

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

The words they 'found': Report from Week 1089

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1089, the Empress posted the word-search grid pictured below and asked you to "discover" new words by snaking a path through the grid. (The squiggles pictured showed that week's examples, "crudelet" and "chatox".) Not surprisingly, you found plenty of neologisms — there were well over 1,000 entries — especially the ones that included the letter series S-E-X. The coordinates below refer to the position of the first letter.

The winner of the Inkin' Memorial

F-12: CRIMEA VISIT: Term for guests who overstay their welcome, and then announce they own your house. (Mark Raffman, Reston)

2nd place and the book 'The World's Worst Jokes'

D-11: NOTIGAN: The sweater your aunt knits for you, every birthday, every year. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

3rd place

F-12: CLINTONHOLE: A term conservatives use in front of their children while talking about someone they don't like. (Rob Wolf, Gaithersburg)

4th place

J-8: DANGRY: Only mad enough to use pseudo-curse-words. (Pam Sweeney, Burlington, Mass.)

Gridlacks: honorable mentions

A-6: BUNSEC: The maximum time a guy can ogle before getting caught. (Keith Waites, Frederick)

A-11: OH-NOTION: An astonishingly bad idea. "Abercrombie's kiddie thong [a real thing!] was an obvious oh-notion to everyone but the marketing team." (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

B-6: SUNNY SAM: A cheerful serial killer. (Dawn Kral, La Plata)

B-8: EYEJACK: To steal a glimpse. (Jeff Contompassis, Ashburn)

B-9: DINGHO: Australian term for an ugly hooker. (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

C-4: I AM BUNGHOLE: Amazingly honest working title of Donald Trump's autobiography. (William C. Kennard, Arlington)

C-4: ISECRETS: Internet secrets; i.e., not secrets. (Frank Osen)

C-6: SECULAY: The opposite of ChristianMingle. (Matt Monitto, Bristol, Conn.)

C-11: SNIRI: Smartphone assistant who replies in a mocking tone. "You don't know the capital of Australia!?" (Edmund Conti, Raleigh)

D-8: JESTATE: To have a pun in the oven. (Jeff Contompassis)

E-6: DUMACIN: Pending FDA approval, the first drug to treat chronic stupidity. (Frank Mann, Washington)

E-10: BANKULA: A financial institution whose existence depends upon its ability to suck your blood, er, money. (Kim Adam, Glen Allen, Va., a First Offender)

F-2: RUDE-CAFE: Where Gordon Ramsay got his start. (Pie Snelson, Silver Spring)

F-10: FINNY: Ichthyostherical. "Dory was so finny that the other fish almost died themselves laughing." (Kevin Dopart)

F-11: RIMUET: The little dance a basketball does around the hoop before it goes in . . . or not. (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

F-14: MAXIWAD: The half-pound of emergency toilet paper every teenage girl has at one time used to make it through the school day. (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station)

G-10: TRUEL: Way more honest than you need to be. (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf)

I-10: SEXTS ED: One class where teaching the abstinence-only method actually makes sense. (Danielle Nowlin)

I-12: FUTIME: The last day at that job you hate. (John Folsie, Bryans Road)

J-3: CULTURD: An overbearing, snotty critic. (Jeff Loren, Manassas)

K-12: DEDATED: Broke up with. (Jeff Loren)

M-12: BAD SPORT: The kind I & *%\$ lose at. (Danielle Nowlin)



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1093: You're only as rich as you fee

S1 "deplaning fee," payable just after landing, to defray the cost of bringing the jetway to the airplane and opening the door.

Anti-spam software that sends you a text to let you know each time it blocks an unwanted e-mail, so you'll appreciate how effective it is.

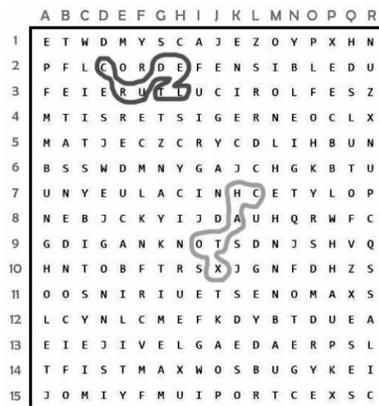
Did you see that Marriott was fined \$600,000 last week by the FCC for jamming guests' personal WiFi hotspots so they'd have to pay its hotels' exorbitant connection fees: \$15 a day per device and sometimes as much as \$1,000? Mark Raffman did, and being a Style Invitational Loser (not to mention a lawyer), he immediately thought: **What are some more really bad ideas for various businesses to make a few more bucks?** As in Mark's examples above. Outrageous real-world examples are also welcome; just make that clear.

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a delightful set of four crocheted coasters in the shape of a cat's behind, each complete with a little curved tail and a little star-shaped pink dot in the center. Created by Shanna Compton of the Etsy shop Hooks and Balls, and donated to the Invite by Diane Wah.

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 or, if you were born in the 19th century, fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday, Oct. 20; results published Nov. 9 (online Nov. 6). No more than 25 entries per entrant per contest. Include "Week 1093" 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. This week's honorable-mentions subhead was submitted by both Beverly Sharp and Tom Witte. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev, and click "like" on Style Invitational Ink of the Day at bit.ly/inkofaday.

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.



GRID CREATED AT PUZZLE-MAKER.COM

N-3: LORDE CULT: Fanatical anti-royalists. (Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

N-13: EUROPIUM: An element that seems stable when bonded with bureaucracy, but eventually comes unglued. (Jeff Hazle, Woodbridge)

O-3: FLEECOLI: Intestinal bug that causes one to make a quick exit. (Pam Sweeney)

O-13: REBAY: Getting rid of junk you bought online. "I can't believe Mom didn't like this taxidermy squirrel. I guess I'll have to rebay it." (Jacob Aldridge, Brisbane, Australia)

P-4: COEN RINSE: A splatter of blood from, say, a wood chipper. (Ward Kay, Vienna)

P-5: BLEEPLY: How every character talks in "The Wolf of Wall Street." (Jeff Loren)

P-13: PRE-BEST: New, encouraging report card category,

to replace "needs improvement" or, heaven forbid, "failing." (Sally Stokes, Silver Spring)

Q-3: SELF-BORE: What you wish boring people would do. (William Kennard)

Q-3: SLUBBY THE HUN: Attila's useless brother. (Ward Kay)

R-7: PUNX: Tricks someone into planning for six more weeks of winter. (Matt Monitto)

And Last: C-10: TOILIT: Bathroom reading. "I always leave the week's Invitational in the bathroom as toilet for our guests." (Curtis Morrison, Chesapeake, Va., a First Offender)

And Even Laster: R-7: PUNTUB: The Empress's rejection vat. (Jeff Loren)

Still running — deadline Monday night: Our contest for comical fundraising challenges a la the Ice Bucket. See bit.ly/invite1092.



You can set down your drink on one of these cat-behind coasters — if you finish in exactly second place in this week's contest.

POST PUZZLER

No. 236

BY DOUG PETERSON EDITED BY PETER GORDON • FIREBALLCROSSWORDS.COM

ACROSS
1 Less principled
6 Storage units
14 Enterprise acquisition
15 1992 gold medalist who was a "Dancing With the Stars" champion
16 Étagère item
17 Small private chapels
18 Chain with a Sofia Vergara line
19 Some magazine holders
20 Dump, say
21 Fabric dye brand
22 French socialist philosopher Georges
24 Knock follower
25 A few, south of the border
27 Letter's need
29 Roofing material
30 Hobgoblin
32 Many attachments, for short

34 Indianapolis's county
35 Black key
38 Turning point?
39 Longtime "Match Game" host
41 Stick in
44 New York town where Woodstock was held
46 Its slogan was once "Above all": Abbr.
47 On guard
49 Cashiers
51 Discovery's sister station
52 Basalt, once
53 Former Ford models
54 Skateboard park maneuver
56 Snapple offering
58 Female monarch
59 Power houses?
60 Cosmetologist's concerns
61 Dessert with caravans
62 Teen sensation, perhaps

DOWN
1 Knot remover, maybe
2 Sapphire component
3 Site of Burgoyne's surrender
4 Robbed dignitary
5 Target of some touch-ups
6 Type of lager named for a German month
7 They may be spoofed
8 Pieces
9 Long trailer?
10 Flurry
11 Requiring the most scraping, perhaps
12 Pat Nixon's real first name

13 1939 Cooperstown inductee George
15 "Take a look in the mirror!"
23 Honorary Oscar recipient of 2003
24 Cartoon character inspired by Jerry Mouse
26 Shepard who writes the "Pretty Little Liars" book series
28 Popcorn option
31 Co-star of "The Incredible Hulk"
33 One-named actor in "The Thief of Bagdad"
36 Activity discouraged by brands

37 Sweets named for a French soldier whose cook was the inventor
41 Concedes
40 Cowboys' gp.
42 Sugar alternative
43 President Heller
44 Portrayer on "24: Live Another Day"
45 Powwow
48 Source of many patents, briefly
50 "Yes and no"
53 Enslaved royal in a 1983 sci-fi film
55 Nuevo _____ (Monterrey's state)
57 Canyon builder

Answer to last week, No. 235

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

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | OCT. 12: This year you experience unexpected developments in your relationships. These changes are not necessarily bad or good, so do your best to approach them with an open mind. If you are single, you will meet someone through a friend. It is also possible for a friendship to become more. If you are attached, the two of you manifest a long-term goal. You will have a reason to celebrate, which you will want to share with your friends.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
 You may be unusually capricious and full of fun. A child or close loved one can't seem to stay away from you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 You might be expected to pick up the tab for others. If you feel uncomfortable, say so. Others might not realize the demand they have dropped in your lap.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 Though you communicate with ease and get smiles from others, you might have an unexpected outburst. Don't allow a hot moment to develop into more.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 Much goes on behind the scenes that you might not want to discuss. You might feel confused by someone, as he or she seems to be transforming right in front of you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 You'll smile and simply enjoy those around you. Get together with friends. You might feel like letting off some steam. A loved one might approach you to have a long-overdue conversation.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 Your interest in handling a situation a certain way may attract others' attention. Your instincts will guide you in an emotional situation. Know when you have had enough.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 Reach out to someone at a distance to catch up on his or her news. You will be more upbeat after your chat, whether it is on the phone, in person or through e-mail.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 Curb your spending if you don't want to deal with the

repercussions. You may find your finances a lot tighter than you want them to be.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 You might want to listen to the other side of a problem before you get angry. Try to control your emotions. A friend might whisper a comment in your ear that will help you calm down.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 You'll need to pace yourself to visit everyone you want to see and still get some much-needed errands done. A surprise may throw your personal and domestic plans in the air. Just go with the flow.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 You might want to understand why a partner or loved one has been acting so differently. Know that the change has to do with this person, not you. Once you realize that, you'll lighten up.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 Spend the day close to home or with your family. Fatigue seems to be playing a strong role in your plans. Touch base with that friend, and make plans to visit in the near future.

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Uncle's financial offer doesn't add up

Dear Amy: I started college this year. For a gift, my uncle wants to set up an account for me at his credit union and give me a debit card. He wants to reward me for working hard and wants to give me the flexibility to have some fun in college.

We've already established that I will not be using his money to buy booze or drugs or get into any criminal or sketchy shenanigans. It's more just for things such as shopping or movies and the like, things that aren't covered by my college tuition but that my parents won't pay for either. The thing is, he doesn't want me to tell my parents.

I suspect he's already suggested this gift to them, and they said it was too much. It does seem really generous to me. But, hey, I'm 18 — I'm not about to complain!

I really appreciate the gift and would really like to accept it. But should I clue my parents in? Or is this a case of "What they don't know won't hurt them?"

Wondering

This doesn't smell right. I'm not suggesting your uncle has nefarious motives, but if he wants to give you a cash gift, he

should give you a cash gift of a specific amount. This looser arrangement could eventually give him too much financial control over you. Regardless, your uncle should know better than to ask you to keep a secret from your parents.

You do know better. You are 18 and can accept this gift if you want to, but you are right to question the judgment of the person offering it. Most important, even if you can't quite put your finger on why something is wrong, you should always listen to your gut.

Then you should do the right thing. Respond to your uncle: "I appreciate your gift, but I don't keep secrets from my parents, so it would be great if you could run this past them."

Dear Amy: My father had several affairs, left our family and remarried another woman. We have confronted him about his sins, but he acts as though he has done nothing wrong.

I have a maternal aunt who has a son, but we don't know his father. Our family believes that our father is also his father because our cousin looks like my father when he was young. My father calls my cousin often and even attended his gradua-

tion. We have asked our father and our aunt about our cousin's paternity, but they both deny it. Our aunt said she will disclose the identity of the father at the right time. We just want the truth. We know it will hurt, but it will set us free.

It's Complicated

Your desire for information and "freedom" does not equal your aunt's and cousin's right to deal with this issue the way they choose to.

If your aunt asked me this question, I would urge her to disclose her son's parentage to him (if she hasn't already), because her son has a right to know his biological parentage, and also because this sort of family secret has a way of snowballing, as your question demonstrates. Given your father's behavior, it is a distinct possibility that you have other siblings out there, but you cannot force him to reveal it.

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