

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Bee: our jest – Spelling-word poems

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1283** we asked for humorous poems featuring any of 21 words that were used in this year's National Spelling Bee. Not surprisingly, our perennial Loserbards rose to the occasion.

4th place

Locheti, describing an animal that lies in wait for prey:
A small spider, locheti, it lies
In its web all day, seeking a prize,
Which is fine, for it feels,
When it comes to good meals,
Time's fun when you're out having flies. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

3rd place

Grognard, an old soldier:
I worked for seven years inside a home for Jewish vets,
Groggnards who moaned and kvetched all day while venting their regrets.
None bought the farm while I was there, so I am proud to say
That my old soldiers never died; they just oy-veyed away. (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

2nd place and the bar of soap with real rolled-up money inside:

Amadelphous, gregarious, tending to live in herds:
(A poem on a joke that's been making the rounds)
Young Justify was quite a guy, the amadelphous sort,
With poise and equine-imity, well liked within his sport.
And could he run! A thundering blast of hoofs and heart and hide;
His Derby, Preakness, Belmont wins were fully Justified.
And when his feat was thus complete – he'd won the Triple Crown,
He heard the brays and whinnied praise for garnering renown.
Neighed he upon his triumph, when a White House visit beckoned,
"If I want to see a horse's arse, I would've come in second."
(Nan Reiner, Boca Raton, Fla.)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

Cointise (kwan-TEEZ), a scarf given by a lady to a knight for him to wear on his armor:
Said the damsel, "I'm building my brand –
My cointise is in such high demand
That it waves in the breeze
By the twos and the threes:
I won't do with a mere one-knight stand." (Mark Raffman, Reston)

Bumbled bees: Honorable mentions

Ankyloglossia (ankle-o-glossia): A condition in which the tongue has limited movement:
I. Hycophant, sycophant,
When in Trump's Cabinet Meetings, you either must
Rain the praise down
Or dash a note claiming
Ankyloglossia:
Can't use your tongue, but your Nose is still brown.
(Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

Ankyloglossia II
A genie said to Donald Trump,
"There's just one wish I'll toss ya."
"Deal!" cried Donnie, and he gave
Mike Cohen ankyloglossia.
(Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station)

Debellation, conquest:
A limerick of anagrams:
DEBELLATION is conquering—we
Must to him ALL OBDIENT be.
With the leader we've got,
We'll be BLEEDIN' A LOT,
As he's LIABLE TO END being free.
(Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)

Debellation II
On a battlefield things get misheard,
As when Patton, while in a formation,
Doffed his helmet to say just one word
To his troops, and that word,
"debellation,"
Was so badly misread that the column stopped dead,
And they waxed all his hair off instead. (Frank Osen)

Besticulture, the exploitation of wild animals for eating, as in hunting and fishing:
A manly pursuit is besticulture
When you have mouths to feed,
But it becomes the worst o' culture
If an AK's what you need.
(Kathleen DeBold, Burtonsville)

Catachresis, incorrect use of a word:
My catachresic family! Folks correct us,
Inferring that our usage is a mess,
But their discrete reprisals won't effect us



BOB STANKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1287: It's parody time: Oldies for newsies

For this latest song parody contest, the Empress was planning to ask for song lyrics on some theme like food or sports. But dang it, it just seems wrong to steer our cadre of Loserbards away from What Is Happening to Our World. **This week: Write some song lyrics about something in the news these days, set to a familiar tune.** They should comprise at least one full verse. The songs I'll run in the print paper (including the top four winners) are likely to be very well known, and short; online, however, I'll include links to video clips of the original tunes, so we can include some deeper cuts so readers can follow along with the melodies. Feel free to submit your own videos, but it's the quality of the lyrics, not video production, that gets the ink. **You get an extra week! Deadline is Monday night, July 23.** That way it's less likely your lyrics will already be out of date by Aug. 5. Submit entries at the website wapo.st/enter-invite-1287 (all lowercase).

Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a cute lil' **squeeze toy consisting of a shark with a human foot sticking out of its mouth;** squeeze Sharkie and it sticks out farther. Now *that's* a stress-reliever during beach season. Donated by Mike Creveling. **Other runners-up** win our "You Gotta Play to Lose" Loser Mug or our Grossery Bag, "I Got a B in Punmanship." Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, "We've Seen Better" or "IDIOT Card." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). Results published Aug. 5 (online Aug. 2). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline for this week's results is by Tom Witte; Danielle Nowlin and Chris Doyle both submitted 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" 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 discusses each new contest and set of results. Especially if you plan to enter, check it out at wapo.st/styleconv.



Now just relax and squeeze this stress reliever . . . this week's second prize.

"Cause all and all, we frankly could care less.
Our language skill is fulsome, and we float it,
Not phased by all the references they site.
Except it, 'cause there's no two bones about it:
For all intensive purposes, we're right.
(Duncan Stevens)

Myrmecophagous, feeding on ants:
I may be myrmecophagous,
But I have a clean esophagus.
(Neal Starkman, Seattle)

Amadelphous, living in herds or flocks:
We're amadelphous, we're birds of a feather,
We're constantly living in fear,
When kitty cats find us hanging together,
We just get the flock out of here.
(Dave Zarrow, Reston)

Cointise, a scarf, etc., given by a lady to a knight to display:
"A cointise," I begged Miss Upton,
"some item of your clothes –
I'll brandish it to show the world that you're my wife-to-be."
But my swimsuit-model sweetie's still a secret no one knows,
For the garments that she gave me are all much too small to see.
(Duncan Stevens)

Locheti, lying in wait:
Locheti, she waits for her innocent prey,
Then springs like a sprinter takes off from the block!
Engaged in a violent, merciless fray,
My cat has successfully captured my sock.
(Matt Monitto, Bristol, Conn.)

Beloid, arrow-shaped:
I shot an arrow in the air.
It fell to earth. I heard you swear.
You'd be unscathed and un-annoyed
If I'd yelled, "Duck!" not "Look out,

beloid." (Frank Osen)

Winklepickers, pointy-toed shoes that were a fad among rock-and-roll fans in 1950s Britain:

With winklepickers on our feet,
We'd rock it out till dawn.
The loud guitars! The pulsing beat!
We really got it on!
Regrettably, our time is past,
We're gimpy, old and sick –
But who of us could hope to last
As long as Keith and Mick?
(Mark Raffman)

Fourrier (furrier), something that comes before; a precursor:
"Don't go pulling our leg! Was it chicken or egg?
Answer quickly, we're all in a hurry here!"
So after a bit, quoth one logical wit:
"It was whichever one was the fourrier."
(Kevin Mettinger, Warrenton)

Fourrier II
"The young man was a furrier," I thought his lover said.
I pictured hot, impassioned nights with mink-lined sheets abed.
But she said, "I misunderstood;
'twas not romantic lore:
The word, she spoke was fourrier, defined as "comes before."
(Rob Cohen, Potomac)

Propylaeum, the vestibule to a Roman temple:
Your body is a temple that I worship toes to hair,
What I'd give for a chance to see 'em!
I raise my ardent torch to your vaunted beauty rare
But can't get it through your propylaeum.
(Allan Zackowitz, Brookeville)

Bondieuserie, bad religious art:
I rendered her an icon – the Empress with a halo –
Submitted, with my entries, this bondieuserie;
She still turned down my jokes about Kardashians and J-Lo,
But told me that my painting "sure was Losery."
(Duncan Stevens)

More honorable mentions in the online Invite at wapo.st/invite1287.

Still running – deadline Monday night, July 9: our neologism contest to replace P's in a word with other letters. See wapo.st/invite1286.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

"STRAIGHT A'S" By VICTOR BAROCCAS

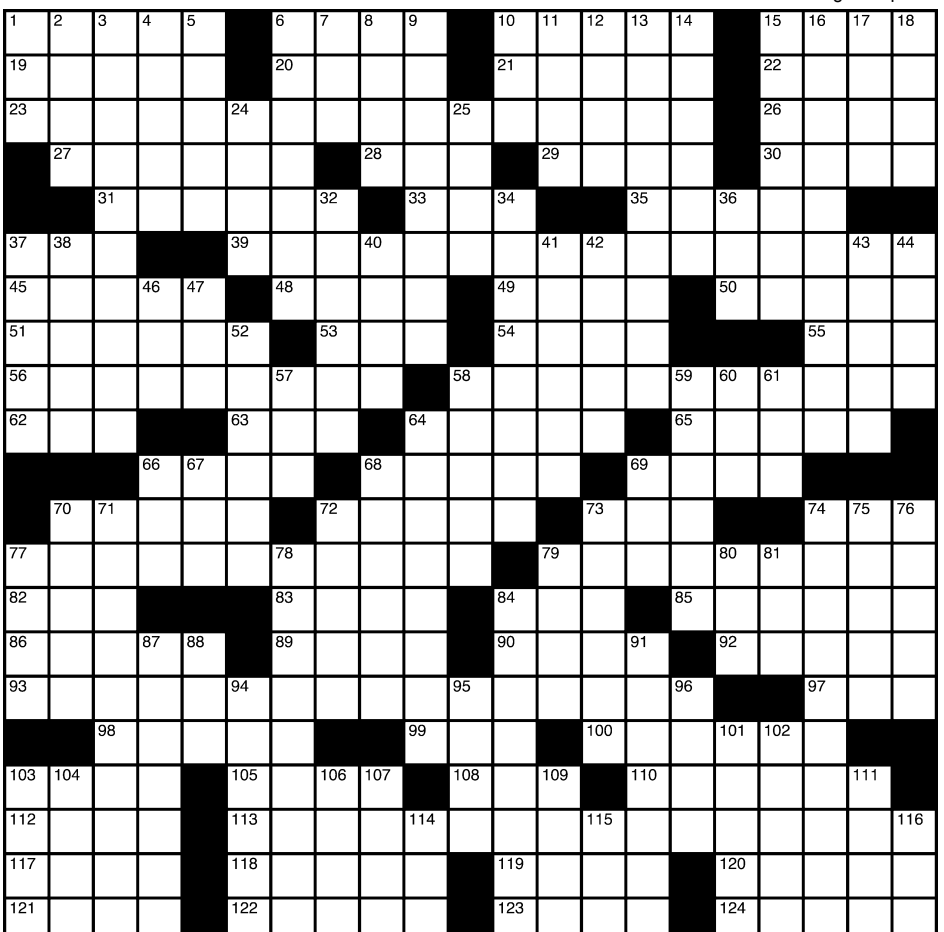
- 1 Derby town
- 6 One of 256 in a gal.
- 10 Davis of "Dr. Dolittle"
- 15 Pale tone
- 19 Bread in a Hillel sandwich
- 20 Learn
- 21 William Scott of "American Pie" films
- 22 Second person in Paris?
- 23 One who has blown a gasket, perhaps
- 26 Top-notch
- 27 Livestock identifier
- 28 Greek vowel
- 29 Jay or A
- 30 Dr.'s hours, e.g.
- 31 Soviet Union
- 32 Salyut :: USA ::
- 33 Inventor
- 35 Whitney
- 37 Classic fruity drinks
- 39 AAA, to a 23-Across
- 45 Chilly
- 48 Cleveland's lake
- 49 One-time Jets home
- 50 Indiana Jones' real first name
- 51 "House" star
- 53 Friend to Tarzan
- 54 "Three and out" football play
- 55 Shell propeller
- 56 Old recording accessory
- 58 AAA, to a 56-Across, usually
- 62 Pre-op test
- 63 Wrath
- 64 Friend of Che
- 65 Brontë sister
- 66 "The cookies are done!" sound
- 68 Religious acts
- 69 Like some ukes
- 70 Baggy
- 72 First name in sci-fi
- 73 School opening?
- 74 Faux
- 77 North Carolina baseball team
- 79 Office builder?
- 82 Convo member
- 83 Pop singer
- 84 Debtor's letters

- 85 Adverb in the "Star Trek" intro
- 86 Rock with bands
- 89 Put on a mission
- 92 Like the center of attention
- 93 AAA, for the 77-Dolittle
- 97 Frehley of Kiss
- 98 Dismal, poetically
- 99 Sgt.'s underling
- 100 Silts, say
- 103 Transit map dot
- 105 1003, to Tiberius
- 108 Verdi's "tu"
- 110 Copy illegally
- 112 "Daily Planet"
- 113 AAA, for 79-Across
- 117 MLBer with 696 home runs
- 118 Fit fight fists
- 119 Soothing agent
- 120 Prisoner's place, in an 1894 adventure novel
- 121 Snowblower brand
- 122 Thus far

- 123 Are inclined
- 124 Rye blight
- DOWN
- 1 Common core?
- 2 Liver spread to
- 3 European Parliament meeting city
- 4 Missouri's Mountains
- 5 "Spamalot" name
- 6 What's "afoot," to Holmes
- 7 Home for a tulip
- 8 Likewise, with "the"
- 9 Doolittle, to Higgins
- 10 Bear, in Barcelona
- 11 Blood fluids
- 12 Move easily
- 13 Lacking feeling
- 14 Major course
- 15 Like many
- 16 Deep-fries
- 17 Mystical character

- 18 Like many eBay products
- 24 Glen relative
- 25 Cooper work
- 32 Read the riot act to
- 34 Big-time
- 36 Title for Kate Middleton, briefly
- 37 Split in two
- 38 Shakespearean cry of woe
- 40 Ready to pick channels
- 41 Inclined
- 42 Streisand title
- 43 Nonsensical
- 44 Charlotte's Jane
- 46 Bobby enshrined in a Toronto hall
- 47 Shakespearean cry of disgust
- 52 "The Monster" rapper
- 57 Website suffix
- 58 Small servings
- 59 Surf music feature
- 60 Sumac of Peru

- 61 RSVP part
- 64 Topped off
- 66 Cry from Homer
- 67 "Love Battlefield": Pat Benatar hit
- 68 Court decision
- 69 Member of Sauron's army, in Tolkien
- 70 Video game
- 71 Certain transplant need
- 72 Where Herod reigned
- 73 Pope during the French Revolution
- 74 Offering downloadable content
- 75 Company with a duck in its logo
- 76 Flair
- 77 Nip at a bar
- 78 "Stop fooling around!"
- 79 Pouty face
- 80 Wind-knocked-out sound
- 81 Cal Poly campus site, initially
- 84 Behave cruelly towards
- 87 Sea battle weapon
- 88 "I kissed thee": "Othello"
- 91 Trying to resist the rich dessert, say
- 95 Even once
- 96 Retreat
- 101 Barely hit
- 102 Food processor?
- 103 Venetian blind part
- 104 Root for a luau
- 106 Black
- 107 Output from Rodin's thinker?
- 109 Not in operation
- 111 Prefix with skeleton
- 114 Minn. winter hours
- 115 Bromide particle
- 116 Gangster's piece



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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! July 8: This year is a year to remember. Creativity, romance and children are highlighted. You also are likely to create what you desire. Your circle of friends will be instrumental in making your year so memorable. If you are single, imagine what could happen if you opted to be more open-minded. Explore your options. If you are attached, the two of you act as if you are new lovers. Enjoy this romantic period. Taurus gives you good advice, but you tend not to follow it.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
You will enjoy the easy and fun pace of the day. You might want to relax by the water or head to a favorite museum. Wherever you choose to be, you will enjoy yourself to the fullest.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
You feel optimistic and are willing to let go more than usual. You finally might get together with a longtime friend. When you stop and look around, you'll realize how lucky you are.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
You might opt to get a head start on a project. When you're silent and reflective, you see a new path. A discussion with an associate may be needed. Though often you prefer not to hear this person's feedback, today might be a different story.

CANCER (June 21-July 21)
You could see a personal matter much differently because of how someone explains the other side. Know that you might need to let go of a certain position to make progress. Seek out others' opinions, as you have today.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
You are all personality. The problem lies in the fact that others want to involve you in all aspects of socializing. If you had your way, you would give yourself more space and spontaneity. Don't worry, you will be able to relax soon enough.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Reach past your normal limits right now, whether you are making plans, considering a different approach or having a discussion. You might start understanding a loved one who at times seems ditsy. This person is often daydreaming.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
One-on-one relating elicits a strong reaction from a partner. You can deal with the innate uproar

surrounding the situation. Fortunately, your sense of humor carries you through problems.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
You have the opportunity to see a friend or family member quite differently. If you step back and observe how this person is with others, you might understand them better. Up to now, you have wondered about your past interactions.

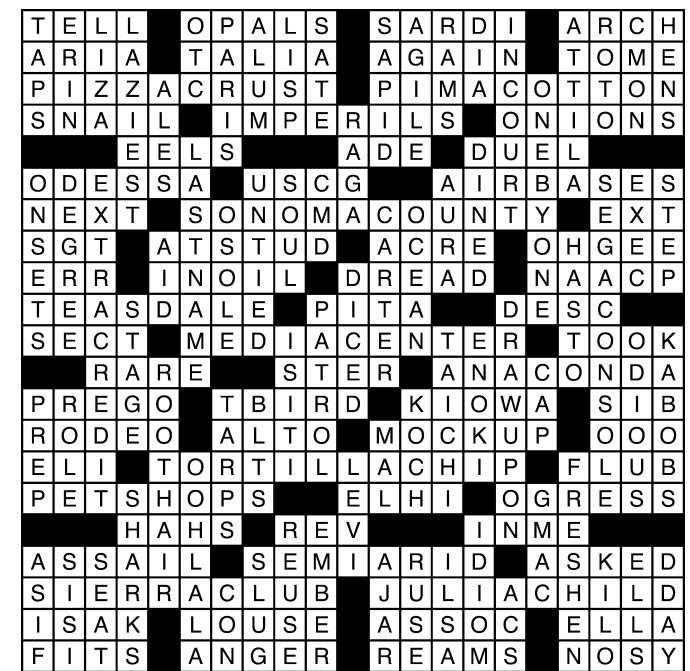
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Make it your pleasure to get into a project. You could enjoy the time alone. Perhaps you can do some thinking and questioning about recent events. Playing it low-key would be smart and could help you see some obstacles that are likely to arise.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Your playfulness delights a child or loved one. Know that this person will respond in kind. Decide to get involved with a hobby or activity that delights both of you. You might even head to a fair or an amusement park.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Get together with a friend whom you have not been able to see in a while. You need to visit with this person to explain how busy you have been. Once you clear the air, you will have a great time together.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
You can be a bit too vague for people to really get who you are. Opt for simplicity and be open to others' questions. Though you have difficulty being simple and clear, make an effort. A close friend wants to call the shots and run the show; let them.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



7/18