

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Bill becomes LOL: 'Joint legislation'

BY PAT MYERS

Week 1419 was our biennial contest in which you create "joint legislation" by combining the names of new members of Congress. The Empress hopes that they could be so productive on Capitol Hill: She received more than 2,000 "bills," many of them featuring **Torres-Osoff**, and very many of them featuring Rep. **Donalds**. It helps to read the bills out loud (perhaps repeatedly) and of course to know how the names are pronounced: Returned-to-Congress Rep. **Issa** is pronounced **EYE-sa**; **Gimenez** is **HIM-e-nes**; and Rep. **Herrell** is pretty close to **Hurl**. Still stumped? See this week's Style Conversational at wapo.st/conv1423 for all the translations.

4th place:

The **Moore-Greene-Salazar-Good** Act mandates fresh leafy veggies to school lunch programs. (*Pia Palamidessi, Cumberland, Md.*)

3rd place:

The **Mann-Jones-Steel-Owens-Moore** Resolution lamenting the perpetual inability to keep up with the neighbors. (*Steve Glomb, Alexandria; Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.*) [*Man, Jones still owns more*]

2nd place and the Four Seasons Total Landscaping mug:

The **Kim-Torres-Osoff** Act expressing sympathy for Kanye West. (*Mark Eckenwiler, Washington*)

And the winner of the Clowning Achievement:

The **Bordeaux-Gimenez-Torres** Resolution, limiting long-winded uncles at Thanksgiving to 20 minutes tops. (*Sarah Walsh, Rockville*) [*Bored o' him and his stories*]

Dork barrel legislation: Honorable mentions

The **Newman-Bice-Moore-Tiffany** Act to set minimum engagement ring sizes for aspiring second husbands. (*Pam Sweeney, Burlington, Mass.*) [*New man buys . . .*]

The **Mann-Torres-Spartz-Good** Resolution discouraging the practice of barbed-wire hurling. (*Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.*)

The **Herrell-Harshbarger-Fischbach** rule that if your Big Mac makes you sick, you can get a free Filet. (*Kathy White, Fairfax, a First Offender; Dan Helming, Trenton, N.J.*)

The **Jacobs-Lummis-Jacobs** Act to prevent the taking of property from landlords in underserved areas. (*Mark Raffman, Reston*) [*Jacob's sium is Jacob's*]

The **Issa-Tiffany-Herrell-Bordeaux** Act to encourage teens to alert a trusted adult when a friend abuses alcohol. (*Seth Tucker, Washington*) [*I saw Tiffany . . .*]

The **Good-Hinson-Bush** Act requiring all police investigations to check for clues behind the landscaping. (*Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station*)

The **Mann-Fallon-Owens-Good** Act endorsing the doctrine of original sin. (*Steve Langer, Chevy Chase*) [*Man fallen; no one's good*]

The **Fallon-Issa-Keller** Act requiring that sidewalks be salted during snow season. (*Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn*) [*Fall on ice: a killer*]

The **Fallon-Steel-Good** Act enshrining the five-second rule into law. (*Eric Nelkin, Silver Spring*) [*Fallen, still good*]

The **Fitzgerald-Good** Act to resculpt the Capitol's statue of President Ford with a better-tailored suit. (*Hannah Seidel, Alexandria*)

The **Good-Herrell** Act to reverse all executive orders from the previous administration, because sometimes you just need a Good-Herrell to feel better and move on. (*Jon Gearhart, Des Moines*)

The **Hinson-Fischbach-Fallon-Mann-Spartz** Act instructs male legislators on the proper method for "tucking in one's shirt" when alone with a journalist in a hotel room. (*Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.*)

The **Moore-Hickenlooper-Pflugger** Proclamation that more of anything is better than yesterday's covfefe. (*John Call, Frederick, a First Offender*)

The GOP-sponsored **Franklin-Jackson** Act authorizes a one-time stimulus payment of \$120. (*Frank Mann, Washington; Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore*)

The **Torres-Osoff** Act to



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1423: Muddled heads: Headline anagrams

The Down Side to Life in a Supertall Tower: Leaks, Creaks, Breaks (*New York Times*)
Rearrange all those letters to make this anagram: "Shake, rattle, and roll — we dance to it" works . . . Lessees? I barf! I puke! (*Steve Allison in Anagram Times*)

Josh Hawley Blasts 'Lie' He Incited Riot As Missouri Newspaper Calls Him 'FrankenHawley' (*Newsweek*) =
Fiery Trump ally is ill on air! Swine was senseless when a harsh mob hijacked the Capitol! (*Maurice Goddard in Anagram Times*)

We've been scrambling a lot of late at The Style Invitational, thanks to the eagerness of anagram buffs in the Loser Community. A couple of months ago we had a contest for anagramming song titles and lyrics; now, at the suggestion of Loser Jonathan Jensen, we turn to another regular source of Invite fodder: **This week: Choose a headline (or part of a headline) in any print or online publication dated Feb. 11-22 and rearrange all its letters into an anagram**, as in the examples above posted this week in the Anagram Times, a continually updated collection of reader-submitted headline anagrams under the marvelous umbrella of Wordsmith.org, which also publishes Anu Garg's email newsletter A. Word. A. Day (one of the Empress's faves) and — please use this if you enter — the handy-dandy **Anagram Checker**: You copy in the text you're anagramming, and then your anagram, and the software does a little happy dance if the anagram is valid. **While you may not add or omit letters in your anagram, you may use capitalization and punctuation however you like**. Along with the original headline and the anagram, give the name and date of the publication; if it's online, please supply a link so the E can find it.

Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1423 (no capitals in the Web address). **Deadline is Monday, Feb. 22**; results appear March 14 in print, March 11 online.

Winner gets the Clowning Achievement, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives the **Butt Station**, a nifty desk set consisting of a tape dispenser in the shape of a Gumbyish green humanoid sitting on a toilet. The toilet bowl functions as a paper clip holder — especially because Not Gumby's butt has a magnet to hold the clips. The Empress has one of these on her very own desk in the currently very lonely Post newsroom; this one was donated by Loser Steve Smith.

Other runners-up win their choice of our "For Best Results, Pour Into Top End" Loser Mug or our "Whole Fools" Grossery Bag. Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, "No 'Bility" or "Punderachiever." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline "Bill Becomes LOL" is by Jesse Frankovich; Tom Witte wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](https://www.facebook.com/on.fb.me/invdev); "like" the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at [bit.ly/inkofday](https://www.facebook.com/bit.ly/inkofday); and follow @StyleInvite on Twitter.

The Style Conversational: The Empress's weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. See this week's at wapo.st/conv1423.

The "You're Invited" podcast: Ten half-hour episodes, including dish from the Empress and the Czar, and tips from top Losers. See bit.ly/invite-podcast.



CSB COMMODITIES

We think it belongs on the Resolute Desk, but you could put this second prize on yours.

compensate former vice president Mike Pence for what Sen. Harris did to him during their debate. (*Dave Airozo, Silver Spring*)

The **Moore-Clyde-Steel** Act to fund a breeding program for Budweiser's horses. (*Fred Shuback, Silver Spring*)

The **Bordeaux-Steel-Nehls** Prison Cot Reform Act. (*David Peckarsky, Tucson*) [*Board of steel nails*]

The **Bordeaux-Jacobs-Williams** Act to encourage more novel boys' names. (*Pamela Love, Columbia*)

The **Donalds-Good-Bice Declaration** that we really didn't care if the door hit him on the way

out. (*Kevin Dopart, Washington*)

The **Bowman-Bordeaux-Boebert** BananaFannaFoeFert FeeFieFoeFert Boebert Act to mitigate unnecessary name calling. (*Scott Straub, Winchester, Va.*)

The **Ross-Nehls** Act to serve escargot sushi at the congressional cafeteria. (*Duncan Stevens; Jesse Frankovich*) [*Raw snails*]

The **Bentz-Nehls** Act to straighten out the escargot. (*Mark Raffman*)

The **Salazar-Mrvan** Act to procure a fleet of bullet-resistant trucks. (*George Thompson, Springfield*) [*Sell us armor van*]

The **Good-Bordeaux-Manning** ICE Reform Act. (*Dudley Thompson, Cary, N.C.; Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.*)

The **Jones-Jacobs-Hickenlooper-Spartz** Resolution that affirms, "That's kinda sorta my name, too." (*Sarah Walsh*)

The **Fallon-Herrell-Keller-Kelly-Malliotakis-Marshall-Miller-Tuberville-Williams** Declaration, telling the former Inciter-in-Chief to go 2L. (*William Verkuilen, Brooklyn Park, Minn.*)

Still running — deadline Monday night, Feb. 15: our wordplay contest to add a "collaborator" to a movie, song, etc., and then change the title. See wapo.st/invite1422.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

"LOVE IS ..." By JAKE BRAUN

ACROSS
1 Honshu high pt.
7 King of Maine
14 Alpine Olympics event
20 Playground
21 Former SAG president Gilbert
22 Like many garages
23 Discipline involving slow movement
24 "... the beauty of the soul"
26 Equivalent wd.
27 22.5 deg.
29 Spant-spreading program
30 Games gp. that added a "P" to its initials in 2019
31 Frank behind a bookcase
32 Colosseum warrior
35 Sommer of cinema
37 Literally, the sci. of women
38 Origami bird
41 Manhattan, e.g.: Abbr.
42 Progress
45 Airport not far from the Common
46 Native ceremonial pipe
49 Emphatic type
53 Forever, with "an"
55 "... a fruit in season at all times"
58 Leopardlike cats
59 Touch
60 German coal valley
61 Author Rand
62 Suffix with salt
63 "Yes!"
64 Med. office titles
65 WWI Belgian battle site
67 Very big
70 "... an irresistible desire to be irresistibly desired"
74 Inner: Pref.
75 Sky blue
77 Audio units: Abbr.
78 Word with cut or pin
79 Dripping ___
81 TD scorers
82 High style
84 Dish put away with a spoon
85 Two-year periods

89 "... an act of endless forgiveness"
92 Bleachers critiques
93 First U.S. space station
94 Court conference the jury doesn't hear
96 Bay State sch.
97 Source of emergency light
100 Tats
101 Used for a trust
102 AOL, e.g.
105 Makes stuff up
106 Elite tactical units
110 Congeal
112 Pitch-raising guitar device
114 Payroll service co.
115 Agnus ___
116 Response to overhearing?
119 "... eternal, infinite ... equal and pure"

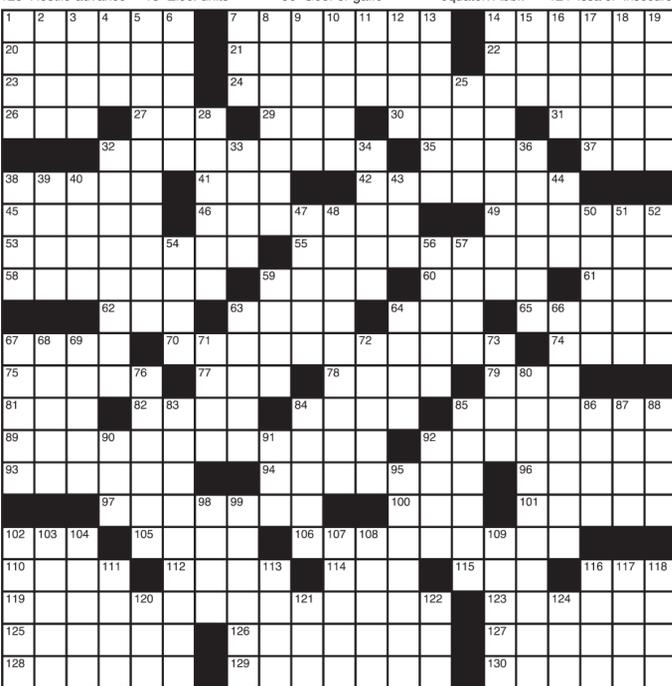
125 Bad way to be led
126 Oakley skill
127 Model railroad scale
128 Ideal partner
129 Swears to
130 Password partner

DOWN
1 Yoga needs
2 Cafeteria convenience
3 Sinn ___
4 Auntie's hubby
5 "... a flower, you got to let it grow"
6 Rock memoir
7 Texting format, briefly
8 Perforated orb holding leaves
9 "Cats" poet
10 Spotted horse
11 Post-WWII pres.
12 Genesis twin
13 Whale-watching woe
14 Wouldn't go back on
15 Elec. units

16 Greek "I"
17 Cake topping
18 Childcare employee
19 Place to putt
25 Top medal
28 Orders from on high
32 Way more cool
33 "By Jove!"
34 Bonnie Blue's dad
36 Place to have a meal
38 Queen of the Nile, familiarly
39 Campus mil. unit
40 Screenwriter James
43 Horn of Africa country: Abbr.
44 Pirate's cry
47 "Burnt" pigment
48 Oregon's highest point
50 Absorb in class
51 "... ___ to come"
52 Kid's assertion
54 Road to the Forum
56 Goof or gaffe

57 Tamblyn of "West Side Story" (1961)
59 Iowa State city
63 Monastery VIP
64 Sign of a slow leak
66 Honey and Sugar
67 80-pound concert instruments
68 Turkic native
69 Like winds in storms
71 Gambler's calculation
72 Raouf Dufy, stylistically
73 Silly goose
76 Continental travel pass
80 "... the truth more first than sun, more last than star"
83 Limelight
84 Salon cuts
85 Warned one's master, perhaps
86 Line above the equator: Abbr.

87 "Sing it, Sam" speaker
88 DA's aide
90 "Xanadu" rock gp.
91 Suffix with Catholic
92 Jargon
95 Very small role
98 Starring role
99 Ad astra per ___
102 Kansas motto
103 Phased-out Apple messaging tool
104 Florence's ___ Vecchio
107 Pixar title robot
108 Wood shapers
109 Half-serious sequence?
111 Spanish bull more first than sun, more last than star"
113 Final notice
116 Sightseeing trip
117 Christmas trio
118 Fingered
120 Operated
121 Back at sea
122 Hall of Famer Young et al.
124 Issa of "Insecure"



2/14/21

xwordeditor@aol.com

©2021 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY MADALYN ASLAN

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Feb. 14: Brainy, ironic and deeply entertaining, your charisma is off the charts. Originator of the cool quip, you succeed this year in a writing project. If you have offended others, you apologize without losing your originality. If single, you search for one with whom you have fun, which is impossible in covid-19 times. February 2022 is your luckiest time. If attached, you're fused at the hip. No one's better. Pisces heals you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
Your mind is clear and creative with luminous insights. You can write and speak effectively, and you benefit from studies. The role of teacher or even crusader falls into place naturally.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Cultivate supportive people today. Be reserved with those who could be draining or are a source of turmoil. Those you're closest to are moving into a new cycle. Think of their changes as a positive growth pattern.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
Contact people who seem interesting or potentially helpful for your work. Your social circle widens. Consider joining an organization you believe in. It's a time to grow and to expand your belief system.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
Friends think of you and trust you with their confidences. Tense feelings build up today. Be polite to others. Channel irritation into making constructive changes. Being volatile won't get you much else.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Your high standards and aspirations impress others and make it easy to enlist support for your projects. A friendship with a foreign-born person brings not only companionship but a new perspective.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
You will be able to solve puzzles and satiate your curiosity. Others reveal their inner secrets to you in casual conversation. Others make suggestions about money management. Check with your inner psyche before acting too quickly on unsolicited advice.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Today puts you in the role of mediator or diplomat, both among

friends and with associates. Social prospects are good. There is a new solidarity and security coming into relationships. You're particularly sensitive to beauty.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Today brings insight into how others see your role in their lives. Balance emotions with a touch of whimsical humor in approaching those you care about. An offer or opportunity you've been awaiting should come through.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Romantic interludes are delightful, and there may be an invitation to an online festival. Younger people introduce you to new interests. You're energetic; your health and fitness are improving. Working conditions may be less than perfect.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Hidden feelings and thoughts

harbored by family members are brought out into the open. Early background and the influences of your heritage are potent. Be aware of what your family tree can reveal about you. Diplomacy is a must today.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
You'll be drawn to excitement and travel. Education is important, and there may be contact with in-laws. Vitality is high, and your self-image is upbeat. Positive feedback from family and friends makes you feel good about yourself.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
You may have some financial promises to keep. Others depend on you for security on many levels. You break up your chores with interesting side trips. Adding novelty to your daily routine and obligations will renew your enthusiasm.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



2/7/21