

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Gag reflux: 2019 retrospective Part 2

BY PAT MYERS

Week 1363 was Part 2 of our retrospective, in which we invited readers to enter (or reenter) any of 24 recent contests.

4th place:

Week 1349: Find a sentence in the Congressional Record and pair it with your own questions: CR: "It is one of the reasons all of us who got elected to this office decided to do it."

Q: Hey, senator, did you enjoy that two-week junket to Hawaii? (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

3rd place:

Week 1337, riddles with an anagram in the punchline: Where can you be sure to find Republican Senator Lindsey Graham's nose?

[The answer is an anagram of the question above:] Consensually buried in the creases of Trump's orange behind, a year now . . . (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

2nd place and the skull-motif mouth-covering scarf:

Week 1340, slightly change a famous name:

Mick Nagger: "Can't always get what you want? Well, if you'd just try sometimes . . ." (Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

Week 1357, song parodies about the news: Love Song of Mitch McConnell (to "Right Here Waiting") Rambling tweets, paranoid swill, Sure, you might have gone insane. But there are benches left to fill, So I surely won't complain. Each time you name a crackpot, I know I've hit the jackpot.

Whatever you say, whatever you do, I will bless right-wing judges for you. Keep naming those flakes; I won't apply brakes. Alive and right-wing? I'll move 'em through.

They'll side with business, they'll wipe out Roe; No more rules when I campaign. What do I care if you held up dough Or if you shook down Ukraine? Each day more folks are squirming, But I'm still here, confirmin'.

Whatever you say, whatever you do, I'll push through cranks and zealots for you. Unqualified hacks? I'll have all their backs. Hey, send Don Jr.! He'd be fine, too. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

Redo-nothings: Honorable mentions

Week 1336, things you could say in two different situations:

Something you might hear at a job interview and in bed: "Is there any way you can enhance the size of the package?" (Mark Raffman, Reston)

At the doctor's and when Trump visits your country:

"Will this lump go away on its own?" (John Hutchins, Silver Spring)

At the supermarket and the doctor's: "Looks like you're ready to check out." (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

Week 1337, riddles with anagrams:

Q. What name change has the president proposed for the nation's highest tribunal?

A. The SUPER ME Court. (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

Q. What civil rights leader was falsely accused of being a communist?

A. The NEVER-RED Martin Luther King. (Mark Raffman)

Week 1340, change a famous name:

Dee Nye the Science Guy: Fox News's new climate expert. (Ryan Martinez, Takoma Park)

Joe Bidet: A Washington fixture. (Jon Ketzner, Cumberland, Md.)

Week 1341, combine two words into a portmanteau: Perplexiglass: What fun house mirrors are made of. (Raymond Gallucci, Frederick)

Foxygen: Evidently Grandpa can't survive if you turn it off. (Hildy Zampella, Alexandria)

Kowtownhall: A staged forum where the candidate answers "questions" like "What inspired you



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1367: Pick me up at work, okay?

Pickup lines from . . .

An auto mechanic: "I might need the whole weekend for this inspection."

A highway maintenance worker: "Hey, baby, what's your sign? I hope it's 'yield.'"

Mitt Romney: "Your place, mine, mine, mine, mine, mine, mine, or mine?"

As One-Man Style Invitational Ink Factory Duncan Stevens suggested: **Give a pickup line from someone in a particular profession, or from a particular person or fictional character, as in Duncan's examples above.**

Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1367 (no capitals in the Web address). Deadline is Monday, Jan. 27; results will appear Feb. 16 in print, Feb. 13 online.

Winner gets the Lose Cannon, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a pair of black and gray socks with a picture of a rather slim Donald Trump with the legend "We Shall Overcomb." For better or for worse, these are the kind of socks that don't show above your shoe. Donated by Hall of Fame Loser Beverly Sharp.

Other runners-up win one of our new "For Best Results, Pour Into Top End" Loser Mugs or our "Whole Fools" Grocery Bag. Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, "Too-Weak Notice" or "Certificate of (de) Merit." 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 "Gag Reflux" is by Kevin Dopart; 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); follow @StyleInvite on Twitter.

The Style Conversational: The Empress's weekly online column reviews each new contest and set of results. And this week she shares some of the song parodies "performed" last weekend at the Losers' Post-Holiday Party. Check it out at wapo.st/conu1367.

to become such a dedicated public servant?" (J. Larry Schott, West Plains, Mo.)

Recantankerous: Ill-tempered about having to walk back a lie. (Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore)

Week 1344, limericks featuring "gr-" words:

Lady Liberty
Her coppery skin has turned green,
Her welcoming lamp is still seen,
But her engraved invitation
To join this great nation?
Valid only if you're European.
(J. Larry Schott)

Week 1345, fake trivia about food:

Fifty years later, President Trump could not forget the grainy black-and-white images of the Frito Bandito stealing Americans' corn chips. (Steve Smith, Potomac)

Florida leads the nation in the production of fruitcakes. (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

On Buddha's birthday, Jews in China go out to eat in American restaurants. (Neal Starkman, Seattle)

Before a crackdown by the then-new FDA, Manwich contained up to 11 percent man. (Bill Dornier, Indianapolis)

Week 1346, neologisms starting with A and ending in Z, B-Y, etc.:

Brothely: Describing love, but not the Philadelphia kind. (Beverly Sharp)

Week 1349, questions from Congressional Record sentences:

A. "That was an important first step, but we need to do more."

Q. What did Neil Armstrong's tiger mom say to him when he got back home? (Steve Honley, Washington)

A. Let's think of what that means. Q. President Clinton, now that we know what "is" is, what should we know of next? (Beverly Sharp)

Week 1353, change a word in a movie title to its opposite: Fixed-Front Mountain: Ennis and Jake inexplicably decide to get vasectomies. (Mark Raffman)

A Whole Lot of Day Music: A newcomer to a gentrifying D.C. neighborhood calls the cops on the go-go that's playing at the local cellphone shop. (Steve Honley)

The Teeny Inferno: A fire breaks out in Donald Trump's library. (Duncan Stevens)

Mary Pop-Outs: In a sequel to "A League of Their Own," slumping Mary O'Hara hits flyball after flyball. (John Shea, Philadelphia)

I Know What I Did Last Summer: In this sequel to "Partial Recall," a diplomat suddenly regains his memory with the help of a congressional subpoena. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

Week 1355, "air quotes": K"ale": You have your health food, I have mine. (Roy Ashley, Washington)
Suffo"cat": To sleep on a person's face. (Jesse Frankovich)

Week 1357, song parodies: (To "All I Want for Christmas")

He don't care about Burisma,
He could not be any blunter.
He just wants a nice neat package
With the heads of Joe and Hunter.
Shouting on the telephone,
"Gordon, are you there alone?"
"Oh, sir, you know it's true,
This call, it's all just me and you!"
(Frank Osen)

And Last: **Congressional Record:** A. Students, middle-class families, homeowners and seniors across this nation are the losers.

Q. Well, if I didn't get any ink in the Invite this week, who did? (Drew Bennett, West Plains, Mo.)

And even Laster: **Air quotes;** Invi"tat"ional: With this contest, you literally get ink. (Roger Dalrymple, Gettysburg, Pa.)

More honorable mentions, including video and cartoon captions, in the online Invite at wapo.st/invite1367.

Still running — deadline Monday, Jan. 20: Our contest for new terms that include the letter block L-I-A-R in any order. See wapo.st/invite1366.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

"FLIGHT OF FANCY" By PAM AMICK KLAWITTER	75 Frees (of) the law itself	107 Panelist Love of "The Real"	7 Tie the knot on the run	44 Half a luau serving?	81 Music player with many generations
ACROSS	77 Genetic chains	108 It's high in France	8 "Frozen" princess	45 Real	82 Ptr. paper size
1 Col. Potter on "M*A*S*H," to pals	78 Soapbox address	109 MGM motto ender	9 Performance with tricks	46 Tells it like it is	83 Initiate
6 Where Biles balances	81 Blood pressure raiser	110 Sleeper's option	10 Primary	47 Bird skilled at long hoops	85 Legendary migrator
10 GQ stat	82 Talks like Dafny	111 "More than a beauty company" supporter?	11 Trap during winter	50 HMO doctor designations	86 "Ozark" actor
14 Jokes around	83 Knight	112 Gritty film genre	12 River at Avignon	52 Java neighbor	87 2020 Vegas NFLers, if the new stadium is ready
19 Anne of "Psycho" (1998)	84 Target audience for squawkdates.com?	113 Persian faith	13 D.C. group company	53 H.S. math course	88 Chaplin of "Game of Thrones"
20 Something up your sleeve	89 ___ star	114 Uncertain ending words	14 She played Kelly on "Charlie's Angels"	54 Etali alternatives	89 "Oh, really?"
21 Sign of hollowness	90 Is afflicted with	115 Titanic problem	15 One way to read	55 Currier's partner	90 Warn, feline-style
22 Idaho's Coeur d'___ River	91 Those, south of the border	116 Virtually never loses to	16 Where seabirds grab buses?	57 Take badly?	93 "Queen of Soul"
23 1944 Italian beachhead	92 Vital lines	117 Well past its prime	17 Baits	58 Take stock of	94 "To be continued" story
24 Standing lead-in	95 Bluff and bluster	DOWN	18 Salty sort	61 "Yikes!"	96 "We ___ please"
25 Broadway lighter	97 "Now you've done it!"	1 Prayer garment	28 "Just wait ___!"	62 Gutless one	97 Valentine message words
26 Terra ___	99 Lane target	2 Matisse and Rousseau	29 Baby spoiler, often	63 Farming prefix	98 Estate centerpiece
27 Museum piece depicting a songbird battle?	100 Snack with a Green Tea version in China and Japan	3 Aloe target	34 Last letter in radio lingo	65 Chichén ___	99 Drop by
30 Tabloid-worthy	102 Fighters	4 Imitation gem	36 That ship	66 Kept in a cask, say	101 Actor Davis
31 Key fruit	103 Troupe of pink entertainers?	5 "Where's my cat treat?"	37 Hoppers	67 Not as green	102 Actor Davis
32 Grafton of mystery	106 Runs rampant	6 Plant associated with the infant Moses	38 Email abbr.	68 Kept in a cask, say	103 Trainer's concern
33 Mexican menu meat	34 Bayou sound	70 Royal until 1917	41 ___ market	69 Royal until 1917	104 What embers do
35 Pageant accessories	37 "Hulk" star Eric	71 ___ for Innocent": Grafton	42 Threw a party for	70 Royal until 1917	105 Arrests
38 Games go-with	39 KFC choice		43 N.Y. neighbor	71 ___ for Innocent": Grafton	
39 KFC choice	40 Turkey concerned with the details?			72 ___ for Innocent": Grafton	
40 Turkey concerned with the details?	44 Ed.'s inbox fillers			73 ___ for Innocent": Grafton	
44 Ed.'s inbox fillers	45 Oregon city namesake			74 World Golf Hall of Farmer Nancy	
45 Oregon city namesake	48 Bank acct. item				
48 Bank acct. item	49 Reach, finally				
49 Reach, finally	51 "High Hopes" lyricist				
51 "High Hopes" lyricist	52 Quietly keeps in the loop				
52 Quietly keeps in the loop	54 Dugout sight				
54 Dugout sight	56 Khan of Rufus				
56 Khan of Rufus	59 Item in a Blackpool boot				
59 Item in a Blackpool boot	60 Message response				
60 Message response	61 Spot for an icicle				
61 Spot for an icicle	62 Rockies roamers				
62 Rockies roamers	64 Find a purpose for				
64 Find a purpose for	65 Supply for a bird-of-prey flu epidemic?				
65 Supply for a bird-of-prey flu epidemic?	68 Cards with pics				
68 Cards with pics	69 Like Purrell-treated hands				
69 Like Purrell-treated hands	71 "Archie's Pals n' ___": old comic book series				
71 "Archie's Pals n' ___": old comic book series	72 El Al's home: Abbr.				
72 El Al's home: Abbr.	73 Tip-top				
73 Tip-top	74 World Golf Hall of Farmer Nancy				
74 World Golf Hall of Farmer Nancy					

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19					20				21				22				
23					24				25				26				
27					28				29				30				
31					32				33				34				
	35				36				37				38			39	
					40				41				42	43		44	
45	46	47						48				49			50		
51					52	53			54	55			56			57	58
59					60				61				62	63			
64					65				66				67			68	
69			70						71				72			73	
74									75				76			77	
			78						79	80					82		
			83						84				85	86			
89					90				91				92			93	94
95			96						97	98			99			100	101
102									103				104			105	
106									107				108			109	
110									111				112			113	
114									115				116			117	

1/19/20 xwordeditor@aol.com

©2020 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Jan. 19: This year, you will be more deliberate and reflective than in the recent past. You might finally be in the position to help manifest more of what you want. You will need to be deliberate when determining and pursuing your goals. If single, you might want to focus on dating. Several people you meet will be great companions. Be honest if you desire more. If attached, the two of you set some admirable goals. You are likely to succeed if you can discipline yourselves. Sagittarius can annoy you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
You might be in the mood to break recent patterns that do not work for you. Invite a friend or head out by yourself for a drive so that you can focus on your thoughts and feelings.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Others come toward you. Be responsive, but allow yourself to say no to an invitation or suggestion. You might want to make several important calls before making plans.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
Clear out errands and other leftover to-dos. Some of you might even decide to get a head start on your taxes. A loved one or dear friend might want a serious talk. Listen and understand where they are coming from.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
You might have to deal with a loved one who seems overly serious. Think carefully about how you would want to be treated if you were the other party. Follow through accordingly.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
You might enjoy some downtime at home. Many of you might consider following through on certain personal matters that you have been putting on the back burner, but allow some distraction to filter in, too.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
You might be overly busy dealing with mail, paying bills or returning calls. You might even be lured out the door for a late brunch. Mull over some information before reacting.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
You might be inclined to either pay

off your bills or see if you can indulge in a splurge. Many of you will go directly to the splurge. Deal with an older friend or relative.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
You beam in more of what you want. Others seem to be easily persuaded to join in on a great idea. Note that someone who has difficulty agreeing to the idea just wants to be flattered.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
You could be away most of the day, as you have personal matters you would like to handle. Once you have cleared much of what you wanted to accomplish, you plunge into the social scene.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
A friend or loved one might work

hard to help you lighten up. You might want to explain that you want some peace and quiet or that you are going through a personal matter. Be flattered by this person's attention.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
You might not have a choice to do anything but make a must appearance. Whether social or professional, you could find that you like the interactions. Make some time to get together with friends, too.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Consider taking off for a few days to relax or get into a favorite sport. You do not need to justify the reason. A lot of people have cabin fever. A friend might need some time to discuss a serious matter.

Answers to last week's puzzle.

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