

## DIVERSIONS

## THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

## Get RIAL: Winning neologisms

BY PAT MYERS

**Week 1366** was our annual Tour de Fours contest to create new words (or snarkily define existing ones) that include a particular block of four letters, in any order. This year's was LIAR (or RIAL, ARIL, etc.).

## 4th place:

**Nostrail:** What inevitably drips down your face when you've got the sniffles in February and you're wearing your big gloves. (*Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn*)

## 3rd place:

**"Corialonus":** Shakespeare rendered acceptable for delicate sensibilities. (*Steve Honley, Washington*)

## 2nd place and the crocheted Venus of Willendorf:

**Heilraiser:** The person in a political discussion who inevitably brings up a Hitler reference. (*Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase*)

## And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

**Flopularity:** When people flock to see a show just to revel in its badness. 'Cats' has proved so flopular that the theater added a midnight showing for stoners who want to creep out at Judi Dench's fur-skin. (*Bill Dorner, Indianapolis*)

## Receding har-lines: Honorable mentions

**Bail-a-ruse:** Where Carlos Ghosn got his fake passport. (*Mark Raffman, Reston*)

**Stairl:** In addition to stubb'n, another thing a mule is. (*Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.*)

**Air latte:** A big mug of foam with a measly amount of coffee underneath (see also **air lager**). (*Gordon Cobb, Marietta, Ga.*)

**Billiar:** "I swear I've never played pool before . . . beginner's luck! Want to play again, double or nothing?" (*Erika Ettin, Washington*)

**Brrraile:** When it's so cold that blind folks can read messages in your goose bumps. (*Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.*)

**"King Liar":** A monarch promises his kingdom to all three daughters, then leaves it to his jester. (*Steve Honley*)

**Cigarlic:** Baskin-Robbins decided to stay at 31 flavors after this new one proved less than a hit. (*Stephen Dudzik, Olney*)

**Darlingual:** Fluent in completing a spouse's sentences. (*Eric Nelkin, Silver Spring*)

**Fairlymandering:** Something elected politicians in "safe" districts will never agree to. (*Roy Ashley, Washington*)

**Garlic breadth:** A safe distance to maintain after eating Texas toast or scampi. Equivalent to three onion breadths. (*Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.*)

**Hel Air:** For such a fancy L.A. neighborhood, it sure has a lot of smog. (*Drew Bennett, West Plains, Mo.*)

**Hillari-T:** A "Lock Him Up" shirt. (*Ann Martin, Brentwood*)

**Huhilarity:** The awkward I'd-better-laugh reaction of the only person in the room who doesn't get the joke. (*Lennie Magjida, Urbana, Md.*)

**Infiltrate:** Go onto a competitor's website and fill it with bad reviews. (*Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.*)

**Jailr:** Dating app to find the perfect prison "friend." (*Ryan Martinez, Takoma Park*)

**Liarrhea:** A condition of continually talking out one's rear. "The staff reminder 'I modium before the podium' still failed to prevent liarrhea at the Rose Garden news conference." (*Kevin Dopart, Washington*)

**Newtrality:** Being fair and balanced to all, whether Americans or liberals. (*Frank Osen*)

**Parilous:** At risk of being just average. "My kid's test scores are borderline parilous — do you have Rick Singer's number?" (*Sam Mertens, Silver Spring*)

**Per-spiral:** That cycle when sweating makes you nervous, which makes you sweat more. (*Mark Raffman*)

**Pliars:** What the dentist uses to rip out your molar while cooing, "This might cause a bit of discomfort." (*Chris Murphy, Germantown*)



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

## New contest for Week 1370: What's in a name?

**Donald Trump:** A mutant pompadour on a mammon-adulator. (*Chris Doyle, Week 617, 2005*)

**Angus MacGyver:** Uses sunscreen, a car gauge, mucus, an eraser, mascara, a cane, garage grease, a N.Y. egg cream, gum — unarms a gang, rescues a granny, saves a nun. Vacuums mess. Cures cancer. (*Kevin Dopart, Week 1009, 2013*)

**George Washington:** He was a great one, a wise one, the shining star o' the new nation. OTOH, tho there was no terror on his estate, there were no wages either. (*Elden Carnahan, Week 1009*)

Here's a contest we hadn't done in seven years, and there are certainly lots of new names to work with (along with the old ones). **This week: Write something about a well-known person, real or fictional, using only the letters in that person's name, as in the inking examples above.**

Obviously you can repeat the letters, and you don't necessarily have to use all of them. There's no length limit, but you don't get extra credit for running on at length just because you thought of some more usable words. What does get ink is something that sounds like actual English; if it's hard to read, the Empress won't. **You may include a brief title with the name, such as "President George Washington," but don't overdo it to build yourself a huge bank of letters.** In 2005 one Loser used "Charles Philip Arthur George Mountbatten-Windsor, Prince of Wales." That person did not get ink.

Submit up to 25 entries at [wapo.st/enter-invite-1370](http://wapo.st/enter-invite-1370) (no capitals in the Web address). Deadline is Monday, Feb. 17; results will appear March 8 in print, March 5 online.

**Winner gets the Lose Cannon, our Style Invitational trophy.** Second place gets the **exuberantly nifty noodle hat** modeled here exuberantly by Loser Kathleen Delano and donated exuberantly, or at least generously, by Loser Dave Prevar.

**Other runners-up** win their choice of our "For Best Results, Pour Into Top End" Loser Mugs 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). See general contest rules and guidelines at [wapo.st/InvRules](http://wapo.st/InvRules). The headline "Get RIAL" is by Jesse Frankovich; William Kennard wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](https://on.fb.me/invdev). "Like" the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at [bit.ly/inkofday](https://bit.ly/inkofday); follow @StyleInvite on Twitter.

**The Style Conversational:** The Empress's weekly online column reviews each new contest and set of results. This week she shares some earlier ink from "What's in a Name," including some that did *not* stand the test of time. Check it out at [wapo.st/conw1370](http://wapo.st/conw1370).

**Don't miss an Invite!** Sign up at [tinyletter.com/TheEmpress](http://tinyletter.com/TheEmpress) to receive a once-a-week email from the E as soon as The Style Invitational and Style Conversational go online every Thursday, complete with links to the columns.



SELFIE BY KATHLEEN DELANO

**Loser Kathleen Delano is attacked by this week's prize.**

**Receding airline:** The flight you just missed as it disappears into the sky. (*Jeff Shirley, Richmond*)

**Reliarable:** Describing people who can be counted on to rattle off falsehoods whenever they open their mouths. (Sorry, I can't come up with any examples.) (*Kel Nagel, Salisbury, Md.*)

**Risquéclair:** Why is that pastry shaped like . . . that? (*Jeff Contompasis*)

**Shangri-ladies' rooms:** Where there's never a line, the mirrors are slimming and the three-ply Cottonelle flows like wine. (*Jeff Shirley*)

**Sir Lancelittle:** The ladies teased him for having a short spear. (*Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.*)

**Smearling:** An apprentice opposition researcher. (*Jeff Contompasis*)

**Snarli:** Kellyanne Conway's unicorn name. (*Kel Nagel*)

**Syria later:** What you say to the Kurds as you break all your promises to them. (*Duncan Stevens*)

**The Blair Pitch Project:** Visitors to a ballpark in Houston hear a mysterious metallic banging. . . . (*Matt Monitto, Bristol, Conn.*)

**Umbrella riddle:** "What can you take on a plane, sir, if it is closed but not if it is open?" (*Jesse Frankovich*)

**And Last: Har-bitrarily:** How the Empress decides what's funny. (*Gary Crockett*)

**And even Lastest: Armchair Loser:** "Eh. I could be way funnier than those Style Invitational people. Now where's the comics section?" (*Jesse Frankovich*)

**Okay, one Lastest: Tiara lights:** What the Empress needs, because she clearly didn't see my *fabulous* entry! (*Beverly Sharp*)

**Still running — deadline Monday night, Feb. 10: Our contest for jokes about yapos or misheard words. See [wapo.st/invite1369](http://wapo.st/invite1369).**

## L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

**"NO MORE TEARS"**  
By YAAKOV BENDAVID

## ACROSS

- Stand array
- Exams for aspiring MBAs
- Border
- Word with dance or union
- Work as a team
- Draw a bead on
- Old alphabet character
- Inter \_\_\_ among others
- Chicken lover's comment?
- Most exceptional, in recent lingo
- Relish
- Afternoon service
- Not cluttered
- Race
- Tannery tub
- Cycle starter
- What many writers work on
- Attains
- Gondoliers' tools
- Denial from one with a very recent white mustache?
- Ant or Arkin
- Like much junk mail
- Title words before Legend or Woman
- Consume
- "You \_\_\_ Beautiful!": Joe Cocker hit
- Roast job
- Some notebooks
- Reporter's query
- Decides one will
- Ewe, for one
- Biblical prophet
- Local monastery VIP?
- Air \_\_\_, 2011 Southwest acquisition
- Chicago's \_\_\_ Tower
- "Now, where \_\_\_ we?"
- Bad do result?
- Italian actress
- Virna
- Submissions to an ed.
- Big name in plastic explosives
- First name in folk
- Hwy. crime
- Hogwarts potions master
- Word before county, river or Bill
- Cincinnati-to-Detroit dir.

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2/9/20

xwordeditor@aol.com

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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

## HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Feb. 9:** This year, you make waves wherever you go. People cannot help but notice your charisma and friendly nature. You have new choices available to you at work and with friends and family. If single, do not commit unless you are 100 percent sure. If attached, the two of you add a stronger sense of connection to your relationship. For some of you, this warmth might stem from finally taking that special trip. Leo admires your coolness and ability to handle touchy situations.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) Without intending to, you could create an explosive situation. Be ready to smile instead of growling even if you hit a roadblock. It is nearly impossible to take back nasty words. The less said, the better.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) The unpredictability that is slowly being attached to you seems justified if you pull back and look at your knee-jerk reactions. Take some time to yourself and prioritize what is important.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) Reach out for a loved one or dear friend. A late brunch might be just what the doctor ordered. You can maximize the moment and catch up on fun news. Make plans for the near future as well.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) Stay ahead of a situation and clear out a problem before it becomes too expensive emotionally or financially. You might not appreciate what you hear from a loved one or dear friend.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) You enjoy periods like today when others cannot get enough of you. Your biggest problem will be juggling the various people around you. You might need to make amends with someone.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Use the daylight hours for yourself. You enjoy your Sundays sometimes doing a crossword puzzle or making calls to friends you have not visited with recently. Others respond to your energy, and by late afternoon, you might want to join a pal.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Get some important errands done quickly and efficiently. Fatigue could wear you down as the day

ages. Be willing to change plans if need be. A loved one or dear friend lets you know how important you are.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Others look to you for a hint as to how they should respond to a complex situation. It is only complex because someone wants it to be. Invite friends to join you in the afternoon to watch a game, have dinner or whatever pleases you.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Call someone you rarely speak to. You both care a lot about each other but have very little time to visit. Decide to change that pattern. Check in with an older person, boss or key family member in the afternoon.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Reach out for someone you care about who you might have been unintentionally ignoring. Getting together or even just chatting on the phone catches you up on news. Do not hold back.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You enjoy the busy pace, yet you might need to slow down. Spend some quality time with a loved one who might feel ignored. They are instrumental to your well-being.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) Get as much done as you can in the daylight hours. You might need to do an errand or catch up on calls. Late in the afternoon, your popularity takes over. Whatever your plans are, they could change.

## Answers to last week's puzzle.

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2/2/20