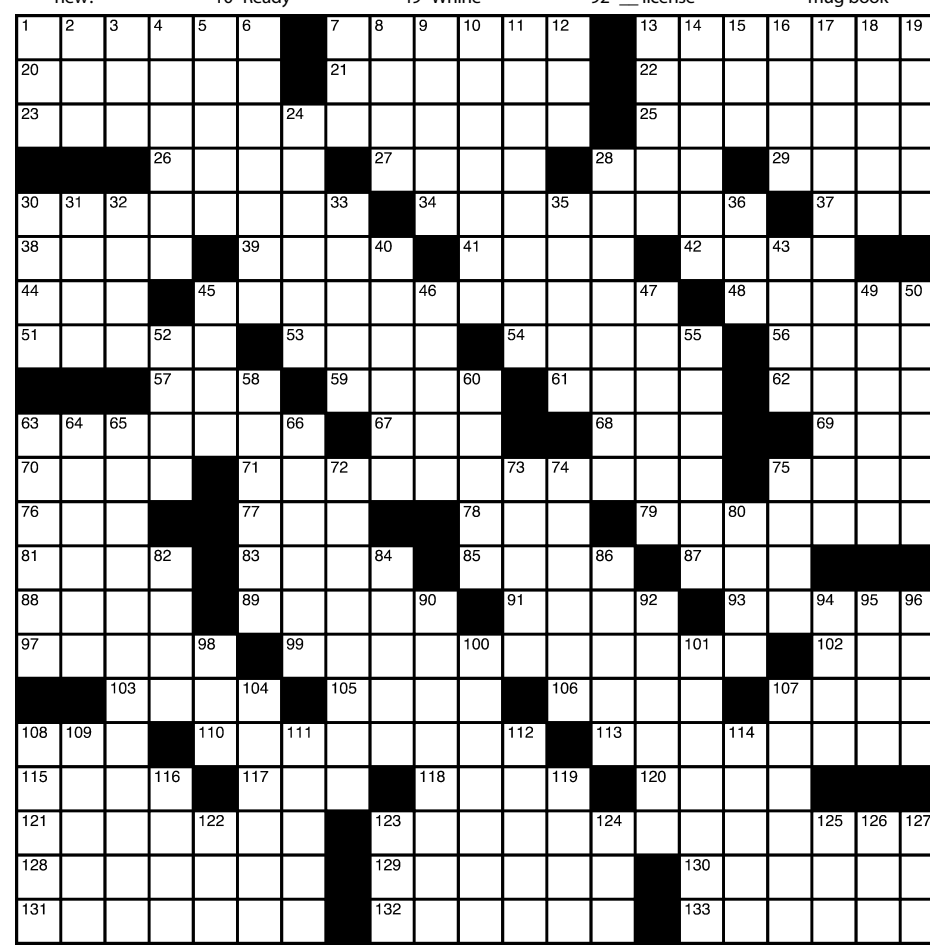
More honorable mentions, including song parodies and cartoon captions, in the online Invite at wapo.st/invite1262.

Still running — deadline Monday night, Jan. 15: our obit-poem contest. See wapo.st/invite1261.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

- "PLUSH MATERIAL" By MATT MCKINLEY
ACROSS
1 "I'm waiting..."
7 "Volunteers?"
13 Bobbing refuse
20 Word with man or dope
21 Like typical laundromats
22 Affluent San Diego community
23 Tolerate shrubland?
25 Crowd-drawing bars
26 Ancient queen, familiarly
27 Pot for paella
28 Sicilian six
29 Sports figure
30 Sewer needs
34 Hates
37 MLB set a season record for them in 2017
38 Times to call, in ads
39 Markers
41 Submerged threat
42 Office supply quantity
44 Term in wrestling or bowling
45 3 rings?
48 Doctor's orders
51 Receiver of many letters
53 Actress Kathryn
54 Pocket breads
56 BCS org.
57 Franklin's 1936 opponent
59 Spanish coin
61 Local pic shower
62 Distress signal?
63 One who's learned
67 Pres. after USG Langley org.
68 Online exchange, briefly
70 Troon
71 Texas team's fair exhibit?
75 Basie's "Clock Jump"
76 Director DuVernay
77 Actor Vigoda
78 Bard's dusk
79 Lumber mill workers
81 BOLD target
83 It can be hammered out
85 Runway adornment
87 "... me ae spark o' Nature's fire": Burns
88 London's Modern
89 Some Deco works
91 Sea, with "the"
93 Maestro Georg
97 Different
99 Loyalty from a farm bird?
102 Overtake in a race, in a way
103 Grammy winner Jason
105 Schoolmarmish
106 One given to forward looks
107 Similar
108 East Lansing sch.
110 "How clever of you!"
113 Office supplies, or, minus a letter, a supplier of them
115 Nashville attraction
117 Spanish 116-Down
118 Howard's wife, to the Fonz
120 Letters before a view
121 Half of nothing new?
123 Successful religious conversion?
128 Peru neighbor
129 "The Wind in the Willows" croaker
130 Shamed
131 Saw-toothed
132 Blouse partners
133 Already-seen fare
DOWN
1 "Shh!"
12 N.T. book
13 Paper under a wiper
14 Man-made Georgia lake
15 Screwdriver parts, for short
16 Best
17 Apparatus that breeds laziness?
18 Union setting
19 Spinnaker holders
24 Writer de Balzac
28 Tortilla treat
30 Livens (up)
31 Nike competitor
32 N.C. neighbor
33 Bolivian capital
35 Red Square honorée
36 roles
40 Literally, "under city"
43 Ponte Vecchio's river
45 See the bet
46 Croatian break
47 They're hard to break
49 Whine
50 Decision makers have them
52 New Mexico art hub
55 Witch enemy of Popeye
58 False front
60 "Without a doubt"
63 Acknowledge the brass
64 Admonition
65 Sound from a dying fire?
66 Stack seen on-screen
72 Approached
73 Small and glittering, like eyes
74 Beginnings
75 Court cry
79 Something made on a star?
82 Jury member
84 Country singer
86 Glass-raised word
90 Accident investigation clue
92 License
94 Sommer of "The Prize"
95 Animal house
96 Hosp. personnel
98 Headed up
100 Academic retirees
101 Ore carrier
104 Gung-ho type
107 10-time Gold Glove winner Roberto
108 Early receiver of tablets
109 bar
111 Netman Agassi
112 Fur tycoon
114 Suffix with xenogloss
116 English 117-Across
119 Series of 69-Across
122 "Ghost" psychic Mae Brown
123 Radio settings
124 Reasons for some sportscast split screens
125 Big Ten sch.
126 Novelist Deighton
127 Picks out of a mug book



Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Jan. 14: This year you become very serious-minded and accepting of new responsibilities. Remember, this attitude is only a phase. Life at times could feel heavy, but again, know that this period will end, given some time. If you are single, you could meet someone who you feel is right for you. If you are attached, the two of you might make some adjustments and could take on a major project. Make sure that you dot your i's and cross your t's. A fellow Capricorn is full of advice.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) What was acceptable yesterday might not be okay today. This feeling might be the direct result of your awareness of your responsibilities. Try not to blow a matter out of proportion, as it is likely that you could be frustrated or angry.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Keep reaching out to a loved one at a distance. Your ability to turn a personal matter around emerges. You might not always like sudden change, yet you don't fight it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You mix a sense of being carefree with an element of thoughtfulness. You might need this combo to deal with a loved one and their reservations about a matter that involves both of you. Decide to be more fiscally responsible.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You would like to defer a problem to someone else, and you are likely to do just that. This person loves to have control and enjoys calling the shots. Why not let others do what they enjoy, so that you can create some downtime for yourself?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Reach out to someone who often has strong opinions. You might like this person's suggestions when they explain an evolving situation. Look at this interaction as an opportunity to understand where others are coming from.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You might not be ready for a friend's sense of mischief. You can't help but react. Just throw yourself into the moment, and you will wind up smiling. You will soon understand why this person relishes the simple happenings in life.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Stay close to home. You need to be more present, and you could be feeling exhausted. Veg and watch your favorite TV show. Make time for a youngster who would appreciate your attention.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Deal with a financial matter early on, even if it's as simple as buying a lottery ticket. Once you join a friend, you will barely have any time to think, as you are likely to experience an action-packed few hours.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Be willing to admit when you are wrong about an issue. Others also have strong opinions. Reaching an agreement takes time, mutual respect and understanding. You could casually negotiate this issue and come to a meeting point.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You might not be sure what the best thing to do is. When encountering an unexpected jolt that affects your personal life, you might wonder if the actions you took were the right ones. Accept responsibility for what comes down the path.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Reach out to someone you care a lot about. You might feel the need to withdraw and distance yourself. Do, by all means, as you will need all of your energy in the near future.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You see what others can't even imagine. Part of the reason this is possible is that you are not involved. You'll look at all the actions, reactions and subsequent actions from an observer's perspective. Make fewer judgments.

Answers to last week's puzzle.

