

Style Invitational

BY PAT MYERS

Report from Week 1021

in which we supplied a list of seven-letter “racks” used in the daily ScrabbleGrams puzzle feature, and asked you to make your own, funny neologisms. Each of the racks was intended to produce a word no longer than six letters, but that’s because those poor ScrabbleGrams editors didn’t have the Loser Community to expand the dictionary for them. It’s fun to see the various clever permutations of a single rack, so we’ll run some groups this week, and then more of them two weeks from now.

THE
WINNER
OF THE
INKIN’
MEMORIAL

AUFWRGF: Gruffaw: A mocking, dismissive laugh. “Listen, kid, if you can’t take the constant gruffaws, you’ll never make it big in the mime biz.” (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif)

Triple nerd scores: honorable mentions

AAELRBR

Barbale: What a Southern farmer uses for weight training. (Frank Barker, Towson, Md., a First Offender)

Arrable: Able to speak fluent pirate. (Doug Hamilton, College Park)

(R-LaBrea): Identifies reactionary old fossil in the California legislature (Elden Carnahan, Laurel)

Barreal: Perfectly plausible as long as you’re drunk. “Wow, that Nobel Prize-winning undercover-agent billionaire rock star last night was just barreal.” (Michael Jacobs, Columbia, a First Offender)

AALTSMP

ATM-slap: A gesture on the sidewalk made by someone suddenly forgetting his PIN. (Frank Osen)

Splat Ma: Sequel to “Throw Momma From the Train.” (Roy Ashley, Washington)

Patlas: A reference manual given to college freshmen in the mandatory “Good Touch, Bad Touch” seminar. (James Pierce, Charlottesville)

Slampat: The urge that results when your brilliant Invitational entry is in missing from the paper. (Michael Kilby, Wildau, Germany)

AEUUTRB

Ur-beaut: A primal knockout, like Wilma Flintstone. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

U-beaut: Synonym for the Aussie “bonzer,” not to be confused with “beaut ute,” which compliments a truck. (Brad Alexander, Wanneroo, Australia)

2 Winner of the odd little book

“Off the Wall: Fashion From East Germany, 1964 to 1980”:

AIUKQSW: Quawk: Any Scrabble “word” that will score you a whole bunch of points if you can get everyone to believe your BS definition. Really, that’s what it is! (Danielle Nowlin, Woodbridge)

3 AA0YBLP: Playboa: A magazine with an eight-page-long centerfold. (Neal Starkman, Seattle)

4 AALTSMP: PTA-slam: A contest featuring Yo’ Principal jokes. (Jeff Hazle, Woodbridge)

AIUDQL

Liquid: Little-known epic by Homer that evolved into “99 Bottles of Beer on the Wall.” (Dixon Wragg, Santa Rosa, Calif.)

Luqidai: The Iraqi lottery. (Steve Dantzer, Gaithersburg)

Liquid: Fraternity Row. (Christopher Lamora, Guatemala City)

AOCBLGM

Macglob: The lump of “special sauce” that inevitably falls from the bun to your shirt. (Laura Clairmont, Ashburn, who last got Invite ink in 1994)

Blogcam: Device for capturing images of unemployed people in pajamas. (John Glenn, Tyler, Tex.)

Clogbam: It would be a great name for a laxative. (Dixon Wragg)

AOLDPRL

LardPol: A legislator who engages in adding pork to government programs. (And you thought I was going to make fun of Gov. Christie, and I was, but then he went and had that surgery and ruined everything.) (Dave Zarrow, Reston)

Prod-all: Medical tool doctors use to embarrass either sex. (Barry Koch, Catlett, Va.)

LOL-par: The expected number of “likes” for a post on Facebook. “Huh, my dancing-otter GIF barely made LOL-par.” (Rob Wolf, Gaithersburg)

Laplord: Dog. (Danielle Nowlin)

AOLBWMN

Manbowl: A commode in which the seat automatically adjusts itself to the upright position. (Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.)

B-L-Woman: A favorite triple-decker sandwich at the Cannibal Cafe. (Elden Carnahan)

Womban: Word to replace “woman” in GOP health-care legislation (Ann Martin, Bracknell, England)

IOEWDRG

Wordgie: A Scrabble play so devastating that it makes your opponent squirm in his seat. (Larry Gray, Union Bridge, Md.)

Godwire: The red emergency phone on the pope’s desk. (Robert Schechter)

GrowDie: Is that all there is? (Dave Zarrow)

AUYMSPG

Pygma: A tiny but formidable family matriarch. (Danielle Nowlin)

Guymap: “Yeah, I’m pretty sure I know where it is.” (Danielle Nowlin)

Yumgasp: Last breath before food coma sets in. With a yumgasp, Nick collapsed on the couch to watch Thanksgiving Day football. (Mike Gips, Bethesda)

MuyGaps: What they call our border fence. (Dave Zarrow)

OOINKLM

Moolink: Diner slang for beef sausage: “Gimme Adam and Eve on a raft, two blowout patches, moolink on the side!” (Dan O’Day, Alexandria)

Kilomon: The person who supplies the Jamaican Gold. (John Shea, Philadelphia)

Minkloo: Liberace’s toilet seat cover. (Dave Zarrow; Daniela Ganelin, Rockville, a First Offender)

Kinloom: The period right before the holidays. (Joy Sibley, Fairfax, a First Offender)

EEUXTPM

Exmute: A mime after you drop a brick on his foot. (Jeff Hazle)

Meetpux: What you hope your teeth won’t do during a hockey game. (Nan Reiner, Alexandria)

Exputem: I’m not sure what it is, but it’s stuck to the bottom of your shoe. (Dixon Wragg)

EIUMLNM

Mumline: Point in an argument with a spouse when you stop talking, if you know what’s good for you. (Jeff Brechlin, Eagan, Minn.)

Lum-mine: A famed source of exquisite nuggets of wit and rare gems of extraordinary cleverness. (Ray Lum, Arlington)

More ScrabbleGrams neologisms in two weeks: in the print paper on June 23, online June 20. (The results of the haiku-to-Mars contest, Week 1023, will run a week later.)

Still running – deadline Monday night – is our “A is for. . .”/“B is for. . .” couplet contest. See bit.ly/invite1024.



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Wheaties: Wow! Heroes Eat Anything to Indiscriminately Endorse Something (Marty McCullen, 2005)

THIS WEEK’S CONTEST

Week 1025: In so many words

Big Ugly Drunkards Will Enjoy Its Smoothness, Especially Regurgitating: Budweiser (Brendan Beary) Get a Tub Overhead . . .

Ready, Aim, Dump Frankywhere!: Gatorade (Jesse Frankovich)

The examples above got ink in our 2005 contest for backronyms: phrases that pretend to explain what existing terms “stand for.” (The term, if you choose to believe Wikipedia, seems to have originated right here in The Post, back in 1983 as an entry by reader Meredith G. Williams in the early days of Bob Levey’s monthly neologism contest; he spelled it “bacronym,” but our dictionary uses the slightly more readable “backronym.”) Our Week 632 contest focused on product names, but 13-time Loser Jeff Loren suggests broadening our de-abbreviated horizons: **This week: Create an original backronym for a name or**

Other runners-up win their choice of a yearned-for Loser Mug or the ardently desired Grossery Bag. Honorable mentions get a lusted-after Loser magnet. First Offenders receive a smelly, tree-shaped air “freshener” (FirStink for their first ink). E-mail entries to losers@washpost.com or fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday, June 17; results published July 14 (online July 11). No more than 25 entries per entrant per week. Include “Week 1025” in your e-mail subject line or it might be ignored as spam. Include your real name, postal address and phone number with your entry. See contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/inviterules. The subhead for this week’s honorable mentions is by Jeff Contompasis. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev; follow the Empress on Twitter at @PatMyersTWP.



STYLE CONVERSATIONAL Have a question for the Empress or want to talk to some real Losers? Join us at washingtonpost.com/styleconversational.