

## DIVERSIONS

## THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

## Shouts from the jerkinhead: 'Rude word' poems

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1090 we presented a list of perfectly wholesome words that don't sound wholesome; we found them on a list of "50 Words That Sound Rude but Actually Aren't," by Paul Anthony Jones in the magazine *Mental Floss*. And then we asked for humorous poems featuring these mostly obscure words — and the poems had to make sense with their true meanings, even if they were also fun to read as if the words were really risqué. Most of the poems' humor did come from double-entendres, but some of today's inking poems are funny even when the words are only singly entendred. Below are three of the winners; see the rest in the online Invite at [bit.ly/invite1094](http://bit.ly/invite1094).

## The winner of the Inkin' Memorial

How you fish for adulation  
With that post from your vacation!  
There's the haul you trawled,  
displayed  
Beside a hottie (whom you've leif'd)  
Of perfect tan and bright white  
teeth;

You humblebrag thus underneath:  
"Some lucky catch, eh? Holy moly!"  
I remark, "**Aholehole!**"  
(Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station)  
(*Aholehole*, pronounced *ah-holay-holay*,  
is a Hawaiian fish.)

## 2nd place and "The Klutz Book of Inventions"

A true story about an assapanick, or  
flying squirrel:

A creepy critter came to call — it  
was an **assapanick**;  
He slid beneath my bedroom door,  
like something quite satanic.  
I never saw him coming, so I  
wasn't filled with dread;  
In fact, I was asleep — until he  
landed in my bed.

I guess my shriek unnerved him,  
and he prob'ly lost his balance,  
'Cause that is when he spread his  
"wings" and swooped up to the  
valance.

My valiant husband let him out the  
window (I had fled!);  
The moral is: Be sure you know  
who else is in your bed.  
(Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

## 3rd place

**Gullgroppers**: they are a group to  
beware of;  
One's bad enough — even worse is  
a pair of.  
They are the preyers, the tricksters,  
the scammers,  
Ready to swindle your grandpas  
and grammers. (Mae Scanlan,  
Washington)  
(*A gullgropper* is a swindler.)

**Still running — deadline Monday  
night: our contest for ill-advised  
ideas for a business to make a  
few more bucks. See [bit.ly/invite1093](http://bit.ly/invite1093).**



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1094:  
TAXI's the fare for Tour de Fours XI

**FIX-A-TAT: You got "I'm Awesome" printed on your forearm? Did the butterfly from 30 years ago stretch into a giant amoeba? Here's the makeover you need!**

**TAXTILE: Governmental fleecing material.**  
**FLEXITABOO: Okay, he's my first cousin, but it's not like we knew each other well or anything, I mean until . . .**

It's our 11th annual Tour de Fours neologism contest, which is why this year the Empress chose a letter group containing X and I. (She chose the other two letters for the clever reason that they worked for the above examples.) It's the same drill as in our previous tensome: **Coin a word or hyphenated term that contains the letter block T-A-X-I; the letters may be in any order, but there may be no other letters between them.**

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a prize that reflects the Style Invitational's prestige in the world of American letters, as exemplified both by its manifold additions to the English lexicon and, as this week's results illustrate, by its contribution to the nation's poetic oeuvre: It's the Bubble Geezer, an ingenious device in the shape of an elderly man, and described thus on its box: "This old geezer will surprise everyone. Just pour in the bubble solution and he will blow bubbles from his behind. Requires 3 AA batteries (not included)." Donated by Loser Cheryl Davis, the source of so much of our second-place swag over the years.

**Other runners-up** win their choice of a yearned-for Loser Mug or the ardently desired "Whole Fools" Grossery Bag. Honorable mentions get a lusted-after Loser magnet in one of our two new Bob Staake designs: either "The Wit Hit the Fan" or "Hardly Har-Har." First Offenders receive a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). E-mail entries to [losers@washpost.com](mailto:losers@washpost.com) or, if you were born in the 19th century, fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Oct. 27; results published Nov. 16 (online Nov. 13). No more than 25 entries per entrant per contest. Include "Week 1094" in your e-mail subject line or it might be ignored as spam. Include your real name, postal address and phone number with your entry. See contest rules and guidelines at [wapo.st/InvRules](http://wapo.st/InvRules). This week's honorable-mentions subhead is by Jeff Contompassis. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](http://on.fb.me/invdev), and click "like" on Style Invitational Ink of the Day at [bit.ly/inkofaday](http://bit.ly/inkofaday).

**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](http://wapo.st/styleconv).

## POST PUZZLER

## No. 237

BY TODD MCCLARY EDITED BY PETER GORDON • FIREBALLCROSSWORDS.COM

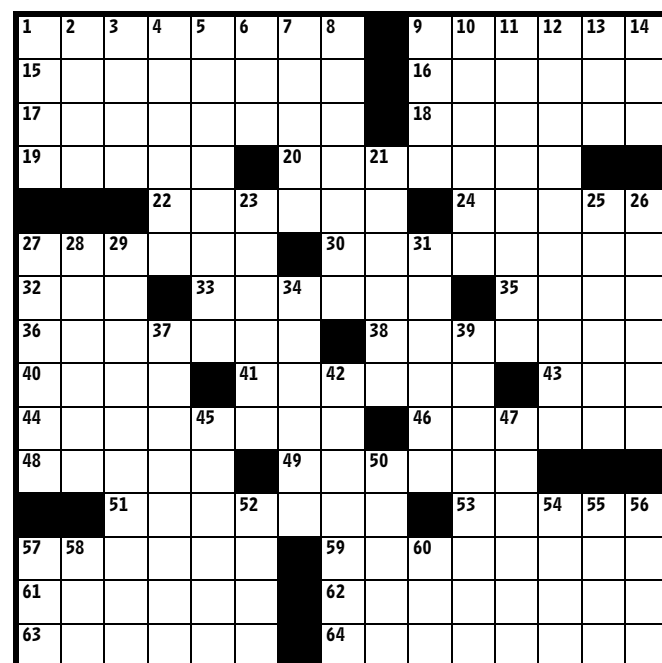
**ACROSS**  
1 "A whole new world of baking ... in a box!" sloganer, once  
9 Name brand?  
15 Team with  
16 Victoria Cross, e.g.  
17 Make some preliminary wedding plans  
18 Overrun  
19 Word with anchor or chain  
20 Places where workers lie down on the job  
22 Console radio part  
24 \_\_\_ Pedrad (character in the "Divergent" book series)  
27 Common college deliveries  
30 With child  
32 Fail to keep clean?  
33 High-quality  
35 Tournament calculations

36 2003 memoir by former Marine Anthony Swifford  
38 Intimidate visually  
40 Crumhorn descendant  
41 Flops with fins  
43 Airport near D.C.  
44 Accidentally spills  
46 UNESCO World Heritage Site in Sicily  
48 Putter's concern  
49 Like a touchdown position  
51 Honeycomb section  
53 He "wants a gal who's dreamy" in a classic TV theme  
57 Billet-doux term of address  
59 Virus protection  
61 "Talk Dirty" pop singer Jason  
62 Portrayer of sitcom patriarch Jay Pritchett  
63 Picked  
64 Energy bar ingredient

**DOWN**  
1 Rock bottom?  
2 "No argument here"  
3 2008 National League Rookie of the Year Geovany  
4 It's 7 on the Mohs scale of hardness  
5 Not legal, in a way  
6 Princess in the video game Monument Valley  
7 Company with a large advertising sign in Boston's Kenmore Square  
8 Worked, as dough  
9 Branch of Islam  
10 Raspberry producer?  
11 Wanting

12 Sees red?  
13 Symbols for coefficient of friction  
14 "The proper task of life," according to Nietzsche  
21 Hearts irregularity  
23 Jesus Trail setting  
25 Very early  
26 Olympic flame tender  
27 He joined the 500 home run club in 2014  
28 "Guys and Dolls" Tony winner Bigley  
29 Like a successful turnaround  
31 Blondie hit  
34 Job for the summer?  
37 Ship done in by the reef of Norman's Woe

39 Many a Phi Beta Kappa candidate  
42 Sent up  
45 Congress-initiated expulsion?  
47 Eco-friendly Saab concept car  
50 Left-handed, in a way  
52 Astronomical measurement  
54 "Charles in Charge" star  
55 Troubles  
56 Presenter of annual Style Awards  
57 Org. in "The Strain"  
58 Schemer's laugh sound  
60 On the \_\_\_ (Colorado baseball blog)



Answer to last week, No. 236

B A S E R M E G A B I T S  
A L A M O Y A M A G U C H I  
C U R I O O R A T O R I E S  
K M A R T U Z I S S E L L  
R I T S O R E L I T S M E  
U N O S T E N A N T T A R  
B U G A B O O D O C S  
M A R I O N D S H A R P  
A X L E R A Y B U R N  
A D D B E T H E L U S A F  
L E E R Y O U S T S T L C  
L A V A L T D S O L L I E  
O R A N G E A D E R E I N A  
W I N D M I L L S T O N E S  
S E E D C A K E A N G S T

## HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY | OCT. 19:** This year you connect to what is going on in your subconscious. Whether you access this information through your dreams or through unexpected insights, the outcome will be the same. Your home life may be subject to change. Many of you will move, while others will remodel. A new roommate is a possibility. If you are single, you might want to socialize more and expand your circle of friends. If you are attached, the two of you enjoying going out and about, but you benefit enormously from one-on-one time.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19)  
Plans are likely to get confused. Someone you need to deal with may be unusually difficult. Your natural impulsiveness may compound the situation.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20)  
Your creativity might enchant others, but it may cause a problem when it comes to making plans. You could end up with so many options that others cannot decide.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)  
You are more grounded than you realize. A close associate seems out of sorts and might become controlling as a result. A friend might surprise you with unexpected news.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22)  
Speak your mind. Don't expect someone to know that there might be a problem. Allow your

imagination to help you find the right words to encourage a loved one.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)  
Be aware of the financial implications of certain choices. You might want to revise your budget as well as how you spend your time. Make a call to someone at a distance.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)  
Your personality often attracts those who are different. Your creativity might take you in a new direction and allow a partner to feel freer. Expect the unexpected.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)  
You might want to do more for others, but right now you need to care for yourself. If you are not well rested and there is some chaos in a key area of your life, you are not in the position to give. Clear your plate first.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)  
You'll have a lot of nervous energy that needs to be worked out. Go for a lengthy walk and enjoy the fall foliage. Tonight, join friends, but curb your spending.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)  
You might have wanted to spend time with a friend or a good book, but a situation demands your presence. Though you might not be in agreement with what is happening, you will be supportive.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)  
You might not be getting the full story — in fact, you can count on that hunch being right. Revise your thinking, if need be. Charge any frustration into assuming a positive role. Tonight, cocoon at home.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)  
Plan to spend quality time with a loved one or special friend. Your ability to address problems helps someone see his or her way through an emotional maze.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)  
Defer to a loved one who is needier and more emotional than you are. Avoid making this behavior a pattern; otherwise, you might find yourself feeling depleted.

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## School fundraiser raises hackles

## Ask Amy

AMY  
DICKINSON

**Dear Amy: My sister asked me to purchase a frozen cheesecake, cookies or pretzel dough from my nephew for his**

**school fundraiser. I told her that I would send a donation directly to the program because I was not interested in the items.**

**My sister pushed the cookies, and I told her that I did not want to be bullied into purchasing an item that I did not want. She told me that my nephew did not want a donation; he wanted 10 orders so he could win a watch. She also stated that she would tell my nephew that I was on a special diet and could not order anything (which is not true).**

**My mother called and asked to place an order (in my name) to ease the tension. I said, "No, I will give a donation and purchase the watch for the boy." I wanted to directly invest in my nephew, so I sent a letter and donation to his school. Any advice? I'm interested in your opinion.**

Irritated

**You are not only irritated, you are irritating. You come by it naturally, however — because your whole family seems to be persistently thorny. I understand**

**your larger point, but here's a parallel version of the drama as it might have gone, scripted by yours truly:**

**Sister: I'd like you to purchase some frozen dough from "Buddy" for his school fundraiser.**

**You: Why don't you have him give me a call?**  
(Buddy calls and gives his pitch)

**You: Well, I don't want baked goods, Buddy, but how about I order one dozen pretzels, and when they come in I'll pass them along to you to share with your Boy Scout troop?**

**Your mother has absolutely no role to play in this drama. She should not waste her star power on such petty matters. See how easy things are when everybody plays their part?**

**Dear Amy: Regarding the ongoing debate about having a television in the workplace break room, I empathize with an employee who simply wants a quiet lunch. Hopefully, any TV installed will have a "caption/mute" option.**

**We see this function used often in waiting rooms and other public areas. Removing the noise removes the distraction. Unfortunately, this does not alleviate the programming wars.**

**A rotation schedule worked at my workplace. Above all, try to have stress-free time during a hectic workday. You'll live longer.**

Glad to Be Retired

**Every day I hear from people who tell me they read and discuss my column in the break room at work. Television disrupts round-table conversations — and it interferes with a hardworking person's right (and need) to ratchet down briefly during the day.**

**Dear Amy: The letter from "Mother-in-Law" about her son-in-law's condescending behavior was familiar to me. I experienced similar treatment from my son-in-law until I confronted him directly and asked him to stop publicly ridiculing me. I soon realized his rude attitude was a result of his low self-esteem and a need to put others down.**

Another Mother-in-Law

**You handled this challenging situation well. Congratulations.**

Amy's column appears seven days a week at [www.washingtonpost.com/](http://www.washingtonpost.com/) advice. Write to Amy Dickinson at [askamy@tribune.com](mailto:askamy@tribune.com) or Ask Amy, Chicago Tribune, TT500, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60611.