

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Pun-leavened 'bred': Hot 'lik' verses

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1219** we introduced to the Invite "lik the bred" poems, based on the faux-Chaucerian verses posted in various comment threads on Reddit by postdoctoral student Sam Garland, a.k.a. Poem for Your Sprog. While insisting on the Sproggian 32 syllables in iambic meter, the Empress allowed real modern English along with the fake Middle, and for four longer lines as well as eight little ones. And the poems had to refer to someone in the news.

4th place

I be **Paul Ryan**. I muste do whate'er the Donald wants me to condonne his lies and cede controlle, i kepe my jobbe. i loos my soulle. (Elliott Shevin, Oak Park, Mich.)

3rd place

I'm **Donald Trump**. To build my wall, I need more cash, A massive haul. But I'm so smart, To fund my deals I scrap the Wheels; I steal the Meals. (Brian Allgar, Paris)

2nd place and the Creep-E electronic bug:

I am the **Fox**; I spin the New. I scorn and spurn and warp the true. I careth not wat I may tel: I mayk it uppe. I mayk it selle. (Graham King, Fife, Scotland, a First Offender)

And the winner of the Inkin' Memorial:

My name is **Neil** And Merrick's his. Like me he's smart, A legal whiz. But he stayed home And I went far, 'Cause he's a D And I'm an R. (David Lewis, Charlestown, Ind.)

Canterbury Fails: honorable mentions

Marine Le Pen I me apple. For liberte I ring ze bell. And if you're blanc, egalite — but if you're noir, you go ze way. (Brian Allgar)

My name is **Bryce**, who plays in ryte, Home runs I hitte, with ample myte, In two mor years, when I be Yank, With pins for strypes, I brayke the bank. (Mark Raffman, Reston)

My name is **Dev**. I work in House. I shield the Prez while Dems all grouse. Now Nancy P. says I'm his "stooge." One thing is clear: I screwed the poodge. (Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.)

My name is **Paul**. My planne was thicke: It said, "Tough lucke!" if you get sick. My planne has met An Epick Faile. I slinke away. I tucke my taille. (Nan Reiner, Boca Raton, Fla.)

I'm **Vladimir** and every day I hack your mail, read what you say. I doff my shirt at every chance, but when with Trump I wear the pants. (Maria Zimmerman, Berryville, Va.)

My name is **Sean**. I have no couthe. I know not falsehood from the truthe. For myne is not to reason why: They give me jobbe. I sell their lye. (Nan Reiner)

My name is **Sean**, and every day I meet the press and dodge away And pepper folks with false attacks, 'Cause that's my job — I spice the facts. (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

My name is **Jeff**, a sutherne beau, And wen I eat an Oreo, I never take a mingled byte — I lothe the blak; I lik the whyte. (Jesse Frankovich)

My name is **Ben**, a top MD, But HHS was not for me, An "urban" post was in my blood, (Or skin, perhaps) — I lead the HUD. (Mark Raffman)

'BBC Dad' Robert Kelly My name is Dad; I'm on the air;



New contest for Week 1223: Post again out to mislead public!

JETS INTERCEPTED NEAR NYC FIVE TIMES THIS WEEK! *New England 21, New York 17* (Russell Beland)

ZOMBIES FOUND IN BALTIMORE HOSPITAL! *Johns Hopkins has cut back on medical residents' 90-hour workweeks.* (Jane Auerbach)

DEATH TOLL HITS 152 AT AREA PARKS! *Howard County sponsored a deer hunt.* (Tom Witte)

It's truer than ever that nobody reads a newspaper story topped by a boring headline. Each week these days, The Post's Gene Park sends out an in-house memo citing "5 great WaPo headlines" that engage the audience and provoke curiosity. So let's give Gene some material that would certainly do those things — to a comical fault: In a contest we haven't done since 2003: **Write a humorously sensationalistic, misleading headline on an otherwise mundane article or ad published in The Post or elsewhere from April 13 to April 24.** Obviously, we can't run the article itself, so you'll have to sum up the article in a single concise line as in the examples above from Week 537, the Empress's second contest ever — or else your joke will fall flat.

Submit entries at this website: bit.ly/enter-invite-1223 (all lowercase).

Winner gets the **Inkin' Memorial**, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a handsome set of little coasters spelling out L-O-S-E-R (or, if you prefer, E-R-L-O-S or 118 other permutations), crocheted expressly for The Style Invitational by super-Loser Jesse Frankovich, a man clearly of many talents. **Other runners-up** win our new "You Gotta Play to Lose" Loser Mug or our Grossery Bag, "I Got a B in Punmanship." Honorable mentions get one of our new lusted-after Loser magnets, "No Childishness Left Behind" or "Magnum Dopus." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). Deadline is Monday night, April 24; results published May 14 (online May 11). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. "Pun-leavened 'bred'" in this week's results headline is by Chris Doyle; the honorable-mentions subhead is by Kevin Dopart. Join the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev. "Like" 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.



Rearrange your identity 119 ways with Jesse Frankovich's hand-crocheted coasters, this week's second prize.

My kids barge in 'cause they don't care. Of all things to go viral for — Next time I Skype I lock the door. (Claire Walsh, Herndon, a First Offender)

My name is **Faye**; I'm Warren's friend. We make big goof At Oscars end. Not "La La Land" But "Moonlight" shines — Yet one more time I flub my lines. (Brendan Beary)

My naem is **Dan**, I owne this teem That seems to lak Som selfe esteem. Sinse nynety-three Lyke som olde grouch I've watch'd the Bowl Wyle on me cowch. (Frank Mann, Washington)

My name is **Kellyanne** the Mouth; My spotlight time is headed south. My feelings hurt, I cry out "Ouch! Please keep me on! I love the couch." (Kevin Mettinger, Warrenton, Va.)

My name is **Don**, and wen I see A lovee ladee next to mee I just start kissing — wye seduce? Don't even wayte. I grab the poobe. (Marni Penning Coleman, Falls Church, Va.)

my name is **Trump** and wen its nite, or wen the moon is shiynig brite,

and all the men haf gon to bed — i stay up late and tweet insane and racist conspiracy theories, stupid insults about Meryl Streep, lame complaints about "SNL" and "Hamilton", ignorant claims about U.S. allies, anti-Semitic graphics from white supremacist websites, vague threats directed at various American businesses ... (Shannon Bartlett Kizer, Beaverton, Ore.)

And last: a loozer, i; for inke i yearne. badde joakes i lov; goode tayste i spurne. my entrys have sutch witte and snappe, weeke inne, weeke oute, i winne mutch crappe. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va., who hath wonne at least 68 items of crappe so far)

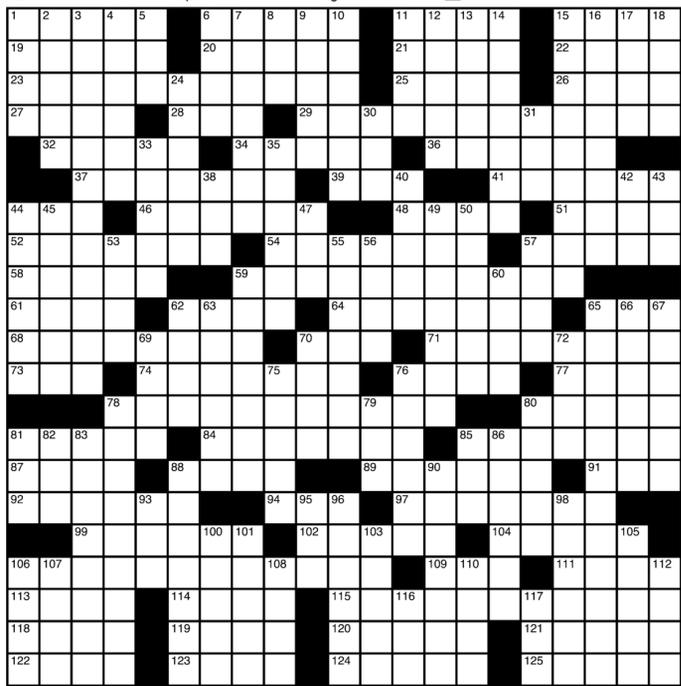
And even laster: My nam is **Pat**, an Empress I; my poem laws can mistifye. But still they draw the stabbes of fools. They'l get no inke, I mak the ruls. (Scott Ableman, McLean, Va., a First Offender)

Still running — deadline Monday, April 17: our 23rd annual horse name "breeding" contest. See bit.ly/invite1222.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

- "ACTION FIGURES" By C.C. BURNIKEL**
- ACROSS**
- 1 Quaker in the wind
 - 6 Little bite
 - 11 "House" actor Omar
 - 15 Full house, e.g.
 - 19 Pond flower
 - 20 Navel type
 - 21 Selectively remove
 - 22 Butterlike topping
 - 23 Doris during a workout?
 - 25 Maker of Regenerist skin care products
 - 26 'Vette roof option
 - 27 Claims
 - 28 Greenwich Village sch.
 - 29 Director Oliver working on pizza dough?
 - 32 Cymbals with a pedal
 - 34 Tire for emergencies
 - 36 Perfect Sleepers, e.g.
 - 37 Yoga class greeting
 - 39 Place for a bud?
 - 41 Deepest, as feelings
 - 44 Tiny bit
 - 46 Many a pizza slice
 - 48 Subj. for Janet Yellen
 - 51 Diaper cream additive
 - 52 Labor day deliveries
 - 54 Quisling's crime
 - 57 1688 coffeehouse founder Edward better known in the insurance world
 - 58 Cause of some lines
 - 59 Comical Samantha busy stitching?
 - 61 Look for
 - 62 Masterful move
 - 64 Ski resort sight
 - 65 Avoid, as an issue
 - 68 Some battered rings
 - 70 Mumbai mister
 - 71 Baker's gluten-free choice
 - 73 JFK: New York ... Chicago
 - 74 Singer Laine
 - 76 Troubles
 - 77 Lara's love
 - 78 Nicolas taking a swing?
 - 80 Big 112-Down
 - 81 Painter of dancers
 - 84 Lacking variety
 - 85 Silkscreen aid
 - 87 Computer with a Magic Keyboard
 - 88 Disc golf obstacle
 - 89 Dürer, e.g.
 - 91 They, in Cognac
 - 92 One typing a's and z's
 - 94 Used a bench, say
 - 97 Certain triathlete
 - 99 French sponge cake
 - 102 Linguine sauce
 - 104 Squalid
 - 106 Singer Al making a strike?
 - 109 Spanish pronoun
 - 111 Provide a bank floor plan for, say
 - 113 Eurasian border river
 - 114 Alpha ___
 - 115 Nathan at quarterback?
 - 118 Inconsequential
 - 119 Exiled Roman poet
 - 120 Clashing with, with "of"
 - 121 Sheds
 - 122 Florist's creation
 - 123 State of disarray
 - 124 "Spider-Man" actress
 - 125 Shoelace protector
 - DOWN**
 - 1 Accomplishments
 - 2 2002 skating gold medalist
 - 3 Sally having fun?
 - 4 Cuthbert of "24"
 - 5 Editor Talese with her own Doubleday imprint
 - 6 Stylish
 - 7 Amen Corner golf course, familiarly
 - 8 Benchmark: Abbr.
 - 9 Pageant sparkler
 - 10 Fooch's mopey pal
 - 11 "Silent Spring" subj.
 - 12 Canines with corded coats
 - 13 Flier
 - 14 Con man's expression
 - 15 Spicy steamed Mexican food
 - 16 "He Was Despised," in Handel's "Messiah"
 - 17 Strip gas
 - 18 Suss (out)
 - 24 In one piece
 - 30 Grassy expanse
 - 31 Amtrak stop: Abbr.
 - 33 "Schoolchildren": Tracy Kidder book
 - 35 Unreleased
 - 38 Google Maps lines: Abbr.
 - 40 Varnish component
 - 42 Tofurky protein source
 - 43 Newsman
 - 44 Debauched
 - 45 Engaged
 - 47 Hexa- halved
 - 49 Express sympathy (with)
 - 50 Needing to be saved?
 - 53 Ottawa-born songwriter
 - 55 "View of Toledo" painter
 - 56 Yours, in Cognac
 - 57 Romaine bit
 - 59 Tonic ingredient
 - 60 Layered lunches
 - 62 Golf course rental
 - 63 Soapbox user
 - 65 Lucille on a trampoline?
 - 66 Pass good in 28 countries
 - 67 Tailgating fixtures
 - 69 Degs. for writers
 - 70 Something flashed by a catcher
 - 72 The Eagles' "___ Eyes"
 - 75 Prayer supports
 - 76 Following remark?
 - 78 Place for shady transactions
 - 79 Had Subway fare
 - 80 Physics Nobel of 1938
 - 81 Tango move
 - 82 London's Virgin ___ Records
 - 83 Turf disputes
 - 85 "Billions" network, briefly
 - 86 Muscle-bone connector
 - 88 "16 and Pregnant" spin-off
 - 90 King known for his wealth
 - 93 "Lord, is ___?": Matthew
 - 95 Big primate
 - 96 One of 18 on a disc golf course
 - 98 Like sundials
 - 100 ___ nectar: sugar substitute
 - 101 Wrinkly fruits
 - 103 Major snag
 - 105 Broadway matchmaker
 - 106 Speed deterrent
 - 107 Sister brand of Nilla
 - 108 Wine list heading
 - 110 Bank deposit
 - 112 See 80-Across
 - 116 Scott Eastwood, to Clint
 - 117 "Today" alternative, for short



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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! April 16: This year, you are optimistic yet serious. Not everyone can handle inconsistency as well as you. Your decisions tend to differ according to what mood you're in. If you are single, a potential sweetie finds you exciting. If you are attached, hopefully your significant other understands that you are in a phase of some sort. Find a way to let your sweetie know how much you appreciate them. Capricorn often rains on your parade.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Detach in order to come to a better understanding of where others are coming from. Moving out of your mind-set will be critical. A serious talk could relieve some of the stress you feel.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) A partner plays a significant role in your day. You might enjoy some of the lightness you share, yet a serious topic demands your attention. Take off for a movie or some other form of entertainment.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Many people will seek you out. The reasons vary, but the message is clear: Your support means a lot. A serious conversation can be postponed, but make sure that you're okay with that choice.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Try not to wear yourself down by pushing too hard to complete a project. You could find yourself running around doing errands. Take a nap if you can, as plans might pop up from out of the blue.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You might choose to work from home or take the day off. How you structure your free time and decide what to do could vary from person to person. Make the most of this unanticipated personal time.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Getting going takes effort, but try not to push yourself too hard. Take a lazy day or a few hours to go off and indulge yourself. Out of a lessening of rigidity emerges some compassion and perhaps even some carefree moments.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Make morning calls and enjoy catching up with loved ones. A friend might have some fun news to share. Staying close to certain

individuals remains a high priority for you. You could be surprised by a partner's reaction later in the day.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You could be in a situation where you feel as if you have to handle a personal or financial matter. You might need to end the thought of making a purchase you have been considering for a while.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You could be coming off more seriously than you realize. Perhaps your taxes have posed a challenge for you, or maybe you are simply looking at a more serious issue than usual. Decide to indulge yourself a little.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Use the daylight hours to do

whatever you want. You might be in the process of renewing your energy and taking a break from the recent hectic pace. Accept an invitation for an evening out with some friends, and you'll be glad you did.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Make calls and reach out to someone at a distance. It might fit your schedule perfectly to plan a vacation with a loved one in the near future. Consider meeting this person halfway.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Forget finding a free moment. Others seek you out, which leaves barely any time for you to do what you want. Responsibilities call, and you have little choice but to respond. Listen to your intuition.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



4/9/17