



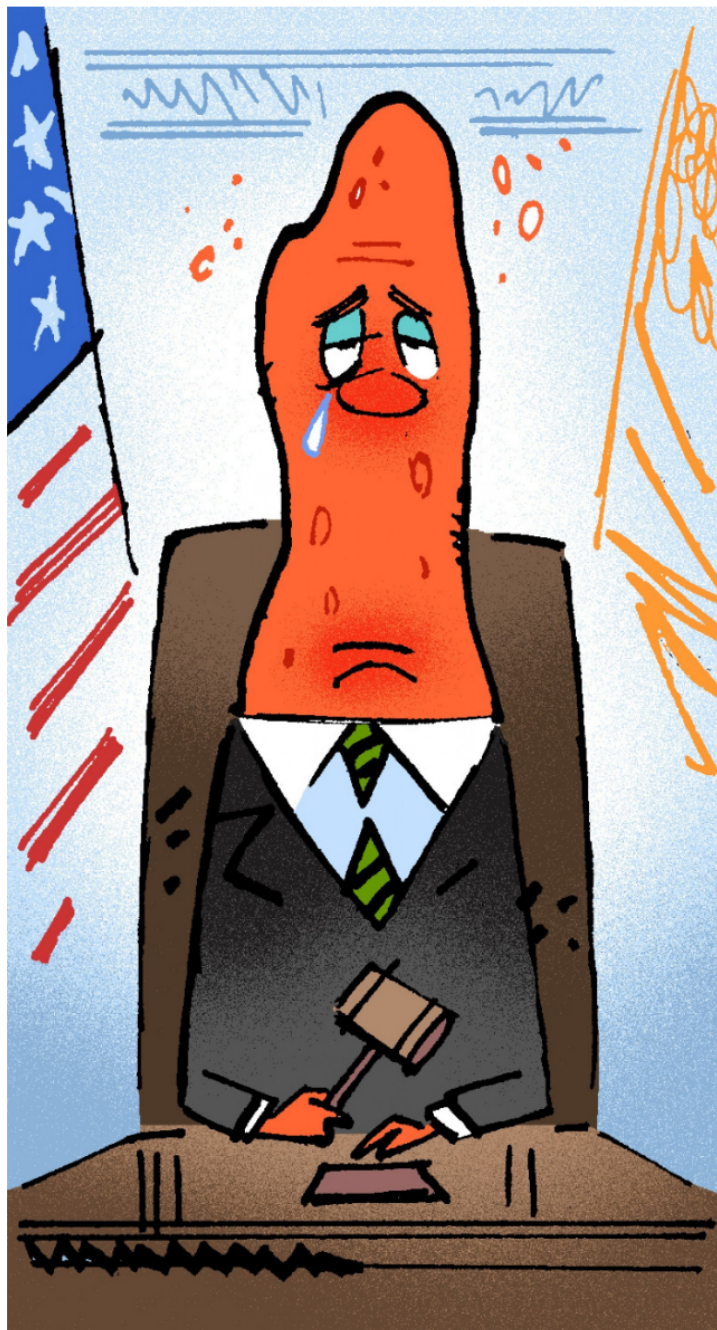
RETROPOD

A DAILY PODCAST FOR HISTORY LOVERS

Listen

Entertainment

Style Invitational Week 1076: Double dactyls and ScrabbleGrams neologisms








(Bob Staake for The Washington Post)

By **Pat Myers**, Style Invitational editor
June 12, 2014

[\(Skip to Report from Week 1072\)](#)



Most Read Entertainment

- 1 Review**
George Pelecanos has helped make TV great again. His new book reminds us why. 
- 2 Perspective**
How artists are saluting the memory of Sen. John McCain 
- 3** Changes to Kennedy Center parking coming this fall 
- 4** Comcast, Fox reach agreement to keep Big Ten Net on cable 
- 5** Review: Murder By Death's 8th album is pensive space western 



Higgledy piggedly,
House Speaker “Boehner”: it
Reads a bit sexy, but
Spoke, it’s benign.

Which is appropriate,
Etymologically.
There is no stiffness: He
Hasn’t the spine.
(*The Czar*)

Rickety rackety,
“Rosie the Riveter”
Turned in her apron to
Work with the guys;

Found that she liked her new
Employability —
That’s why you have to eat
Frozen pot pies.

(*Beverley Sharp, Week 901 obit poem*)

Yet another in our series of Weird Snow Domes that we’re using as second prizes: A “Manneken Pis” fro Brussels, with a rather unusual fountain. (Pat Myers)

The Empress has been in a higgledy-piggledy mood since crashing the West Chester Poetry Conference in the Philadelphia area last weekend.

After I gave a talk about song parodies, [Genuine Poet](#) Kevin Durkin — who’s also managing editor of the poetry journal *Light* — asked if the Invite ever did double-dactyl contests, because really, we should. The Empress’s predecessor, [the Czar](#), did do a DD contest — [in 1994](#). So I guess it’s time to give it another go.

The double dactyl is a form invented by writers Anthony Hecht and Paul Pascal on a whim [over lunch in Rome in 1951](#). While this week we’re not following every one of the pair’s many rules — we won’t insist, for instance, that the six-syllable word cannot have been used in a previous double dactyl — we’re still not letting you off easy. I’ve asked the Czar himself to put forth the rules for this week’s contest, using his own poem above as an example:

- A double-dactyl poem consists of **two mini-stanzas, each with four short lines**.
- The first, second and third lines of each stanza each contain six syllables in double-dactyl meter: **DUM-dee-dee DUM-dee-dee**. The fourth line is just four syllables: **DUM-dee-dee-DUM**.
- The two DUM-dee-dee-DUM **fourth lines have to rhyme** with each other.
- The first line must be a **rhyming nonsense phrase**.
- The poem must be **about a specific person** and must include at least some part of his name. (It’s usually in the second line, but we won’t insist.)
- Finally, one line must be a **six-syllable word** or hyphenated term. And of course, it’s also in the DUM-dee-dee, DUM-dee-dee double-dactyl meter, like “etymologically” in the poem above.

Winner gets the [Inkin’ Memorial](#), the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place wins a [souvenir snow dome from Brussels](#), featuring a little “Manneken Pis” statue that seems to be producing a fountain of — I guess it’s snow. Donated by Continual Snow

washingtonpost.com

© 1996-2018 The Washington Post

[Help and Contact Us](#)
[Policies and Standards](#)
[Terms of Service](#)
[Privacy Policy](#)
[Print Products Terms of Sale](#)
[Digital Products Terms of Sale](#)
[Submissions and Discussion Policy](#)
[RSS Terms of Service](#)
[Ad Choices](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

producing a volume of 172 glass-bottom boats by Columbia River
Globe Donor Cheryl Davis.

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, either the [Po’ Wit Laureate](#) or [Puns of Steel](#). 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, June 23; results published July 13 (online July 10). No more than 25 entries per entrant per contest. Include “Week 1076” 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. This week’s honorable-mentions subhead is by Jeff Contompasis; the alternative headline in the “next week’s results” line is by Tom Witte. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev, and click “like” on Style Invitational Ink of the Day at 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, check it out at wapo.st/styleconv.

REPORT FROM WEEK 1072: THE TILE INVITATIONAL

[Week 1072](#) was our second contest in which we listed several dozen seven-letter sets from ScrabbleGrams, a word-unscrambling game that appears daily in The Post, and asked you to create new five-, six- or seven-letter terms from any set of letters and define them. (We also welcomed clever definitions of existing words.) There were 42 separate definitions for “vexpert,” while numerous people defined “smirque” as what the French do when they hear your accent.

The winner of the Inkin’ Memorial

AAURGJN → **Uganja**: Country ruled by the surprisingly mellow dictator Weedy Amin. (Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.)

2nd place and the two books about poo:

IYBLPSM → **Blimpsy**: Talented [graffiti artist](#) whose career was cut short by difficulty running from the authorities. (David Ballard, Reston, Va.)

3rd place

AUEALGB → **Gabuela**: A granny who can’t keep her *boca* shut. (Mae Scanlan, Washington)

4th place

OIMDGSZ → **OMGDS**: Socrates’ final text. (Dave Zarrow, Reston, Va.)

RACKS OF LAME: HONORABLE MENTIONS

(First Offenders are marked with an asterisk)

[AEGHTCD](#) → **Dechat**: Shut up. (Joy Sibley, Fairfax, Va.)

HATEDC: Four hundred members of Congress applied for this D.C. license plate. (Jim Stiles, Rockville, Md.)

[AEUHBP](#) → **Pheau**: Knockoff perfume. (Mike Gips, Bethesda, Md.)

[AINDLTN](#)

Nitland: Elementary school. (Peyton Coyner, Afton, Va.; Brad Alexander,

Wanneroo, Australia)

Nitland: Laos. (Chris Doyle, Kihei, Hawaii)

Nat lid: A hat with a curly W. (Bill Rippey, Montgomery Village, Md.)

AOAOLHM

Aloham: Meaning “hello, bringer of bacon” and “goodbye, you pig.” (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase, Md.)

Maolah: The bribe to the Beijing party commissioner. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village, Md.)

AOAYMND → **Moanday:** Three days after thanking God for Friday a little too much. (Edward Gordon, Austin)

AUEALGB

AA-bulge: The result of eating every time you feel the urge for a drink. (*David Adlerstein, Apalachicola, Fla.)

AA-bulge: The result of choosing too small a bra size. (Hugh Thirlway, The Hague)

Galbeau: Transgender heartthrob (David Ballard)

Glube: What you get if you mix Elmer’s with K-Y Jelly. (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station, Va.)

Begaul: Try to impress with French expressions. “That pompous jerk kept begauling me with ‘*ma chérie*.’” (Chris Doyle)

EAYLTGL → **Gaytell:** The easiest way to get your own TV show when you’re a seventh-round draft pick. (Matt Monitto, Bristol, Conn.)

EEANPHX

Ape-ex: The epitome of bad former boyfriends. (Danielle Nowlin)

Pheanex: In your University of Phoenix application essay, close enough. (Gary Crockett)

EEVTPXR

Vexpert: One who knows which buttons to push. (Mike Gips)

Vexpert: The quicker ticker-offer. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn, Va.)

Texperv: A Redskins fan in Dallas. (John Shea, Philadelphia)

Ex-perv: A dead man (Alex Jeffrey, Columbia, Md.)

EUEWRLF → **Fewrule:** The needs of the ultra-rich outweigh the needs of ... who are you again? (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf, Md.)

EUIMRSQ

Rimsqué: Teetering on the edge of lewdness. “The ‘2 Girls Go Shopping for 1 Cup’ video was only rimsqué.” (Christopher Lamora, Los Angeles)

E-squirm: What you do after confusing “reply” with “reply all.” (*Luci Weigel, Vienna, Va.)

IATWRHM

Hitmwa: The kiss of death. (Tom Witte)

Hamwit: Elmer Fudd does Shakespeare! (Jeff Shirley, Richmond, Va.)

Whamit: Do-it-yourself TV repair instructions. (Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

IENMVRN } **Nvermin:** Mr. Boehner’s nickname for Ms. Pelosi. (Barry Koch, Catlett, Va.)

I IODNSR

Oddrsin: A bizarre fetish, e.g. the compulsion to French-kiss the finger holes in bowling balls. (David Garratt, Silver City, N.M.)

Snordid: Sleazy yet dull. “That reality show ‘Brothel Accountants’ sure is snordid.” (Larry Gray)

I IYBLPSM

Smilby: A photo-bomb. (*Jamie Martindale, McLean)

PMSibyl: The personality you *really* don't want to see come out. (Nan Reiner, Alexandria, Va.)

IYTMSFL

Timsfly: According to the NCAA "Tebow Rule," messages aren't allowed there either. (*Thom Link, Washington)

Flymist: What's left between a rolled-up Post and the window. (*Ken Linder, Arlington)

OAHMRFT

Hamfort: The Third Little Pig's abode. (Ginny Cooper, Columbia, Md.)

Homfart: Where no one can hear you steam. (Bob Brown, Alexandria, Va.)

OANDGRN

Drag-onn: The fourth volume of a fantasy "epic" (Gerald Diamond, London, Ontario)

NRA-dong: The pistol in your pocket. (Kathy El-Assal, Middleton, Wis.)

OAORDF → **Frodeo:** Dragon-wranglin' and Orc-ropin' down the shire (Craig Dykstra, Centreville, Va.)

ORHNLGT → **Longth:** The correspondering measure to an object's wideitude. — G.W.B., Crawford, Tex. (Brendan Beary)

OEADNHX → **Headnox:** Where the Three Stooges went to school. (Joanne Free, Clifton, Va.)

OIENZRC → **Zero Inc.:** Surprisingly candid name for a technology startup. (*Jim Derby, Rockville, Md.)

UAUTMPS → **U-Stamp-U:** Ill-conceived scheme in which the ticket gates at stadium concerts are replaced by the honor system. (John Kammer, South Riding, Va.)

UEURMRM → **Remumu:** What Mama Cass used to do at intermission. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

And last: ORWNWN → **Winworn:** Weary from dusting all the mugs and bobbleheads in the trophy room. (Ellen Raphaeli, Falls Church, Va.)

*First Offenders

Still running — deadline Monday: Our contest for automotive fictoids. See bit.ly/invite1075.

Next week's results: **Mess With (Y)our Heads**, or **Dismembrance of Things Post**, our perennial contest to follow a headline with a "bank head" that changes its meaning. See bit.ly/invite1073.



Read These Comments newsletter

The best comments and conversations at The Washington Post, delivered every Friday. Join the conversation.

Sign me up

By signing up you agree to our [Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy Policy](#)

0 Comments



Pat Myers

Pat Myers is editor and judge of The Style Invitational, The Washington Post's page for



clever, edgy humor and wordplay. In the role since December 2003, she has posted and judged more than 700 contests. She also writes the weekly Style Conversational column and runs the Style Invitational Devotees page on Facebook. [Follow](#)

The Post Recommends

Opinion

Kellyanne Conway still can't handle the truth

"Why? Why? What facts?"

3 days ago



Opinion

Possibly Trump's stupidest tweet ever

Trump's economic illiteracy is staggering

Aug 16



Perspective

Ask Amy: Ex-boyfriend becomes current colleague

The breakup was bad, and now he shows up at the office

16 hours ago

