

## DIVERSIONS

## THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

## WryPhones: App ideas from Week 1083

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1083, we asked you to suggest a humorously useful — or counterproductive — phone app. Some people suggested truly practical apps that probably exist and certainly should, like one that maps out large supermarkets and parking lots; one that listens to a foreign language and translates it; and one that tells you how many jumping jacks you'll have to do to burn off the cookie you're thinking of eating. (Four weeks ago, we credited this contest to Mike Gips, forgetting that Loser Mark Richardson had suggested it long before. The Empress gives a lousy one star to that Stuff From the Losers app.)

## The winner of the Inkin' Memorial

**Instagramma:** Special filters hide evidence of drug and alcohol use, and add clothing to cover the naughty bits. Now any picture can be sent to Nana. Buy the Pro and colorize everyone in the picture to match Grandma's ethnicity! (Robert Falk, Takoma Park)

**2nd place** and the 'Barves Bags' to fill and give to Atlanta Braves fans doing that Tomahawk Chop thing:

**Where's My Phone?:** I am providing here, free of charge, the coding for my new app: *on tap()*: display "Right Here!" (John Kammer, South Riding)

## 3rd place

**The Teh:** An app that auto-corrects your texts so it makes people think you're busier than you really are. Danny Gallagher, Frisco, Tex., a First Offender)

## 4th place

**Due Process:** An app to preserve constitutional guarantees when dealing with law enforcement. If an officer approaches, quickly draw your mobile device from a purse or pocket and you'll get what you rightfully deserve. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

## The appy medium: honorable mentions

**Streaming Media** tells you what portions of the movie you're missing while you're in the bathroom. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

**What's Grandma Saying** translates cursive writing into plain block letters. (Mae Scanlan, Washington)

**ilnhale:** Every 10 seconds, chimes remind the user to breathe. (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf)

**The SimuMater** provides a CGI image of the baby you would have with the guy you just asked for your number — get the deluxe version for preschool admission odds. (Mark Raffman, Reston)

**Bjuddblvx Squire** translates Metrorail announcements into clear standard English in real time. (Stephen Dudzik, Olney)

**FixFox:** Visiting Gramps? This app offers real-time, subtitled corrections to all Fox News stories. (Frank Osen)

**The Booth:** A Ma Bell surrogate app that creates a 7-foot-tall, 3-foot-wide cylinder of dense fog, allowing Superman, once again, to change in privacy. (Ellen Raphaeli, Falls Church)

**Swig & Share** keeps tabs on your blood alcohol level until it hits .08, then starts sending transcripts of all your texts to *damnyouautocorrect.com*. (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station)

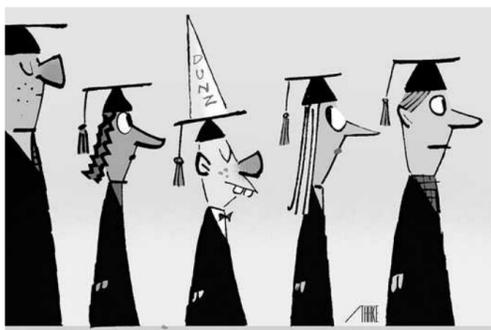
**Lalalalala:** You input a list of forbidden topics — Justin Bieber, Benghazi, "Duck Dynasty," etc. Then it issues white noise to cover up when anyone mentions a banned topic, and blanks out the offending text on your screen. (Elden Carnahan, Laurel)

**'Hit & Run** alerts you that a diaper is in the process of being dirtied; comes with a list of excuses you can give your spouse to account for your hasty departure. (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

**Just Do It** detects the announcement at a concert that patrons should turn off their phones — and would turn off the phone. (David Williams, Dunbar, W.Va.)

**Ahem:** A classroom app that displays a flashing "MY EYES ARE UP HERE" when a student looks at the phone during a lecture. (Kathy Cutler, Dickerson, a First Offender)

**The Emotican't:** Wipe that smile off your text with this emoticon



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

## New contest for Week 1087: The core ridiculum

**ENGL 001: Lit Lite.** Face it, the only time you're ever going to discuss literature is on a date or at a cocktail party. This course covers the CliffNotes for 20 books you're never going to read: "Moby Dick," "Ulysses," "The Sound and the Fury," etc. Learn that Ahab vs. the whale represents man vs. nature, and on to the next volume. Three multiple-choice quizzes. (Mike Gips)

**LANG 238: Ancient Voices.** Who were the Ink Spots? Country Joe and the Fish? What does "nanu-nanu" mean? Intense immersion into the language and culture of the late 20th century ago will enable the student to understand and converse with older relatives and prospective employers. Prerequisite for all INTN (Internship) classes. (Doug Frank, Week 626, 2005)

We go back to school today, revisiting a contest we did almost a decade ago, at the suggestion of Loser Mike Gips, who figures that for a couple of hundred thousand dollars, a college ought to teach you something you can use in Real Life. **This week: Come up with a comical class (any type of school) and provide a course catalogue description,** as in the examples above. MLA style is not required.

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives something Loser Larry Neal bought at a Walmart — in Beijing: It's a bag of Great Value Scarlet Caterpillar Fungus, complete with that Walmart Great Value no-brand logo. The Encyclopedia of Traditional Chinese Medicines says it's used "to supplement lung and boost kidney"; we think you'd best do that by using it as a little back pillow.

**Other runners-up** win their choice of a yearned-for Loser Mug or the ardently desired "Whole Fools" Grocery Bag. Honorable mentions get a lusted-after Loser magnet, either the Po' Wit Laureate or Puns of Steel. First Offenders receive a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). E-mail entries to [losers@washpost.com](mailto:losers@washpost.com) or, if you were born in the 19th century, fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday, Sept. 8; results published Sept. 28 (online Sept. 25). No more than 25 entries per entrant per contest. Include "Week 1087" in your e-mail subject line or it might be ignored as spam. Include your real name, postal address and phone number with your entry. See contest rules and guidelines at [wapo.st/InvRules](http://wapo.st/InvRules). The "WryPhones" subhead is by Tom Witte; this week's honorable-mentions subhead is by Danielle Nowlin. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](http://on.fb.me/invdev), and click "like" on Style Invitational Ink of the Day at [bit.ly/inkofday](http://bit.ly/inkofday).

**STYLE CONVERSATIONAL** The Empress's weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. Especially if you plan to enter, check it out at [wapo.st/styleconv](http://wapo.st/styleconv).

remover. (Harry Farkas, Columbus)

**Ticked-Off Flying Squirrels:** Don't get bored playing the same old games: In this all-new app, you fling Ticked-Off Flying Squirrels at Evil Sheep! (Todd DeLap, Fairfax)

**Reality Check:** Point your phone's camera at someone you would like to date, and the app automatically calculates your chances on a scale of Def to NITL. (Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.)

**Happy Trigger** will launch your surface-to-air missiles remotely, so long as there is a 51 percent chance the target is military. (Ken Gallant, Conway, Ark.)

**Stage Fright B Gone** provides public speakers with X-ray images of audience members in their underwear. (Mark Raffman)

**Step on It** measures your speed for a particular stretch of road. Compare your score against others on our leaderboard and earn badges! (Not responsible for visits by actual badges.) (John Kammer)

**What's-the-Fourteen-One-One?:** An informative app about events in this 15th-century year such as the Battle of Harlaw and the death of artist Paolo di Giovanni Fei. (Mike Ostapiej, Mount Pleasant, S.C.)

**Future Tat** will analyze a picture of that tattoo you are about to get for how deformed it will become over



From a Beijing Walmart, this week's second prize.

time after expanding, sagging, etc. Prevents that cute little butterfly from metamorphosing into an attacking pterodactyl. (Wayne Rodgers, Satellite Beach, Fla.)

**Just Chill** electrically paralyzes the user's jaw muscles every time it senses an imminent sarcastic retort brewing. (Tim Livengood, Columbia)

**Oral Intelligence Test:** Just lick the screen of your phone and it tells you your IQ. (It's actually just a Magic 8-Ball-type generator, but it's a fun, photo-friendly way to get your friends to lick their phones. Which is why "inconclusive, try again" comes up 3 out of 5 times. (Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.)

**The Spoiler Spoiler** blocks all references to sporting events you are DVR'ing and shows you haven't watched yet. (Mark Raffman)

**YelpHelp** screens reviews for fakes. It must really work — it's got five stars! (Danielle Nowlin)

**The Clickbaiter:** An editor types a proper news headline, and the app gives you "You Won't Believe What Happened When These Nine Judges Spent a Day Talking About Federal Labor Laws." (Josh Feldblyum, Louisville)

**App Endectomy:** Save big bucks with these cut-by-cut, stitch-by-stitch self-surgery instructions. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

**Throes:** An audible battery level indicator that increases in histrionics from "I'm getting a little low" to "I'M DYING! I'M DYING!" (Jim Stiles, Rockville)

**Kismet!:** An app that identifies for you, from among all the women on the planet, the one you're meant to spend the rest of your life with — and then sends her a picture of your junk. (Mark Raffman)

**Still running — deadline Monday night: Our contest to make a new term from a 13-letter word or multi-word term. See [bit.ly/invite1086](http://bit.ly/invite1086).**

## POST PUZZLER

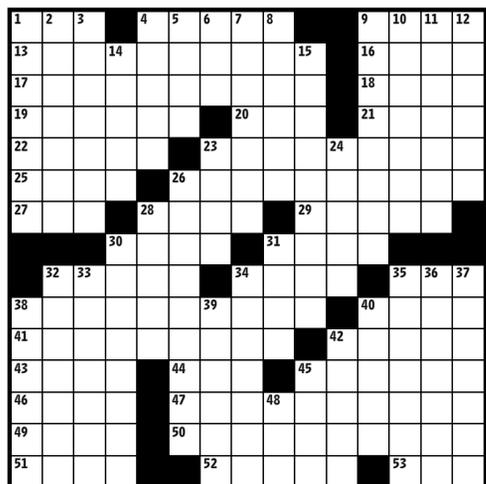
## No. 230

BY JOSH KNAPP EDITED BY PETER GORDON • FIREBALLCROSSWORDS.COM

<b>ACROSS</b>	<b>32</b> Stink-eye	<b>50</b> Caller at the end of the line?	<b>8</b> Concert box	<b>34</b> Having little to declare?
<b>1</b> Show runners, for short	<b>34</b> Come out wrong?	<b>51</b> River through Battenberg, Germany	<b>9</b> Artsy side of the Seine	<b>35</b> Rings can be found under them
<b>4</b> Setting for a fan boat ride	<b>35</b> Send to secretly, in a way	<b>52</b> File pictures	<b>10</b> "Briefly ..."	<b>36</b> Base for some lattes
<b>9</b> Wing, e.g.	<b>38</b> Symbol of pollution	<b>53</b> Get out	<b>11</b> No time at all	<b>37</b> Frequent contestant on the "Saturday Night Live" spoof of "Celebrity Jeopardy!"
<b>13</b> Victor at the Battle of Santa Clara	<b>40</b> Longtime Ritz rival	<b>DOWN</b>	<b>12</b> Is eligible for the lead?	<b>38</b> Tear into
<b>16</b> Hydroxyl compound	<b>41</b> Phoenix's _____	<b>1</b> Cardinal number 25, once	<b>14</b> Shout at a quarry	<b>39</b> Wheat-free soy sauce
<b>17</b> Men on boards, e.g.	<b>42</b> Fox with a dark brown mane	<b>2</b> Deathlike	<b>15</b> Right this second	<b>40</b> Disappearing ink?
<b>18</b> "The perfume of heroic deeds," to Socrates	<b>43</b> Dwellers in the Well of Souls in "Raiders of the Lost Ark"	<b>3</b> Groundbreaking	<b>16</b> Norwegian town	<b>41</b> Performers in whiteface
<b>19</b> Many a freelancer	<b>44</b> _____ kid (angsty high-school type)	<b>4</b> Word with Sunday or Tuesday	<b>17</b> The Star of India, e.g.	<b>42</b> Conflicted
<b>20</b> Like crudité	<b>45</b> Cartoon reporter with a fox terrier named Snowy	<b>5</b> "Dead Poets Society" director Peter	<b>18</b> Stand-up guy?	<b>43</b> Big _____ (country rapper with an A&E reality show)
<b>21</b> Too cute	<b>46</b> Eighth-most-common word, according to the Oxford English Corpus	<b>6</b> Park in NYC, e.g.	<b>19</b> Liable to pass out	
<b>22</b> Secret	<b>47</b> Composition with uneven characters, stereotypically	<b>7</b> Craft with knots and hitches	<b>20</b> Hold a candle (to)	
<b>23</b> Figure seen through the end of a gun barrel	<b>49</b> First word of the theme song to "The Monkees"			
<b>25</b> Bundled sheets				
<b>26</b> Gets going				
<b>27</b> Crooked joint				
<b>28</b> She played Allie to Susan's Kate				
<b>29</b> Bodies in some Zen gardens				
<b>30</b> _____ chicken				
<b>31</b> Benefit from work				

Answer to last week, No. 229

G	S	U	I	T	S	E	X	T	R	E	M	E	S
R	A	N	L	O	W	A	R	E	A	C	O	D	E
A	Z	A	L	E	A	R	A	M	S	H	O	M	E
H	E	W	S	M	A	R	T	P	H	O	N	E	S
A	R	A	B	P	R	I	E	S	C	H	O	B	E
M	A	R	E	L	E	N	D	C	H	O	S	E	
S	C	E	N	T	I	N	G	C	L	A	W	E	D
A	B	B	A	C	Y	T	O	T	E	B	A	G	S
S	O	U	L	S	T	U	S	H	E	L	A	N	
S	W	I	T	P	E	R	S	E	R	I	G	A	
A	L	L	I	W	A	N	N	A	D	O	A	R	P
N	E	T	G	A	I	N	S	R	H	E	S	U	S
T	R	U	E	G	R	I	T	A	N	G	E	L	O
E	S	P	R	E	S	S	O	L	O	O	S	E	N



## HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY | AUG. 31:** This year you discover how important friendship is. Listen to feedback from others more often and incorporate new ideas into your life. You are completing a life cycle this year. You don't want to enter the next cycle with a situation that does not work. If you are single, you might meet someone quite exciting. Take your time getting to know this person; you might discover that you would prefer to keep looking. If you are attached, the two of you will make a long-term goal possible. Make the most of the time you have alone.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)**  
Try to follow a loved one's plans without being difficult. You might need a little break to recharge your batteries. In any case, attempt to find the solution to a pending case of the grumps. Others will appreciate it all the more.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**  
Defer to others and their plans. You will like having less pressure on you the next few days. Your vision of possibilities will expand as well.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**  
Make time for an activity that is very important to you; otherwise, you might feel deprived. It's okay not to go along with the program.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)**  
You might feel overwhelmed. You might need a break from whatever you have been doing

lately. Take a nap, and rethink what is happening with you. Honor your needs.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**  
When even the most exciting adventure becomes the norm, boredom can set in. Add some spice and variety to the moment. Visit with a friend you have not seen in a while.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**  
If you sense a conflict, make an adjustment rather than start a fight. Once you calm down, you will see that there are alternatives you have not considered.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**  
Step back and find out what would lighten up a tense situation. You might be suppressing anger or frustration. Choose to let it go.

## Hard to leave long, abusive marriage

**Dear Amy: I am 75 years old and very sad. I have been married for 39 years. It has been very rocky. My wife is probably bipolar and has serious anxiety and anger issues. She refuses to get medical help. I have had to call the police twice.**

*She has been verbally abusive and has hit me. I have tried to love her, but she is just impossible.*

*We have a 1-year-old grandson, and during his visit with us, she screamed at me, totally out of control. She flits off the handle if I do anything without her permission.*

*We are each very comfortable financially, but in 39 years I have borne ALL household expenses, and she has saved every penny of her substantial income. She tracks my money.*

*I often tell myself that I am the biggest fool. Some of my closest friends have told me to get out. I suppose you will tell me the same, but I find it very difficult after 39 years. How should I proceed? Every time I seriously show her I am about to leave, she starts telling me she loves me and cannot do without me.*

*My daughters have given up on me and do not want to hear my problems anymore. They say I should just up and leave.*

*Disheartened*

**You are being verbally and physically abused.** Your wife is controlling your movements and policing your money. Every time you seem ready to leave, she manipulates you into staying. Your friends and your daughters have urged you to get out.

Please seek professional help immediately. Your marriage has already stolen your sense of well-being; this relationship is bad for your mental, emotional and physical health. It is also bad for your baby grandson. Imagine the impact of witnessing his grandmother screaming at you. Protect him from this by separating.

Please call the National Domestic Violence Hotline ([thehotline.org](http://thehotline.org)) at 800-799-7233. A phone counselor can help guide you through the process of safely leaving this relationship. A concerned friend and/or your daughters can also help. The way to get help is to ask for it: "I want to

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**

Others might not know what to do with their high energy, but you will move quickly from party to party. You might be surprised by everything you hear from the different people you visit with.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**  
Take your time before making a decision. Stay in a weekend mood and don't make any issue more important than it is. Nap, then decide.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**  
An invitation for this weekend may prove to be more important than you realize. Socialize to your heart's content. You might meet someone new or run into an old friend.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**  
You seem to meet with many people today; catching up with friends will keep you busy. Avoid an argument at all costs. You might not be able to take back something you've said.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**  
You might have an interesting call with someone you won't be able to see this weekend. You enjoy chatting with this person, but you may be surprised by what he or she shares.

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leave. Please help me do this."

**Dear Amy: I gave my brother a \$50 gift card for Christmas. Some months later, he took me out for lunch and paid the check with the gift card I had given him. Am I right in thinking that was a little strange?**

*Generous Brother*

**If by "strange" you mean "thoughtful and kind," then yes, this is strange.**

Imagine this: You give your brother an expensive bottle of wine or a fresh baked blueberry pie. He thanks you by inviting you to share it with him, thus letting you enjoy the gift while also witnessing him enjoying it.

Your brother arrived at a thoughtful way of using your gift to spend time with you. That's a nice thing to do.

Amy's column appears seven days a week at [www.washingtonpost.com/advice](http://www.washingtonpost.com/advice). Write to [askamy@tribune.com](mailto:askamy@tribune.com) or Ask Amy, Chicago Tribune, TT500, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60611.

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