

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Neologisms for old Tom's sake

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1290** we honored Loser Since Week 7 Tom Witte — yes, pronounced “witty” — for his 1,500th blot of Invite ink. Since so much of that ink has been for coining punny new words — and because of his success back in the day with a similar contest given each month by Post metro columnist Bob Levey — we asked the Losers to come up with something that could use a good word to describe it, and of course to make up that word.

Some great neologism entries that turned out to be already in wide circulation: **hautemeal** for fancy cereal; **condominium** for a tiny apartment; **ethnic cleansing** for dismissing one's conscience; **grabdadocio** for being proud of assaulting women.

4th place

Some people can make millions of dollars and spend every last cent of it. What **incomepoops!** (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

3rd place

It seems even the firmest nonbeliever will pray when the circumstances are dire enough, such as during severe turbulence on an airplane. This phenomenon could be called **foxholiness**. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

2nd place and the offensive guitar-man bottle opener:

A co-worker comes in with a loud, chesty cough, having no concern for the health of everyone in the office. He's a literal **phlegmthrower**. (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

It takes real nerve to admit that your son met with a Russian lawyer to get information on your election opponent — such **cahootzpah!** (Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)

Half Wittes: Honorable mentions

Are you awake all night worrying that someone's peeking at your medical records? You just might be a **HIPAAchondriac**. (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

Boy, U.S. farmers are just delighted with my trade policies, each and every one. They all tell me this trade war is **tariffic!** — D.J.T., Washington (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

Don't you hate it when someone who butts in and messes up your rhythm when you are telling an interesting story? This frustrating act could be called **quotus interruptus**. (John O'Byrne, Dublin)

The Trump administration doesn't seem very interested in preventing future Russian election meddling. Their attitude is pretty **hackadaisical**. (Duncan Stevens)

An egomaniacal, unstable leader with his finger all too close to the Button: It's an **A-bombination**. (Drew Bennett, West Plains, Mo.)

What compels a president to express such contempt for Congress — and wear overly long ties? Could it be **executive shrivelege?** (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Those people who go to a game and dress top to bottom in the visiting team's regalia? They're the **fantagonists**. (Tom Witte)

It can be intimidating for a young lieutenant in the Army: If you've been ripped from one end to the other by your superior officer, you've had a **coloneloscropy**. (Beverly Sharp)

You tell someone off at the office for five minutes straight. The vent feels exhilarating — at the moment. And then, inevitably, come the repercussions, fast and furious. You never seem to learn: Don't throw a **boomharangue**. (Jon Gearhart)

That moment when an attractive woman spots you and realizes that you're always hanging out in the coffee shop that she frequents, but never drinking any coffee? Oops, **stalkward!** (Jeff Hazle, San Antonio)

“So does this smart thingy have the Twitter?” Older folks who don't know how to use all these newfangled gizmos suffer from **thingamajignorance**. (Jesse



Week 1294: As the word turns

**D-9: DELLO: There's always room for this dessert even after a giant pastrami on pumpernickel.**  
**N-5: SLANGRY: "You \*&@#%ing \*&@#%er!"**

It's been a year and a half since we last did a neologism contest based on a randomly assembled word search grid. In this fourth go-round, as before, the Empress clicked a bunch of times at WordGenerator.net to get a list of words ranging from “verbarmahooohoo” (white rhino) to “flat” (flat); then she fed those words into the cheerily helpful tool at Puzzle-Maker.com, which instantly worked them into the grid above. But we're not asking you to find those words; we want you to discover new ones.

In typical word search grids, the target words are placed in a straight line in any direction, but we're more flexible: **This week: “Discover” a word or multi-word term that consists of adjacent letters — in any direction or several directions — in the grid above, and provide a humorous definition, as in the examples above. Don't trace back over the same letters. You may also give a novel definition for an existing term. And you may use the word in a sentence, if that makes your entry funnier. Even with this many possible words, the E always gets multiple entries for a single term, so it may be the description that wins the ink.**

**IMPORTANT:** you MUST begin *each entry* with the coordinates of the first letter of your term (e.g., C-12) as above; the Emp can trace it from there. If you don't give me those coordinates, I'm going to skip your word.

Submit entries at the website **wapo.st/enter-invite-1294** (all lowercase).

Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our new Style Invitational trophy. Second place wins **The Gas We Pass: The Story of Farts**, the now-classic matter-of-fact, educational easy-reader picture book by Shinta Cho, complete with both factoids (a healthy person farts about 17 ounces of gas per day) and sound effects (“brm”). A brand-new hardcover donated by Edward Gordon.

**Other runners-up** win our “You Gotta Play to Lose” Loser Mug or our Grossery Bag, “I Got a B in Punnanship.” 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). In honor of Labor Day, **deadline is Tuesday night, Sept. 4;** results published Sept. 23 (online Sept. 20). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline for this week's results is by Jesse Frankovich; Nan Reiner wrote 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**.

Frankovich)

A mom and dad are at odds over whether to circumcise their newborn son. He says yes, she says no. They're at **cross-prepuces**. (Chris Doyle)

I was a binge-drinker in college and spent many a late night “praying to the porcelain god” — **johnnuflecting**, you could call it. (Chris Doyle)

Many restaurants automatically add an additional percentage as a tip for a large party. Maybe they should also do it for a messy, annoying child — call it a **bratuity**. (Warren Tanabe, Annapolis)

In some states, even burly men with beards are ordered to use the ladies' room, because of the anatomy they were born with — their **congenitalia**. (Kevin Dopart)

Kevin decided against sneaking some cake before the party started when he noticed his mom slowly drawing a forefinger across her throat. That ominous gesture could be called a **pantomaim**. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

To purge from your life a person who only pretends to like you means giving yourself a much-needed **freneema**. (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf)

You know how you have a series of extramarital affairs and then pay

hundreds of thousands of dollars so the women won't talk about them? Don't we all? Of course you funnel that money along a convoluted path — call it **philaundersing**. (Dave Silberstein, College Park)

When you have “very fine people on both sides,” you have **kkkcounterbalance**. (Pete Morelewicz, Fredericksburg)

You've never met in person, but your online chat is getting awfully friendly — and you haven't mentioned it to your wife. Face it: You're having a **textramarital** affair. (Rick Haynes, Ocean City)

When you play sports on grass fields, it's inevitable that you'll bring home clods of dirt stuck to your cleats: Call them **shoovenirs**. Or **swardifacts**. Or a **stomp collection**. (Tom Witte)

*And Last:* Continuing to enter the Invite week after week without success, and somehow expecting a different result this time. It's **inksanity**, I tell you. (William Kennard, Arlington)

**Still running — deadline Monday night, Aug. 27: our contest for novel explanations for parts of the Constitution. See wapo.st/invite1293. (Last week's print edition lied and said the deadline was Aug. 20 — so get back to work.)**

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

“AMAZEBALLS”  
 By ROBIN STEARS

- 1 Takes the odds
- 5 Flop's opposite
- 10 Anchored
- 16 Braying beast
- 19 Audition piece
- 20 1988 Summer Olympics site
- 21 From C to C
- 22 Victor
- 23 Convenient carrier
- 25 “Small, flat legume
- 27 Braille bits
- 28 Poet Pablo Neruda, e.g.
- 30 “My treat”
- 31 Distinctive Rolls Royce feature
- 34 Many a text writer
- 36 Hikes from the center
- 37 Wilson of “Pitch Perfect” movies
- 38 Heinz Field player
- 39 Rapid
- 41 Nickname for young Skywalker
- 42 Ramshackle shelters
- 43 One way to get you
- 44 “Octal system
- 47 “Item found in a parlor
- 51 Like Fran Drescher's voice
- 52 Cheerleaders' handfuls
- 56 Your cousin's
- 81-Across, maybe
- 57 Plague critter
- 60 Pudding starch
- 61 Carne
- 63 Subject of a Dean Martin classic
- 64 “Pneumatic silo declogger
- 66 “Your table's ready” gizmo
- 67 Chekov on “Star Trek”
- 68 Directed
- 69 Last to arrive
- 70 French article
- 71 Proclaims
- 72 Passionate
- 74 “Fund for fun
- 77 “Path for a promising young exec
- 81 See 56-Across
- 82 Fouls up, as plans

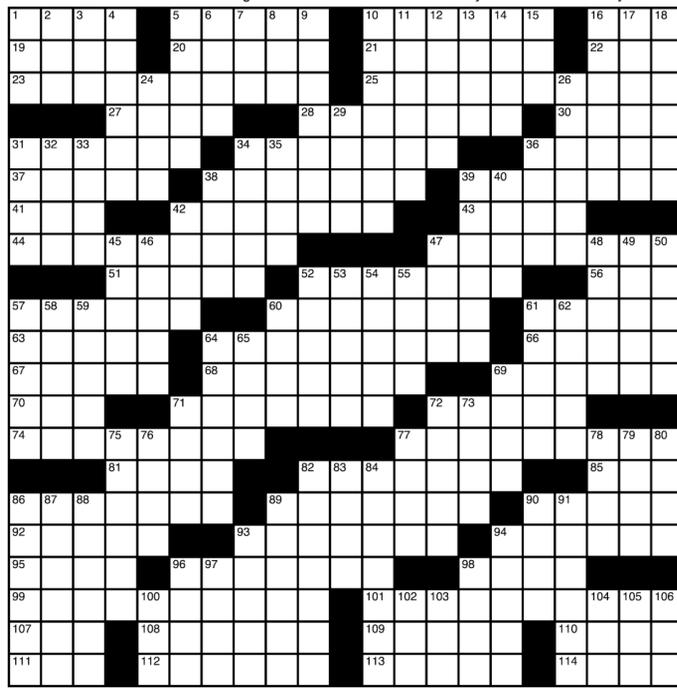
- 85 “The Crow” actress Ling
- 86 “The Star-Spangled Banner” quartet
- 89 “Les Misérables” girl
- 90 — Ste. Marie
- 92 Prefix with centric
- 93 Barbaric
- 94 Worrisome engine sound
- 95 Teatro — Scala
- 96 Old copiers
- 98 Right on the map
- 99 “It covers the Batmobile
- 101 “Brie, e.g.
- 107 Ottoman bigwig
- 108 Cooling-off period?
- 109 City of NE Italy
- 110 Garbage hauler
- 111 B-day numbers
- 112 “Full House” surname
- 113 Award for “Mr. Mercedes”

- 1 “Phooey!”
- 2 Significant time
- 3 Bronze component
- 4 Tack room item
- 5 Ice
- 6 Shade of green
- 7 What Indiana sought
- 8 “What did I tell you?”
- 9 Chopper
- 10 Calder pieces
- 11 Telescope eyepiece
- 12 Weasel relative
- 13 Pro follower
- 14 102-Down opposite
- 15 — “Rosenkavalier”
- 16 Spots for sports
- 17 Trattoria entrée
- 18 Least extreme
- 24 Weevil's target

- 26 Tied-under-the-chin topper
- 29 Prefix with gram
- 31 Take the wrong way?
- 32 Sofer of soaps
- 33 Sacred Nile bird
- 34 Longtime “60 Minutes” reporter
- 35 Small price to pay
- 36 Backtalk
- 38 Sonic the Hedgehog maker
- 39 “Mr. Citizen” autobiographer
- 40 Regrets
- 42 Santa has a famous one
- 45 Acclimatize
- 46 Art supporter?
- 47 Fashion first name
- 48 Pixel pattern
- 49 Secret stuff
- 50 Target rival
- 52 Worrywart, at times

- 53 Eye-fooling genre
- 54 Extraction sites
- 55 Golden or Walden
- 57 Drink from a bowl
- 58 Spender of rials
- 59 Group of 13, traditionally
- 60 Genealogy chart
- 61 Spaced out
- 62 Lustful deity
- 64 Portfolio listings
- 65 Wee
- 69 Rents
- 71 “Frozen” princess
- 72 Conviction
- 73 “Cast Away” setting
- 75 Fanatic
- 76 Anise liqueur
- 77 Dieter's concern
- 78 Lie next to
- 79 Birdsong
- 80 Toy with a tail
- 82 Skeptic
- 83 Italian noble family

- 84 Budget bin record
- 86 Ramshackle
- 87 One taking a lot of notes
- 88 Soothes
- 89 React to an awkward moment
- 90 Military band
- 91 Bear witness
- 93 Queen lead guitarist —
- 94 Track figure
- 96 Animal lovers' org.
- 97 French city where William the Conqueror is buried
- 98 Italian smoker
- 100 Many an IKEA buy
- 102 14-Down opposite
- 103 Newton fruit
- 104 Green prefix
- 105 Sponge (up)
- 106 Woolly mama



Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Aug. 26:** This year you could feel conflicted, as you sometimes want to be intellectual in your responses, yet your feelings run the show. Learning to juggle these seemingly opposite attitudes could be a challenge. If you are single, you might meet a lot of people, but not everyone has the makeup to give you a long-term, committed relationship. Do not settle. If you are attached, the two of you act as if you are on the seesaw of life. You will learn to be in harmony with your significant other, no matter what. Pisces accepts change graciously.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19)  
 You slow down quite suddenly and could find it close to impossible to get going again. Do not fight the inevitable; call today a lazy day. Curl up and take as many naps as you want. Don't fight this side of yourself today.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20)  
 You have handled a lot of responsibilities over the past few days. You feel liberated, whether you accept an invitation to a favorite spot or pick up the phone and make plans to take a drive to your favorite summer spot.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)  
 Reach out to a loved one at a distance. This person has quite a lot of authority over you. To many people, he or she seems controlling. Look at your relationship closely; you could feel as if you usually have a fun time with this person.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22)  
 Opt for a day trip that pulls you out of your environment. The change of landscape does a world of good and helps change your perspective. As a result, when you look at problems later, they seem to have rolled away.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)  
 You and a loved one need to spend some quality time together. You have the best intentions, but an element of the unexpected could change your plans. At a certain point, bucking a trend won't work, especially today.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)  
 Defer to others. Not that you don't defer frequently, but it is important for a loved one to feel as if you trust his or her judgment. Unfortunately, a tendency toward surprises and the unexpected marks both of your days.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)  
 You could get into a home project that you can do by yourself. You notice that others seem to be going in all directions at once. Don't count on anyone but yourself today.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)  
 Honor a fast change, as it is likely to make all the difference in how you deal with a loved one. You might have had plans, but be ready for an adjustment. A younger person could charm their way into your plans.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)  
 Reach out to someone who often needs help, no matter what they do. Make it your pleasure to pitch in. Emotions run high, and you might want to pull back some if the moment becomes too intense.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)  
 You can be counted on, despite current trends around you. Don't take it personally when someone cancels your plans together. Take the free time and go off to explore a new store or catch a movie.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)  
 You might want to eliminate a problem before it happens. Be aware of the costs of overspending. You might not be conscious of your behavior until you take a hard look at your budget. Fortunately, you have saved for this moment.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)  
 Today's full moon gets the best of you, no matter what you do. You can try to buck the trend, but you could end up getting more frustrated. It might be best to accept the circumstances and follow the moment.

Answers to last week's puzzle.

