

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

To put it mildly: Top euphemisms

BY PAT MYERS

For **Week 1259**, after hearing that staffers at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention had been advised not to use seven certain terms in budget documents, the Empress ran a contest for euphemisms, terms that make unpleasant concepts seem less so. Of course, most of the civilized world doesn't need to disguise "science-based" or "diversity."

4th place

**Imprisoned:** Scouting locations for the next Harvey Weinstein movie. (Ben Aronin, Washington)

3rd place

**Starving:** In the faminy way. (Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)

2nd place and the Mustard Marvin gadget plus gross-flavored jelly beans:

**Serial groper:** Outreach engineer. (Ivars Kuskevics, Takoma Park)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

**Excrement: Gross domestic product.** (Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

Differently funny: Honorable mentions

**Recession:** Fun-size economy. (Bill FitzPatrick, Rochester, N.Y., a First Offender)

**Shameless:** Morally liberated. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

**Climate change:** Thermal advancement. (Mark Raffman, Reston)

**Pimples:** Beacons of youth. (Jeff Shirley, Richmond)

**Sluggish:** Brisk-averse. "Our waiter at Slackers was chatty but extremely brisk-averse." (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

**Treason:** Situational patriotism. (Drew Bennett, West Plains, Mo.)

**Alzheimer's disease:** Cognitive decluttering. (Melissa Balmain)

**Bad in bed:** Horizontally challenged. (Frank Osen)

**Projectile vomiting:** The fountain of you. (Jeff Shirley)

**Slaughterhouse:** Animal destiny accelerated fulfillment center. (Jesse Frankovich)

**Binge drinking:** Imbibitional capacity determination. (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

**Body fat:** Core insulation. (Mark Raffman)

**Sociopathic:** Indifferently abled. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

**Cancer:** Personal growth. (Mark Raffman)

**Collusion:** Special opportunity for international cooperation. (Jesse Frankovich)

**Corruption:** Market-based governance. (Ben Aronin)

**Rotten meat:** E. coli sanctuary. (Melissa Balmain)

**Dating someone underage:** Mentoring. (Steve Honley, Washington)

**Death:** Medical bill abatement process. (G. Smith, Vienna, Va.)

**Electric chair:** Power seating. (David Kleinbard, Mamaroneck, N.Y.)

**Halloween vandalism:** Free-range eggs. (Bill FitzPatrick)

**Hideously ugly:** Fashion-forward. (Frank Osen)

**Helicopter parent:** Intergenerational life coach. (Harold Mantle, Walnut Creek, Calif.)

**Metro delay:** Station aesthetics admiration session. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

**Murder:** Surprise assisted death. (Davey FitzPatrick, Rochester, N.Y.)

**Rudeness:** Unvarnished courtesy. (Kevin Dopart)

**Solitary confinement:** Quiet time. (Davey FitzPatrick)

**Swastika:** Foldable "X." (Kevin Dopart)

**War:** Future History Channel programming. (Melissa Balmain)

**Wino:** Metabolism-challenged fermented-carbohydrate consumer. (Kevin Dopart)

**We also invited the opposite — dysphemisms, terms that cast concepts in a worse light:**



MAGNETS DESIGNED BY BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Above and below are our new Loser Magnets for honorable mentions, designed as always by Bob Staake. They may be the size of a business card, but the Empress orders only 500 of each — and so they're really limited-edition Staake mini-prints. And they're not for sale, of course: You gotta play to lose. The slogans were inking entries in our 2015 contest for magnet ideas; "We've Seen Better" is by Brendan Beary, "IDiot Card" by Beverley Sharp.

New contest for Week 1263: Playing the short game

If Canada (CAN) played the Netherlands (NED), the cheering from the stands would sound oddly inauthentic. (Duncan Stevens)

If Honduras (HON) played Estonia (EST) in soccer, there would be no cheating and diving, for once. (Chris Doyle)

If Germany (GER) played the University of North Dakota (UND), there would be running, jumping, yelling, cheering . . . (Duncan Stevens)

This week's contest developed from a recent brainstorm in the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook, where the power of 1,500 brainy brains is frittered away day after day. (Join up and the Devotees will anagram your name in more ways than you thought possible.) The Olympics are coming up, and although it's a Winter Games year, that won't stop the Empress from wildly broadening our own game: **This week: Using the three-letter Olympic national abbreviations and/or the abbreviation for any college, tell what would happen if one abbreviated team played another**, as in the examples above from the Facebook back-and-forth. Naturally, it doesn't matter if the country or school doesn't really field a team in whatever sport you might cite. Find the Olympic abbreviations (on Wikipedia) at [wapo.st/olympic-codes](http://wapo.st/olympic-codes); for colleges (via Reddit), see [wapo.st/college-abbrev](http://wapo.st/college-abbrev).

Submit up to 25 entries at the website [wapo.st/enter-invite-1263](http://wapo.st/enter-invite-1263) (all lowercase).

Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives, apropos of this week's globally conscious contest, **The Official Style Invitational Yodeling Pen**, a.k.a. Jodelkulli, brought back from Munich by Loser Since Week 22 Elden Carnahan. Listen to it — and you really must — at [wapo.st/yodel-pen](http://wapo.st/yodel-pen).

**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 new lusted-after Loser magnets, "We've Seen Better" or "IDiot Card." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). **Deadline is Monday night, Jan. 29;** results published Feb. 18 (online Feb. 15). See general contest rules and guidelines at [wapo.st/InvRules](http://wapo.st/InvRules). The headline for this week's results is by Jesse Frankovich; Jesse also wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](http://on.fb.me/invdev). "Like" Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at [bit.ly/inkofday](http://bit.ly/inkofday); follow @StyleInk 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](http://wapo.st/styleconv).



HONORABLE MENTION The Style Invitational 2018 The Washington Post

**Critical reasoning skills:** Satan's mind games. (Jeff Shirley)

**Evidence-based:** Disloyal. (Warren Tanabe, Annapolis)

**Nuclear button:** Micropenis. (Daniel Helming, Maplewood, N.J.; Randy Lee, Burke, Va.)

**Subjective:** Whatever. (John O'Byrne, Dublin)

**Fry cook:** Arteriosclerosis engineer. (Jesse Frankovich)

**Optimized:** Slowed. — Tim Cook, Cupertino, Calif. (Jeff Contompasis)

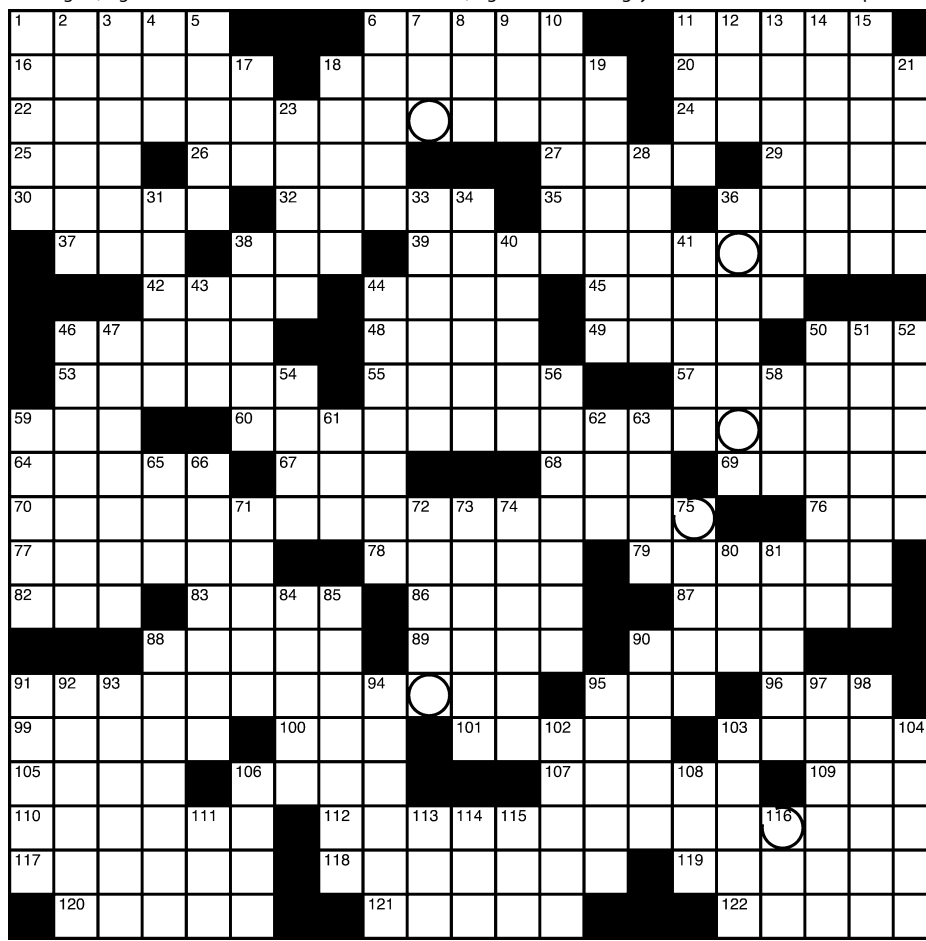
**Family-friendly:** ZZZZ. (Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg, Va.)

**Still running — deadline Monday night, Jan. 22: our backward-crossword contest. See [wapo.st/invite1262](http://wapo.st/invite1262).**

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

- \*BIT PARTS\* By PAUL COULTER
- ACROSS
- 1 Many a reggae musician
- 6 Flavor
- 11 Involved stories
- 16 Montezuma's people
- 18 Books smaller than quartos
- 20 Arenas, say
- 22 Film about a convict's lame claims of innocence?
- 24 Play the market
- 25 European skyline sight
- 26 \_\_\_ Marbles: historic sculptures
- 27 Longtime film critic for The New Yorker
- 29 "¿Cómo \_\_\_ usted?"
- 30 Pays attention to
- 32 Chow line?
- 35 P&L report column
- 36 High hat
- 37 "\_\_\_ was saying \_\_\_"
- 38 Go public with
- 39 Film about St. Peter's favorite striped stone?
- 42 Wildebeests
- 44 Barrel-bottom stuff
- 45 Cookie baking session output
- 46 Put to the test
- 48 K-12
- 49 River to the North Sea
- 50 Stage hog
- 53 Lady of León
- 55 Duck
- 57 Inherent character
- 59 Back muscle, familiarly
- 60 Film about the last of the old-time schoolteachers?
- 64 First husband of Bathsheba
- 67 Bar stock
- 68 Aurora's Greek counterpart
- 69 Leftover
- 70 Film about dealing with a class of five-year-olds?
- 76 Arles article
- 77 Form of aphasia involving the inability to name objects
- 78 Loi maker
- 79 Hot spots
- 82 "Do the Right Thing" pizzeria owner
- 83 Disco family name
- 86 Cherbourg cherub
- 87 It usually involves a getaway car
- 88 Plump Capp critter
- 89 "Beowulf" beverage
- 90 "Well done!"
- 91 Film about yet another complaint?
- 95 \_\_\_ Colinas: upscale neighborhood in Irving, Texas
- 96 Diminish
- 99 Rival of Paris
- 100 Marshal at Waterloo
- 101 Cause harm
- 103 Studied, with "over"
- 105 "Sounds like fun to me!"
- 106 Utah lily
- 107 Metaphor for opportunities
- 109 Pie in the sky?
- 110 Jaguar, e.g.
- 112 Film about a devastating blizzard?
- 117 À la King
- 118 Calmed down
- 119 Stylish filmmaker
- 120 Chill
- 121 Runoff collector
- 122 Commuter's read
- DOWN
- 1 Indian prince
- 2 Georgia's state wildflower
- 3 Mushroom stems
- 4 Bus. card info
- 5 Years
- 6 Extended operatic solo
- 7 PDX tower group
- 8 Most golfers never break it
- 9 Ab \_\_\_: from the start
- 41 Gregg user
- 43 "The Matrix" hero
- 44 Some wolves
- 46 Catherine the Great, e.g.
- 12 Stock holder
- 13 Protest bitterly (against)
- 14 Hill with one steep side
- 15 Sonnet section
- 17 One before la
- 18 Basket material
- 19 Achieve with minimal effort
- 21 Impolite look
- 23 Hybrid fruits
- 28 Author Ferber et al.
- 31 Make a stand
- 33 Put on hold
- 34 Variety show set in Kornfield Kounty
- 36 Fabric beltmaker's technique
- 38 Lindley of "Three's Company"
- 40 Line to the audience
- 41 Gregg user
- 43 "The Matrix" hero
- 44 Some wolves
- 46 Catherine the Great, e.g.
- 47 Vitamin A form
- 50 Moves speedily
- 51 One often shared in flight
- 52 Flat-topped lands
- 54 "I don't give \_\_\_"
- 56 In
- 58 Duty
- 59 "Witness" actor
- 61 Obamacare, briefly
- 62 John, to Ringo
- 63 Recipe amts.
- 65 Gen's counterpart
- 66 Fictional miners' work song
- 71 "Spider-Man" director
- 72 Latin lover's line
- 73 The Supreme Court, for one
- 74 Where Tara Lipinski won her Olympics gold medal at age 15
- 75 Community character
- 80 War on Poverty agcy.
- 81 Hulu offering
- 84 Carried
- 85 Spanish convenience stores
- 88 Lettering guide
- 90 Lively country dance
- 91 Extended family
- 92 More cozy
- 93 Political fugitive
- 94 Mr. Magoo et al.
- 95 Bridges in movies
- 97 Sultante on the South China Sea
- 98 Make dirty
- 102 One in an airport taxi line, for the most part
- 103 False: Pref.
- 104 Bridal estate
- 106 "Come Sail Away" band
- 108 ANC country
- 111 Mobile home: Abbr.
- 113 "\_\_\_ to Billie Joe"
- 114 Cry near the ears
- 115 Broke bread
- 116 B&O stop



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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Jan. 21:** This year, you might be prone to overindulge. Many of you will get a raise or a promotion, which will encourage spending. Use caution, as there could be deception somewhere along the line. If you are single, you have a vague yet seductive quality that draws several potential suitors toward you. If you are attached, the two of you need to be scrupulous when dealing with your finances. Pisces might appear to know a lot about handling money but probably doesn't.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) You might need to make an adjustment in some way, be it to plans or to your mental outlook. As a result, a loved one will be more willing to go along with your wishes. You are likely to experience some good luck by being mindful of others' needs.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) Your vision of what is possible could radically change, given some time and detachment. The greater the perspective you gain, the happier you will be. A new answer or solution will appear. Because of others' reactions, you'll feel appreciated.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) Sometimes getting past a problem can be challenging. A loved one seems to have a very different perspective from yours. See if it is possible for you to accept this person's position.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) You might be incapable of nixing bad ideas and saying no to others right now. Be careful how you verbalize your feelings. You want your points to be heard, but you also don't want to badger anyone into listening to you.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) Consider using today as a day of rest and avoid trying to accomplish a lot. You might want to go out and participate in a game you love, but your best bet right now is to recharge your batteries.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You could be more sarcastic than you realize. You will be able to judge if you are by looking at others' reactions. Your position on a certain topic might not be as strong as you think it is. Let it go for now and be more sensitive to a loved one.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You might be concerned about whether you are going to have to handle even more responsibility. A financial proposition could be excellent, but make sure you can deal with the ramifications if things don't work out.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You might need to handle a situation more forcefully than you have in the past. Your sixth sense kicks in, no matter what you do or which direction you decide to head in. You'll have to deal with a friend's high energy.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You will be eyeing a new direction or a different approach. You might not want to agree with a roommate or loved one, but you know that this person has a lot of logic and good sense behind their words.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You have a unique style that draws people toward you. Your sincerity and clarity count. Also, your more-conservative views could make it easier for many people to swallow. Be careful with a pushy friend who feels as if he or she is always right.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You could be having a problem with your finances. Money seems to disappear before you can get organized enough to pay bills or use the funds efficiently. Open up to a new way of thinking, but be careful about taking any risks.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) Your emotional resonance takes you down a new path. Respond to a friend or loved one who calls or reaches out to you from a distance. Opportunities and good feelings seem to stem from this person.

Answers to last week's puzzle.

