

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

At wits' blend: Portmanteau words

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1341 the Empress asked for new portmanteau words, in which two words are mashed together, along with a description of the result.

4th place:

Exterminature: The EPA's new rallying cry.

3rd place:

Quacknowledgment:

Inconspicuous disclaimer on a suspect supplement. "Gargling with Dr. Zo's fermented yak urine is not intended to treat, cure or prevent any disease."

2nd place and the "0.0" non-marathon auto decal:

Forty-Fivan the Terrible: The worst leader Russia ever installed.

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

Muellerotica: "If we had confidence that the earth did not move or that an explosion did not erupt through her as every cell in her body screamed 'Yes!' we would have said so."

Nitwiticismis: Honorable mentions

Eclair de lune: A midnight snack.

Electricricle: The rate at which your phone charges when you're in a hurry.

Epidermisery: The zit you got on the day of the prom.

Erratatas: "I said I wanted them D-CUP size, not TEACUP size!"

Esophagusto: The verve of enthusiasm that produces a world-class belch.

Frenchiлада: A crepe topped with fromage, sauce tomate and a sneer.

Fubarista: Starbucks employee who never gets your order right.

Garbagel: A bagel not from New York.

Geronomoron: A bungee jumper who forgets the cord.

Glamphibian: An elegant swamp-dweller. "Touring the detention facility in satin jodhpurs, the Cabinet secretary's wife looked positively glamphibious."

Gonadvertising: Posting pictures of your junk.

Gorillama: A 300-pound tree-dwelling camelid of South America that not only spits in your face but throws poop in it, too.

Gryffindork: Anyone over 16 dressed in Harry Potter regalia.

G-Spotify: Now offering unlimited streaming of Barry White songs.

Halfalfa: What miniature horses eat.

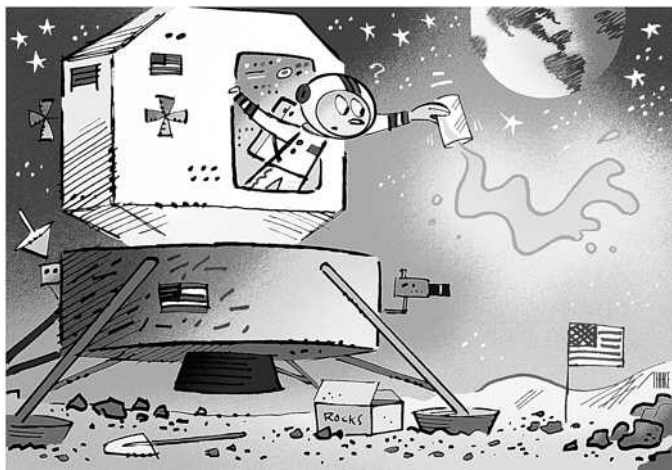
Hasty Freeze: What happens to your brain when you scarf down the last of the ice cream rather than share it with your spouse who's pulling up in the driveway.

Hempiricism: The insistence on actually testing the medical claims for CBD.

Hindquartermaster: That pain-in-the-neck in charge of the office supply room.

Instagramps: Polaroid-sharing app.

Interimbecile: The fill-in numskull who botches things up until a permanent idiot can be found to ruin everything.



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1345: The confaketonary — food fictoids

Neil Armstrong hated Tang.

The act of eating celery burns more calories than it contains.

In Switzerland, it's American cheese that's sold with holes in it.

Before World War II, Almond Joy candy bars contained real joy.

Because there simply is not enough misinformation in the world about this subject, our latest bogus-trivia contest concerns one of the Empress's favorite subjects: This week: Tell us some comically false "fact" about food, drink or dining...

Submit entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1345 (all lowercase).

Winner gets the Lose Cannon, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives, apropos of this contest, an especially handsome hardcover book called "The Book of Random Oddities," which focuses mostly on odd words and fascinating word origins.

Other runners-up win our "You Gotta Play to Lose" Loser Mug or our "Whole Fools" Grocery Bag. Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, "Too-Weak Notice" or "Certificate of (de) Merit."

The Style Conversational: The Empress's weekly online column discusses the week's new contest and results.

Washington

Jackassuredness: The dominant trait of that braggart at the bar.

LeBronté: Author of "6-8 Heights" and "Jane Eyre Ball."

Legislatoroise: A lawmaker who slow-walks bills.

Lethargymnastics: Turning over on the couch to get the remote.

Maledictionary: Glossary of terms used by the president about Democrats, immigrants, the media and Rosie O'Donnell.

Malapropaganda: Trump's stirring speech about George Washington's army taking over the airports.

Marathong: A sumo uniform.

Marvelously: How to describe a film with great special effects and horrible plot and acting.

Mastodonald: Weird-haired beast previously thought to be extinct, currently masquerading as an elephant.

Mastiffany: A humongous engagement diamond.

Milkshakespearean: Someone who insists that Hamlet has to be white because he's Danish.

Nemesisterhood: To Trump, the Squad.

Newscasterisk: The scrolling banner at the bottom of the screen stating the truth vs. what the president just said.

Normalodorous: Reflecting a level of corruption and greed that isn't noteworthy anymore.

Partisanctimony: The righteous attitude of those smug bastards on the other side of the political spectrum.

Pediatricrky: "You'll just feel a little sting, sweetie, and then Nurse Ratched will give you a sticker."

Peekaboobo: A wardrobe malfunction.

Persisterhood: Warren Women.

Pooperfume: A scent so awful that they should have called it Chanel No. 2.

Pundittos: A whole panel of cable news talking heads all saying the same thing.

Purgency: The suddenness with which the toll of an all-night binge hits.

Randomicile: The result of your 4-year-old helping to put things away.

Refrigerater: Consumer Reports' coldest critic.

And Last: Empressentials: Must not have been published before, must rhyme flawlessly, yada yada yada ...

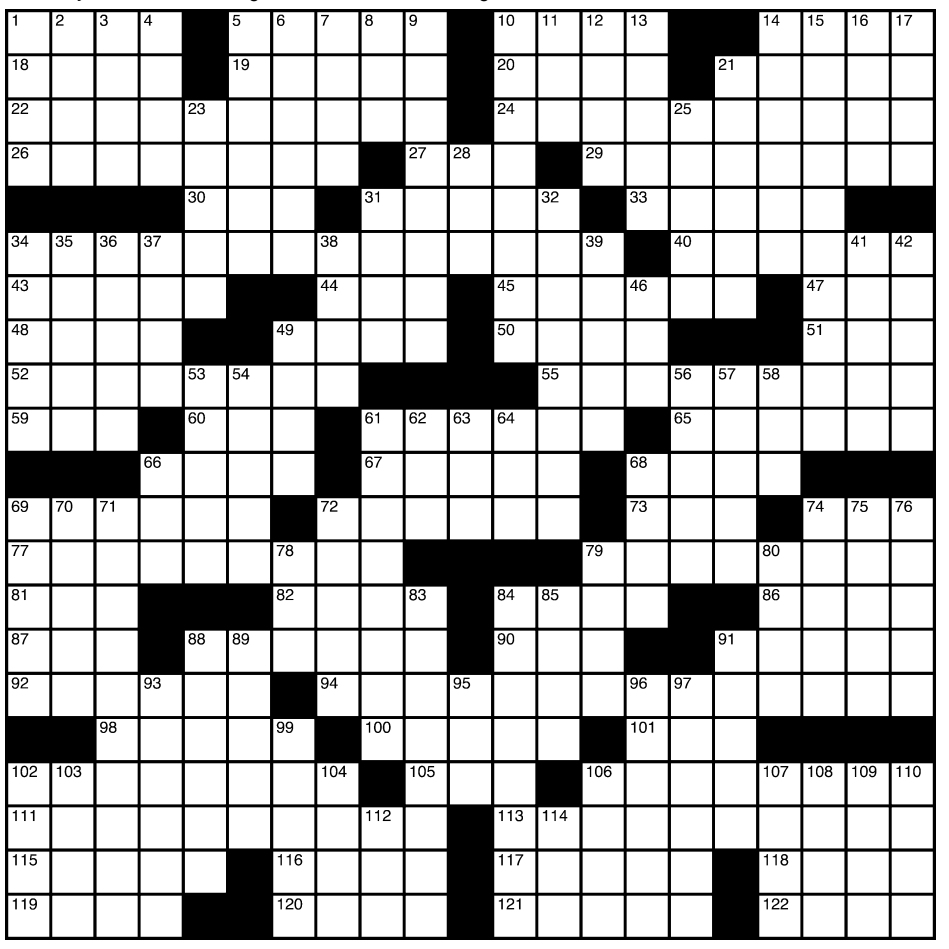
And Even Laster: Kvetchotchkes: Swag so crummy that you complain about getting it.

Still running — deadline Monday night, Aug. 19: Our Limerixicon contest for limericks featuring a word beginning "gr."

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

"DONE TO A T" By PAUL COULTER

ACROSS: 1 Name on toy vehicles since 1964. 5 '50s first lady. 10 Architect Saaninen. 14 Become unhinged. 18 Bridge toll unit. 19 Whirlpool brand. 20 "Ah, me!" 21 Arcade pioneer. 22 Naughty young athlete? 24 Materials on a king's palette? 26 Energy-saving tactic. 27 AOL, e.g. 29 Military chaplain. 30 Platform for Siri. 31 Cons. 115 Recesses. 116 Miscellany. 117 Stand in a studio. 118 Adjutant. 119 Envy and others. 40 Less taxing. 43 Pouts. 44 Oxlike antelope. 45 Syndicate. 47 Chinese. 48 Culinary general. 49 Fine things? 49 Cartoon flapper. 50 Cabinet dept. with an atom on its seal. 51 1995 court VIP. 52 "The Alien Simpsons" character? 55 Watery world? 59 Doo-wop syllable. 60 Big size, in a small way. 61 Operatic chorus. 65 Chip features. 66 Organic fuel. 67 Deprive of courage. 68 Ex-baseballer Martinez. 69 Photos, say. 72 Not diluted much, if at all. 73 \_\_\_ v. Wade. 74 Dusk, to Donne. 77 Defective phone download? 79 Large pub band? 81 Deg. for a writer. 82 Red analog. 84 Trounce, down south. 86 Global extremity. 87 Lulu. 88 "Ageless Body, Timeless Mind" author. 90 \_\_\_ the fields we go ... 91 Graf rival. 92 They may be driven. 94 Tiny golf course rental? 98 Bailiwicks. 100 Slogs. 101 Bygone New Zealand bird. 102 Last of seven, for many. 105 UFO crew, in theory. 106 Curbside pickup places. 111 Strategy using a heavily pine-tarred bat? 113 Tiff about a checkup? 115 Cons. 116 Miscellany. 117 Stand in a studio. 118 Adjutant. 119 Envy and others. 120 Fill-in. 121 Singer. 122 Word of medical advice. DOWN: 1 Door fastener. 2 Big show. 3 Tedious. 4 Arid. 5 Phillie Phanatic, for one. 6 Waylay. 7 K follower. 8 Minute or moment lead-in. 9 Consuming, as time. 10 Secret Service agent's accessory. 11 "Do Ya" rock gp. 12 Bottom-feeding fish. 13 1970 World's Fair site. 14 Way up. 15 Nervous habit. 16 Cartoonist Peter. 17 Big East team. 21 Court loser's option. 23 Chamber groups. 25 Ecole cousin. 28 RR stop. 31 Part of A.D. 32 Bittersweet farewell. 34 Mosque officials. 35 Judaic spiritual text. 36 Buddhist spiritual text. 37 1987 Costner role. 38 Gershwin's "Rhythm". 39 "Poems are made by fools like me" poem. 41 Cosmetician. 42 Origins. 46 Song syllable. 49 Author Harte. 53 Obscenity cover-up. 54 Showing shock. 56 Former. 57 Bedding. 58 Big deal. 61 Flatter. 62 Gil's furlough. 63 Latin lover's word. 64 Vehicle with sliding doors. 66 Links letters. 68 Under-the-sink assembly. 69 High-tech debut of 1981. 70 Underworld society. 71 Novel's screen version, e.g. 72 Oozes. 74 WWII bomber. 75 Fisherman with pots. 76 Desert trial. 78 Debt-heavy corp. takeover. 79 Pat on the back, maybe. 80 Crude gp.? 83 Place setting. 84 Fuel storage structure. 85 Does some tailoring. 88 Store employees. 89 Exciting. 91 Put away for later. 93 Rollers on the road. 95 Bunk. 96 Charm. 97 Like serious mistakes. 99 Cousin of a dog. 102 IRS IDs. 103 Yours, to Yvette. 104 "Throw the Log On, Uncle John": P.D.Q. Bach madrigal parody. 106 Low pitch. 107 Peter the Great, e.g. 108 '60s sitcom boy. 109 Stationer's stock. 110 Editorial "let it stand". 112 Matchstick-removing game. 114 Evian water.



Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Aug. 18: This year, you increase your capacity to relate on an intense level. Others frequently come to you to discuss matters of consequence. If you're single, one of your most desirable traits is this capacity for relating.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You might suddenly be driven to start a new physical fitness plan or approach a project with more energy.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) A friend implores you to join them for an early brunch. If you go, you'll discover what a great time you can have together.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You are not bossy in general, but you assume a take-charge attitude in the afternoon.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You spend the morning thinking about a possible trip or visiting a loved one.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You allow others to dominate at present. You might not even be conscious of this decision.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You have gone along with others' wishes for a while. You might feel as if someone is being unusually difficult or hard on you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Get a project done or get into

reading the Sunday paper early. By afternoon, a knock on the door or a friendly invitation summons you to join your friends or family.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You are still going full speed ahead, partly because of your ingenuity. At some point, you will need to slow down and evaluate.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Allow some laziness in the morning. You always seem to go at a fast clip, so the change could be refreshing.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You might be unusually concise and direct in the morning.

could realize what a big gap you have to bridge with a friend to come to terms with a situation. You simply need to accept each other's styles.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Restricting yourself from making a major expenditure or several little ones proves to be smart. It might take a few days to understand why the self-discipline was necessary.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) A sudden argument or emotional eruption could mar a nearly perfect morning.

Answers to last week's puzzle.

