

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

The floor show: Our winning 'bills'

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1210**, our biennial "joint legislation" contest, the usual pool of freshmen had shrunk even further in the 115th Congress, forcing the Empress to pad the list with the full local delegations plus a smattering of other incumbents. As always, some folks in the Loser Community submitted name combinations that sounded like phrases only in the entrants' alternative-minds: Sorry, but *nobody* will read "**Demings-Arrington**" as "**the Mings are in town**." The bills that follow are much clearer, but just in case you can't figure one out, you can look it up: See the list of winners with an "answer key"; it's at bit.ly/invite1214-key. (Pronunciation tips: Hassan is pronounced like Hasson; Kihuen is "kee when"; Crist rhymes with "fist.")

4th place

The **Barr-Crist-Mast-Tenney-Young-Brat** Act to revitalize the Lumps of Coal industry (Paul Jackson, Malabar, Fla, a First Offender)

3rd place

The **Byrne-Norton-Correa** Resolution advocating a preemptive strike on Pyongyang (John Glenn, Tyler, Tex.)

2nd place and the Capitol Dome squeeze "ball":

The **Biggs-Esty-Yoder** Masculine Fragrance Promotional Act (Ann Martin, Falls Church)

And the winner of the Inkin' Memorial:

The **Dunn-Taylor-Yoder-King** bill requiring truth in online dating profiles (Amy Harris, Charlottesville)

Deplorabills: honorable mentions

The **Barr-King-Bacon** proposal to restrict genetic engineering on animals (G.T. Bowman, Falls Church)

The **Brown-Hice** Amendment to warn of something, in addition to yellow snow, that nobody should eat (Mark Raffman, Reston; Steve Offutt, Arlington)

The **Hice-Tenney-Hoyer** resolution to require a daily greeting for the House Democratic whip (Ira Allen, Bethesda; Jack McBroom, Fort Valley, Va.)

The **Lawson-Dunn** Repeal of Everything Obama Did (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

The **Biggs-Norton** resolution calling for investigation of Trump's "sniffles" (Pam Sweeney, Burlington, Mass.)

The **Carson-Davidson-Ferguson-Johnson-Lawson-Simpson** Clean Her Act (Pete Morelewicz, Fredericksburg, Va.)

The **Gottheimer-King** Act authorizes the DEA to find out what "merking" is and put an end to it (Warren Tanabe, Annapolis)

The **Hassan-Tenney-Johnson** bathroom equality bill to support transgender rights (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station)

The **Dunn-Beyer-Brat-Tenney-Bacon** Initiative for Healthier Children's Diets (Daniel Galef, Montclair, N.J.)

The **Young-Yoder** More Prequels You Must Make Act (Michael Rolfe, Cape Town, South Africa)

The **Murphy-Lawson-Hill** Act to ensure that any legislation that can go wrong will go wrong (Gordon Cobb, Marietta, Ga.)

The **Hassan-Esty-Yoder** Act to recognize Your Mama (Jeff Shirley, Richmond)

The **Marshall-Dunn** bill to allow draining of the Everglades (Marleen May, Rockville)

The **Khanna-Lee-Connolly** Civil Rights Act to condemn homophobia (John McCooey, Rehoboth Beach, Del.)

The **Brown-Crist-Mast-Cummings** Climate Change Adaptation Act (Dudley Thompson, Cary, N.C.)

The **Esty-Duckworth-Khanna-Budd-Hice** Commission to study barter patterns in rural America (John Hutchins, Silver Spring)

The **Hill-Gaetz-Norton-Dunn** Resolution for Congress to do something useful (Jesse Frankovich)

The **Marshall-Lawson-Crist-Mast**



New contest for Week 1214: The alternaugural address

"My small hands will get bigger — honestly, magnificent! — as long as I salute the one who controls my every move."

Donald Trump's inaugural address was 1,433 words of pure . . . source material for our perennial word bank game, in which we present some widely known work or passage, and ask you to write something else from some of its words. Last year the Empress used the song "American Pie"; over the years we've offered everything from Genesis to "The Cat in the Hat." **This week: Write a humorous passage — a "quote," an observation, a joke, a dialogue, a poem, anything — using only words that appear in Trump's inaugural address (find it online at bit.ly/trump-address or by Googling).** You may use a word only as many times as it appears in the speech; for example, you may use "wealth" up to four times, but "carnage," alas, only once. You must use the whole word as it appears ("honestly" but not "honest"), but you may change capitalization and punctuation however you like. You may attribute your "quote" to someone else. **Submit entries at this website: bit.ly/enter-invite-1214** (all lowercase).

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place gets the lovely sculpture pictured here: The brand is Poopets, but we'll call it the Turdle: a figurine made of (totally unsmelly) dried cow manure. It's supposed to break down into fertilizer in your garden, but donor Mike Creveling gave it a coat of varnish: so a Turdle lasts forever. (But alas, it won't arrive in time for Valentine's Day.)

Other runners-up win the yearned-for "This Is Your Brain on Mugs" Loser mug or our Grossery Bag, "I Got a B in Punmanship." Honorable mentions get one of our new lusted-after Loser magnets, "No Childishness Left Behind" or "Magnum Dopus." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). Deadline is Tuesday night, Feb. 21; results published March 12 (online March 9). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline for this week's results is by John O'Byrne; the honorable-mentions subhead is by Tom Witte. 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; follow @StyleInvite on Twitter.

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.



PAT MYERS/THE WASHINGTON POST

It doesn't smell: Our prize turtle made of dried manure.

Act to win the war on that holiday, once and for all (Mark Raffman)

The **Beyer-Dunn-Kihuen-Young** bill to support Future Farmers of America (Sarah Jay, Churchville, Md.)

The **Rush-Beyer-Banks** bill merging Quicken Loans and drive-through banking (Deb Stewart, Damascus, Md.)

The **Schneider-Brat-Dunn** Act to change the ownership of the Washington Redskins (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

The **Ross-Hassan-Tenny-Hice** Act to study global warming effects on the Antarctic Mud Shelf (Jeff Contompassis, Ashburn, Va.)

The **Lewis-Barragan** Provision to Restock the House Chamber with Toilet Paper (Jesse Frankovich)

The **Khanna-Beyer-Young-Brat** Rotten-Child Trafficking Support Act (Gordon Cobb)

The **Delaney-Byrne** Act designating knee pads as "feminine medical devices" under Trumpcare. (Dave Airozo, Silver Spring)

The **Budd-Hassan-Hice-Rush** Legalize It Already bill, a.k.a. Joint Resolution 420 (Nan Reiner, Boca Raton, Fla.)

The **Dunn-King-Hoyer** Act to establish a Georgetown University basketball scholarship (Holly Saunders, Bethesda, a First Offender)

The **Barr-Dunn-King** bill to prohibit waterboarding — or if that won't pass, to at least reduce coffee stains on neckties (Rob Cohen, Potomac; G.T. Bowman)

The **Budd-Hollingsworth** Act establishing minimum wages for Clydesdale horses (Roy Ashley, Washington)

The **Byrne-Budd** Joint Legislation for the Legislation of Joints (Pete Morelewicz)

The **Polis-Raskin-Yoder-Rush-Carson-Hill** Resolution, endorsing the efforts of D.C. police to make traffic near the Capitol move more efficiently. (John Glenn)

The **Biggs-Carson-Johnson** Declaration, explaining how Huma Abedin knew the photo was of Anthony (William Verkuilen, Brooklyn Park, Minn.)

The **Connolly-Espallat-Gallagher-Hollingsworth-Marshall-Mitchell-O'Halleran-Van Hollen** bill to tell the president to go two-L (Bill Verkuilen)

The **Dunn-Barr-King** Act to Send Fido to a Nice Farm Upstate (David Smith, Alexandria)

The **Dunn-Masto-Bacon** Act to Automatically Shut Off Tyler's Internet at Night (Jesse Aronson, Arlington, a First Offender)

The **Krishnamoorthi-Smucker-Rooney** bill that doesn't really do anything but is fun to say. (Steve Offutt)

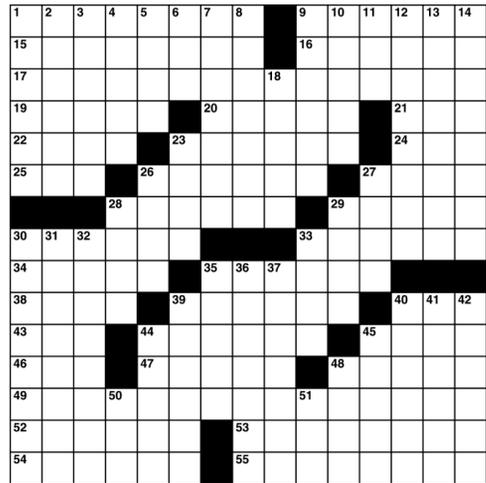
Still running — deadline Monday night, Feb. 13: our "punku" pun-haiku contest. See bit.ly/invite1213.

SUNDAY CHALLENGE

BY LYNN LEMPEL © 2017 CROSSNERGY SYNDICATE LLC

- ACROSS**
- 1 "Alas, it's true"
- 9 Line on a weather map
- 15 Shovelers' challenge
- 16 It gets you to the station
- 17 One ejected at a circus
- 19 Directive
- 20 Evidence of a past life
- 21 Yellow, Black, or Red
- 22 Insurance concern
- 23 Move stealthily
- 24 Provider of a bang-up job? (abbr.)
- 25 Some railways
- 26 Like the pope's spring message
- 27 Musical based on a Colette novella
- 28 Maine city on the Penobscot River
- 29 2013 Johnny Depp role
- 30 Overcomes jet lag, maybe
- 33 Vince of "Wedding Crashers"
- 34 Farmworkers
- 35 Ad-libber's discard
- 38 Regarding
- 39 "La Bamba" singer
- 40 Walter Cronkite's network
- 43 Cpl. or Sgt.
- 44 Rapper who co-starred in "The Cookout" with Queen Latifah
- 45 Raced
- 46 Tierra ___ Fuego
- 47 Pointless
- 48 Tiler's need
- 49 "Let me consider this"
- 52 Undertakes energetically
- 53 Phil in the Hockey Hall of Fame

- 54 Regular
- 55 Take another look at
- DOWN**
- 1 Hold closely (to)
- 2 Lordly?
- 3 Pays
- 4 Speedily
- 5 "___ it rich?" (start of "Send in the Clowns")
- 6 Org. for a large party
- 7 Activity for glider pilots
- 8 Admit
- 9 Patch to attach, maybe
- 10 Touch, e.g.
- 11 Overseer of exec. branch funding
- 12 Egotist's proclivity
- 13 For quite a while
- 14 Tie
- 18 Saltpeter
- 23 Bills in tills
- 26 Indy circuits
- 27 King Henry VIII's affliction, it's thought
- 28 Eliot's "Adam ___"
- 29 Solo heard at Arlington National Cemetery
- 30 Bashes
- 31 Sir Galahad's dad
- 32 Course taker
- 33 Tree hugger, at times
- 35 What's clear in the kitchen
- 36 Rust bucket
- 37 Liberate
- 39 It's all in Ecclesiastes
- 40 Lousy kids' game?
- 41 Spreads news of
- 42 Brief brawls
- 44 Holy war
- 45 Tie up for roasting
- 48 Gunky substances
- 50 Org. whose workers get a good look at you
- 51 Controversial chemical in plastics, for short



Answer to last week



HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! Feb. 12: This year you are more likely to dream and have that dream become a reality. Your childlike side often emerges, which creates more excitement. Others are drawn to you, as you certainly are not boring to be around. If you are single, you will have your share of suitors all year long. You'll need to figure out what type of relationship you want. If you are attached, the two of you enjoy each other's company, but you don't always agree. You have very different types of desires, yet the attraction between you remains strong and valid. Virgo can be very fussy.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Emotional extremes run parallel with misunderstandings. You will be forthright about what you desire. Others might need to adapt to whatever you request. Those who care will adjust accordingly.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You can make a difference if you so choose. A loved one might try to manipulate you. Remain aware of your needs. You see life from a totally different perspective. Try to explain where you are coming from.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Try to understand what is happening with a close friend or family member, if possible. You might prefer to be concerned with other matters involving your friends or a professional situation, but still give this person your time and attention.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Ask questions, and think more fully about what needs to happen. A loved one might want to go off to the movies, whereas you'd prefer to hang out at home and have an early dinner. Can you mix the two? Learn to compromise.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Your ability to make a difference in someone's life is apparent. However, a problem involving your finances could emerge. You might find this person's demands difficult to meet under the circumstances.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Think twice about what is happening between you and someone else. You could feel as if this person is pushing the line when dealing with you. Put your best foot forward, and enjoy the moment.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You might be working through a problem and could want some time to yourself. You know that a restrictive situation will not work for you. Say little until you are absolutely sure about how you are going to approach the issue.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You might believe that you know what a loved one wants, but perhaps it is just reflective of your own desires on a deeper level. Be more open to what this person says they need.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Honor a need for a fast change. How you approach a key person in your life might change once you see them in a different setting. Update your perspective.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Evaluate what is happening around a particular issue. You might want to head in a new direction, take an educational course or do some traveling. Explore different ways of approaching life.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You'll break past someone's need to control you by demonstrating a willingness to work with this person on more of an individual level. You have a greater sense of what you would like to see develop from this relationship.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You are extremely social and quite willing to go in your own direction, if need be. A partner might want to do something a certain way. If you can go along with this person's request, do. Be open to their suggestions and ideas.

Relative reaches out to resentful cousin

Ask Amy

Dear Amy: I'm in my early 20s.

Since we were little kids, two of my cousins and I have been very close. My grandmother babysat all of us. We lived five minutes away from each other, rode the school bus together and, when we were teenagers, after the loss of their mother, they spent every night at my house.

Recently, another cousin contacted us after seeing a photo of the three of us online. He said he's sick of feeling left out.

We did not know he felt this way and that we were so close because we were basically raised together. We told him we would want to hang out with him more now and also in the future.

He accepted that, but then started saying things like the rest of the family doesn't ever want him around. We told him that this isn't true and that everyone loves him, and we are sorry that someone told him that because that's horrible.

He then kept responding about how badly he is treated. This conversation continued on and off for three days via text messaging, until finally I told

him that it had gone on too long and I would like to end the discussion. He responded with sarcasm and expletives and then blocked all of us on social media.

I feel like the discussion should have been in person. I don't want the family broken up. We have always gotten along, and our family gathers frequently. I love all my family members, but I don't feel that I should have to censor my relationships I've developed with certain family because it may offend someone else. I would be willing to forgive and forget to have peace between us.

Should I feel guilty for forming a closer relationship with my other cousins? How should we resolve this falling out?

Concerned Cousin

Concerned Cousin: You are closer to your cousins because you were raised together, like siblings.

Your other cousin was trying to be honest with you, and that's a good thing. However, it sounds as if he has let a lifetime of resentment build up, and trying to express and resolve this

through text message is simply not possible.

You could relieve your guilt by trying to contact him, perhaps through a letter, to say, "I was shocked to learn how excluded you have felt. Thank you for being honest about it. I'd like to have a closer relationship, but we'll never resolve these things unless we talk about it."

Dear Amy: I am shocked at how often couples who are getting married decide to exclude a family member. Family is family, especially during a wedding.

Shocked

Shocked: Families are complex and challenging. There are definitely legitimate reasons to exclude, but there would probably be less exclusion if people could simply accept that their families are not perfect.

Amy's column appears seven days a week at washingtonpost.com/advice. Write to askamy@amydickinson.com or Amy Dickinson, Tribune Content Agency, 16650 Westgrove Dr., Suite 175, Addison, Tex. 75001. You can also follow her @askingamy.

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