

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Community jest: Inking 'sister cities'

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1505 the Empress asked the Losers to choose any two or more towns in the United States and Canada and supply a joint venture they might undertake. The "or more" turned into some long strings of names that brought a HUH instead of the preferred HA, like The Bear-Rio-Sam-Aben-Laden-Indio-Shinn-Ware-Heaslip-Witty-Fish U.S. Navy Funeral Detail (Idaho, Fla., Va., La., Ky., Calif., Ill., Ala., Ontario, Mo., Ga.). After much puzzling out, we figured that Randy Lee was getting at "Bury Osama bin Laden in the ocean where he sleep with the fish." HUH. We hope the following ones are more straightforward, though sometimes it helps a lot to say them out loud a couple of times.

4th place:

The Iowa-Latta-Green Student Loan Forgiveness Program (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines) [towns in Louisiana, Oklahoma and Ohio]

3rd place:

The Luke-Warm Springs Very Average Resort (Dave Atrozo, Silver Spring) [Md., Ga.]

2nd place and the paper dolls of literary figures:

The Gordon-Ramsay-Letts-Macon-Effingham-Sandwich Brown-Bag Workshop (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.) [Iowa, Ill., Ga., Ill., Mass., Ala.]

And the winner of the Clowning Achievement:

The Albee-Gladwin-Weir-Dunn Divorce Law Firm (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.) [S.D., Mich., Kan., N.C.]

City slackers: Honorable mentions

The Tupelo-Zero Winter Preparedness Advisory Group (Rob Cohen, Potomac) [Miss., Mont.]

The Dunn-Dunn-Dunn-Dunn DragnetCon (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn) [Mo., N.C., Tex., Wis.]

The Boring-Rector-Babylon-Macon-Sleeper-Nodaway Committee to Improve Sunday Sermons (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.) [Ore., Ark., N.Y., Miss., Mo., Iowa]

The Reston-Laurel "Quiet Quitters" Club (Karen Lambert, Chevy Chase) [Va., Md.]

Weir-Putnam-Underhill Gravediggers: "If we can't get dirt on you, no one can." (Jon Gearhart) [Neb., Ala., Wis.]

The Letts-Baskin-Coldwater Polar Bear Club (Beverly Sharp) [Iowa, Fla., Mich.]

The Macon-America-Grady-Gann Militia Muster (Jeff Contompasis) [Ga., Ill., Ark., Ohio]

The Randy-Lee-Burke-Virginia Self-Promotion Society (Randy Lee, Burke, Va.) [Ky., N.Y., Va., Wash.]

The Reubens-Sandwich-Hahn-White-Witt-Mayo Brooklyn Deli Tour for Iowans (Chris Doyle) [Ida., Mass., Tex., S.D., Ill., Fla.]

The Watha-Hellam-Ida-Wing-Heeia Senior Moment Museum (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.) [N.C., Pa., La., N.D., Hawaii]

The Venice-Tom-Brady-Given-Upp sports betting app (Pam Shermeyer, Lathrup Village, Fla., Okla., Texas, W.Va., Calif.)

The Weir-Naughton-Kansas-Haney-Moore "Wizard of Oz" Cosplayer Convention (Chris Doyle) [Kan., Ontario, Wis., Ore., N.J.]

The Albee-Quickie Divorce Center (Neil Kurland, Elkridge, Md.) [S.D., Ohio]

The Albee-Armonk-Keyes-Sun-Kell-Clearance-Darrow-Ford-Dee-Winn Scopes Trial Reenactment (Chris Doyle) [Iowa, Calif., La., Ind., La., Iowa, La., Ore., Mich.]

The Harris-Yankton Waxing Salon (Jesse Frankovich) [Minn., S.D.]

Wicket-Bee-Dublin-York-Cache Investment Services (Byron Miller, Cobble Hill, B.C.) [Tex., Ohio, Ontario, Okla.]

The Wyalusing-Troy-Harder Obnoxious Sports Parent Training Facility (Sarah Walsh, Rockville) [Wis., N.Y., Wash.]

The Aiea-Seymour-Dent-Franzen-London Underpants Repair Shop (Duncan Stevens) [Hawaii, Conn., Minn., Wis., Ark.]

The Daggett-Ding Dong-Stuckey-Puckett Reformed Foulmouths' Association (Sarah Walsh) [Calif., Tex., S.C., Miss.]

The Dunn-Ocala-Mead-Shirley Leslie Nielsen Film Festival (Frank Osen, Pasadena,



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1509: MASH MASH: Join 1-word films

Metropolis Parasite: A Wall Street hedge fund trader devises a way to pay \$27 in income tax. Psycho Cats: Fluffy and Ginger get in the shower! Unforgiven Pinocchio: "You lied once too often, wood boy — I'm turning you into a spice rack."

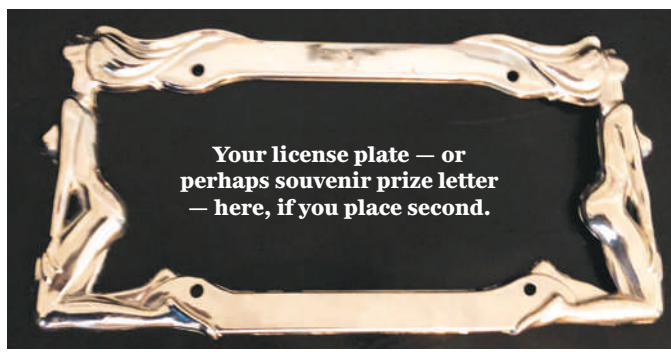
This week's contest was suggested by Loser Lee Graham, who remembered that single-word movie titles weren't working for him in some earlier Invite contest. This week: Combine two single-word movie titles to make a new movie and describe it, as in the examples above. The original title must consist of a single word: no "A," "The," "IV," etc. You may add a few more words (e.g., "and the," "vs."), but the extra words shouldn't be a major part of the title. Don't smooch the two titles into a single word.

Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1509 (no capitals in the Web address). Deadline is Monday night, Oct. 17; results appear Nov. 9 in print, Nov. 6 online.

Winner gets the Clowning Achievement, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives — regifted by Loser Sue Lin Chong, who won it in Week 267 (1998) — a genuine mint-condition 1972 chrome license plate frame featuring the side views of two lissome ladies. While it would look tacky even on a souped-up Ford 150, it'd make a fabulously campy picture frame.

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 lusted-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. The headline "Community Jest" is by Jesse Frankovich; Jesse and Tom Witte both submitted the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev; follow 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. See this week's at wapo.st/conv1509.



Calif.) [Minn., Fla., Colo., Ark.]

The Florence-Foster-Jenkins Conservatory of Vocal Arts (Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore) [Ariz., R.I., Ky.]

The Hadden-Inklin Psychic Connection Hotline (Pam Shermeyer) [Ga., B.C.]

The Granby-Aiken Geriatric Medicine Center (Karen Lambert) [Quebec, S.C.]

The Hansen-Franzen-Gurley-Mann-Pompey-Opp Schwarzenegger Spoofers School (Duncan Stevens) [Idaho, Wis., Ala., Pa., N.Y., Ala.]

The Havana-Gila Bend Center for Jewish Folk Dancing (Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.) [Fla., Ariz.]

The Howe-Mina-Rhodes-Masham-Mann-Walker-Downs Wind-Blowin' Research Institute (Duncan Stevens) [Pa., N.Y., Iowa, Quebec, Pa., Iowa, Ill.]

Izee-Still-Shamokin Tobacco Cessation Counselors (Pam Shermeyer) [Oregon, N.D., Pa.]

The Kent-Eustace Yard Sale (Sarah Walsh) [Ohio, Tex.]

The Nome-Mentor-Love Lonely Hearts Club (Karen Lambert) [Alaska, Ohio, Ariz.]

The Nome-Orlando Keep Billy Dee Williams Out of Future Star Wars Sequels Petition (Sam Mertens, Silver Spring) [Alaska, Fla.]

The Luke-Sky-Walker-Dee-Good-Jed-Eyota-Kilsyth-Not-Kissimmee-Sisters Etiquette En-Forcers (Randy Lee) [Tenn., Calif., Ga., Mo., Maine, Ore., W.Va., W.Va., Minn., Tenn., Mo., Fla., Ore.]

The Acme-Acme-Acme-Acme-Acme Anvil Chorus (Jeff Contompasis) [Alberta, Ind., Kan., La., Mich., N.C., Ore., Pa., Wash., W.Va.]

The Airdrie-Sheets-Ong-Linesville-Gough-Wapato-Tywappity Concerto for Wet Laundry (Frank Osen) [Alberta, N.D., N.D., Pa., Ga., Wash., Mo.]

The Cole-Esterel Healthy Heart Initiative (Frank Mann, Washington) [Okla., Quebec]

The Doane-Nead-Macomb-Nome-Moore Baldness Support Group (Jesse Frankovich) [W.Va., Ind., Ill., Alaska, Okla.]

The Juneau-Wymark-Needles-Kyle High School Gossip Podcast (Lee Graham, Reston) [Alaska, Saskatchewan, Calif., Saskatchewan]

The Jupiter-Spokane-Venus-Hurd Romance Book Club (Kathy El-Assal, Middleton, Wis.) [Fla., Wash., Tex., N.D.]

The Macon-Annada-Sandwich Overeaters Anonymous Hotline (Rob Cohen) [Ga., Mo., Mass.]

The Maumee-Loving-Sigmund-Froid-Eddy-Pool-Complex Analystsister Cities (Randy Lee) [Ark., Ga., Pa., Mont., Okla., W.Va., N.C.]

The Pat-Dee-Buda-Bell-Lee Good Luck Club (Randy Lee) [Miss., Pa., Neb., Iowa, Ala.]

The Weir-Bannen-Flippin-Dee-Byrd Citizens Against Public Displays of Rudeness (Chris Doyle) [Kan., W.Va., Ark., Ore., Ark.]

The Little-Mermaid-Musson-Bee-Black Aryan Bottom Feeders (Randy Lee) [Okla., Del., La., Neb., S.C.]

Letts-Coe-Brandon Refined Young Republicans of America (Ira Allen, Bethesda) [Iowa, Ill., Manitoba]

The Bigfoot-Climax Study on Events We'd Like to Unsee (Leif Picoult, Rockville) [Tex., Saskatchewan]

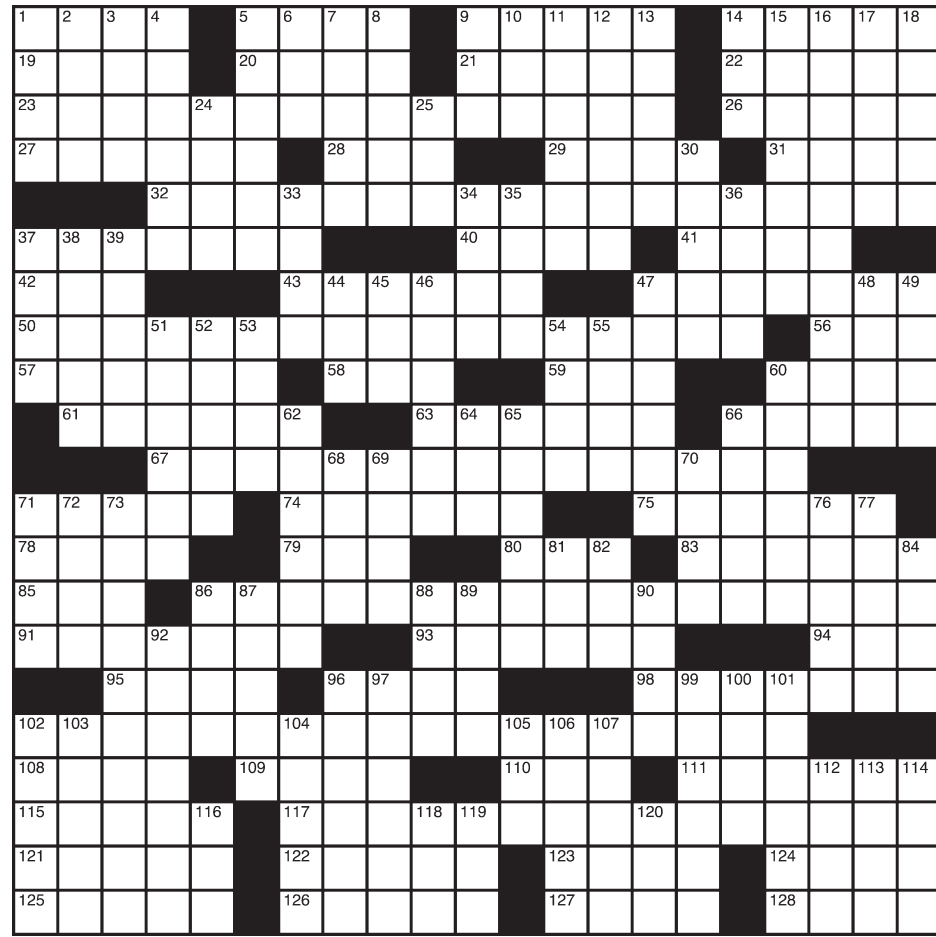
And Last: The Wonder-Wye-Kent-Winn Style Invitational Support Group (Rob Cohen) [Ky., Mont., Ohio, Ala.]

Still running — deadline Monday night, Oct. 10: Our contest to coin new words with the letter block ELDN. See wapo.st/invite1508.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

- SAY IT AGAIN! BY KATIE HALE
ACROSS: 1 Milk option, 5 Organs with the smallest bones in the body, 9 Escapade, 14 Good point, 19 Domini, 20 Grad, 21 Old-timey truth, 22 You win!, 23 Love letters between Andre Agassi and Steffi Graf, 26 Word repeated in a Culture Club song, 27 Halvah flavor, 28 Letters before a handle, 29 Type of lift, 31 Glance, 32 Hot food served extra cold?, 37 City east of Pittsburgh, 40 Force on Earth, 41 Spotted, 42 Vientiane language, 43 Chemical relative, 47 Lawmaking bodies, 50 Cast members who may sing "Under the Sea" at sea?, 56 "... been thinking ...", 57 "Wreck-It Ralph" setting, 58 Museum hanging, 59 Not 'neath, 60 Supermodel with a Global Chic collection on HSN, 61 "We need help!", 63 Like Roy Haylock as Bianca Del Rio, 66 Change, 67 Musical composition to meditate to?, 71 Walks in the shallows, 74 Miley Cyrus' "Party in ..." Flaps, 75 Fuel rating, 78 Flaps, 79 See 95-Across, 80 Nutrition fig., 83 Check out, in a way, 85 Convent resident, 86 Ransack the Grand Ole Opry?, 91 Grow resentful, 93 Saudi, 94 Apple platform.



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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

Happy Birthday | Oct. 9: You are articulate and you love to debate. (Although you want harmonious relationships with others.) Partnerships are important to you. This year is a time of reflection. Look at past experiences to see what not to repeat. New studies and the exploration of new philosophies and life belief systems will appeal to you.

Moon Alert: There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions today. The Moon is in Aries.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Today the only full moon in your sign all year is taking place. Naturally, this might create stress with partners and close friends. You can counter this by being patient, because patience is the antidote to anger.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You might feel vaguely out of sorts today because of the energy of the full moon. Fortunately, this subsides within 48 hours. In fact, some minor problems related to your job might come to a head and be resolved.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Parents must be patient with their kids today, and romantic partners must be patient with each other. Nevertheless, it will not override your desire to socialize and have a fun time. Enjoy yourself.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Today you might feel pulled between the demands of home and family vs. the demands of your career or your public reputation. You can't please everyone. In this particular instance, don't ignore home and family.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Pay attention to what you do and say today, because the full moon can make you blurt out things you might later regret. In fact, it can introduce a mildly accident-prone influence for your sign, so be careful. Be mindful.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Money disputes about shared property might arise today. However, problems always increase before the full moon, and then after it peaks, these same problems diminish or even disappear. This might be the solution you need.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Today is the only full moon opposite your sign all year. This will increase tension with those who are closest

to you. Fortunately, you are a diplomat who knows how to steady things. Use your skills, and this tension will quickly pass.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Difficulties at work or with your health might arise today. It's good to know that in 48 hours, these difficulties will be resolved or greatly reduced. Fingers crossed. Relax. Similarly, you might have difficulties that relate to a pet. Easy does it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Parents need to be patient with kids today. You also will need to be patient with others in social situations or anything to do with sports and athletics, because today the full moon can produce aggression and heightened reactions. Be forgiving. Take everything with a grain of salt.

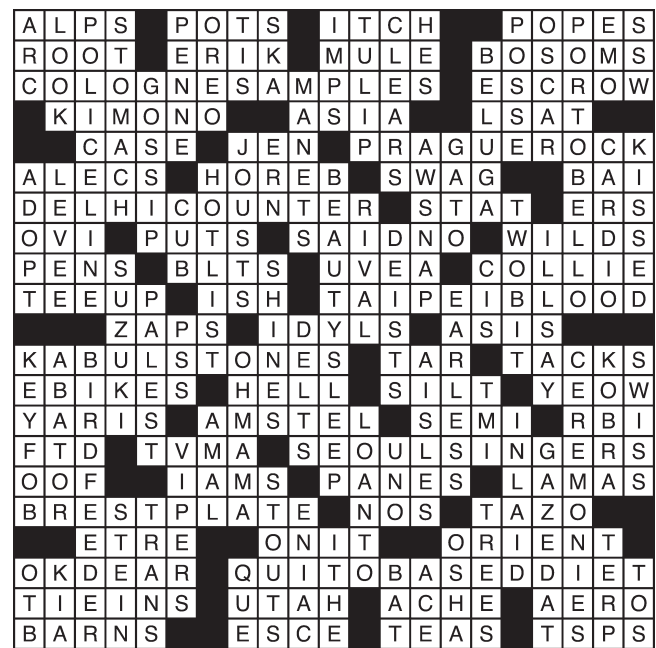
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Dealing with authority figures might

be challenging today because of the full moon energy. This is a poor day to be stubborn about anything. Instead, show deference and respect to authority figures while this intense energy exists. (It's gone in 48 hours.)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Pay attention to what you do, because today is a mildly accident-prone day for you. Similarly, you might find yourself in an argument with someone about something trivial. This is because of the heightened full moon energy taking place in your chart.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Money disputes might arise today. Or perhaps you experience a disagreement about a possession, something you own or how to use something that someone else owns. This squabble could be due to the heightened full moon energy. After the full moon peaks, these problems will resolve themselves.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



10/2/22