

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Do wit yourself: 'Real' directions

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1279** we asked you to supply a list of "real" instructions to use a product or accomplish a task. The Loser Community seemed to find it especially daunting to fold bedsheets.

4th place

HOW TO DEFEAT AN EVIL WIZARD:

1. Ascertain that the only person who can defeat the wizard is a baby. Leave him on the doorstep of relatives who will resent and mistreat him. Don't, like, ring the doorbell or talk to them.

2. When the child grows up, do nothing special to train him. Assume that he will have a much more talented friend who will bail him out constantly. Give her no credit or recognition for this.

3. Have the child spend most of his time and energy playing a completely irrelevant and useless game.

4. Eventually arrange to train the child to fight the wizard. Assign the training to someone the child hates, and who hates him, to make it completely ineffective.

5. Eventually announce that you're telling the child everything. Actually leave out all the most important parts.

6. Die, in a prearranged fashion, without explaining the rest of the story to the child. Assume he'll get the information via some weird coincidences.

7. After the child eventually defeats the wizard, he'll forget all of this and name his firstborn after you. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

3rd place

HOW TO OPEN A CHILDPROOF MEDICINE BOTTLE:

1. Hold bottle firmly in one hand.

2. With other hand, squeeze sides of top.

3. Try to locate bottle, which has just shot across the room.

4. Repeat Steps 1 and 2.

5. Try to locate eyeglasses in order to read which direction squeezed lid should be turned.

6. Repeat Steps 1 and 2 — and 3.

7. Retrieve bottle from toilet and rinse.

9. Slam with hammer, just to show the bottle who's boss.

(Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

2nd place and the big foamy top hat:

HOW TO TALK ABOUT FIGHT CLUB:

(Randy Lee, Burke, Va.)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

HOW TO MEDITATE:

1. Close your eyes and relax.

2. You're not doing it right. (Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.)

Directile dysfunction: Honorable mentions

HOW TO INSERT A USB PLUG:

1. Attempt to insert plug.

2. Rotate connector 180 degrees.

3. Go to Step 1. (Gil Glass, Washington)

HOW TO RESET YOUR CAR'S CLOCK:

1. Look futilely for some buttons near the clock.

2. Consult the "quick start guide" in the glove compartment.

3. Scan the indexes of the multivolume "owner's manual."

4. Search through aforementioned manual for a picture of the clock.

5. Look at your phone. You wanted to check it anyway. (Larry Carnahan, Peabody, Mass.)

HOW TO APPLY PERFUME:

1. Open fashion magazine . . . (Janelle Gibb, Rockville)

HOW TO DEAL WITH A VOICEMAIL MENU:

1. Do not "listen carefully," since you won't know whatever options have changed anyway.

2. Press "00000," or for interactive voice response systems, swear like a longshoreman.

3. Say hello to a human operator. (Note: No. 2 generally works for real.) (Kevin Dopart, Washington)



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1283: Put it in Bee-verse

Cointise (pronounced kwan-TEEZ), a scarf or handkerchief given by a lady to a knight as a token of favor, to wear in battle or a tournament

Hey there, Lancelot: Get wiser — and have a dose of dese: Your lady's hankies in my visor — I'm inhaling her cointise.

— Gene Weingarten, Washington Post Po' Wit Laureate

All that brainpower, all that focus, all that effort: Once again, the competitors in the National Spelling Bee wowed us last week with their ability to spell endless lists of words that nobody uses. So let's do our part to make some of those words less obscure — to give the kids something to take away from the lists when they age out of the Bee. **This week: Write a humorous poem of eight lines or fewer that includes one of the words listed below, all from the 2018 Bee.**

The word must be used with its real meaning and pronunciation; you can't pretend that it's something else. You may use a slightly different form of the word, such as a plural, adding "-ing," etc. **See pronunciations and meanings** in the online Invite at wapo.st/invite1283; you can also find them all easily on the Internet.

- | | | |
|------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| amadelphous | diploe | succiniferous |
| ankyloglossia | draegerman | thymiaterion |
| beloid | echymosis | verrucous |
| besticulture | fourrier | vitraillist |
| bewusstseinslage | gelastic | volplane |
| bondieuserie | grognard | whys |
| carrosserie | lochetic | winklepickers |
| catachresis | mydriasis | See definitions |
| chaudfroid | myrmecophagous | and pronuncia- |
| cointise | perduellion | tions at wapo.st/ |
| conchylium | propylaeum | invite1283. |
| condottiere | squabash | pat.myers@ |
| debellation | | washpost.com |

Submit entries at the website wapo.st/enter-invite-1283 (all lowercase).

Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives something that, for once, has actual monetary value: It's a **translucent bar of green soap** into which is set what looks at first to be rolled-up play money but is actually a little plastic tube holding *actual cash* — anywhere, according to the box, from \$1 to \$50. So you can clean up by cleaning up. Donated by Loser Dave Prevar, who's going to live up to his title if it turns out there's more than a dollar bill in there.

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, June 18;** results published July 8 (online July 5). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline "Do Wit Yourself" is by Jesse Frankovich; both Jesse and Bill Dornier submitted the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the lively 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 discusses each new contest and set of results. Especially if you plan to enter, check it out at wapo.st/styleconv.



Talk about money laundering: There's real currency in this bar of soap, this week's 2nd prize.

HOW TO GET CRAFT BEER AT NATIONALS PARK:

1. Buy it at concession stand for \$16.

2. Savor it as the Nats make playoffs.

3. Cry in it as Nats are eliminated in heartbreaking loss.

4. Pour remainder of it over celebrating Cubs fan's head. (Bob Kruger, Rockville)

HOW TO USE A HOME GYM:

1. Get rid of clothes that don't fit, plus anything you never wear, like gym clothes.

2. Organize remaining items by type, color and season.

3. For a tidy look, align clothes by height as you hang them from the pullup bar. (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station, Va.)

HOW TO SAY "HELLO" TO A NATIVE AMERICAN:

1. Nope, not that way (Mark Raffman)

HOW TO MAKE A BABY:

1. Insert Tab P into Slot V.

2. Repeat as necessary. (J. Larry Schott, West Plains, Mo.)

HOW TO ANAGRAM ANY SERIES OF LETTERS:

EASY! TOOLS IN SOFTWARE ARRANGE THEM! (Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.) [Yes, that's an anagram for the line above.]

More honorable mentions in the online Invite at wapo.st/invite1283.

Still running — TWO contests, both deadlined Monday night, June 11:

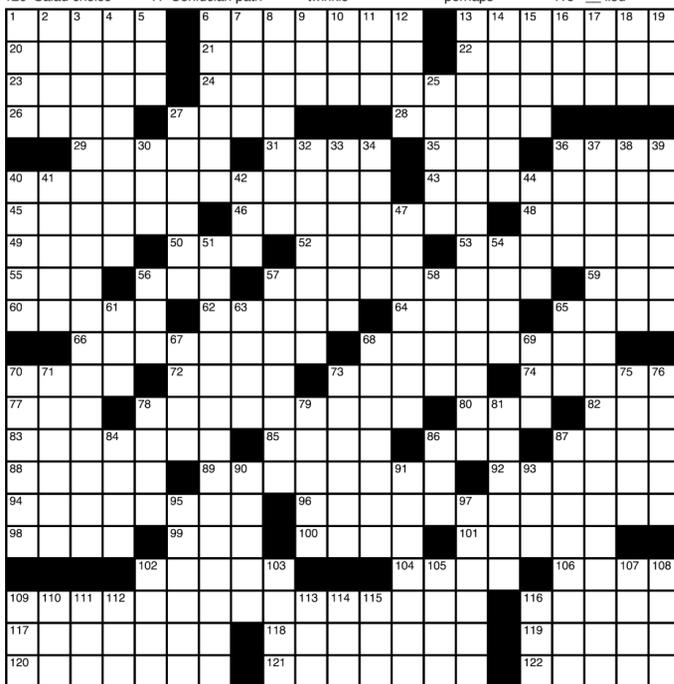
—Week 1281: Put googly eyes on some object and take a funny photo of it. wapo.st/invite1281

—Week 1282: Write a funny caption for one of four Bob Staake cartoons. wapo.st/invite1282

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

- | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| "SEABEES"
By PAWEŁ FLUDZINSKI | 86 Either of baseball's Griffey's | 121 Low-quality material, idiomatically | 12 IOC part: Abbr. | 47 Less cool | 84 Claim to call |
| ACROSS | 87 Food stamp? | 122 Castaway's place | 13 It's seen on carousels | 51 Perp processing area | 86 Erstwhile CIA rival |
| 1 Scrabble accessories | 88 How the euphoric walk | | 14 Marbled cut | 54 Sylvie's seraph | 87 Algebra staples |
| 6 Long-grained rice | 89 "The Godfather" catchphrase | | 15 "Give it a" | 56 "It" — formal self-identification | 90 Year abroad |
| 13 Cajun crustacean | 92 Lost intentionally | DOWN | 16 One of many Seuss village residents | 57 Reached an apex | 91 Casual Friday casualty? |
| 20 Target reader of a series of guides, facetiously | 94 Rockefeller, e.g. | 1 Bad guy in the song | 17 Put on | 58 Cold War capital | 93 Bond rating |
| 21 Odysseus, e.g. | 96 Blechley Park | 2 "Copacabana" | 18 Product, say: Abbr. | 61 Singing syllable | 95 One whose business is mostly overhead? |
| 22 Struck a chord | 98 Trueheart of comics | 3 Team that hasn't won a Super Bowl in its 50-year existence | 19 Capital of Denmark? | 63 "Frozen" snowman | 97 Lion or tiger |
| 23 Kids' eager query | 99 Bass ending | 4 Brando's "A Streetcar Named Desire" role | 25 Nice cup? | 65 Catch a bug | 102 Banter |
| 24 Subject of an 1857 Elizabeth Gaskell biography | 100 Business bigwig | 5 Chateau _____ | 27 Consult with the doctor | 67 Evening on Etna | 103 Nutritional stds. |
| 26 Seal predator | 101 Worshipping figure | 6 Antacid option | 30 Him, to Henri | 68 Small fishing boat concern | 107 Ointment additive |
| 27 Really enjoy, with "in" | 102 One of a deck's pair | 7 Olympians, e.g.: Abbr. | 32 Figure in red | 69 Taunt | 108 Mature eff |
| 28 '80s police show partner | 104 "Star Trek" villain | 8 One-named Colombian singer | 33 Indigenous | 70 Recover from a crash | 109 Pixar Studios' specialty, for short |
| 29 Better, to a rapper | 106 Scottish resort town known for its whisky | 9 Scuff, e.g. | 34 Defiant challenge | 71 Bum | 110 _____ ct.: footnote abbr. |
| 31 Proprietors' places | 109 Ghee, e.g. | 10 Often-injured knee part, briefly | 36 Fashion model | 73 Place to keep leaves | 111 Bore, as a cast |
| 35 Generous limit? | 116 Low area | 11 Contucian path | 37 Amateur sport since 1893 | 75 Over-____ sports wager | 112 Yank's opponent |
| 36 "In _____" "Dragonet" line Organization that really counts | 117 Settled accounts, so to speak | | 38 Connected, in a way | 76 Boatloads | 113 "Dude!" |
| 40 Meet with privately | 118 Big wardrobe | | 39 Annoy | 78 Michael of "Arrested Development" | 114 Underground org.? |
| 43 Enriched | 119 Almost off | | 40 Mating game | 79 Prepare for impact | 115 How-____ instruction books "____ lied" |
| 44 Nautical time units | 120 Salad choice | | 41 Flip chart holder | 81 Summer hire, perhaps | 116 _____ |



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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | June 10: This year, you won't be able to complain about boredom. Some of you actually might wish for a little more calmness. Your ability to adapt becomes one of your strong suits. Many of you could decide to relocate or go back to school. If you are single, you could start to date, especially sometime after summer. The role this person plays in your life is your decision. If you are attached, the two of you might sign up for a workshop. The experience you share will bring you and your sweetie closer together. Taurus understands you well.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You might suddenly feel more possessive than you have as of late. Understand what is happening around you. Get together with an older or more serious person. The two of you might not always agree, but you generally gain from being together.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You wake up in your element feeling buoyant and as if you can do no wrong. As you try to understand another person's idea, you show generosity and a willingness to grow. Make choices for yourself at this moment, and worry less about those around you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You could feel as if it is time for some rest and relaxation. If so, turn off your phone, watch a movie and worry less about others. You could be amazed by what happens as a result.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Zero in on what you want. Friends will support your desire to achieve a long-term goal. Meanwhile, enjoy those who surround you and care about you. Focus on friends and a fun happening.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Chaos weaves through your morning. Keeping plans and being on time could take skill, mostly because of external factors. You might need to cut back on errands to maintain plans.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Touch base with a loved one. You might discover how out of sync that person feels. Pitch in, if possible, and be willing to let judgment walk out the door. You have the rare opportunity to experience life as this person does.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You maintain a high level of energy, which could be vital not only to your day, but also to others'. A child or

loved one lets you know exactly what they want to have happen. Know that you have the power of saying yes or no.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Remain centered, especially when a family member seems to lose it. You might not be sure what this person wants, but do your best to listen well and offer helpful advice. Stay nonreactive, if possible. Once the issue cools, you might discuss your thoughts.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Try to relax, and refuse to lose your temper. Understand that a recent upheaval is just a passage. A neighbor or sibling could be on edge. Your instincts might provoke a change of plans. Funnel any negativity into some exercise or a fun happening.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You might have the ability to make a dream become a reality with the help of a loved one. You love stability, and even good news could upset the apple cart right now. Understand your responsibility. Use caution around spending.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Your sense of humor might take the edge off a tendency to be sarcastic today and in the next few weeks. Sarcasm often carries a grain of anger that is not acknowledged. Alleviate stress by doing a leisurely activity.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You could feel more pushed and tired than you realize. Open up to new potential that suddenly appears. An exciting call or event forces your hand. You also might discover that you are sitting on some latent anger or a problem that hasn't yet been aired.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



6/3/18