

Facebook supports updated regulations on the internet’s most pressing challenges

Learn More

FACEBOOK

Arts & Entertainment Books Movies Music Museums Theater & Dance TV Comics Going Out Guide Crosswords

Entertainment

Style Invitational Week 1447: Give it to us straight

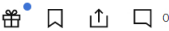
Turn a sentence in the paper into ‘plain English.’ Plus laws with those acronym names.



(Bob Staake for The Washington Post)

By
Pat Myers

July 29, 2021 at 9:58 a.m. EDT



(Click [here to skip down](#) to the winning acronym legislation)

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)



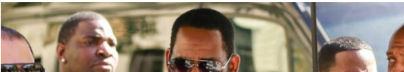
Here’s a contest that we haven’t done in years, but — as you can see from the examples above — is as timely (and timeless) as ever. **This week: Take any**

BigID

Data Privacy & Protection for Your Unstructured Data

Get a Demo

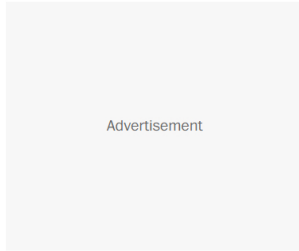
MOST READ ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT





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

(and others) to enter this week's writing 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).

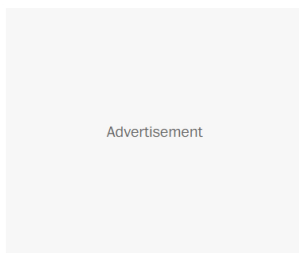


Advertisement

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 **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" Grocery 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; "like" the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at bit.ly/inkofday; and follow @StyleInvite on Twitter.



Advertisement

The Style Conversational: The Empress's weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. See this week's, published late Thursday, July 29, at wapo.st/conv1447.

And from The Style Invitational four weeks ago . . .

Loco motions: The legislative acronyms of Week 1443

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



1 What to know about R. Kelly's trial for sex trafficking and racketeering charges

2 Perspective
Nicole Kidman is one of our most unpredictable film actors. So why aren't her TV roles more interesting?



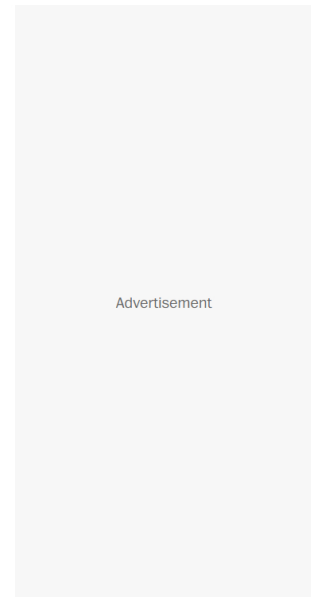
3 The best audiobooks for your summer drive, sorted by length — and who's in the car



4 Perspective
Even the best films about Afghanistan couldn't have prepared us for this scene



5 Review
'Nine Perfect Strangers' isn't the worst TV show of the year, but it might be the biggest letdown



Advertisement

The Opinions Essay newsletter

Get notified of new installments in Opinions' long-form commentary series.

[Sign up](#)

By signing up you agree to our [Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy Policy](#)

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 **Idiots' 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)*



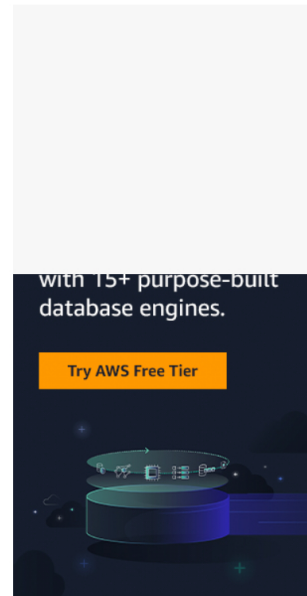
Endorsing **Legislators' Efforts to Pack Heat and Annoy Nancy, Too**: The ELEPHANT Act, permitting members of one political party to carry firearms in Congress. — L. Boebert, Rifle, Colo. *(Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)*

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, Md.)*

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, Md.)*



MOST READ



1 After Texas parent rips mask off teacher's face, school official warns: 'Do not fight mask wars in our schools'

2 A mom of 4 who died of covid days after her husband makes one final wish: 'Make sure my kids get vaccinated'



3 Live updates: Taliban fighters at airport checkpoints shoot, harass Afghans seeking to board evacuation flights



4 **Perspective**
Carolyn Hax: Fellow patron's persistent cough was not a fine dining experience



5 Condoleezza Rice: The Afghan people didn't choose the Taliban. They fought and died alongside us.



Advertisement

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, Va., a First Offender)*

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

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, Md.)*

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



Advertisement

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

The **More Oratory Reveals Only Nothingness** bill to encourage 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, Va.)*

The **Cover Your Backside from Excessive Regulation Act** directs federal agencies to accept assurances of network security such as “We’ve got this.” *(Jeff Hazle)*

Don't Appraise The Evening Literally; Assessments Bloated: The DATE LAB Act commemorates the 15th anniversary of the Washington Post feature in which the [daters rate each other a 4 or 5](#), but then they never contact each other again. *(Jesse Rifkin, Glastonbury, Conn.)*

Advertisement

An advertisement featuring a vibrant, abstract scene with a large blue balloon and a person in a colorful outfit. The background is a mix of bright colors and patterns.

[Read more](#)

The BURP Act, **B**illions **U**nderwriting **R**idiculous **P**rograms. Finally, legislation with true bipartisan support. (*John O'Byrne, Dublin, Ireland*)

Cushioning **O**ur **W**orld **F**rom **A**ll **R**ectal **T**hreats: The COW FART Act intends to slow the spread of global warming by ordering the refashioning of leftover masks into diapers for farm animals. (*Jon Gearhart, Des Moines*)

Duh, **A**nother **D**umb “**J**ocular **O**riginal” **K**neeslapper, **E**h?: The DAD JOKE Act forbids fathers to say anything they consider amusing around their teenage children or their children’s friends. (*Roy Ashley*)

The **H**elp **Y**ourself **P**oke **O**pposition **C**omments **R**ight **I**n **T**he **E**ye Act provides professional advisers to help politicians criticize opponents for taking positions they themselves once had. (*Neal Starkman, Seattle*)

The **L**ate-**E**vening **G**iant **O**uch **S**toppage Act requires all toys to be picked up before bedtime. (*Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.*)

Advertisement



The **C**arnivorous **R**ats **I**rritating **T**rappists! **I**celandic **C**ows **A**ttacking **L**ovely **R**ainbows! **A**ardvarks **C**lipping **E**xtraneous **T**oenails, **H**aving **E**xtrremely **O**rgasmic **R**elations, **Y**early! resolution that sure, Congress definitely understands what critical race theory is, no problem. (*Duncan Stevens*)

The **E**liminating **F**rivolous **F**ilibusters **U**sed for **M**anufactured, **I**rrelevant or **T**rivial **C**oncerns and **H**oldups Act: The EFF U MITCH Act. (*Shannon Bartlett Kizer, Beaverton, Ore.*)

And Last: The **L**ikable, **O**mniscient, **S**velte **E**mpress **R**ecognition Act to increase one’s chances in a certain contest. (*Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.*)

And Even Laster: The **S**ending **T**op-notch **Y**uks, **L**eaving **E**mpy-handed Act: Everyone gets a magnet from now on. (*Luke Baker, Columbia, Md.*)

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

DON'T MISS AN INVITE! [Sign up here](#) to receive a once-a-week email from the Empress as soon as The Style Invitational and Style Conversational go online every Thursday, complete with links to the columns.

0 Comments

Gift Article



By Pat Myers

Pat Myers is editor and judge of The Style Invitational, The Washington Post’s page for clever, edgy humor and wordplay. In the role since December 2003, she has posted and judged more than 700 contests. She also writes the weekly Style Conversational column and runs the Style Invitational Devotees page on Facebook. [Twitter](#)



NEWSLETTER MONTHLY

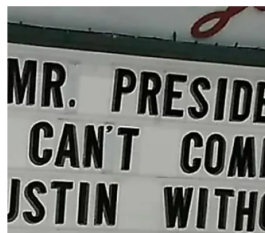
The Opinions Essay newsletter

Get notified of new installments in Opinions' long-form commentary series.

Sign up

PAID PROMOTED STORIES

Recommended by **Outbrain**



[Gallery] Restaurant In Texas Had The Guts To Put This On Their Sign

ItsTheVibe



Forbes Announces The Best Place To Retire In All 50 States

Forbes



The Israeli-made Face Mask Everyone Is Talking About In the US

Sonovia



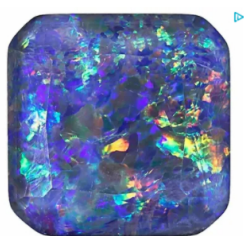
Women Who Eat According To Body Type Lose Weight Faster

Health-intelligence.us



Retirement Planning: Don't Do These 7 Things

SmartAsset



Australian Opal Triplet 12mm Octagonal Faceted

Jewelry Television

