

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Lentil fill-ins: Fun with crosswords

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1446 I presented a filled-in version of a recent crossword — but I covered a number of squares with lentils (see below). Then I asked the Losers to supply their own choice of letters to replace the lentils in any word or phrase, then give a creative clue. Here are the best among almost 1,200 entries. See this week's Style Conversational at wapo.st/conv1450 for a host of hilarious plays on the lentiled PANTSONFIRE and other longer answers.

4th place:

P-AY > pBAY: Buy your clean urine sample here! (Leif Picoult, Rockville)

3rd place:

BO - E > BOWIE: Famous for being big, shiny and cutting-edge in the 1970s — and the 1830s. (Coleman Glenn, Huntingdon Valley, Pa.)

2nd place and the canvas bag picturing heroic Obama a la Mao:

R-E > ROE: Supreme Court case that Supreme Court nominees may or may not have heard of, have no opinion about, and certainly are not intending to overrule. (John Hutchins, Silver Spring)

And the winner of the Clowning Achievement:

T - N > TEEN: I'm working on the definition, OKAY? (Roy Ashley, Washington)

Clues-lose situations: Honorable mentions

-HU-B-AR > THUG BEAR: National park resident, infamous for jacking pick-a-nic baskets, changes his serene name. (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf, Md.)

-P-R- > SPORT: What Grandpa calls you when he forgets your name. (Daniel Galef, Tallahassee)

-O-EL > BOWEL: If you snarf an entire box of Cheerios at one sitting, you will have a ___ of cereal. (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

-EAR - - > FEARTV: New name for Fox News? (Leif Picoult)

A-NE- > AWNET: The all-puppies-and-kittens YouTube channel. (Beverly Sharp)

-AN-SON-I-E > PANTS ON FILE: How the fashion police track down repeat offenders. (Coleman Glenn)

-AN-SON-I-E > PANTS ON MICE: One way to control the rodent population. (Lenard King, Richmond, a First Offender)

-AN-SON-I-E > PANTS-ON FINE: What the Norwegian beach handball team has to pay for not wearing bikini bottoms. (Miriam Nadel, Vienna, Va.)

A-T- > ALT-U: Liberty University. (Daniel Helming, Whitemarsh, Pa.)

B-R-STA > BORISTA: Longwinded coffee server: "Let's walk through the flavor profile of Tuvaluan Botar-ga . . ." (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

B-R-STA > BARDSTA: They serve up poems with your coffee. "Your double half-caf mocha Frappuccino/ Will soon arrive, as fast as a neutrino." (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

BAN- > BANK: If you owe it \$10,000 and don't have it, you're in trouble. If you owe it \$10 million and don't have it, it's in trouble. (Roy Ashley)

-CA- > ACAI: The kale of berries. (Jeff Rackow, Bethesda)

DO-T- -L-ME > DOCTOR LAME: One of the few Marvel characters not to



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1450: Putting the 'anoid' in humanoid

Captcha: The ability to recognize crosswalks, buses, etc., is rare and highly prized in this civilization; humans with that skill are entitled to special benefits.

On one particular autumn day, humans customarily eat a large meal, then trample one another seeking electronic equipment, seemingly regretting their failure to film the meal sufficiently.

Long lines at certain polling places: Elections in urban areas must present such wrenching choices that people take hours to ponder their options. In rural regions, however, voters can readily decide the agricultural-policy issues presented.

You are an anthropologist from the future. Or you are a visiting space alien. Or perhaps a visiting space alien anthropologist from the future. **This week: Humorously describe some aspect of our current society as a space alien and/or future anthropologist might interpret it,** as in the examples above by 692-time Humanoid Loser Duncan Stevens, who suggested this contest.

Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1450 (no capitals in the Web address). **Deadline is Monday, Aug. 30;** results appear Sept. 19 in print, Sept. 16 online.



Winner gets the Clowning Achievement, our Style Invitational trophy. **Second place receives a cute bendy Bigfoot toy,** complete with a can of "Bigfoot scat poo sample." Truth be told, this Bigfoot is more like Littlefoot, being about five inches tall. Then again, it does make the Footster harder to find. Donated by Invite fan Dan Huff.

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 "Punderachiever." 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 headline "Lentil Fill-Ins" 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](https://www.facebook.com/on.fb.me/invdev); "like" the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at [bit.ly/inkofday](https://www.facebook.com/bit.ly/inkofday); and follow [@StyleInvite](https://twitter.com/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/conv1450.

The "You're Invited" podcast: Fifteen half-hour episodes, including dish from the Empress and the Czar, and tips from top Losers. **See [bit.ly/invite-podcast](https://www.bit.ly/invite-podcast).**

get a movie (John Hutchins)

DO-T- -L-ME > DON T. TOLD ME: Rioter's reason for storming the Capitol (Sarah Walsh, Rockville; Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

E - E > EEE: The shores the Marines sing about. (Steve Glomb, Alexandria)

F-R - - > FARGO: Yoda's travel plans in the Midwest. (Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.)

I - - > IFA: International Phonetic Alphabet. (Steve Honley, Washington)

IN-NE- - > INANEST: The ___ bird, the cuckoo, still lives _____. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase; Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore)

-LDIES: ALDIES: Gore's final inconvenient truth. (Jesse Frankovich)

LE-O-B-O-N > LEMON BROWN: One of the new "back of the fridge" Crayola colors. (Coleman Glenn)

LE-O-B-O-N > LEMON BROWN: The sourest man in the whole damn town. (Frank Mann, Washington)

NA - E > NAKE: Disrobe someone (synonym: "nu"). (Daniel Galef)

-O-EL > NOHEL: Anti-circumcision activist. (Neal Starkman, Seattle)

O-I-E > OUIEE: Response to "Would you like to ride the French roller coaster?" (Mark Raffman, Reston)

P-O-IP > POODIP: What makes crudites even cruder. (Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.)

P- -P > PAMP: What some diapers do. (Duncan Stevens)

R-A- -S > REARMS: What a starfish amputee does. (Gary Crockett)

SW- -T- - -LOT- - > SWEET CHARLOTTE: Original Neil Diamond title before he realized the only rhyme he could think of was "harlot." (Todd DeLap, Fairfax)

SW- -T- - -LOT- - > SWEATS THE LOTTO: Bets the milk money on Powerball. (Steve Dantzer, Brookville)

And Last: **-SI > F SI:** Abbreviated form of "No ink again!?" (Mark Raffman)

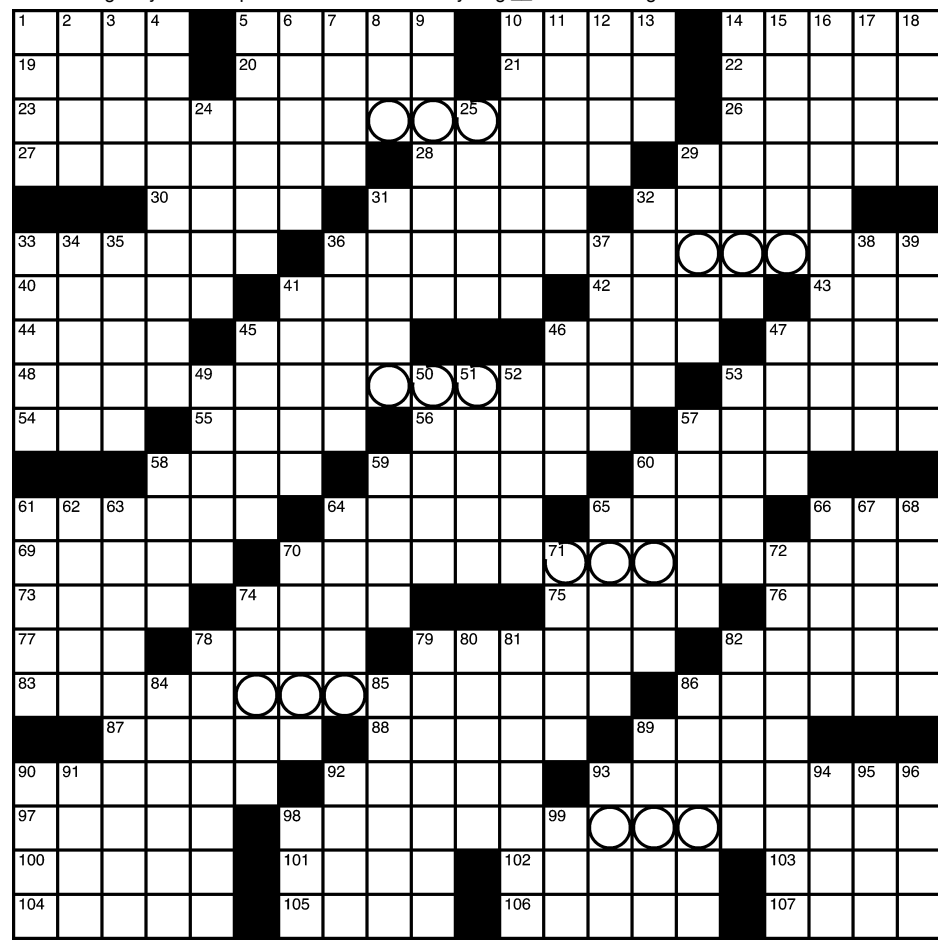
More honorable mentions in the online Invite at wapo.st/invite1450.

Still running — deadline Monday night, Aug. 23: Our "before and after" contest to combine two names. See wapo.st/invite1449.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

- "MUSICAL KEYS" By ROLAND HUGET**
- ACROSS**
- 1 2020 Anya Taylor-Joy title role
 - 5 They're dragged and dropped
 - 10 Apple desktop
 - 14 Oldies players
 - 19 Forest jumpers
 - 20 G.I. Joe nemesis
 - 21 Fleeting prefix, timewise
 - 22 Heaps
 - 23 Slogan from a cola jingle first aired in 1969
 - 26 Amber, for one
 - 27 Pekeo holder
 - 28 Origami staple
 - 29 Moved slowly
 - 30 River inlets
 - 31 Con's decoy
 - 32 Silvery freshwater fish
 - 33 Professional spinners
 - 36 Broadway revue featuring pop standards that won a 1997 Grammy
 - 40 Laugh-a-minute types
 - 41 Baby party
 - 42 Reception dispensers
 - 43 CD
 - 44 Cultural opening?
 - 45 Fly like an eagle
 - 46 ___ wave
 - 47 Kitchenware brand
 - 48 Classic novelty song involving wing-flapping imitations, as it's commonly called
 - 53 Fold
 - 54 UFO pilots
 - 55 Coupling device
 - 56 Start of a counting rhyme
 - 57 Get cozy
 - 58 67, for Beethoven's Fifth
 - 59 Take responsibility
 - 60 Support, with "gr"
 - 61 Burt's Bees parent
 - 64 Insurance case
 - 65 Antitoxins
 - 66 "Today" rival, briefly
 - 69 Central parts
 - 70 Song played at Blues home games
 - 73 Fords of the past
 - 74 Hawaii County seat
 - 75 This and that
 - 76 ___ Cong
 - 77 Nice summer
 - 78 "Bro!"
 - 79 Showy parrots
 - 82 Symphony orchestra members
 - 83 2000 Grammy-winning hit featuring Eminem
 - 86 Many a binoculars toter
 - 87 Counterfeit
 - 88 Geeky-sounding candy
 - 89 Contented rumble
 - 90 Tech class sites
 - 92 Race of Norse gods
 - 93 Mythical hero who captured Cerberus
 - 97 Entrapture
 - 98 French folk tune used in basic instrument lessons
 - 100 Like highways
 - 101 Small decorative case
 - 102 Sporty Chevy
 - 103 Art Deco artist
 - 104 Small fry
 - 105 Boosts
 - 106 Like chalet roofs
 - 107 Rolltop, for one
 - 12 Dudek of "Mad Men"
 - 13 Bit player
 - 14 Equestrian gear
 - 15 Former poisoning treatment
 - 16 Sole source
 - 17 Rival of Bjorn
 - 18 Dispatch
 - 24 Split ___
 - 25 Tot's wheels
 - 29 Beard
 - 30 who voiced Pocahontas in the 1995 Disney film
 - 31 Campfire treat
 - 32 Carried
 - 33 Jabber
 - 34 Privilege
 - 35 Course warnings
 - 36 Burger go-with
 - 37 Power source to 2005
 - 38 ___ point
 - 39 Put on quite an act
 - 41 Anklets, e.g.
 - 45 Sitting Bull's people
 - 46 Grumpy mood
 - 47 "Anything ___ we
 - 49 Sources of shots
 - 50 Not familiar with
 - 51 Casual material
 - 52 "Yu-Gi-Oh!" genre
 - 53 Part of a flower
 - 57 Start of two U.S. state names
 - 58 They're found in veins
 - 59 Muffin topping
 - 60 Three-piece pieces
 - 61 Symbol seen in viola music
 - 62 Numbers game
 - 63 Sales rep's form
 - 64 Paparazzi quarry
 - 65 Former Maine senator Olympia
 - 66 Artisan group
 - 67 High-end
 - 68 German appliance brand
 - 69 Up and about
 - 70 King with a magic touch
 - 71 Letter-shaped girders
 - 72 Judge's
 - 74 Most Rwandans
 - 78 Greyhound crash sites?
 - 79 Cold oatmeal cereals
 - 80 Heart chambers
 - 81 Obsolete laptop feature
 - 82 Approximately
 - 84 Colonel Sanders trademark
 - 85 Small coffee maker output
 - 86 Like a deformed tree trunk
 - 89 Golfer Calvin
 - 90 Bombard, as with snowballs
 - 91 All, once
 - 92 Start to correct?
 - 93 Samsung product
 - 94 Fishing decoy
 - 95 Laryngitis docs
 - 96 Try to find
 - 98 Post-Manhattan Project org.
 - 99 "Fool (If You Think It's Over)" singer Chris



8/22/21 xwordeditor@aol.com ©2021 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Aug. 22: You are a dreamer who is grounded and logical. You can switch from being straightforward and practical to witty and a bit zany. You are introverted and extroverted. Nevertheless, you always have a positive take on life, and you're ready to help others. This year you will receive promotions, kudos, awards and recognition for your past efforts. Well done.

Moon Alert: Today's Full Moon in Aquarius peaks at 8:02 a.m. Avoid shopping or making important decisions from 8 to 9 a.m. After that, the Moon moves from Aquarius into Pisces.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) The energy of today's Full Moon might be challenging for your kids, so be patient with them. Ditto for social situations. Be ready for anything, which you generally are. Health issues might be confusing.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Because of today's Full Moon, you feel pulled between the demands of home and family vs. the demands of your career and public damn town. You can't ignore home and family.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Be careful today, because this is a mildly accident-prone day. Therefore, be wise and pay attention to everything you say and do. You might encounter someone who challenges you. Clarify family responsibilities.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Financial matters might come to a head today. You might find it challenging as to whether to put your interests first or the interests of someone else, especially regarding wealth and financial responsibilities.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Today the second Full Moon opposite your sign this year is taking place, which might create tension between you and others. Cope with this as gracefully as you can. Problems generally build up before a Full Moon and then diminish after it peaks.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Today's Full Moon might raise health concerns or challenges related to your job — perhaps even your pet. Relax. Whatever problems you encounter will diminish as the day wears on.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Today difficulties with someone might concern you because you are a people pleaser. Nevertheless, the Full Moon energy today could stir up some trouble. Problems diminish. Take it easy. Pamper yourself.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Today you feel pulled between the responsibilities and demands of home and family vs. the responsibilities and demands of your career and your reputation with your peers.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) This is a mildly accident-prone day for you because of the Full Moon energy. This means you have to slow down and take it easy. Be aware of everything. Pay attention to what you say and do, and everything will be fine. Obviously, an accident doesn't need to occur if you're vigilant.

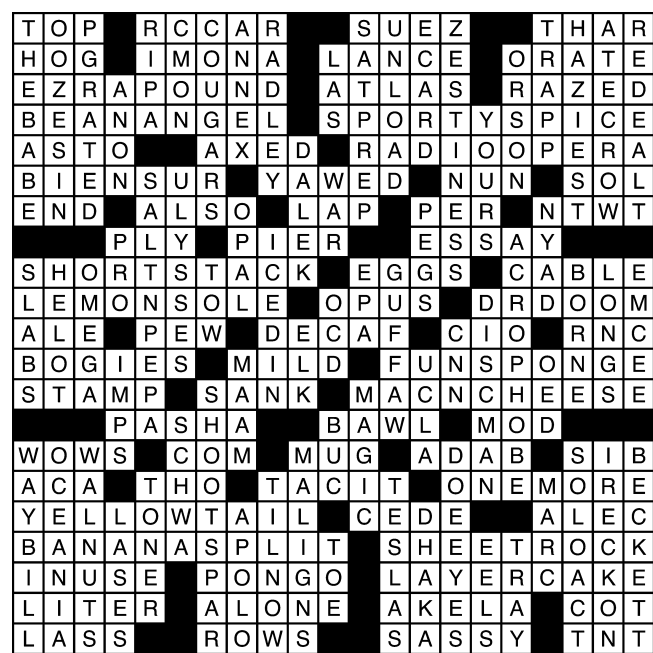
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You might encounter pressures or obstacles to financial situations

today, including banking. These challenges also might deal with shared responsibilities or jointly held resources. Make sure you are clear about your responsibilities to others. Don't believe everything you hear.

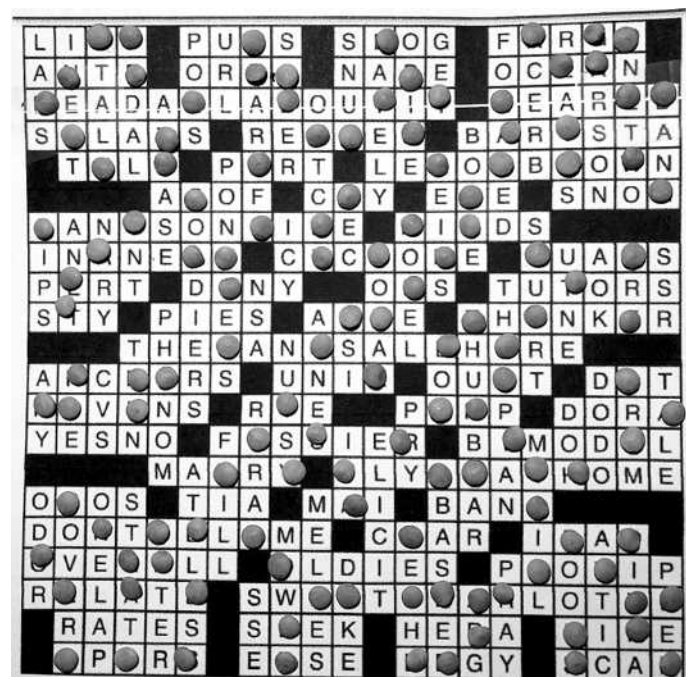
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Today the second Full Moon in your sign this year is taking place. (Normally, this happens only once a year.) This might make you feel a bit at odds with someone. Your best option is to demonstrate grace under pressure. Be patient and cooperative. Double-check shared finances.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) The Full Moon today might create obstacles at work or with something to do with your health or a pet. Tonight: The thing to know about every Full Moon is as it approaches, problems seem to intensify; then after it peaks, these same problems seem to diminish or even disappear.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



8/15/21



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