

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Double-meant fun from Week 1336

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1336**, the Empress gave you a list of various situations — including the ever-popular “in bed” — and asked you to suggest something one might say in any two of those situations. That the double-entendres were required to be printable, even by the taste standards of the Invitational, ruled out a sizable fraction of the entries; hence none of the many jokes about “openings” (job interview/bed) or “eat” or “bone.” Less graphically, there were just too many “meatball” entries for Trump/Ikea, or “Let’s cut this short” for haircut/Trump. Still, we offer you these:

4th place:

Something you could say both at a restaurant and in bed: “So we’re a bit short-staffed tonight, are we?” (*Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf*)

3rd place:

Something you could say both at Ikea and when President Trump visits your country: “My God, that orange rug is hideous.” (*Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.*)

2nd place and the yuckily named personal-care items:

Something you could say both at a restaurant and in bed: “You gonna finish that?” (*Kevin Dopart, Washington*)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

Something you could say both at a restaurant and when Trump visits your country: “Can we get it to go?” (*Rob Cohen, Potomac*)

Nixed doubles: Honorable mentions

At Ikea and at a doctor’s office: “This is the oddest-looking stool I’ve ever seen.” (*Stephen Dudzik, Olney; Bill Dorner, Indianapolis; Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn*)

Getting a haircut and when Trump visits your country: “Ow, my ears!” (*Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.*)

At Ikea and when Trump visits your country: “This nut here seems to be useless.” (*Dave Ferry, Purvis, Miss.*)

“Wow, what a huge glass bowl!” (*Duncan Stevens*)

At Ikea and in bed: “I don’t know — those drawers are really sticky.” (*Frank Osen*)

“Huh, it looked much bigger on the website.” (*Steve Smith, Potomac*)

“I’ll pay cash on the dresser.” (*Hildy Zampella, Alexandria*)

At a job interview and a restaurant: “I always give 118 percent.” (*Greg Dobbins, Boynton Beach, Fla.*)

At a restaurant and a doctor’s office: “Now which of you has the crabs?” (*Tom Witte, Montgomery Village*)

During a haircut and in a job interview: “I like to take a little off the top — not so much that anyone would notice.” (*Roy Ashley, Washington*)

At a job interview and in bed: “You’re on my ‘short’ list.” (*Tom Witte*)

“What types of entry-level positions are you open to?” (*Kevin Dopart*)

On a game show and in a job interview: “Wheel-spinning is my specialty, Bob.” (*Mark Raffman, Reston*)

At a restaurant and when Trump visits your country: “We need to send back this spoiled turkey.” (*Duncan Stevens*)

When Trump visits your country and in bed: “These giant inflatables are a lot of fun.” (*Jeff Shirley, Richmond*)
“It helps to close my eyes and think of Obama.” (*Mark Raffman*)

On a game show and at the doctor: “And the actual retail price is . . . \$23,981!” (*Rivka Liss-Levinson, Washington*)

On a game show and when Trump visits your country: “The tribe has spoken: Pack your bags and leave the island.” (*Luke Baker, Columbia*)

At a doctor’s office and in a job interview: “Should I leave my underwear



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New for Week 1340: Not-ables — slightly alter a famous name

George Washingmachine: Earliest master of political spin.

Genghis Yes-We-Khan: The Barbarity of Hope.

Confusius: “By three methods we may learn wisdom: reflection, imitation, and . . . oops . . .”

This week’s contest, suggested by 400-time Loser Gary Crockett, is inspired by a recent panel of Scott Hilburn’s clever comic “The Argyle Sweater” (see it on *GoComics.com*). Titled “Least-Remembered Historical Figures,” it features a series of cartoons depicting such unfortunates as “Copernicuss” (“&@\$@ planets!”), “Gen. George Custodian” (“They left a mess at Little Big Horn”) and “Aristattle” (ancient Greek kid yelling, “I’m telling Mom!”). **This week: Slightly alter the name (make sure the original is obvious) of a famous personage — past or present, real or fictional — and describe the resulting nonpersonage, or offer a quote from that person, or both, as in the examples above.**

Submit entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1340 (all lowercase).

Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a fine pair of **Sandal Sox** — white socks with a buckling-sandal motif on top, so you can get the dorky-dad socks-with-sandals look without even wearing shoes. In fact, wearing shoes will totally hide the effect. Donated by Joke Dad Jeff Contompasis.

Other runners-up win our “You Gotta Play to Lose” Loser Mug or our “Whole Fools” Grossery Bag. Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, “Too-Weak Notice” or “Certificate of (de) Merit.” First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air “freshener” (FirStink for their first ink). **Deadline is Monday night, July 22**; results published Aug. 11 in print, Aug. 8 online. See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline for this week’s results is by Mark Raffman; Jesse Frankovich wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](https://www.facebook.com/on.fb.me/invdev). “Like” the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at [bit.ly/inkoftheday](https://www.facebook.com/bit.ly/inkoftheday); follow @StyleInvite on Twitter.

● **The Style Conversational:** The Empress’s weekly online column discusses the week’s new contest and results. Check it out at wapo.st/styleconv.



BLUECRATE.COM

Socks-with-sandals without sandals: This week’s second prize.

on?” (*Mark Calandra, Wenham, Mass.*)

At a doctor’s office and when Trump visits your country: “Is it serious?” (*Dan Helming, Trenton, N.J.*)

“Don’t worry, the headache and irritation are common but temporary.” (*John Hutchins, Silver Spring*)

At Ikea and when Trump visits your country: “What are we supposed to do with this tool?” (*Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg, Va.*)

During a haircut and in bed: “Could we try that gel again? It worked pretty well last time.” (*Diane Lucitt, Ellicott City, Md.*)

“Now that there’s less to work with, let’s try doing it every six weeks instead of once a month.” (*Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore*)

“You always make the bangs too short.” (*Jon Ketzner, Cumberland, Md.; William Kennard, Arlington*)

At a supermarket and among

Style Invitational Losers: “Ugh, these lines are awful!” (*Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.*)

Among Style Invitational Losers and in bed: “You may not exceed 25 entries in one week.” (*Steve Honley, Washington; Perry Beider, Silver Spring*)

“Want to see my little cannon?” (*Frank Mann, Washington*)

“I don’t CARE if Jesse Frankovich can do it eight times in a week!” (*J. Larry Schott, West Plains, Mo.*)

“You will call me Empress, Loser. And if you want any of my favors, you must first submit.” (*Seth Tucker, Washington*)

Among Style Invitational Losers and when Trump comes to your country: “I can’t believe that stupid thing won!” (*Neal Starkman, Seattle*)

Still running — deadline is also July 22: our contest for song parodies about modern woes. See wapo.st/invite1339.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

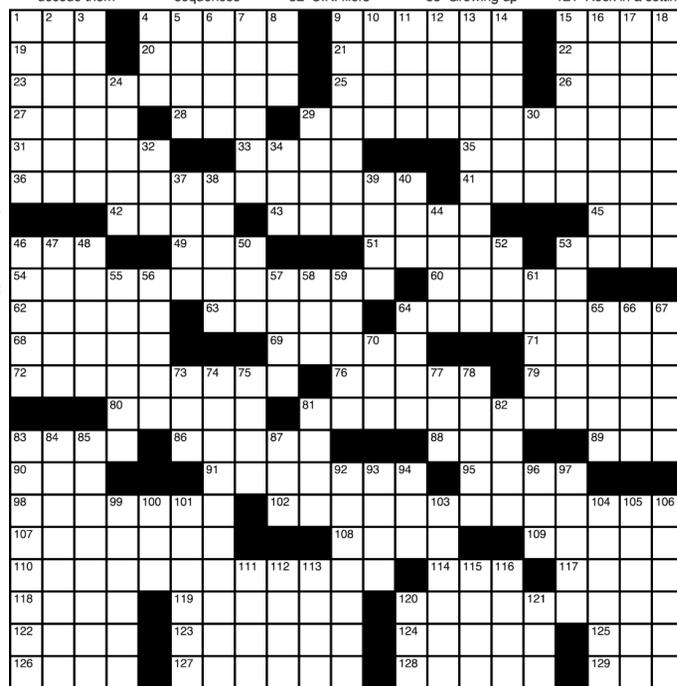
“CODE CRACKERS” By MARK McLACHLAN

ACROSS

- 1 College loan co-signer, maybe
- 4 Establish as law
- 9 Long-legged birds
- 15 Five-O nickname
- 19 Before, poetically
- 20 Prepare to surf
- 21 Reunion attendee
- 22 King Harald’s father
- 23 One way to enter a pool
- 25 gossip
- 26 Film scene shot without interruption
- 27 Kenya’s first prime minister
- 28 Hydroelectric project
- 29 One end of a church key
- 31 Amazon assistant
- 33 Abundant element in Earth’s core
- 35 Thingamajigs
- 36 Physical location?
- 41 Humor
- 42 Wmns of gospel
- 43 Most hip
- 45 Supposed to arrive
- 46 Spa sounds
- 49 Plotting chuckle
- 51 Delta rival renamed in 1997
- 53 Moving aids
- 54 “Mobile” communications device used in law enforcement
- 60 Jack in a suit
- 62 Initial Hebrew letter
- 63 Mountain melody
- 64 Tchaikovsky’s “1812 Overture” has one that includes cannon fire
- 68 Lose it
- 69 Matching game
- 71 Total, as a bill
- 72 2012 Beyoncé hit with the repeated line “Say you’ll never let me go”
- 76 Slips through the cracks
- 79 Domingo, for one
- 80 One of Australia’s six
- 81 Summing-up words
- 83 Thin coin

DOWN

- 1 Kanye West label
- 2 Ring of color
- 3 Regarded
- 4 2003 holiday comedy
- 5 Reason for being barred at a bar
- 6 Taj Mahal city
- 7 Immense
- 8 Blast cause
- 9 Suspected
- 10 Heaps
- 11 Tear channel
- 12 Czech track legend Zatopek
- 13 Cellular process affecting nucleotide sequences
- 14 Scene of some “Gunsmoke” action
- 15 College address ending
- 16 Actor born Alphonso D’Abruzzo
- 17 First of three Leslie Nielsen comedies, with “The”
- 18 Supervises
- 24 Venomous
- 29 U2 frontman
- 30 Whale group
- 32 Pitching staff star
- 34 VCR button
- 37 Masseur’s target
- 38 Not sure (of)
- 39 12th Jewish month
- 40 Hi-__ graphics name
- 44 Munro pen name
- 46 “Great minds think alike,” e.g.
- 47 Fire-suppressing gas
- 48 Position
- 50 Med. care provider
- 52 U.K. fliers
- 53 They may be changed by judges
- 55 Place side by side
- 56 Taking it badly?
- 57 Run in place
- 58 Modernist’s prefix
- 59 TV chef Brown
- 61 Love of antiques
- 64 Renowned clown
- 65 Navel formation
- 66 Stand-up comic’s seat
- 67 Lock __: come into conflict
- 70 Front-of-bk. list
- 73 __ Bo
- 74 “Just what I wanted!”
- 75 ‘70s Israeli prime minister
- 77 “Music for Airports” producer
- 78 Move quickly
- 81 Ruler unit
- 82 Veg out
- 83 A piece of cake
- 84 More than familiar with
- 85 Growing up
- 87 “Shoo!”
- 92 Brand with a pitcher-shaped mascot
- 93 Bard’s instrument
- 94 Freudian focus
- 96 Mo. when Festivus is celebrated
- 97 Beetle Bailey nemesis
- 99 Treats again, as a sprain
- 100 Grow older
- 101 Actress Thompson and ice dancer
- 103 Disney Beetle
- 104 “I’ll Never Fall in Love Again” singer Warwick
- 105 Drama queen, e.g.
- 106 View from Jidda
- 111 Really digging
- 112 Pinot __
- 113 Grammy winner
- 115 Galileo’s birthplace
- 116 Strip
- 120 Away companion
- 121 Rock in a setting



7/14/19

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Answers to last week’s puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | July 14: This year, you open up to different priorities. You become capable of juggling your personal and professional life. Many people believe that organization is what makes the difference, but you’ve simply changed priorities. If single, you will make sure you have plenty of time to date. The second half of your birthday year proves positive for love. If attached, the two of you might decide to open a business together or commit to a special hobby. Capricorn has the same values as you but a different attitude.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Remaining nurturing to a family member does not need to mean you cannot have a good time. Why not go off together to a favorite spot or indulge in a mutually fun activity?

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You could be more in the mood to stay close to home and visit with a loved one or roommate. Take a walk or head to a favorite spot nearby for lunch. You could be amazed at how fast you recharge.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You seem too busy to settle in, but you can put some organization into the day and spend it with a dear loved one. You could be surprised at how fast you perk up, relax and start enjoying yourself.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Emotions always come quickly to the surface with you. Plunge into a favorite hobby or pastime, and you will process any negative feelings far more quickly. You can be found smiling with a favorite person.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Your commitment to the good life and relishing the moment appears to be contagious. Be happy for that quality. Let go and give permission to others to feel freer and more relaxed.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You might be making more out of a tension than what exists. You don’t need to make a big deal out of a roommate’s demand or certain responsibilities that surround your domestic life.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You have a way of saying what is on your mind so that others scarcely realize what is being said,

especially if your comment seems more like criticism or unwanted news. Open up talks and stay on top of the news.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You might want to pay bills, balance your checkbook and perhaps splurge on a brunch out. By keeping a disciplined hold on your spending, you enjoy life more. You have fewer worries.

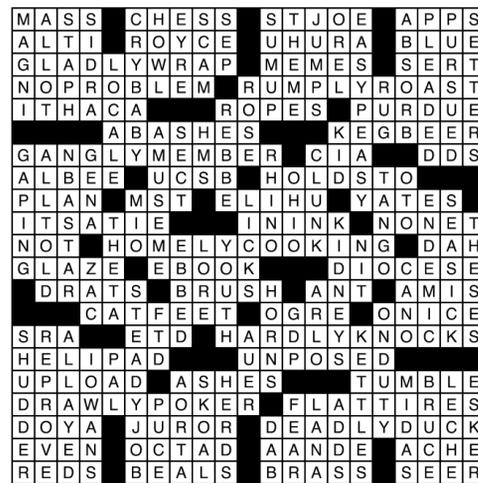
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You could be a lot more content than you have been for a while. Others seem extremely responsive to your ideas and suggestions. Before you know it, you are off enjoying a preferred pastime.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Do not push today. In fact, if you want to spend a leisurely morning watching your shows or reading the Sunday newspaper, do so. Plan on getting together with friends in the late afternoon.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Friends persuade you into joining them in some unusual but entertaining plans. You can hardly say no, but you might need to get home early. You have pushed hard lately.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Whatever your plans are, you will not be alone. You will enjoy the company of others, whether at a baseball game or off swimming.

Answers to last week’s puzzle.



7/7/19