

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Rack of ribs: ScrabbleGrams finds

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1482, for the ninth time, we presented dozens of seven-letter “racks” from the ScrabbleGrams word game that appears in The Post’s comics pages, and asked the Loser Community to find new terms of five, six or all seven letters. Lotsa Losers looked at **ADDEISY** and saw **YESDAD**, the guy who lets Junior do what NOMOM won’t.

**4th place:**  
**AADMNNS > AND-MAN:** Worse than a yes-man. “You’re right sir, we should definitely contest the election – AND I’ll call in Rudy Giuliani to lead the effort.” (*John Hutchins, Silver Spring*)

**3rd place:**  
**ABGLNOO > BLOGNA:** Internet nonsense. “She prefaces the recipe with a long story about how she learned it from an old Tuscan woman, but I bet it’s a bunch of blogna.” (*Coleman Glenn, Huntingdon Valley, Pa.*)

**2nd place and the mini-brain and music box:**  
**ACDEGOR > CAR ODE:** About the virtues of my Civic I wax, distinctly, unequivoc. There’s not a thing of which I’m fonda Than this, my ‘87 Honda” (*Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.*)

**And the winner of the Clowning Achievement:**  
**ACEFFIN > FACE-FIN:** Someone who might hear this: “I’m not saying that nose is big, I’m just sayin’ if he was doing the backstroke at the beach, they’d be clearing the water and putting up a red flag.” (*Jamie S. Martindale, Samutprakan, Thailand*)

**ACHINNU > NAH: Honorable mentions**  
**BELMPRU > PURE MLB:** A once-fun event that’s become excruciatingly long and boring. “That staff retreat was pure MLB.” (*Mark Raffman, Reston*)  
**BEIMSTU > MISTUBE:** To find a *very* different video from the one you’re looking for. “I wanted to watch the latest Samantha Bee, but, boy, did I mistube! I guess I shouldn’t have searched on ‘full frontal.’” (*Sarah Walsh, Rockville*)

**AABCITX > TAXI-CAB:** Red wine served in first class en route to the runway. (*Bill Hole, Silver Spring, who last got Invite ink in 1999*)

**AABCITX > AB-TAX:** The painful price of exercise. “Ow, that 50th sit-up – man, will I be paying ab-tax tomorrow!” (*Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.*)

**AABNNOZ > ANAZOM:** A copycat site that sells even cheaper knockoffs of cheap knockoffs. (*Sam Mertens, Silver Spring*)

**AABNNOZ > A-Z-ANON:** Q doesn’t have enough conspiracies for you? Try this cult! (*Eric Nelkin, Silver Spring*)

**AABNNOZ > BAANO:** The lead singer of Ewe2. (*Bill Dorner, Indianapolis*)

**AABNNOZ > BOZANNA:** A shout of worshipful praise for an orange-haired clown. (*Michael Stein, Arlington, a First Offender*)

**AAHPTWY > PAYWHAT:** An oath uttered in grocery stores and gas stations circa 2022. Strong emphasis on the second syllable. (*Coleman Glenn*)

**AAKLOOP > LAKAPOO:** A new breed of dog genetically engineered to last weeks without having to go outside. (*Rick Franklin, Alexandria*)

**AAKLOOP > LOOKAAP:** The last thing you hear before you’re hit in the head by a flyball at Fenway Park. (*David Blair, Madison, Wis., a First Offender*)

**ABBMOST > ATOM BS:** The clearly absurd claim that everything is made of invisible particles. “After the break, Tucker will debunk science’s atom BS.” (*Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.*)

**ABEIKLT > ABLET:** The goal was six-pack abs, but the result was more a single pony can. (*Ellen Raphaeli, Falls Church*)

**ABEIKLT > BEAKLIT:** How you end up when a selfie gives you a big shiny nose and a close-up on your pores. (*Joy Sibley, Fairfax*)

**ABEIKLT > IKEA-BLT:** A box containing bread, bacon, lettuce, tomatoes, mayo, a wordless diagram, and a few extra ingredients just to confuse you. (*Richard Lorentz, Woodland Hills, Calif.*)

**ABGLNOO > LOO NAG:** “Everybody try to go potty, even if



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1486: No can do: Signs of incompetence

**Sign of an incompetent fast-food worker:** You order fries and he asks if you want fries with that. (*Garrett Thomson, Mel Loftus*)  
**Sign of an incompetent phone-sex operator:** “I’m 39 and sort of dumpy, wearing a pink housecoat . . .” (*Marc Leibert*)  
**Sign of an incompetent sommelier:** “Do you want a glass with that?” (*Kyle Bonney*)  
**Sign of an incompetent optometrist:** “Can you read the FELOPZ line?” (*Sue Lin Chong*)

Here’s a contest that The Style Invitational seems to have done only once before – 20 years ago. It’s a straightforward one: **Give us a clue that someone was incompetent in a particular field**, as in the examples above that got ink in Week 439. (The Empress’s predecessor, the Czar, gave the win to the sommelier.)



MARK HOLT; FEET: EMPRESS'S

**They should call these socks Chee-Toes: this week’s second prize.**

Submit up to 25 entries at [wapo.st/enter-invite-1486](http://wapo.st/enter-invite-1486) (no capitals in the Web address). **Deadline is Monday, May 9, 2022;** results appear May 29 in print, May 26 online. Winner gets the Clowning Achievement trophy. Second place receives a pair of stretchy **yellow tube socks** that, when you hold your legs very close together, combine to form an excellent representation of a **bag of Crunchy Flamin’ Hot Cheetos**. They taste better than the real thing, too.

**Other runners-up** win their choice of our “For Best Results, Pour Into Top End” Loser Mug or our “Whole Fools” Grossery Bag. Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, “A Small Jester of Appreciation” or “Close, but Ceci N’est Pas un Cigare.” First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air “freshener” (FirStink for *their* first ink). See general contest rules and guidelines at [wapo.st/inviteFAQ](http://wapo.st/inviteFAQ). The headline “Rack of Ribs” is by Jon Gearhart; Chris Doyle wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invudev](https://www.facebook.com/on.fb.me/invudev); “like” the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at [bit.ly/inkofday](https://bit.ly/inkofday); and follow @Styleinvite on Twitter.

**The Style Conversational:** The Empress’s weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. See this week’s (including what the letter sets were supposed to spell) at [wapo.st/conv1486](http://wapo.st/conv1486).

you don’t need to!” (*Bill Dorner*)

**ABGLNOO > B-LOOGA:** Cut-rate caviar that tastes like phlegm. (*William Kennard, Arlington*)

**ABGLNOO > LOOBANG:** How one earns membership in British Airways’ 1.6 Kilometer Club (*Rob Wolf, Gaithersburg*)

**ABGLNOO > BANGOLO:** A honeymoon cottage. (*Rob Cohen, Potomac*)

**ABGLNOO > BONGALO:** A much mellower abode than a crack house. (*Jonathan Jensen*)

**ACDEGOR > GODCARE:** A health plan offering unlimited access to thoughts and prayers. (*Stephen Gilberg, Silver Spring; Jamie Martindale*)

**ACDEGOR > GROCE:** What a grocer does, of course. (*Tom Witte, Montgomery Village*)

**ACDEGOR > GROCED:** Overfed. “I’ve gained 20 pounds! I’m totally groced out.” (*Beverly Sharp*)

**ACHINNU > UNI-CHA:** A simplified Latin dance for the two-left-feet crowd. (*Tom Witte*)

**ACHINNU > UNCHIN:** Get a facelift. “I was really bothered by the gobble-wobble I had going on, so I’ve made an appointment to unchin back down to a single.” (*Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station*)

**ADDEISY > DIS DAY:** In this new Hallmark holiday, you send cards to your enemies. (*Peggy Blair, Rockville, a First Offender*)

**ADEOPPS > DOPE SPA:** Upscale facility where celebrities go for pre-hab. (*Mark Raffman*)

**ADEOPPS > DOPE-PEP:** Drool. (*Kevin Dopart, Washington*)

**ADEOPPS > SODA PEP:** Aftermath of “doin’ the Dew.” (*Neil Kurland, Elkridge, Md., a First Offender*)

**ADEOPPS > POPADE:** When life gives you popes, you make this. (*Duncan Stevens*)

a raven-haired Amazon goddess so apely I couldn’t tell where her grass skirt ended and her legs began.” (*Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase*)

**BEIMSTU > BUS TIME:** Three minutes ago, or an hour from now. (*Sam Mertens*)

**BEIMSTU > BUS TIME:** The moment when gas goes over five bucks a gallon. (*Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf*)

**CDEEILN > INCELED:** How Melania handled her husband after the Stormy scandal. (*Frank Mann, Washington*)

**CEHIKTT > TECH KIT:** A geezer’s essential computer accessory, consisting of the grandchild’s phone number. (*Beverly Sharp*)

**DDELOT > ITODDLE:** To annoy everyone behind you by meandering down the sidewalk while checking your phone. (*Stuart Rogers, Toronto*)

**DGOOOW > ODDGOO:** It’s a face cream! No it’s a car wax! It’s face cream and a car wax! (*Barbara Turner, Takoma Park*)

**DDGOOOW > OW-GOD:** A vengeful deity. Chuck happily skipped church to play golf . . . and Ow-God sent him tumbling down the stairs when he got home. (*Leif Picoult, Rockville*)

**EENSTVY > ENVY ST:** It’s on the other side of the tracks from Easy St. (*Jeff Rackow, Bethesda; Bill Hole*)

**EGGIRRT > RIGGRET:** What Donald Trump felt after losing the 2020 election to Joe Biden – and what Hillary Clinton felt after losing the 2016 election to Vladimir Putin. (*David Heller, Silver Spring, last here in 2011*)

**And Last: AAHPTWY > HA-PAY:** Style Invitational magnets. (*The well-paid Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.*)

**Still running – deadline Monday night, May 2:** Our contest to switch the positions of two letters in a word or name and describe the result. See [wapo.st/invite1485](http://wapo.st/invite1485).

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

“WORK CLOTHES” BY PATTI VAROL

ACROSS

1 Kills time in an airport terminal, say

6 “Be there in \_\_\_\_\_”

10 Deposed Iranian ruler

14 \_\_\_\_\_ Scotia

18 “Who’s there?” Cuaron film nominated for 10 Oscars

20 As yet “Young Sheldon” star

22 “Young Sheldon” star Armitage

23 No-frills type

24 Debit slip

25 What the housekeeper wore to work?

27 What the actor wore to work?

30 Look that way

31 Genesis locale

32 Body image, briefly

33 Pass on, in a way

35 Runs

38 Wraparound dress

40 Hyland of “Modern Family”

41 Bumbling one

44 “Abbott Elementary” TV network

47 What the messenger wore to work?

50 Country name on some euro coins

51 Jani

53 Hotmail alternative

54 Writer Zora \_\_\_\_\_ Hurston

56 Schlep

57 Romance

58 Backing

59 Mennen product

61 Outlying communities

63 Indian royalty

64 Available if needed

66 Back in

67 Roaring abbr.

68 What the truffle hunter wore to work?

71 Big do

74 “Shaun of the Dead” director

76 Pie choice

77 Relinquishes

78 Quite steamy

80 Hazmat monitor

82 Color nuance

83 Naysayers

84 E-file org.

85 Tree surgeon’s transplant

87 Orch. work

88 Tempt

89 Art Spiegelman graphic novel

91 What the NASA scientist wore to work?

95 Pack it in

96 Snobbery

98 Brink

99 Michelle of “Crazy Rich Asians”

101 A/C units

102 Jagged

104 Tuning pin on a cello

105 Rae who has won five Black Reel Awards

109 Football Hall of Famer Jones

111 What the scholar wore to work?

114 What the groundskeeper wore to work?

118 Cleveland’s lake

119 Rarely ordered meat?

120 Diaper cream ingredient

121 Church law

122 Deep-dish chain, familiarly

123 Shampoo brand with an Essentials line

124 Touch down

125 Dispatch

126 Fortified wine from the Douro Valley

127 Expressed disdain

DOWN

1 Embarrassment

2 Early Judean king

3 “\_\_\_\_\_ Kitteridge”: Pulitzer winner by Elizabeth Strout

4 Grasslands

5 Lone

6 Really, really old-school

7 “You’re not looking \_\_\_\_\_ yourself!”

8 Mideast title

9 Kim who narrates “How I Met Your Mother”

10 Avg.

11 Work with a real estate agent, say

12 Photographer Adams

13 Posh spot for a weekend getaway

14 Classic salad

15 State tree of Iowa

16 Try (for)

17 Tiny tunneler

21 Lou Grant’s TV station

26 Somewhat narrow piece

28 Sun-cracked fabric

29 Choose, in Duck, Duck, Goose

36 What the conductor wore to work?

37 Clean vigorously

39 Borders on

40 “Shift over a bit, will ya”

42 Out

43 Brewery array

44 Ghana’s capital

45 Swell up

46 What the soda jerk wore to work?

48 Rambling accounts

49 \_\_\_\_\_ culpa

52 Gay dating app

53 Interoffice no.

58 Rain hard

59 Hi or bye on Lanai

60 Arctic chunk

62 Top-priority formation in Bryce Canyon

66 Susan or Collin of country music

68 Multicolored fabric

69 Literary alter ego

70 Roomba target

72 German camera

73 Plus

75 Play date?

77 Poem section

78 “Pencils down”

79 G-U-M rival

80 Frequently found in a sonnet?

81 Scottish writer who created 69-Down

86 To an equal degree

87 “Sounds awesome!”

88 Melancholy poem

90 Star\_\_\_\_\_

92 Crank (up)

93 Smelter-input

94 Chart-reading exam

97 “Ohhhhh”

100 Short break

103 “... said \_\_\_\_\_ ever”

104 Earlier

106 Weasel

107 Ward (off) appealing?

108 Dtd something

110 Mandala’s org.

112 River of Pisa

113 “Hey, c’mer!”

114 “Wonder Woman” star Gadot

115 \_\_\_\_\_ carte

116 Mets color commentator

117 Darling Conclusion

5/1/22

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Answers to last week’s puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

**Happy Birthday | May 1:** You are strong, determined and ambitious. You are also a natural leader. You are able to inspire others in troubled times. This is a high-spirited and popular year for you. Old friendships can be rekindled. Your self-expression is heightened, especially in the arts. Enjoy this year!

**Moon Alert:** There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions. The Moon is in Taurus.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) You have private, intense feelings about something. No question. Meanwhile, issues related to money, cash flow or perhaps something you own might create a problem with a friend, especially someone older. They might demand you account for something.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) A friendship will mean a lot. In fact, this relationship might even change your life. You have a strong need to establish a bond with an individual or a group. Look for ways to enrich this relationship, because this is possible right now.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) You want to be respected. Not only do you want the respect of your peers, you also want the respect of bosses, parents, teachers and VIPs. Romance with someone older might suddenly grab you out of the blue.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) You will be attracted to someone who is different from you. You also might feel an intense attraction to a belief system, religion, philosophy or even political system. Whatever it is, it resonates deeply, and it could be life-changing.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) A romantic attraction will be deep. New love that begins now has the potential to change your life. Meanwhile, you also have strong feelings about your fair share of something.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Your relationship with a close friend or your partner or spouse is important. You might even feel that there is a fated quality to the fact that you know each other. Nothing is superficial. You feel this

is your destiny.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You are strongly concerned with the practical aspects of an important relationship. In fact, this is a good day to discuss agreements in an open way. It’s important to know what is expected of each other. It’s important to know your boundaries.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Romance is the stuff of movies. You might feel it was written in the stars. Others might feel an incredibly close attachment to their children or even to an artistic creation.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Your bonds with your family or someone at home are deep and important to you. You see all the connections and realize that they were meant to be. Whether it’s a parent or sibling, the depth of this bond is obvious to you.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) All your interactions with others will be important to you because you have a sense that something deeper is going on. Your connection with siblings, relatives and even neighbors is very important to you. In fact, you see the strong role they play in your life.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You have strong feelings about something that you own. These feelings might even embrace your sense of self-worth, which you might equate with your wealth. Anything to do with money and possessions is important to you.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) The emotions you feel for others are deep. Relationships are important. Romance will overtake all your considerations and become the most important thing in your mind. This is because the feelings you have for others are extraordinary in their force.

Answers to last week’s puzzle.

S	A	R	A	H	U	N	T	A	G	B	I	D	E	S	E	E	P				
D	R	O	V	E	V	I	O	L	A	E	W	E	S	A	X	L	E				
S	M	A	L	L	S	A	N	T	A	S	F	A	V	A	T	T	O	P			
U	S	M	A	D	E	O	N	L	O	A	N	U	T	U	R	N	S				
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B	L	T			P	A	I	R	I	N	G	G	R	I	E	V	A	N	C	E	S
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4/24/22