

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Scrabble rousers: Winning neologisms

BY PAT MYERS

Once again, we offered up several dozen seven-letter "racks" from the ScrabbleGrams word game and invited the Loser community to find words in them — real ones or new ones — of five to all seven letters. Many people rearranged EILSSTY to describe Invite addicts: **STYLIES**.

4th place

DEILRVY → **D-LIVERY**: Low-grade package service for when it absolutely, positively doesn't have to be there overnight. (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

3rd place

LLMPPUY → **UMPLY**: Smugly adhering to the rules: "No, I'm afraid you can't build a hotel on Water Works," Joe declared umply." (Sara Jay, Churchville, Md.)

2nd place and the book "How to Poo on a Date":

ADEILRV → **LIARED**: Hired a press secretary. "Trump immediately liared up after the election." (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

AAALWYY → **LAYAWAY**: A payment plan that reportedly costs \$130,000. (Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)

The tile floor: Honorable mentions

AAALWYY → **LAW-YAYA**: An inexperienced, incompetent attorney, "Got busted for DUI and they put some law-yaya on my case." (Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.)

AAALWYY → **YAY, A LAW!**: A cheer you rarely hear in Congress anymore. (Frank Mann, Washington)

AAILLNV → **ANVILLA**: A timeshare that quickly becomes a financial burden. (John Hutchins, Silver Spring)

AAILLNV → **ANVILLA**: Iron-enriched ice cream flavor. (Kevin Mettinger, Warrenton, Va.)

AAILLNV → **NILLA, VA**: The whitest D.C. suburb. (J. Larry Schott, West Plains, Mo.)

ABELNRY → **LYE BRAN**: Breakfast of masochists. (Karen Van Buren, Los Altos, Calif.)

ACEPRY → **YE CRAP**: What Henry VIII called people from "chamber pot countries." (Jesse Frankovich)

ACEMNOR → **MANCORE**: One way or the other, a six-pack. (Matt Monitto, Bristol, Conn.)

ACEMNOR → **ENORMAC**: Ten all-beef patties. . . (Jesse Frankovich)

ACEMNOR → **O-MANCE**: Porn. (Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg, Va.)

ADEILRV → **LAVDIRE**: Urgency involving bodily functions. "I know it's the side of the road, but pull over! It's lavdire!" (John Shea, Philadelphia)

ADEILRV → **ADRIVEL**: Rambling into inanity. "The senator's filibuster speech quickly went adrivel." (Barry Koch, Catlett, Va.)

ADEILRV → **ADVILE**: A medication way past its sell-by date. (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

ADEILRV → **DRIVEAL**: Meaningless slogans used to sell cars. "Love, it's what makes a Subaru a Subaru" — pure driveal. (Dave Airozo, Silver Spring)

ADEILRV → **DR VILE**: Larry Nassar's vanity plate. (Michele Uhler, Fort Washington, Md.)

AEEEGNT → **GEE-NEAT**: Minnesotan for "S#!+, yeah." (Paul Wilmes, Minneapolis; Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn, Va.)

AEEEGNT → **GENE TEA**: Euphemism for what is stored in sperm banks. (Jeff Shirley, Richmond)

AELTVW → **EEL TV**: This Discovery Channel special didn't quite match the ratings of Shark Week. (Drew Bennett, West Plains, Mo.)

AEPRTTU → **PURR-TEA**: Cuddly name for cat urine. "Oh, did Tabby spray a little purr-tea on your coat?" (Ellen Raphaeli, Falls Church)

AEGRNV → **VEIN RAG**: The last thing you want to hear your doc ask for as you go under anesthesia. (Barbara Turner, Takoma Park)

DEEFHLU → **HUD-FEEL**: Lack of empathy for people one is



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1270: The Style Invitational turns 5 x 5

Tupac? Red Baron? Dead at twenty-five. More sensational? Invitational — Somehow still alive! — the deposed Czar of The Style Invitational

On Sunday, March 7, 1993, Washington Post readers turned to Page 2 of the Style section and discovered a new, oddish-looking feature in the top left corner. "Introducing The Style Invitational," the headline said. "Week 1." There was no byline, and no other hello from its anonymous author before it launched into its first contest: to come up with a new name for the Washington Redskins. A couple of faux-crude cartoons offered examples: the Washington Rotundas, the Washington GS-11. First prize: a Timex Ironman Triathlon watch, like the one sometimes worn by President Clinton. Totally coincidentally, that same watch was excoriated in that very same Style section — as "thick as a brick and handsome as a hernia" — in an essay by the section's new Sunday editor, timepiece connoisseur Gene Weingarten.

(The watch-winner, announced two weeks later, was one Douglas Miller: "The Baltimore Redskins. No, don't move the team, just change the name. Let Baltimore worry about it.") The Washington Redskins are still here, with the same stupid name. And, 25 years later, so is The Style Invitational, with its same stupid name. (But we posit that we've been far more successful, even though we're also full of Losers.) The Empress deposed the original Czar more than 14 years ago, but occasionally trots him out for guest appearances.

How to commemorate 25 years of Inviting? The E. received various contest ideas, and we're going with this one from Hall of Fame Loser Kevin Dopart, in honor of our dozens of light-verse contests dating back to Week 12. Kevin suggested that we play on the 25 — or 5 squared.

This week: Write a witty poem, on any subject, in any of these forms:

A. Five lines of five syllables each, as in the example above;

B. Five lines of five words each. (Hyphenated terms may count as either one or two words.)

C. Five lines of iambic pentameter, or ba-DUM ba-DUM ba-DUM ba-DUM ba-DUM.

Rhymes are not required, though spot-on rhyming is clever and we're a contest about cleverness, so "perfect rhymes" tend to get more ink. We're also fond of humor about current events, though we're willing to go off-topical as well.

Submit entries at the website wapo.st/enter-invite-1270 (all lowercase).

Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a little poop emoji pillow, donated by Jeff Contompasis, and a pair of poop emoji slippers, donated by Dave Prevar.

Other runners-up win our "You Gotta Play to Lose" Loser Mug or our Grossery Bag, "I Got a B in Punmanship." Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, "We've Seen Better" or "Idiot Card." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). **Deadline is Monday night, March 19**; results published April 8 in print, April 5 online. See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline "Scrabble Rousers" was submitted by both Chris Doyle and Jon Gearhart; Jesse Frankovich wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev.

THE STYLE CONVERSATIONAL The Empress's weekly online column discusses the new contest and results. This week: classics from the past five years. Especially if you might enter this week, check it out at wapo.st/styleconv.

INTRODUCING
The Style Invitational
WEEK 1

SHEDDING THE SKINS?
Now that change is coming anyway to the Redskins, dare we at last consider *The Big Question?* Should the team change its name? There are two valid sides to this issue.

Side One: Tradition. The name is venerable. If you change it, much plastic and polyester merchandise instantly would become obsolete.

Side Two: Racial label. The name is brutally demeaning to an ethnic group that has been indiscriminately plundered for centuries. It defines a proud and accomplished people by the single characteristic of the pigmentation of their skin.

Being typically pondering journalists, we take no position ourselves. We merely suspect the Redskins name is doomed, and when that occurs, we wish to be cozy with an alternative.

So give us one. Come up with a new name for the team. Entries will be asked on *framer*, *creativity* and *inv*.

Get the entries to The Washington Post by 11:59 p.m. EST on Monday, March 12. We'll be posting the winners on Wednesday, March 14. We'll be posting the winners on Wednesday, March 14.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY MARC ROSENTHAL FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

A noisy little newborn: Page F2 of Sunday Style, March 7, 1993.

supposed to protect. (Mark Raffman, Reston)

DEEFHLU → **FEEL DUH**: What you do before smacking your head. (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

FIMNORS → **MS NOIR**: That dame you can't forget, the one who blows smoke rings in your face. (Stephen Dudzik, Olney)

EEGLNOZ → **LEG ZONE**: On Spirit Airlines, it's the area under your chin. (Janelle Gibb, Rockville)

EEGLNOZ → **LEG ZONE**: Located

somewhere south of the Canal Zone. (Harold Mantle, Walnut Creek, Calif.)

EEGLNOZ → **LEGO ZEN**: A sect whose test of faith is walking barefoot across a second-grader's playroom. (Chris Doyle)

More honorable mentions in the online Invite at wapo.st/invite1270.

Still running — deadline Monday night, March 12: our Mess With Our Heads bank-head contest. See wapo.st/invite1269.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

"COMMERCIAL BREAK" By JOE KIDD

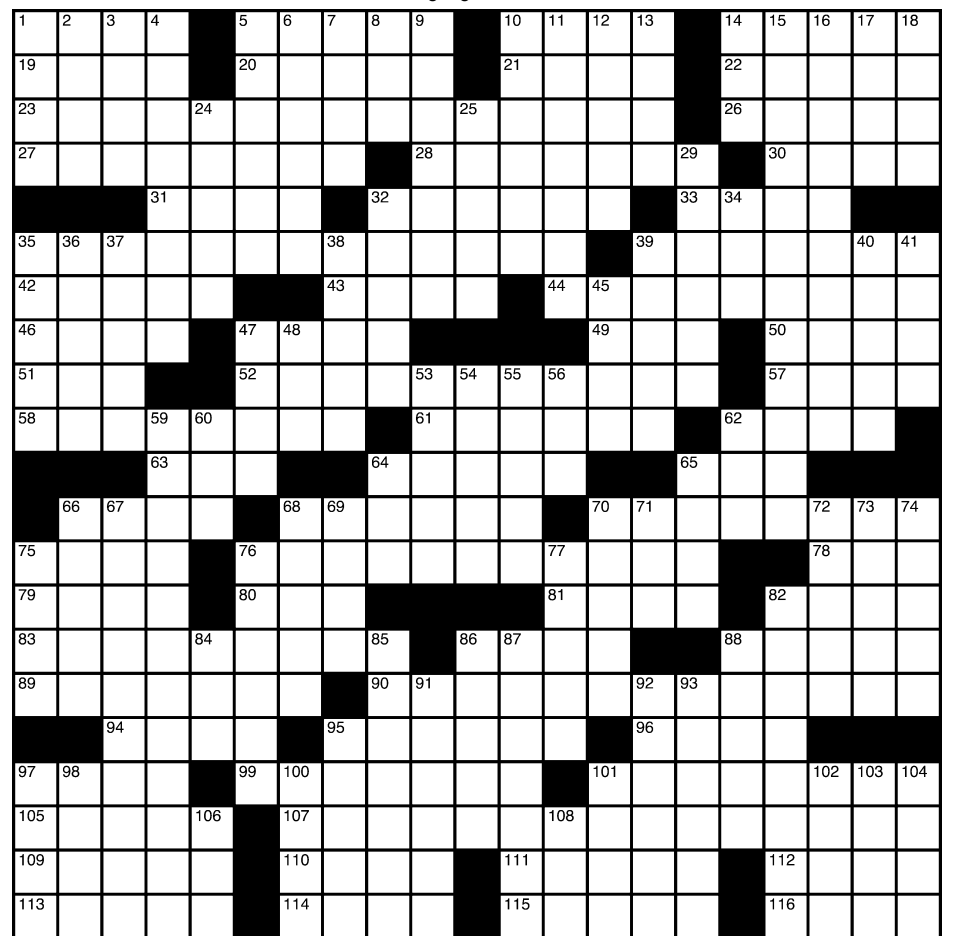
ACROSS

- 1 Huggers
- 5 Spectrum maker
- 10 "The Winner Takes It All" group
- 14 React to a pop idol, perhaps
- 19 Haul
- 20 Fall sign
- 21 They can be calm or rough
- 22 Specialized vocab
- 23 Skillful adventurers?
- 26 When rights may be prohibited
- 27 Musical clacker
- 28 Chooser's words
- 30 Pro shop buys
- 31 Attractive pitcher
- 32 ___ Alley, supply source in the Harry Potter universe
- 33 Effective use of lang.
- 35 Field for feline frolic?
- 39 Neck-to-waist body armor
- 42 Laid into
- 43 Vermont tourist destinations
- 44 Stoooges' specialty
- 46 Lasting lead-in?
- 47 ___ Indian War
- 49 Sinus doc
- 50 About
- 51 Pro ___ for now
- 52 Speech from a queen, maybe?
- 57 Recognize
- 58 Chicken Little, memorably
- 61 Least friendly
- 62 Diamond protector
- 63 Granola bar bit
- 64 Ocean predators
- 65 Where Tippecanoe City is
- 66 Ticket abbr.
- 68 Hellish
- 70 Competitions
- 75 Savor, with "in"
- 76 Unusually vicious nocturnal flier?
- 78 Saigon holiday
- 79 Northeast Nevada city
- 80 Grand ___ Opry
- 81 She, in Siena
- 82 First name in gossip

- 114 French 101 verb
- 115 Hired hoods
- 116 Sweater mishap

DOWN

- 1 Guinness of "Smiley's People"
- 2 Bill awarded her a Presidential Medal of Freedom
- 3 Comfy footwear
- 4 Governor's ride
- 5 Member of a noted octet
- 6 They're added to bills
- 7 "Yeah, right!"
- 8 Span, title
- 9 "The War of the Worlds" attacker
- 10 Bagel cheese
- 11 Confers (on)
- 12 It's passed in a race
- 13 AAA member?: Abbr.
- 14 ___-mo
- 15 Sun worshiper's seasonal harangue?
- 16 How some lawyers are paid
- 17 Double-curve molding
- 18 Auction actions
- 24 Play with, kitten-style
- 25 Mississippi senator Cochran and jazz trumpeter Jones
- 29 Lets off steam
- 32 Luth. or Meth.
- 34 ___ Honor
- 35 Frat row letter
- 36 First president of the Czech Republic
- 37 Fluid buildup
- 38 North Dakota's "Magic City"
- 39 Art able to
- 40 ___ metal
- 41 Brief timetable
- 45 Some skinny jeans
- 47 Roasting gadget
- 48 Org. with forms
- 53 CBS or NBC
- 54 1983 taxi comedy
- 55 20th-century princess
- 56 Hi-___ image
- 59 Megalith inscribed with saws?
- 60 Welcoming sight
- 62 Blow-up aid
- 64 Hymn relative
- 65 Visiting Hollywood, say
- 66 Lively dance
- 67 Ice cream treats
- 68 Dances with graceful gestures
- 69 Mimic
- 70 Trig ratio
- 71 They're rarely heard from skilled carpenters
- 72 Cook's need
- 73 Bit of dogma
- 74 "Boo!" reaction
- 75 Bit of sweat
- 76 Place for a plug
- 77 Scouts do good ones
- 82 Jay-Z and others
- 84 "Woe ___": 1996 grammar book
- 85 Steam engine exhaust system
- 86 Campus bldg.
- 87 Breaking down
- 88 Worker in a forge
- 91 Garfield's gal pal
- 92 Like the pre-Easter season
- 93 Elite slates
- 95 Essence
- 97 Gravelly sound
- 98 Texting qualifier
- 100 '70s tennis star Nastase
- 101 "Hmm ... I doubt that"
- 102 Churchill's 1955 successor
- 103 Den piece
- 104 Part of a pre-fire pile
- 106 Had lunch, say
- 108 Gunk



3/11/18 xwordeditor@aol.com ©2018 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY|March 11: This year you feel unusually inspired. Use this quality to manifest more of what you want and desire. You will witness the results quickly. You also will see life from a different perspective and be more content than you have been in the past. If you are single, you will meet someone who intrigues you. This person will teach you to be more open to travel and different cultures. If you are attached, relating to your sweetie becomes more of a pleasure for you. Your mutual goals also change. Capricorn is serious-minded.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Use today for reviewing your professional and community commitments. Your intuitive side emerges, and it helps you to recognize what is no longer possible. Take care of yourself, as well.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You might want to take the day off and get some extra R and R. You will need to distance yourself from many of your friends to take a much-needed timeout. Be more in tune with what is possible.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Unexpected events encourage you to head in a certain direction. A discussion with a partner might help your relationship become more bonded, which promises a special day and mood.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) The unexpected energizes you. You are likely to find that a loved one or close friend has changed and approaches situations differently. Detach and look at the long-term implications of this attitude.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You might be eyeing a project that needs to be completed. For many people, this could involve your taxes. For others, it could be a half-done project at home. You'll be delighted when you finally are finished.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You are full of get-up-and-go. Presently, you are more willing than usual to go along with what is happening. Your flexibility delights those who are around you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Stay centered. You will not encounter a hassle if you remain alert and know what you desire. A loved one delights you with their plans. Others can run the show,

perhaps not as you would, but they will get the job done.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Listen to what a neighbor shares. In your mind, you know that this person's "information" is laden with hearsay and gossip, yet there is still some truth to what you have heard. Internalize the conversation, and you will know what to do.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Be aware of the costs of proceeding as you have been. You might not like the outcome. An ounce of prevention works well and does not force your hand. Remain responsive to an older family member.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Know what you want, but

understand that a surprising event or call could point to changing your plans. Perhaps you will have to postpone a specific goal, but not for long. You sense what someone is going to do before they act.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You see a situation differently from how the majority of people do. You might not be able to convince someone that you are right, at least not initially. Know that it will take a while for you to persuade this person.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Your thoughts seem to bring you what you desire. A friend reaches out to you, and the conversation you have reminds you of how much this person has changed over the past few months. You see the possibility of a project forming.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



3/4/18