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Style Invitational Week 1028: Joint legislation with the 1st Congress, plus A-to-Zingy couplets

By [Pat Myers](#), Published: July 3

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 (1789-91). 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

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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; the alternative headline in the “Next week’s results” line is by Chris Doyle. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev.

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. *(In this weekend’s print version in the Sunday Style section, the first 13 couplets appear as a single, two-column, full-alphabet unit; we’ll keep the same format online this week, with the winner and three runners-up noted among those first 13, followed by the rest of the honorable mentions.)*

A is for Arnold, who diddled his aide;

B’s for the Bed she then dutifully made. *(Danielle Nowlin, Woodbridge, Va., 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, Va., 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, Md., third place)*

U is the Umpire, whom fans like to boo,

V is the Vampire, who wants to suck, too. *(Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.)*

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, Va.)*

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, Md.*)

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, Va.*)

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, Va.*)

E is Exams: how you're tested on knowledge;

F is for Flunking: "Who cares? Party college!" (*Matt Monitto, Silver Spring, Md.*)

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, Md.*)

K's for expectant Kanye and Kim;

L is for Love that they both share for him. (*Kristen Rowe, Silver Spring, Md.*)

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! \(*Brendan Beary*\)](#)

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, Va.*)

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.

See the Empress's online column [The Style Conversational](#), in which she discusses today's new contest and results along with news about the Loser Community — and you can vote for your favorite among the inking entries, since you no doubt figured the Empress chose the wrong winner. If you'd like an e-mail notification each week when the Invitational and Conversational are posted online, write to the Empress at losers@washpost.com (note that in the subject line) and she'll add you to the mailing list. And on Facebook, join the far more lively group [Style Invitational Devotees](#) and chime in there.

Next week's results: Are You Backronimble? or Behold A Clever, Kicky Riff On Names Yielding Much Silliness, our Week 1025 contest, which sought backronyms, or phrases that "explain" what the letters in a name or other term "stand for."

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