

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

‘Hundred tiles’ = ‘This nerd duel’

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1504, the Empress gave the Losers the daunting task of **writing something with all 100 tiles in a U.S. Scrabble set**; they could choose any two letters for the blank tiles. Not surprisingly, we didn't get as many entries as usual, but also not surprisingly, the Loser Community — including several First Offenders — rose to the challenge. (Titles are part of the anagram unless they're in brackets.)

4th place:

A horse, a priest, a Jew, Dumbo, five aged humorist clones, eleven zebras, a lynx, a unicorn, and God walk into ... Yipe! Forget it. I quit! (*Dave Zarrow, Skokie, Ill.; the blank tiles were N and S*)

3rd place:

Arizona: Cyber Ninja quacks update voting audit. (We're fine.) Texas: Violate women's rights. (Boo!)

Epilogue — Florida: Hold my beer. (*Kevin Dopart, Washington; blanks are B and O*)

2nd place and the Yoda head pail:

Her Exalted Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's suave final words: "I dub ignorant Andrew Viceroy of Goat Poop. King Charlie, I'm out!" (*Marty Gold, Arlington; blanks are H and I*)

And the winner of the Clowning Achievement:

Queue up! Every week idiots visiting Mar-a-Lago can find an awesome prez, bid on a really cool job, and exit thru the grift shop. (*Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.; blanks are H and P*)

Rank and tile: Honorab! mentions

Blind Men and the Elephant
View I: "Kangaroo court. Quasi-crazy judge underfoot!"
View II: "Hoax! FBI plot! Merely a storage issue."
(*Joy Rains, Bethesda, a First Offender*)

[The Ten Commandments]

One God (I'm it!)
Idolatry? Out!
Swearage? No, pz.
Quiet day? A must.
Parents rule!
Kill a foe? Bed his wife? No go!
Hijack? BS? Crave? Nix!
Never! (*Mark Raffman, Reston*)

A quiz: Top-secret dox. A lame ivory gewgaw. A library book. Select the one an FBI agent could never find in D.J. Trump's house. A: III. (*Steve Smith, Potomac*)

We've MAGA loonies up on Twitter urging us to take hydroxychloroquine: "Be afraid, please! A Pfizer covid-19 jab eliminates DNA!" (*Chris Doyle*)

VII:
Sloth: I laze.
Gluttony: A fat man.
Envy: Jealous of.
Pride: Big opinion.
Wrath: Angerquake.
Lust: Desire waxed.
Greed: More bocci.
(*Alison Thompson, Acton, Mass.*)

Avid, vigilant, flush coyote laid a trap for quiet, gutsy roadrunner. BOOM! Smoke clears, then — zowie! — "Be-beep!" Jinxed again, Wile. (*Diane Lucitt, Ellicott City, Md.*)

Me the People, in order to nix all U.S. amity, vanquish Justice, raze knowledge, grab affairs, I wave goodbye, dear Constitution. (*Kevin Dopart*)

Up ... up ... Dorothy arrived. "Am I in Kansas? Or is it the Land of Oz ici?" A big Fetterman waxed ebullient: "New Jersey! Google 'quack!' Vote!" (*David Smith, Stockton, Calif.*)

Vote fraud! Fishy! Protest! Strike! Trump solidly won Arizona, Georgia, New Mexico, Quebec, Djibouti, Vallhalla, Narnia, Eden. Gee! (*Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.*)

[Nerd's Pickup Line, 2022]
Can you be a viable mate in a speedy market today? I will just extend a civilizing query: "Rings of Power" or "House of the Dragon"? (*Dan Stock, Medina, Ohio, a First Offender*)

[I Love Lucy]
A kooky, petite, jocular red-haired wife desiring stardom outfoxes a Cuban. He's vowing to prevent equal billing. A zany time! (*Karen Lambert, Chevy Chase, Md.*)



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1508: The Laughtime Achievement Award

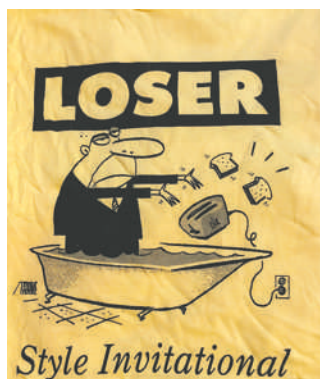
WORDLENERDS: The ones who post their scores every day at 12:01 a.m. "I've conducted a heuristic analysis of whether I should have started with 'adieu' or 'horse'..."
LENDACITY: "Our financial services company just wants to help you get back on your feet with our short-term loans and our convenient payment system of Vinny here."
SKINDLE: The best device for reading porn novels.

Waywayway back in 1993 — when The Style Invitational was infantile in both senses of the word — a federal worker named Elden Carnahan got ink in Week 22 for suggesting a contest for campaign slogans, then for placing second in that contest (Dan Quayle: A Chicken in Every Garage). Soon afterward, he decided to open the phone book and invite some of the other inking entrants to breakfast.

That was the big-bang moment for what quickly expanded into the universe of the Losers, a social community that not only met for a monthly brunch (and then group vacations) but also began to compete energetically for the most Invite ink each year, a rivalry made possible by Elden's compilation and dissemination — by mail! this was pre-internet — of elaborate standings and statistics. The stats, of course, soon moved online, and the Keeper of the Stats continued to compile them, along with a complete archive of every Style Invitational since Week 1. Every week for 29 years. (Oh, yeah, he also found time to score more than 500 blots of Invite ink.)

Now, after turning 70 this year, Elden has turned over the stats and a slew of other Loser Community roles to a whole committee. And so, as a Laughtime Achievement Award for Mr. C, the Empress turns to one of our recurring contests, the **Tour de Fours: This week: Coin a word or phrase containing the letters E-L-D-N — consecutively but in any order — and describe it,** as in the examples above by Jon Gearhart, who suggested an ELDN contest and also came up with "Laughtime Achievement." You may add spaces or punctuation. If other people send in the same neologism that you do, the ink would go to the wittiest description, especially if it shows how the neologism could be used in real life, or if it's used in a funny sentence.

Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1508 (no capitals in the Web address). **Deadline is Monday night, Oct. 10;** results appear Oct. 30 in print. Oct. 27 online.



The coveted T-shirt for mid-'90s runners-up.

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. The headline "Hundred Tiles = This Nerd Duel" is by Chris Doyle; Jesse Frankovich wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](https://www.facebook.com/on.fb.me/invdev); follow 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. See this week's at wapo.st/conv1508.

A quick, ever so foolish red-brown fox, Di, jumps aeronautically over a lazy wiener dog and bites the peeing mutt's genitalia. (*Robert Jordan, Chiang Mai, Thailand, a First Offender*)

Ex-prez: "Not guilty! It was a joke! (Per Ginni, I won.) Garland is a turd. (HRC's emails!) Q told me I have reasonable doubt (i.e., Covfefe you!)."
(*Karen Lambert*)

["The Sound of Music"]
Inadequate novice (but excellent singer) Maria joins with Von Trapps, who, ruing faulty Nazi ideology, seek freedom abroad. (*Karen Lambert*)

[If the Frontier-Spirit discount airline merger had gone through]

I did climb aft on a maiden "Frontier Spirit" jet, a Westworld up in a sky. Love turbulence, zero oxygen! Queasy, I gag, heave. A hoot! (*Jeff Rackow, Bethesda*)

"Commanders" football team? A chintzy, no-good appellation. I urge a jury review it. "River Snakeheads" would be f*ing exquisite! (*Robert McArthur, Vienna, Va., a First Offender*)

Better than "Commanders" ... Quetzals? Ravioli? Ragweed? Onion Pie Puff? Sexy Bees? Jackdaws? Holy Ruin? Agate Violin? Oreo Id? Guilt? (*Duncan Stevens*)

[And Last] Every week: one all-exalted, queenly autocrat judging ("No bromides!"), offering victors sad two-bit mini-"prizes" (hah!). Aah, utopia! (*Karen Lambert*)

[And Even Laster] Woo-hoo! Our Style Invite text wizards have quickly rearranged 100 Scrabble tiles into a poem, a pun, an idea. I'm off judging. — The E (*Chris Doyle*)

[And Lastest of All] Style Invitational: Go build a cool anagram! Derive excrement joke, Send your quip to the Empress, win a bad prize. Oh, I guffaw! (*Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.*)

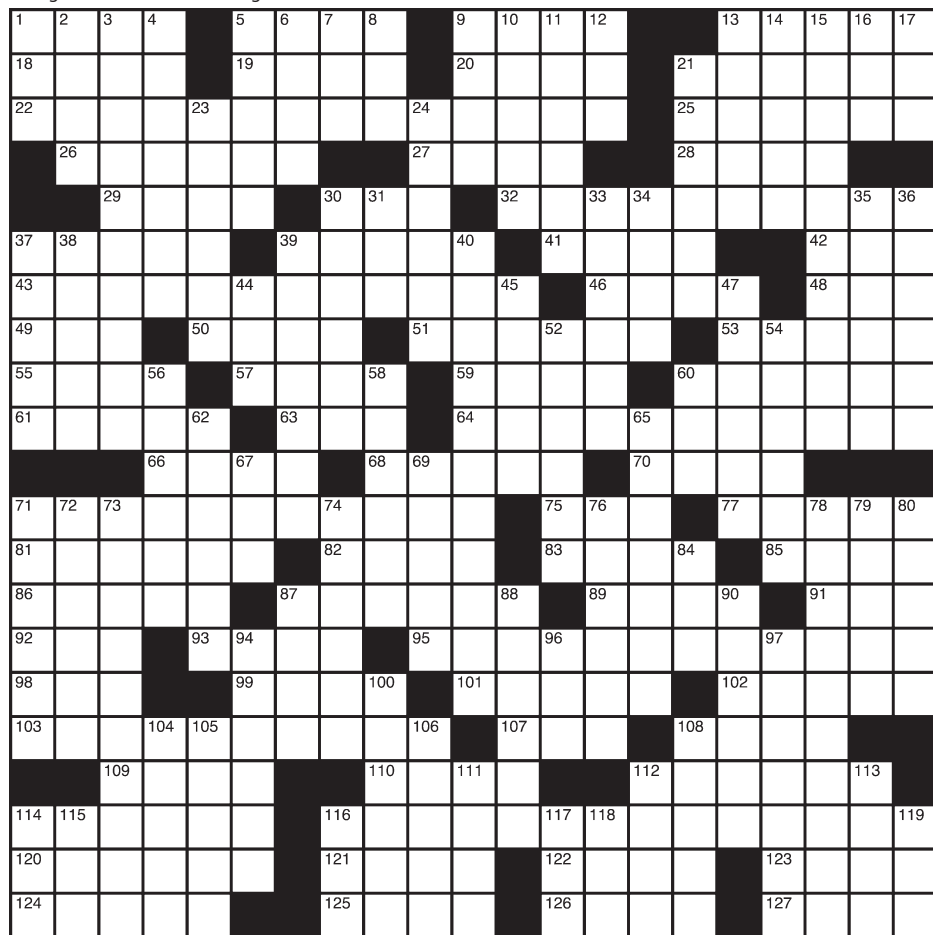
More honorable mentions in the online Invite at wapo.st/invite1508.

Still running — deadline Monday night, Oct. 3: Our contest for state slogans, with a twist. See wapo.st/invite1507.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

- “CHANGE THE WORLD” BY TAYLOR JOHNSON
- 1 Mont Blanc's range
- 5 _ and pans
- 9 Urge
- 13 Vatican leaders
- 18 Cheer (for)
- 19 Estrada of "CHiPs"
- 20 Grand Canyon animal
- 21 Chests
- 22 Data collection in Germany?
- 25 Third-party account
- 26 Japanese robe
- 27 "Heat of the Moment" band
- 28 Step to the bar, for short?
- 29 Violin protector
- 30 Former White House press secretary Psaki
- 32 Boulder in the Czech Republic?
- 37 Smart
- 39 Biblical peak
- 41 Freebies from a party
- 42 It's "WonderWater" drink brand
- 43 Census taker in India?
- 46 ESPN datum
- 48 Hectic hosp. areas
- 49 Egg; Prefix
- 50 Sets (down)
- 51 Declined
- 53 Desolate areas
- 55 Writes
- 57 Short diner orders
- 59 Eye layer
- 60 Farm herder
- 61 Start a golf hole
- 63 "More or less"
- 64 Ancestry in Taiwan?
- 66 Heats quickly
- 68 Pastoral poems
- 70 Garage sale caveat
- 71 Gems in Afghanistan?
- 75 Driveway surface
- 77 Pushpins, e.g.
- 81 Battery-powered rides
- 82 Place with nine circles, per Dante
- 83 Bank deposit
- 85 Cry of pain
- 86 Toyota subcompact discontinued in 2020
- 87 Beer named for
- a Dutch river
- Rig behind a cab
- Power hitter's
- 46-Across
- Prof'flowers parent co.
- "Barry" rating
- Crooners in South Korea?
- "That's gonna leave a mark!"
- ProActive Health brand
- Window sections
- Priests with prayer wheels
- Serving dish in France?
- Sudoku fill: Abbr.
- Poetic contraction
- Reggae kin
- Mischief-makers
- Dutch bulb
- 11 Nets
- Chaps
- 13 Entourage
- NBA great Robertson nicknamed "The Big O"
- State whose motto is "Industry"
- Post-gym feeling
- Dynamic leader?
- Farm structures
- Suffix with fluor-
- Assam, oolong, pekoe, etc.
- Kitchen qtys.
- DOWN
- Pop-up path
- "Check it out!"
- "Do not cross" area marked with yellow tape
- Handle, familiarly
- alla vodka
- Sweet sandwich
- Poetic contraction
- Vote to accept
- Catalog of personal favorites
- A little extra shut-eye
- Ursa minor?
- Archenemy
- 47 Insignificant
- Certain people of faith
- Meaty mushroom
- Motion City Soundtrack genre
- U-turn from NNE
- "Baby _; Raffi song about a whale
- Scuttlebutt
- Some Musée d'Orsay works
- Uses a lance a lot
- Sea eagle
- "Shoot!"
- Spanish cat
- Aerobic regimen, familiarly
- Barely touched
- Vote to accept
- Flood preventer
- Catalog of personal favorites
- A little extra shut-eye
- Ursa minor?
- NBA great Robertson nicknamed "The Big O"
- Let use for a
- "Amen to that!"
- Japanese motorcycle brand
- Rises to the top
- Prefix with gender
- Least flush
- Like certain monitor lizards
- Ltr. addenda
- Shoulder muscles, briefly
- Unlocking device for a car
- Nuisance remover, in law
- Backyard seed holder
- "Dang, baby!"
- Shopping centers?
- Solemn rituals
- Brazilian muralist
- Eduardo cheese
- "OMG! Stop talking!"
- International lawyer Clooney
- while
- Like some tiles
- Poisonous reptiles
- Card player's call
- Stared upon
- Strong brews
- Hofbrau mug
- Prefix with gender
- Room-sized computer unveiled in 1946
- Canopy make-up
- "Am _ only one?"
- Workplace safety org.
- Maryland athlete, for short
- Gambling venue letters
- Sportage automaker
- "_ pasa?"
- Cricket club
- "Helpful hardware folks" company
- Talking _; stern lectures



10/2/22

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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

Happy Birthday | Oct. 2: You have intellectual interests, and many of you are well read. You are charming, easygoing and cooperative. Other people like and respect you. This is a good time to take inventory of your life and let go of people, places and property that may be holding you back.

Moon Alert: After 4 a.m., there are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions. The Moon is in Capricorn.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
You are high-viz. Fortunately, you look good! Relations with friends, partners and spouses are warm and friendly. Good news! The goofy mistakes and miscommunication at work will now diminish.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Travel plans look promising. Ditto for involvement in publishing, the media, medicine or the law. Training or education might expand your world in ways that benefit both your health and your job.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
The wealth of someone else (a partner?) or money back from the government might help you pay for a vacation or some fun socializing. This assistance (practical or financial) also might benefit your kids in some way.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
You will enjoy schmoozing with others; however, keep in mind that you will have to go more than halfway when dealing with others, because the Moon is opposite your sign today. No worries.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
This is a productive day. You also might boost your health in a positive way. You might enjoy interactions with a pet more than usual. If you can take a short trip or explore more of your daily world, this will please you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
You rank pleasure before work because, ideally, you want to do exactly what you want to do. You might be more pleased with your financial situation. In fact, some of you are shopping for beautiful things.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
You will enjoy cocooning at home, especially if you can have some downtime to enjoy privacy in familiar surroundings. A conversation with a female family member will be warm and mutually supportive. In part, this is because you are charming and diplomatic right now.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Short trips, errands, appointments and opportunities to study or learn something new will be par for the course. Basically, you're curious and restless today. This is why you want to do something different — see new places and meet new faces.

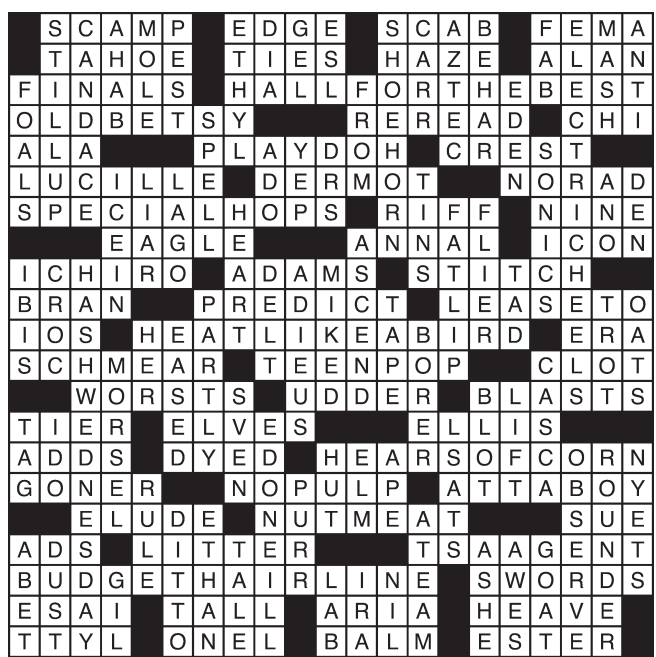
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
You have money on your mind. Perhaps you have some moneymaking ideas. Or perhaps you are doing a reality check and figuring out what you own and what you owe. When it comes to money,

get your facts straight.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Your luck is a tiny bit better than all the other signs because the Moon is in your sign; furthermore, it is dancing with lucky, moneybags Jupiter and fair Venus. Both those planets are associated with money. Trust your good fortune.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
You will feel happy and content to lie in the weeds and keep a low profile. Nevertheless, you will still enjoy exploring ideas and learning something new, but on your terms and in your own way.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Financial discussions with a friend or perhaps a group will go well. Possibly, these discussions are not about money per se, but about something that you own. Maybe you are willing to lend something to a group or to a person.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



9/25/22