

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Fool frontal: 'Prefix' neologisms

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1470 the Empress saluted (i.e., stole from) a contest from the old New York Magazine Competition in which you insert a "prefix" — really, anything of a syllable or more — before any word in a name, phrase or title.

4th place:

PassWORDLE: High-stakes game where you have to remember your login info in six tries. (*Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.*)

3rd place:

ForGETTING TO KNOW YOU: At the senior center, you get to meet new people every day! (*Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.*)

2nd place and the toy plush vaccine vial:

NI TWITTER: The Former Guy's new social media platform? (*Frank Mann, Washington*)

And the winner of the Clowning Achievement

UnZIP-A-DEE-DOO-DAH: Step 1 in boys' toilet training. (*Sarah Walsh, Rockville*)

FAILED START-UPS: Honorable mentions

PedanTIKTOK: Insufferable videos featuring nitpicky grammar quibbles, but at least they're only 15 seconds long. (*Jesse Aronson, Arlington*)

SARDINING CAR: Breakfast rush on the Acela. (*Mark Richardson, Takoma Park*)

SHIMYPILLOW GUY: Maybe not the best adviser on ethical issues. (*Drew Bennett, Rogers, Ark.*)

StereoTYPEWRITER: When you're writing a novel "old school" — complete with the ditsy blond secretary, the jolly fat guy, etc. (*Mike Swift, Crawfordville, Fla., a First Offender*)

THE dumbBEST IS YET TO COME: Louie Gohmert announces a run for president in '24. (*Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.*)

MisheGOTHIC ARCHITECTURE: Pointy arches, ribbed vaults, stained glass, flying buttresses — enough already! It's only a doghouse. (*Arnold Berke, Chevy Chase*)

A vieWING AND A PRAYER: The funeral following a "hold my beer" stunt. (*Kevin Dopart, Washington*)

BBSEE YA!: "Auntie Beeb" attempts to shed the network's prim image with a zingy sign-off. (*Leif Picoult, Rockville*)

AOC3PO: She'll debate you in over 6 million forms of communication. (*Craig Dykstra, Centreville*)

EsCHEWBACCA: For the Wookiee, no nookiee. (*Mike Ostapiej, Ravenel, S.C.*)

AntiGONE IN 60 SECONDS: A top title in the CliffNotes Extreme Speed Ancient Classics collection. (*Elliott Schiff, Allentown, Pa.*)

DaDA VINCI: A student of Leonardo who added mustaches to the portraits. (*Greg Dobbins, Boynton Beach, Fla.*)

CriMEA CULPA: The apology Ukraine will never get from Putin. (*Chris Doyle*)

AusTEN-FOUR: CB channel for the Long-Haul Truckers' English Lit Book Club. (*Amanda Yanovitch, Midlothian, Va.*)

DateLABRADOR: Each canine rated the other 4.5 out of 5. Update: No further sniffing. (*Jesse Rifkin, Arlington*)

DeJOY TO THE WORLD: "When your gifts arrive two months late, it's like Christmas all over again, right?" (*Sarah Walsh*)

Q-TIP OF THE ICEBERG: A teeny-tiny part of a teeny part of a much, much, much larger problem. (*Dave Airozo, Silver Spring*)

ForeGONE WITH THE WIND: Frankly, my dear, Rhett never did give a damn. (*Gordon Cobb, Marietta, Ga.*)

Low-CALIGULA: An insanely



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Style Invitational Week 1744: Hyphen the Terrible

Di-rector + doz-ens: Rector-doz: A sermon so boring that even the pastor falls asleep. (*Beverly Sharp*)

Assess-ment + in-formation: Assessin: Someone who kills good ideas by saying, "I think we need to study this more." (*Jeff Contompasis*)

Hem-orrhoid + mem-oir: Hemoir: A life story that comes to a painful end. (*Lawrence McGuire*)

Here's a look-through-the-paper contest that The Style Invitational used to do all the time, but not for more than five years. This week: **Combine one side of a hyphenated word or phrase with one side of another such term — either side can be the end or the beginning — to create a new term**, then describe the result, as in the examples above from Week 1196 in 2016.

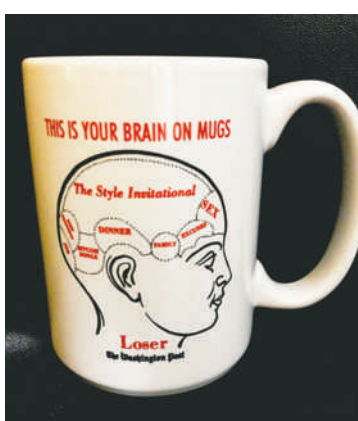
AND! Both halves of the term must come from the same issue of a newspaper (The Post or another one) or published the same day on its website, Feb. 3 through 14. It can be in an article, headline, ad, whatever, as long as both parts come from hyphenates — anything with a hyphen. Include the hyphenates you're using, as above. (See the entry form or this week's Style Conversational for more notes on formatting, etc.)

Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1474 (no capitals in the Web address). Deadline is **Monday, Feb. 14;** results appear March 6 in print, March 3 online.

Winner gets the Clowning Achievement, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a true rarity: It's the **very first model of the Style Invitational Loser Mug** for runners-up, made in 2007 and recently gifted to the Style Invitational Prize Bunker by 364-time Loser Dave Zarrow, who has been an Invite runner-up, I swear, 49 times (though mostly before we gave out mugs). Designed by Our Own Bob Staake, the mug features a brain-region diagram with "dinner," "sex," etc., and of course the largest lobe, "The Style Invitational." Best of all, it bears the contest-winning slogan, submitted by both Chris Doyle and Beverly Sharp for Week 715: "This Is Your Brain on Mugs."

Other runners-up win their choice of our "For Best Results, Pour Into Top End" Loser Mug or our "Whole Fools" Grossery Bag. Honorable mentions get one of our 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/inviteFAQ. The headline "Fool Frontal" was submitted by both Jesse Frankovich and Kevin Dopart; Beverly Sharp wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invudev; "like" the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at bit.ly/inkoftheday; 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/conv1474.



Our first Loser Mug, first issued in 2007, and regifted to be this week's second prize.

tyrannical diet coach. "You'll have FOUR grapes ..." (*Jonathan Paul, Garrett Park*)

HairBALL AND CHAIN: Your emotionally demanding pet cat. (*Milo Sauer, Fairfax*)

IQANON: No intelligence to be found on this group. (*Richard Franklin, Alexandria*)

IRON RIVERA: The only coach who can withstand Dan Snyder. (*Frank Mann*)

ForGETTYSBURG ADDRESS: "Fourscore and — dang, how many years ago was it? — anyway, no matter ..." (*Mark Raffman, Reston*)

InsERECTILE DYSFUNCTION: Isn't it sad to see those far-right groups feuding? (Bruce Reynolds, Grand Rapids, Mich.)

TarMAC AND CHEESE: It takes "al dente" to a new level. (*Jonathan Jensen*)

RePENTHOUSE: The least pleasurable porn magazine ever. (*Tom Witte, Montgomery Village*)

McMANCHIN: A large if undistinguished edifice purchased with coal profits. (*Mark Richardson*)

TeleporTED CRUZ. A pleasant daydream. (And more proper than **defenestrateD.**) (*Jonathan Paul*)

The braggART OF THE DEAL: "I aced my dementia test!" (*Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase*)

InterMISSION: IMPOSSIBLE: When there are still three big musical numbers to go before you can get to the bathroom — will you self-destruct? (*Sarah Walsh*)

THE SIXTH nonSENSE: "You would actually think it was a normal tourist visit." — Rep. Andrew Clyde (*Neal Starkman, Seattle*)

WE BUILT THIS ToxiCITY: "The Story of Twitter." (*Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.*)

And Last: I ALONE CAN PREFIX IT: Trump declares certain victory in Week 1470 of The Style Invitational. (*Chris Doyle*)

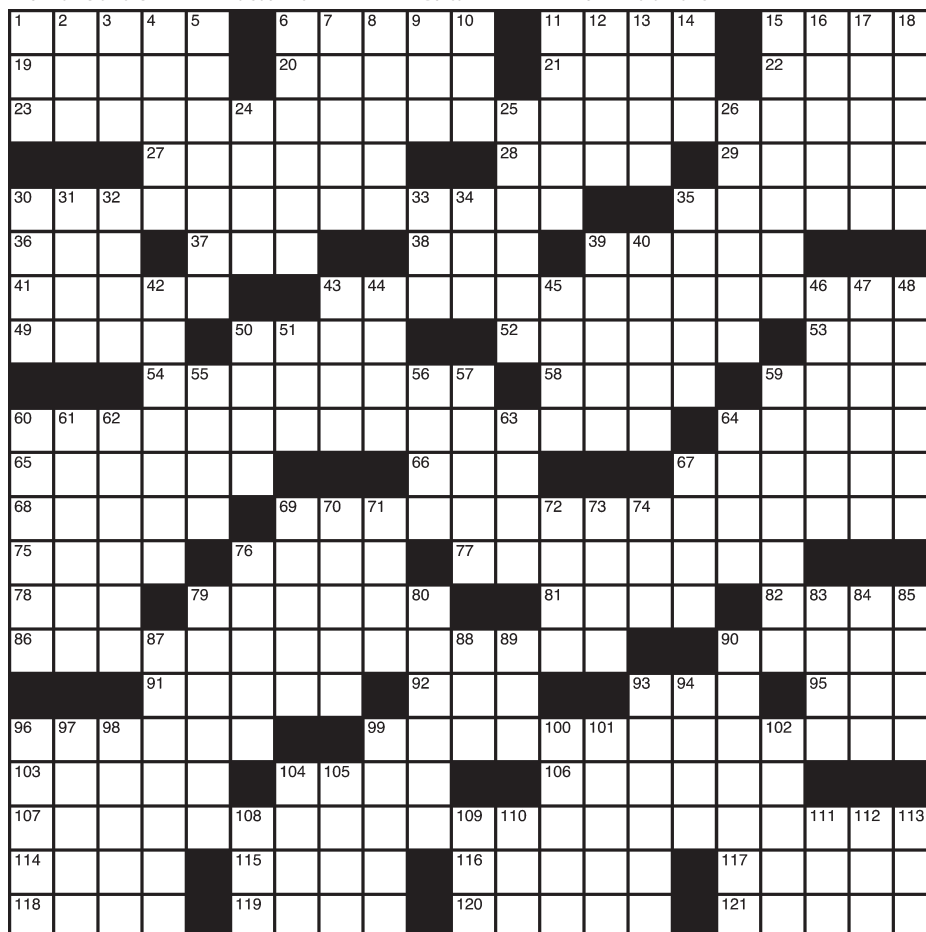
More honorable mentions in the online Invite at wapo.st/invite1474.

Still running — deadline Monday night, Feb. 7: Our contest for road sign or barbecue marquee messages. See wapo.st/invite1473.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

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|---|--|
| <p>"MONDEGREENS" By PETER KOETTERS</p> <p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 Heat in "The Heat"</p> <p>6 Pickle piece</p> <p>11 Eschew</p> <p>15 On its way</p> <p>19 Scouting party?</p> <p>20 2018 CVS Health acquisition</p> <p>21 Prepare to be shot?</p> <p>22 x, y and z, in math</p> <p>23 Song in which Pat Benatar challenges the owner of an aquarium? (1980)</p> <p>27 Trapped by a winter storm</p> <p>28 It's not an option</p> <p>29 Split in two</p> <p>30 Song in which The Beatles say goodbye to a girl on a big bird? (1965)</p> <p>35 Zipped</p> <p>36 IRS exam</p> <p>37 Tokyo, once</p> <p>38 Peruvian pronoun</p> <p>39 Gibbons on TV</p> <p>41 Answered an invite</p> <p>43 Song in which Johnny Rivers unmasks a Far East spy? (1966)</p> <p>49 Puritan pronoun</p> <p>50 Judge's seat</p> <p>52 Release money</p> <p>53 Big pitcher</p> <p>54 Like some office jobs</p> <p>58 Checkout task</p> <p>59 Bit of sediment</p> <p>60 Song in which Peter Gabriel bakes a simian-shaped dessert? (1982)</p> <p>64 Volkswagen model</p> <p>65 Veracruz neighbor</p> <p>66 Ending with calc and sod</p> <p>67 "Amen"</p> <p>68 Drag racer's fuel, briefly</p> <p>69 Song in which the Plastic Ono Band promotes legumes? (1969)</p> <p>75 Good card for lowball</p> <p>76 Explorer</p> <p>Hernando de</p> <p>77 Former renter</p> <p>78 Oral health org.</p> <p>79 Tool in a wheeled bucket</p> <p>81 Polite address</p> <p>82 Biblical twin</p> | <p>86 Song in which Culture Club dons lizard costumes to teach punctuation? (1983)</p> <p>90 Nickname of Chicago's Ernie Banks</p> <p>91 Pretentious</p> <p>92 Ewe wish?</p> <p>93 Apt name for a chef?</p> <p>95 "We ___ the World"</p> <p>96 Mid-calf pants</p> <p>99 Song in which The Clash knocks over a wedding reception? (1982)</p> <p>103 Ninja Turtles' ally</p> <p>104 Pension ___</p> <p>106 Pablo's "precise"</p> <p>107 Song in which AC/DC plays nasty tricks on livestock? (1976)</p> <p>114 Actress Watson</p> <p>115 Nabisco cookie</p> <p>116 Home on the range</p> <p>117 Calculus pioneer</p> <p>118 Negotiation ender</p> <p>119 Ballroom basic</p> <p>120 Remove</p> <p>121 Brontë sister</p> <p>DOWN</p> <p>1 Ultimate degree</p> <p>2 Singer Grande's debut fragrance</p> <p>3 Hogwash</p> <p>4 Larry the Cable Guy, for one</p> <p>5 Dotted (with)</p> <p>6 Declined</p> <p>7 Small, at the Sorbonne</p> <p>8 Culture. Pref.</p> <p>9 Even one</p> <p>10 '90s Indian prime minister</p> <p>11 Jag</p> <p>12 Crossed-fingers sentiment</p> <p>13 Yard sale adjective</p> <p>14 Hoops hanger</p> <p>15 Very hot and dry</p> <p>16 Glorify</p> <p>17 Chutzpah</p> <p>18 Expressed disdain for</p> <p>24 Neaten the garden, perhaps</p> <p>25 Scandal, to a politician, perhaps</p> <p>26 Captain Marvel's magic word</p> <p>30 E-commerce icon</p> <p>31 "Quiet!"</p> <p>32 "If only ___ known"</p> <p>33 Tape deck button</p> <p>34 Leb. neighbor</p> <p>35 ___ Sanders, only athlete to play in both the Super Bowl and World Series</p> <p>39 Jousting weapon</p> <p>40 Homework assignment</p> <p>42 South American pig relative</p> <p>43 Vexed state</p> <p>44 "___ homo"</p> <p>45 Job</p> <p>46 Mink cousin</p> <p>47 Acid type found in vinegar</p> <p>48 Cancel out</p> <p>50 Composer</p> <p>51 Altar in the sky</p> <p>55 In ___ parentis</p> <p>56 French friend</p> <p>57 Jeweler's tool</p> <p>59 Con, half the time</p> <p>60 Cold relief brand</p> <p>61 High style, maybe</p> <p>62 It can take a yoke</p> <p>63 Truth or Consequences st.</p> <p>64 Father of Julian Lennon</p> <p>67 Con job</p> <p>69 Some black-clad teens</p> <p>70 "Possibly"</p> <p>71 "Va-va-__"</p> <p>72 Prefix with sphere</p> <p>73 Half-brother of Julian Lennon</p> <p>74 Santa ___ winds</p> <p>76 Splinter groups</p> <p>79 With suspicion</p> <p>80 Argentine icons</p> <p>83 Worker during a walkout</p> <p>84 Ambiance</p> <p>85 Ride provider</p> <p>87 Kind of vovos</p> <p>88 Chocolate ___</p> <p>89 First responder: Abbr.</p> <p>90 Rave review word</p> <p>93 Rake over the coals</p> <p>94 Sinaloa street snack</p> <p>96 Like apps</p> <p>97 Cartoon genre</p> <p>98 Prefix: with frost</p> <p>99 Odorless basement hazard</p> <p>100 Temporary tattoo dye</p> <p>101 C-suite VIPs</p> <p>102 "Meh"</p> <p>104 Major quinoa producer</p> <p>105 Creepy look</p> <p>108 Web address component</p> <p>109 Hip-hop Dr.</p> <p>110 Propeller with just one blade</p> <p>111 Philanthropist</p> <p>112 Broad</p> <p>113 Fish that may be jellied</p> |
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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

Happy Birthday | Feb. 6: You are a creative and artistic dreamer. You have high hopes for your career and your personal relationships. People like you because you are attractive and you radiate warmth. This will be a year of change and new freedom for you. Others will help you. Expect travel and adventure!

Moon Alert: Avoid shopping or making important decisions from noon until 6 p.m. After that, the Moon moves from Aries into Taurus.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Be aware of today's Moon Alert, which will restrict shopping. It's okay to shop for food and gas, but beware of buying anything else because it will probably disappoint you or not work out for some reason.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) After the Moon Alert is over, the moon will be in your sign and bring you some luck. Use this to your advantage, especially if you want a "yes" answer to something. Until then, tread water.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) This is a great day to enjoy the company of friends, groups and organizations. However, avoid making important decisions during the Moon Alert. Don't volunteer for anything.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Be aware that people notice you, and they know personal details about your private life. Meanwhile, you have strong feelings. Tread carefully.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Like Cancer, you are high-viz today. Note: Avoid important decisions. Don't volunteer for anything during the Moon Alert. Meanwhile, emotions are running high.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You want to travel. You want to "get away from all this." Nevertheless, be aware of the restrictions of the Moon Alert, especially if shopping for anything other than food and gas.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) When it comes to decisions about inheritances, shared property, taxes and debt, be smart and wait until after the Moon Alert is over. Until then, enjoy social outings and fun times with others.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) It's best to cooperate with others, because the Moon is opposite your sign. Don't agree to anything important during the Moon Alert. Wait until later today so you are more fully aware of what's going on.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) This is a playful, creative day. Avoid important decisions or shopping for anything other than food and gas. Enjoy schmoozing with others and exploring creative ideas. Later in the day, you can swing into gear.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You want to relax at home. A conversation with a female relative could be important. However, after the Moon Alert is over, you'll enjoy playful times with kids or watch sports events.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) This is a busy, fast-paced day, and yet you feel indecisive and not sure about what to do. That's because of the Moon Alert. However, later today you will focus on home and family matters.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Be careful. During the Moon Alert, the moon is in your money house, which tempts you to spend money. Not good. Restrict spending to food and gas during the Moon Alert. However, later today you have the green light.

Answers to last week's puzzle.

