

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Ha and seek: Word-find neologisms

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1452 the Empress once again presented the computer-generated word search grid below — again, alas, it was laden with an unholy number of Q's and Z's — and invited the Loser Community to start with any letter, then snake around it in all directions, Boggle-style, to “discover” a new term. The E wishes to thank Loser Todd DeLap, who developed and ran a validating program that flagged any entries on her shortlist that skipped a letter or doubled back on the same ones. For his efforts, Todd gets no ink but, FWIW, her gratitude.

4th place:

Starting at H-14, then to G-14, H-13, G-12, F-11, G-11: **NO-DOPE**: The person who abstains long enough before the drug test. (Dan Helming, Whitemarsh, Pa.)

3rd place:

From A-11: **MR TELLMA**: The little brother everyone hates. (Ken Gallant, Sequim, Wash.)

2nd place and the finger-callus creator:

From G-13: **ADOREMAT**: What you risk becoming if you enter a relationship with a dreamy jerk. (Coleman Glenn, Huntingdon Valley, Pa.)

And the winner of the Clowning Achievement:

From F-14: **OM-ZAP**: A meditation-induced inspiration. In full lotus, Ellen suddenly experienced an om-zap: “What if I created a dog fitness program called Labs of Steel?” (Leif Picoult, Rockville)

Off the B-10 path: Honorable mentions

A-13: **REVOLTEDER**: Many Democrats, if The Orange One runs in 2024. (Craig Dykstra, Centreville)

A-13: **REVOTER**: Scary boogeyman GOP operatives tell their kids about at night. (Sam Mertens, Silver Spring)

B-13: **VOLDEMETL**: The least popular sandwich at the Hogwarts cafeteria. (Lee Graham, Rockville)

B-2: **CALUTOPIA**: The Golden State but without wildfires, earthquakes or Kardashians. (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf)

B-4: **VULCANT**: Mr. Spock's cousin who couldn't even do the finger thing. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

B-6: **VAX RX**: What we really need: a vaccine against vaccine hesitancy. (Jon Ketzner, Cumberland, Md.)

B-7: **XGRQX**: Elon Musk's next baby. “The gender-reveal party for XGRQX featured a cake in the shape of a hyperloop.” (Leif Picoult)

D-13: **TEMPLETOG**: A yarmulke or tallit. “Though he wouldn't call himself observant, Josh would put on the templetoogs once a year at Yom Kippur services.” (Stuart Rogers, Toronto)

C-11: **TOTALLALY**: You know, like, when something is, like, totally total. (Bill Gage, Nellysford, Va.)

C-4: **QTOPIA**: America's return to greatness when President Trump is reinstated on March 4 Aug. 13—sometime this fall. (Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore)

C-9: **WRMYE**: An Ogden Nash poem. (Warren Tanabe, Annapolis)

D-10: **LIPLOAD**: A lot of sass. “Don't you give me that lipload, young lady!” (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

D-11: **E-I-E-I-OWE**: Old MacDonald had a mortgage. (Eric Nelkin, Silver Spring)

D-15: **ABERANT**: What Dixie newspapers called the Gettysburg Address. (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

D-16: **CABOODLE**: Half poodle, half mutt. (Andrew Elby, Arlington)

D-2: **CACA-LURE**: “Tonight on Fox News . . .” (Mark Raffman, Reston)

E-12: **MAT LIE**: By “Welcome,” we don't mean you and your pamphlet. (Lawrence McGuire)

E-12: **MEATEOR**: The chili dog that streaks through in the middle of the night. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

E-8: **WOOKER**: One of Chewbacca's especially attractive cousins. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna)

E-8: **WUMMER**: The season when it hits 78 in New York in February. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

F-13: **REBRA**: Dolly Parton's industrial-strength underwire. (Chris Doyle)



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1456: The hunting of the snark

Is that your nose, or are you just happy to smell me? (Paul Kocak)

Is that your car, or is today the day you leave the recycling at the curb? (David Kleinbard)

Is that your wedding dress, or did you decide to wear the garment bag instead? (Sandra Hull)

We've been meaning to ask — or we're meanly asking. **This week: Ask an insulting rhetorical question in the form (or a variation) of “Is that your _____ or _____?” as in the examples above, all inking entries from Week 414 back in 2001.** (We seem not to have redone this contest in the past 20 years.)

Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1456 (no capitals in the Web address). **Deadline is Monday, Oct. 11; results appear Oct. 31 in print, Oct. 28 online.**

Winner gets the Clowning Achievement, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a downright weird but presumably authentic mug commemorating the **FBI-NYPD Joint Terrorism Task Force** and featuring a crudely drawn cartoon of an evilly grinning Dracula-ish monster (or maybe a Joker in Gotham?) who's aiming a handgun in one hand and holding a lighted fuse in the other. On the back it says “Taking Care of Business.” Donated by Loser Howard Walderman and I don't want to know how he got it.

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

new 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/InvRules. The headline “Ha and Seek” is by Jesse Frankovich; both Jon Gearhart and Chris Doyle submitted the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev; “like” the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at bit.ly/inkofday; and 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/conc1456.

A new “You're Invited” podcast episode! In Season 2, Episode 4, host Mike Gips features songs and more from the Flushies, the Losers' recent annual awards bash. **See bit.ly/invite-podcast** or most podcast apps.



G-15: **ZOOMBEER**: Beverage consumed from a ceramic mug with a fake tea bag sticking out. (Craig Dykstra)

H-8: **QUALOG**: Bill Cosby's dating journal. (Steve Fahey, Olney)

I-10: **EGOPUTZ**: A hopeless loser. “I alone can fix it,” declared the egoputz. (Mary Ellen McGlone, Gaithersburg, a First Offender)

I-11: **GOZINTER**: Technical mathematical term for division. “Four gozinter 15 three times with three left over.” (Glen Matheson, Bay Shore, N.Y., a First Offender)

I-9: **LEGO ZIT**: The smallest tile in the Angry Teen People Pack. (George Thompson, Springfield, Va.)

K-12: **ZAPTIVE**: Entranced by watching your microwave tray turn. “So how have you been entertaining yourself while you're working

from home?” (Sarah Walsh, Rockville)

L-6: **TEXAS UP**: To pass laws that restrict voting and abortion rights. “GOP legislatures in 20 states are eager to Texas up.” (Marli Melton, Carmel Valley, Calif.)

O-16: **EXMAN**: Marvel's first transgender superhero. (Brian Krupp, Lewes, Del., a First Offender)

Q-12: **PAGUN**: One who believes in the God of Fire . . . arms. (Frank Mann, Washington)

And Last: L-1: **LET ME INK**: The Style Invitational Loser's weekly mantra. (Chris Doyle)

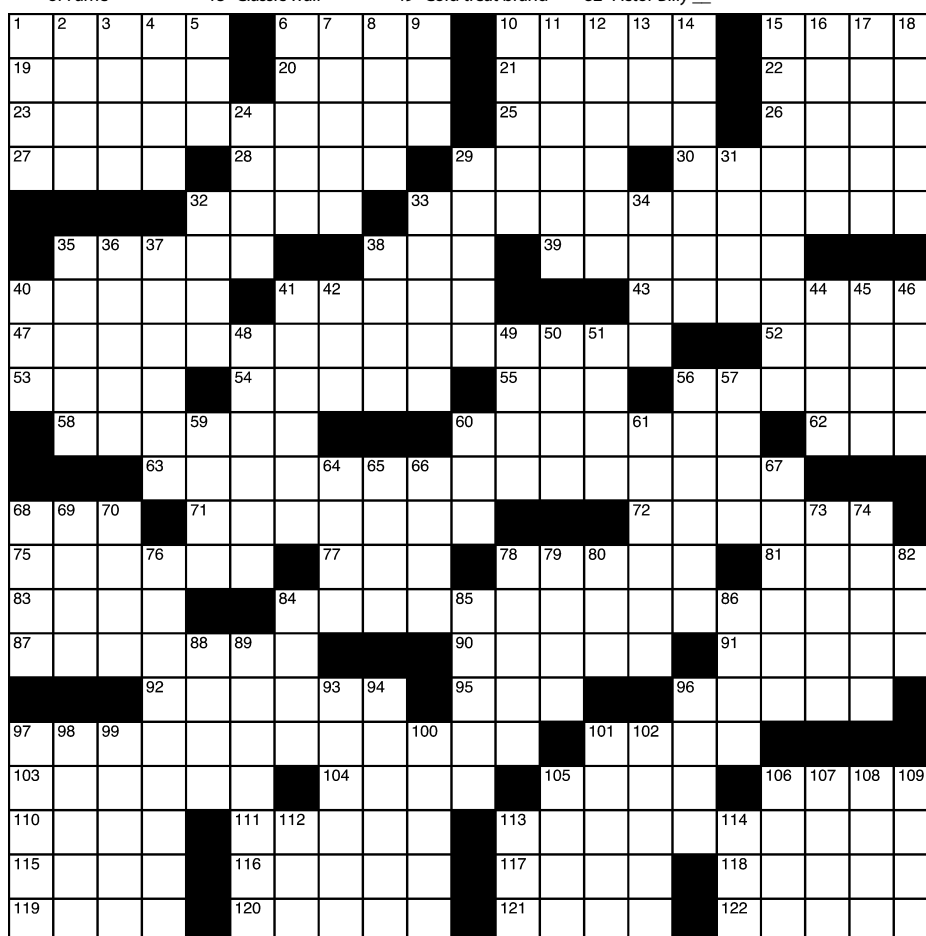
More honorable mentions in the online [invite at wapo.st/invite1455](http://wapo.st/invite1455).

Still running — deadline Monday, Oct. 4: our contest for “good idea/bad idea” jokes. See wapo.st/invite1455.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

- *PREPARING FOR TAKEOFF" By MARK McCLAIN
- ACROSS
- 1 Brownie group?
- 6 Francis, most recently
- 10 Scornful comment
- 15 Self-righteously proper sort
- 19 Fancy to extremes
- 20 Caspian Sea feeder
- 21 Come after
- 22 Single
- 23 *Attraction with exotic animals
- 25 It may be
- 26 SLR setting
- 27 Self-absorbed
- 28 Works in a museum
- 29 Coops provoker
- 30 Got rid of
- 32 Knob-handled tools
- 33 *Former NASA project
- 35 Range option
- 38 Massage therapist's employer
- 39 Dismiss casually, with "at"
- 40 Piece of land
- 41 Release predecessors
- 43 Embellished
- 47 *Jump-start connection point
- 52 Word on an Irish euro
- 53 Basics
- 54 Tickle pink
- 55 Silent ___ White House nickname
- 56 Pet store rodent
- 58 "Grey's Anatomy" showrunner
- 60 Flier in a show
- 62 Bishop's purview
- 63 *IT executive's concern
- 68 Go downhill fast
- 71 Obsolescent wrong number cause
- 72 Omelet request
- 75 Move stealthily
- 77 It may need massaging
- 78 Brown shade
- 81 "Sunday Night Baseball" nickname
- 83 Jazz home
- 84 *Berlin monument that's a symbol of Germany's reunification
- 87 Sleeping bag alternative
- 90 Wonderland cake instruction
- 91 Café lightener
- 92 Contemptible
- 95 Trauma ctrs.
- 96 Causes of much yawning
- 97 *Something to go back to when things aren't working out
- 101 Moved like the wind
- 103 Potato color
- 104 Crop unit
- 105 Fireplace duct
- 106 Forget where one put
- 110 Golden rule word
- 111 Bert's chum
- 113 *Brew pub sampler
- 115 Wise adviser
- 116 Its code is BOS
- 117 Murray with a star on both the Canada and Hollywood Walk of Fame
- 118 Judge who excelled in the Field of Dreams game
- 119 Notice
- 120 Avocet cousin
- 121 Puts in
- 122 Climate activist
- Thunberg
- DOWN
- 1 String section instrument
- 2 Fall figure
- 3 Vegan protein source
- 4 Rocky projection
- 5 HRH part
- 6 Eye opening
- 7 Rigorous exams
- 8 Scorecard standards
- 9 Moose cousin
- 10 Model 3 maker
- 11 Marxian activities
- 12 Arthur Ashe Stadium is its main court
- 13 Sister
- 14 Achieved a baby milestone
- 15 Classic wall
- worker
- 16 Awaken harshly
- 17 Mole's collection
- 18 Crystal-bearing rock
- 24 Hoover was the only president born there
- 29 Twitch, say
- 31 Taverna aperitif
- 32 Meridian opening
- 33 Trunk item
- 34 Aquatic carnivore
- 35 Iraqis, mostly
- 36 12-Down contest
- 37 Doesn't ignore
- 38 Editor's "keep it"
- 40 Sched. uncertainty
- 41 Club rules
- 42 GPS projection
- 44 Avian bills
- 45 Pennsylvania county or its seat
- 46 Editor's "cut it"
- 48 "Power" accessory, perhaps
- 49 Cold treat brand
- 50 Dealer's pursuer
- 51 First Dominican MLB manager
- 56 Somersaulting dive
- 57 Kitchen suffix
- 59 Dory's friend
- 60 Gestural comm. syst.
- 61 Sturdy shoe
- 64 River through Frankfurt
- 65 Capital of Latvia
- 66 Particle also called a K meson
- 67 Sound barrier breaker
- 68 E-ticket's lack
- 69 ___-Eating Tree: "Peanuts" phenomenon
- 70 2010 Apple debut
- 73 Common prayer
- 74 Invaders of ancient Rome
- 76 Discards
- 78 Trimming target
- 79 Thyroid MDs
- 80 "Big Blue"
- 82 Actor Billy ___
- 84 Poster's medium
- 85 Company with an antlered animal logo
- 86 Pleasant feeling
- 88 Pooch with a large tongue
- 89 Horizontal door beams
- 93 Congo tributary
- 94 ___ media
- 96 Major Nebraska product
- 97 Puts under
- 98 Accumulate
- 99 Houston MLBer
- 100 Ain't perfect?
- 101 Barista's creation
- 102 Entices
- 105 Ward (off)
- 106 Wearer of hot pants?
- 107 Fairy tale monster
- 108 Useless, now
- 109 Sicilian mount
- 112 Hogwash
- 113 Shearing day sound
- 114 Jet ___



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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Oct. 3: You are intelligent, lighthearted and friendly. You know how to make your point. You crave the stability of a loving home and a supportive relationship; nevertheless, you can be impulsive in love. This year is your final year of a nine-year cycle, which means you are taking an inventory and will give yourself a report card. It's time to wrap some things up.

Moon Alert: After 5 a.m. today, there are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions. The Moon is in Virgo.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You will enjoy schmoozing with others today, especially partners and close friends, because everyone is upbeat and enthusiastic, including you. It's a good day to sign contracts.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Work-related travel is probable. You will function well with groups. It's an excellent day for business and commerce. You might also improve your health. Money and favors will come to you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Accept invitations to parties and enjoy social outings. Enjoy sports events and fun activities with kids. It's the perfect day to travel on a vacation. Relax at home. Relations with friends and partners improve.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Because family discussions will be positive today, this is a good day to make plans about the family or expanding your home. This is also a good day for real estate discussions.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) This is the perfect day for a short trip. What a wonderful day to schmooze. You're eager to learn new information today, because you see that unusual ideas broaden your world. Aldous Huxley said, "Knowledge is a function of being." Check your finances. Allow extra time for transportation hiccups.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Business and commerce are favored today, which is why this is an excellent money day for you. You might see better ways to make money or how to make money on the side. Likewise, you might be spending money "big" today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) This is a great day to make plans for the future. You have big ambitions and are willing to entertain big ideas, because you think all things are possible — and they are. As Richard Bach said, argue for your limitations and they're yours.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Quiet, behind-the-scenes ideas are percolating in a big way. If you have to sell these ideas to someone, people will listen, because Venus is in your sign and that makes you attractive to everyone. (Incidentally, this is a great day to buy wardrobe goodies for yourself.)

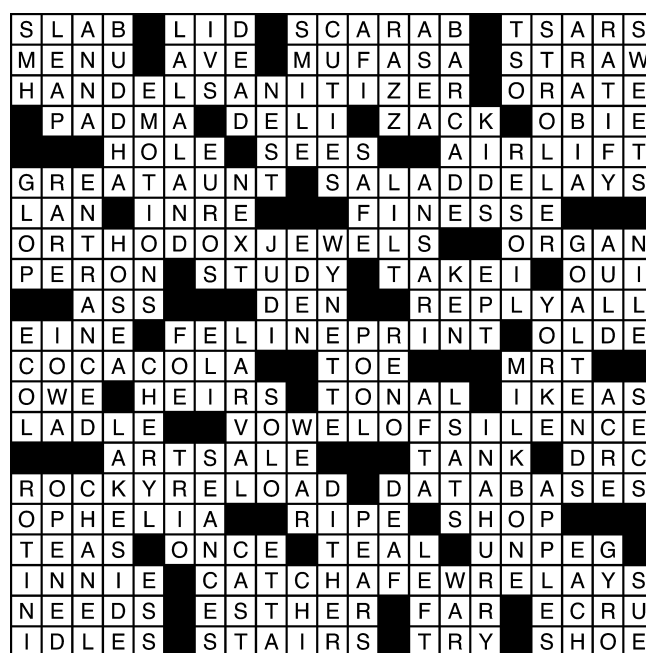
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You will enjoy gatherings with others today — meetings, classes or conventions. You want to learn new things, and you want to spread your own ideas as well. Some of what you hear fascinates you today. Someone admires you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You will impress bosses, parents and important people today, because your positive frame of mind and your confidence are admirable. You look like a winner, and they are impressed. They are also interested in your big ideas and ambitious plans.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) This is a fabulous day to travel, study or both, because you want to expand your horizons and enrich your world. You will love to meet people from other cultures. It's an excellent day for business as well.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Financial transactions will go well today, which means that now is the time to sign contracts and discuss shared property, taxes, estates, wills and inheritances. Whatever happens, you come out looking good.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



9/26/21