

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

AlphabeteeZ: 'Balanced' neologisms

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1346** we asked you to coin a word that was "alphabetically balanced," in that its first and last letters were equidistant from the beginning and end of the alphabet: a word beginning with A and ending with Z, or B-Y, C-X, etc. — or Z-A, Y-B, etc. The Empress received some *totally* balanced words as well: The best of those was by Jesse Frankovich: **Biwizardry**: Extreme skill in two things. As in: "A world-class expert at both bragging and lying, the president demonstrates unparalleled biwizardry."

4th place:

Gladjacent: Nearly happy. "Mom! I'm so glad you called ... well, let's say I'm gladjacent." (Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)

3rd place:

Buyintology: Pseudo-religious cult where you have to sign over your life savings to join. (Raymond Gallucci, Frederick)

2nd place and the 'bathroom piano' toilet mat:

Brexit is the soul of witlessness. (Brendan Beary, Great Mills)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

G7-1 split: When the kingpin thinks the rest of the pins are lined up behind him, but in fact they're in the corner having a laugh at his expense. (Steve Smith, Potomac)

Wit's enD:**Honorable mentions**

Nausoleum: FedEx Field. (Eric Nelkin, Silver Spring)

Eff-You-V: A Hummer. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

Hostiletto: High heels that are out to get your feet. (Sam Mertens, Silver Spring)

Supercalifragilisticexpialidocish: Amazingly wonderful, more or less. (John Glenn, Tyler, Tex.)

Hill-gotten gains: What lobbyists seek. (Jesse Frankovich)

Another *totally balanced term* — H-S, I-R, V-E, E-V, L-O: **Hive lovers**: Staffers who really enjoy a late night in their office cubicles. (Mark Deakin, Reston, a First Offender)

Bezosexy: What you'd call a man who looks like a hundred billion dollars. (Steve Smith)

Dorkscrew: To stand up a blind date on looks alone. "I walked in, took one look, and dorkscrewed him before he even saw me through his taped-up glasses." (Bob Kurlantzick, Potomac)

Fauxbeau: Someone you introduce to your matchmaking mother to keep her off your case. (Jeff Shirley, Richmond)

Hippocrampus: Brain freeze. (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

Okaysional: Acceptable once in a while. (Raymond Gallucci)

Irklotator: A maddeningly slow coffee maker. (Stuart Anderson, Seattle)

JokeyBBQ: Ribs served in some other part of the country. (Ward Kay, Vienna, Va.)

Lollipopoo: Even state fairs won't put THAT on a stick. (Frank Mann, Washington)

Mafiadon: Prehistoric creature whose bones are sometimes found in the swamps of New Jersey, many with broken knees. (Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.)

Mitchagain: Kentucky's nickname, according to frustrated Democrats. (Frank Mann)

Nerdy napalm: Inflammatory remarks like "Picard is better than Kirk," which we ALL KNOW IS FALSE! (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

Oedipol: A man who would do even you-know-what, if it would get him elected. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

Potlick: A rather undignified approach to a church supper. (Duncan Stevens)

Preak: An oddball who goes to a racetrack to enjoy the infield mud. (Kevin Dopart, Washington; Jim Derby, Rockville)

Vuvuzelophone: The most unpopular marching band instrument ever. (Jeff Contompasis)

Wonderspread: Guaranteed in 14 days with the Sugary White Sandwich Bread diet! (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)



Punographic humor: Get selected Invite entries in your Facebook feed by signing up at bit.ly/inkofday.

New contest for Week 1350:
Here's inspo for new-word poems

**As a man, the Bechdel Test I praise:
Sexist movies we must fix!
Our consciousness we have to raise
And stop demeaning you cute chicks.**

Even if you don't want it to, you stubborn fool, the English language continues inexorably to grow and change. And few have monitored those changes as precisely as our pals at Merriam-Webster, who've just issued a list of some three dozen (why not *all*, the Empress couldn't tell you) of the more than 500 terms and new meanings they've added in recent months to their dictionary at m-w.com. (Some have been around for years but just now managed to charm their way into the editors' hearts.) And so, for the second year running: **Write a poem of eight lines or fewer featuring one or more of these recent additions to m-w.com**, as in the example above by the totally woke humor columnist Gene Weingarten on the Bechdel test, which checks whether a movie contains a conversation between two women that's not about a man, as well as other feminist criteria. Because we last did this contest a year ago, we'll also include some words that were added this past April. **NOTE:** The terms must be used as they're defined in the new m-w.com listings. For instance, a poem on "inking" needs to refer to tattoos; it can't be only about being published in *The Style Invitational*. **The online Invite (wapo.st/invite1350) has a link to each definition; my Style Conversational column (wapo.st/conv1350) lists the definitions so you won't have to click on each word. Or you can go straight to m-w.com.**

aphantasia
Bechdel Test
coulrophobia
cross-sell
cynophobia
dad joke
deep state
escape room
fabulosity
fatberg
free solo
haircut (financial)
inclusive (race, gender, etc.)
inflection point
inking (tattooing)
inspo
lumberjack shirt
matcha
pain point
rebrand

rhotic
sesh
skeazy
stinger (movie scene)
tallboy
tix
unpack (analyze)
upsell
vacay
Announced in April:
buzzy
EGOT
bug-out bag
stan
snowflake (sensitive person)
swole
screen time
unplug (from technology)
garbage time

Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1350 (no capitals in the Web address).

Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives **Hula Bird**, a grass-skirted, lei-wearing, uke-strumming dashboard bobble-body of the Baltimore Orioles mascot, looking generally offensive to a wealth of sensibilities. Donated by whoever in The Post's sports section left it on a table with a big Post-it saying "FREE." Which by amazing coincidence exactly matches the Style Invitational second-prize budget.

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. 30;** results published Oct. 20 in print, Oct. 17 online. See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline "AlphabeteeZ" is by Dave Prevar; Chris Doyle wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev. "Like" the 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 — this week, we define all the new terms — check it out at wapo.st/styleconv.



Our second prize, almost as embarrassing as the O's playing.

Xenofrantic: Eek! Here come the tired! The poor! The non-WASP! Lock them up! (Adrienne Cadik, Alexandria, a First Offender)

Bluffoonery: A White House news conference. (Kevin Dopart)

Zensylvania: The most peaceful state. (The northwestern part is so calm it's Erie.) (Jesse Frankovich)

And Last: **Putink**: The Style Invitational has been infiltrated by the Russians! (Ann Martin, Brentwood)

And Even Laster: **Tantalosing**: Coming thiiiiis close to getting ink. (Brendan Beary)

More honorable mentions in the online Invite at wapo.st/invite1350.

Still running — deadline Monday night, Sept. 23: Our contest featuring the Congressional Record. See wapo.st/invite1349.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

"FILM OPENINGS"
By GARY LARSON

ACROSS
1 DSL provider
4 MSNBC rival
7 Living room piece
12 Tennyson poem that begins, "I waited for the train at Coventry"
18 Extreme degree
19 Sushi topping
20 Saudi neighbor
21 Turkey's highest peak
22 Review of a 2013 Disney musical?
25 Small shooter
27 Green-winged night flier
28 Sudden air movement
30 Olympic skater
31 Singer with numerically named albums
32 Vocalist Kitt
35 Job for an actor
37 Hanoi holiday
38 Place for a beret
39 1:58 for the duration of a 2016 Amy Adams sci-fi flick?
41 QB's stat
42 Inventor Otis
44 Macho guy
45 Reduce bit by bit
47 U.S. Army medal
48 Spoke at length
51 George who was VP for both Jefferson and Madison
53 Three-time Oscar-winning director
54 Stand-in
57 Closes securely
60 How some stock is sold
63 Leader in a beret
65 Hammock rests
68 Star NFL player
69 Great, in slang
70 Author of a 1990 Swayze/Moore fantasy romance?
73 Many ages
74 Prefix with currency or zoology
76 Tool for a duel
77 Pretentious talk
78 Pretentious
79 Events with tea, perhaps
81 Word on a dipstick

83 Book IDs
85 Not easily able
88 Expired
90 Cassis aperitif
93 Performed with brilliance
95 High-spirited horse
98 Diva Dion
100 ___ mentality
101 Box-office receipts for a 1988 Tom Hanks comedy?
104 Sugar bowl marchers
105 Professional org. since 1847
106 Sans accomplice
107 California wine valley
108 Titled rapper
109 Immortal NBA first name
111 Go yachting
113 By birth, what Professor Jones wasn't, surprisingly

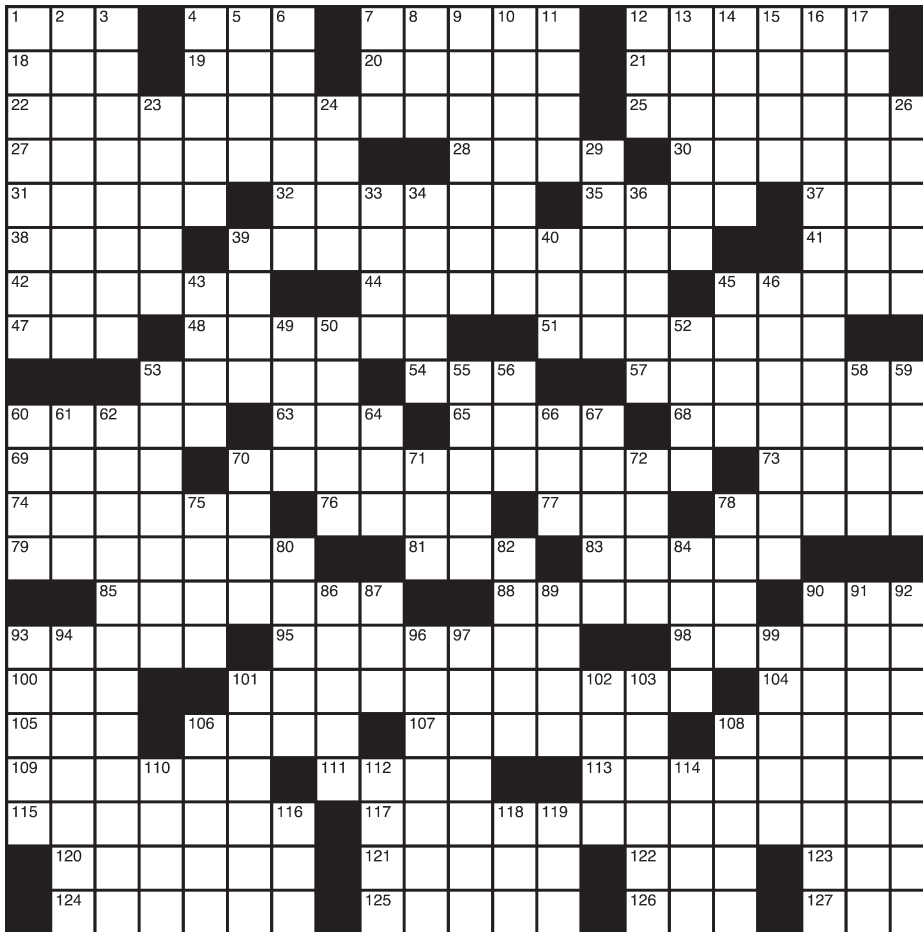
115 West African country
116
117 First draft of a 1995 De Niro/Pacino thriller?
120 Bordeaux wine
121 Houston player
122 Host's invitation
123 Perceive
124 Conger catchers
125 Second-stringers
126 General on a menu
127 Benchmark: Abbr.

12 School of whales
13 Brightly plumed songbird
14 German thanks
15 Tennessee state flower
16 TV commercial for a 1983 Chevy Chase comedy?
17 Finished "The Diamond Store"
23
24 Blacken
26 Not a shiny finish
29 Courtroom event
33 Winter coat
34 Super Bowl highlights?
36 Old Dodges
39 Group lobbying for lower drug prices
40 HBO competitor
43 Winter coat
45 Series-ending abbr.
46 Painting aids
49 St. Louis landmark
50 Western resort

DOWN
1 Blew up
2 Pastries from the German for "whirlpool"
3 Like the spelling "kuh-zin" for "cousin," e.g.
4 Oreo filling
5 Laying-down-the-law item
6 More orderly
7 Holiday title
8 Texting qualifier
9 Jazz singer
10 Yearbooks, say
11 Tiny complaints

52 Within reach
53 Sea in two continents
55 Single
56 Tavern
58 Footed vases
59 Ring-around-the-rosy bouquet
60 Beginner's class material
61 Corrida opponent
62 Pretentious chatter about a 1960 Hitchcock thriller?
64 Debatable ability
66 Orwell's Napoleon, for one
67 Unwanted spot
70 Medal for 30-Across
71 Wonderland drink
72 Canadian tank filler
75 Container weight
78 Chip in chips
80 New World colonizer

82 Exhaust
84 Pittsburgh Pirates nickname
86 Prods
87 Keyboard key
89 ___ Domini
90 Subject of some random acts
91 Private info-sharing system
92 Begrudded
93 Wee
94 Hockey advantage
96 Most hectic
97 Quarantine
99 West Coast NFLer
101 More scrawny
102 Qatari leader
103 Least out there
106 Mr. Moto portrayer
108 "Same here"
110 Honest-to-goodness
112 Queequeg's captain
114 Speaker's spot
116 @ signs
118 Musical syllable
119 Cruise, for one



9/22/19

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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Sept. 22: This year, your nurturing becomes a dominant theme. How you express your caring varies from person to person. For some, you put this nurturing energy into a cause, and for others, it's more personal. If single, others consider you very desirable. If you are at the right age and stage in life, you could meet "the one." If attached, your bond will be cemented by a decision or by taking the next step. Cancer can be moody at times, but they really do care.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
You speak your mind, and others listen. Conversations are animated in the morning. By afternoon, you could be dragging, but you will have established a lot of goodwill. Flow with the moment. Remember, it is your day of rest, too.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
You might be slow to start, much like the tortoise. You become a race-winning rabbit by the afternoon, sprinting from one activity and invitation to another. Others are delighted to see you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
Use the morning to the max when you feel great. Touch base with loved ones and friends by phone or an actual visit. Bring others together in the afternoon over a leisurely meal. Caring emotes.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
Sleep in the morning, and when you wake up, you are a well-rested moon child. Make plans to visit with an elder who demands attention and can be quite grumpy. When you see a glimmer of a smile from this person, you feel as if you have accomplished what you desired.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Step back and think. You have the ability to turn a difficult situation into a winning one. Be willing to relax and have a discussion that might be long overdue. Ask yourself what is going on around you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
You often don't look around and judge what is happening. You have many friends who have varied interests. Accept an odd invitation that might expand your circle of friends. A child or loved one could feel threatened.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Touch base with loved ones. How

you feel about a certain matter could change after a discussion. Bring family together for a special meal. Get into the closeness.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Reach out for a friend at a distance. You might want to spend some time chatting and catching up. Be authentic and share. Make plans to visit with an elder relative or friend for a late brunch.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
You understand what is expected from you. Whether you choose to meet expectations is your call. A partner or wannabe sweetie would like to spend more time with you.

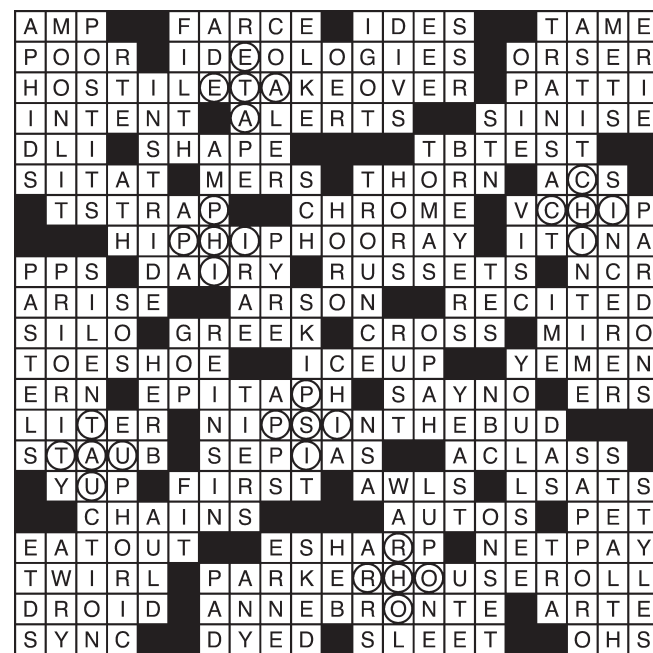
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
You make an effort toward family and loved ones, which is most

appreciated. You might feel pushed by others to join in when you aren't sure of what you want. Be polite but don't say yes unless you want to.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Express your fun-loving personality even when nurturing another person. You have a limited amount of energy, so make choices accordingly. You might even find time to squeeze in a project.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Your feelings flow when dealing with a child or loved one. This person let you know how much your caring means. Your gentle yet understanding nature emerges. Don't allow a friend's withdrawal to stress you out. Do know that they are going through a lot of changes.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



9/15/19