

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

The Farced Amendment: Week 1293

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1293** we asked for novel ways to explain parts of the U.S. Constitution, perhaps (but not necessarily) to a president who might not read it.

4th place

Article II, Section 1, and the 12th Amendment: the electoral college: It's kind of like letting baseball fans vote for players to go to the All-Star Game, but then ignoring the votes and delegating the actual selections to the Maryland Board of Cosmetology. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

3rd place

The First Amendment: Freedom of speech and religion: Travolta and Cruise can have their e-meters
Jews can foreshorten their son's peepie
Folks can meet and protest your stupid tweeters
And Maureen Dowd can call you a creepy.
(Jon Ketzner, Cumberland, Md.)

2nd place and the two-person underpants:

The Second Amendment (to "Maria" from "West Side Story")

Militia! They say I can have a militia.
With muskets for my men,
Straight from the 18th cen . . . tury.
Militia! But I don't see any indicia
That I can't keep in stock
A Luger or a Glock, or three.
Militia! Some grenades strapped around my forehead,
And an AR-15 for my sorehead.
Militia . . . and maybe a warhead
. . . Militia! (Nan Reiner, Boca Raton, Fla.)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

The Preamble, explained more clearly by rearranging ALL its letters into this anagram:
Everyone deserves equal chance for peace, harmony, protection from nuts, enemies and the freedom to attain the best life for their families. So here are the districts' rules, jotted down so idiotic dummies in future generations — predisposed to spastic bullying or truth distortion — won't be able to pull a fast one on the rest of us.
(Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

Foundering farther: Honorable mentions

The electoral college is the institution where you learn that 62,979,879 > 65,844,954. (Zachary Levine, Rockville, a First Offender)

First Amendment: Freedom of speech:

The Congress shall not make a law That stops us from flapping our jaw. (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)
First Amendment: Freedom of the press: Abridging freedom of the press does not count as an infrastructure project. (Zachary Levine)

25th Amendment: Presidential disability and succession:

A High Coup
The vice president
Plus half of your Cabinet
Can get rid of you.
(Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Article IV, Section 4: "The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government": See, the Democrats are ILLEGAL! — D.J.T., Washington (Duncan Stevens)

Articles I, II and III, the three branches of government: Think of them as three interlocked gears arranged in a triangle, so they all work together — or not move at all. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

Article 1, Section 9: Emoluments are not something that lubricates your skin — well, perhaps the palms. (Cliff Feldwick, Columbia, Md., a First Offender)

Article VI, Section 6, Clause 3, forbidding religious tests for federal "office or public trust": *To "Be Our Guest"*
There's no test! There's no test! No religion's second-guessed, So no zealot can insist his faith surpasses all the rest.
Muslim, Jew, skeptic, "none," each has got the right to run:
Clause 6-3 is here to witness that you can't dispute their fitness.
In their posts they can serve, and



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New for Week 1297: A different type o' headline contest

Post headline with fake typo:
Redskins debut debutt, stay positive
Bank head based on the typo:
Linebackers, tackles strut slimmer derrieres from new diets, glute exercises

A path to diversity in U.S. parks porks
Eat no fat? Eat no lean? There's a pig for every carnivore in new breeding program

Family escapes home before gas gab explosion
Smiths on Elm St. flee from back door upon approach of terminally boring neighbor

Every year or so, we ask you to send in a real headline from that week's paper, then reinterpret its meaning in a bank head, or subtitle. But it's been three years since we last did this variation: **Change a headline in an article or ad in The Post or another publication dated Sept. 13-24 by adding or subtracting one letter; substituting a letter; transposing two letters; or changing spacing or punctuation; and then add a "bank head,"** or subtitle, as in the examples above, which the Empress and the Royal Consort based on Post headlines from the past week. You may shorten a more complex headline, and you may capitalize each word of the headline if that will help your wordplay. You must tell me where you found the original headline and what its real wording was.

Submit entries at the website wapo.st/enter-invite-1297 (all lowercase).

Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a substantial yet extraordinarily tacky glitter globe containing a sad-looking (perhaps homemade?) little model of a John Deere tractor. This makes our earlier prize of the motorcycle-riding-cow glitter globe tantamount to a Faberge egg.

Other runners-up win our "You Gotta Play to Lose" Loser Mug or our Grossery Bag, "I Got a B in Punmanship." Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, "We've Seen Better" or "IDiot Card." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). **Deadline is Monday night, Sept. 24;** results published Oct. 14 (online Oct. 11). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline for this week's results is by Jon Gearhart; Kevin Dopart wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev. "Like" Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at bit.ly/inkoffday; 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

Try not to be good/bad enough to finish second — and win this.

you've got a lot of nerve if you'd bar them for the creed that they've professed. So, pluralism? Love it. And your dogma? Shove it. Never blessed? Don't get stressed — there's no test! (Duncan Stevens)

Fourth Amendment: Unreasonable searches and seizures: Michael Cohen's office can be searched by the FBI only if a real judge agrees that he's a sleazy lowlife with incriminating evidence on even sleazier lowlives. (Jon Ketzner)

Article II, Section 1: The President shall, at stated Times, receive for his Services a Compensation, which shall be no less than two Scoops. (Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)

Fifth Amendment: Double jeopardy: You cannot be prosecuted twice for paying Stormy once. (Jon Ketzner)

The whole Constitution: *To the "Major-General's Song":* It is the very model of a Charter Constitutional, Which for the 18th century was wholly revolutionary. An equal vote in choosing how to govern our society Was granted to the peasant and the wealthy high-and-mighety.

Each law demands Bicameral consensus after forth-and-backs (Though some defy all reason, like the convoluted income tax). It has its own procedure when we realize we need redos, Like getting rid of slavery and acknowledging we crave the boozee.

Despite authoritarian political expedience, The Prez is not a king, and to the law he owes obedience. On 6 November comes the wave, electoral, ablutional, Wherein we shall begin to save our Charter Constitutional. (Nan Reiner)

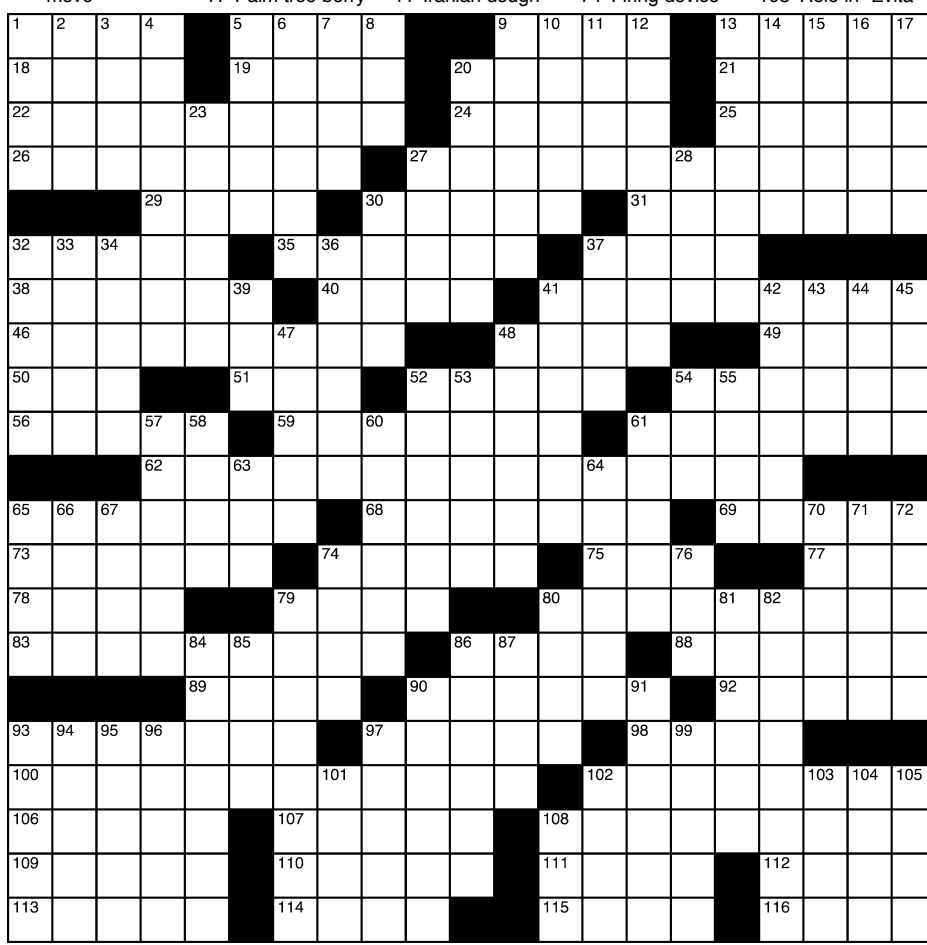
And last: One more anagram of the Preamble: We the People of the Style Invitational, in Order to form a more eased sense of deft Wit, establish Jests, insure erudite Hilarity, provide for the common quip, promote the general Banter, and secure the desired Blessings of numerous Blots upon us, do enter to clarify and correct this Constitution of the United States of America. (Jesse Frankovich)

Still running — deadline Monday night, Sept. 17: our contest for poems featuring new words added to the dictionary. See wapo.st/invite1296.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

- "MARKED DOWN"** By MARK McCLAIN
- ACROSS**
- 1 Archaeologist's find
- 5 "Fire" crawlers
- 9 Cartoon explosion word
- 13 Trickster
- 18 Where the iris is
- 19 Country dance
- 20 German camera
- 21 Trilateral trade deal
- 22 Site in a rural valley?
- 24 Allegro __; very fast, in scores
- 25 Like some statues at night
- 26 Surrounded
- 27 A+ for a struggling student?
- 29 Opposing teams
- 30 chin
- 31 Like a sudoku solution
- 32 Allergic reaction
- 35 "A Writer's Life" writer
- 37 What a red handset icon may end
- 38 Ought to
- 40 Humongous
- 41 Neat places to get beers?
- 46 Nightmare?
- 48 Authenticity on the street
- 49 Pound or stone
- 50 Bier chiller
- 51 Police dept. rank
- 52 Place for an updo
- 54 Ancient temple complex
- 56 Grab the tab
- 59 Alma mater of Clinton and Ford, briefly
- 61 Marina sights
- 62 Terse Supreme Court decision for lions?
- 65 House Speaker before Pelosi
- 68 Actress O'Hara
- 69 Position paper, e.g.
- 73 Many have pins at one end
- 74 Kurta in "Roots"
- 75 Prefix with warrior
- 77 Animation letters
- 78 In a trice
- 79 Rides the bench
- 80 Challenge from an ex-president?
- 83 Southern tavern accents?
- 86 Texas __ Duro Canyon
- 88 Grimm girl
- 89 Tied
- 90 Afghans' neighbors
- 92 Inspected prior to a job
- 93 Bellamy's sister on "The 100"
- 97 Underworld figure
- 98 Military sch.
- 100 Wall Street
- 102 How Albee's "The Zoo Story" is written
- 106 Grammatical separator
- 107 Senator Hatch
- 108 Classic audiophile's equipment, and a hint to eight long puzzle answers
- 109 Adrien of cosmetics
- 110 Misleading move
- 111 Greeting from Kermit
- 112 Marginal mark
- 113 Good __ enjoyable
- 114 Fictional navigator
- 115 Negotiation obstacles
- 116 Note recipient, at times
- DOWN**
- 1 Arrogance, in slang
- 2 Range feature
- 3 Sporty Spice, familiarly
- 4 Cause of a walk
- 5 Came up
- 6 Most recently made
- 7 Aggravated, with "off"
- 8 Camera initials
- 9 "Take care!"
- 10 "Hungarian" Rhapsodies" composer
- 11 Palm tree berry
- 12 Most of Italy, to 14-Down residents
- 13 Warm and cozy
- 14 See 12-Down
- 15 Company with a quacking mascot
- 16 Crete peak: Abbr.
- 17 Pi __, "Life of Pi" hero
- 20 Least plausible
- 23 Ineligible for kiddie rides
- 27 Bass et al.
- 28 Miner's find
- 30 Digger's find
- 32 Strength
- 33 Group in a loft
- 34 Casino, to a gambler's
- 36 Gamer's game face
- 37 City near Le Havre
- 39 MASH staff
- 41 Nod off
- 42 Pops, as a bubble
- 43 Last Stuart queen
- 44 Irianian dough
- 45 NYSE listings
- 47 54-Across' land
- 48 Missouri senator
- 52 Most squad cars
- 53 Alaskan native
- 54 Stout container
- 55 US Open stadium namesake
- 60 Caps
- 61 Ground cover plant also called pariwinkle
- 63 Hesitant sounds
- 64 Nike rival
- 65 Padlock hardware
- 66 Matty with a .307 lifetime batting average
- 67 Unkempt sort
- 70 Skeddaddles
- 71 Match
- 72 Investor's concern
- 74 Firing device
- 76 Texter's "Holy cow!"
- 79 Really quit
- 80 "Chocolat" co-star
- 81 Mystical secrets
- 82 Lost driver's disappointments
- 84 Exposes
- 85 Intensely supportive
- 86 Unmistakable
- 87 Cracked a bit
- 90 Sealing, as a package
- 91 Don Quixote's squire __ Panza
- 93 Grumpy Muppet
- 94 Task list entry
- 95 Buccaneers' home
- 96 Dangerous companion?
- 97 Thyme bit
- 99 Pacific salmon
- 101 Nabisco bite
- 102 "With ya so far"
- 103 Tommie of the 1969 Miracle Mets
- 104 Biological unit
- 105 Not kosher
- 108 Role in "Evita"



9/16/18 xwordeditor@aol.com ©2018 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Sept. 16: This year, you often experience an innate tension between who you are and what your obligations are, especially on the home front. You often feel conflicted in the sense that you want to be somewhere other than where you are. If you are single, you could be a little more scrappy than usual. Creating a bond could be difficult, so give yourself some time. If you are attached, your sweetie may enjoy your moodiness because you become more adventurous as a result. Sagittarius encourages you to get more exercise to stabilize your ups and downs.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
Hop in the car for a day trip or just a drive to explore a new area. You will be relaxed and up for a get-together with loved ones when you return. Your responses are different after your personal outing.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Investigate what is going on with a neighbor or relative. All you need to do is be more sensitive to those who play into your interactions. Examine what is happening between you and someone who you care about.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
You unintentionally challenge others. A boss or parent could feel intimidated. You know what you are going to do. Discuss it less, and just act. You are likely to get a lot of feedback that you'd prefer not to hear.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
One-on-one relating proves most rewarding for you. Give much more to a partner who dotes on you in their own style. Your communication becomes wild. Do not stand on ceremony. End the misunderstanding with compassion.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
You may not be on top of your game. You are willing to pull back and allow others to play a major role. You may feel relief from playing a lesser part and probably having more time for yourself. Understand what is going on with a money matter.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
You want to go out and be around crowds. You would be happiest at a favorite hangout. Where your friends are is where you most enjoy yourself. Do not worry about tomorrow. Know what is happening, as it allows you to make better choices.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
Given a chance, you could play the day away. Holding back may cause a problem where you least expect one. Consider being more flexible than you are right now. Adjust your plans accordingly, and make an effort toward a loved one.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Your ability to come to terms with a challenging situation will benefit you. Someone else may see a situation differently from you how you envision it, but that's okay. Look at the matter from both perspectives.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
You not feel up to snuff when dealing with a loved one who seems to demand a lot. You may have to make an obligatory appearance. Zero in on what you want, despite the fact that someone is giving you a lot of flak.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
You may want to visit with a loved one. Return calls and catch up on others' news. For various reasons, you will want to remain close to home. You have a quirky sense of humor, which a family member seems to enjoy.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Be clear about your expectations of a loved one. This person could be sensitive, so express your thoughts in an easy, relaxed way. A child could be acting up. Maintain a sense of humor. Do not let confusion build into a misunderstanding.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Stay centered and deal with a financial matter. You may not be able to make a difference or connect in a special way with a family member. Go for what you want, and don't allow someone else's mood to affect you.

Answers to last week's puzzle.

