

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Clue cards: Report from Week 1262

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1262** we asked you to supply creative clues for any of the words in a grid by Washington Post Sunday crossword constructor Evan Birnholz; here are the best among them. Some would be at home in a "cryptic crossword," requiring you to think flexibly; for example, **ABE** as "**1 PM in Tokyo**" refers to **Prime Minister Shinzo Abe**. If a clue stumps you: The Empress Explains Everything in this week's Style Conversational at wapo.st/conv1266.

4th place

JOSEREYES: The ICE agent told him, "You must be Joe King" (Mark Raffman, Reston)

3rd place

FETED: Only its homophone describes the Redskins (Jeff Hazle, San Antonio)

2nd place and the "Dance the Macarena" VHS tape:

ITALIANO: "Veni veni veni!" (Jeff Shirley, Richmond)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

BAD: Only half what Leroy Brown is (Drew Bennett, West Plains, Mo.)

Evan help us!: Honorable mentions

(Asterisks denote First Offenders.) **MAMASBOY:** Son of Yo-Yo Yo-Yo (Ken Gallant, Conway, Ark.)

ITALIANO: What the World Cup selection committee said right after "España, sí!" (Mark Raffman)

ABOUND: Unit of building-leap effort for Superman (Elliott Shevin, Oak Park, Mich.)

TIRAMISU: Italian for "love handles" (John Hutchins, Silver Spring)

TIRAMISU: Where Tiramisians go to college (Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)

REWARD: Name the Cleavers briefly considered for their younger son. (Jim Derby, Rockville)

REWARD: Another magnet for Dr. Kay (Ward Kay, Vienna, Va.)

ETC: Abbreviation for "I don't know the rest" (Neal Starkman, Seattle)

ETC: What a teen hears after the first word of another lecture from Mom (Dave Prevar, Annapolis)

LEI: Even in Hawaii, it's best not to ask a female co-worker for one of these (Mark Raffman)

DIETER: One who is hungry to succeed (Ben Aronin, Washington)

ASIDE: At Minibar, one caviar-stuffed olive served on a flower petal (Janelle Gibb, Rockville)

ASIDE: How much beef Your Mama ate last night (Mark Raffman)

TWEETY: An orange-crested nuthatch usually found near golf courses (Barry Koch, Catlett, Va.)

TWEETY: "Mr. Fudd, what was signed at Versailles in 1919?" (Mark Calandra, Sudbury, Mass.)

PIMA: Home-schooler's answer to a geometry question (Ward Kay)

CONES: How I knew Beldar, Prymaat and Connie were not from France (*Bert Klimas, Rice, Wash.)

CONES: "I get two scoops on mine. Two! All those losers just get one" (Sean Bender-Prouty, Arlington)

ANTIQUÉ: Beautiful furniture, ugly price (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf)

ANTIQUÉ + SOUNDS: "You're welcome," "My pleasure" (Harold Mantle, Walnut Creek, Calif.)

ASHEN: How Rooster gets on "RuPaul's Drag Race" (*Mark Oldenburg, Biglerville, Pa.)

ITSPAT: Genius Bar brawl (Steve Honley, Washington)

ITSPAT: "May I call you Thelma, Mrs. Nixon?" (Elliott Shevin)

ITSPAT: How to explain the glob of camel phlegm on your shirt (*Liv Johansson, Alexandria)

CHA: Cha's partner (Deb Stewart, Damascus, Md.)

CHA: May I half this dance? (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

MSG: What Sarah Grzibienewski's first-grade students call her (Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.)

TOWBAR: Metro's answer to continually breaking escalators (John Hutchins)

TOWBAR: Exam for traffic court lawyers (Ward Kay)



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1266: The Tile Invitational V

AUEALGB: AA-bulge: The result of choosing too small a bra size. (*Hugh Thirkway*)
AUEALGB: AA-bulge: The result of eating every time you feel the urge for a drink. (*David Adlerstein*)
AUEALGB: Galbeau: Transgender heartthrob. (*David Ballard*)
AUEALGB: Begaul: Try to impress with French expressions. "That pompous jerk kept begauling me with 'ma chérie.'" (*Chris Doyle*)

It's our fifth go-round with the neologism challenge based on the syndicated ScrabbleGrams game that runs every weekday in The Post: Below is a list of 40 seven-letter sets taken from the out-of-print "Big Book of ScrabbleGrams." Each of them contains at least one real seven-letter word, but that's not the point. Instead, **create a five-, six- or seven-letter word (or phrase) by scrambling the letters of any of the sets and define it**, as in the examples above from 2014 (that set isn't included this time). Feel free to make your entry funnier — and more inkyworthy than someone else's similar idea — by using your term in a funny sample sentence. (Note that we are not playing for Scrabble points; the letter values don't matter.) **The Empress implores you:** Begin every entry — as usual, up to 25 in all — with the letter set you're unscrambling, as above, and spell it correctly, so that it won't take hours for the E just to sort the entries.

- | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| AAALWYY | ADDIKTY | DEEFHLU | EFHLSTY |
| AACERWY | ADEEKWY | DEFGITY | EGHIINT |
| AADMRSU | ADEILRV | DEHLOOT | EIHLLNO |
| AILLNV | AEEEGNT | DEILRVY | EILSSTY |
| ABCLOOX | AEELTVW | DELMTUY | ELNOSSW |
| ABEFFOT | AEGINRV | DHILNOP | ELNSTOV |
| ABELNRY | AEIOQSU | DIILRTY | FIMNORS |
| ACCEPRY | AELTTUX | EENGLNZ | IINRTTY |
| ACEMNOR | AEPRTTU | EENPRTV | ILSSTTY |
| ACLSUY | CIOSUV | EFHINST | LLMPPUY |

Submit entries at the website wapo.st/enter-invite-1266 (all lowercase).

Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives the book "How to Poo on a Date: The Lovers' Guide to Toilet Etiquette," a handy paperback advising aspiring lovers what to do if you are "in a gondola," "having a webcam chat and just can't wait" or "at her place and you stink up the toilet." Donated by that romantic Loser Dave Prevar, who also threw in, for that perfect date, a little strand of rubbery fake snot that you let hang out your nose.
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, "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, Feb. 19;** results published March 11 (online March 8). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline for this week's results is by Kevin Dopart; Jesse Frankovich wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev.

THE STYLE CONVERSATIONAL

The Empress's weekly online column discusses the new contest and results. Especially if you plan to enter, check it out at wapo.st/styleconv.



GRID BY EVAN BIRNHOlz/DEVILCROSS.COM

EXITLINE: The Hotel California doesn't have one (Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg)

EXITLINE: Most exciting part of a five-act opera (Frank Mann, Washington)

ESTRANGE: Website that offers do-it-yourself divorces (Mark Raffman)

ESTRANGE: Dating site for fetishists (Dave Matuskey, Sacramento)

MITE: The littlest Romney (*Dinah Rokach, Silver Spring)

ATIT: Key part of John Mitchell's wringing endorsement of Katharine Graham (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

ALA: Deity in Reader's Digest Condensed Koran (Jeff Shirley)

ALA: Mobile home (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

ALA: Near Miss. (Chris Doyle)

ONSET: When the false-starting

sprinter left the blocks (Gordon Cobb, Marietta, Ga.)

BARR: Second item on a pirate's daily to-do list, after "A. Get up" (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

ABE: 1 PM in Tokyo (Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.)

ABE: What "To be or not to" is missing (Robert Schechter)

EDDIE: What Ed do when Ed fall out of plane with no chute (Ellen Ryan, Rockville)

STEPOUT: French patron saint of supermodels (Warren Tanabe, Annapolis)

TRAP: "Our waitress sure is pretty, isn't she?" (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station)

WASHASHORE: First the oil spill does it; then we have to (Lindsay McClelland, Fairfax)

JESUIT + REWARD: Frequent friar miles (Chris Doyle)

FAQ: "Are we there yet?" is one (Rob Huffman)

MIEN: Bobby McGee's facial expression (John McCooley, Rehoboth Beach, Del.)

ANT: Hill aide (Eileen Doll, Gwynn Oak, Md.)

More clues in the online *Invite* at wapo.st/invite1266.

Still running — deadline Feb. 19: our contests for song parodies about education. See wapo.st/invite1265.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

SUBSTITUTE MEASURES By ED SESSA	84 Longtime name in catalogs	115 Sign before Virgo	17 Land at Orly?	52 Tally-keeping cut	82 '90s daytime talk show
ACROSS	85 "The Exorcist" actor Max von ___	116 Lugged	18 Dracula	53 Wine label word	84 Brief quarrel
1 Hindu "sir"	86 Cub soda?	117 Treatment for some causes of backache	24 Key with three flats	54 City NW of Marseille	85 Unrivaled
5 Beaucoup	90 Former mid-sized Chevy	118 Puts to bed	28 Shells on Omaha Beach	55 Pelican St. acronym	87 Bring to life, in a way
11 Engineer's details	91 "A creed of ... all ripples": Sylvia Plath	DOWN	30 Good, in Guadalupe	58 Mayberry tippler	88 From the past
16 Shortening	92 Fruit pastry	1 More than just asks	33 Painting and dancing	59 Little one	89 Ones affected by bad weather, briefly
19 Abba not known for singing	93 Reddened, perhaps	2 Start of a magical chant	34 Preserves holder	61 Marvin Gaye classic subtitled "The Ecology"	90 First word in France's motto
20 From the top, to Tiberius	94 Polished, perhaps	3 Canaanite idol	35 Trojan War god	62 Gluten source	93 Opposite of pass
21 "Yes...": 2008 campaign slogan	99 Barbecue brand	4 Certain singles bar frequenter, in theory	36 Mrs. on a spice rack	63 Texas Hold 'em declaration	94 One might elicit a nervous "Nice dog"
22 Boomer's kid	100 Popular type	5 Spot charges	37 Germany's von Bismarck	64 Mustang sally?	95 "Taxi" dispatcher
23 Tasty treat for Polly?	101 Cleanup hitter's stats	6 Showed bias	38 Suckling's milk source	65 Home to 114-Across	96 La Paz paisano
25 Marinade used in Spanish cooking	102 Milk choice	7 How many boxed sets are recorded	41 How many are chosen?	67 "More than I can list" abbr.	97 Belittle
26 ___Magnon	107 Non's opposite	8 Blackjack table gratuity	42 Ground grain	68 Actress Hatcher	99 Single-minded about
27 Lizard-like amphibian	108 Popular type	9 Puts too much in the fishtank	43 Muscle-bone connection	74 Unwraps excitedly	103 Little snorts
28 Latin trio word	110 Bad snippets of Miss Muffet's memory?	10 On behalf of	44 Belgian treaty city	75 Political asset	104 Berkshire school
29 Breakers in semis	111 Topper for Rumpole of the Bailey	11 Hindu title	45 4-point F, for one	76 Home to 114-Across	105 Socially awkward one
31 Ceremonies	112 Thicket of trees	12 Organ part	46 Word with Ghost or Grail	78 One-eyed Norse deity	106 Sounds of disapproval
32 Work required to raise kids?	113 Persevered in	13 Coral reef, e.g.	48 First lady before Mamie	79 Ready to eat	109 Jack, Jill or Joey
35 Decked out	114 Traveler from 76-Down	15 Cool, colorful treat	16 Reign supreme	80 Lots (of), as cash	110 One of a pair on a rack

2/11/18 xwordeditor@aol.com ©2018 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY/Feb. 11: This year you will see that many of your views could change quickly. How you see a personal issue could be subject to a dramatic transformation as you open up to new concepts. You draw many people toward you from various walks of life. If you are single, your desirability is high. You probably will meet someone who isn't who they claim to be. If you are attached, you need to remember to put your significant other first, especially if you don't want to deal with jealousy. Sagittarius enjoys your company.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You might be weighing the pros and cons of using a certain method to handle your finances. Others will push heavily for you to choose their method. Be sure to choose the right path for you, regardless of who it upsets.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You have a unique style that encourages others to ask questions to try to find out more about you. You can be creative, but putting that gift into action is uncommon for you. What you have to say is of interest to many people.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You could be overly tired, as you are dragging more than usual. Tap into your energy, and explore the possibilities. A partner plays a role in a financial decision.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Try to weigh the pros and cons of a recent interaction you've had with someone you are close to. Laughter surrounds the two of you once you relax. Do not get stuck in a psychic conflict.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Be aware of the limitations that could restrict you from using all of your resources. You might need to partner with someone who is more creative and dynamic than you are. A conversation becomes nearly impossible to follow through on.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You could be too tired to continue with a creative project right now. Make a point of getting through a problem by brainstorming with others. You might be amazed by the opportunities that arise.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) An important conversation and possible change could mark a matter close to your heart. Your

security and well-being are your top priorities right now. Consider taking the day off or at least working from home.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Be willing to go along with a change and not fight the status quo. You will need to come forward and deal with a problem directly. Others sense your moodiness and might feel that they need to have a conversation with you. Reach out to a friend at a distance.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Make the choice that works best for you. Be aware of a possessive streak that could be emerging; you need to face it rather than suppress it. Open up to a family member or dear friend who wants more of your time.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You could be tired from the recent hectic pace, but somehow you'll manage to make yourself available and seemingly full of energy. Be more in touch with your feelings about a heavy responsibility.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Be aware of what needs to happen. You will want to have a lengthy discussion with several people in the know. You could be asked to keep a secret. Somehow, someone might spill the beans.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Zero in on your priorities. Do not allow someone else to steal the limelight. You could be pleased with the outcome if you are willing to share the stage. Know when to say that you have had enough.

Answers to last week's puzzle.

