

## 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:

**ADMNNS > 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 &gt; 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 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 > AMAZON:** 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*)

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

**AKKLOOP > 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 Raphael, Falls Church*)

**ABEIKLT > BREAKLIT:** 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.)

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, our Style Invitational 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.

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

**Other runners-up** win their choice of our "For Best Results, Pour Into Top End" Loser Mug or our "Whole Fools" Grocery 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/invdev](http://on.fb.me/invdev); "like" the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at [bit.ly/inkofday](http://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 > GODCAR:** 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." (*Beverley Sharp*)

**ACHINNU > UNI-CHA:** A simplified Latin dance for the two-left-foot 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*)

**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-SAP:** 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*)

**AELNPPY > APELY:** Strong and hairy. "She walked through my door without opening it first,

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. (*Beverley Sharp*)

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

**DGOOGOO > ODDGGOO:** 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*)

**EGGIRR > RIGGET:** 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).

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

"WORK CLOTHES"	87 Orch. work	121 Church law	Father"	45 Swell up	81 Scottish writer
BY PATTI VAROL	88 Tempt	89 Art Spiegelman	10 Avg.	46 What the soda jerk wore to work?	69 Down
ACROSS	graphic novel	91 What the NASA scientist wore to work?	11 Work with a real estate agent, say	48 Rambling accounts	86 To an equal degree
1 Kills time in an airport terminal, say	92 Snobbery	123 Shampoo brand with an Essentials line	12 Photographer Adams	49 Cupids	87 "Sounds awesome!"
6 Be there in _	93 Brink	124 Touch down	13 Posh spot for a weekend getaway	52 Gay dating app	88 Melancholy poem
10 Deposed Iranian ruler	99 Michelle of "Crazy Rich Asians"	125 Dispatch Fortified wine from the Douro Valley	14 Classic salad	55 Interoffice no.	90 Star-
14 _ Scotia	100 Cuaron film nominated for 10 Oscars	127 Expressed disdain	15 State tree of Iowa	58 Rain hard	92 Crank (up)
18 "Who's there?"	101 A/C units	128 Father	16 Try (for)	59 Hi or bye on Lanai	93 Smelter input
19 Cuaron film nominated for 10 Oscars	102 Jagged	129 Church Deep-dish chain, familiarly	17 Tiny tunneled station	60 Arctic chunk	94 Chair-reading exam
20 As yet	104 Tuning pin on a cello	130 Lou Grant's TV station	18 Many a rock formation in Bryce Canyon	62 Top-priority	97 "Ohhhh"
22 "Young Sheldon" star Armitage	105 Rae who has won five Black Reel Awards	131 Look at way	19 Somewhat	63 Susan or Collin of country music	100 Short break
23 No-frills type	109 Football Hall of Famer Jones	20 Look that way	20 Narrow piece	64 Earlier	103 "said ever"
24 Debit slip	111 What the scholar wore to work?	21 Early Judean king	21 Sun-cracked	65 Susan or Collin of country music	104 Ward (off)
25 What the housekeeper wore to work?	112 What the conductor wore to work?	22 "Kitteridge": Pulitzer winner by Elizabeth Strout	22 Choose in Duck, Duck, Goose	66 Multicolored fabric	105 Did something appealing?
27 What the actor wore to work?	113 What the conductor wore to work?	23 "Kitteridge": Pulitzer winner by Elizabeth Strout	23 Clean vigorously	67 G-U-M rival	106 Mandala's org.
30 Look that way	114 What the groundskeeper wore to work?	24 Choose in Duck, Duck, Goose	24 Shift over a bit, will ya'	68 Roomba target	107 River of Pisa
31 Genesis locale	118 Cleveland's lake	25 Midstate title	25 Play date?	72 German camera	108 "Hey, c'mere!"
32 Body image, briefly	119 Recently ordered meat?	26 Mideast title	77 Poem section	73 Plus	109 "Wonder Woman" star Gadot
33 Pass on, in a way	120 Diaper cream ingredient	27 Kim who narrates "How I Met Your	78 "Pencils down"	74 "Carte"	110 "Mets color commentator Darling
35 Runs		28 9	79 G-U-M rival	75 Frequently	111 Conclusion
38 Wraparound dress		29 10	80 Frequently	80 Found in a sonnet?	
40 Hyland of "Modern Family"		30 11	81		
41 Bumbling one		31 12			
44 Abbott Elementary" TV network		32 13			
47 What the messenger wore to work?		33 14			
50 Country name on some euro coins		34 15			
51 Jam		35 16			
53 Hotmail alternative		36 17			
54 Writer Zora Hurston		37 18			
56 Schlep					