

The Invitational Week 108: Bill Us Now

A wordplay game to join congressional names to 'cosponsor' legislation. Plus winning names for the Eighth Dwarf.

[Pat Myers](#)

and

[Gene Weingarten](#)

Jan 23, 2025



We expect that new Rep. Crank is going to be cosponsoring a lot of "legislation" in this week's Invitational contest.

Hello. Applause for the new Congress. On the one clapping hand, it seems to be a rubber stamp for the wishes of a new president, whom we hereafter will call Porky. On the other, there are pretty good names in there.

So:

The **Knott-Hurd-Taylor** bill to establish that any music written in the 21st century isn't worth listening to.

The **Bynum-Moore-Justice** Act to permit lobbyists to contribute to the Supreme Court's favorite "charities."

The **Turner-Moody** Act to get another beer for us, will ya?

The **Knott-Harrigan** bill to ban Sarah Palin from ever trying to make a comeback.

What, you're not feeling all that great this week, watching helplessly as a horde of thugs gleefully smashes into pillar after pillar of our democracy and decency, like the Taliban taking sledgehammers to

1,500-year-old sculptures because they weren't of their preferred sect?

Well, we at The Invitational are here to divert you, as we are every two years at the beginning of another congressional session, with our beloved (and occasionally behated) "joint legislation" game — in which we pretend that two or more freshman senators and/or House members might actually work together to suggest a new law.

For Invitational Week 108: Combine two or more names from the new members of the 119th Congress — [click here for our list](#) — to "cosponsor" a bill based on their combined last names, as in the examples above.

We're just playing with the sounds of their names, not commenting on the sens and reps (and even a couple of dels) themselves. That's why the list doesn't mention their parties, or even their first names. Learning that we'd be getting good names for this list — Crank! Figures! Pou! the perennial Johnson! — at least gave us a half an iota of cheer on election night.

The Czar and Empress implore you, having judged eighteen previous Joint Legislation contests between us: A pun on these names that's clear to *you* is not necessarily clear to anyone else in the world. Before you send in your entry, ask someone else to read it out loud and, without hints, body English, etc., *tell you* what phrase you had in mind. There can be a little stretch in the sound, as in "Harrigan" meaning "her again" in the example above, but don't use that name to mean, say, "harry gams." For guidance 'n' inspiration, take a look at [our 2023 inking entries](#) (the winner, by Pam Shermeyer: The **Ogles-Magaziner-Jackson-Self** Act to encourage sperm bank donations.).

Deadline is Saturday, Feb. 1, 2025, at 9 p.m. ET. Results will run here in The Gene Pool on Thursday, Feb. 6. As usual, you may submit up to 25 entries for this week's contest, preferably all on the same form.

Formatting this week: It's just our standard request to write each entry as a single line (i.e., don't push Enter until you're finished that particular entry). That way we can shuffle all the entries and won't know if you've sent us one entry or 25.

[Click here for this week's entry form](#), or go to tinyurl.com/inv-form-108.

This week's winner, while we're thinking congressionally, receives an adorable finger puppet depicting Sen. Bernie Sanders very well except for its highly uncharacteristic silence. Yeah, it should have been a mitten, but it's still awfully cute. Donated by Dave Prevar.



Runners-up get autographed fake money featuring the Czar or Empress, in one of [eight nifty designs](#). Honorable mentions get bupkis, except for a personal email from the E, plus the [Fir Stink for First Ink](#) for First Offenders.

Gnomenclature: The Eighth Dwarfs of Week 106

In [Invitational Week 106](#) we asked you to come up with amusing names for an Eighth Dwarf to complement Sneezy, Happy, and the rest of Snow White's adjectival posse.

Third runner-up:

BERNY changes the lyrics to "It's off to work we go, with a minimum wage of \$15 per hour." (*Jesse Rifkin, Arlington, Va.*)

Second runner-up:

ENNUI is the only dwarf who doesn't whistle while he works. He sighs. (*Jeff Rackow, Bethesda, Md.*)

First runner-up:

JENZY: He's the entitled one who wants to work in the mine remotely by Zoom. *(Kevin Dopart, Washington, D.C.)*

And the winner of the plushie uterus-and-ovaries:

IRONY: Is dead. *(Sam Mertens, Silver Spring, Md.)*

Miner Characters: Honorable mentions

COSBY: Who do you think gave the Evil Queen the sleeping potion? *(Steve Smith, Potomac, Md.)*

BEEPY: Goes everywhere in reverse. *(Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)*

BIGLY: A great dwarf, the greatest, many people are saying. *(Mike Bardallis, Allen Park, Mich., a First Offender)*

SNOOTFUL: Bashful's twin brother, who found a special potion to overcome his shyness. *(Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore)*

BEERMY: Every evening his mood changes from happy to dopey to grumpy and finally sleepy. *(Jeff Hazle, San Antonio)*

CANARY has PTSD from his old job at the coal mine. *(Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase, Md.)*

DICEY makes crypto recommendations to the other Dwarfs. *(Daniel Helming, Conshohocken, Pa.)*

FAPPY: He'll be right back once he's ... done. *(Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn, Va.)*

HANDSY, the miners say, knows her way around a shaft. *(Steve Smith)*

OXY: Such a popular guy, people just can't quit him. *(Sam Mertens)*

BOTTY replaced all the other dwarfs' mining jobs. *(Jesse Frankovich, Laingsburg, Mich.)*

CLAMMY: He's just ... resting. *(Chuck Helwig, Centreville, Va.)*

PHLEGMY, Sneezy's brother, who is always near you on the Metro. *(William Kennard, Arlington, Va.)*

SLOOPY: Not a real dwarf, just a hanger-on. *(Mike Gips, Bethesda, Md.)*

DISNEY insists that you cease and desist from infringing on this copyrighted material. (*Jason Meyers, Hamilton, N.Y., a First Offender*)

DINKLAGE is sick and tired of the fucking stereotypes already. (*Jason Meyers, again!*)

SOAPY is waiting for her rinse to come. (*Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.*)

And Last: DOYLY: He is a composer of brilliant puns, limericks, spoonerisms, double dactyls, and song parodies, and has appeared in a certain humor contest [almost three thousand times](#). And he crochets little lacy things. (*Jeff Hazle*)

And Even Laster: NOPEY: The Empress. (*Jesse Frankovich*)
The headline “Gnomenclature” was submitted by both Jon Gearhart and Jesse Frankovich; Judy Freed wrote the honorable-mentions subhead.

Still running — deadline 9 p.m. ET Saturday, Jan. 25: our Week 107 anagram contest. Click on the link below.



[The Invitational Week 107: Twits' Twist — fun with anagrams](#)
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Jan 16

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