

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 groovin'?" (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, Cookeysville, 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 AAFIRS ABILRRY EHOPRRT
 AAAJMPS AAFIPRT ACDESRU EIIMPRW
 AABDNNO AALMORY ACDHRR EIKLPSY
 AABMNOT ABBDMOR ACEHLLS EINNOOS
 AACELPT ABCCOOT ACEINTZ EKOORRY
 ACENTY ABDNOSX ACELNRT ELORTTY
 AADELMR ABEEELS ACHITRU EOOTTUV
 AAENNT ABEGMOR ACHKMMO FLMMOUX
 AADHLS ABEJNOW EFIPRTY GILRTUY
 AADILWY ABELMNU EGINOSU
 AAEGMPR ABHIINT EGKLORW
 AAEHRYS ABHILOS EGNORSU

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."

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 (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. 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.



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.

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.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

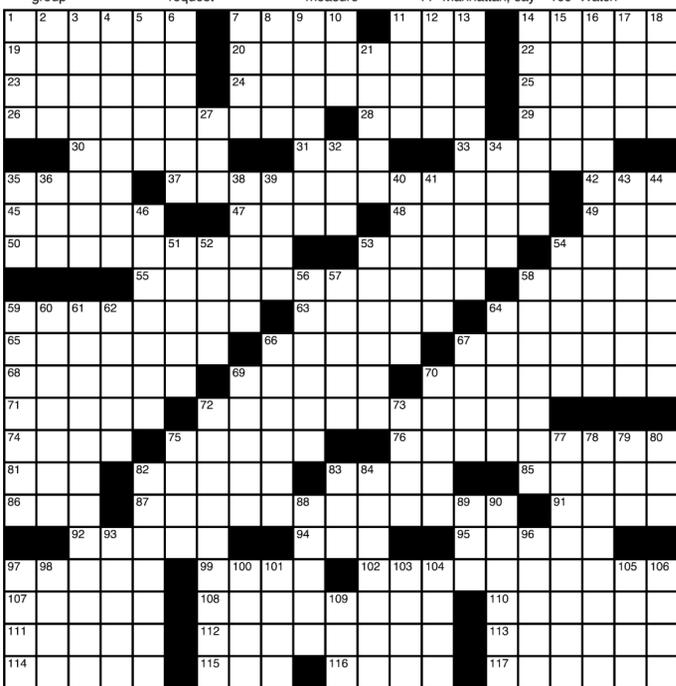
EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

"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
 39 Roughly
 40 "Shoot!"
 41 Weimaraner'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.

