In which we asked for irreverent alphabet couplets, a Style Invitationalish version of Edward Gorey’s gloriously gruesome “Gashlycrumb Tinies.” All of you who paired “Empress” and “F-word,” no ink for you.

A is for Arnold, who diddled his aide;  
B’s for the Bed she then dutifully made.  
(Danielle Nowlin, Woodbridge, second place, the winner of the Doody Darts game)

C’s for Chris Christie, who’s trending toward gristle;  
D’s Michael Douglas, who blows his own whistle.  
(Harold Mantle, Lafayette, Calif.)

E is for Enema, cleaning you out;  
F, your Financial plan: same thing, no doubt.  
(J. Calvin Smith, Ranger, Ga., Fourth place)

G is the Grammar most texters eschew;  
H is for Hell — and for Handbasket, too.  
(Rob Pivarnik, Stratford, Conn.)

I is for Info Big Brother has mined.  
J is for Justice as dumb as it’s blind.  
(Rob Pivarnik, Stratford, Conn.)

K’s for expectant Kanye and Kim;  
L is for Lumberjack, who’s still buzzin’ me.  
(Anne Martin, Bradenton, Fla.)

M is for Maxim, pornography lite;  
N is for Name change — eventually, Dan.  
(Kevin Dopart, Washington)

O’s for O’Reilly, the libs he’ll harass.  
P’s for Proctalgia, more pain in the rear.  
(J. Calvin Smith, Roper, N.C.)

Q is for Quitting your job in November;  
R is for Renting a box in December.  
(Daniel Gutierrez, Salinas, Calif., a First Offender)

S is for Scandal, so juicy, delicious;  
T is the Trauma you’ve done to my eyes.  
(Rob Pivarnik, Stratford, Conn.)

U is for Usury, lending to fools.  
V is for Venus: No arms but nice buns.  
(J. Calvin Smith)

W is for Wife, whose sweet love never ends;  
X rates the porno she made with your friends.  
(Danielle Nowlin)

Y is for You, and your what/where/when/how;  
Z is for Zuckerberg; he owns it now.  
(Nan Reiner, Alexandria)

Next in the Q: More honorable mentions

A is for Apple, which pays little taxes.  
B is for Budgets that must get the axes. (Art Grinath, Takoma Park)

C is for Christie, he’s big and he’s nasty.  
D is for Duft, he’s a guy from New Jersey. (Jeff Hazle, Woodbridge)

E is for my English class; I barely made a D.  
F is for photography, or does that start with P? (Susan Ramzy, Cary, N.C.)

G is for Grotto where Bunnies in heels sit;  
H is for Hefner, who somehow up keeps it.  
(Danielle Nowlin)

I is for IRS agents at play.  
J is for Just handing over your pay.  
(Ellen Ryan, Rockville)

K’s for expectant Kanye and Kim;  
L is for Love that they both share for him. (Kristen Rowe, Silver Spring)

M is for Maxim, pornography lite;  
N is for Nipples keep it just out of sight.  
(Chris O’Connell, Potomac, Md.)

O is for Overreach in programs enacted;  
P is for PRISM; — — [redacted]  
(Danielle Nowlin)

Q is for Quacks who are not here any more.  
R is for Rumsfeld and his war.  
(Rob Pivarnik)

S is for Speedo, too small for your size;  
T is the Trauma you’ve done to my eyes. (Rob Pivarnik)

U is for Usury, lending to fools.  
V is from Visit from Vincent and Jules.  
(Greg Arnold, Alexandria)

W is for Wife, whose sweet love never ends;  
X rates the porno she made with your friends.  
(Danielle Nowlin)

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This week we’ll use the senators and representatives of the first U.S. Congress (1789-81). Not that these guys didn’t have enough to do on their own: In that first two-year term, broken into three sessions in New York and later Philadelphia, James Madison and his co-workers chose the president of the United States (unanimously); worked up 12 amendments to the Constitution (including the 10 of the Bill of Rights); established the State, War and Treasury departments and a national bank; and set up a tariff system. Among other things. We don’t think many people called it the Do-Nothing Congress.

This week: Combine the names of two or more of the First Congress senators and/or representatives listed below to create “joint legislation,” as in the examples above. They don’t have to refer to the 18th-century world, though that might be funnier. Note that in that much more homogeneous hiring pool, there are a number of duplicated names; your bill may use a name twice only if the name is in the list twice. The names:


Winner gets the Inkin’ Memorial, the Lincoln-statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives, semi-appropriately, one of those foam “stress balls” that women are ardently desired to have to refer to the 18th-century world, though that might be funnier. Note that in that much more homogeneous hiring pool, there are a number of duplicated names; your bill may use a name twice only if the name is in the list twice. The names:


Winner gets the Inkin’ Memorial, the Lincoln-statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives, semi-appropriately, one of those foam “stress reduction” squeeze toys — it’s in the shape of the Capitol dome. If you’ve ever felt like strangling your . . . your Capitol dome, this would be your chance. Donated by Dave Prewar.

Other runners-up win their choice of a yearned-for Loser Mug or the ardently desired Grosssey Bag. Honorable mentions get a lustered-after Loser magnet. First Offenders receive a smelly, tree-shaped air “freshener” (FireStink for their first ink). E-mail entries to losers@washpost.com or fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday, July 15; results published Aug. 4 (online Aug. 1). No more than 25 entries per entrant per week. Include “Week 1028” 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 washpost.com/stylerules. The subhead for this week’s honorable mentions is by Beverly Sharp. Join the lively Style Invitational devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev.

**STYLe CONVERSATIONAL** Have a question for the Empress or want to talk to some real Losers? Join us at washpost.com/styleconversational.