

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

NDELible ink: Winning neologisms

BY PAT MYERS

Week 1508 — in honor of Hall of Fame Loser Elden Carnahan, who's retiring his entirely volunteer post as Keeper of the Invite Stats at NRARS.org — was one of our Tour de Fours neologism contests; the coined word or phrase had to include the letter block ELDN, in any order, but together.

4th place: Return to slender: Giving up the peanut-butter-banana-and-bacon sandwiches. (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

3rd place: Impersonnel department: HR reps who refer to workers as "human capital." (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

2nd place and the mid-'90s Loser T-shirt: Sinfandel: Its bold, alluring flavor is often followed by a bitter aftertaste — and an indelible stain. (Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore)

And the winner of the Clowning Achievement: Splendooferous: Magnificently stupid. "Did you see that the Commanders were selling a mug with a picture of Washington state behind the W? Now that is splendooferous!" (Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.)

Subprime LENDING: Honorable mentions Forenoon delight: That'd be coffee, followed by more coffee. (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

Bundle of oy: A toddler who makes you wonder why you were so eager to be a bubbe. (Mark Raffman, Reston) Modelinbble: A very skimpy snack. "Victoria knew her zipper would pop if she had a proper meal, so she opted for a modelinbble of two celery sticks and a raisin." (Dave Airosso, Silver Spring)

Kennel Dates: From the maker of Tinder, an app for your pooch: sniff-and-swipe! (Chris Doyle)

Hot Cross Bundle: Special package for music teachers that comes with 30 plastic recorders and a year's supply of earplugs. (Daniel Galef, Tallahassee)

Manhandlebar: What they really ought to call a nightstick. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

Paddle Nerf: For those intimidated by pickleball. (Roy Ashley, Washington)

Schadenloiter: Hang around to watch the imminent fail. "As soon as Josh said, 'Hold my beer,' we decided to schadenloiter a bit." (Chris Doyle)

Sudden liberal: A Republican who learns his mistress is pregnant. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Al dental: When pasta is so undercooked that it breaks a molar. (Jeff Hazle, San Antonio)

Ax Handel: What the choral director facing yet another "Messiah" would like to do just this once. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

Baldencare: Federal prescription program that subsidizes Rogaine. (Roy Ashley)

Bannedleader: What Rep. Kevin McCarthy fears he'll become if he stops whistling Dixie. (Steve Smith, Potomac)

Beholden Caulfield: The protagonist grows up and takes a job on Madison Avenue to pay off his student loans. (Karen Lambert, Chevy Chase)

Bendlam: Chaos in the yoga studio. "It was bendlam in class today when we tried putting our toes behind our ears." (Judy Freed, Deerfield Beach, Fla.)

Clandelabra: Extremely complicated family tree. "When Aunt Ethel married her first cousin George, that sure tangled up the clandelabra." (Duncan Stevens)

Colonel Dijon: Character in the French version of Clue. Contrary to rumors, he does not immediately surrender when accused. (Jon Carter, Fredericksburg)

Dawndle: To move about listlessly until that early morning cup of coffee. (Jeff Contompasis)

Denial deniers: The only kind not welcomed under the GOP's big tent. (Kevin Dopart)

Eldnerdly: What is "Jeopardy's" largest viewer demographic? (Steve Smith)

Friendliar: A companion who always says, "You look so good in that!" and assures you in every instance that you're the one who was wronged. (Jon Carter)

Idle Nine: The Nationals during the playoffs. (Jerry Birchmore, Springfield)



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Style Invitational Week 1512: Alphabeter — give us 26 words

All bats can dive eagerly for gnats. However, in jungle kingdom locales, many nosh on porcupine quills — razor-sharp. The undaunted vermin wolf: xylophonically yelping zealously.

This week's contest was suggested by Loser Al Lubran, who saw it in Marilyn vos Savant's even-older-than-the-Invite "Ask Marilyn" column in the Sunday newspaper insert Parade, which used to be a huge magazine but is now the size of a postage stamp. (Well, bigger than most postage stamps, but the paper is thinner.)

Anyway, back in August, Marilyn asked readers to send her magnificent of 26 words that each started with a different letter of the alphabet — and the words could be in any order. Two months later she ran five winners from what she said were 2,000 entrants. The Empress was going to use one of them as an example, but wheeee! In came Our Own Bob Staake with the sentence above — one that uses the words in alphabetical order. (But you don't have to!)

We're going to make one significant change to Marilyn's contest, though. Note how Bob's sentence uses "xylophonically." Vos Savant's five winners used: 1. X-rays. 2. Xylophone. 3. Xylophones. 4. X-ray. 5. X-rays. So the E will offer you an out, for variety's sake.

This week: Write a 26-word sentence or other passage whose words each start with a different letter — except that the X in the X-word may appear elsewhere in the word, as long as the word has an "ex" syllable. (Okay: "EXtra." Okay: "MetroSexual." Not okay: "FoX.") If the X-word does start with X, that's swell, too. Hyphenated words may count as one word or two. The aim is to sound natural and to make sense. And, yup, be funny, plz.

Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1512 (no capitals in the Web address). Deadline is Monday night, Nov. 7; results appear Nov. 27, in print; Nov. 23, online.



THE WASHINGTON POST

Not for use in science class: This week's second prize.

Winner gets the Clowning Achievement, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives this Halloween week (though in the Loserly Way, the winner won't receive it until around Thanksgiving), a genuine plastic spider skeleton, complete with those spider leg bones, spider rib cage, spider skull, etc. Yes, we know. At least we didn't get it from a biology class supply shop.

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 "NDELible Ink" is by Jesse Frankovich; Jesse also wrote 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/conv1512.

Swindler's List: "Okay, let's send them this email saying, 'It is IMPERATIVE that we win BIG in November,' and we should net a quick 7 mil to pay my lawyers." (Jonathan Jensen) Lendowment: Money loaned without interest, usually from the Bank of Mom and Dad. (Barbara Turner, Takoma Park) Lidl enema: You can find just about anything in that supermarket's variety aisle. This one's next to the ratchet wrenches and the tube socks. (Dave Prevar, Annapolis) Linkedln: If you try to post a profile here, clearly you didn't check your I's and I's to watch for phishing sites, so you don't deserve a cybersecurity job anyway. (Karen Lambert) Misshandled: "It's pretty clear that Dan Snyder has badly misshandled matters in the team's front office." (Steve Smith) Noodle nibs: Those broken bits of spaghetti that fly out of the box and land everywhere except in the pot. (Pam Shermeyer, Lathrup Village, Mich.) Offending: A White student who complains that history class made him feel bad. "Travis's parents were outraged that their offending had been exposed to Harriet Tubman." (Leif Picoult, Rockville) Olden daze: When your memories are betrayed by your memory. "Kids, when I was your age, I ... uh ... well, I was, once." (Pete

Morelewicz, Fredericksburg) Porndeli: Everyone orders the tongue. (Frank Mann, Washington) The Golden Grillz: A sitcom featuring four aging rappers who share a crib in Miami. (Chris Doyle) The UnBundler: What they're calling Tom Brady's divorce lawyer. (Dan Helming, Whitmarsh, Pa.) Vendliness: What Amway sellers exude. "I just adore your new haircut, Jess! You know what would go great with that? A new pizza stone! I have just the thing." (Pete Morelewicz) Vlad-enlistment: Conscript. "Yuri found himself Vlad-enlisted by 'recruiters' who showed up at his 40th-birthday party." (Dan Helming) Ye Olde News: The Post's print edition. (Jonathan Jensen) Pundle: Collective noun for wordsmiths. "There were at least two dozen of us at the last Loser brunch — quite the pundle." (Jeff Contompasis) And Last: End Loser: The person credited with the "And Last" ink. (Eric Nelkin, Silver Spring) More winners in the online invite at wapo.st/invite1512. Still running — deadline Monday night, Oct. 31: Our "air quotes" contest to find words inside other words. See wapo.st/invite1511.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY PATTI VAROL AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

- "THIS OR THAT, FOR TWO" BY CHRISTINA IVERSON
schedule
Haitian friend
"Sold out" sign
"Heavens!"
Scepter top
109-Across
maker's need
camera-maker
Arches National Park state
Middle of a Latin boast
Threw in
Skybox setting
Herb with grayish leaves
Novelist Kingsley
"Get Out" writer/director Jordan Peele
"An Introduction to Calculus" or "The Art of Public Speaking"
Trattoria fare
Vow
Went quickly
Picnic container
Sphinx, in part
Relieves
Make a point
Straightens up
Christian
Loudboutin shoes or a Fendi bag?
Hunter near the Pleiades
Poke fun at King or queen, but not prince
Yo lead-in
Chemistry lab substances
"C'est la ___"
Crossword diagram
Snow remover
Fifth Avenue retailer
Entrance
Gibson Flying V or Fender Stratocaster?
Gaelic tongue
Big Band ___
Little round vegetables
Dam that created Lake Nasser
Emmy statue or the Stanley Cup?
TV grouch
Apple tablet
Scott's refusal
Speak (up)
Richter or Mohs?
Indie pop duo ___ and Sara
Spoken
Behind
bag, say
Meal in a bowl
Ongoing drama
Trapshooting
DOWN
the Elder: Roman historian
Geometry calculation
Ariana Grande's "Thank U, ___"
Free
Snatch
Grand Slam component
Doesn't put up a fight
Like whiskey and wine
Bewitch Zachary
"Scott!"
Somewhat
First name in civil rights history
"Makes sense"
Google Play download
"What's the ___?"; slangy
"What gives?"
Cause of a product recall, perhaps
Pop star John Campus officials
"buco"
Point the finger at
Like reasonably strong bonds
"if it ___ broke ..."
Defeated, as a dragon
Tupperware top
"Chicago" choreographer
Cheering loudly
Fabric store section
"Shazam!" actor
Zachary
Somewhat
First name in civil rights history
Clive of "Gosford Park"
Fancy jug
Jaipur attire
Avocado dip, for short
Going up
IT dept. array
Member of an Iraqi religious minority
"whiz!"
Fled
Scoreboard abbr. for a rainout
Ante- fencing blade
Actor Mineo
Shortened title
Really small
Norwegian banking hub
C-section souvenir
Stealthy thief
Bass beer
Field day equipment
Tehran resident
Final installment, perhaps
"Eight Grade" actress Fisher
Local leaders
Bad sign
Orchard units
Ages
Verizon Wireless rival
Wound cover
Tell a story
Thus far
Mesh
Snuggle (in)
Tattle on
Guarantee
Literary realm
Shrillble
Light shirts
Measure up
Anxious feeling
Helps reduce swelling
Writer Bombeck
Formerly
Good-sized yard
"moss"
"Sammy the Seal" writer Hoff
SLR camera by
Many grad students, for short

15x15 crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-112 and a date 10/30/22.

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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

Happy Birthday | Oct. 30: You are hard-working, talented and charismatic. People are drawn to you because you are charming and enthusiastic about what interests you. This year is the first year of a new nine-year cycle for you, which means being open to new things. Stay light on your feet and be ready for new directions.

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Your relationship with a parent or a boss might surprise you. They might do something you least expect. Or you might do something that surprises yourself. Don't be afraid to stretch your wings and take some power. State your views. You are a natural leader and are not afraid to take command.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) An unexpected opportunity to travel might be exciting. This is also an excellent day to meet people from other cultures so you can be stimulated by new ideas and different ways of doing things.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Double-check anything to do with shared property, debt or insurance issues, because a little surprise might be waiting for you. When it comes to money, stay on top of things.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Be receptive to whatever your partner or close friend might suggest. Be ready to go along with a new suggestion that might be something fresh and different for you. This might be as simple as trying a new recipe.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Something to do with your pet or your health might reveal new possibilities. Likewise, some of you might be surprised by something related to your work. Possibly, your workday is interrupted.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Parents should be mindful of their kids because this is a mildly accident-prone day for them. Meanwhile, be ready to accept a last-minute invitation. Be open to new social situations and trying something different. It could be fun!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Change things up at home. Move some furniture around. Try different throw pillows or towels. Make some little changes at home that give you a lift. Invite someone over. You are very affected by your immediate surroundings.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Today you are a bit restless, which is why you will like to see new places and meet new faces. Push yourself beyond your boundaries. Visit someplace interesting and talk to people around you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You might have some clever, moneymaking ideas. You also might impulsively shop or see something intriguing that pleases you. Some of you also might see new uses for something you already own. Today is full of exciting possibilities.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You might feel impulsive. It will please you if you can put yourself in different surroundings. Go someplace you've never been before. Take a moment to relax in an interesting spot, perhaps where you can people-watch. Pretend you're on vacation.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) This is a quieter day. You're happy to enjoy your own company. Nevertheless, you still want to learn something new or be surprised by something. This might come to you through film, television, social media or books.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) If you're dealing with groups or a club, you might want to advocate for new policies. You want change that is for the better. You probably see new ways of doing things or new ways of networking to get others to climb on board. You also might meet new people.

Answers to last week's puzzle.

Answers to last week's puzzle: SLABS, CAGEY, AIRER, BRITISH, ONEGNAT, PALO, ACROSS, RHINO, TOO, CWPOST, UHHUH, FEAROF, FASPAIRS, STES, CELS, ABO, MELEE, CEASE