

Style Invitational

BY PAT MYERS

Report from Week 1024

In which we asked for irreverent alphabet couplets, a Style Invitationalish version of Edward Gorey's gloriously gruesome "Gashlycrumb Tinies." All of you who paired "Empress" and "F-word," no ink for you.

A is for Arnold, who diddled his aide; B's for the Bed she then dutifully made.

(Danielle Nowlin, Woodbridge, second place, the winner of the Doody Darts game)

C's for Chris Christie, who's trending toward gristle;
D's Michael Douglas, who blows his own whistle.
(Harold Mantle, Lafayette, Calif.)

E is for Enema, cleaning you out; F, your Financial plan: same thing, no doubt.

(J. Calvin Smith, Ranger, Ga., fourth place)

G is the Grammar most texters eschew;
H is for Hell — and for Handbasket, too.
(Rob Pivarnik, Stratford, Conn.)

I is for Info Big Brother has mined.
J is for Justice as dumb as it's blind.
(Kevin Dopart, Washington)

M is for Money, which hardens a man; N is for Name change — eventually, Dan.

(Jennifer

Gittins-Harfst, Annandale, a First Offender and the winner of the Inkin' Memorial)

O's for O'Reilly, the libs he'll harass.
P's for Proctalgia, more pain in the rear. (Kevin Dopart)

Q is for Quitting your job in November;
R is for Renting a box in December.
(Daniel Gutierrez, Salinas, Calif., a First Offender)

S is Scalia, harrumphing and hefty. T is the Talmud, which he'd find too lefty.

(Brendan Beary, Great Mills, third place)

U is the Umpire, whom fans like to boo,
V is the Vampire, who wants to suck, too.
(Mark Raffman, Reston)

W's your Wife, whose sweet love never ends;
X rates the porno she made with your friends.
(Danielle Nowlin)

Y is for You, and your what/when/where/how;
Z is for Zuckerberg; he owns it now. (Nan Reiner, Alexandria)

Next in the Q: More honorable mentions

A is for Apple, which pays little taxes.
B is for Budgets that must get the axes. (Art Grinath, Takoma Park)

A is for Arrivederci, Adieu;
B is for Bachmann, and, yes, this means you. (Nan Reiner)

C's for the Condom you scoffed at in bed;
D's for the Diapers you're buying instead. (Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

C is for Creationists, who see our science failing.
D is for the Dinosaurs, who missed the Ark's noon sailing. (Neal Starkman, Seattle)

C is for Chicks underrating their strength;
D is for Dudes overstating their length. (Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

C is for Civets and coffee beans pooped.
D is for Dimwitted java nuts duped. (Diane Wah, Seattle)

C is for Christie, he's big and he's noisy,
D is for Duh!, he's a guy from New Joisey. (Jeff Hazle, Woodbridge)

E is for my English class; I barely made a D.
F is for photography, or does that start with P? (Susan Thompson, Cary, N.C.)

E is for Eunuch, who's missing a bit,
F is for Foreskin — no, that isn't it. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

E is Exams: how you're tested on knowledge;
F is for Flunking: "Who cares? Party college!" (Matt Monitto, Silver Spring)

G's for the Grotto where Bunnies in heaps sit;
H is for Hefner, who somehow up keeps it. (Danielle Nowlin)

G is for Guns, the top right of our nation;
H is for Hospital; know its location. (Ann Martin, Bracknell, England)

I is for IRS agents at play.
J is for Just handing over your pay. (Ellen Ryan, Rockville)

K's for expectant Kanye and Kim;
L is for Love that they both share for him. (Kristen Rowe, Silver Spring)

M is for Maxim, pornography lite;
N is for Nipples kept just out of sight. (Chris O'Carroll, Pelham, Mass.)

O is for Overreach in programs enacted;
P is for PRISM; — — [redacted] (Danielle Nowlin)

O: It's an "online subscription-based model."
P? It's a paywall — that jargon's just twaddle! (Brendan Beary)



PAT MYERS/THE WASHINGTON POST

PUT THE SQUEEZE ON CONGRESS: Second prize.

S is for Speedo, too small for your size.
T is the Trauma you've done to my eyes. (Rob Pivarnik)

S is for Scandal, so juicy, delicious;
T — when it's Thee, then it's untrue and vicious. (Mae Scanlan, Washington)

U is Uranus, the butt of butt puns.
V is for Venus: No arms but nice buns. (J. Calvin Smith)

U is for Using my phone to plot "Pow!"
V's for Verizon, hearing me now. (Ellen Ryan)

U is for Us, who are better than you;
V is for Vice — that's the stuff others do. (Brian Allgar, Paris)

U is for Usury, lending to fools.
V is the Visit from Vincent and Jules. (Greg Arnold, Herndon)

Y's for Your Mama, so ugly and fat.
Z is for Zoo where her address is at. (Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.)

Y is for YouTube: You posted your bris!
Z, Zero: how many following this. (J. Calvin Smith)

Y is for Yoga: I see your behind!
Z is for Zen; I must empty my mind. (Roy Ashley, Washington)

And Last: E is for Edmund, who joins Loser cults.
F is for facepalm when he sees the results. (Edmund Conti, Raleigh)

And Even Laster: E is for Empress, I'm sure that she's hot!
F is for Flattery, see what it bought! (Jennifer Gittins-Harfst)

Still running — deadline Monday night — is our contest for funny names for paired building features. See bit.ly/invite1027.



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

THIS WEEK'S CONTEST

Week 1028: Joint Legislation

The Goodhue-Bland Resolution to make the new flag colors ecru and taupe.

The Few-Moore-Coles Act to make Congress Hall a bit warmer and cozier this winter.

In honor of Independence Day, we're taking up Loser Elden Carnahan on his suggestion that we do a special edition of our usually biennial "Bill Us Now" joint-legislation contest, which generally features that year's congressional freshmen: This week we'll use the senators and representatives of the first U.S. Congress (1789-81). Not that these guys didn't have enough to do on their own: In that first two-year term, broken into three sessions in New York and later Philadelphia, James Madison and his co-workers chose the president of the United States (unanimously); worked up 12 amendments to the Constitution (including the 10 of the Bill of Rights); established the State, War and Treasury departments and a national bank; and set up a tariff system. Among other things. We don't think many people called it the Do-Nothing Congress.

This week: Combine the names of two or more of the First Congress senators and/or representatives listed below to create "joint legislation," as in the examples above. They don't have to refer to the 18th-century world, though that might be funnier. Note that in that much more homogeneous hiring pool, there are a number of duplicated names; your bill may use a name twice only if the name is in the list twice. The names:

Ames, Ashe, Baldwin, Bassett, Benson, Bland, Bloodworth, Boudinot, Bourne, Brown, Burke, Butler, Cadwalader, Carroll, Carroll, Clymer, Coles, Contee, Dalton, Dickinson, Ellsworth, Elmer, Few, Fitzsimons, Floyd, Foster, Foster, Gale, Gerry, Giles, Gilman, Goodhue, Grayson, Griffin, Grout, Gunn, Hartley, Hathorn, Hawkins, Henry, Hiester, Huger, Huntington, Izard, Jackson, Johnson, Johnston, King, Langdon, Laurance, Lee, Lee, Leonard, Livermore, Maclay, Madison, Mathews, Monroe, Moore, Morris, Muhlenberg, Muhlenberg, Page, Parker, Partridge, Paterson, Read, Schureman, Schuyler, Scott, Sedgwick, Seney, Sevier, Sherman, Silvester, Sinnickson, Smith, Smith, Stanton, Steele, Stone, Strong, Sturges, Sumter, Thatcher, Trumbull, Tucker, Van Rensselaer, Vining, Wadsworth, Walker, White, Williamson, Wingate, Wynkoop.

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln-statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives, semi-appropriately, one of those foam "stress reduction" squeeze toys — it's in the shape of the Capitol dome. If you've ever felt like strangling your . . . your Capitol dome, this would be your chance. Donated by Dave Prevar.

Other runners-up win their choice of a yearned-for Loser Mug or the ardently desired Grossery Bag. Honorable mentions get a lusted-after Loser magnet. First Offenders receive a smelly, tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). E-mail entries to losers@washpost.com or fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday, July 15; results published Aug. 4 (online Aug. 1). No more than 25 entries per entrant per week. Include "Week 1028" 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/inviterules. The subhead for this week's honorable mentions is by Beverley Sharp. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev.



STYLE CONVERSATIONAL Have a question for the Empress or want to talk to some real Losers? Join us at washingtonpost.com/stylconversational.