

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Gulp fiction: Fake trivia about food

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1345**, The Style Invitational continued its campaign of bad-journalist disinformation with some food fictoids.

4th place

Before the late 20th century, **heirloom tomatoes** were called "deformed tomatoes." (Bill Dorner, Indianapolis)

3rd place

In Aramaic, "**manna**" means "bird poop." (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

2nd place and the 'Brussel Sprout Puffs':

**Baby carrots** must be at least eight weeks old before they are harvested away from adult carrots. (Robyn Carlson, Keyser, W.Va.)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

**Pickled beef tongue can taste you back.** (Byron Hoover, Stafford, Va., a First Offender)

Nom-nom-nominees: Honorable mentions

**McDonald's top-selling burger in Europe** is the .1134 Kiloer. (Mike Phillips, Washington)

**Trump Steaks** failed because of the difficulty in pairing them with the proper ketchup. (Jeff Shirley, Richmond)

The word "**cafeteria**" originated as a combination of "cafe" and "diarrhea." (Jon Ketzner, Cumberland, Md.)

**LaCroix** is French for "the faucet." (J. Larry Schott, West Plains, Mo.)

After eating a slice of **American pie**, most people are happy for a while. (Steve Smith, Potomac)

**An apple a day** does indeed keep the doctor away if accurately thrown. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

**Cauliflower** is actually a form of whitened broccoli; its distinct flavor is caused by the bleach. (Barrett Swink, Gainesville, Va.)

Consumer advocates have filed suit to force growers of **Red Delicious apples** to change the variety's name to Red. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

In 2016, Ben & Jerry's across the South sold a **special-edition ice cream flavor** named Butter Emails. (Hildy Zampella, Alexandria)

In **England, Lay's Potato Chips** are called Shag's Crisps. (Bill Dorner)

In the **Southern Hemisphere, upside-down cake** is called right-side-up cake. (Ben Aronin, Washington)

Also in the **Southern Hemisphere, M&M's** are called W&W's. (Dean Alterman, Lake Oswego, Ore.)

Inspired by the **Imperfect Produce** delivery service, trendy restaurants are opening with such names as Crappy Value, Interminable Wait and Tiny Portions. (Dan Helming, Trenton, N.J.)

Nabisco created what would become its **biggest-selling cookie** in honor of chef John Oreo, who in 1912 was tragically squashed between two manhole covers. (Sam Mertens, Silver Spring)

Scientists are working on **Impossible Tofu**, an all-meat product for people on a paleo diet. (Art Grinath, Takoma Park)

The easiest way to tell the **difference between bison and buffalo** is that bison don't have wings. (Hildy Zampella)

There's really only a **single fruitcake joke** in the world, and people keep telling it back and forth. (Sam Mertens)

A **new interrogation method** at Guantanamo involves feeding a suspect a single potato chip. (Eric Nelkin, Silver Spring)

At a **state dinner in Moscow**, President Trump most enjoyed the serving of Russian chickpeas. (Ryan Martinez, Takoma Park)

**Bacon** is actually made entirely out of plants. No, really, it is. — Vegetarians (Terry Reimer, Frederick)

Biblical historians have now determined that **Lot's wife** was actually turned into an anchovy. (Rick Haynes, Ocean City)

Long ago, **cocaine** used to contain Coca-Cola. (Byron Hoover)

In **Canada**, it's customary for waitstaff to tip customers as a way to thank them for dining there. (Neal Starkman, Seattle)

The German word **Oktober** translates to "over eight," which is why



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1349: Revise and extend these remarks

**Quote from the Congressional Record:** The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia. *Question it might answer:* "Yo, La-Z-Boy, who do you think left those peach pits and pork rinds in your cushions?"

**A. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.** Q. "Hey, Mr. Chairman, do you know who I am with this shoe polish on my face?"

As Congress returned to "work" a few days ago after its summer recess, we thought it a good time to check in. This week's contest — a variant on our perennial Questionable Journalism challenge — was suggested by the Empress's Royal Consort, whose job often calls for him to nod off while trying to peruse the Congressional Record, the daily transcript (with substantial revisions and additions) of each day's proceedings in the House and Senate.

In our less than perfectly transparent federal government, we do have the ability to read the CR online, via a searchable PDF file for each day's sessions. **This week's contest: Go to congress.gov/congressional-record** and click on the PDF for any day's Congressional Record — House, Senate or the whole thing, or the Daily Digest; **choose any sentence (or substantial part of one) and write a question that it could answer**, as in the examples above. Please note which transcript you're using (and its date) so that the E could search for your sentence, were she so inclined. You may use any line in the whole document, even the bogus "revise and extend my remarks" fluff that the members add to please some constituent group or another.

Submit up to 25 entries at [wapo.st/enter-invite-1349](http://wapo.st/enter-invite-1349) (no capitals in the Web address).

Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a highbrow — in the sense that you put it high on your brow — game called **Poop Hoop**. This fine product distinguishes itself from other basketball-net-on-head games in two ways: (a) People toss not little foam basketballs but "poop emoji balls;" and (b) there's a little toilet seat you can lower onto the net's rim to increase the poo-toss challenge (of course the two positions are labeled "No. 1" and "No. 2"). If your boss has been lamenting, "Our office is entirely too dignified and professional," you'll have an immediate remedy to offer, your brown-nose. Donated by Marleen May.

**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, Sept. 23;** results published Oct. 13 in print, Oct. 10 online. See general contest rules and guidelines at [wapo.st/InvRules](http://wapo.st/InvRules). The headline "Gulp Fiction" was submitted by both Tom Witte and Jon Gearhart; Duncan Stevens wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](https://www.facebook.com/invdev). "Like" the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at [bit.ly/inkofday](http://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](http://wapo.st/styleconv).

is notable for its oversize nuggets. (David Stonner, Washington)

Most mass-produced **pumpkin spice flavorings** include proprietary ratios of nutmeg, cinnamon, ginger, allspice, crack cocaine and ground cloves. (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station)

The **Maxwell House** Hotel in Nashville has never hosted a Seder. (Mike Gips, Bethesda)

There are more **Denny's restaurants** than people actually named Denny. (Michael Schwartz, Montgomery Village, a First Offender)

Sales of **B&M Baked Beans** quadrupled after the brand added the ampersand. (Larry Yungk, Wyoming, Ohio)

The **soup-and-sandwich combo** was invented in 1763 by the Earl of Soupandsandwich. (Jesse Frankovich)

Studies have shown that **not eating your vegetables** is a leading cause of not growing up tall and strong like Daddy. (Stuart Anderson, Seattle)

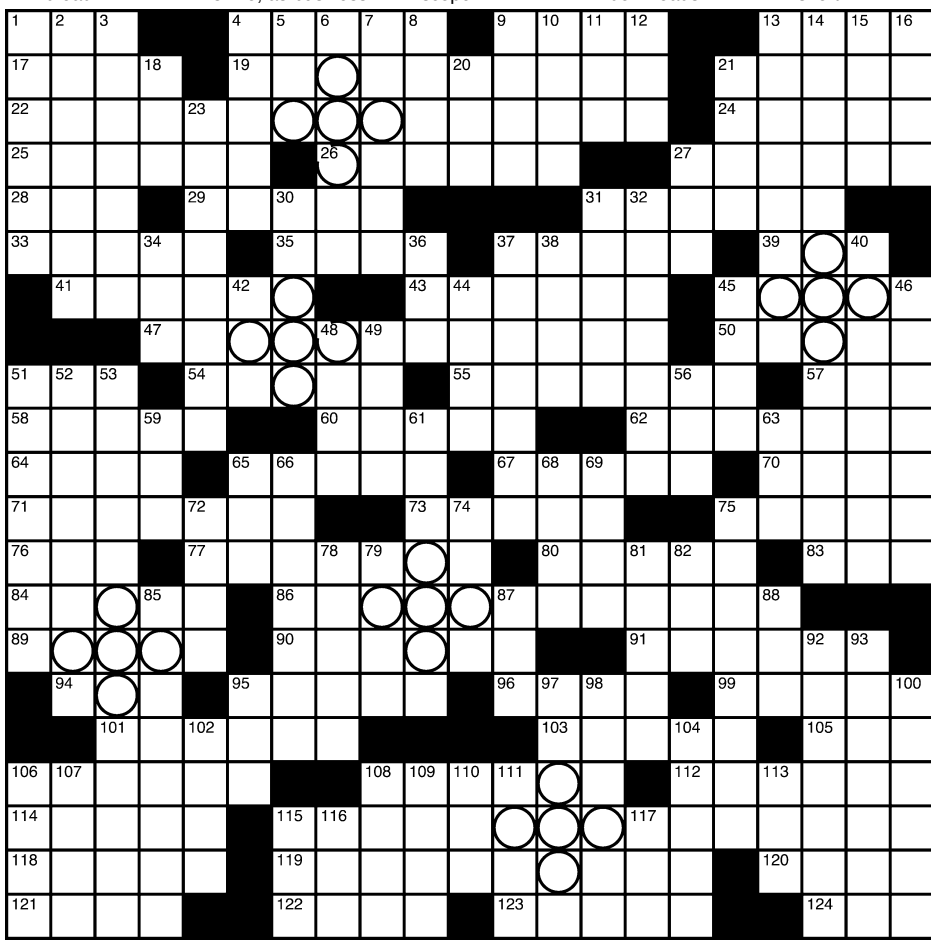
More honorable mentions in the online *Invite* at [wapo.st/invite1349](http://wapo.st/invite1349).

**Still running — deadline Monday night, Sept. 16: our perennial compare/contrast contest. See wapo.st/invite1348.**

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICOLS LEWIS

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|--|---|---|--|
| <p><b>"IT'S A PLUS"</b><br/>By <b>PAM AMICK KLAWITTER</b></p> <p><b>ACROSS</b></p> <p>1 Roadie's burden<br/>4 It isn't meant to be taken seriously<br/>9 Fateful day for Caesar<br/>13 Control<br/>17 Like Richard of Almanack fame<br/>19 Schools of thought<br/>21 "Carmen on Ice" Emmy sharer Brian<br/>22 Wall Street threat<br/>24 With 98-Down, Broadway's first Evita<br/>25 Sharply focused Amber and silver<br/>27 Emmy winner for 1997's "George Wallace"<br/>28 Brutus' 551<br/>29 What gym members try to get in<br/>31 Medical screening tool<br/>33 Occupy, as a bar<br/>35 Overseas seas<br/>37 Source of slither shock?<br/>39 Some window units<br/>41 Sandal feature<br/>43 Google<br/>45 Program blocker<br/>47 "Way to go!"<br/>50 Rock memoir<br/>51 "Oh, and another thing," on a ltr.<br/>54 Market section<br/>55 Idaho exports<br/>57 Its "C" once stood for "cash"<br/>58 Crop up<br/>60 Match play?<br/>62 Spoke from memory<br/>64 Corn Belt sight<br/>65 With 67-Across, what appears in each set of circles<br/>67 See 65-Across Spanish painter who influenced Pollock<br/>71 Ballet need<br/>73 Freeze over<br/>75 Red Sea nation<br/>76 South end?<br/>77 Dangerfield's "There goes the neighborhood," e.g.</p> | <p>80 Refuse<br/>83 RNs' workplaces<br/>84 Soda purchase<br/>86 Puts an early stop to<br/>89 Rusty with a bat<br/>90 Retro photos<br/>91 Mercedes subcompact<br/>94 "No prob"<br/>95 Word in a White House title<br/>96 Leatherwork tools<br/>99 Exams for future 88-Downs<br/>101 Winter driving aids<br/>103 They're driven<br/>105 Collar wearer, often<br/>106 Celebrate an anniversary, say<br/>108 F equivalent<br/>112 Take-home<br/>114 Drum major's move<br/>115 Buttery Boston bread<br/>118 Sci-fi figure<br/>119 "Agnes Grey" novelist<br/>120 Galleria filler<br/>121 Match<br/>122 De-grayed?<br/>123 Hard rain?<br/>124 Astonished cries</p> <p><b>DOWN</b></p> <p>1 Ladybug snacks<br/>2 Like a romantic evening<br/>3 Sticky-edged squares<br/>4 Gunk and grime<br/>5 Gator follower?<br/>6 Wrap again, as an ankle<br/>7 Fossil fuel freighter<br/>8 Paul's "The Prize" co-star<br/>9 "that": "On me"<br/>10 League parts: Abbr.<br/>11 Shoe box spec<br/>12 Armenia, once Abbr.<br/>13 Do, as business</p> | <p>14 Preemptive action,<br/>proverbially<br/>15 Team with a skyline in its logo<br/>16 Buffalo's county<br/>18 GPS suggestion<br/>20 Anthem contraction<br/>21 TV kid in Miss Crump's class<br/>23 Good way to take things<br/>27 RR map dot<br/>30 Theater opening?<br/>31 Maier with a swimwear label<br/>32 Maker of Carbsmart ice cream bars<br/>34 Part of NCAA: Abbr.<br/>36 Part of the NCAA: Abbr.<br/>37 Whip<br/>38 d'oeuvres<br/>40 More genuine<br/>42 Org. for shrinks<br/>44 Prefix with scope<br/>45 Tom Cullen's title on "Downton Abbey": Abbr.<br/>46 Excuses<br/>48 Wrath, in a hymn<br/>49 Ceremonial pile<br/>51 Muted colors<br/>52 Job that takes precedence<br/>53 Popular charity event<br/>56 Parisian possessive<br/>59 "Mamma Mia!" song<br/>61 Decides not to go<br/>63 " Mine": George Harrison book<br/>65 Red letters?<br/>66 Checks<br/>68 Sign of neglect<br/>69 Deep-water beauty<br/>72 Kitchen additive<br/>74 Novelty "pet"<br/>75 "Just wait ..."<br/>78 Levels<br/>79 iPhone downloads</p> | <p>81 Bakers get a rise out of it<br/>82 "Manifest" ailer<br/>85 Over the moon<br/>87 CIA relative<br/>88 See 99-Across<br/>92 Largest city on the island of Hokkaido<br/>93 Cat burglar's asset<br/>95 Tailor's concern<br/>97 Pop artist from Pittsburgh<br/>98 See 24-Across<br/>100 Individual manners<br/>102 " Lang Syne"<br/>104 When it all started<br/>106 LAX postings<br/>107 Off the mark<br/>108 Shore bird<br/>109 LAX posting<br/>110 Right-to-left lang.<br/>111 LAX postings<br/>113 ...la-la<br/>115 Increase fraudulently<br/>116 " luck?"<br/>117 Sporty ride, for short</p> |
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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Sept. 15:** This year, you make changes that could surprise some people but work well for you. One-on-one relating works better for you than speaking in groups. If single, you draw in others with ease. Date all you want, but a choice feels necessary. Do not commit until you are sure of yourself. If attached, the two of you open up to better communication. Though you sometimes feel hesitant to express fragility, you will gain greater confidence with your bond. Capricorn frequently rains on your parade.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) You feel empowered, but you'll need to maintain that attitude if you are to clear away some of the obstacles a professional or community involvement might draw. Tension disappears, as do some of the hassles.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) You run a slow but steady ship at present. You might not be able to clear a hassle involving in-laws, travel or a special opportunity. You will do as you wish, but perhaps not today. Do not make any commitments.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) You beam in a lot more of what you want just by being you. The emphasis is on friendship and receiving the reward you most desire. Allow greater flexibility and respect another person's request. They might need some distance.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) You might need to move forward and handle a personal matter. How you deal with a loved one who often demands a lot from you could define your mood. Take charge, knowing what needs to happen. Consider a loved one's desires before making a decision.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) Look toward a day trip or schedule a mini-vacation in the near future. Understand what is going on around your home. Try to avoid an unusual risk at all costs. Examine new ideas and possibilities without acting, for now.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) One-on-one relating is highlighted. No matter what you decide to do or which direction you head, stay open. If feeling defensive or challenged, you could shut down. Be aware of your desires. Express more of what you want.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) One-on-one relating takes a quick turn. Others seem more affable than they have been in a while. You see a situation mount that could cause a problem around your domestic life. You cannot shirk your responsibilities.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You might not want to reveal much more than you have for now. Your smile goes a long way, and you might not need to verbalize as much. Try to diffuse a sense of negativity that surrounds several conversations.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Your creativity emerges, especially if facing a lack of funds. You and your playmates discover how much fun you can have with a low budget. Let go of your concerns and make the most of the moment.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You have dealt with a lot and might feel the need for a timeout. Do not hesitate to take some personal time. Ask yourself where the negativity comes from.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You could be in the mood to make a major change, though your inner conversation suggests that a problem lies ahead. Slow down and do not push as hard to achieve a goal. Rather, enjoy a light and easy visit over brunch.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) Use care with your spending. You are a sign that quickly slides from one perspective on an issue to another. You could easily go overboard. A friend could rain on your parade.

Answers to last week's puzzle.

