

## DIVERSIONS

## THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

## Cut! Letters dropped from movie titles

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1387 the Empress asked you to delete one or more letters from the middle of a movie title, then describe the new film. Too many Losers suggested **THE MAN(ch)URIAN CANDIDATE** (you can guess the rest). More than 2,300 total entries later, let's roll 'em.

## 4th place:

**AN INCONVENIENT (t)RUTH:** Alito and Kavanaugh find their plans stymied at every turn by a supernatural force. (*Frank Mullen III, Aledo, Ill.*)

## 3rd place:

**DEAD P(0)ETS SOCIETY:** Heartbroken by the success of "Springtime for Hitler," Max Bialystock is convinced he's finally picked the musical that will send everyone heading for the exits. (*Frank Mann, Washington*)

## 2nd place and the Bush-Quayle campaign button:

**FOUR (wed)DINGS AND A FUNERAL:** A cautionary tale of what happens when you're not careful with the mob boss's car. (*Stephen Dudzik, Olney*)

## And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

**THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD (st)ILL:** Prequel of "The Three Months and Counting When the Earth Stood III." (*Sue Lin Chong, Baltimore*)

## THE PLOT (th)ICKENS: Honorable mentions

**FOR YOUR (e)YES ONLY:** A documentary about the current White House's hiring standards for advisers. (*Ryan Martinez, Takoma Park*)

**FRIED GREEN (toma)TOES:** While teaching Kermit to cook, Miss Piggy realizes something has gone terribly wrong. (*Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.*)

**GHOST(bust)ERS:** "Who ya gonna call — who won't pick up?" (*Ben Aronin, Washington*)

**HARRY POTTER AND THE GOB(let) OF FIRE:** Hermione's clever spell causes Draco Malfoy to hawk up a gusher of flaming loogies. (*Jerry Birchmore, Springfield*)

**ALICE DOESN'T LI(v)E HERE ANYMORE:** The president dismisses another press secretary. (*Mark Raffman, Reston*)

**MY (f)AIR LADY:** A lifelong bachelor decides he prefers the company of an inflatable woman. (*Tom Witte, Montgomery Village*)

**THE (h)AUNTING:** A woman wishes she'd never volunteered to babysit her sister's children. (*Michelle Christophorou, Guildford, England*)

**THE P(0)PE OF GREENWICH VILLAGE:** Even the singers wear masks onstage at this covid-conscious folk club. (*Bruce Alter, Fairfax Station*)

**THE CHI(n)A SYNDROME:** A nuclear accident brings on unsettling changes in the growth of men's beards. (*Mark Raffman*)

**THE GIRL WITH THE D(rag)ON TATTOO:** A True Trumper dispenses with a MAGA hat and gets his picture inked on her forehead. (*Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.*)

**THE IMITATION (ga)ME:** Madonna expresses annoyance at Lady Gaga's success. (*Mark Raffman*)

**THE KIN(g)'S SPEECH:** The best man desperately tries to think of funny but not too humiliating stories about his brother to use in the wedding toast. (*Richard Wexler, Alexandria*)

**THE LAST OF THE (Mohi)CANS:** City residents search in vain for an open restroom during the lockdown. (*William Kennard, Arlington*)

**THE (Afri)CAN QUEEN:** The Kim Kardashian story. (*Mark Nocera, Alexandria, a First Offender*)

**MR. S(m)ITH GOES TO WASHINGTON:** How a young, naive Dick Cheney was lured to the Dark Side. (*Andrew Wells-Dang, Arlington*)

**NO COUNT(ry) for OLD MEN:** Tarzan explains why pollsters got the 2016 presidential race wrong. (*Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase*)

**ON THE (water)FRONT:** Instructional video on the best way to wear your mask. (*Jeff Rackow, Bethesda*)



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

## New contest for Week 1391: No-covid zone — a neologism contest

**Gymgerly:** How one handles the equipment at the newly reopened Planet Fitness.  
**Texass:** A Sun Belt resident who insists that wearing a mask in a bar infringes upon his freedom.  
**Tallsa tale:** "Our other 994,000 supporters didn't show up because they were afraid of protesters!"

It makes a certain sense, we concede, for The Washington Post to be Corona All the Time. But sometimes we need a reprieve. Well, a fake one, anyway. In Week 1243 we did a contest for new terms that didn't have a T, R, U, M or P; **this week: Coin a new word or phrase that lacks C, O, V, I and D and describe it**, as in the examples above by 24-7 Loser Duncan Stevens, who suggested this contest. Note that while the letters are off limits, the subject isn't.

Submit up to 25 entries at [wapo.st/enter-invite-1391](http://wapo.st/enter-invite-1391) (no capitals in the Web address). **Deadline is Monday, July 13;** results will appear Aug. 2 in print, July 30 online.

**Winner gets the Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives something that's for giving away: It's a **prank gift box labeled "Emma Dean's Earwax Candle Kit,"** complete with a big photo of a huge gobby brownish candle. "Wax Extraction Cap Included!" On the side is a promo for Ms. Dean's other alleged craft creations, like "Human Hair Wall Hangings." Donated by the eternally pranky Loser Mike Creveling.

**Other runners-up** win their choice of our "For Best Results, Pour Into Top End" Loser Mug or our "Whole Fools" Grocery Bag. Honorable mentions get one of our new lusted-after Loser magnets, "No 'Bility" or "Punderachiever." 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 "Cut!" was suggested by half a dozen Losers; Jon Gearhart wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the 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 discusses each new contest and set of results. Especially if you plan to enter, check it out at [wapo.st/conv1390](http://wapo.st/conv1390).



Not really — it's a prank gift box. This week's second prize.

**ALL QUI(0)N ON THE WESTERN FRONT:** They hold a war and nobody comes. (*Sam Mertens, Silver Spring*)

**ALL QUIET ON THE (wes)TERN FRONT:** Hitchcock's less suspenseful sequel to "The Birds." (*Larry Passar, Reston*)

**ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN F(r)ONT:** After an epic shootout, the graphics team finally settles on Rio Grande Bold for the saloon sign. (*Gary Crockett*)

**THE (ja)ZZ SINGER:** A young emigre defies his family to chase his dream of singing lullabies for a living. (*Harold Mantle, Walnut Creek, Calif.*)

**THE BEST (y)EARS OF OUR LIVES:** Three Iowa corn farmers discover the lucrative business of ethanol. (*Chuck Helwig, Centerville*)

**THE BLUE (la)GOON:** The Democrats decide they need a

ruthless, irrational bully of their own. (*Maggie Haring, Leesburg*)

**P(r)ETTY WOMAN:** We follow Karen from store to store as she demands to see every manager. (*Jerry Birchmore*)

**PE(yt)ON PLACE:** The lives of the downstairs staff at Mar-a-Lago. (*Bill Lieberman, Ellicott City*)

**RO(semar)Y'S BABY:** An Alabama judge goes "shopping" at a local mall. (*Jesse Frankovich*)

**J(F)K:** Oliver Stone's new film admits that, okay seriously, it was just Lee Harvey Oswald. (*Bob Kruger, Rockville*)

More honorable mentions in the online [invite at wapo.st/invite1391](http://wapo.st/invite1391).

**Still running — deadline Monday night, July 6: Our contest to compare any two items from our zany list. See wapo.st/invite1390.**

## L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

**"THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN" By ED SESSA**

**ACROSS**

1 Graf with 22 Grand Slam singles titles

7 Epcot's Spaceship Earth, e.g. Sacha Baron Cohen alter ego

16 Part of HMS Magic

19 Soup dish

20 Like many feedbag cereals

21 NFL analyst

22 Big name in kitchen gadgets

23 "Pro in a ring

25 Helped throw a party

27 Boxers' org.? Birth day ordeal

28 Boxer's wound

31 Clock watchers

32 Bygone Russian ruler

34 Sonic the Hedgehog creator

35 Math class for coll. credit

36 "Challenge for a hopeful collegian

40 Footnote abbr.

42 Removes fasteners from Hand-rubbing chuckle

46 Trawler's catch

48 Firewood option

49 Title for Marian

50 Reacts with obvious pleasure

52 Comply with

53 Pet peeve?

54 Cap-and-crown org.?

55 "Multi-faceted stage performance

58 Believer

60 Least amt.

61 Reasons against

62 Lands' End department

63 Barrier — Historic toolmaking period

66 Practices, as a trade

68 Eyes and ears

71 Chocolate-caramel candy brand

72 Industrial arts class, informally

73 Actor Cumming of "The Good Wife"

74 River inlet

75 International economic coalition

77 "Military stint

80 One of the Bobbey twins

81 Valley with cellars and sellers

82 On the fence

84 Loathing

85 "Misbehavin'": Fats Waller song

86 Suffix with glob

87 Ingratiates oneself (to), with "up"

89 The NBA's Magic

90 Leave the larval stage

92 \_Croatian language

94 "Act of genius

97 Plant-based sugar substitute

99 Charged atoms

100 Earliest work in a musical chronology

104 One making amends

105 Winter coat?

106 Afghan capital

108 Initialism for some time away from work

109 Met a monthly obligation

111 Ribbon-cutting event, or what the starts of the answers to starred clues can have

114 Canon initials

115 Singer from County Donegal

116 Like many roofs

117 Parking garage designation

118 Just make, with "out"

119 Insect repellent

120 Gushes

121 Forensic competition

**DOWN**

1 Mar. 17 figure

2 Ankara natives

3 "Fear of Flying" author Jong

4 Topper for 2-Down

5 Premonition

6 Hospital deliveries

7 Disco era word

8 Lion ruler Bert

9 5'9" Giant Mel

10 Disco band brother

11 Madas hopping mad

12 Foot part

13 Bath bathroom

14 "Gotcha, man"

15 Perp's pretend friend, in interrogation

16 "1977 Eagles hit

17 Works out

18 Reel holders

24 Letter-shaped girder

26 Hand-to-hand sound

30 Brass band members

33 Marsh plant

34 Bonehead

35 Yves' squeeze

37 Interruption

lead-ins

38 Tide type

39 "We Have the Meats" sandwich chain

41 This, when over there

42 Fish sauce taste

43 Low point

44 "Liszt list, e.g.

47 "I'm buying"

50 Downfall

51 Part-time player

53 Bank add-ons

55 What weight watchers watch

56 Access, as a site

57 Drive origination point

59 Penny: folk tale name

65 Smoked salmon

66 Calls work from home

67 Grant on old TV

68 Blighted area

69 Mirthful

70 "A votre \_"

72 Stretch mark, say

73 Grownup

75 Safari sights

76 Pitch from a rep

78 Lysol targets

79 Stands in the forest, perhaps

83 Baum princess

85 A group of them may be called a shrewdness

87 Dealt with

88 Memorable pie throwers

90 Window one would rather keep closed

91 Tiny Tim's strings

93 Oregon golfing mecca

95 Swathe

96 Automaton

98 Sherlock's foe

Adler

101 Three-time A.L. batting champ

Tony

102 Nine-piece combo

103 Sharp-eyed bird

104 Cathedral recess

105 ER directive

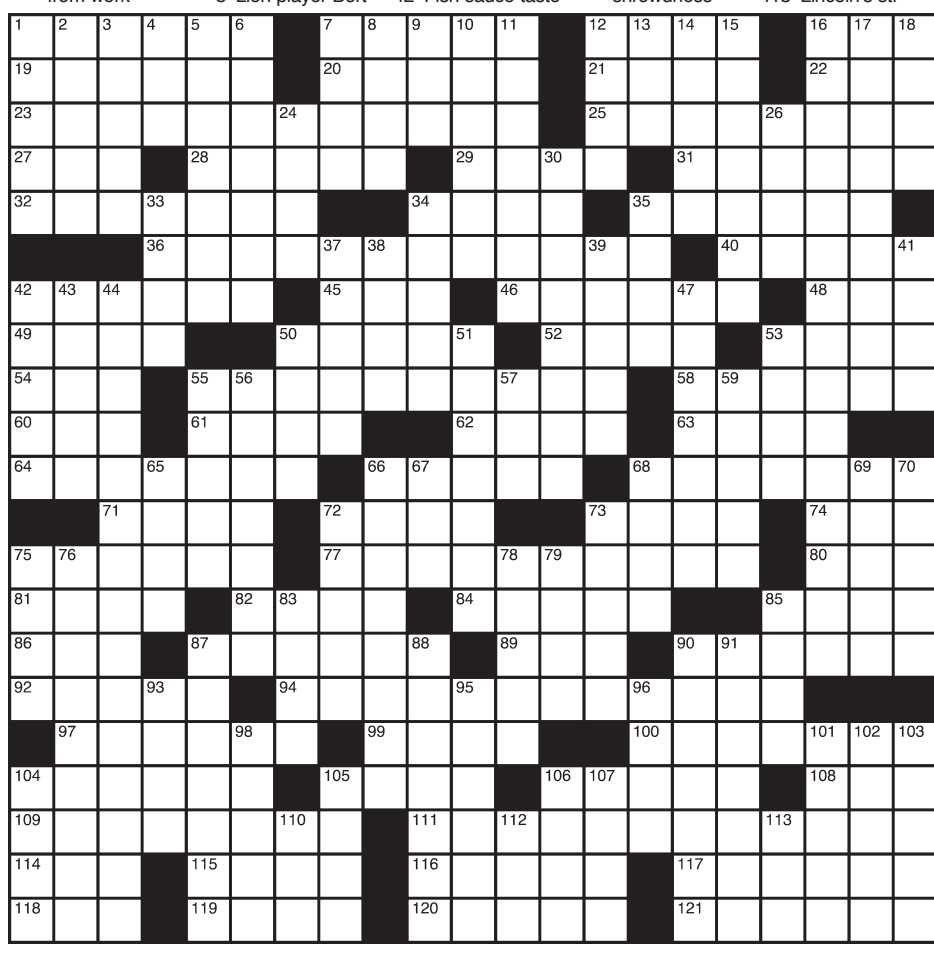
106 Had already learned

107 Supplements, with "to"

110 Emmy-winning scientist

112 Melrose in L.A., say

113 Lincoln's st.



7/5/20

xwordeditor@aol.com

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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

## HOROSCOPE

BY MADALYN ASLAN

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY | July 5:** Exciting and powerful, you not only recognize opportunities but go for them. Thus, if you stay grounded enough, this year will be very successful for you. Personally, keep on trying if you feel unappreciated. If single, you best search for a stable mate who will anchor you. If attached, you are loved deeply by your partner, whom you must not take for granted. Cancer will never let go.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) Today commences on supporting a nostalgic mood. Creative ideas abound. Intellectual curiosity is heightened. Animals may require extra time and expense. An admirer gives you a positive recommendation.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) Someone from another cultural or spiritual background can become a romantic prospect or at least a new friend. Try creative writing. Your judgment is especially good, so don't go through agony about making a decision.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) Contact a longtime acquaintance who has been out of touch. There is no mirror like an old friend. Gaze into the eyes of one of yours; you will be amazed to see how much you've grown.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) Choices are made regarding loyalty. Others cling to you, a situation that can be uncomfortable as you give so much already. Your heart tells you to focus on family life, but another part of you wants to advance elsewhere.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) Take time to rest and nourish your body. Listen to its needs. Make any necessary changes related to wellness, and all will be fine. Rapid responses are the path to success. Writing, travel and learning are all favored today.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Your personality can open new doors. Express creativity. A new romantic interest or an enjoyable new avocation will brighten your day. Instinctively, you will say and do all of the right things to increase trust and bonding with children.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Devote today to making happy

changes in living arrangements and helping family members reach their goals. Hang an updated photo of your family in your workspace to symbolize the positive interaction of home with professional life.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Your speaking and writing abilities win you admiration and love. Your personality and appearance create a memorable impression on influential individuals. Take the lead in making suggestions and arranging projects for the month.

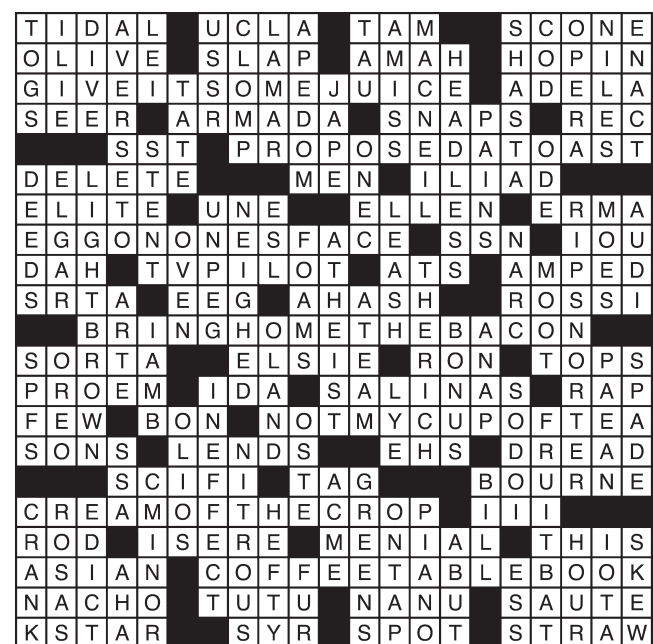
**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You feel the need to acquire more security and also to shop for some desired items. This adds a happy energy to the day. Take advantage of sales now. Financial prospects and matters of the heart are extremely promising.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan 19) Today brings opportunity. You have a vision of the year to come. Select goals. Commitments made will stick, so be cautious if considering a promise that could entangle. Someone who seems selfish might just fear scarcity.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Today finds you relishing peace and quiet. Imagery and affirmations can bring contentment. Reach out to others; love and friendship are there if you are receptive. It is also a great time for creative projects.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) Longtime acquaintances will be in touch. You will be quite surprised by the changes in their lives. Money matters brighten. Expect a favorable turn of events. A flurry of interesting invitations might come along.

## Answers to last week's puzzle.



6/28/20