

### DIVERSIONS

#### THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

## For the rhyme, beeing: Big-word verse

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1494 we asked our Loserbards to write poems using words from this year's National Spelling Bee. Maybe these results will add some variety to Google searches on the words — which in many cases amount to nothing but dictionary listings. (Some of the less arcane ones are from the bee's vocabulary rounds.)

**4th place:**

**Brose, a Scottish dish made by pouring boiling water over oats**  
When making brose, Miss MacLehose  
Is apt to add malt whisky.  
It gives her zest, warms up her chest,  
And keeps her feeling frisky.  
Good sense may say don't start the day  
By going on a bender.  
But don't condemn poor wee Miss M  
A cereal offender.  
(*Stephen Gold, London, formerly of Scotland*)

**3rd place:**

**Toquilla (to-KEY-uh), a leaf fiber used to make panama hats**  
"Where's my boozee?" growled a tourist named Jim  
As a hat was presented to him.  
"I am sorry, señor,  
Did you not ask me for  
'Pure toquilla, right up to the brim?'" (*Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.*)

**2nd place and the toy bedbug: Coryza (co-RY-za), a head cold**  
If you think a pandemic is just a coryza  
Your future's secure as a MAGA advyza.  
(*Kevin Dopart, Washington*)

**And the winner of the Clowning Achievement: Chimichurri, a green sauce used in Latin American cuisine**  
A funny-tasting chimichurri taco from a Taco Bell  
Along a highway in Missouri brought me to E coli hell:  
A restroom filled with puking men where not a single stall was free.  
Does misery love company? So people say, but hey, not me.  
(*Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.*)

**Bee-sides:**  
**Honorable mentions**

**Brose (II)**  
While backpacking through Scotland, a rich obnoxious fop  
Had run out of his trail mix, so he went into a shop.  
The keeper boiled water and he poured it over top  
Of plain, unsweetened oatmeal and the tourist flipped his mop.  
"What's this rot supposed to be?"  
"It's brose; just let it sop  
While you're hiking; it'll mix and you can eat it when you stop."  
He bought some and then later, as he choked down every drop,  
He learned a brose by any name is still a bag of slop!  
(*Jon Gearhart, Des Moines*)

**Brose (III)**  
Said the Edinburgh witch, "I suppose  
Using college boys' fingers and toes,  
In my porridge of oats  
Adds some tasty grace notes,  
And I'll call it Fraternity Brose."  
(*Kevin Dopart*)

**Golilla (go-LEE-yuh), a ruff-like collar worn by Spanish officials in the Renaissance**  
A nonbeliever, Juan Garcia,  
Fixates on the white golilla,  
Knows the man's a magistrate,  
And steels himself to learn his fate.  
It's Torquemada, he's been told,  
Who's here to damn him to perdition.  
Sadly, no one — young or old —  
Expects the Spanish Inquisition.  
(*Chris Doyle*)

**Argillaceous, claylike**  
"He's dead, Jim," stated Bones, in direct, plain-spoken tones,  
Which Enterprising crewfolk thought ungracious:  
"This pronouncement, made so often — can we find a way to soften?"  
"Say, 'Captain Kirk, our ensign's argillaceous.'"  
(*Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.*)

**Dasydopid (da-SIP-odid), relating to armadillos.**  
A dashing young dasydopid was setting out one day  
To make his way across the road and pass the time away.  
This armadillo hit a snag, so he did not get far;  
He met his alter ego on the road: an armored car. (*Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.*)



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

## Now, Week 1498: V for verses — misuse a word in a poem

**My kids used to sleep on stacked single beds, While they dreamed and rested their sweet little heads. But they brought in the noise and brought in the funk, So now I'm afraid it is time to debunk.**

One of the Empress's rules for the contest that produced today's inking poems was "you must use the word with its real meaning and pronunciation; you can't pretend it's something else." But this week, at the suggestion of Loser Sarah Walsh, I ask the opposite: **Write a short (eight lines or fewer), humorous poem that uses one or more words in other than their actual meanings, as in "debunk" in Sarah's own example.**

Submit up to 25 entries at [wapo.st/enter-invite-1498](http://wapo.st/enter-invite-1498) (no capitals in the Web address). **Deadline is Monday, Aug. 1;** results appear Aug. 21 in print, Aug. 18 online.



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**If you get writer's block, at least you can play with this on your desk. This week's second prize.**

**Winner gets the Clowning Achievement, our Style Invitational trophy.** Second place receives an **adorable woodpecker toy:** It's a little wooden bird that you lift to the top of an 18-inch pole and set in motion as it peck-peck-pecks down to the bottom, fluttering its little feather. It's really too sweet to be a Loser prize, but Loser Dave Prevar gave it to us.

**Other runners-up** win their choice of our "For Best Results, Pour Into Top End" Loser Mug or our "Whole Fools" Grossery Bag. Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, "A Small Jester of Appreciation" or "Close, but Ceci N'est Pas un Cigare." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). See general contest rules and guidelines at [wapo.st/inviteFAQ](http://wapo.st/inviteFAQ). The headline "For the Rhyme, Beeing" is by Steve Smith; the honorable-mentions subhead was

submitted by both Jesse Frankovich and Jeff Rackow. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](https://www.facebook.com/invdev); "like" the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at [bit.ly/inkofaday](https://www.facebook.com/inkofaday); follow @StyleInk on Twitter.

• **The Style Conversational:** The Empress's weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. See this week's at [wapo.st/conv1498](http://wapo.st/conv1498).

### Dasydopid (II)

There once was a king who revered armadillos;  
They featured in tapestries, portraits and pillows.  
He wished that his knights for the battle would thirst,  
But his "brave" cavaliers were, quite simply, The Worst.  
On tournament day, to the king's great chagrin  
Each one left his hauberk behind at the inn.  
Fed up and enraged, the king angrily chid,  
"Wear your armor all day, like the dasydopid!"  
(*Sarah Walsh, Rockville*)

**Chorine, old-time chorus girl**  
A Parisian chorine can recall  
Being cautioned: "No leaning, stand tall!"  
When you kick, stay erect  
So your legs will project.  
In the cancan, you can't cant at all!"  
(*Chris Doyle*)

**Cacoepy, mispronunciation** (*the word itself may be pronounced ka-CO-pee, as in the first poem below, or kaka-WEH-pee, as in the second*)  
While her name doesn't rhyme with "impala,"  
Some, on purpose, will call her "ka-MAL-a."  
Most regard that as dopey,  
But the ploy of cacoepy  
Sure makes many a MAGA type holla.  
(*Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.*)

**Cacoepy (II)**  
You munch on "sherbert" or a "crape"?  
Your blunders are horrific.  
Mischievously you excape!  
Oh, I could get pacific.  
"Your cacoepic point is mute!  
Relax! It's Febuary!"  
You'll find me in the bridal suit  
Committing harry-carry.  
(*Duncan Stevens*)

**Lipofuscin (lip-oh-FUSS-in), pigments found in internal cells, associated with aging**  
Is your hair going gray? Don't you fret.  
It turns out that, the older you

get,  
As your cells turn to Jell-O,  
Lipofuscin (brown-yellow)  
Makes your insides more blond and brunette.  
(*Melissa Balmain*)

**Mercator projection: a world map that exaggerates the size of lands near the poles**  
My lawmaker colleagues, you see on this globe  
How the ice caps have shrunk; a correction  
Is urgently needed. Instead of a globe  
We should use a Mercator projection.  
(*Coleman Glenn, Huntingdon Valley, Pa.*)

**Ostreger, a keeper of goshawks**  
He's the one with a bird in the hand  
Not the one with a head in the sand.  
(*Kevin Dopart*)

**Torrefaction, roasting with fire or intense heat**  
When I'm trying to style my hair  
And my Airwrap breaks as the heat goes out  
blowing nothing but lukewarm air  
Flatt'ning out my thoroughly drenched Mohawk  
As they laugh at me out on the boardwalk ...  
I can't get no torrefaction  
I can't get no frizz reduction  
and I dry and I dry and I dry and I dry ....  
(*Frank Mann, Washington*)

**And Last: Oculogric, relating to eye-rolling**  
Stylishly smilishly,  
Wannabe humorists  
Rattle off entries to Poor progeny,  
All of whom sigh and say, Oculogrically,  
"Inking or not, you're a Loser to me."  
(*Coleman Glenn*)

**More honorable mentions in the online Invite at [wapo.st/invite1498](http://wapo.st/invite1498).**  
**Still running — deadline Monday, Aug. 25:** Tell us a what-if scenario and its funny result. See [wapo.st/invite1497](http://wapo.st/invite1497).

#### L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

"THE OLD SWITCHEROO" BY GARY LARSON & AMY ENSZ

**ACROSS**

- 1 "Dragnet" star Jack
- 5 Got to laugh
- 11 Big galoots
- 15 Feathery scarves
- 19 Diva's delivery
- 20 Albania neighbor
- 21 Office note
- 22 Luxury hotel chain
- 23 "Truly unappetizing French dish?"
- 25 "In favor of monetary penalties?"
- 27 Ruhr Valley city
- 28 On
- 30 Lhasa native
- 31 "The Optimist's Daughter" Pulitzer winner
- 35 Group in the minors
- 38 Snoopy adversary
- 42 Down source
- 43 Quaked
- 48 "Proposed bill?"
- 51 Dull pain
- 52 \_\_\_ fide: in bad faith
- 53 Honeycomb figures
- 54 Actor Sheen
- 56 Left hanging
- 59 "Time \_\_\_ the essence"
- 60 Animated short
- 61 Lentil dish
- 62 Cynthia Nixon's role on "The Gilded Age"
- 63 Some tribute pieces
- 66 Salary
- 67 "Source of talent for a major-league franchise?"
- 71 "Opposed to medical treatment?"
- 73 Claire, Wisconsin
- 74 Platitude
- 76 Bovine chew
- 77 Load from a lode
- 78 Moving right along
- 80 Violinist Leopold
- 82 Anka song with a Spanish title
- 86 Slowing down, musically: Abbr.
- 87 Cowardly Lion portrayer
- 89 Eurasian range
- 91 Last name of both " Fargo" writers

125 As many as 126 "Gin and Juice" rapper Snoop

**DOWN**

- 1 Minimum
- 2 Commits a faux pas
- 3 Life stories
- 4 Military outpost
- 5 Pedigree org.
- 6 Holstein sound
- 7 Admiral's org.
- 8 As yet
- 9 "A New Argentina" musical
- 10 Inflict on
- 11 Concert device
- 12 Pay-\_\_\_view
- 13 Hams
- 14 "Modern Family" actress Vergara
- 15 Ecru kin
- 16 Drop
- 17 Chlumsky of "Veep"
- 18 Omen
- 24 Move stealthily
- 26 Some early PCs
- 29 Form couples

32 New England sch.

**ACROSS**

- 33 "Tiny Bubbles" singer
- 34 First word of "The Raven"
- 36 Yemeni port
- 37 "Rizzoli & Isles" crime series novelist
- 38 "Bohemian Rhapsody" Oscar winner
- 39 Actor McGregor
- 40 American Girl product
- 41 Intertwines
- 42 Frozen waffle brand
- 44 Sabrina portrayer
- 45 Melissa Joan \_\_\_
- 46 Resident of Lima, Lisbon, or Athens
- 47 Big name in smooth jazz
- 49 Lime and rust
- 50 Astronaut's insignia

54 Bongbong of the Philippines

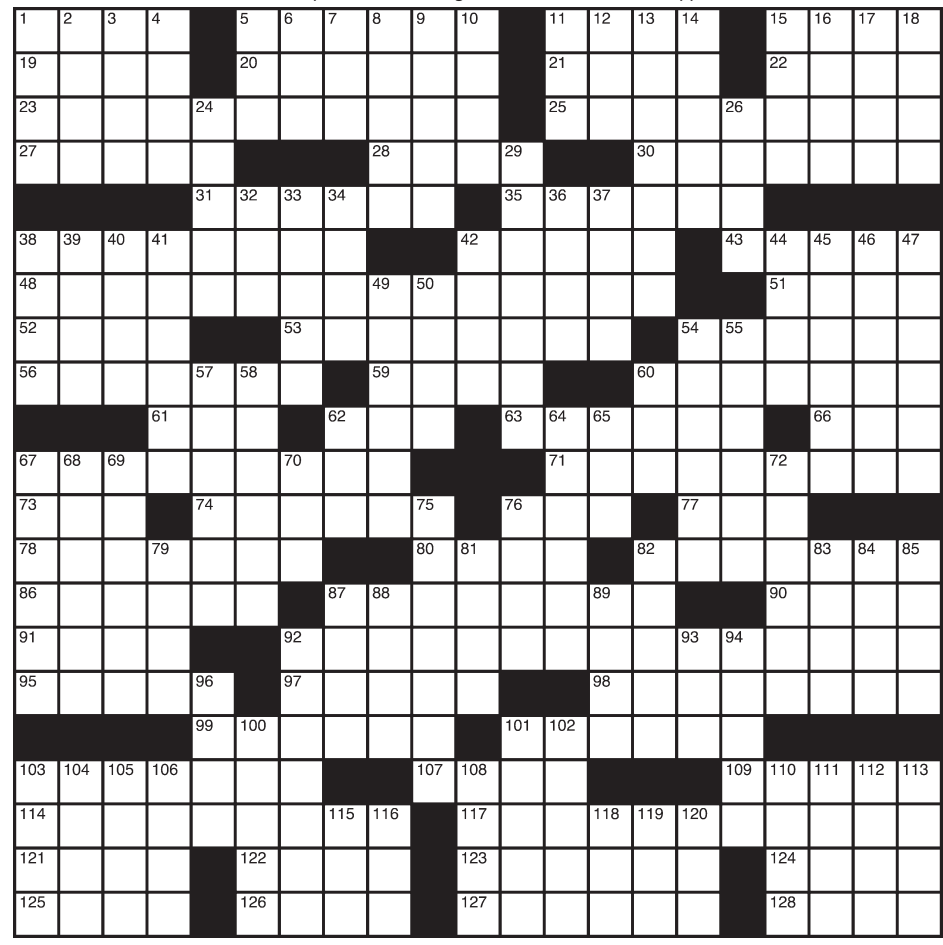
**DOWN**

- 55 Conductor
- 57 Be relevant
- 58 Sounded loudly
- 60 Recycle bin item
- 62 Boxer Muhammad
- 64 Honda luxury cars
- 65 Doze
- 67 Guy of "Memento"
- 68 Allocate
- 69 Got rid of
- 70 Pal
- 72 Counters
- 75 Mime Marcel
- 76 Collectible frames
- 79 Glazier's item
- 81 Sport-\_\_\_: versatile vehicles
- 82 Lose ground?
- 83 Noted times
- 84 All there
- 85 Auto pioneer
- 87 Verve
- 88 A dog's age
- 89 Chart toppers

92 Soft drink giant

**DOWN**

- 93 Scott Simon's network
- 94 Filled
- 96 "Sorry Not Sorry" singer
- 100 Bowl of greens
- 101 Composer Copland
- 102 Land by the sea
- 103 Anti-censorship org.
- 104 Belt holder
- 105 Fastener with flanges
- 106 "Should that be the case ..."
- 108 Toll rd.
- 110 Bogus offer
- 111 "Beloved" novelist
- 115 Morrison
- 112 Sinus docs
- 113 Exxon's original brand name
- 115 Badger
- 116 Band booking
- 118 \_\_\_ La Table: kitchenware retailer
- 119 Director Lee
- 120 Anti vote



7/24/22

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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

#### HOROSCOPE

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

**Happy Birthday | July 24:** You are a practical dreamer. You are friendly, sympathetic and comfortable with people from all walks of life. You value security, yet you're courageous about pursuing new avenues. This year is the beginning of a new nine-year cycle for you. Be ready to act on new opportunities. Be courageous. Open any door.

**Moon Alert:** There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions. The Moon is in Gemini.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19)  
It's a lovely day to relax or entertain at home, which means you can invite family or friends over for good food and drink. Many of you will be interested in redecorating or tweaking your digs to make them look better. Got something to show off?

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20)  
This is a feel-good day. Enjoy talking to siblings, relatives and neighbors. You will have greater appreciation of your daily surroundings. In other words, life feels good! You're happy to be alive.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)  
Business and commerce are favored. Give serious thought to your moneymaking ideas, because they might be worthwhile. If shopping, you will want to buy beautiful things. However, be cautious about going overboard or being too extravagant.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22)  
You feel happy and positive, which is why you will enjoy the company of others. It's important that you do something you really enjoy. (Put pleasure before work.) Consider shopping for wardrobe items, but caution against extravagance. Keep your receipts.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)  
You are at peace in your world. With both the Sun and Mercury in your sign, you will be happy to talk to others and share your ideas. Nevertheless, some of you will choose to cocoon and enjoy some downtime by yourself.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)  
Relations with friends and members of groups are warm and friendly. It's an excellent day to interact with classes, clubs and organizations, especially with

creative projects and artistic people. Travel plans are still appealing.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)  
You'll enjoy excellent relations with people in authority because they will be favorably inclined toward you. (Ask for approval or permission). Meanwhile, someone might want your advice about making something look better.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)  
You have a strong urge to travel for pleasure today. If you can do so, act on this desire. Romance with someone different or from another culture might flourish. Enjoy doing something different from your usual routine.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)  
This is a solid day for money and finances. In fact, gifts and goodies might come your way. It's a particularly good time to settle disputes about inheritances and shared property because you will

be favored.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)  
Relations with others are excellent. Because you're so smooth, this is a good day to mend rifts with others. One reason for this is that you find it easy to express your affection and make your feelings clear to others.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)  
You'll be happy working at whatever task you choose because you feel a sense of reward from whatever you're doing. You might enjoy helping someone else. Don't go overboard on fattening or sweet foods. A work-related romance is possible.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)  
Your involvement with children will be upbeat. All kinds of social activities are favored. This is a great day for a vacation or any kind of social outing, because your primary objective is to have a good time and enjoy yourself.

#### Answers to last week's puzzle.

