

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Spelly laughs: Humor with bee words

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1335** we asked for poems based on words from this year's Scripps National Spelling Bee — and we also invited some riddles.

4th place:

Omphalopsychites (AHM-fuh-lo-SIGH-kites), people who meditate by focusing on their navels

Bellery-buttony
Omphalopsychites are
Folks who can gaze at their
Navels all day.

Genesis demonstrates
Incontrovertibly
Abel and Cain were the
First born that way.
(Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

3rd place:

Badderlocks, brownish seaweed eaten in Northern Europe:

Whatever's on the Donald's head's
unsightly,
Like some dead thing he found
beneath the docks,
But if he threw some seaweed on,
you'd rightly
Say now he's even sporting
badderlocks.
(Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

2nd place and the bacon-scented soap and air 'freshener':

Fucus (FEW-kus):
A brownish type of algae is the kind
that's known as fucus;
But if we mispronounce this word,
they'll sure as heck rebuke us.
(Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

Apophysitis (uh-PAH-fuh-SIGH-tuhs), painful bone spurs:

Once upon a time of drafting,
Donald pondered, sly and crafting,
Over many dark, dishonest ways to
dodge the call to war —
Fearing far-off foes who'd fight us,
settled on apophysitis,
Blaming it without the slightest hint
of shame forevermore.
"I'd be honored," Donald uttered,
"to have served within the Corps.
But, alas, my feet were sore."
(Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)

Bee-flats: Honorable mentions

Seitan, flavored wheat gluten, often a meat substitute:

Said the Church Lady, "Dontcha be
hatin'
On my vegan cafe — we're creatin'
Dishes tasty and new!
After one bite or two,
You'll be wondering, could it be . . .
seitan??"
(Mark Raffman, Reston)

Murrelet, a seabird

Among endangered species is the
avian marbled murrelet,
It would be sad to see this species
going down the turrelet.
(Dave Zarrow, Reston)

Stakhanovite (sta-KAH-no-vite), a Soviet worker awarded for exceeding production quotas

Russia is our closest friend.
The FBI can hack you.
Trump is on an upward trend.
Vaccines are used to track you.
I tweet it all day, I tweet it at night:
I troll to be a Stakhanovite.
(Sam Mertens, Silver Spring)

Haustellum, an insect proboscis adapted to suck blood)

Folks hate skeeters and fear the
haustellum.
They can try but they cannot dispel
'em.
The poor humans outside —
They can run but not hide.
Skeeters find 'em and bite when
they smell 'em.
(Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

"Badderlocks" jokes

Q. What might you advise someone
who ate some lousy Scottish
salmon?
A. Badderlocks next time.
(Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Q. What European diet features full
meals plus snacks of seaweed?
A. Badderlocks and the Three
Squares. *(Mark Raffman)*

Rhathymia (ra-THIGH-mia or ra-THIM-ia), the state of being carefree

Does current news depress me?
Oh yes, plenty.
But then I picture Trump's defeat in
'20;
This vision never ever fails to
gimme a
Distinct, exalted feeling of
rhathymia.
(Duncan Stevens)
Soon Yi fills my heart with



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1339: Songs for a modern error

**Tonight, tonight, a most distressing sight:
My WiFi router's light blinking red.
Such blight, this plight; it isn't working right;
Offline, I really might just be dead.
I can't log on and check my emails
Or ogle pics of females
Whose outerwear is slight.
To right this blight,
I'll call and stay on hold out of spite
All night!**

— Matt Monitto, channeling "West Side Story"

It's our first song parody contest of 2019, and this week's theme comes courtesy of Loserbard Matt Monitto, complete with sample song (and even this week's headline). We'll be broad in scope. **This week: Write humorous lyrics to a song about some modern woe, set to a familiar tune.** It can be about a how-you-say First World problem, like Matt's lament above, or something more serious as long as your anger and bitterness don't overwhelm your wit (the Empress calls that "screediness").

We'll give you an extra week — until July 22 — to get the parodies done. If you make a video, we might feature it in the online Invite (you could even use your own tune) but it's the quality of the lyrics that matters most. See this week's Style Conversational column at wapo.st/conv1339 for more guidance about writing songs for us.

Submit entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1339 (all lowercase).

Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives the "Mr. President Wig" worn for a minute by Loser Howard Walderman while he sang a parody of "Imagine" ("Imagine I'm the Donald") at last weekend's Flushies, the Losers' annual awards "banquet." Howard's older than the Current Occupant but in way better shape: He recently medaled in swimming in the 80-to-84 group in the Maryland Senior Olympics.

Other runners-up win our "You Gotta Play to Lose" Loser Mug or our "Whole Fools" Grossery Bag. Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, "Too-Weak Notice" or "Certificate of (de) Merit." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). **Deadline is Monday night, July 22;** results published Aug. 4 in print, Aug. 1 online. See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline "Spelly Laughs" was submitted by both Jesse Frankovich and Duncan Stevens; Chris Doyle and William Kennard both suggested the honorable-mentions subhead. 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); follow @StyleInvite on Twitter.

● **The Style Conversational:** The Empress's weekly online column discusses the week's new contest and results. Check it out at wapo.st/styleconv.



LEFT, MARK HOLT; RIGHT, NAN REINER

Howard Walderman sang "Imagine I'm the Donald" at the Losers' Flushies awards before donating the wig as this week's prize. And a wigless Howard at an earlier Loser event.

rhathymia,
So I guess that this means it's
goodbye, Mia.
(Ann Martin, Brentwood)

No job and no worries I've got,
A care in the world I have not.
I'll live in rhathymia
'Cause my parents will buy me a
Rolls, a new home and a yacht.
(Hildy Zampella, Alexandria)

Jalap (JAH-lupp), a laxative made from a Mexican plant
With its purgative properties, jalap
Sends you off to the loo at a gallop,
For it's quite unsurpassed —
In fact, it's a blast —
At freeing a laggardly bowel up.
(Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

Mondegreen, a misheard song lyric
I can see clearly now Lorraine has
gone
Wrapped up like a douche, I ask
what was she on?
"There's a bathroom on the right,"
she would unload,
"Another turnip boy, a Ford stuck in
the road."

In the Garden of Eden, honey, don't
you know that I'm lovin' you?
Hold me closer, Tony Danza —
doughnuts make my brown eyes
blue.
"Scuse me while I kiss this guy — do
you know what I mean?
Can't you tell I'm just a nerd who
loves a mondegreen?"
(Rick Bromberg, Fairfax)

Q. Who are the greatest supporters
of an "Echo-Friendly Nude Eel"?
A. The Mondegreen Party.
(Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

Psoas, loin muscles (SO-as):
Strong psoas make for healthy
groins
And stave off pelvic trauma;
Each day, I exercise my loins —
Assisted by Yo Mama. *(Duncan
Stevens)*

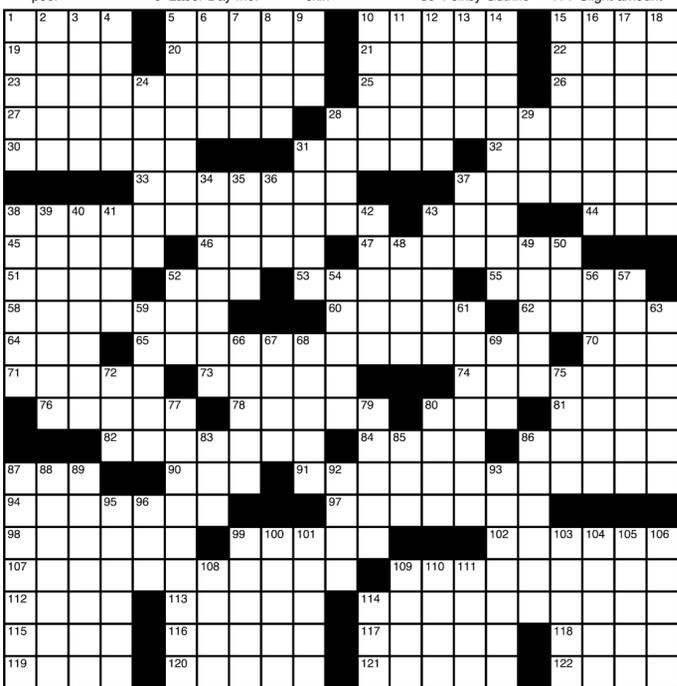
More honorable mentions in the online
Invite at wapo.st/invite1339.

**Still running — deadline Monday
night, July 8: Our cartoon
caption contest. See wapo.st/
invite1338.**

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

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| 38 Skinny, loose-jointed club golfer? | | | 41 Actress Rowlands | | |
| 43 "The Enemy Within" org. | | | 42 Beast with thick skin | | |
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| 45 "Tiny Alice" dramatist | | | | | |
| 46 Golden State school whose city is also its county | | | | | |
| 47 Doesn't abandon, as one's promise | | | | | |
| 51 Strategize | | | | | |
| 52 Helena winter hrs. | | | | | |
| 53 Yale of Yale fame | | | | | |
| 55 "The Easter Parade" author Richard | | | | | |
| 58 "Nobody wins!" | | | | | |
| 60 How checks are written | | | | | |
| 62 Nine-piece combo | | | | | |
| 64 "Fooled you!" | | | | | |
| 65 Dishes like a 28-Across? | | | | | |
| 70 Morse "I" | | | | | |
| 71 Sugar coating | | | | | |
| 73 Kindle download | | | | | |
| 74 Bishop's district | | | | | |
| 76 "Phooey!" cousins | | | | | |



7/7/19 xwordeditor@aol.com ©2019 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | July 7: This year, you open many new doors, or so you think. When you decide to pass through one of them, you might discover a fundamental misunderstanding. This experience might happen only once, but it will occur. If single, you could meet someone who is endearing and special. You still might have difficulty deciding what you want from this person. If you're attached, you and your partner will learn to communicate better, but you'll have to be more aware of your own feelings even as your sweetie fusses. Virgo fusses a lot.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
A lot seems to come up out of the blue. You might need to make time to visit with an older person or even go into work. Confirm messages and any requests. An element of confusion runs through your day.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Others might surprise you with their news. You might be unusually creative about a problem. You seem to resolve a long-term issue with a snap of your fingers.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
You might find that getting plans off the ground is difficult. Perhaps the issue might be that you're uncomfortable when you're out. You find that you're happiest at home. Invite others over.

CANCER (June 21-July 21)
Make calls; reach out to a sibling or close friend. You might want to have a lengthy brunch together not only to catch up on news but also to plan another fun get-together.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Be aware of the consequences of dealing with a financial matter. Do so without taking away from quality time with a family member. You need to use self-discipline to achieve the results that you want.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Beam in more of what you want. You could be overwhelmed by what someone you love or care for wants or needs. This person could be a bit depressed. Spend time together.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Although you might be unusually energetic as a person, at this moment in time, you need to slow down and perhaps indulge yourself rather than others. A family member delights in having you home. Now and during the next few weeks, don't let a misunderstanding develop into

anything more.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Zero in on what you want; don't allow another person to distract you. You're capable of manifesting exactly what you want. A friendship could play into your plans. During the next few weeks, be careful when dealing and communicating with a loved one.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Take charge; don't worry about having more free time today. Check in with an older relative or friend. You have no idea how much just a call from you means. Be careful when handling funds; you could easily make a mistake. Keep communications clear. Confirm meetings and plans.

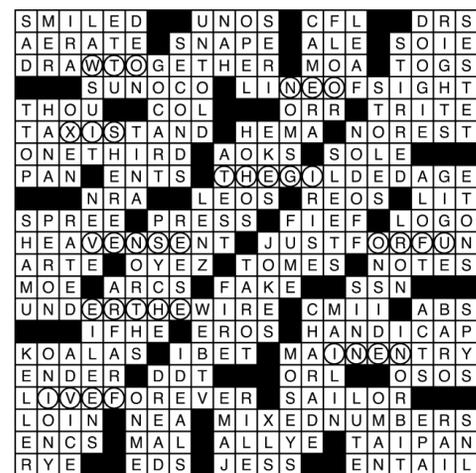
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Reach out for a loved one or dear

friend at a distance. This person could be fussy and detail oriented. Although discussions with this person might be difficult at times, you appreciate their different viewpoints.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
One-on-one relating takes you down a new path. You could finally get to the bottom of a problem and discover the best course of action. The other person involved could be quite verbal but change their mind at the last minute.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Defer to others. Actually, you might not have a choice; a partner has pushed you very hard to let them handle what's coming up. You might be disappointed or confused about what's happening. Relax.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



6/30/19