

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Report from Week 1068: Yeah, you wish

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1068, we asked you to ponder what your first act would be if you found yourself in someone else's position.

The winner of the Inkin' Memorial

If I were the owner of a sports team with a racially offensive name, my first act would be to secretly tape another team's owner saying something even more racially offensive. (Ben Aronin, Arlington)

2nd place and the dog-shaped toilet paper cozy:

If I were in charge of the World Cup, my first act would be to let the players use their hands as long as they wear shoes on them. (Jeff Shirley, Richmond)

3rd place

If I were Noah, the very first thing I would do is surreptitiously swat just one of the mosquitoes. (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

4th place

If I were chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, I'd make every day Casual Friday because nobody ever went to war in a polo shirt. (Michael Greene, Alexandria)

Wishful inking: honorable mentions

If I were made of money, my first act would be to allow my daughter to buy everything she wanted (I have informed her of this repeatedly). (Jim Stiles, Rockville)

If I were hauntingly gorgeous, my first act would be to tell my wife. (Larry Neal, McLean)

If I were a model for Michelangelo, my first act would be to request a warmer room. (Jennifer Dickey, Silver Spring, a First Offender)

If I were appointed Deputy Assistant Secretary for Interagency Accountability and Coordination, my first act would be to covet the job of the Assistant Secretary for Interagency Accountability and Coordination. (Mark Raffman, Reston)

As Chancellor of Traffic, I would have a fleet of special helicopters circling overhead. Whenever a pilot spotted someone in a turn lane who didn't start moving once the arrow turned green, a helicopter with a big magnet would swoop down, stick to the roof of the car, then fly it to the back of the line. (Pie Snelson, Silver Spring)

If I were Lord of the Flies, the first thing I'd do is ban eating poo. I mean, seriously, it's poo. (Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.)

If I were the head of NASA, my first act would be to make mission names less Eurocentric and more culturally diverse. Sending a probe to the planet nearest us could be, say, project Tlahaucalpanecuhitl. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

If I were named U.S. poet laureate, my first act would be to reclassify limericks from light verse to welter verse. (Konrad Schwoerke, Durham, N.C.)

If I were secretary of the interior, my first act to preserve America's wildlife would be to make spotted-owl pickles. (Larry Gray, Union Bridge, Md.)

If I were the King of the World, I wouldn't travel from England to America in third class on a boat. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

If I owned the L.A. Clippers, I'd hop in my time machine and go back 200 years. I'm homesick. (Joe Neff, Warrington, Pa.)

If I had been Pheidippides, I would've signed up for the 5K. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

If I were governor of Georgia, my first act would be to declare that congregants' guns must remain holstered for the entire sermon. (Howard Walderman, Columbia)

If I were William Shakespeare, my first act would be Act I. I would probably also start with Scene 1, but just to appease the traditionalists. (Todd DeLap, Fairfax)

And Last: If I were a therapist starting up my practice, my first act would be to start scrutinizing The Style Invitational. It even supplies names and partial addresses! (David Ballard, Reston)

More honorable mentions in the online Invite at bit.ly/invite1072.



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1072: The Tile Invitational

OEESTXT » **TEXTOSE**: Sweet tweets are made of this.
OEESTXT » **EXTOTS**: Little girls with lipstick and platform shoes.

OEESTXT » **TEETSOX**: Brand name for an especially comfortable sports bra.

Last year just around this time, the Empress took the suggestion of Echt Loser Jeff Contompasis and ran a contest based on Jeff's passion for ScrabbleGrams, a word game that appears daily in The Post's comics pages. Week 1021 was such a success that we ran the results for two weeks straight. And so:

This week: Come up with a five-, six- or seven-letter term by scrambling any of the seven-letter ScrabbleGram sets on this page, and define it, as in the examples above. (The letter sets are taken from "The Big Book of ScrabbleGrams" as well as some old Post puzzles.) The word may be a brand-new term, as in the examples, but you may also find an existing word and supply a clever definition for it. Note that we are NOT playing for Scrabble points, as in the real game; the letters won't have point values. As usual, don't send more than 25 entries this week. And we mean it: If you don't include the letter set with your entry, in the letter order we supply here, we won't look at it.

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a Style Invitational Two-Volume Set of Literature: "The Origin of Feces" and "What's Your Poo Telling You?," two l'il books donated by Jeff Contompasis and Tom Witte, respectively (but not respectfully).

Other runners-up win their choice of a yearned-for Loser Mug or the ardently desired "Whole Fools" Grossery Bag. Honorable mentions get a lusted-after Loser magnet, either the Po' Wit Laureate or Puns of Steel. First Offenders receive a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). E-mail entries to losers@washpost.com or, if you were born in the 19th century, fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Tuesday, May 27 (Heaven forbid we interrupt your Memorial Day); results published June 15 (online June 12). No more than 25 entries per entrant per contest. Include "Week 1072" 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/InvRules. This week's honorable-mentions subhead is by Kathy El-Assal. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](https://www.facebook.com/on.fb.me/invdev), and click "like" on Style Invitational Ink of the Day 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.

Give us a word: The ScrabbleGram sets

AAEOUNS	EELAMFD	IUOMDP	OAOERDF
AAURGJN	EEVTPXR	IODNSDR	OAYRWLR
AEGHTCD	EOAOGTS	IORWNWN	OEADNHX
AEUHBP	EOLHRMC	IUAASRF	OEESTXT
AINDLTN	EOUUGSM	IUTDLPP	OIENZRC
AOAOLHM	EUEWRLF	IYBLPSM	OIMDGSZ
AOAYMND	EUIMRSQ	IYMSFL	ORHNLGT
AUEALGB	IAITGMB	OABTCRV	UAUTMPS
EAYLTGL	IATWRHM	OAHMRF	UEURMRM
EEANPHX	IENMVRN	OANDGRN	UIIKMWP



BRUCE ALTER

Really, it's not that dubious an honor! Danielle Nowlin of Woodbridge was named Loser of the Year by her fellow contestants Saturday at the Flushies, the Losers' own 19th annual award luncheon. The 32-year-old former band teacher blotted up 87 spatters of ink in Year 21, just months after her debut.

Still running — deadline Monday night: our contest to compare/contrast two entities that have the same abbreviation. See bit.ly/invite1071.

POST PUZZLER

No. 215

BY BYRON WALDEN EDITED BY PETER GORDON • FIREBALLCROSSWORDS.COM

ACROSS	38 On point	DOWN	13 Have damaging consequences	39 Blunder
1 Series of reverses	40 Rows, e.g.	1 Stratego piece	14 Effort	40 Press into service?
9 Had pruritus	41 Gotland is its largest isl.	2 Saucy competitor	22 No tie?	43 Wrappers on rappers
15 Rubber	42 Lofting lead	3 Gainsay	24 High school cut-ups?	45 Prefix with musicology
16 "The Playground of the South"	44 Excellent hold'em holding	4 Bowsprit base	25 One who tries to keep a step ahead?	46 Schooner alternative
17 Bullheaded person?	47 "Dirty Jobs" host Mike	5 Wirehair on the silver screen	26 Cuts of beef taken from between the ribs	48 Former Phillies player and manager Larry
18 1965 Yardbirds hit written by Bo Diddley	48 Lit	6 1996 Garth Brooks song whose title completes the lyric "___ had once again found its way home"	27 Biblical kingdom located in modern-day Jordan	49 Two sides of Pascal's triangle
19 Series of revivals?	50 Ejection notices	7 Express via	28 Fútbol prize	51 Part of ICU
20 Not meandering	56 "Sure, if that's the way you feel"	8 Object with a slash?	29 Broadsheet headquartered in Newark, New Jersey	52 Emmy winner Gunn of "Breaking Bad"
21 Parma setting	57 Trendy cosmetic ingredient traditionally produced using nut-eating goats	9 Bibliographic abbr.	31 On edge	53 What might cause rage, briefly
23 NYPD div.?	58 Twerp	10 Retiring	34 Prey for Morlocks	54 Chuck-a-luck equipment
24 Trips up on one's own efforts?	59 Masterpiece now permanently housed in Madrid's Museo Reina Sofia	11 Irish county	35 Fixed	55 Poetry competition
30 Pull-up muscle, for short	60 Matching cases?	12 Ork, to Mork		
32 Disparaged	61 Frisky order?			
33 Say again				
36 Underwater army dangers?				
37 Support group whose symbol is a white circle in a blue triangle				

Answer to last week, No. 214

T	H	E	N	A	T	U	R	A	L	M	A	R	S
I	M	A	G	I	N	E	S	O	A	L	O	E	
P	L	A	T	E	G	L	A	S	S	I	B	X	
P	A	N	R	E	O	R	I	E	N	T	E	D	
L	I	A	R	R	A	M	S	O	A	R	E	D	
E	R	T	E	S	D	E	T	R	O	I	T	E	
R	E	E	B	O	K	D	E	A	D	O	R	E	
	S	L	O	T	D	I	G	S					
A	P	E	A	L	E	C	L	E	P	E	R	S	
M	E	X	I	C	A	N	O	S	S	A	D	I	E
B	A	C	N	E	T	O	P	S	R	A	V	E	
L	E	N	D	S	A	N	E	A	R	M	E	R	
M	I	L	E	A	C	C	E	L	E	R	A	T	E
O	K	I	E	P	L	A	C	E	N	A	M	E	S
B	E	N	D	S	E	T	H	M	E	V	E	R	S

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | MAY 18: This year you find that communication flourishes. You will feel far more relaxed than you have in years. You also will see life from a new perspective. If single, you will meet a lot of potential sweeties. Enjoy dating, but do not commit unless you are 100 percent sure. You will note that you have a strong desire to live with someone. Do not let this need to cohabitate take over. If attached, as a couple you may decide to buy a second home or remodel your current one.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Make and return calls, and don't forget about an older friend or relative. Your contact with this person will be greatly appreciated.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Reach out to someone at a distance and catch up on news. The unexpected may occur, and it might open you up to a new vision or new possibility.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

A conversation may cover many different topics, but be careful not to go overboard when a topic comes up that greatly intrigues you. Consider being a little tamer.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

Think through an important decision that is on your mind. You also might want to discuss it with several people whose opinions you respect. You will make the correct choice with or without

advisers.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

You might want to slow down while you can. The pace will quicken soon enough. Take advantage of some free time and follow through only on what you want.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Make plans to get together with someone who lives at a distance. You may be overserious with others. Try to lighten up a little.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Stay close to home, if possible. Use caution with spending, or rethink a recent purchase. Do not go overboard.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Speak your mind, and clear up a problem. If you follow your intuition and let your feelings flow, you will end up well. Don't deny

this side of yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

The cost of proceeding as you have been may be higher than you had anticipated. You might not be absorbing all the details surrounding a problem. Listen well.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Share more of yourself with a loved one or several special friends. You will add to the trust that exists between you. You might feel as if you're rebuilding the foundation in a key relationship.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Back out of plans if you need a break. You might feel as if you need to hold back some of what is on your mind. Trust your judgment, but do not be surprised when someone tries to coax you into verbalizing your thoughts.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Zero in on what you want. Someone might ask you for your opinion, and before you know it, you may be in the midst of a brainstorming session. Your creativity will emerge.

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Bagless mower irritates neighbor

Ask Amy

AMY DICKINSON

Dear Amy: What do I do about a neighbor who complains about my having my lawn mowed because she is allergic to the lawn clippings?

My lawn mower is not working, so I am having a landscaping company mow my lawn twice monthly.

My mower had a bag on it, but the mower now being used to cut my lawn does not. My neighbor is complaining that because of her allergies she can no longer go outside and garden when I get the lawn done. She insists that I fire the gentleman who does my lawn because he can only do it on the weekends when she is home and I should get someone else to do it during the week while she works.

She even indicated that her husband could do my lawn. (Of course, I do not want her or her husband on my property.)

The neighbor on the other side of my house has had her lawn mowed by the same gentlemen for years. The allergic neighbor has not complained until he started to do mine. She complained about it last year, and now that the mowing season is here, she is starting again. I

don't want to go through it again this year and am at my wits' end! Please advise.

Mowed Over

First, thank your lucky stars that you don't have bad allergies and an unhelpful neighbor.

Have you asked the landscaper if he could use a bag on his mower? Have you asked if he could do the mowing when it wouldn't cause your neighbor's allergies to flare so badly? Have you looked into repairing your mower?

These are simple questions that would involve a minimum of effort. What you would gain by asking these questions is the knowledge that you are being a decent person and a good neighbor.

If you ask these questions and make the tiniest bit of effort but still cannot accommodate your neighbor, you should at least be kind to (and about) her when you decline.

Dear Amy: We have seven grandchildren, and we treat all of them equally, although two are not biologically ours. However, as we are getting older and talking about inheritance, we find that we are in a quandary

about our estate.

Our two stepgrandchildren had wealthy grandparents, who we know provided for their child and them. Our estate will be modest, and we have been advised by a number of estate planners and lawyers that we should not feel it necessary to provide for the stepgrandchildren.

Our biological grandchildren will not be receiving anything from their other grandparents, so what we leave them will be their only inheritance. We would appreciate your views on this or feedback from others who have found themselves in similar situations.

Stumped Nana

I think you should give each grandchild an equal (and modest) amount and (depending on your age, etc.) put your primary inheritance into the hands of the parents of these children, who can use it for their kids' education, etc., in proportion to the financial needs of each child.

I will happily run suggestions from readers.

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