

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Bee-Mused: Report from Week 1181

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1181** we gave you a list of words that were used in this year's National Spelling Bee and asked you to include one in a funny poem. Donald Trump is no doubt writing these down so he can use them in his speeches.

4th place

Tourelle (tour-ELLE): a small tower or turret:

"The towers I build all excel," Boasted Trump, "and the one where I dwell
Is the pinnacle — theirs
Hardly even compares!
They should call it the Eiffel
Tourelle."
(Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

3rd place

Solenoglyphous (Sol-e-NOG-li-fus), having fangs that fold into the mouth:

"Your solenoglyphous fangs are spectacular!
They are awesome (to use the vernacular)
'Cause they fold up inside
Till you open up wide —
I asp-pire to be like you!" Signed:
Dracula
(Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

2nd place and the books "Humpy the Moose" and "How Animals Have Sex":**Solmizate, to sing musical notes with their letter names, as in do-re-mi:**

The music teacher warbled, "This vocation can elate!
I tested all my pupils on how well they solmizate.
It warmed my heart to hear them; from each Do to So to Do,
They made my spirit sing with their divine solfeggio.
They passed with flying colors — all but little Donny T.
No matter what the music said, he just sang 'Mi, Mi, Mi.'" (Nan Reiner, Boca Raton, Fla.)

And the winner of the Inkin' Memorial:**Mischsprache (mish-SHPRA-cha)[throat-clearing sound]), a language combining two or more languages:**

In Paris, Rhett Butler knew well not to mock a
Young lady who spoke in a form of mischsprache.
"Mon English eez mal, sir; how stupide I am!"
"Franglais, my dear? Ah just don't give a damn." (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

Mis-bee-gotten: honorable mentions**Ochlocracy (ock-LOCK-ra-see):**

Ochlocracy's
The rule by mob.
Plutocracy's
The rule by snob.
Gerontocracy's
The rule by grump.
Kakistocracy?
The rule by Trump.
(Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

Soprosyne (suh-FROSS-uh-nee): prudence, self-control:

I. If a don makes an offer you might just refuse,
Here's advice from a guy with a leg he can't use:
A goombah's unlikely to practice soprosyne
Whacking a Louisville slugger across a knee. (Chris Doyle)

II. A Modern Mantra

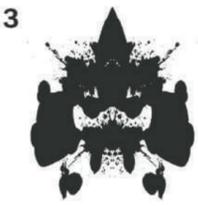
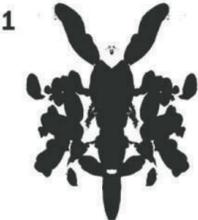
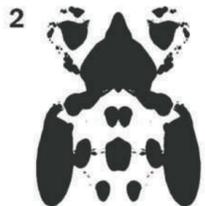
Wisdom, judgment, wit and sense;
Soprosyne, intelligence;
Keep these close and you will live a life without regret.
CHAOS! BEDLAM! HAVOC! MESS!
TUMULT! TURMOIL!
LAWLESSNESS!
This is what will happen if you argue on the Internet.
(Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station, Va.)

III. How can we put a person forth to be the nation's boss, and he Be utterly devoid of any semblance of soprosyne? (Nan Reiner)

Strepitous (STREP-itous): noisy, boisterous:

I. Here's why geezers aren't strepitous:
They are, simply too decrepitous.
(Mae Scanlan, Washington)

II. It was placid on my street in Boise,
Till new neighbors moved in — wow, they're noisy!
With this strepitous crew,
There's not much I can do —
Who would shush "the Sopranos, from Joisey"? (Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.)

New contest for Week 1185: The Rorschach of the crowd

BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Here's a contest that the Empress's predecessor, the Czar, did three times in the 1990s, way back in Weeks 30, 77 and 148 (the last one labeled "IV." Whatever). The contest is obvious: **This week: Interpret one or more of these genuine symmetrical inkblots. You may look at them upside down or sideways, but you need to let us know. In return, we will diagnose (but not disclose) your humor affliction.**

Submit entries at this website: bit.ly/enter-invite-1185 (all lowercase).

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives this utterly fabulous fuzzy spiked dinosaur/dragon hat with a train of soft spikes. Donated by Dave Prevar and modeled at a recent Loser brunch by Margaret Stevens, the adorable 6-year-old daughter of Ubiquitous Loser Duncan Stevens.

Other runners-up win their choice of a yearned-for Loser Mug, the older-model "This Is Your Brain on Mugs" mug or a vintage Loser T-shirt. Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, "Magnet Dum Laude" or "Falling Jest Short." First Offenders receive a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). Deadline is Monday night, Aug. 1; results published Aug. 21 (online Aug. 18). You may submit up to 25 entries per contest. See contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline for this week's results is by Nan Reiner; the honorable-mentions subhead is by Chris Doyle. 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; 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.



PAT MYERS/THE WASHINGTON POST

Loserkind Margaret Stevens models this week's 2nd prize.**Alpargata (AL-par-GAH-ta), a canvas slip-on shoe with a rope sole:**

You wonder if I am a dork?
I think you'll see there's not a Doubt I am — I'm wearing socks inside my alpargata.
(Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.)

Aplustre (a-PLUS-tree), the curved ornamental stern of a Greek or Roman ship:

The Climax of "The Little Mermaid"
The Sea Witch gets speared with a broken aplustre,
Thus turning the maritime weather less blustery.
(Matt Monitto, Bristol, Conn.)

Pilcrow (pill-crow), a paragraph symbol:

"Oh, honey," the editor's email lamented,
"The car is [a pilcrow]" (read "slightly indented").
(Rob Cohen, Potomac)

Piqueur (pee-CUR), the supervisor of hounds during a hunt:

From some disagreement on when they should let the hounds out for the fox,
Two hot-tempered hunt club

attendants pulled up and proceeded to box.
The huntsman, embarrassed in front of the riders all up in their saddles,
Apologetically glanced at the pair and just shrugged, "Piqueur battles."
(Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.)

Epistaxis (epi-STAX-is), a nosebleed:

He took her to a concert, and they got there right on time;
But little did she know they'd have a monumental climb.
As up up up they made their way, down down went her affection;
He'd bought the cheapest seats up in the epistaxis-section.
(Beverly Sharp)

Myiasis (my-EYE-a-sis), maggot infestation:

Myiasis occurs when maggots make their home in you
And tunnel through your flesh like you are human barbecue.
It's thoroughly disgusting and I hope this poem's a winner
'Cause when I did the image search I nearly lost my dinner.
(George-Ann Rosenberg, Washington)

Tyee (tye-ee), a large salmon:

Here's a curious case you might like to examine:
One sale, two arrivals concurrent.
Tom had run to the store: "I was first to that salmon!"
Said Jimmy, a cyclist: "You weren't!"
Very shortly, the magistrate pounded his gavel;
His verdict was clearly a stunner:
"When the gentlemen differ in manner of travel,
The tyee must go to the runner."
(Matt Monitto)

More honorable mentions in the online Invite at bit.ly/invite1185.

Still running — deadline Monday night, July 25: our contest to nominate another presidential candidate. See bit.ly/invite1184.

SUNDAY CHALLENGE

BY LYNN LEMPEL © 2016 CROSSYNERGY SYNDICATE LLC

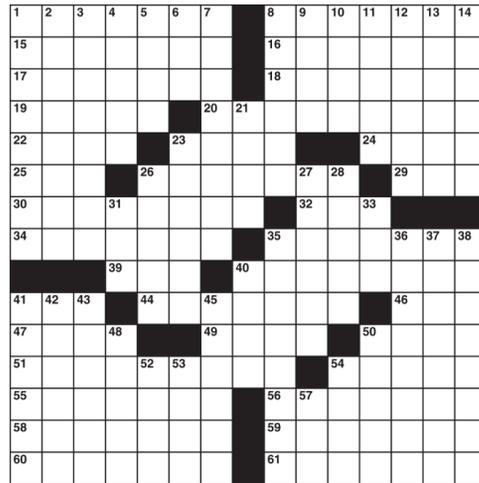
ACROSS
1 Kibble, e.g.
8 States
15 Waste away
16 Take to the exit
17 Have a first go at
18 "Is this possible?"
19 Professor Hinkle's rabbit in "Frosty the Snowman," familiarly
20 Previously
22 Fedora feature
23 Off-filtered fare
24 Impulsive
25 Mitt's Mrs.
26 One with a glimmer of Hope?
29 Election winners
30 Adjust to a standard
32 Opposing side
34 It takes place in a heartbeat
35 In a way

39 Psychoanalytic construct
40 Danish castle city
41 Bug
44 Exist in a state of suppressed anger
46 Extinct bird of New Zealand
47 Put one's foot down
49 Whole lot
50 Way to go
51 Sweltering
54 Scoutmaster on early TV?
55 Period preceder, perhaps
56 Artist's workplace
58 Gives a new version of
59 Gravestones and milestones
60 Support frame
61 As a whole

DOWN
1 Where spirits may well be high
2 Person often getting into arguments
3 Some copies
4 Place for public discussion
5 Elects (to)
6 "Who would've thunk it!"
7 "Fantastic!"
8 March family chronicler
9 John and Yoko's son
10 Fit to be tried
11 Minds some p's and q's

12 Twisty pasta
13 Underground Railroad conductor dubbed "Moses"
14 Soaks in a liquid
21 Spotify download
23 Competition with pole positions
26 Stops up
27 Compensate for
28 Underling's denial
31 Wickiup dweller, once
33 Bunch of eras
35 High school sweetheart, maybe
36 Ethnic group of Central Europe
37 Sulky pullers

38 Male that carries the eggs
40 Flight option since 1948
41 Slogan bearer, at times
42 Confession attendee
43 Diminutive
45 Ultimatum phrase
48 Hors d'oeuvre spreads
50 Popular Lawrence Welk genre
52 Sedimentary rock, largely
53 Symphony venue
54 Period for a prisoner or president
57 Neutral shade



Answer to last week

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

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | July 24: This year could be very exciting if you stay open to different ideas and are willing to be more vulnerable than you have been in the past. Others will be jealous of your popularity. If you are single, one-on-one relating proves to be delightful, as you are a very romantic sign. If you are attached, your relationship becomes much warmer. You enjoy each other's company more and more. Pisces could be even more romantic than you are.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

You'll understand why you have been needing so much rest as of late. You could feel as if you are a piece of saltwater taffy being pulled in many different directions.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

You have compensated for so much and have kept a very active schedule in the past few days. You might want to excuse yourself from certain social events.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

Where you are is where others want to be. You always add a witty and charming element to the mix. A partner could be difficult, cold and distant. You might wonder what you can do to warm up your interaction.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

Stay on top of an event that you are involved in. You easily could be appointed the role of host or hostess. Of all the signs, you know best how to make others comfortable in a social situation.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Opt for a day trip and head out of town. You could be surprised by how delighted you are to see different scenery. Head to a flea market or an art show. Invite someone who lives in the direction you are heading to join you for a meal.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

You could be out of sorts. Honor a need to withdraw. It is your day of rest, but you still may need to perform for others. A loved one will enjoy spending the day with only you, and vice versa.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

You may feel as if you need more time to yourself, but also recognize that your company has been missed. Take a day off with a loved one, and keep plans loose and easy.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Recognize a need for rest. You can accomplish only so much, and it will be harder each day if you don't slow down. Be wise — do not fry your energy.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You could be running circles around others without even realizing it. You have become rather closemouthed as of late. A child taps into your energy and helps you open up.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Stay close to home, despite invitations to join others at a favorite spot. You could hear news that forces you to talk to a family member whom you have not seen in a while.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Use today to call several friends whom you think about but never really get a chance to visit with. Invite them over if you can. Making them part of your Sunday via a call will delight them; reconnecting is important.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Be aware of your expenses and the cost of a major purchase. You might want to consider waiting for a while. Reach out to someone who could be grumpy or who feels neglected.

Family won't forgive alcoholic fight

Ask Amy

AMY DICKINSON

before he turned his life around, he had multiple issues with my family. While on a drinking binge, he had a verbal argument with my father, which he has tried to apologize for many times.

This was three years ago, and my family refuses to even speak his name.

A few months ago, I broke things off with my boyfriend because I thought my family would never accept him.

I am still very upset by this, because I can't see myself with anyone else.

I know he would spend the rest of his life with me if that's what I wanted. My family has never seen the good side of him. He treats me very well since getting sober.

My family doesn't believe that alcoholism is a disease and that he has been in treatment for it. Should I get back together with him and risk my parents never accepting it?

Heartbroken

Heartbroken: Please understand how upsetting it is for parents to see a child in a relationship with someone they fear is drunk and abusive.

Your parents don't believe in the redemptive power of sobriety. They may think that they are protecting you, but they are really controlling you, and you are letting them.

Alcoholism affects everyone it touches. Your guy's own family, friends and co-workers have probably been affected by his drinking. Because of this, many alcoholics working a 12-step program will make amends and ask for forgiveness from every single person in their lives.

And this is when the people sharing their lives are called upon to step up and also work the program by forgiving.

If your guy is rock-solid sober, loves and treasures you, and has asked for forgiveness, then I'd say that your family members are in worse shape than he is.

The way to work this out is for you to be brave enough to love the person you want to love. You will walk through this world together one day at a time. You should ask your parents to accept this reality but

understand that they may have a hard time getting there.

Dear Amy: Responding to the letter from "Atheistic, but Not Amoral," for both theists and atheists, the matter of belief is not a choice.

People have choices over what religious or humanistic communities they join or don't join but cannot choose what they believe. The Hindu belief in reincarnation is appealing in many ways, but the appeal cannot transform a lack of belief into belief. The mother who wrote you did not make a "choice not to believe." She simply does not have a theistic belief.

Jerre

Jerre: Thank you for the thoughtful response.

Write to Amy Dickinson at askamy@tribune.com or Ask Amy, Chicago Tribune, TT500, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60611.

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