

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

SHARP-infested worders: Report from Week 1112

BY PAT MYERS

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

3rd place

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

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

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

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 'kthanxbye.'" (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

Mrsshapen: Matronly. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

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)

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

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

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)

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

Par mitzvahs: Coming-of-age ceremonies at the country club.



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1116: Punning in place

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 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" Grocery 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, March 30; results published April 19 (online April 16). You may submit up to 25 entries per contest. Include "Week 1116" 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. The headline for this week's results is by Jeff Shirley; 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 discusses each new contest and set of results. Especially if you plan to enter, check it out at wapo.st/styleconv.

(Christopher Lamora)

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

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

Splars: 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)

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: Soy lent 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)

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)

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.



WORLDWONDERS.NET

If you work for a horse's, uh, head, the Creepy Horse Man boingy dashboard topper may inspire you toward Loserdom.

POST PUZZLER

No. 259

BY MIKE NOTHNAGEL EDITED BY PETER GORDON • FIREBALLCROSSWORDS.COM

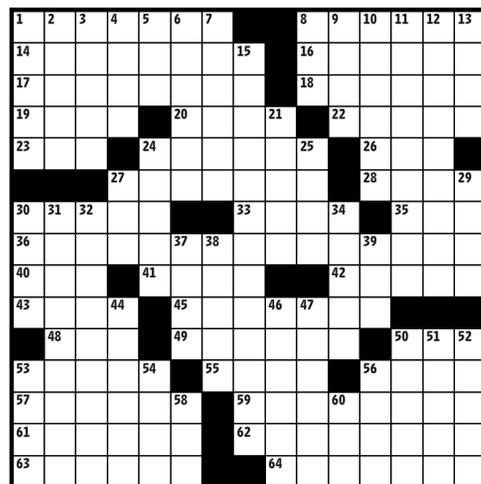
ACROSS
1 Selection bias?
8 City whose Peace Tower appears on a Canadian \$20 bill
14 Updates, in a way
16 Bill Masterton Memorial Trophy org.
17 If absolutely necessary
18 Pet store purchase
19 Low-level workers
20 Title TV role for Bob Odenkirk
22 Fiddlesticks' relatives?
23 Can
24 Actress Samantha of "In America"
26 Lunkhead
27 Union request
28 Building near a commons
30 CPI part
33 Crew's power source
35 Bud's bud
36 2014 Swedish Olympic hockey team goalie

40 Fallopian tube travelers
41 Broadway role for Feldshuh
42 Beat, as a favorite
43 Quetzal predecessor
45 They come out in the spring
48 Plow into
49 Lit
50 E-mail abbr.
53 ___ Brickowski (protagonist of "The Lego Movie")
55 Sharer's pronoun
56 Structure with an elevator
57 Homemade pistol
59 Summed
61 Returned after the deadline, say
62 Only group with elements in all three states of matter at room temperature
63 Black Sea port
64 Push over the edge

DOWN
1 Sister on "The Goldbergs"
2 Tanglewood setting
3 Campaigner's concern
4 Outperforms
5 2006 role for Forest
6 It might trigger an alarm
7 Celtics head coach before Rick Pitino
8 Like Gas-X, e.g.: Abbr.
9 Mississippi senator Cochran
10 The Horsemen of the Apocalypse, e.g.
11 U.S. capital from November 1783 to August 1784

12 House of York symbol
13 Bernina Pass locale
15 Request for a silent partner?
21 Play character to whom "attention must be paid"
24 Needlepoint pillow decoration, perhaps
25 Egghead
27 Bleu region?
29 One without a registry
30 "Everything you love about breakfast" sloganer
31 "It's nothing"
32 What a felon might have to provide
34 What "ika" is on sushi menus

37 Brewery dispensers
38 Con, maybe
39 Some execs
44 Symbols of resistance?
46 Encroachment
47 Spoon, say
50 Senate Judiciary Committee chair after Thurmond
51 Held fast
52 Brush
53 Handel opera
54 Sounds of disapproval
56 Company with a hedgehog mascot
58 Org. affected by No Child Left Behind
60 A.L. East team, on scoreboards



Answer to last week, No. 258

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

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | MARCH 22: This year your dynamic energy merges with a never-ending source of creativity. Boredom will not be an issue. Tone down a tendency to be me-oriented, especially with so much happening around you. If you are single, romance might knock on your door any day now. You could be quite enamored by someone, but take at least a year getting to know each other. If you are attached, your significant other will appreciate your considerate and caring approach.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

You may be going overboard. Right now you might feel justified, but you are likely to change your mind later. Be committed to whatever course you choose.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

You might be in a situation where you feel as if you must play a certain role. You would be best off just being yourself. Try to make time for a loved one who might feel neglected.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

Sometimes taking off without giving too many explanations is good for you and those around you. A different set of circumstances in a different place can revive your zest for life.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

Seeing a special friend always makes you smile. Go off together and watch a basketball game or get into a favorite mutual pastime.

Squeeze in everything you want to do during daylight hours.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Though you might not be interested in assuming someone else's responsibility, you still will. The pace may be quite hectic, but ultimately you'll feel good about what you have done.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Listen carefully to what someone close to you has to say. Try to understand this person's logic. You're capable of finding a mutually acceptable solution.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Someone may try to intertwine his or her life with yours. You might not be sure whether you want to be manipulated in this way. Make it okay to push away from any discomfort.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

You understand better than most

the role that arguing plays in reinforcing a strong attraction between you and someone else. Don't allow a difficult person to rain on your parade.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Ease up on yourself this afternoon and say yes to an invitation. The humor and fun interactions will help you relax. You might even get into a philosophical discussion about a passion you have.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Someone might try to test your mettle. Don't worry — you'll hold up better than most. Make time for a loved one who can't seem to get enough of you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Honor a request from a close associate. You may feel as if someone is manipulating you. How you handle this situation might determine the nature of the relationship. Be smart; think before you respond.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Avoid putting a certain someone on a pedestal, and try to be more realistic. This person is capable of creating quite a bit of chaos in your life. Stay centered and focused.

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Tired of baby-sitting drunk freshmen

Ask Amy

AMY DICKINSON

Dear Amy: My freshman college roommate is livid. She has told her roommate she can no longer take responsibility for babysitting her. She no longer wants anything to do with these girls.

I know the roommate's mom and would be comfortable calling her to talk about her daughter's destructive behavior. I have asked other parents whether I should call, and there seems to be a split in opinion. Please weigh in.

Concerned Mom

Definitely call this roommate's mother. Also notify the school. The parents and the college have a responsibility to try to keep these foolish drunks safe until they grow — or sober — up.

Your daughter's behavior is admirable but it is far above her abilities to keep these girls safe. How stressful and frightening. You should tell her that the next time she stumbles across a half-dressed woman claiming she was raped (no matter who the person is), she should bypass the woman's stated wishes (she's impaired) AND the college, call 911 and wait with the girl until help arrives.

Her roommate about what happened, she laughed. My daughter is livid. She has told her roommate she can no longer take responsibility for babysitting her. She no longer wants anything to do with these girls.

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Dear Amy: "The Invisible Aunt"

wrote, "I buy the presents and sign the cards and checks," but when in-law members contacted them, letters and invitations were addressed only to her husband "and family." Perhaps it is time for Uncle John to buy the presents and sign the cards and checks.

Pull Your Weight

Touche.

Dear Amy: I'm responding to "Had It With Dad," the man whose elderly father-in-law was verbally abusive to his wife and family.

I am willing to bet that he does not behave this way without an audience. He is banking on his audience remaining polite and giving him free rein to abuse. Bullies are cowards — most likely the challenge from this man's son-in-law did the trick!

No Bullies

I hope so.

Amy's column appears seven days a week at www.washingtonpost.com/ advice. Write to Amy Dickinson at askamy@tribpub.com or Ask Amy, Chicago Tribune, TT500, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60611.

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