

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Jest for the Record: Week 1349 ink

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1349** the Empress invited readers to explore the Congressional Record, the official chronicle of the daily doings — and non-doings — of the legislative branch, and then to choose any sentence they could access from the CR website (which goes back to 1995) and come up with a question that the CR sentence might answer. Fewer people than usual entered, but as the E had predicted, those who did really got into it, as you'll see from the ink. And they didn't have to look far to find a lot of congressional inanity.

4th place:

**A. "I wish for them a lifetime of love as endless as the ocean and as timeless as the tides."**

Q. "Mr. President, how do you plan to support the people of the Bahamas as they try to rebuild?" (Sarah Walsh, Rockville)

3rd place:

**A. "I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina, who has unusual socks on today."**

Q. How do you tactfully tell a colleague that he has forgotten to put his pants on again? (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

2nd place and the Poop Hoop toilet-seat-on-head basketball game:

**A. A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.**

Q. How did you scare those teenagers off drugs with a visit to the morgue? (Sam Mertens, Silver Spring)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

**A. "It is important to end the gender gap, because half the people working for minimum wage are women."**

Q. Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney (D-N.Y.), would you explain the gender pay gap in the most statistically idiotic way? (Sam Mertens)

Lacks of Congress: Honorable mentions

**A. "It is \$1.4 billion — that is nine zeros — a day."**

Q. What statement by Sen. John N. Kennedy (R-La.) about government borrowing shows he can't count zeros? (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

**A. "They let her wander. In violation of all their own policies, she wandered outside. She wandered outside for more than 20 minutes."**

Q. What has been Melania's favorite moment as first lady? (Jesse Rifkin, Arlington)

**A. "Evidently a quorum is not present."**

Q. Speaker Pelosi, do you think the president has all his marbles? (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

**A. "I ask unanimous consent that I may proceed as in morning business for 30 seconds."**

Q. How must junior congressmen ask to go to the bathroom? (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

**A. "I smiled this last weekend when I filled up for \$2.25."**

Q. How is your all-poppcorn diet going? (Gary Crockett)

**A. "This crisis is affecting communities all over the country."**

Q. So it's really hard to get a Popeye's chicken sandwich? (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

**A. "Words fail me."**

Q. How do you explain your nickname, President Coolidge? (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

**A. "During my time in this body, I have had graduates and students of Virginia Tech work and intern for me."**

Q. Dalai Lama, what have you done since becoming an Honorary Hokie? (Kevin Dopart)

**A. "He aimed well."**

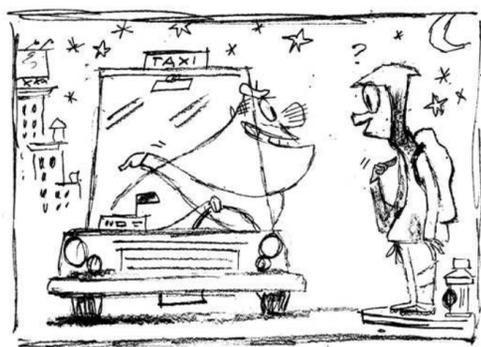
Q. At his retirement party, what is the highest praise a guy can get from the janitorial staff? (Kevin Dopart)

**A. "I have spent a lot of time on the Senate floor."**

Q. Do you admit, senator, that your drinking interferes with the performance of your duties? (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

**A. I like the bill Senator Hagan and I worked on.**

Q. Mr. President, what's your favorite part about building this giant butter-sculpture of Donald Duck? (Frank Osen)



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1353: What's playing at the retroplex

**Get In:** In this fantasy, a young black man finds that it's super-easy to hail a cab.

**Camelittle:** The Knights of the Round Table, weary of fighting injustice, take a nap.

**Get Along Fine Club:** A disaffected man is drawn into a secret society of anger management professionals.

**Apocalypse Eventually:** A soldier makes his way upriver in Vietnam, noticing along the way the incremental effects of climate change.

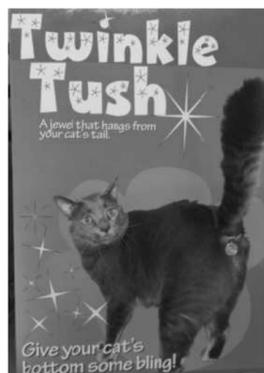
As has many a Style Invitational contest lately, this week's was suggested by Wildly Successful Loser Duncan Stevens, who got 136 blots of Invite ink in the previous year alone: **Change a movie title to its "opposite" by reversing one or more words; then describe the new movie**, as in Duncan's examples above.

Submit up to 25 entries at [wapo.st/enter-invite-1353](http://wapo.st/enter-invite-1353) (no capitals in the Web address).

Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives **Twinkle Tush**, a colorful little modesty "jewel" that you would hang beneath your cat's tail. (That is, you would if you were insane; even the packaging says you shouldn't leave it on your cat.) Donated by Loser Melissa Yorks, then inexplicably declined by whoever won it a few years ago.

**Other runners-up** win our "You Gotta Play to Lose" Loser Mug or our "Whole Fools" Grocery 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, Oct. 21;** results published Nov. 10 in print, Nov. 7 online. See general contest rules and guidelines at [wapo.st/InvRules](http://wapo.st/InvRules). The headline "Jest for the Record" is by Chris Doyle; Jon Gearhart submitted the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdex](https://www.facebook.com/on.fb.me/invdex). "Like" the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at [bit.ly/inkofday](https://www.facebook.com/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 feature some past altered-title movies — check it out at [wapo.st/conv1353](http://wapo.st/conv1353).



The latest in feline butt-bling: this week's second prize.

**A. "I yield myself as much time as I may consume."**

Q. How long is lunch? (Brett Dimaio, Cumberland, Md.; Dinah Rokach, Silver Spring)

**A. "Members will please face the camera."**

Q. What should never be said to Anthony Weiner? (Kevin Dopart)

**A. "The time of the gentleman has expired."**

Q. Whatever happened to the era of common courtesy? (Jesse Frankovich; Jeff Contompasis)

**A. "This bill had been a No. 1 legislative priority of our Nation's law enforcement officers, and I am proud of this bipartisan effort to support law enforcement and public safety."**

Q. What can you tell me about the effort to enact "Free Donuts for Cops" Day? (Sam Mertens)

**A. "We cannot be driven by polls."**

Q. After seeing his poll figures, what did the politician decide his constituents wanted to hear? (Roger Dalrymple, Gettysburg, Pa.)

**A. "He is a longtime Vikings fan."**

Q. Why would the president want to buy Greenland? (Jeff Contompasis)

**A. "I wish him nothing but a well-**

**deserved rest, relaxation, and best wishes in retirement."**

Q. What is the most passive-aggressive way to call for impeachment? (Gary Crockett)

**A. "Irregardless . . ."**

Q. To the dismay of word nerds, what word appears in the Congressional Record at least 30 times, most recently on May 23? (Bill Dornier, Indianapolis)

**A: "There are approximately 39 pending amendments which are probably in order and about 69 that are not, and those numbers may be off a little bit but they are not bad for government work at 8:30 in the middle of a Red Sox game."**

Q. Can you describe congressional dysfunction in a nutshell? (Sarah Walsh)

**A. "It is a bicameral effort."**

Q. Rep. Gohmert, what do you call two dromedaries crossing a desert? (Frank Osen)

**A. "An important contributor to our local economy, he owned a gas station and managed the Midland Screw Factory."**

Q. Dearly beloved, does anyone have any fond remembrances of our local pimp? (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

**A. "I want to take the opportunity to congratulate the entire Empress team, and thank them for all their incredible work in our area."**

Q. What did the Nobel Prize chairman say about The Style Invitational's contribution to literature? (Drew Bennett, West Plains, Mo.; the Empress is a casino)

**TWO contests still running — deadline for both is Monday night, Oct. 14:**

**Week 1351:** Ideas for timely Halloween costumes or parties — or actual photos of new ones. See [wapo.st/invite1351](http://wapo.st/invite1351).

**Week 1352:** Write a steamy scene about an unsteamy situation. See [wapo.st/invite1352](http://wapo.st/invite1352).

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

**"FLIP THE SWITCH" By KEVIN SALAT**

- 1 Expert's nugget
- 7 Seaside eatery
- 14 Relative challenge for some
- 19 Stand-up sort
- 20 Filmmaker for whom a Golden Globe award is named
- 21 Part of TNT
- 22 Lectured about links?
- 24 Got out of the pen
- 26 1974 Peace Nobelist from Japan
- 27 Gram opening
- 28 Word on a towel
- 29 Icky stuff
- 30 —cone
- 33 Portable preparedness kit
- 35 Rang
- 37 2019 NCAA hoops champ
- 38 Start of a few choice words?
- 40 World Golf Hall of Famer Lorena
- 42 Big discount events
- 45 Fabric flaws
- 46 Govt. health org.
- 47 "We have that in stock," e.g.?
- 49 Uniformed "O Canada" singer
- 51 Prom coif
- 52 Maple syrup base
- 53 Oktoberfest vessel
- 54 Balaam's mount
- 55 "In memoriam" piece
- 59 Adjust the length of
- 63 Peach center
- 64 "Cabaret" film director
- 66 Spanning
- 68 Foo Fighters frontman Grohl
- 69 —dreaming?'
- 70 Extra-base hit, likely?
- 73 Guys
- 74 Frog hangout
- 76 Like many awards
- 77 Similarly named rival of a video game plumber
- 78 PDX : Portland :: Chicago
- 79 Heavenly body?
- 81 Sentence structure?
- 82 Wetland
- 83 Tips politely
- 85 Complainer who won't quit
- 87 Dressed
- 89 Fundraiser

- 91 Fake modeling material?
- 97 Round number?
- 98 Obama
- Education secretary
- Duncan
- Specialized market segment
- 100 Big name in grills
- 102 Utah's — Canyon
- 103 Do brunch, say
- 104 Maze navigator
- 106 Cara of "Fame"
- 108 Yet, in poetry
- 109 "That was ages —"
- 110 Law firm fig.
- 111 Brief affair
- 113 XL, for one
- 115 Work
- intermittently (in)
- 117 Let go of a factory workers unit?
- 122 Intel-gathering mission
- 123 Premier League powerhouse
- 124 Syrian city
- 125 Rainbow-shaped
- 126 Has no wrong answers, say
- 127 Academy bestowals

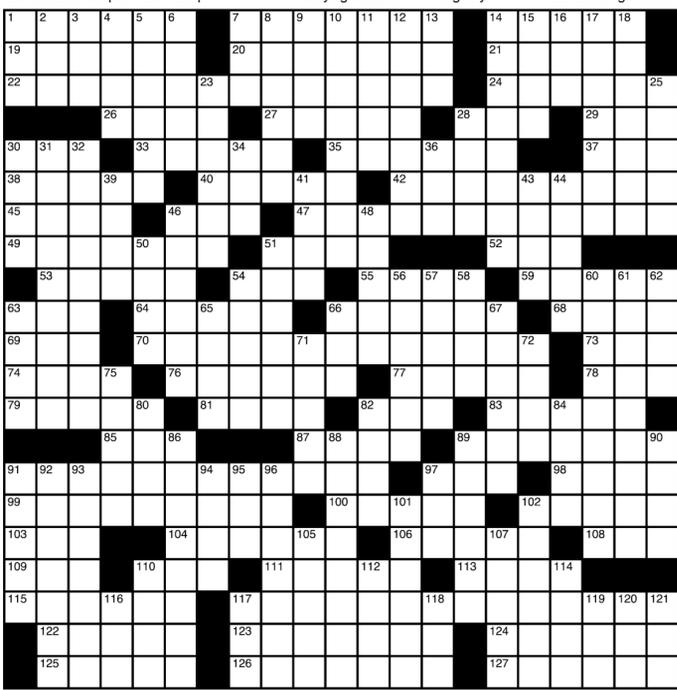
DOWN

- 1 Downing St. VIPs
- 2 Union —
- 3 "Blueprint for a Sunrise" artist
- 4 Hiding sounds
- 5 Frigid time
- 6 ID card feature
- 7 New Orleans summer hrs.
- 8 Bethlehem university
- 9 "Absolutely!"
- 10 Prop for an emcee
- 11 Olive pursuer of comics
- 12 Sprouts source
- 13 Call the game
- 14 First to hear the news
- 15 Little bites
- 16 P.O. delivery
- 17 Peppery salad green
- 18 Convinced
- 23 Twerp

- 25 "Find out" mentality
- 28 NBA's Nikola Jokic, e.g.
- 31 "Lost in Yonkers" playwright
- 32 Guidebook for throwing a shot?
- 34 37-Across conf.
- 36 "Hamilton" creator
- Manuel Miranda
- 39 "Aha!"
- 41 "I'm such a klutz!"
- 43 Char
- 44 Energetically excited
- 46 Cooking oil option
- 48 Poor spirits?
- 50 Sec
- 51 Good to have around
- 54 All together
- 56 Prepared, as beer
- 57 Waterloo resident
- 58 Ruler until 1917
- 60 Stage hog staying sober?

- 61 From then on
- 62 Patch
- 63 Rollin' stone, in a Motown classic
- 65 What collaborators should be in
- 66 46-Across HQ city
- 67 Small burger
- 71 Edie of "The Sopranos"
- 72 Fish-eating bird
- 75 Academy Award winner Dame Judi
- 80 Linnologist's subject
- 82 Wither away
- 84 Funhouse reaction
- 86 Commit a hoops no-no
- 88 Good times to build sand castles
- 89 Least adorned
- 90 Many a "Freaks and Geeks" character
- 91 Manipulate digitally

- 92 Falls for someone who's married?
- 93 Red — fictional sub
- 94 — party
- 95 American Heart Mo., aptly
- 96 Armed conflict
- 97 What "I" may mean
- 101 Ardent enthusiast
- 102 Frames around smartphone displays
- 105 Top-tier
- 107 Mandarin hello
- 110 Lotion ingredient
- 112 Hendryx of the "Lady Marmalade" trio
- 114 Util. supply
- 116 Include covertly, briefly
- 117 Online gaming annoyance
- 118 St. Pete's place
- 119 Beer choice
- 120 "Code Switch" ailer
- 121 Dawn goddess



10/13/19 xwordeditor@aol.com ©2019 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Oct. 13:** This year, you have the opportunity to head in a unique direction. You might weigh the pros and cons for a substantial period before deciding which way to go. If single, you meet many people but might note an explosive quality about relationships. This too will pass. If you're attached, you and your partner have a newfound intensity. Learn to identify with your sweetie more often. Aries can be volatile at times. Know that you often have the same issues but different approaches.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) You might feel edgy as you begin your day. You might be sensing the chaos that this full moon day could wreak upon you. Be optimistic; stay positive, knowing full well what you want and desire. Avoid difficult people.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) You might feel uneasy as you sense that others are upset. The unexpected runs wild, and you might be more of a participant than you realize. A partner seems abundant with goodwill and intensity. Try to respond to this person.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) Zero in on a goal. What you want might be silly, or what you judge as silly. Understand who might be raining on your parade. Recognize what's happening around your friends. Some of them could be too intense for your taste.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) You might want to change your plans. You see others — especially an authority figure — as difficult and somewhat explosive. Push could come to shove. Be careful; you could be part of the problem.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) If you want to spontaneously hop in the car and take a drive, do it. A change of environment could make a big difference. You could note that others are short-tempered. Ignore their behavior. Take the high road.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) One-on-one relating takes you down a new path. Be willing to share more of your feelings. Understand that others, and you, might be overly sensitive. Try to be optimistic and positive.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Defer to others, knowing full well that many of the people around you are feisty and difficult. Let them play out their moods. Be smart; be nonreactive, knowing that this too will pass.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You might have a project that you need to tackle around the house. A friend might offer to pitch in but might prove to be more of an interference as they decide that they have a better way to proceed.

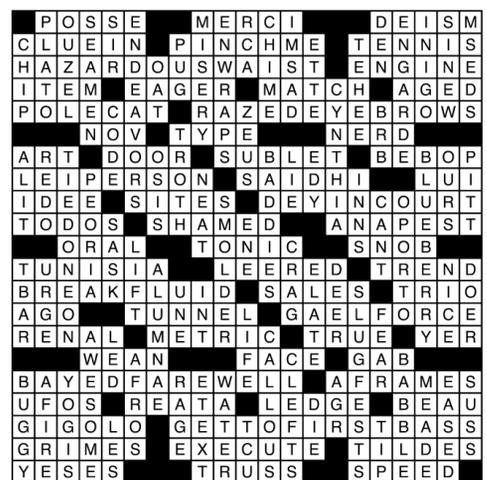
**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You could feel as though you need to proceed in a certain manner. Others seem to be extremely emotional. How you handle a personal matter could radically change.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Defer to another person; get to the bottom of a problem. You could find that a family member is feisty and determining much of what's going on today. You could be quiet or opt to go in a separate direction.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You discover that a talk might not be finding the way you thought it would. Be more open than you have been until now. Join your friends, though you could be somewhat feisty and difficult.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) Use good sense with your spending. Stay in touch with what you most desire. How you handle a personal matter could radically change after a discussion. Be aware of what you offer another person.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



10/6/19