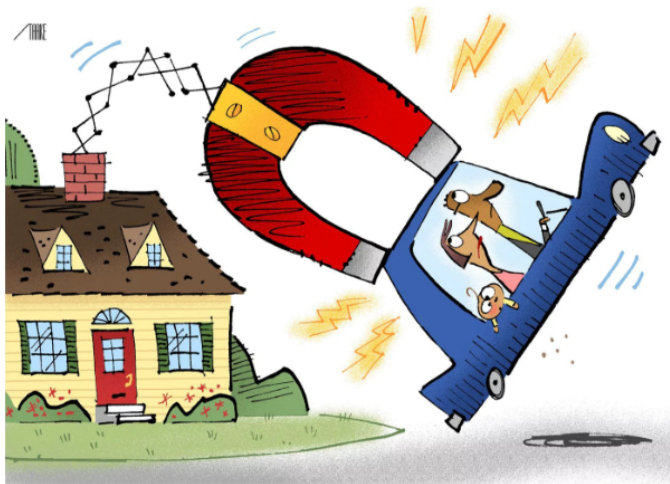


Entertainment

Style Invitational Week 1277: Come into Beeing — a new word contest

Plus: The Losers' winning nominations for government posts



(Bob Staake for The Washington Post)

By Pat Myers April 26 [Email the author](#)

(Click [here to skip down](#) to the winning ideas for Cabinet replacements)

UBATRIE --> Burbitate: To yield to the instinctive pull outside the city upon becoming parents.

UBATRIE --> Truebut: Someone who'll never concede the point.

UBATRIE --> Rubaitat: An Omar Kháyam poem inscribed on your arm.

In February we ran another neologism contest based on the ScrabbleGrams word game. This week, at the suggestion of Loser Alex Blackwood, we ~~rip off~~ honor a similar but significantly different game: It's called Spelling Bee, and it's one of the "variety puzzles" in the Sunday New York Times. Every week in Spelling Bee — soon to become a [daily feature online](#), according to Eric von Coelln, the NYT's puzzle director — constructor Frank Longo presents six letters of the alphabet arranged in a circle, daisy-style, around a seventh letter. The goal is to list as many real words as you can that include that central letter plus *any* of the other six, used as often as you want in the word.

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Review

The best science fiction and fantasy to read this month



And that last aspect is the nut of **this week's contest: From any of the 15 Spelling Bee letter sets listed below, coin a new term of one or two words and define it humorously**, as in Alex's examples above. **You may also supply an especially clever or funny definition of a real term.**

WMALTER
PHANETY
LABGENT
KETICYR
UBATRIE
ROXTANE
RONTCUD
FOUTHGL
PTACKRO
FINESTY
CHELOAN
HEMNPOT
FINCOUT
CYMENGR
RUGTAYI

Here are the rules we'll use (we're ignoring the central-letter requirement of the real game):

— **The word or compound-word term must be at least five letters long.**

— **You may use as few of the letters in a set as you like.**

— **You may not use any letters that aren't in the set (hyphens are okay).**

— **You may use any letter in the set as often as you like.** So you might come up with a word that's, say, eight letters long but use only three letters in the set.





As always, you may submit up to 25 entries total; the Empress doesn't care if you find 25 words from a single set or you use all 15.

— **Please begin *every* entry with the letter set you're using, on the same line as your word and definition.** This lets the Empress sort the entries.

Submit entries at the website wapo.st/enter-invite-1277 (all lowercase).

Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a red felt beanie with a merry felt crab waving at you on top of it. Modeled here by Loser and incorrigible punster Frank Yuen, who was visiting from New York and joined a group of Losers and Style Invitational Devotees for lunch, where he posed in the crab hat in the middle of the restaurant. Frank suggested that his portrait be titled "Crustasian." Um, no.

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). **Deadline is Monday night, May 7;** results published May 27 (online May 24). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline for this week's results is by Dave Prevar; Chris Doyle wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the lively Style

- 2 First glimpse of Kennedy Center's much delayed expansion unveiled 
- 3 **Review**
Sex, politics and art painted in broad strokes in 'Botticelli in the Fire' 
- 4 Celebrities, fashion insiders react to death of Kate Spade 
- 5 Oprah Winfrey picks prison memoir for her book club 



Klondike Solitaire
Card game



Mahjongg Candy
Matching game



Word Wipe
Word game



Mahjongg
Dimensions
Arcade game

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Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev. “Like” Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at 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.

[And from The Style Invitational four weeks ago . . .](#)

FOOLLY STAFFED: OUR CABINET NOMINEES FROM WEEK 1273

In [Week 1273](#) we asked your suggestions for who (or what!) should fill various Cabinet and other federal posts. Submitted by too many: **Michelle Duggar for secretary of labor, David Petraeus for Veterans Affairs, Moses for chief of staff (he could make his staff work wonders)** and **Vladimir Putin for election commissioner, secretary of state — or president**, since he's been in charge already.

4th place:

Sean Spicer should run the Census Bureau — it will be so exciting to have 4 billion people in this country. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

3rd place:

Loser Frank Yuen models this week's second prize. Frank wanted to title this photo "Crustasian." (Pat Myers/The Washington Post)



Loser Frank Yuen models this week's second prize. Frank wanted to title this photo "Crustasian." (Pat Myers/The Washington Post)

Mrs. Ben Carson as secretary of transportation, as she's an expert on the undersides of buses. (Ira Allen, Bethesda, Md.)

2nd place

and the [Body Parts Sushi gummy candy](#):

Daniel Snyder to head the Bureau of Indian Affairs: Him very qualified paleface. (Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg, Va.)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

As he knows the score on what happens in Russian hotel rooms, **Christopher Steele** can run the Pee Score — What? You spell it how? Never mind. — E. Litella (Duncan Stevens)

Reductions in farce: Honorable mentions

Metro chief **Paul Wiedefeld** for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. He would improve the safety of our roads by letting one car onto them every 20 minutes. (Duncan Stevens)

Bryce Harper for head of both NOAA and NASA: The man knows how to

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go deep *and* launch them into orbit. (Stephen Litterst, Newark, Del.)

Hunter S. Thompson for director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives: Okay, he's dead, but look at the level of experience in all four departments. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn, Va.)

Anthony Scaramucci for chairman of the President's Council on Physical Fitness: He's suggested some very interesting flexibility exercises. (Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.)

Moses would make a good ambassador to China — no one else can handle the Red C the way he can. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village, Md.)

April the Giraffe should be labor secretary because she could be expected to stay in the position for a long, long time. (Hildy Zampella, Alexandria, Va.)

Eric and Donald Trump Jr. to run the Fish and Wildlife Service: Who better to rid the country of the animals destroying our national parks and waterways? (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

To head the Council of Economic Advisers, I nominate **my Aunt Ruby**, who

Joan of Arc for press secretary. She is already used to the working environment. (Ken Rosenau, Bellingham, Wash.)

LeBron James for secretary of transportation because he's [always traveling](#). (Roy Ashley, Washington)

For head of NOAA: **Noah!** After all, he's been around for a long time and knows a thing or two about rising sea levels. (Alison Thompson, Sudbury, Mass., a First Offender)

Rosie Ruiz for [Head Start](#) director: Because this time, maybe she can make it work. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

Scott Pruitt for HUD secretary: Because who knows more about [high-quality, low-cost housing](#)? (John Glenn, Tyler, Tex.; Frank Mann, Washington)

Gumby to head EPA: He's eco-friendly green for liberals; he's made from petrochemicals for conservatives; and being small and flexible, he could fit in any lobbyist's pocket — so no need for a condo! (Jeff Shirley, Richmond, Va.)

Superman for Homeland Security: Who better to protect our borders than someone who stands for truth, justice and the American way! Wait, he's an undocumented alien? (Ward Kay, Vienna, Va.)

The Skipper from "Gilligan's Island" for secretary of education: Has firsthand knowledge of just how wrong a charter can go. (Steven Honley, Washington)

Vanilla Ice as the lone ranger of the Department of Justice: It would be

Vladimir Ice as the lone ranger of the Department of Justice. It would be *Just Ice*. (Chris Damm, Charles Town, W.Va.)

Vladimir Lenin for secretary of state: He's been lying in it for 94 years. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase, Md.)

Wile E. Coyote for secretary of transportation — because \$3 trillion buys a *lot* of bridges and tunnels if you're [building them with a paintbrush](#). (David Patch, Toledo; Frank Mann)

Stormy Daniels for secretary of education: Not only did she star in “Teacher’s Pet,” but she has worked under Trump before. (Drew Bennett, West Plains, Mo.)

Despite their current legal battles, **Stormy Daniels** would make a great secretary of energy for President Trump. She’d be quite the expert on strip mining and, um, fracking. (Hildy Zampella)

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Important breaking news alerts for crime, public safety and the courts in the D.C. area.

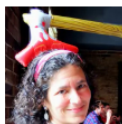
Sign up

Donald Trump for speaker of the House, seeing as he’s already a woofer and a tweeter. (Duncan Stevens)

Yosemite Sam as national security adviser. As with John Bolton, his favorite phrase is “This means war!” Also, he has a [better mustache](#). (William Pifer-Foote, Leesport, Pa., who last got Invite ink almost 18 years ago)

Still running — deadline Monday, April 30: our limerick contest. See [wapo.st/invite1276](#). **DON’T MISS AN INVITE!** [Sign up here](#) to receive a once-a-week email from the Empress as soon as The Style Invitational and Style Conversational go online every Thursday, complete with links to the columns.

1 Comment



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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