

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

COVoIDance: No c-o-v-i-d neologisms

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1391 we asked you to come up with new terms that did not include the letters C, O, V, I and D. But we didn't ask you to stay away from the topic.

4th place:

Fleeway: Your escape route if someone threatens to violate your six-foot perimeter. "I hope there's no traffic, because when that dog walker comes down the sidewalk, my fleeway is the middle of the street." (Mike Gips, Bethesda)

3rd place:

PeeTee: To resort to a paper towel when all the toilet paper is gone. It's pretty peeteeful. (Mike Caslin, Round Hill, Va.)

2nd place and the prank box for an 'earwax candle kit':

Elephantasy: Mainstream Republicans' prediction that the president will start governing responsibly any day now. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

Harangutan: A large orange creature that spends all day bellowing at rivals in the other branches. (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

Jested negative: Honorable mentions

Barrbell: Something Trump has in the palm of his hand that helps him flex his muscle. (Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore)

F-fluent: What a lot of tots have become after learning new vocabulary at home from their stressed-out parents. (Dan Helming, Trenton, N.J.)

Barrf: The gag reflex. (Bob Kruger, Rockville)

BSAT: Required exam for all aspiring press secretaries. (Roy Ashley, Washington)

Esperate: Clinging to your job. "Donald Trump is our greatest president ever," said the defense secretary desperately. (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

Gaffyyette Square: Historic site renamed in honor of Trump's photo op debacle. (Bob Kruger)

Heretage: The belief that something belongs there because it's there. "Sure, General Sassafras was an enslaver who killed thousands of U.S. troops, but his statue's been up there at the courthouse since 1965." (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

Jeezburger: "It has cheddar, bacon, ranch dressing AND onion rings?" (Jesse Frankovich)

True as Trump: A 21st-century idiom for "blatant lie." (Liz Siegenthaler Rubin, Annapolis, a First Offender)

Ans-were: An out-of-date factoid. "The most home runs ever? That'd have to be Hank Aaron, given that this trivia game is from 1982." (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

Babble Belt: The route of Trump's rally tour. (Steve Smith, Potomac)

Buyway: The \$32 HOT lane. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

Emaskulate: To diminish someone's manhood by asking him not to infect his neighbors. (Sarah Walsh, Rockville)

Employee: Someone "working" from home who just happens to have League of Legends up in another window. (Sam Mertens, Silver Spring)

Eureka: "I found the source of that foul smell — it's Kyle!" (Lee Graham, Rockville)

Green Beats Spleen: After years of protests fail to get Dan Snyder to change his team's name from a racial slur, FedEx's money puts it there overnight! (Ward Foeller, Charlottesville, a First Offender)

Halvenue: A street whose name suddenly changes in the middle of town. "Huh? I thought I was on . . . ohh, Waze didn't note that this is a halvenue." (Jon Gearhart)

Kneel estate: An NFL sideline. (Eric Nelkin, Silver Spring)

Laggage: Your suitcases that finally show up on the last day of your overseas vacation. (Kate Sammons, Ashburn)

Laughtear: A reaction when you don't know whether to guffaw or weep. "He said, 'Nobody ever



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1395: Add nauseam: A plus-one contest

The Ten Commandments Plus One: 11. Thou shalt mask thy pestilent piehole. (Art Grinath)

The Seven Dwarves Plus One: Handsy, who sings, "Heigh-ho, heigh-ho, it's off to HR I go." (Art Grinath)

"Thirteen Angry Men": The jurors' anger erupts into gunfire when Yosemite Sam can't stand no more infernal yammerin'. (Judith Cottrill, Week 651)

This week's contest was suggested by Loser Since Week 106 Art Grinath, who earns his 400th blot of Style Invitational ink with his idea. This week: Add a "plus one" to some familiar numerical grouping, true or fictional, as in the examples above. You might also add a description or "quote" illustrating the effect of that new element; for example, if you had the Four Stooges, you might have some dialogue among Moe, Larry, Curly and, say, Bill Barr.

This contest overlaps a bit with one we did in 2006: Week 651 asked readers to add a character to a book or movie and describe the resultant plot. But this week's encompasses any grouping known by a number.

Submit up to 25 entries total at wapo.st/enter-invite-1395 (no capitals in the Web address). Deadline is Monday, Aug. 10; results will appear Aug. 30 in print, Aug. 27 online.

Winner gets the Lose Cannon, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives something we thought we'd be giving out in April, the ostensible start of baseball season — or around July 4, when the Washington Nationals would have been hosting the Houston Astros: It's a "Houston Asterisks" T-shirt, in dishonor of the team that, it turns out, owed its 2017 postseason success — culminating in a World Series win — to an elaborate cheating scheme. Alas, this summer the Nats won't even be playing the Astros, but we'd better not wait any longer to announce this prize; at least, as of this week, there's still some season. Donated by Loser John Kupiec, who a few years ago also gave us some Atlanta "Barves" barf bags, for when their fans do that horrible Tomahawk Chop.

Other runners-up win their choice of our "For Best Results, Pour Into Top End" Loser Mug or our "Whole Fools" Grossery 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. The headline "COVoIDance" is by Tom Witte; Jesse Frankovich wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the 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, check it out at wapo.st/conv1395.



JOHN KUPIEC

A star is worn: Loser spouse Nancy Kupiec models this week's second prize.

thought this could have happened? Oh, my." (Kathy El-Assal, Middleton, Wis.)

Memwar: A campaign to suppress your niece's book. (Jonathan Jensen)

Pantsy: Overdressed for your Zoom meeting. (Sam Mertens)

Purgery: Wielding the scalpel on troublesome people. "I fired that inspector general because he was incompetent, that's why." (Mark Raffman, Reston)

Quarantan: Bronze skin around the eyes and a ghostly pallor around the nose and mouth. (Ben Aronin, Washington)

Quaranteam: The concept that we are all in this together — an idea that was thoroughly debunked in March. (Frank Osen)

Queueueueueue: The line to vote in this year's primary. (Edmund Conti, Raleigh)

Red Membranes: How about this for the team's new name? (Drew Bennett, West Plains, Mo.)

Shampee: That blue liquid they use in diaper commercials. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

Shun Belt: Southern states that are best avoided right now. (Duncan Stevens)

Take a née: Protest the patriarchal biases in marriage by not changing one's name. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Test-ease: Some people have, and some people buy. "Donald had SAT performance issues until he learned he could pay for some test-ease." (Steve Smith)

Thy-slapper: "A Mennonite walks into a bar . . ." (Chris Doyle)

Harbage: All the Invite entries that aren't here today. (Eric Nelkin)

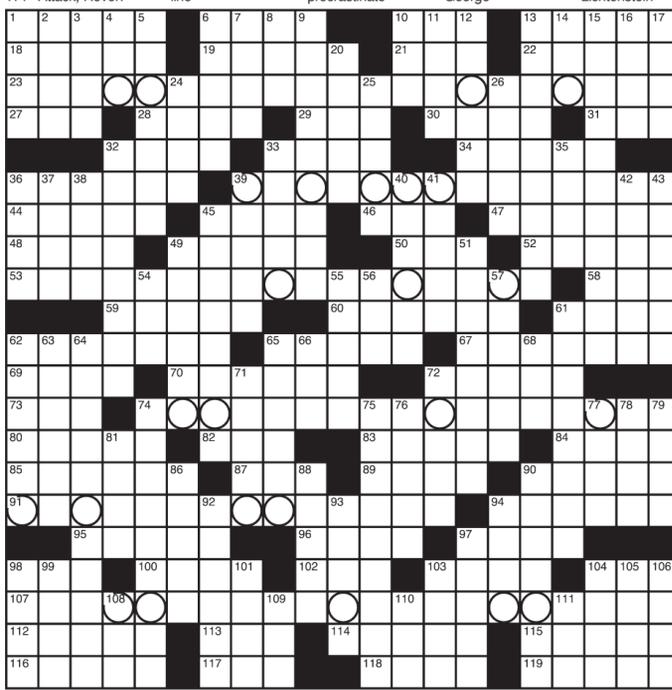
And Last: Covidiot: Yes, I used every single letter I have been told not to, AS IS MY RIGHT! FREEDOM! (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station)

Still running — deadline Monday night, Aug. 3: Our contest for a line that would work in either of two movies. See wapo.st/invite1394.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWS

- "DOUBLE FEATURES" By DAN SCHOENOLZ
84 Mystical old letter
85 Soda shop freebies
87 Game console letters
89 "Relax"
90 Category
91 Two period pieces from across the pond
94 Went sailing, SolarCity say
95 Have confidence in
96 Go for the passer
97 Innate talent
98 Insignificant amount
100 Bird one hates to eat?
102 Before, to Byron
103 Second
104 Bounty title
107 Pair of divergent tales of the paranormal
112 Tree-lined walkway
113 Actress Longoria
114 "Attack, Rover!"
115 Date component, often
116 Digital units
117 Work with thread
118 Model
119 Bouncing off the walls
15 Equipment shunned by fly fishers
16 Entice
17 Mimicked
20 Happen next
24 Pair with drums
25 In a relevant way
26 Puts a curse on
32 Fujita scale subjects
33 — fright
35 Jesus of baseball
36 Italian bubbly
37 Tequila order
38 Jerseys, e.g.
39 Gets rid of
40 Sources of fall colors
41 Olympics speed skater Ohno
42 When many walk
43 Set of TV programs
45 One trashing a cab, maybe?
49 Type of weightlifting squat
77 Rosemary Clooney, to George
54 High-card-wins game
55 Zoologist's subject
56 Metro area, informally
57 '60s "Sweet!"
61 Snack for Tabby
62 Hopper or Whistler
63 Serious shortage
64 Broad and solidly constructed, in Sussex
65 Act parts
66 Writing tip
68 Fire at work
71 Pulitzer playwright Zoë
72 Big shot in tennis
74 Entrances
75 Nabisco cracker made with cheddar
76 Stacy who played TV's Mike Hammer
77 Rosemary Clooney, to George
78 Subject opener
79 " . . . I say more?"
81 Grab
86 Stable sound
88 Buying time big-time?
90 Lab order?
92 Fabled underground treasure guardians
93 Capital of France
94 Auction actions
97 The Stones' " Shelter"
98 Bygone Swedish car company
99 No more than
101 Permanent
103 Sierra Nevada products
104 Rope source
105 Internet . . . viral
106 Headliner
108 "No kidding"
109 Not even rare
110 Green opening
111 Pop artist Lichtenstein



8/2/20 xwordeditor@aol.com ©2020 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY MADALYN ASLAN

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Aug. 2: Versatile and determined, your talent always wins. This year, you ignore certain naysayers and choose your own project and are wildly successful. Learn to accept help from those who offer it. If single, you go from admirer to admirer but do not settle for one in particular. If attached, remember the needs of your partner. You two are wonderful together when you do. Aquarius has their own form of independence.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Friendships offer new opportunities. Creative projects, including musical studies, provide a catalyst in selecting long-term goals. It will be especially easy for you to read others psychically. Be aware of clocks, watches and calendars.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Career matters are of prime concern. Your deep devotion leads you above and beyond the call of duty now. A little humor and perspective are a must. Otherwise, the intensity of your feelings could overwhelm associates.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Discussions and written messages produce many good works. Travel will be more rewarding than expected. Proceed confidently with journeys of all kinds, including journeys of the mind.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Today accents beginnings and endings. Review studies and complete projects. You can solve problems and clear away debris. It is a time of surprise. Be receptive to the changes, and this will be a pleasantly memorable day.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Your closest relationships require effort today. The secret to maintaining harmony is to try to see both sides. Be a very good listener. Kindness and patience are needed. A spouse or partner says they are about to become more successful.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) A visit to a spa is worth considering. Unusual and unexpected factors impact your well-being. Your health condition can change very rapidly. Try not to make sudden decisions about treatments.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) It is time to relax, socialize and purchase some new trinkets. The financial picture is bright, so you

can afford to indulge a bit. Cultivate new friendships. Today promises overall positive change, especially regarding love situations and long-range goals.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Today brings growth linked to your home and family life. Relatives are entering new life stages, or a residence needs updating. Be flexible. Conversations with and about family members are revealing. You might feel the need to change the status quo at home again.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Your communication ability will be top-notch, so use it. A relationship with a neighbor or sibling vastly improves. A lot is expected of you today. Identify your priorities and get plenty of rest.

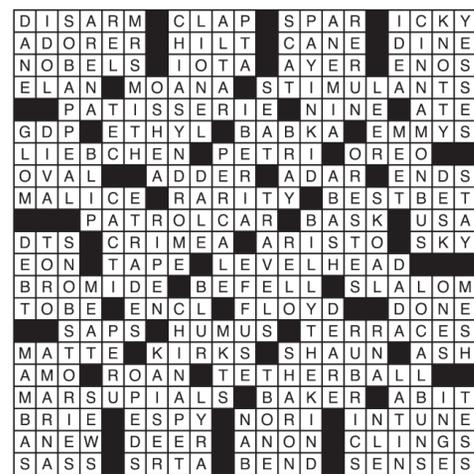
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan 19) Today brings awareness of your

strengths and weaknesses, ushering in a more serious pattern. All is well when you continue to work hard and consider practical needs. Patience is helpful. Plan your time and upcoming week's schedule carefully.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Your personality and appearance impress others. Express creative ideas, attend cultural events, nurture relationships. Whatever you focus on today will grow, so take care of what means the most to you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Today is an interesting day and finds you growing introspective. A lost love or abandoned project could suddenly assume new importance. You are highly creative and imaginative. Record ideas and thoughts that occur now for future reference.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



7/26/20