

## DIVERSIONS

## THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

## A spell of bard luck: The results of Week 1129

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1129** we put up a list of 50 stumblers from this year's National Spelling Bee and asked for short poems featuring them. Many Loserbards noted that "epithalamium" has that ONE-two-three, TWO-two-three meter – a double dactyl; this week's Inkin' Memorial winner is the best of them, in its knitted-highbrow/lowbrow glory.

## 4th place

HIPPOCREPIFORM, *horseshoe-shaped*

Dear John: While stuff that's hippocrepiform  
Is sometimes known to take the world by storm—  
The playground swing, the basic yoga pose,  
The seam that joins the legs of pantyhose,  
The handle of the hanging kitchen spoon,  
The "C," the horseshoe (duh!), the crescent moon—  
The truth, my darling, is that your appendage  
Was better when it had a lot less... bendage.  
(Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

## 3rd place

HOOROOSH, *a wild, hurried or excited state or situation*

**Under D.C., (as sung by Sebastian the Crab from "The Little Mermaid")**  
WMATA, dey always pleadin'; dey beg me to take de train.  
Now I goin' to miss my meetin'; de subway is late again.  
We trudge down into de station 'cause de escalator broke.  
De Center of Operation: hoooroosh as we fill wid smoke!  
Under D.C., under D.C.! Endin' location: your destination, or destiny?  
Cellphone no good in subway car. What do I need dis hassle far?  
I'm not a goober; I'm callin' Uber.  
Under D.C. (Nan Reiner, Alexandria)

## 2nd place and the books "Nature's Nether Regions" and "Art of the Fart":

**CIBARIAL**, *referring to food*  
My passions are cibarial  
From breakfast time till bed.  
Advisers actuarial  
Predict I'll soon be dead.  
"I love my weight!" I tell them straight,  
And advocate they try it:  
If this is man's intended state.  
Then why is "die" in "diet"?  
(Stephen Gold, Glasgow, Scotland)

## And the winner of the Inkin' Memorial

EPITHALAMIUM (EP-i-tha-LAME-ium), *a song composed for a wedding*

Higgledy piggledy  
Iggy Azalea  
Rocks out her wedding to  
Nick in July,  
Rapping her vows in an  
Epithalamium:  
"Beg for it, baby, from I-G-G-Y."  
(Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

## Spelling B-pluses: honorable mentions

**MINHAG** (MIN-hog), *Jewish custom that has developed over time rather than being decreed* At my Seder there's no paschal lamb,  
As Reform as can be? That I am!  
So my family minhag:  
A fat "it's no sin" hog!  
Want a slice of my Passover ham?  
(Mark Raffman, Reston)

**COLLUTORIUM**, *mouthwash*  
A man went inside an emporium  
And purchased some cheap collutorium.  
Unlike Listerine,  
This was eau de latrine.  
He's listed today In Memoriam.  
(Mae Scanlan, Washington)

**EPITHALAMIUM**, *a wedding song*  
Blubbery glubbery,  
Edith of Downton was  
Left at the altar, her  
Heart full of gloom;  
Quickly they wrote a new  
Epithalamium —  
Guess what they titled it?  
"There Goes the Groom." (Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

**SCYTALE** (either "sittily" or "sightly"), *a coded message written on a strip of leather, then decoded when wrapped around a pole*  
Spartans found it worked so prettily:  
Secret writing with a scytale.  
They would wind long strips of leather  
Round a staff; when put together,  
Staff and strips bore information.  
So "scytale," in my translation,  
In terms of how it does the trick,  
Is simply this: a memory stick.



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

## Week 1133: Are 'hew ready? A contest for clerihews

**Not one but two football players, C.J. Wilson and Jason Pierre-Paul, Lost fingers playing, but not playing ball. They cost themselves plenty because they were jerks With fireworks.**

While judging the contest whose results run today, the Empress waded through a mire of verses (not the ones that got ink, of course) that seemed to *want* to have a meter, some recognizable rhythm, but instead went floundering around like a team of draft horses that started galumphing into each other within their traces. But the ever-resourceful E did not despair: Why not *use* our abundant resources of bad meter for a poetry genre that embraces it? Hence our second-ever contest for clerihews, our first since 1995. Named for its inventor, the British humorist Edmund Clerihew Bentley (1875-1956), a **clerihew is a humorous four-line rhyming poem about a person whose name is mentioned in the first line; in fact, the name must be at the end of that line (or constitute the whole line) so that it has to rhyme with something. The rhyme structure (and we don't want "lazy" rhymes) is AABB: the first line rhymes with the second, the third with the fourth.** While the rhymes have to be valid, the meter can be off, as in the example above by Gene Weingarten, who as a passionate New York Giants fan is passionately angry at Jason Pierre-Paul. You may use either fictional or real people; the Empress tends to favor subjects who've been in the news recently, though she's made many exceptions for oldies.

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobble head. Second place — in a salute to E.C. Bentley — receives another in our Cup Size series, this one marginally more printable: a U.K. souvenir shot glass featuring two voluptuous glass breasts barely covered by a flag bikini top. Call it a Union Jill. Donated by Style Invitational Devotee Ellen Goldlust.

**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 designed by Bob Staake: 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 or, if you were born in the 19th century, fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday night, July 27; results published Aug. 16 (online Aug. 13). You may submit up to 25 entries per contest. Include "Week 1133" 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). The headline for this week's results is by Chris Doyle; the honorable-mentions subhead was sent in by both Nan Reiner and William Kennard. A clerihew contest was suggested by both David Smith and Michael Greene. 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).

**THE STYLE CONVERSATIONAL** The Empress's weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. Especially if you plan to enter (she'll share the results of the Invite's first clerihew contest), check it out at [wapo.st/styleconv](http://wapo.st/styleconv).

(Hugh Thirlway, The Hague)

For this message (I'll ask you politely)  
Please wrap it around the stick tightly;  
If it's loose on the staff,  
The receiver will laugh.  
"I can't read this — it's much too un-scytale."  
(Ann Martin, Falls Church)

**SAMADHI** (sa-MAH-di), *a state of intense concentration*  
A yogi's meditation has him  
Feeling an orgasmic spasm  
In an out-of-body trance.  
Oh, what a samadhi-pants!  
(Chris Doyle)

**MAMALIGA** (mama-leega), *a Romanian cornmeal dish*  
When I first heard "mamaliga," I almost felt a rush!  
I thought it sounded sexual, but now I know that's mush. (Howard Walderman, Columbia)

**COCOZELLE** (coco-zelly), *a zucchini-like squash*  
The doctor was astonished;



Just right for a nip of British gin: this week's second prize.

His patient he admonished:  
"Cocozelle is delish  
Sliced or diced, served with fish."  
So tell me truthfully, my dear,  
How'd this one get up your rear?"  
(Lois Bartis, MD, McLean, a First Offender)

**TARTAREAN** (either "tarta-RE-an" or "tar-TAIR-ean"), *hellish*  
It figures: When you hardly ever floss—  
A wicked lapse, in your hygienist's view,  
Because it boosts your risk of dental loss—  
And then she scrapes your plaque and scours your goo  
To save you from a grin that's European,  
The torture's positively tartarean.  
(Melissa Balmain)

In Hades, the pit most tartarean's  
Reserved for pedantic grammarians. (Chris Doyle)

**EPHELIDES** (e-FELL-e-deez), *freckles*  
A fella sees  
Penelope's  
Ephelides.  
"The hell a' dese? Some yella fleas?"  
Let's quell-a these —  
Umbrella, please!"  
(Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

**VESPIARY**, *a nest of wasps*  
Persons should be very wary  
Getting near a vespiary.  
Do not denigrate the wasp:  
It can put you in the hosp.  
(Mae Scanlan)

More honorable mentions in the online Invite at [bit.ly/invite1133](https://www.facebook.com/bit.ly/invite1133).

**Still running — deadline Monday night: our contest for bogus history trivia. See bit.ly/invite1132.**

## POST PUZZLER

BY MARTIN ASHWOOD-SMITH © 2015 CROSSNERGY SYNDICATE LLC

ACROSS		DOWN	
1	1954 Broadway hit, with "The"	1	Georgia crop
11	Give up	2	Relief pitcher?
15	Counted, in a way		
16	Bell Labs creation		
17	Pessimistic seers		
18	Sudden impact		
19	Be mature		
20	Kill-killed connector		
21	Old pastime involving matchsticks		
22	Canada's ___ Island National Park		
24	Most misogynists		
25	Project scorn		
28	Drop the ball		
30	Common prayer opener		
32	Apportioned fairly		
35	Fancy bakeshop items		
36	It governs commerce		
37	Painter of Zola's portrait		
38	Grafton's "___ for Noose"		
39	Doesn't toss		
43	Tolkien terror		
44	Cincinnati triple?		
46	Number of weeks per annum?		
47	Big name in IRAs		
49	Leader of the Green Mountain Boys		
55	Bluish hue		
56	German university town, and setting for "The Student Prince"		
57	Hawaiian shindig		
58	Broadway hit featuring many jigs		
59	Liquidate		
60	Not yet signed, as a check		
3	Modest answer to "Who's there?"	26	Get off the hard drive, e.g.
4	"Are not!" rejoinder	27	Ostrich or emu
5	Nasty companion?	28	"The Battleship Potemkin" director
6	"Comus" composer	29	Martini's partner in vermouth
7	___ about (rooms)	31	Lerner's "My Fair Lady" collaborator
8	First razor with a pivoting head	33	Main element in pewter
9	Lack	34	Schubert's "The ___ King"
10	Lemon that's now gained in value	35	On the dot
11	King canine	36	Like Bach's musical style
12	Titanic	37	Behavioral principles
13	Scott Adams strip		
14	Drag out		
23	Alaskan brown bear		
		40	Burstyn and Barkin
		41	The only president born in New Hampshire
		42	The way some people like marshmallows prepared over campfires
		45	Type of jacket worn by Dr. Evil
		48	Schlep
		50	Busy place
		51	Arabia's Gulf of ___
		52	Computer pro, perhaps
		53	Gucci of fashion
		54	Angled construction beam

Answer to last week

G	O	L	F	S	W	I	N	G	V	O	L	T	S
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## HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY | JULY 19:** This year you dream of traveling to distant lands. You want to learn more; you recognize that there is a lot you don't know. Some of you even decide to go back to school. If you are single, you might become involved with someone from a totally different culture. If this person enters your life after August, it will have great significance. If you are attached, hopefully this yearning to know and understand more will be shared by your sweetie. Learn to better understand each other's values.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Recognize what needs to be done, and then do it. Free yourself up as soon as you can and get into a favorite outdoor happening. Maximize the summer days.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Looking at you, one might think that you are on cloud nine, but that probably isn't the case. Others simply are noticing your tendency to smile a lot. Romance may be just around the corner.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

A friendship may take an unexpected twist. Maintain a sense of humor. You might feel the support of someone in a way you have not experienced before.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

You might feel pulled in several different directions. Interference

seems to keep happening in the form of calls and requests from others.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

You usually are very generous; however, you feel as if a friend or a loved one might be somewhat deceptive or perhaps completely unrealistic. Schedule some time for a discussion with this person.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

A conflict may arise between you and a close loved one. You might have put this person on a pedestal. Don't be surprised when he or she falls off. Be kind and caring.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

As much as you love to go out and about, you also need some time with a loved one or by yourself. Make plans around these needs, and you'll feel more ready to

handle life's ups and downs.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

You will become more in tune with a certain situation. Clear your thoughts, and walk in with an open mind and heart. You might have a major surprise greet you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Share more of yourself when you are out with friends. You have many wonderful ideas; you just don't get feedback often enough. Pursue a favorite pastime and invite a friend along.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Maintain a sense of humor, even as a conversation becomes very confusing. Sorting it out might only increase the bewilderment. Let it go for now — you will gain clarity in a while.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

You will be at the beck and call of a loved one, but you'll enjoy every moment. Your finances may not be as clear as they need to be. Your perspective needs revision.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

A strange conversation might occur with a loved one or friend. What becomes clear is that you are not on the same page. Be as realistic as possible.

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## Husband's abuse must not be ignored

## Ask Amy

AMY DICKINSON

**Dear Amy: My husband, "Stan," and I have two great-grandchildren, ages 3 (girl) and 5 (boy).**

Stan is very critical of the little boy. He teases him a lot and when the child cries or yells at his Pop to stop, Stan gets mad, criticizes him and stomps off. In a recent column, you called this behavior bullying. I had never thought of it that way.