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Style Invitational Week 1116: Punning in Place—make a geographic neologism

And the winning and Losing 'SHARP' words from Week 1112



Nessee, a Clinch River denizen. In Week 1116, make a new word or name from the letters in a place name. (Bob Staake for The Washington Post)



By **Pat Myers** Editor and judge of The Style Invitational March 19, 2015
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(Click [here to skip down](#) to the winning “SHARP” neologisms of Week 1112)

From “Tennessee”: Nessee: Mythical creature reported to live in the Clinch River.

From “Fairbanks”: SkarfBin: The most popular apparel department at an Alaska Wal-Mart.



From “California”: ForniCal: State agency responsible for setting up dates for married politicians.

This week's contest was suggested by one of the more widely traveled



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Much to his chagrin, Buddy realized he was way overdressed for his interview at Acme Glue. The springy dashboard-topper that's this week's second prize. (WORLDWONDERS.NET)

members of the Loser Community: 227-time Loser Christopher Lamora currently heads the U.S. passport office in Los Angeles, but he used to follow the Style Invitational from State Department posts in Guatemala and Cameroon, among other places

outside the usual Invite delivery area. **This week: Create a new term using only the letters in a place name**, as in Christopher's examples above. **You don't have to use all the letters, but you can't use a letter more often than it appears in the word**; for instance, if you're using "California," your word may have as many as two A's. Entries are more likely to get ink if the definitions relate in some way to the place name.

Winner gets the [Inkin' Memorial](#), the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives [Creepy Horse Man](#), a spring-necked bobblehead "dashboard wiggler" of a man in a business suit and carrying an attache case . . . well, if he has a horse's head for a head, is he a man? Whatever. He has a certain dignity. Donated by Diane Wah.





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" ([FixStink](#) for their first ink). Email entries to [week's results](#) is by Jeff Silfley, the honorable mentions subhead is by Beverley Sharp Herself. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](#). "Like" the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at [bit.ly/inkofday](#).

The Style Conversational: The Empress's weekly online column (published late Thursday) discusses each new contest and set of results. Especially if you plan to enter, check it out at [wapo.st/styleconv](#).

[And the results of the Style Invitational contest from four weeks ago . . .](#)

SHARP-infested worders: The neologisms of Week 1112

Week 1112 commemorated Beverley Sharp's induction to the Style Invitational Hall of Fame (admission: 500 blots of ink) with a contest for

- 2 Oprah Winfrey picks prison memoir for her book club 
- 3 **Review**
The best science fiction and fantasy to read this month 
- 4 **Analysis**
Do the dismal box-office returns of 'Solo' signal a problem for Star Wars? 
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INVITATIONAL TRIAL OF FABLE (admission: 500 slices of ink) with a contest for neologisms that include the letters S, H, A, R and P.

A great term but offered by too many contestants: **Harspray**, as when you coffee-spit all over the Invite results. Not living up to Beverley's name were perhaps dozens of entries that substituted "sh" for the "s" in a word, then defined it as something alcohol-related: e.g., "**Repasht**: Dinner with a drunk." Sheez.

Yes, we let Beverley enter this contest. Did she get ink?

4th place:

ShAARPie: What's used to cross out any legislative language to cut retirement benefits. (Andrew Elby, Arlington, Va.)

3rd place:

Sapphron: Newly popular color for wedding dresses in 37 states, by last count. (Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.)

2nd place and the book "Knit Your Own Kama Sutra":

Mensamorphs: Big-headed types who aren't smart enough not to remind everyone how smart they are. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

And the winner of the Inkin' Memorial:

Apostrophy: The "Grammar Nerd" award some adults think they deserve for knowing the difference between "your" and "you're." (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station, Va.)

SHARP decline: Honorable mentions

Retrophrase: To translate current jargon for the less current. "That's a nice thank-you letter to Grandma, dear, but you need to retrophrase 'kthanxsbye.'" (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

Mrsshapen: Matronly. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village, Md.)

Shrapnil: The "enemy fire" that Brian Williams's convoy came under. (Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.; Mae Scanlan, Washington)

Hos of Representatives: Political consultants. (Kevin Dopart)

Rashputin: Russian for "foreign policy." (Diana Oertel, San Francisco)

Shrink-rapping: Hip-hop psychotherapy. "Your mama so incredible/You must be feelin' Oedipal." (Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

WETAmorphosis: Developing an instant British accent from watching "Downton Abbey." (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf, Md.)

Psychiatryst: Taking the "doctor/patient relationship" to a whole new level. (Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

Biasphere: The political echo chamber. "The senators' letter to Iran made

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perfect sense in the Fox News biasphere.” (Chris Doyle)

Shillanthropist: Someone who spends more on advertising his company’s charitable contributions than on the contributions themselves. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn, Va.)

Pharrellish: Happy. (Barry Sackin, Murrieta, Calif.)

pHarsi: Language of a country whose leaders have acid tongues and base intent. (Mark Raffman)

Parishimonious: Putting a dollar in the church collection plate and then taking out change. (Marian Carlsson, Lexington, Va.)

Sarcophagush: To deliver an over-the-top eulogy for a crummy person. (Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

Bris-hap: A case of moylpractice. (Brendan Beary)

Pharmesan: Cheese made from hormone-fed cows. (Mark Raffman)

Terpsachore: Greek goddess of dancing in the [middle of Route 1](#) while lighting mattresses on fire. (Roy Ashley, Washington)

Sharpnel: Collateral damage that results when the Reverend Al joins a cause. (Mike Gips, Bethesda, Md.)

Apartish: Going through a trial separation. (Christopher Lamora, Los Angeles)

Par mitzvahs: Coming-of-age ceremonies at the country club. (Christopher Lamora)

Sharecrapping: A living arrangement in which the dog owner supplies food and shelter while the dog supplies the poop. (Jeff Shirley, Richmond, Va.)

Eh-sharp: The high note in “O Canada.” (Ben Aronin, Washington)

Splارش: The sound of a pirate walking the plank. (John Glenn, Tyler, Tex.)

Shtuperman: He comes to save the day, but unfortunately he’s faster than a speeding bullet. (Ellen Raphaeli, Falls Church, Va.)

Harpieces: Ridiculous toupees. (Frank Osen)

Proaches: What a well-mannered person does before reproaching someone. (Frank Osen)

Spanker of the House: Secret aide to the majority whip. (Chris Doyle)

Shakespeare: A guy who soliloquizes at a urinal. (Edmund Conti, Raleigh, N.C.)

Cashpar: The Fourth Wise Man, who brought money since he could never do gift wrap. (Edmund Conti)

Scatastrophe: An overflowing toilet. (Beverley Sharp)

Dress-harper: The Facebook friend who is *still* insisting to everyone that it's white and gold. (Danielle Nowlin)

Shaperone: Your Weight Watchers buddy who says, "Are you sure you want to order that tiramisu?" (Kevin Dopart)

Hormel sapiens: Soylent Spam. (Chris Doyle)

hAARPIes: Elderly women who mooch off people's plates. "I turned away for a second, and one of the hAARPIes stole my Jell-O." (Neal Starkman, Seattle)

Poshtrami: Lunch meat at Whole Foods. (Jeff Hazle, Woodbridge, Va.)

Whisperado: That creepy guy who thinks he's "connecting" with women by getting within four inches to talk to them. (Jeff Hazle)

Bachspring: A bed with a built-in alarm clock that plays "Wachet Auf." (Brendan Beary)

Eats & Drinks newsletter

The latest buzz on the D.C. area dining and bar scene, featuring restaurant critic Tom Sietsema, every Wednesday.

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Harsplitting: The absurd actions of a stickler that prevents a brilliantly funny limerick from winning the Invitational's haiku contest (Ellen Raphaeli)

And last: A Phrase: Well, you asked for a phrase that included the letters S-H-A-R-P, didn't ya? (Frank Mann, Washington)

Still running — deadline Monday night, March 23: Our contest to add a "typo" to a Washington Post headline and then write a "bank head." See bit.ly/invite1115.

0 Comments



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 @patmyersTWP

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