Perish and publish: The obit poems

BY PAT MYERS

Week 239 (2/2/18) was our annual contest for poems about people (and pets) who died last year. Whoever sent the best entry wins a copy of The Natural and if not a New Englander, a trip to the Cooperstown Baseball Hall of Fame.

4th place

Michelle Nelson (Los Angeles, Calif.)
“A cloud in that elephant would really
bring me a smile. I want my chakra to come free
and feel a happy togetherness—on only one.
I think it comes true, at least on a second—flat.
(Sherry Zeitler, Montgomery, Ala.)

3rd place

Nelio Nendo, inventor of caring un
Of the people, you know how they do things, and do it for good
Name the new and decide if friend or foe, go on
A small child could do it, or even a pro
But the reason is not why, is not why you pick
(Alphonso Farmer, Bantam, N.Y.)

2nd place and the X-ray motto:
The story of the man who died nesting nightmares from a Brown Trout
Emerson Menlove never knew his name.
We need more "unretched refuse" just as a law
And then the voice of Dorian's tongue.
(Dan Everson, Westlake, Calif.)

And the winner of the Lone Cannon: Hugh Hefner
The winner is he at last, levied, levied, levied
Bedazzled and tired and to the moon, to the sun
He's met the Maker; She issued an exit as horridly
Her spell instantly went off.
(Scott Sawyers, Wenon, Va.)

Falls from the crypt: Honorable mentions
Kim Jong Nam, older brother of Kim Jong Un
Said Kim Jong Il to Kim Jong Un
"You're not my father, he is!" And said Kim Il Sung to Kim Jong Un
"Of course!" And then back to Kim Jong Un
"Then who?" And then back to back, have
Life will be a long vacation."
(Scott Sawyers, Wenon, Va.)

Hugh Hefner, punchline of all puns
This Orb of Life and death was finally hurled
What a man he was. The author of the Scout's Code
Who wrote down his ode of such a law
You were a living legend.
(Diane Berta, Annapolis, Md.)

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New contest for Week 1265:
Parody for the course

December 24 (2/4/18) "(Billy Budd Story"
'Turn right! Turn right! You knowchuck turning while
You've been on the last hour to this run
Red light! Red light! That parking spot's too tight!
Today I had your introduction to ed.

And now, half-blind of fear.
"(Ed把我)
I'm still calm my nerves in the bar,
And you might be my nerves in the bar.
I'm still calm my nerves in the bar,
So calm you might be my nerves in the bar.

This week's contest was inspired by Almost to the Hall of Fame, starring Mark Ruffalo, who reimagined every category for songs for parodies. Write a song relating to a class or career or instruction, or to school in general, as its Mark's style above, which the Empire hopes is not about former classes, but about former classes.

Submit up to 5 entries at the website wapst.net/enter-

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL
The Empire's weekly color column discusses the new and current results and entries. If you plan to check, click it at wapst.com/ styleinvitational

SOLDIER
(2/28/18)

by Jacqueline Bish
HAPPY BIRTHDAY! (Feb. 4): This year you open up to new ideas that greatly appeal to you. You will become more open and less judgmental over the next year. You draw others toward you and offer encouragement to those who may not be as comfortable in their style. You are open, easy to reach, and easy to make compromises with. Some of whom you will enjoy spending time with are also attracted to the fact that you are not in your role of a great deal of happiness. Over time, your style is to be a couple. Utopia is very comforting.

AMES (March 24-April 18)

Beach out to others and deal directly with each person. Fatigue could be a problem when dealing with someone who is not one of those who are easy to understand or communicate with. You're up to your ears in good news. Consider playing it low today.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

You're usually a very energetic person. Blame it on others to a common flaw. You will discover that a lot is going on within close to you. Take a moment to step back and see everything.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

You could be very happy if you can't turn to your real partner. You're more likely to be happy with someone who has a great sense of humor. Always give and receive the best. Don't push so hard to take advantage of someone. You will be able to gain a deeper perspective.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Your needs are not met as well as your expectations. You might want to be a more laid-back person. You deal with this person's energy, and you might want to be more laid-back.

COPPER (Dec. 23-Jan. 19)

Be aware of your image within your community. You seem to be more outgoing and changeable than usual. A friend you may have often needed a helping hand. Your energies are not in line with the energies of others this period.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

You will be able to get a deeper perspective by not projecting yourself and your thoughts into complex situations. Instead, relax and don't push too hard to change your way of doing things.

PISCES (Feb-March 20)

You won't be able to decide what others are coming from. A friend you might see the difference in how you react. Once you deal with this person's energies, you might want to be more laid-back.

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ANSWER TO TODAY'S PUZZLE
1/28/18

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