

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Laugh begins at 14: Inking neologisms

BY PAT MYERS

To celebrate our 1,400-and-counting weeks of defiling The Washington Post, the Empress asked for new terms whose letters add to 14 Scrabble points (not counting blanks, doubles, etc.) for Week 1402.

4th place:

SHAMNESIA: "Hush money? I don't remember anything about that. Maybe you should ask Michael Cohen. I hardly know the guy." (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

3rd place:

DUMBRAGE: Indignation based on ignorance. "How dare you say you'd like to emulate me, you filthy pervert!" (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

2nd place and the Emergency Underpants and Pimp Oil car perfume:

NAGIVATION: The art of backseat driving. (Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

BUPHOON: An ill wind from Washington that blows nobody any good. (Stephen Dudzik, Olney)

Unfourteenate: Honorable mentions

NOSHTALGIA: Remember when we could gorge on nachos and beer and not gain a pound? (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

TYRANNODON: Creature we thought could not possibly exist today. (William Kennard, Arlington)

ABSENTIFA: A group of dangerous anarchists that terrorizes people by not showing up. (Jonathan Jensen)

ATLASHRUGS: Gestures that show you don't care. "When asked about the death rate, the White House official gave an atlashrug." (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

THISTOPIA: 2020. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

BELLOWIER: What one candidate tries to be in a "debate." (J. Larry Schott, West Plains, Mo.)

BIFECAL: They used to be rose-colored, but lately I've been seeing the world through this kind of glasses. (Bill Dornier, Indianapolis)

BULLIGERENT: Not only spouting total BS, but doing it while someone else is trying to talk. "In tonight's debate, the president was..." (Jonathan Jensen)

CARDAVER: The mannequin you put in your passenger seat when you're driving solo in the HOV-2 lane. (Wendy Shang, Falls Church)

CONDUMB: What you are when you insist on using Durex XLs but they keep falling off. (Jeff Shirley, Richmond)

COVFFEE: Miracle potion drunk by POTUS to cure himself. (Edward Gordon, Austin)

DORKLY: Extra-clumsily. "Coming in from the patio, Ernie walked through a glass dorkly." (Chris Doyle)

EGONOMICS: Maybe that was Trump's major in business school. (Chris Doyle)

ENVOYEUR: State Department position created for Jerry Falwell Jr. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Mom always said I could date once I turned 16. Now I'm there and she says 18. I've been LINDSEYED. (Steve Fahey, Olney)

LINDSEYOIL: A slippery substance that keeps the wheels greased in Washington. (Jonathan Jensen)

FRETTORIC: Playing to the audience's fears — or creating fears for them. "He will destroy your neighborhood and your American Dream," he began in a speech full of frettoric." (Jeff Rackow, Bethesda)

VOODOODOO: The Curse of 2020. (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

FUBARITIS: Another super-spreading malady at the White House. (Harold Mantle, Walnut Creek, Calif.)

HULULEMON: A boutique selling shapeless sweatpants for binge-watching TV. (Duncan Stevens)

LAUERINGLY: "You've been leering at me laueringly since I stepped into your office — now unlock the door." (Sam Mertens, Silver Spring)



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1406: The news could be verse

"Man blows up part of house while chasing fly" — bbc.com

A HARD-TO-SWAT FLY

A Frenchman was about to eat his food. He loathed to share his dinner with a fly, and since one pesky fly had dared intrude, Resolved at once this fly would have to die! Dispensing electricity in sparks That fizzled from a swatter he now held, Our Frenchman chased the fly, but left no marks, Since flies are so adroitly self-propelled...

The Empress saw that acrostic sonnet as one of the "poems of the week" on the website of Light (lightpoetrymagazine.com) and ding! Contest! Okay, Loserbards: Write a poem based on a recent news article, in which the lines' first letters spell out the title or subject of the poem, as in the example above.

Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1406 (no capitals in the Web address). Deadline is Monday, Oct. 26; results will appear Nov. 15 in print, Nov. 12 online. (As in after the election. So you might want to avoid news stories that will be out of date by then.)

Winner gets the Lose Cannon, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives yet another of our Face Masks That'll Make 'Em Look Twice, this one printed with a nicely trimmed beard.

Other runners-up win their choice of our "For Best Results, Pour Into Top End" Loser Mug or our "Whole Fools" Grocery Bag. Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, "No 'Bility" or "Punder-achiever." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules.

The Style Conversational: The Empress's weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. See this week's at wapo.st/conv1406.



I'll just call myself the Emp. This week's second prize.

NOTCAKES: The quintessential commercial failure: "The new sardine-flavored protein bars sold like notcakes." (Perry Beider, Silver Spring)

MAILINGNANT: Current state of the Postal Service. (Edward Gordon)

PROTESTINATE: "I really, really need to speak out about that outrage! I mean, not right now..." (Frank Mann, Washington)

ZANON: Most boring conspiracy theory ever. (William Kennard)

QANAL: A right-wing conspiracy group alleging that a cabal of deep-state protologists is inserting intel chips with enemas. (Kathy El-Assal, Middleton, Wis.)

QUITR: The kid who dropped out of the spelling bee. (Frank Mann)

RALPHIEST: "I shouldn't have eaten the jalapeño chili with the pork vindaloo. It was the ralphiest combo ever." (Roy Ashley,

Washington)

FLOPILLA: The Trumpers' boat parade that sank itself in its own wake. (Frank Mann)

SCOTUSBALL: Political sporting event in which the rules change depending upon who has the whistle. (Mike Greene, Richmond)

SHALLOTOSIS: Something between onion breath and garlic breath. (Chris Doyle)

AMERDABLE: Having the potential to turn into sh... um, trouble. "A photo op with a puppy should be a slam-dunk, but it's Trump, so it's definitely amerdable." (Wendy Shang)

TRUMPOLINE: White House exercise equipment. ("Jump!" "How high?") (Beverly Sharp)

WEDNOODLE: A honeymoon downer. (Chris Doyle)

WHATAGE: The lack of clarity produced by a dim bulb. "The journalists tried to parse the president's debate answer, but were overwhelmed by the whatage. (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station)

MOJOE: It had better be working, is all I can say. (Jonathan Jensen)

LOLLAPALOSER: A wannabe comedian who thinks somebody will publish all 25 of his entries. (Chuck Helwig, Centerville, who at least was 1 for 18 this week)

Still running — deadline Monday night, Oct. 19: Our "grandfoals" contest. See wapo.st/invite1405.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

Crossword puzzle grid with clues on the left and right sides. Clues include 'ACROSS' and 'DOWN' categories with various word prompts.

Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY MADALYN ASLAN

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Oct. 18: Inspirational, imaginative and forthright, your important lesson this year is to learn to say no and do what you want to do. By doing so, you will be very successful.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Dreams and fantasy abound. Those closest to you are preparing for some significant lifestyle changes.

perfecting a new job skill. An item long desired is purchased. A problem is solved through reflection and research.

Friends are a special blessing today. Membership in a group or organization can be a catalyst for happiness and accomplishment.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Others seem more assertive. Offer affirmations for harmony and justice. A lighthearted attitude in competitive situations is essential.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) All that is mysterious attracts you. Today heralds growth, new perspectives and opportunity.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Today puts you in touch with old companions. Good or bad, they haven't changed.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) A new environment or routine is possible. Be receptive to changes, but wait to see which way the wind blows before moving forward.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) The need for peace and privacy is strong today. There is much you'd prefer to keep to yourself.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) It is a wonderful time to study another language or learn foreign cuisine.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Love and romance are highlighted favorably today. Attend social functions on Zoom and develop promising relationships by taking the initiative.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Answers to last week's puzzle.

Answers to last week's puzzle crossword grid with words filled in.

10/11/20