

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Getting their acts together: It's our 'joint legislation'

BY PAT MYERS

For Week 1107, our biennial "joint legislation" contest, the **Empress** fleshed out the usual pool of congressional freshmen with a list of incumbent senators whose names hadn't been used in previous contests. Once again, numerous members of the Loser Community drove the **Empress** to tiara-scratching distraction by submitting strings of names that resembled some phrase only in the entrants' deluded minds (I'm waiting to hear next that they're seeking the Republican nomination); for example, "Ashford-Lawrence" was supposed to be read as "Ass for low rents." The "bills" below are much more valid as pronunciation goes, but if you don't get one, don't get all huffy and call the **Empress**; just see the list below accompanied by translations at bit.ly/invite1111-key.

4th place

The **Boyle-Dold-Rice** school lunch program (Kathy Hardis Fraeman, Olney)

3rd place

The **Lieu-Dold-Ratcliffe** Resolution to express Congress's opinion about Bill Cosby (Joanne Free, Clifton; David Clayton, Alexandria)

2nd place and the sculpture of seven smiling guys made out of little shells

The **Cotton-Gardner-Graves** bill to create euphemisms for slave cemeteries (Steve Langer, Chevy Chase)

And the winner of the Inkin' Memorial

The **Buck-Perdue** Act, levying a \$1 fine for every deposit your dog leaves on federal land (Dawn Kral, La Plata)

Retch across the aisle: honorable mentions

The **Mooney-Kaine-Beyer-Love** Act to note that some Beatles lyrics are factually incorrect (David Kleinbard, Mamaroneck, N.Y.)

The **Young-Mooney-Love** bill declaring that no, YOU hang up first (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station)

The **Gardner-Young-Menendez-Graves** Act to increase security at military cemeteries (Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

The **Lieu-Peters** Declaration of National Cheerios and SpaghettiOs Day (Pam Sweeney, Burlington, Mass.)

The **Buck-Fischer** Act to vote however you want me to vote (Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg)

The **Beyer-Rubio-Newhouse** bill regulating compensatory payments from NFL players to their abused spouses (Nan Reiner, Alexandria)

The **Knight-Mooney** Bedtime Demand Resolution (Charles Hummel, Falls Church, a First Offender)

The **Young-Boyle-Sasse** Act to mandate that young men start minding their manners. (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

The **Hardy-Daines-Hill-Zinke-Cruz** Act to provide an ice cutter to ferry folks from Copenhagen to the Finnish capital every January (Beverly Sharp)

The **Katco-Kaine** Feline Narcotics Act prohibiting catnip as a gateway drug (George-Ann Rosenberg, Washington; Dudley Thompson, Cary, N.C.)

The **Baldwin-Young-Love** Resolution stating that follicle-challenged men are natural chick magnets (Brendan Beary, Great Mills)

The **Graves-Heitkamp-Sessions** bill to encourage telling ghost stories around the fire (Steve Langer)

The **Buck-Tillis-Sasse-Hurd** bill to limit bronco riding at weekend rodeos (David Adlerstein, Apalachicola, Fla.)

The **Young-Guinta-Daines-Tillis-Knight** Resolution that we might as well let the kids party all day long (Pie Snelson, Silver Spring)

The **Young-Stefanik-Sessions** Act to end "whole language" reading instruction in our nation's schools (Chris Doyle)

The **Rice-Coons-Buck-Schatz** bill subsidizing Appalachian wedding essentials. (Kevin Dopart,



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1111: When you riff upon a store

A women's dear desk: the **wp.com** version has been disinherited so that I could make the format adjustments; please leave them as two separate files. thanks — pat bartending school: **Lady Slings the Booze** (Chris Doyle)

An Indian restaurant: **Love Me Tandoor** (Chris Doyle)

A mail-order fabric store: **Some Day My Chintz Will Come** (Diane Wah)

A Haight-Ashbury liposuction clinic: **I Left My Lard in San Francisco** (Rob Pivarnik)

This week's contest was inspired by an apropos-of-nothing post by 26-time Loser Steve Langer in the Facebook group Style Invitational Devotees: "I'm going to open a laser depilatory salon to compete with the bikini wax business. It'll be called "50 Ways to Lase Your Love Hair." Shortly afterward some of the Devotees offered more examples of what would become **This Week's Contest: Use a wordplay on a song title as a name or slogan for a real or imagined business**, as in the examples above. It shouldn't be hard to think up a lot of entries for this contest, so remember that there's a 25-entry limit; as always, you can list all your entries in a single e-mail as long as you have a little space between lines so that the **Empress's** head doesn't fall tiara-first onto her desk in frustration. Also remember that if your entry is identical to more than one or two others, it won't get your name in the paper.

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives, so appropriately for this week's contest, a musical prize: the Dr. Fart electronic key chain — "Never Silent, Always Deadly" — featuring a little plastic box with buttons bringing forth "six hilarious fart sounds." Donated by Loser Nan Reiner, who, while carrying this useful personal-safety device, never once was threatened by an ax-murderer.

Other runners-up win their choice of a yearned-for Loser Mug or the ardently desired "Whole Fools" Grocery Bag. Honorable mentions get a lusted-after Loser magnet designed by Bob Staake: either "The Wit Hit the Fan" or "Hardly Har-Har." First Offenders receive a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). E-mail entries to losers@washpost.com or, if you were born in the 19th century, fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday, Feb. 23; results published March 15 (online March 12). You may submit up to 25 entries per contest. Include "Week 1111" 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/InvRules. The headline for this week's results is by Danielle Nowlin; the honorable-mentions subhead is by Peter Shawhan. 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.

THE STYLE CONVERSATIONAL The **Empress's** weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. Especially if you plan to enter, check it out at wapo.st/styleconv.

Washington)

The **Blumenthal-Blum** bill prohibiting immigration officers from shortening surnames (Michael Baker, Ellicott City)

The **Guinta-Beyer-Rounds-Tillis-Love** bill to provide dating tips for pathetic men. (Mark Raffman, Reston; Todd DeLap, Fairfax)

Dold-Daines-Allen-Graves Education Amendment requiring shorter Shakespeare synopses (Mary Kappus, Washington, a First Offender)

The **Young-Barrasso** Act to excise spoonerisms from the Congressional Record (Mike Gips, Bethesda)

The **Hurd-Daines-Knight** subsidy for those who have been working like a dog (David Friedman, Arlington)

The **Rubio-Capito-Lieu** Memorandum about the proper design of the University of Oklahoma logo (Craig Dykstra, Centerville)

The **Walker-Trott-Buck-Wicker** bill to encourage pedestrians to step livelier (Chaya Shuch, New York)

The **Peters-Nelson** bill to legalize one of the more controversial wrestling holds (Andy Bassett, New Plymouth, New Zealand)

The **Hurd-Hardy-Knight-Love-Sessions** Act requiring better soundproofing in motels (David Patch, Toledo)

The **Coons-Russell-Watson-Coleman** act mandating tighter lids on campers' food containers (Steve Glomb, Alexandria; Brendan Beary, two of several Losers to use the two-word name of Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman)

The **Fischer-Boyle-Dold-Cotton** resolution to investigate the

Senate cafeteria's cod casserole (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

The **Schatz-Hurd-Rounds-Manchin** Act to investigate who killed Mr. Boddy with the gun in the conservatory (Mark Raffman)

Gardner-Hurd-Graves-Russell bill to assist mentally ill cemetery groundskeepers (Rob Wolf, Gaithersburg)

The **Bennet-Booker-Kaine** Act to require Catholic schools to offer reading "Pride and Prejudice" as an alternative to corporal punishment (Matt Monitto, Bristol, Conn.)

The **Mooney-Knight-Graves-Walker-Rounds** Act establishing zombie liberties (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

The **Cotton-Nelson-Lieu** Act to ensure properly stocked restrooms. (Bill Gage, Nellysford, Va., a First Offender)

The **Comstock-Newhouse** Act to subsidize gifts for first-time home buyers (Warren Tanabe, Annapolis)

The **Rouzer-Walker-Booker** Act to establish law-enforcement procedures for handling intoxicated women (Frank Mann, Washington; John Ramos, Duluth, Minn., a First Offender)

The **Hurd-Dingell-Katko-Trott** Act to fund Pavlovian conditioning research on felines (Mark Raffman)

The **Torres-Dingell** Act to mandate safety zippers for men's trousers (Larry Rubin, Silver Spring, a First Offender)

The **McCain-McConnell-McSall-Mikulski** Resolution to celebrate the game One of These Things Is Not Like the Other (Kathye Hamilton, Annandale)

Still running — deadline Tuesday night: our contest for [someone's Mama] jokes. See bit.ly/invite1110.

POST PUZZLER

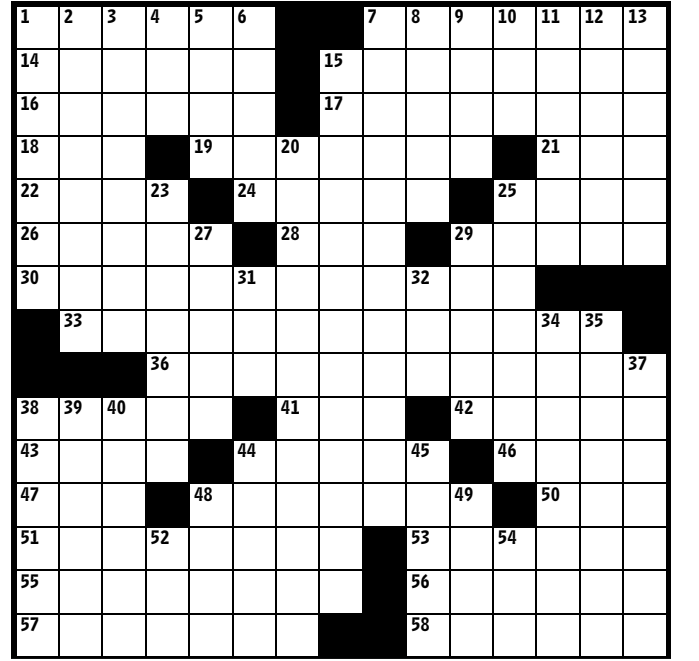
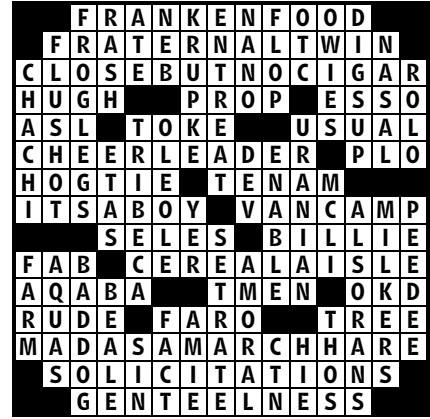
No. 254

BY TODD MCCLARY EDITED BY PETER GORDON • FIREBALLCROSSWORDS.COM

- ACROSS**
- 1 Brightness indicator
 - 7 Celebratory move on the ball field
 - 14 Mariachi instrument
 - 15 Cheese that's grated on pasta
 - 16 Breaking point cry
 - 17 Rewrites with new characters, perhaps
 - 18 "___ Told You Now" (Sam Smith song)
 - 19 Two by two
 - 21 Unfashionable
 - 22 Shooters in a "keepsies" game
 - 24 Judicial pronouncements
 - 25 Course selection
 - 26 Internet connection?
 - 28 It's known for November showers
 - 29 Press output
 - 30 Performer at Princess Diana's funeral
 - 33 Ones who pay millions for weight loss?
 - 36 Compete in a rodeo, maybe
 - 38 Change, as bills
 - 41 Coupon word
 - 42 Material for old records
 - 43 Days on Mars
 - 44 Proctor ___ (appliance brand)
 - 46 Continue
 - 47 TV show with the most Emmys ever
 - 48 Scaled down, say
 - 50 NCO part
 - 51 Mint family varieties
 - 53 Bossy type
 - 55 "Canciones de Mi Padre" singer

- 56 Became melodramatic
- 57 Prepared to leave?
- 58 V8 ingredient
- DOWN**
- 1 Catches
- 2 Religious inquiry?
- 3 "Star Trek" anomaly
- 4 1940s campaign activity locale, briefly
- 5 Its most popular color for brides is red
- 6 Go viral, e.g.
- 7 La Reforma president
- 8 Gulf of Guinea capital
- 9 Rocky overlooks
- 10 Sunbathe too long
- 11 Fatlike
- 12 Not pithy
- 13 Art museum purchase
- 15 Tutu, for example
- 20 First of a series
- 23 Foster's mattress partner
- 25 Cleans up
- 27 1961 epic shot in Spain
- 29 Primary
- 31 Seth MacFarlane comedy
- 32 Legend depicted on the 1970s pinball machine
- 34 Iron Range mineral
- 35 Draft pick?
- 37 Transatlantic travel hub, for short
- 38 Triage, e.g.
- 39 Subject of a Warhol diptych
- 40 "___ Dance Dare" (daytime talk show segment)
- 44 Parlement français half
- 45 Mediterranean three-master
- 48 Flautista de Hamelin target
- 49 Mosque feature
- 52 Prime meridian std.
- 54 SEC athlete

Answer to last week, No. 253



HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | FEB. 15: This year you break a pattern that has not served you, perhaps one that involves judging others. You will find that any trait can be changed with some work. If you are single, you might meet someone who is manipulative. Be willing to walk away, because something better is waiting just around the corner. If you are attached, the two of you might struggle with control issues. Accept your differences, and you will be on your way to creating a more viable bond.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Tension will build until you handle a responsibility for an older person. Go to brunch together. Although you initially might not be enthusiastic, you will feel great later on.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You might resent a pushy friend who wants you to do his or her bidding. You have a way of letting people see the big picture through your eyes. In this case, do it quickly.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You may feel as if someone is mistreating you. You will be able to change the situation, but an argument seems inevitable. Dealing with an authority figure might be dicey.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) A difference of opinion could force you to reassess. You might

discover that you are deluding yourself about someone.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You have a project that you have been putting on the back burner. The more you do, the happier you will be. Be careful with a partner who seems to need a lot of extra attention.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Take a day to be a child again, and start enjoying some of your favorite pastimes. Romance naturally floods the day with light. Avoid an argument at all costs.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You have a way about you that draws others in. Someone could be on the offensive. How you respond will be your call. This person might be significant to your personal life.

Electric vehicles rev up assumptions

Ask Amy AMY DICKINSON

Dear Amy: I saw your reply to "All Charged Up" concerning the expense of having a friend plug in an electric vehicle at their house. You correctly pointed out that the cost of the charge was not as high as they assumed. I am a member of the Seattle Electric Vehicle Association. I have been driving an all-electric vehicle (EV) for about four years now, and I appreciated your rational approach to the answer. There are a lot of weird assumptions concerning EVs.

We generally encourage our members to offer to pay the actual costs to anyone who allows them to plug in, specifically so that people will realize just how small the cost is. You pointed out that a full charge averages about \$2.64, but what you missed was that the car can only draw about 12 amps per hour from a standard 110-volt outlet.

If a friend is visiting for two hours, the real cost to the homeowner is about 25 cents. One of the problems we've encountered is that offering to pay someone as little as 25 cents can be seen as an insult, so EV

drivers often either skip paying or overpay to show their gratitude. I'm afraid the etiquette surrounding EV's has yet to be worked out. *Trickle Charged*

This question received a huge response, proving the increasing popularity of EVs. Please urge your members to be forthcoming when explaining the variables — and to overpay if necessary. As more people drive EVs, friends can reciprocate in kind.

Dear Amy: My aunt and uncle died about 10 years ago; they were both well into their 90s. Because they had no children, I inherited their things, including a very large painting that was a gift from my aunt's much-younger cousin (he has now passed away). The painting is of my aunt and uncle, taken from their 50th anniversary photo. It's a nice rendition, but I'm not sure what to do with it. There are no other relatives I could offer it to, and I don't really have room for it. Do you have any suggestions? *Concerned Niece*

I have several portraits in my home of people I don't know — acquired from estate sales and antique stores. Many people like

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) If a loved one becomes unusually difficult, it might be good to distance yourself without saying anything that indicates your disapproval. You may be shocked by what you hear.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You'll be full of get-up-and-go, but others might not be able to keep up. Be thankful for your energy and choose not to show your frustration at the slowness of others. Make their lives as easy as possible today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Take the lead with a project or idea. You might find a neighbor to be combative; just let it go. Incorporate an activity into your schedule that you have wanted to do for a while.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You will enjoy allowing someone else to do most of the talking for a change. Be sure to listen well, because sometimes it is what is not said that is most significant.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You'll feel inspired and willing to act on an idea. You might find that you need to change your plans with a friend.

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to imagine the lives behind the portraits. Whether it is for kitsch value or an interest in a period piece, I don't think it's disrespectful to sell or give this piece away to someone who wants it. If this idea doesn't appeal to you, photograph the painting so you have a record of it. Then remove it from the frame, make sure the subjects are identified on the back of the canvas and roll it up to make it less bulky.

Dear Amy: I disagree with your advice to "Wedding Crasher," who wanted to attend a wedding ceremony where her daughter was a bridesmaid. I've never known any church that would object to anyone attending a wedding ceremony. I was not invited to the small reception of a colleague. I wanted to see the wedding, so I went. No one objected to my presence and everyone was happy that I cared. *A Proud Crasher*

As I said in my answer, how acceptable this is depends on the faith and culture of the marrying couple, not your own.

Write to Amy Dickinson at askamy@tribune.com or Ask Amy, Chicago Tribune, TT500, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60611.