

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Foolly staffed: Losers' Cabinet noms

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1273 we asked your suggestions for who (or what!) should fill various Cabinet and other federal posts. Submitted by too many: Michelle Duggar for secretary of labor, David Petraeus for Veterans Affairs, and Vladimir Putin for election commissioner, secretary of state — or president, since he's been in charge already.

4th place

Sean Spicer should run the Census Bureau — it will be so exciting to have 4 billion people in this country. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

3rd place

Mrs. Ben Carson as secretary of transportation, as she's an expert on the undersides of buses. (Ira Allen, Bethesda)

2nd place and the Body Parts Sushi gummy candy:

Daniel Snyder to head the Bureau of Indian Affairs: Him very qualified paleface. (Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg, Va.)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

As he knows the score on what happens in Russian hotel rooms, Christopher Steele can run the Pee Score — What? You spell it how? Never mind. — E. Litella (Duncan Stevens)

Reductions in farce: Honorable mentions

Metro chief Paul Wiedefeld for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. He would improve the safety of our roads by letting one car onto them every 20 minutes. (Duncan Stevens)

Bryce Harper for head of both NOAA and NASA: The man knows how to go deep and launch them into orbit. (Stephen Litterst, Newark, Del.)

Hunter S. Thompson for director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives: Okay, he's dead, but look at the level of experience in all four departments. (Jeff Contompassis, Ashburn)

Anthony Scaramucci for chairman of the President's Council on Physical Fitness: He's suggested some very interesting flexibility exercises. (Mark Raffman, Reston)

Moses would make a good ambassador to China — no one else can handle the Red C the way he can. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

April the Giraffe should be labor secretary because she could be expected to stay in the position for a long, long time. (Hildy Zampella, Alexandria)

Eric and Donald Trump Jr. to run the Fish and Wildlife Service: Who better to rid the country of the animals destroying our national parks and waterways? (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

To head the Council of Economic Advisers, I nominate my Aunt Ruby, who never once failed to make a mountain out of a molehill. I mean, that's pretty economical. (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station)

Joan of Arc for press secretary. She is already used to the working environment. (Ken Rosenau, Bellingham, Wash.)

LeBron James for secretary of transportation because he's always traveling. (Roy Ashley, Washington)

For head of NOAA: Noah! After all, he's been around for a long time and knows a thing or two about rising sea levels. (Alison Thompson, Sudbury, Mass., a First Offender)

Rosie Ruiz for Head Start director: Because this time, maybe she can make it work. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

Scott Pruitt for HUD secretary: Because who knows more about high-quality, low-cost housing? (John Glenn, Tyler, Tex.; Frank Mann, Washington)

Gummy to head the EPA: He's eco-friendly green for liberals; he's made from petrochemicals for conservatives; and being small and flexible, he could fit in any lobbyist's pocket — so no need for a condo! (Jeff Shirley, Richmond)



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1277: Come into Beeing with neologisms

UBATRIE --> Burbitate: To yield to the instinctive pull outside the city upon becoming parents.

UBATRIE --> Truebut: Someone who'll never concede the point.

UBATRIE --> Rubaitat: An Omar Kháyym poem inscribed on your arm.

In February we ran another neologism contest based on the ScrabbleGrams word game. This week, at the suggestion of Loser Alex Blackwood, we rip-off honor a similar but significantly different game: It's called Spelling Bee, and it's one of the "variety puzzles" in the Sunday New York Times. Every week in Spelling Bee — soon to become a daily feature online, according to Eric von Coelln, the NYT's puzzle director — constructor Frank Longo presents six letters of the alphabet arranged in a circle, daisy-style, around a seventh letter. The goal is to list as many real words as you can that include that central letter plus any of the other six, used as often as you want in the word. And that last aspect is the nut of this week's contest: From any of the 15 Spelling Bee letter sets listed below, coin a new term of one or two words and define it humorously, as in Alex's examples above. You may also supply an especially clever or funny definition of a real term. Here are the rules we'll use (we're ignoring the central-letter requirement of the real game):

— The word or compound-word term must be at least five letters long.

— You may use as few of the letters in a set as you like.

— You may not use any letters that aren't in the set (hyphens are okay).

— You may use any letter in the set as often as you like. So you might come up with a word that's, say, eight letters long but use only three letters in the set.

As always, you may submit up to 25 entries total; the Empress doesn't care if you find 25 words from a single set or you use all 15. Please begin every entry with the letter set you're using, on the same line, as above.

WMALTER PHANETY LABGENT KETICYR UBATRIE

ROXTANE RONTCUD FOUTHGL PTHACKRO FINESTY

CHELOAN HEMNPUR FINCOUT CYMENGR RUGTAYI

Submit entries at the website wapo.st/enter-invite-1277 (all lowercase).

Winner gets the Lose Cannon, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a red felt beanie with a merry felt crab waving at you on top of it. Modeled here by Loser and incorrigible punster Frank Yuen, who was visiting from New York and joined a group of Losers and Style Invitational Devotees for lunch, where he posed in the crab hat in the middle of the restaurant. Frank suggested that his portrait be titled "Crustasian." Um, no.

Other runners-up win our "You Gotta Play to Lose" Loser Mug or our Grossery Bag, "I Got a B in Punmanship." Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, "We've Seen Better" or "Idiot Card." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). Deadline is Monday night, May 7; results published May 27 (online May 23). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline for this week's results is by Dave Prevar; Chris Doyle wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev. "Like" 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/styleconv.



PAT MYERS/THE WASHINGTON POST

Loser Frank Yuen models this week's second prize. Frank wanted to title this photo "Crustasian."

Superman for Homeland Security: Who better to protect our borders than someone who stands for truth, justice and the American way! Wait, he's an undocumented alien? (Ward Kay, Vienna, Va.)

The Skipper from "Gilligan's Island" for secretary of education: Has firsthand knowledge of just how wrong a charter can go.

(Steven Honley, Washington)

Vanilla Ice as the lone ranger of the Department of Justice: It would be . . . Just Ice. (Chris Damm, Charles Town, W.Va.)

Vladimir Lenin for secretary of state: He's been lying in it for 94 years. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

Wile E. Coyote for secretary of transportation — because \$3 trillion buys a lot of bridges and tunnels if you're building them with a paintbrush. (David Patch, Toledo; Frank Mann)

Yosemite Sam as national security adviser. As with John Bolton, his favorite phrase is "This means war!" Also, he has a better mustache. (William Pifer-Foote, Leesport, Pa., who last got Invite ink almost 18 years ago)

More honorable mentions in the online Invite at wapo.st/invite1277.

Still running — deadline Monday, April 30: our limerick contest. See wapo.st/invite1276.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

"CAMERA SHY" By JEFF EDDINGS

ACROSS

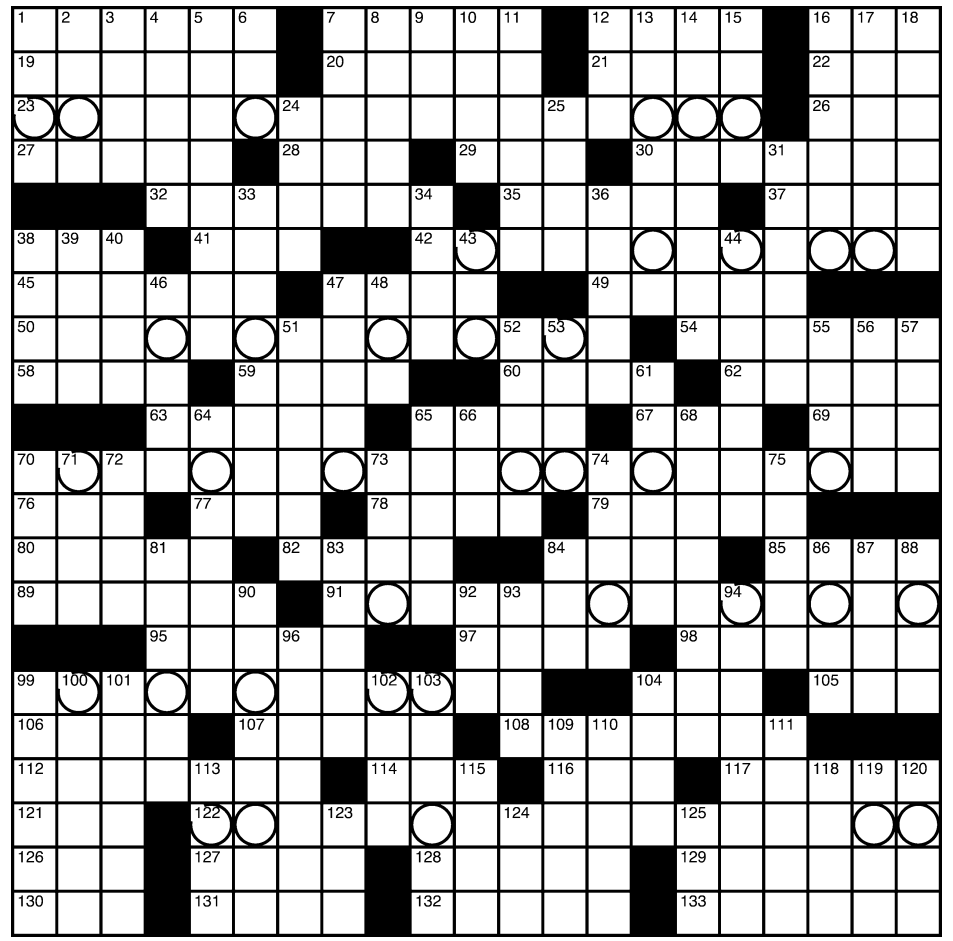
- 1 Angled defense
7 Three-word defense
12 Soother
16 Sign, as a contract
19 Pump measurement
20 Shooting competition
21 Two-dimensional size
22 ABO system abbr.
23 H&R Block calculation
26 Hot
27 K-pop city
28 Long. counterpart
29 Sock part
30 Times-changing workers?
32 They may be fooled
35 Peru grazer
37 On
38 Sworn words
41 Gloomy
42 Individual with limited skills
45 Put in new film
47 [Oh no!]
49 First name in makeup
50 "You can't be serious!"
54 "Full House," but not "House"
58 Small-runway mil. craft
59 Cap joint
60 Former sea that's now part desert
62 Zany
63 "Into the Wild" star Hirsch
65 Drs.' publication -out. total
69 PTA member
70 Hamilton, for one
76 High-tech agent
77 Schuss or slalom
78 UMass' conference
79 Explosive matter, briefly
80 Storm sounds
82 Air carrier
84 Judge's assessment
85 Olive, for one
89 Throw away, in a way
91 Recreational area with pipes, bowls and ramps

- 95 Like the opening of "The Wizard of Oz"
97 Clarifying words
98 Microwave concern
99 Dropping-off places?
104 Beehive State native
105 SAT scores, e.g.
106 Emulate a hip dog
107 Gridiron gripper
108 Being judged
112 Cow chow
114 Hold up
116 Ref. for wordsmiths calculation
117 Polynesian
121 Disney heroine
122 Red choice
126 Angled piece
127 Focus for clérigos
128 Raven's sound
129 Part of a plot
130 Low

DOWN

- 1 Dandy guys
2 Drink with a domed cover
3 A.L. West pro, informally
4 Entertains at the penthouse
5 Historic WWII B-29
6 mother
7 Five Pillars faith
8 Breed from
9 All NBA players
10 Mennonites, e.g.
11 1962 Lawrence portrayer
12 Sweetie, in slang
13 Twin sister of Apollo
14 Headliners
15 Skirt type

- 16 As a whole
17 Impulse-conducting cell
18 Enemy in a Le Carré novel
24 "Sad to say ..."
25 Diner sandwich
31 Stick on, in a way
33 Dojo action
34 Slugging Sammy
36 Oakland's Oracle, e.g.
38 Light controller in a lens
39 Obligation
40 Spread on toast
43 "Morning Edition" airer
44 Lake Wobegon creator
46 Creepy starrer
47 Inexperienced
48 Donkey Kong looks like one
51 Like rolled carpet
52 "The Martian" star
53 contract
55 Food ___ listlessness after a large meal
56 about
57 "Oh dear!"
61 Gloria Estefan, for one
64 Error
65 Volkswagen sedan
66 N-S Manhattan road
68 Bookish set
70 Starting quartet
71 18-Down, at times
72 Famous last words?
73 Ribs unit
74 Blue side
75 Unacceptable to some, for short
81 Old Spanish bread
83 Meter measure
84 "The X-Files" org.
86 Pour, e.g.
87 Inventor Rubik
88 Heart lines?: Abbr.
90 Cringe-worthy YouTube subject
92 Road goo
93 Standard Oil brand
94 Unrealistic
96 About to deliver
99 Outpourings
100 Fingers-in-ears syllables
101 Embrace
102 Kiss drummer Eric
103 Immediately
104 Hindustani tongue
109 Zero input
110 Sources of deck wood
111 Sign in
113 Digital displays, briefly
115 Earthen wall
118 Cornerstone word
119 Film org.
120 Pot starter
123 Capital of Switzerland?
124 Hulce or Hanks
125 Sundial seven



4/29/18

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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | April 29: This year, you greet many opportunities. A new hobby or interest could be quite time-consuming, but it will be worth it. You will want to share your knowledge with your friends and loved ones. If you are single, you will have more than a few opportunities to meet someone special, especially sometime before fall. If you are attached, you might see a new dimension of your sweetie's personality. Take up a mutual interest or hobby together. Scorpio understands your persistence and endurance.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You might hold off on making an important decision, at least for now. Make time for a favorite person who understands you well and will enjoy some extra time with you. Avoid being so serious-minded, especially when discussing a potential trip.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Important news heads your way. You could feel as if you are being pulled in two directions. You can handle various opinions and diverse ideas. You could feel the push and pull of a situation.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Your playfulness will be apparent early on, but the fatigue from your hectic schedule will wear on you as the day goes on. Make it a day to stay close to home, until and unless you change your mind.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Defer to others. A loved one lets you know how much he or she wants to be a bigger part of your life. Your imagination is on fire. The full moon today could keep your day exciting, to say the very least. A partner could be reevaluating recent happenings.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Be close to home. You might be more relaxed than you have been in a long time. Be imaginative when dealing with family members. Do yourself a favor and refuse to get involved in any arguments that arise. Entertain from home rather than going out.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Speak your mind. Be as clear as possible when dealing with a sibling and/or close relative. Be careful about getting into a bad cycle of gossiping. You will feel better if you make an effort to contact a close friend.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Be careful with a risk involving a

financial matter. You could feel overloaded, as you have so much to do. Take your time making an important decision that could affect a long-term desire. Keep a strict eye on spending, and be sure to count your change.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You feel very different in the morning than you have as of late. You are empowered by a situation that is changeable. Extremes occur, as a full moon dominates the day. Emotions and logic seem to oppose each other.

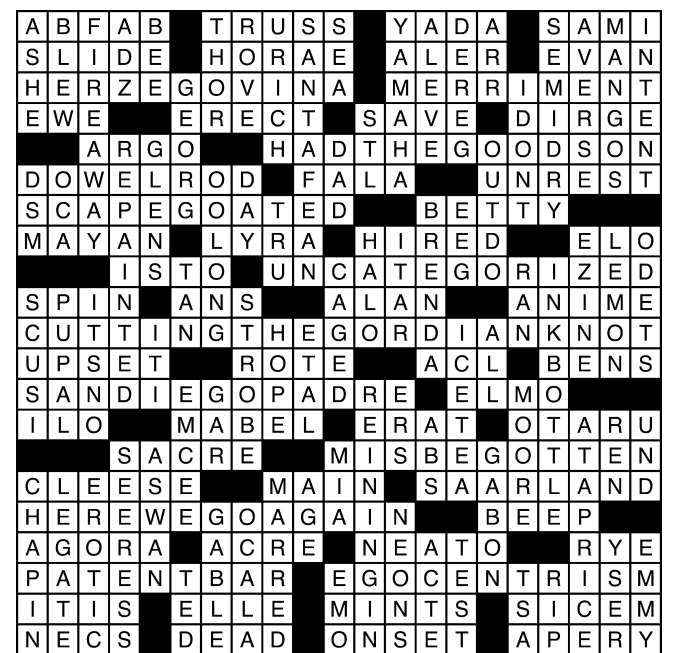
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You might feel as if someone is pulling on you and causing you to get into a funk. Listen to your inner voice and follow through on a particular challenge. You could be exhausted by the high volatility surrounding this full moon. Play it low-key.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Emphasize friendship as well as your long-term desires. It might be exciting to juggle all the opportunities that come through on this full moon. Take your time before making a decision. You could be weighing the pros and cons of a bond.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Tension builds between you and others. It might feel as if you are experiencing some unusual pressure. You also might be juggling work-related issues as well as a domestic matter. Try to avoid making a decision just yet.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Reach out to someone at a distance. Work through a problem without so much concern about the ramifications. Some people might not be happy with your choices. Remember that everyone is entitled to their opinion.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



4/22/18