

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Hyphen help us! Winning neologisms

BY PAT MYERS

Week 1474 was another of our **Hyphen the Terrible** contests, in which we asked you to coin a new word by combining two halves of hyphenated terms (including ones that broke over a line) you found in a print or online newspaper.

**4th place:**  
*De-tailed + be-tween:*  
**DE-TWEEN:** To remove the Super Mario sheets from your ninth-grader's bed. (*Leif Picoult, Rockville*)

**3rd place:**  
*Misinforma-tion + Beetho-ven:*  
**MISINFORMA-VEN:** Someone who's done his own research. (*Ann Martin, Brentwood*)

**2nd place and the 2004 vintage Loser Mug:**  
*Non-red + an-nouncement:*  
**NON-NOUCEMENT:** "For now, I'm 100 percent focused on the job the voters elected me to do." (*Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase*)

**And the winner of the Clowning Achievement:**  
*Paper-work + privi-lege:*  
**PAPER-PRIVI:** The repository for highly sensitive Trump administration documents. (*Steve Smith, Potomac*)

**HALVE-NOTS Honorable mentions**  
**RUS-ISTAN:** What Ukraine vows not to become. (*William Joyner, Crozet, Va.*)

**COAL-JERK:** Pertaining to Sen. Joe Manchin. "The new clean-energy bill produced the expected coal-jerk reaction." (*Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.*)

**LIB-SURDITY:** Any criticism of the dynamic tourism at the Capitol that day. — R. McDaniel, Republican National Committee (*Kevin Dopart, Washington*)

**NA-NAVIRUS:** Vaxxers and anti-vaccine mocked each other for contracting it. (*Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.*)

**FEBRU-MENTAL:** A couple days short of a month, if you know what I mean. (*Gary Crockett*)

**ST-ICK:** Don't sit on *this* Santa's lap! (*Steve Smith*)

**COMPETI-DRESSING:** For many teenagers, it's the real prom event. (*Howard Walderman, Columbia*)

**ALT-QUALITY:** Euphemism for "chintzy." "Our dollar store has a wide selection of alt-quality items." (*Jesse Frankovich*)

**ANONY-MIES:** People you didn't even know you hated. (*Wendy Shang, Falls Church*)

**CONSERVA-DRESSING:** Formerly, a dark suit, white shirt and striped tie. Today, antlers, red ball cap or tinfoil hat. (*Mark Raffman, Reston*)

**CONFECTIOUS:** What do you call a piece of birthday cake after a group of 4-year-olds helped blow out the candles? (*Steve Smith*)

**CURRICANE:** What happens when the vindaloo sends you to the loo. (*Mike Ostapiej, Ravenel, S.C.*)

**DECI-FOOT:** An oh-so-convenient unit of measure equal to 30.48 millimeters. (*Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn*)

**DE-GROOMING:** Leaving him waiting at the altar. (*Roy Ashley, Washington*)

**DE-PUBLICAN:** A Democrat who seems to be pulling for the other side — not to Manchin any names. (*Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore*)

**HYPER-MUTERS:** Two years into the pandemic, they still can't remember to turn their mics back on in a Zoom meeting. (*Jeff Rackow, Bethesda*)

**FORM-FIGHTING:** What too-tight jeans are. (*Terri Berg Smith, Rockville*)

**INTERROGATO:** A curious cat. (*Tom Witte, Montgomery Village*)

**MAGA-DUCTION:** A singular sort of logic. "Pence didn't overturn the election results, so



BOB STAAKE/ILLUSTRATION FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New for Week 1478: It's a small, small word

The bars are all filled — it's a very good sign; The beer's going fast and they're serving up wine. We're FINALLY out! There's widescreen TV! The big game is starting: It's — yes! — World War Three!

Here's a contest we did back in 2014, but now you'll get to use a nifty self-checking tool that 418-time Loser Art Grinath brought to the Empress's attention: **Write a humorous poem, eight lines max, using only those from a list of the 1,000 most common English words**, such as the one above by Style Invitational cartoonist Bob Staake (who's written many of his picture books in rhyme) — and this time the list is according to the fabulous Randall Munroe, creator of the comic strip XKCD and especially "Up Goer Five," a blueprint-style diagram of the Saturn V rocket, with notations "using only the ten hundred words people use most often." The rocket, for example, is called a "flying space car"; helium is "funny voice air." **You may add a title, common word or not.**

A year after our Week 1069 contest, Munroe created the website **Simple Writer** ([skcd.com/simplewriter](http://skcd.com/simplewriter)), which lets you type your own simple writing — and instantly flags every word that's not on his "ten hundred word" list. You don't see the list; you find out when you type. But it allows many plurals, past tenses and contractions. In any case, **your poem must not have any words flagged on Simple Writer.**

Submit up to 25 entries at [wapo.st/enter-invite-1478](http://wapo.st/enter-invite-1478) (no capitals in the Web address). **Deadline is Monday, March 14;** results appear April 3 in print, March 31 online.



On your calves, the cheeriest Bigfoot ever. This week's second prize.

Winner gets the Clowning Achievement, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a handsome pair of **Bigfoot Socks**, lime green legwear featuring a rather trim and amiable Sasquatch sporting a jaunty red scarf. They are indeed men's-size, so they do live up to their name that way. Donated by Dave Prevar.

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 lost-after Loser magnets, "A Small Jester of Appreciation" or "Close, but Ceci N'est Pas un Cigare." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). See general contest rules and guidelines at [wapo.st/inviteFAQ](http://wapo.st/inviteFAQ). The headline "Hyphen Help Us" is by Jesse Frankovich; Tom Witte and Craig Dykstra both submitted 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); and follow @StyleInvite on Twitter.

**The Style Conversational:** The Empress's weekly online column discusses this week's new contest and results; definitely check it out if you might enter a common-word poem. See this week's at [wapo.st/conv1478](http://wapo.st/conv1478).

that MUST mean he's in league with George Soros and AOC!" (*Duncan Stevens, Vienna*)

**MAR-A-PULT:** A quick exit from Palm Beach for those who fail to kiss the ring. "Right after he beat Trump at golf — boing! He got the Mar-a-pult." (*Frank Mann, Washington*)

**TEENEST:** Most harebrained. "Subway surfing — riding on the roof of a moving train? That is the teenest idea ever." (*Bill Dorner, Indianapolis*)

**ODOR-GRAM:** A lingering olfactory signature. "Pete's cologne sent another odor-gram — and he left five minutes ago!" (*Pam Shermeyer, Lathrup Village, Mich.*)

**OUT-MOM:** "I've felt pretty guilty after our phone calls before, but she really out-mommed herself this time." (*Jesse Frankovich*)

**PANDEM-OCRATS:** The socialist brownshirts who try to prevent outbreaks of freedom. — M.T.G., Georgia (*Kevin Dopart*)

**RE-LICING:** A handy but inadvisable trick for getting out of school (*Coleman Glenn, Huntingdon Valley, Pa.*)

**PRE-PUBLICAN:** A fifth-grader who complains to the school board that long division makes him uncomfortable. (*Jonathan Jensen*)

**PRE-PUBLICANS:** Advocates of

police defunding who have yet to be mugged. (*Jeff Contompasis*)

**RIP-UP-LICAN:** A POTUS who doesn't give a . . . rip about some Presidential Records Act. (*Kevin Dopart*)

**SEMMENTALISTS:** Zealots who believe every sperm is sacred. (*Terri Berg Smith*)

**NATURE-CAN:** The spacious "outhouse" of the woods. (*Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.*)

**SOLO-PLAUSE:** What comes from that one person at the concert who didn't know you don't clap between movements. (*Barbara Turner, Takoma Park Village, Mich.*)

**TICK-FIL-A:** Fast food that sticks to your ribs. (*Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.*)

**UNCOMFORT-HUG:** An embrace from your unvaccinated cousin. (*Steve Leifer, Potomac*)

**UNRENT:** A polite term for "evict." (*Lenard King, Richmond*)

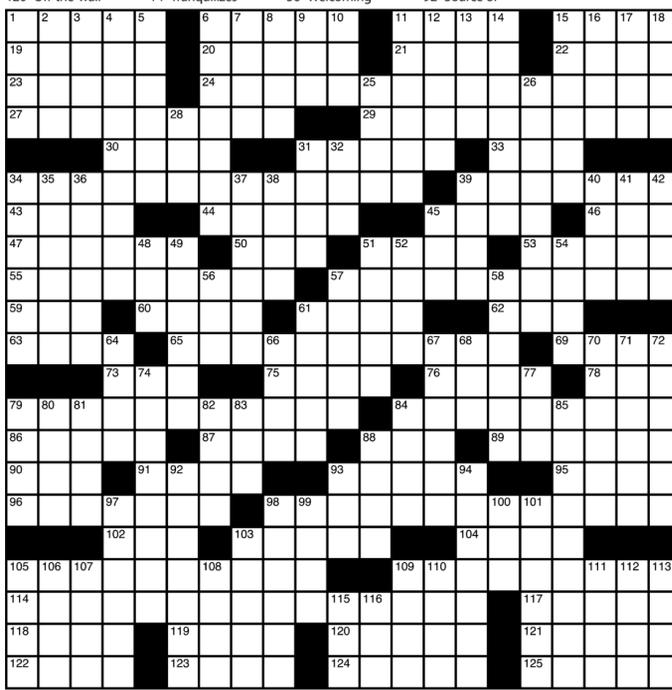
*And Last:* **LIFE-FREE:** What you are if you spend hours and hours scanning hundreds of articles for hyphenated words for some contest that pays you in magnets. (*Jesse Frankovich, who has 874 blots of Invite ink*)

**Still running — deadline Monday night, March 7:** Our contest for user reviews for any of eight everyday products. See [wapo.st/invite1477](http://wapo.st/invite1477).

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>"JUST DESSERTS" By MARYELLEN UTHLAUT</p> <p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 Cause friction</p> <p>6 70-year-old morning show</p> <p>11 Small, deadly snakes</p> <p>15 Actor's goal</p> <p>19 One way to gain access</p> <p>20 Northern California town that once had a palindromic bakery</p> <p>21 First thing lost in the "For Want of a Nail" proverb</p> <p>22 Many a solo</p> <p>23 Air raid signal, e.g.</p> <p>24 "Fruity dish that imparts a healthy glow"</p> <p>27 Significant Civil War concern</p> <p>29 Run-throughs</p> <p>30 Buzzers</p> <p>31 Nuisances</p> <p>33 Ball-bearing peg</p> <p>34 "Blended drinks that leave something to be desired?"</p> <p>39 Resort area attractions</p> <p>43 Certain something</p> <p>44 River to the English Channel</p> <p>45 Online message</p> <p>46 Used (up)</p> <p>47 Music: verse :: poetry :: _____</p> <p>50 Rule, briefly</p> <p>51 Indecent matter</p> <p>53 Bring upon oneself</p> <p>55 Casually shod</p> <p>57 "Shortbread that doesn't crumble under pressure?"</p> <p>59 Shell-covered edible</p> <p>60 Small valley</p> <p>61 Tastes</p> <p>62 Canada's most populous prov.</p> <p>63 Snorkeling spot</p> <p>65 "Pastry that doesn't live up to its hype?"</p> <p>69 Disney souvenir feature</p> <p>73 Airport abbr.</p> <p>75 Buds</p> <p>76 Long, long time</p> <p>78 Magna ___ laude</p> <p>79 "Slice that's easy to make?"</p> <p>84 "What's done is done," e.g.</p> <p>86 Implanted</p> | <p>87 Rich deposit</p> <p>88 ___ constrictor</p> <p>89 Cookware coating</p> <p>90 Flock female</p> <p>91 End of many a hammer</p> <p>93 Kuhling of "Chicago Med"</p> <p>95 For fear that</p> <p>96 Thigh-length outer garment</p> <p>98 "Triangular confessions that are a credit to their baker?"</p> <p>102 Tolkien creature</p> <p>103 Is right for</p> <p>104 "The ___ Must Be Crazy": 1980 comedy film</p> <p>105 Thin-sliced, browned bread</p> <p>109 Turkey choice</p> <p>114 "Dish that's a metaphor for life?"</p> <p>117 Authority</p> <p>118 Sauna covering</p> <p>119 Many a retired racehorse</p> <p>120 Off-the-wall</p> <p>121 Draco Malfoy's trademark expression</p> <p>122 It opens many doors</p> <p>123 H-shaped letters</p> <p>124 Cultural character</p> <p>125 Test, as ore</p> <p>DOWN</p> <p>1 Dressed</p> <p>2 Flagstick holder</p> <p>3 Periods with names</p> <p>4 Agitator</p> <p>5 Menu listing</p> <p>6 Keyboard pros</p> <p>7 After-sandwich sandwich</p> <p>8 Campus leader</p> <p>9 Westminster show org.</p> <p>10 "Boo___!": cry of celebration</p> <p>11 Balance sheet heading</p> <p>12 Persian rulers</p> <p>13 Cormeal product</p> <p>14 Tranquilizes</p> <p>15 About 3.26 light-years</p> <p>16 Space</p> <p>17 Omani money</p> <p>18 Alternatives to mortarboards</p> <p>25 Gaelic tongue</p> <p>26 First act?</p> <p>28 Leaves in a cup</p> <p>31 Twinge</p> <p>32 Barely make, with "out"</p> <p>34 Sadat's predecessor</p> <p>35 Service break?</p> <p>36 Farm</p> <p>37 Calm</p> <p>38 Hastened</p> <p>39 Joni Mitchell's ___ Sides Now"</p> <p>40 Break-in, nowadays</p> <p>41 Needle case</p> <p>42 Dried-up</p> <p>45 Pooch with a turned-up nose</p> <p>48 Zig counterpart</p> <p>49 Star NFL player</p> <p>51 Juniors-to-be</p> <p>52 Calliope, for one</p> <p>54 Memorandum</p> <p>56 Welcoming</p> <p>wreath</p> <p>57 Words on a spine</p> <p>58 Acme cactus costume wearer</p> <p>61 Crawling reptile</p> <p>64 "Mirror of the mind": St. Jerome</p> <p>66 Air 2 or Pro</p> <p>67 Deli hanger</p> <p>68 New Zealand parrot</p> <p>70 Insight</p> <p>71 Least courteous</p> <p>72 Refines, as ore</p> <p>74 Gemstone from the sea</p> <p>77 Diarist Anaïs</p> <p>79 Tiny time meas.</p> <p>80 Field of Dreams home</p> <p>81 Pitcher sans arms</p> <p>82 Word with panel or screen</p> <p>83 Holy animal?</p> <p>84 Often blocked online lewdness</p> <p>85 Magic charms</p> <p>88 Archery items</p> <p>92 Source of</p> <p>93 "Just kidding!"</p> <p>94 Sponsorships</p> <p>97 Spider's network</p> <p>98 Things beaten in searches, with "the"</p> <p>99 Baptism, for one</p> <p>100 Lobster catcher</p> <p>101 Texas or Ukraine city</p> <p>103 Pelvic bones</p> <p>105 Work on papers</p> <p>106 "... the ___-coloured ink": Shak.</p> <p>107 Mexican ___</p> <p>108 "What ___?"</p> <p>109 In the company of</p> <p>110 Often-shared sandwich</p> <p>111 Contacts can help them</p> <p>112 Having set sail</p> <p>113 Whig rival</p> <p>115 ___ v. Wade</p> <p>116 Well-worn track</p> |
|--|--|



Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

**Happy Birthday | March 6:** You live by your own rules. You love style based on beauty, grace and elegant etiquette. You are dedicated to what you value. This year, service to others (especially family) will be a theme. Take care of your health so you can be a resource to others. You might even consider a makeover.

**Moon Alert:** After 3 a.m., there are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions. The Moon is in Taurus.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19)  
Your focus is on money and possessions. But for the next few weeks, you'll be more involved with friends, clubs and organizations. This includes younger people as well as artistic, creative types. You'll definitely be more popular.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20)  
The Moon in your sign will heighten your emotions and reactions to others. But the good news is it will also slightly increase your good luck! Meanwhile, relations with bosses and parents will become a stronger focus.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)  
You might want to hide. Nevertheless, a different astrological influence that exists for the next month will make you want to travel, explore and seek adventure! ("Should I pack tropical?")

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22)  
Friendships are important, especially your interaction with a female friend. Meanwhile, in the next few weeks, disputes about shared property might arise. Fear not, because it looks like you'll be laughing all the way to the bank.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)  
You are high-viz. People seem to know personal details about your private life as well. Meanwhile, your focus on partners and close friends will be stronger in the next few weeks.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)  
You want adventure, a chance to travel and an opportunity to see new places and meet new faces. In the next few weeks, you will work hard and people will help you. (A work-related romance might begin.)

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)  
You feel increasingly rewarded about your work and health. You might focus on shared assets. Meanwhile, in the month ahead, expect more opportunities to socialize and enjoy romance, sports and fun activities with kids.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)  
You have to go more than halfway when dealing with others. This simply requires tolerance, accommodation and cooperation. In the next month, you will be busy at home with redecorating projects and bustling activities!

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)  
Be ready to help someone or perform a service for someone who needs your help. Despite your current focus on home and family, in the month ahead you will be busy charming everyone and taking short trips.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)  
You will enjoy having a chance to cocoon at home and relax among familiar surroundings. Meanwhile, both Venus and Mars have entered your sign, which means you will be charming and energetic in the months to come. Everyone loves you.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)  
You feel powerful, which is one reason you want to enlighten someone about something. You want a serious, meaningful discussion — nothing superficial. For some of you, this could relate to a secret love affair. Of course, if it's a secret, who's talking?

Answers to last week's puzzle.

