

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



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. "Like" the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at 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

ACROSS
1 Col. Potter on "M*A*S*H," to pals
6 Where Biles balances
10 GQ stat
14 Jokes around
19 Anne of "Psycho" (1998)
20 Something up your sleeve
21 Sign of hollowness
22 Idaho's Coeur d'Alene
23 1944 Italian beachhead
24 Standing lead-in
25 Broadway lighter
26 Terra
27 Museum piece depicting a songbird battle?
30 Tabloid-worthy
31 Key fruit
32 Grafton of mystery
33 Mexican menu
34 Bayou sound
35 Pageant accessories
37 "Hulk" star Eric
38 Games go-with
39 KFC choice
40 Turkey concerned with the details?
44 Ed.'s inbox fillers
45 Oregon city namesake
48 Bank acct. item
49 Reach, finally
51 "High Hopes" lyricist
52 Quietly keeps in the loop
54 Dugout sight
56 Khan of Rufus
59 Item in a Blackpool boot
60 Message response
61 Spot for an icicle
62 Rockies roamers
64 Find a purpose for
65 Supply for a bird-of-prey flu epidemic?
68 Cards with pics
69 Like Puffin-treat hands
71 "Archie's Pals n' Me": old comic book series
72 El Al's home: Abbr.
73 Tip-top
74 World Golf Hall of Farmer Nancy

75 Frees (of) jure: by the law itself
77 Genetic chains
78 Soapbox address
81 Blood pressure raiser
82 Talks like Dafny
83 Knight supporter?
84 Target audience for squawkdates.com?
89 star
90 Is afflicted with
91 Those, south of the border
92 Vital lines
95 Bluff and bluster
97 "Now you've done it!"
99 Lane target
100 Snack with a Green Tea version in China and Japan
102 Fighters
103 Troupe of pink entertainers?
106 Runs rampant

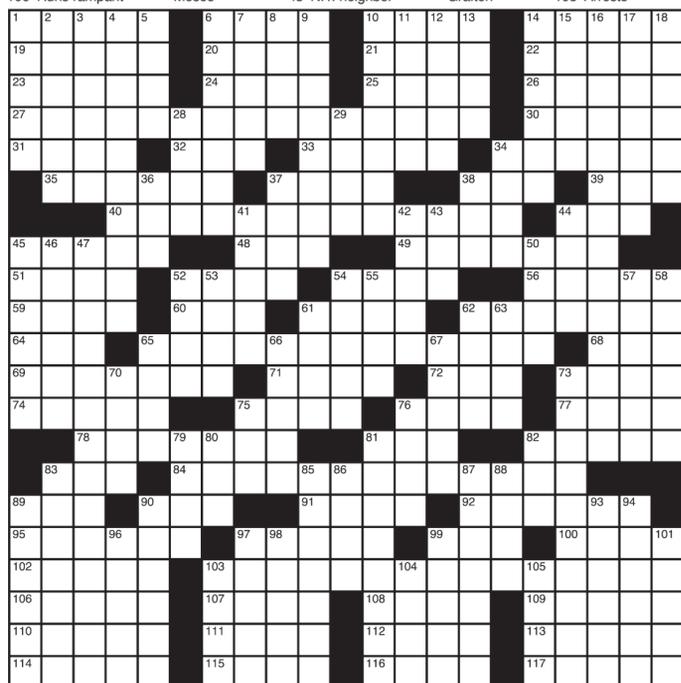
107 Panelist Love of "The Real"
108 It's high in France
109 MGM motto ender
110 Sleeper's option
111 "More than a beauty company"
112 Gritty film genre
113 Persian faith
114 Uncertain ending words
115 Titanic problem
116 Virtually never loses to
117 Well past its prime

DOWN

1 Prayer garment
2 Matisse and Rousseau
3 Aloe target
4 Imitation gem
5 "Where's my cat treat?"
6 Plant associated with the infant Moses
7 Tie the knot on the run
8 "Frozen" princess
9 Performance with tricks
10 Primary
11 Trap during winter
12 River at Avignon
13 D.C. group
14 She played Kelly on "Charlie's Angels"
15 One way to read
16 Where seabirds grab buses?
17 Baits
18 Salty sort
28 "Just wait ___!"
29 Baby spoiler, often
34 Last letter in radio lingo
36 That ship
37 Hoppers
38 Email abbr.
41 market
42 Threw a party for
43 N.Y. neighbor

44 Half a luau serving?
45 Real
46 Tells it like it is
47 Bird skilled at long hoops shots?
50 HMO doctor designations
52 Java neighbor
53 H.S. math course
54 Etali alternatives
55 Currier's partner
57 Take badly?
58 Take stock of
61 "Yikes!"
62 Gutless one
63 Farming prefix
65 Chichén ___
66 Kept in a cask, say
67 Not as green
70 APB subject
73 Upper crust
75 Hermione's guy
76 Nest egg plans
79 Royal until 1917
80 ___ for Innocent": Grafton

81 Music player with many generations
82 Ptr. paper size
83 Initiate
85 Legendary migrator
86 "Ozark" actor
87 2020 Vegas NFLers, if the new stadium is ready
88 Chaplin of "Game of Thrones"
89 "Oh, really?"
90 Warn, feline-style
93 "Queen of Soul"
94 "To be continued" story
96 "We ___ please"
97 Valentine message words
98 Estate centerpiece
99 Drop by
101 Actor Davis
103 Trainer's concern
104 What embers do
105 Arrests



1/19/20

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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.

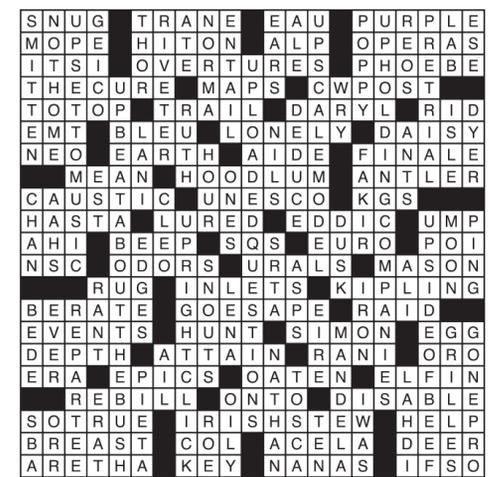
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
A friend or loved one might work

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.



1/12/20