

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Loco motions: Bills as acronyms

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1443 the Empress asked for ridiculously contrived acronyms for some suggested new laws, inspired by the real ones introduced by would-be wags on the House and Senate floors — like the Delivering Envelopes Judiciously On-time Year-round Act — the DEJOY Act.

4th place:

The **Girls Are Ever Tugging at Zippers** (GAETZ) Act to exempt any male member of Congress from charges of sex trafficking, because everybody knows that teenagers can't help being attracted to 38-year-old men. (Roy Ashley, Washington)

3rd place:

The **So Maddening, Oy, Those Horrible Exasperating Rings!**: The SMOTHER Act to allow audience members to grab and disable any cellphone that goes off during a concert or play. (Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore, a bassist with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra)

2nd place and the scary-sea-creature hand puppet:

The **Idiot's Narrative: Serenely, Unexcitedly Registered Remonstrance, Entered Capitol, Toured, Idly Obtained Nooses** resolution that you shouldn't believe your lying eyes. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

And the winner of the Clowning Achievement:

The **Let's Acknowledge Legitimately Authentic, Literate Americans Love Apathy** resolution, to earnestly affirm that climate change is an existential crisis and we really should do something about it someday. It's the LALALALA resolution. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Died in committee: Honorable mentions

An act to **Subsidize Overprotected Corporate Interests by Authorizing Loans, Incentives and Secret Money** — to be funded by a tax on irony. (Kevin Dopart)

Endorsing Legislators' Efforts to Pack Heat and Annoy Nancy, Too: The ELEPHANT Act, permitting members of one political party to carry firearms in Congress. — L. Boebert, Rifle, Colo. (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

The **Building America's Stamina to Endure Boredom A Little Longer** bill to distribute NoDoz during the late-innings parade of relief pitchers. (Jeff Hazle, San Antonio)

Get Out! The Overseas Hackers Elimination Law: A bill authorizing harsh consequences for foreign cybercriminals. (Jon Ketzner, Cumberland, Md.)

Getting Elections Tossed Out by Voting Endless Recounts Is Tyranny: The GET OVER IT Act creates criminal penalties for state legislators who try to deny winning candidates with phony "audits." (Terri Berg Smith, Rockville)

Jetway Area Mitigation: The JAM Act requires airport gate areas to have enough seating for at least 10 percent of the passengers on a flight. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

Fox News lobbied for the **Totally Unsubstantiated, Colossally Knowledgeless, Error-Riddled, Crosseyed Articles Reading Like Smart, Objective News Act** to commemorate its star misreporter. (Mike Chung, Arlington, a First Offender)

The **Binary Initiative to Transfer Capital from Online Investment Neophytes:** Also known as the Fool and His Money plan. (Craig Dykstra, Centerville)

The **Squelch Thoughtless Fireworks Users Act.** Makes it a felony to set off an explosive device after 10 p.m. (Jonathan Jensen)

Billionaires Orbiting in Yachts in Space — Tax On Your Self-importance: The BOYS' TOYS Act, one way to get these guys to pay up. (Jeff Rackow, Bethesda)

The **Cacophonous Insects Considered A Delicious Alternative Act:** To fund a cookbook with fabulous new recipes in 2038. (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

While Earth's Ailments Require Expeditious Solutions, Congress Regards Everything With Endless Delay: It's the WE ARE SCREWED Act. (Bob Kruger, Rockville)

The **More Oratory Reveals Only Nothingness** bill to encourage



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1447: Give it to us straight

Treasury Department official: "The economy was in strong condition going into the recent period of volatility, and while certain sectors like housing are undergoing a transition, overall economic fundamentals remain solid."
Plain English: "The poo hasn't hit the fan — yet."
(Susan Shapiro, Week 729, 2007)

President George W. Bush (about Iraq): "If the kind of success we are now seeing continues, it will be possible to maintain the same level of security with fewer American forces."
Plain English version: "Sure, maintaining the level of 'insanely dangerous' takes almost no troops at all."
(Russ Taylor, winner of Week 729)

Here's a contest that we haven't done in years, but — as you can see from the examples above — is as timely (and timeless) as ever. **This week: Take any sentence from an article or ad in any publication (print or online) dated July 29 through Aug. 9, 2021, and interpret it in "plain English,"** as in the examples above from our 2007 PE contest. Please include a link to the online article you're quoting from, or the name and date of the print publication, for quality-assurance purposes (Plain English: I don't trust you).

Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1447 (no capitals in the Web address). **Deadline is Monday, Aug. 9;** results appear Aug. 29 in print, Aug. 26 online.

Winner gets the Clowning Achievement, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives this jaunty, colorful (yeah, I know you're seeing gray) **Hmong-style hat**, donated by Loser Barbara Turner and modeled here by the Empress's neighbor Sequoia Geist, age 9. You do need to build up that back-to-the-office wardrobe, no?

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, "No 'Bility" or "Punderachiever." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline "Loco Motions" is by Jeff Contompasis; both Jeff and Duncan Stevens came up with the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](https://www.facebook.com/invdev); "like" the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at [bit.ly/inkofday](https://www.facebook.com/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 at wapo.st/conv1447.



The Empress's neighbor Sequoia Geist isn't hiding a beehive hairdo in there. But he could be.

legislators to sit down and listen once in a while. (Roger Dalrymple, Gettysburg, Pa.)

All Contractions Require One Notification Yielding Meaning — the ACRONYM Act — requires that abbreviations be spelled out on first use. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

And Last: The Likable, Omniscient,

Svelte Empress Recognition Act to increase one's chances in a certain contest. (Mark Raffman, Reston)

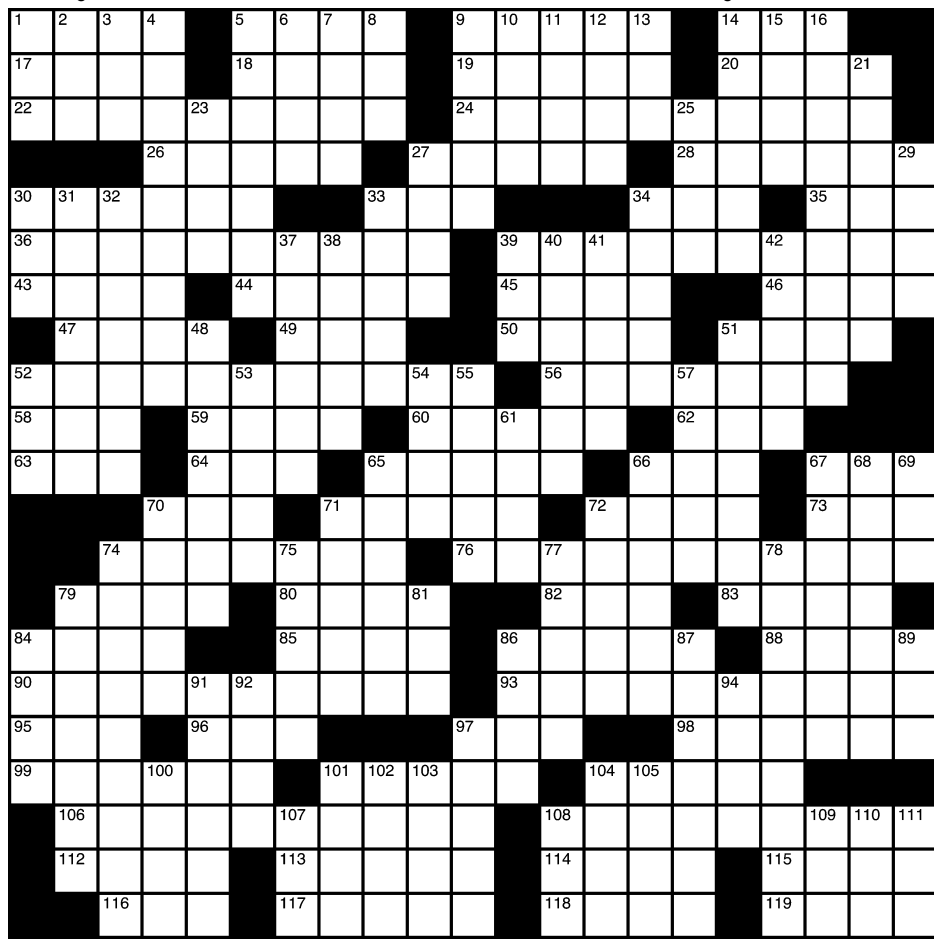
More inking entries in the online Invite at wapo.st/invite1447.

Still running — deadline Monday night, Aug. 2: Our contest for crossword clues. See wapo.st/invite1446.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

- "COLOR COORDINATED" By PAUL COULTER**
- ACROSS**
- 1 Show of affection
 - 5 Hat-tipper's word
 - 9 Implied
 - 14 Spa sigh
 - 17 Shine
 - 18 Mallorca o
 - Menorca
 - 19 "It matters to me"
 - 20 Barrie's "man who stabbed without offence"
 - 22 One of a West Coast trio
 - 24 22-Across, emotionally
 - 26 Split to unite
 - 27 Yoda trainees
 - 28 Subway gates
 - 30 Jabbers
 - 33 Unwise, as a choice
 - 34 —Caps
 - 35 NFL brother of Peyton
 - 36 Lover with ulterior motives
 - 39 36-Across, in the Old West
 - 43 Accomplished
 - 44 Agra attire
 - 45 Blunted blade
 - 46 Makes sense
 - 47 Exhausted
 - 49 PC-to-PC hookup
 - 50 Self-Operating Napkin creator
 - Goldberg
 - 51 1987 Costner role
 - 52 Street warning
 - 52-Across, from the sky
 - 58 "... the set of sun"; "Macbeth"
 - 59 Subatomic particle
 - 60 Big-eyed tyke
 - 62 GHWB predecessor
 - 63 Syracuse locale: Abbr.
 - 64 RR map dot
 - 65 High winds
 - 66 Kind of sauce or milk
 - 67 Stat on a dealer's sticker
 - 70 Photo
 - 71 Sing like Dean Martin
 - 72 Bang-up
 - 73 Retract, as one's words
 - 74 Lucille Ball, e.g.
 - 76 74-Across, in the Cold War
 - 79 Phony (up)
 - 80 PG-13 issuing org.
 - 82 Maracanã Stadium city
 - 83 HR dept. concern
 - 84 "Othello" villain
 - 85 Seed coat
 - 86 Blessings
 - 88 Turturo of "The Sopranos"
 - 90 Big name in frozen food
 - 93 90-Across, in the forest
 - 95 "Catch-22" pilot
 - 96 Annex
 - 97 Misunderstanding metaphor
 - 98 Online payment option
 - 99 Spin
 - 101 Indeed
 - 104 Mountain ridge
 - 106 Presidential address
 - 108 106-Across, at a winter carnival
 - 112 "Smooth Operator" singer
 - 113 Island nation east of Fiji
 - 114 Lead-in to second
 - 115 Four-legged "king"
 - 116 "Chopped" host
 - 117 Anger
 - 118 Belmonts lead singer
 - 119 EPA concern
 - DOWN**
 - 1 Old USSR espionage gp.
 - 2 Unfavorable, as wind
 - 3 Paltry amount
 - 4 "That's a terrific price"
 - 5 Dividing-cell process
 - 6 "By yesterday!"
 - 7 Der ...
 - 8 Adenauer epithet
 - 8 Sassy West
 - 9 Like major sports games except baseball
 - 10 Nailed
 - 11 Colombian city
 - 12 Srs. income sources
 - 13 Highest preceding bad news
 - 48 On the open deck
 - 51 Countdown
 - 15 Paris possessive
 - 16 Neoclassical movement based on Greek ideals
 - 21 Lace securers
 - 23 Snow coaster
 - 25 "Teach Your Children" group, initially
 - 27 Frazzles
 - 29 Connery and McCartney
 - 30 Tour-organizing
 - 31 Highway event?
 - 32 Genetic variations
 - 33 Existence
 - 34 Dutch Golden Age artist
 - 37 Unit of volume
 - 38 Silo contents
 - 39 Backin'
 - 40 Numbered works
 - 41 Conifute
 - 42 Words preceding bad news
 - 77 Sag
 - 48 On the open deck
 - 51 Countdown
 - 52 Desire
 - 53 Narnia
 - 54 Large shoulder bag
 - 55 "Just the ___ Us": 1981 and 1998 hit
 - 57 Rodeo challenge
 - 61 Director
 - 65 Decree
 - 66 "Eye now"
 - 67 Insurance company with a longtime
 - 68 Like Weird Al songs
 - 69 "Little" car of song
 - 70 Orange ___ tea
 - 71 "Meet John Doe" director
 - 72 Facetious five?
 - 74 "Agreed"
 - 75 In-box contents
 - 77 Tongue twister merchandise
 - 79 Soil-smoothing
 - 81 PC shortcut key
 - 84 Borodin's "Prince", casually
 - 86 Party time, 87 Think about
 - 88 Ancient couples carrier
 - 91 Made after taxes
 - 92 TV show with mashups
 - 94 Official records
 - 97 Flash of light
 - 100 Adjuvant
 - 101 Barry's binge
 - 102 Old character
 - 103 Org. with an annual open tournament
 - 104 Trendy berry
 - 105 Nevada slots spot
 - 107 Town name word suggesting higher elev.
 - 108 Ky. neighbor
 - 109 Draw a bead on
 - 110 Bit of baby talk
 - 111 Coll. major



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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Aug. 1: People respect you. You are calm, focused, tough and determined — all qualities of a natural leader. You have a dry wit and expect others to be honest with you. Honesty is an important value for you. This is a marvelous year for you! You will achieve kudos and recognition for your past efforts. Not only will you receive recognition, you will receive material gain as well.

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You might make a to-do list today because you feel you should get things done. (You don't want to be frivolous.) Meanwhile, romance might have challenges. You might have to say goodbye to someone.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Conversations with parents and authority figures are serious today. These discussions might limit your movements or your ideas and suggestions. Keep the faith. Discouraged feelings are temporary. You're focused on home but also enjoying sports and socializing.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You have mental discipline today. If working, you will be precise and careful. "Measure twice; cut once." However, you might view lighthearted, playful activity as a waste of time. Stay positive. Enjoy short trips. Make your home more attractive.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Today you will take a serious look at your finances, and you might have some concerns. You might feel broke or that you don't have enough money to do what you want to do. Thrift is a good thing. Focus on earnings and finances. You're a skilled communicator. Go after what you want.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Today Mercury in your sign opposes stern Saturn, which makes you feel isolated. You might be depressed about a relationship. Hey, you know that everything changes constantly. Friends become enemies and enemies become friends. Be patient with opposition. Talk to others. Enjoy shopping for beautiful things.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Today your glass might feel half-empty, which is why you might have a pessimistic view of things. You might feel separated from

someone or have to say goodbye to someone. Focus on work. Buy wardrobe goodies for yourself.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) A conversation with someone older might create concerns. They might criticize you or limit your scope or your plans. Remember: Every day is different. Some days we feel we can climb K2, and other days it's tough to get out of bed. Think positive. Socialize with friends, but also enjoy time alone.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) A conversation with a parent, boss or a member of the police might be serious today. You might feel criticized. The best way to handle today's influence is to work hard, because this gives you feelings of positive reward. You are admired by others. A friend might become a lover.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Travel plans might disappoint. Likewise, school plans might look impossible or difficult. The good news is that your mind is focused and determined, which means you

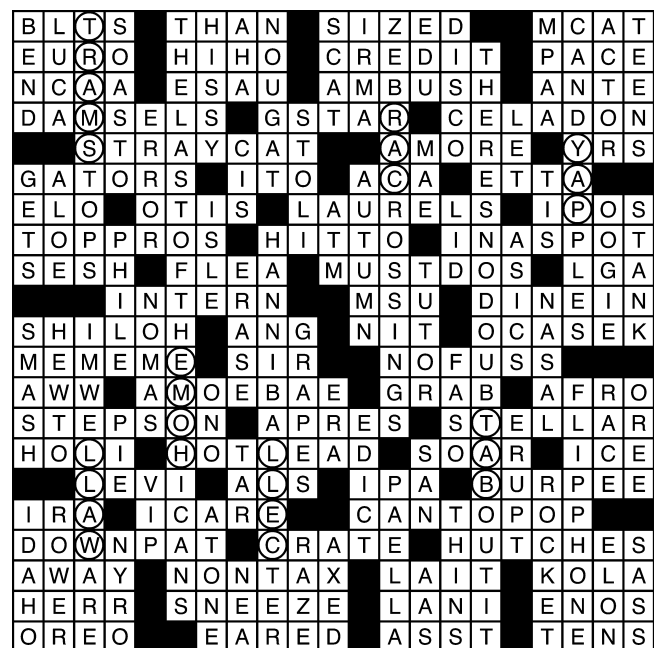
can study with purpose. Don't be discouraged. Travel and study. Your ambition is aroused and bosses are impressed.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Help from a third party or a partner or close friend regarding fundraising or financial matters might disappoint you today. People are tightfisted and not forthcoming with money and support. Work hard. Travel for pleasure will please you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Relations with partners and close friends are difficult today. They might criticize you or tell you why you can't do something. You might even have to say goodbye to someone today. Avoid conflict. Money and gifts from others might come your way.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Work might seem to be onerous and difficult today, which makes you feel overwhelmed or discouraged. An authority figure might be demanding or critical. Work hard. Be patient with those who are close to you.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



7/25/21