

# DIVERSIONS

## THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

# Flirtation devices: Losing pickup lines

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1367** we asked for pickup lines to be said by particular people, or people in various professions. At least a dozen of you had a **dentist offering to fill the person's cavity**, and a **librarian "checking out"** the desired one. More creative but also submitted by too many people: **Houston Astro: Hey, baby, I already know your sign.**

### 4th place:

**Prince Andrew:** "Excuse me, don't I not know you from somewhere?" (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

### 3rd place:

**A plumber:** "I'll pick you up Friday night sometime between 6:30 and 9:45." (Jesse Rifkin, Arlington)

### 2nd place and the Trump "We Shall Overcome" socks:

**Kanye West:** "I'ma let you finish. I swear." (Mark Raffman, Reston)

### And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

**Orthopedic surgeon:** "What's a joint like that doing in a nice girl like you?" (Alan Duxbury, Carlisle, Pa.)

### So-solicitations:

#### Honorable mentions

**Computer programmer:** "How about you and I go out, just the 10 of us?" (Alan Duxbury)

**Carpenter:** "How about a little tongue and groove in?" (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

**Lawyer:** "Do you or do you not visit this establishment on a regular basis?" (Bob Kruger, Rockville)

**London stockbroker:** "Let's play FTSE!" (Bill Spencer, Cockeysville, Md.)

**Narcissist:** "Is it just me, or am I hot in here?" (Frank Osen)

**Serial killer:** "You know, I have the body of an 18-year-old." (Seth Tucker, Washington)

**Sports radio host:** "I can think about baseball for hours!" (Seth Tucker)

**Virginia legislator (R):** "If that's a gun in your pocket, I'm happy to see you." **Virginia legislator (D):** "If that's not a gun in your pocket, I'm VERY happy to see you." (Allen Haywood, Washington)

**ADA lawyer:** "I'd like to make sure all your entrances are accessible." (Kevin Mettinger, Warren, Va.)

**Actuary:** "Baby, if we get started now, we can enjoy each other 18,325 times before we die!" (Dottie Gray, Alexandria)

**Amnesiac:** "Do I come here often?" (Frank Osen)

**Auto mechanic:** "It looks like you've got a lot of play in that rear end." (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

**SAT tutor:** "The number of drinks I want to buy you is twice what I want to buy Mary. The number of drinks I want to buy Mary is two fewer than I want to buy Sue. I want to buy Sue three drinks. How many do I want to buy you?" (David Kleinbard, Mamaronneck, N.Y.)

**Andrew Yang:** "You know, I'm good at more than math. Oh, and here's a thousand bucks." (Ira Allen, Bethesda)

**Bill Cosby:** "Here, drink this." (Mark Raffman; Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.)

**Brad Pitt:** "Hi." (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn; Eric Nelkin, Silver Spring; Joanne Free, Clifton)

**Chimpanzee keeper:** "I am happy to see you, but I also do have a banana in my pocket." (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

**911 operator:** "Soooo, if your boyfriend doesn't make it, I've already got your number!" (Jeff Shirley, Richmond)

**Crossword constructor:** "When you walked in, you turned 3 Down into 6 Across." (Jesse Rifkin; Jon Gearhart)

**Rep. Devin Nunes:** "I, Devin Nunes, a totally impartial observer, recommend that you go out with Devin Nunes." (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

**Geico Camel:** "Uh-oh! Guess what day it is!" (John Kupiec, Fairfax; Duncan Stevens)

**Tax preparer:** "You don't need any help filling out your form. (Ed Scarbrough, Germantown)

**Jeff Bezos:** "I'm Jeff Bezos." (Stephen Dudzik, Olney)



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

## New contest for Week 1371: The Tile Invitational VII

Yes, **EGNORSU** unscrambles to **SURGEON**. But you could also get:

**EGNORSU > SNOG-RUE:** Morning-after regret. "Caroline awoke with a queasy stomach from last night's beer pong game at the office party, and a worse case of snog-rue from the final-round 'encouragement' from the guy in IT with the 'frohawk'."

**EGNORSU > GROUSEN:** To make someone irritable. "The new neighbor's Labradoodle may be cute, but his barking and poopage are grousening up half the street."

**EGNORSU > UNGORE:** What the Supreme Court did to the 2000 election.

For the VIIth year in a row, below is a list of 45 VII-letter sets taken from the 2005 "Big Book of ScrabbleGrams." Each of them contains at least one real VII-letter word, but the Empress doesn't care if you find it. **This week: Create a five-, six- or seven-letter word (or phrase) by scrambling the letters of any of the sets and define it,** as in the examples above from one of this week's sets.

**AAACLPS AAFJMS AABDNO AABMNOT AACELPT ACENTY AADELMR AADENNT AADHLS AADILWY AAEGMPP AAEHRYS**

**AAFFIRS AAFIPRT AALMORY ABBDMOR ABCCOOT ABDNOSX ABEEELS ABEGMOR ABEJNOW ABELMNU ABHIINT ABHILOS**

**ABILRRY ACDESRU ACDHRR ACEHLLS ACEINTZ ACELNRT ACHITRU ACHKMMO EFIPRTY EGINOSU EGKLORW EGNORSU**

**EHOPRRT EIIMPRW EIKLPSY EIMNOOS EKOORRY ELORTTY EOOTTUV FLMMOUX GILRTUY**

**Important! How to format your entry:** Begin *each* entry with the letter set you're unscrambling, as above, so the E can sort them all into 45 handy-dandy groups. Don't number your entries, because then they won't start with the seven letters, right?

Submit up to a total of 25 entries, from as many letter sets as you like, at [wapo.st/enter-invite-1371](http://wapo.st/enter-invite-1371) (no capitals in the Web address). Deadline is Monday, Feb. 24; results will appear March 15 in print, March 12 online.

**Winner gets the Lose Cannon, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place gets this handsome pair of cuff links** — or they would be handsome had they not had the word "Meh" inexplicably printed in lowercase (it's definitely not a monogram) within their translucent blue glass stones. How Loserly is that for the first-runner-up prize? Donated by Hall of Fame Loser Jeff Contompasis, who suggested the ScrabbleGrams contest back in 2013.

**Other runners-up** win their choice of our "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](http://wapo.st/InvRules). The headline "Flirtation Devices" is by Chris Doyle; Duncan Stevens 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. Check it out at [wapo.st/conv1371](http://wapo.st/conv1371).



Perfect for shrugging: "Meh" cuff links, this week's 2nd prize.

**Larry David:** "Care to come up and see my kvetchings?" (Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.)

**Vice President Pence:** I can see by the fact that you're biologically female that you want me. (Lorraine McMillan, Alexandria)

**Sen. Mitch McConnell:** "Let's get down to the floor and get cozy — and don't worry, there won't be any witnesses." (Hildy Zampella, Alexandria)

**Rudy Giuliani:** "I am not coming

on to you! Oh, wait, I am. Actually, I'm not. Of course I am!" (Sarah Walsh, Rockville)

**Shirley MacLaine:** "Where've you been all my lives?" (Jon Gearhart)

**Sen. Susan Collins:** "Ask me out and I'll give it serious thought for a few weeks before saying no." (Chris Doyle)

**Wilt Chamberlain:** "Next!" (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase; Sam Mertens, Silver Spring)

**Washington Post Date Lab matchmaker:** "Want to bump my success rate up to 3 percent?" (Jesse Rifkin)

**Style Invitational entrant:** "Why, yes, I am a big Loser! How did you know?" (Bill Dorner, Indianapolis)

More honorable mentions in the online Invite at [wapo.st/invite1371](http://wapo.st/invite1371).

**Still running — deadline Monday night, Feb. 17: our contest to write about someone with only the letters of the person's name. See [wapo.st/invite1370](http://wapo.st/invite1370).**

## L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

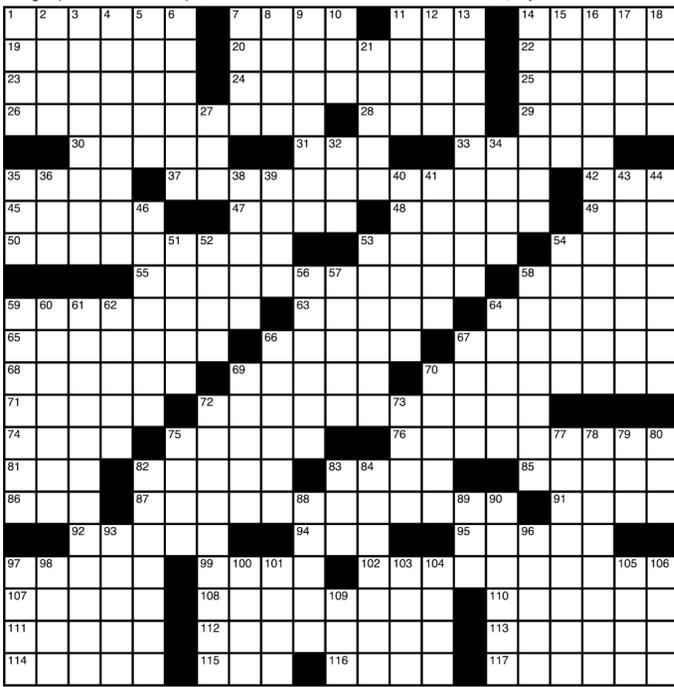
EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

**"CHANGE FOR A BUCK" By ED SESSA**

**ACROSS**  
1 Ports in a storm  
7 Queens stadium namesake  
11 HUN neighbor, to the IOC  
14 Wasn't indifferent  
19 Reading disorder  
20 Car thief's contact  
22 Cremona strings master  
23 How to handle fine china  
24 "In your dreams!"  
25 Encouraged through chicanery  
26 "Ball game record"  
28 Was indebted to  
29 One way to solve crosswords  
30 Nomadic Kenyans  
31 Need an eraser, say  
33 New Guinea  
35 Near-eternity  
37 "One may be six feet long  
42 Asian holiday  
45 Leveled, with "up"  
47 Like many indie films  
48 Some interruptions  
49 Music to a matador's ears  
50 "Try it!"  
53 Diner menu info  
54 Apple starter  
55 "Historic site in Paris" Latin Quarter  
58 Indian title of respect  
59 Early Earth life forms  
63 "The Great Dictator" Oscar nominee Jack  
64 As an example  
65 Either of two Indy 500 racers  
66 Not fulfilled  
67 Wanted poster listings  
68 Weaken  
69 Sheik's land, in song  
70 Most ready for trouble  
71 Baltic people  
72 "Epithet for a fair British maiden  
74 Burden  
75 Yucatán "you"  
76 Ready for trouble  
81 — Lingus  
82 "The Jungle" author Sinclair

83 Smoothie berry  
85 Reliever's stat  
86 Born, in some bios  
87 "Totally ripped" piece  
91 Woodwind  
92 Courtroom pro author  
94 "The Black Cat" author  
95 Blood of the gods  
97 First name in furniture  
99 Intent look  
102 1971 Stones hit, or what can be found in the answers to starred clues  
107 Level and plane  
108 Mix thoroughly, as oil and vinegar  
110 "Rabbit" series author  
111 Musician Minaj  
112 Poppycock  
113 E Street Band notable Van Zandt  
114 Hydrocarbon  
115 Enjoy a run, perhaps  
116 Director's challenges  
117 Most affected by a workout

16 \*Car coolant carrier  
17 Thames campus  
18 Tennis drop shot  
21 Fleece  
27 "... you home to dinner": Shak.  
32 Flat fish  
34 Summit  
35 Motion maker: Abbr.  
36 Period of time  
38 Mrs. Gorbachev access  
40 "Shoot!"  
41 Weimarner's complaint  
43 Eatery seen in the film "Manhattan"  
44 Car and Driver yearly listing  
46 Can't brook  
51 Number of singers in The Chipmunks  
52 Estate beneficiary  
53 Cans for cons  
54 Jeweler's measure  
56 Clown mascot's first name  
57 Thumper's friend  
58 Evening parties  
59 Banking misjudgment  
60 Property recipient, in legal language  
61 "Tourist's eye-opening experience, perhaps  
62 Letter-shaped fasteners  
64 Crayola color renamed Peach in 1962  
66 Like a "Stat!" instruction  
67 Way more than some  
69 Composer  
70 Links army leader  
72 Ovarian hormones  
73 Frosty coat  
75 Knowledgeable about  
77 Manhattan, say  
78 Causing avoidance  
79 Peggy or Brenda of song  
80 Hallucinogenic letters  
82 Fork, for instance  
83 Japan's largest active volcano  
84 Pondering, with "on"  
88 Cars that sound like gems  
89 "... you really just say that?"  
90 Run down a mountain  
93 Blathering  
96 "... it!": "Get moving!"  
97 Italian hot spot  
98 Hard work  
100 Berserk  
101 Pueblo people  
103 "That being the case ..."  
104 Soapmaker's supplies  
105 Just makes, with "out"  
106 Mailed  
109 Watch



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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

## HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Feb. 16:** This year, you might struggle with some confusion, especially surrounding your finances. You will learn to create a tighter base with money. You have an unusual number of friends who help point you in the correct direction, but their opinions will vary. If single, you break a pattern and date different types of people. A budding bond will experience many ups and downs. If attached, the two of you work together to manifest a long-term desire. You will have reason to celebrate. Sagittarius always has a new idea. It is up to you to determine whether it is a good one.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) Feelings might be more intense than you realize. You think in terms of change or creating more stability than you've had in the recent past. You have ideas, but events in the next few weeks could define areas that need attention.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) What you had written off as a no-go easily could become a possibility once more if given patience and time. A friend might reveal some significant information that needs to be reviewed.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) You cannot handle any matter quickly at present. You need to verify you have all your "i"s dotted and "t"s crossed. Somehow you might notice a matter that needs completion. Do not push an authority figure too hard at the moment.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) You have a style that often takes others by surprise. Your ability to cast doubt on what might be a firm agreement proves significant. You might need to discuss the different factors with those involved.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) Your creativity is ignited when you see an issue emerge. Use care as to how quickly you patch it up. You want the matter resolved, but to succeed, you need to slow down and work with each possibility.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Defer to others but know that getting an agreement might be close to impossible. Given time and thought, priorities will change. Do not act on the need to pressure anyone or say anything.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You have so much to do that you might feel as if you cannot accomplish what you need to. Slow

down. Remember, a job well-done is more important than a sloppy one.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You have the imagination, intellect and will to harness an idea and see if it serves your purpose. In several weeks, your opinions could radically change. A child or new friend might reveal an important piece of information.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You could feel ill at ease with some information you hear. You might try out what you heard on the same person who delivered the news. That person's reaction will determine if you need to make a correction.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Speak your mind and follow through on what you deem significant. Your fatigue at recent events, bits of information and general hearsay becomes evident. Do not participate in what is happening.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Zero in on your priorities, and do not allow finances to stop you in your tracks. Your ability to resolve a problem goes past the mundane and involves a general perspective of different facets of the issue.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) You might not mean to add to the present level of confusion, but you do. Loosen up and share your feelings, knowing that they could change. Be willing to take charge of a project. Bring family and friends together.

### Answers to last week's puzzle.

