

The Lowest Form of Protein Humor (by Ian Tullis)

Solve these punny clues for nineteen of the twenty amino acids. Once you know what the leftover amino acid is, figure out how it fits the final clue.

ALANINE	GLUTAMIC ACID	LEUCINE	SERINE
ARGININE	GLUTAMINE	LYSINE	THREONINE
ASPARAGINE	GLYCINE	METHIONINE	TRYPTOPHAN
ASPARTIC ACID	HISTIDINE	PHENYLALANINE	TYROSINE
CYSTEINE	ISOLEUCINE	PROLINE	VALINE

Note that the “ine” endings rhyme with SPLEEN, not SPLINE.

1. In the style of a famous modern diarist (1 2 3)
2. Like a famous chapel (7; biochemists will quibble with the pronunciation)
3. “He’s such a Freudian queen... he’s got a *Gods and Monsters* ego and...” (1 9 2)
4. Leary’s advice for chem Ph.D.s: “Affix your academic hat and produce LSD” (4 3, 4 4)
5. Herb prepared as in #1 (6 1 2 3)
6. Unappetizing “decoration” that a cake left out on a pier might acquire (4 “5”; say it fast)
7. Censor a disgusting moment in film like the one in #9 (3 1 3 5)
8. Part of a school nurse’s written report after looking through a kid’s filthy hair (4 4)
9. The toilet-diving in *Trainspotting*, e.g. (3 5)
10. What the diarist in #1 expects from me in exchange for the recipe in #5 (4 1 3 3)
11. One might code for proteins involved in the production of birdsong (1 7 4)
12. Like Jack Sprat, but not his wife (3-4)
13. “...so you can kiss my quad! Uh, that is, my...” (5, 1 4)
14. Liberals’ sequel to *My Antonia*, starring Ms. Garofalo (3 7)
15. Tranquil (6)
16. A lesser-known Scottish ex-Borg? (5-1’-4; partially mispronounced)
17. Batman mnemonic: “Adam fat, _____, Michael somewhere in between” (3 4)
18. Stuck out one’s foot to keep a crazed admirer at bay, as a bodyguard might (7 1 3)
19. What an *America’s Next Top Model* fan might produce, or get in the mail (4 4)

Final clue: What you’ve probably done several times while solving this puzzle