

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Alphabet noir: Winning couplets

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1229 we once again paid homage to Edward Gorey's macabre satire "Gashlycrumb Tinies," a faux-Edwardian alphabet book that merrily described the, well, gory deaths of tots from A to Z. For the Invite, we dispense with the grisliness and instead use the alphabet-couplet form on the Invite's usual targets.

4th place

C's the Giraffe whose filmed birth was so cute; H is Harassment — she's just filed a suit. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

3rd place

K is for Klingon. What's that? You have met one? L is for Life. I suggest that you get one. (Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.)

2nd place and the Bob Staake poster for 'Gorey: A Documentary':

G is for God-given rights, like big rifles; H is for Health care and other such trifles. (Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

And the winner of the Inkin' Memorial:

F's for inaugural crowd, a new max! J is for Spicer.\* (\*Alternative facts) (Maria Zimmerman, Berryville, Va.)

Alpha-bettered: honorable mentions

- A is for Alcohol, drunk off the wagon; B's for the Bowl of the toilet you gag in. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village, Md.) C's for Cofvete, a baffling side-splitter; D's for Distracting the masses on Twitter. (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.) C's for the Climate we change as we please; D's for the Damage we do by degrees. (Kevin Dopart, Washington) C is for Cosby, who fell off a Cliff. D is Denying all 60 — as if. (Mike Ostapiej, Mount Pleasant, S.C.) C is for Clickbait, "It Lived in My Ear!" D's Drop, which your jaw will, when you [just click here]. (Frank Osen) E is your Essay, though someone else penned it. F is your grade, and you're also suspended. (Paul Wimes, Minneapolis) G is for Gorsuch, who cleared the last hurdle; H is the Heist pulled by Senator Turtle. (Jesse Frankovich) G is for Griffin, whose Trump pic sparked chatter;

H is for Head: it's now hers on the platter. (Mike Ostapiej, Mount Pleasant, S.C.) G is our Greatness both here and abroad; H is Hyperbole (masses applaud). (Kevin Dopart) F's for Ivanka, with plentiful tresses; J is for Jared, with plentiful messes. (Mae Scanlan, Washington) I is Ivanka, who works for her dad; J is for Jared — is he working for Viad? (Ward Kay, Vienna, Va.) K is for Keeping top secrets quite safe L is for Leaks: why we're now seen as troyf. (Jules Minton, Beverly Hills, Calif., a First Offender) M's Montenegro, whose chief was just seen; N's Nudged aside so our boss-man could preen. (Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.) M's Metro, whose progress is steadily slowing; N's Nowhere, the place I am currently going. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.) M is for Merkel and May and Macron; N is for None of them tweet on the john. (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.) O is for Oceans, their rising's a threat; P's for Peninsulas (shrinking when wet?) (Kevin Dopart) O is O'Reilly, admiral of loofahs; P is for Pink slip — good riddance, you [dooofus]! (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station, Va.) O is for Ovi, each season the best; P is for Playoffs (well, you know

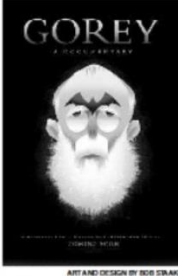
the rest) (Paul Elstein, Columbia, Md., who last got ink in Week 5 — in 1993) O is for Orgasms, loud and on cue; P is for Phony — they're not caused by you. (Tom Witte) S is for Spicer, who hid in the bushes; T is for Trump, who grabbed more than just tushes. (Chris Doyle) U is for Uvula, shown off while yelling; V is for Vulva; please do mind your spelling. (David Franks, Greenland, Ark.) E is for Empress, whose health I am drinking; F is for Flatter. (It worked! This is ink!) (Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.) SBR running — deadline Monday night, June 26; our Bob Staake cartoon caption contest. See wapo.st/invite1232.

The "Alphabet Noir" headline was submitted independently by Kevin Dopart, Tom Witte and Chris Doyle; Jesse Frankovich wrote the honorable-mentions subhead.

New contest for Week 1233: Not

Four weeks from now, the Empress will be out surveying her far-off dominions, engaging various potentates in weird, desperately gripping handshakes. So now — but not then — the Loser Community gets a week off (actually two) from writing contest entries and will have to find something else to do during staff meetings, sermons, romantic breakups, etc. In mid-July we'll run more inkworthy entries from previous contests. Of course the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook — now with more than 1,300 members — will be open for bantering business 24/7 at on.fb.me/invdev.

THE STYLE CONVERSATIONAL In this week's column, the Empress tells about last weekend's Flashes, the Losers' 22nd annual award festivities. Check it out at wapo.st/styleconv.



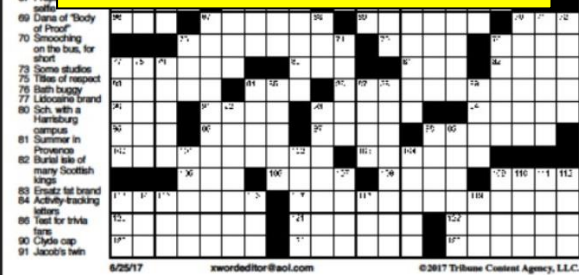
Bob Staake's homage to the artist and kindred spirit.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

- "SCUSE ME" By C.C. BURRINKEL 09 Poker pile 13 Quaintly 20 Lion's 21 Like clock 22 To m 23 It beg 25 In an 26 Thing 27 Lemc 28 C 30 Dot f 31 Gips 33 Yahoo offer 38 Word 41 Revie stars 43 B 44 Glob 45 Funk 46 Post 47 Time 48 La 49 Beef 50 No. 4 51 Jurt 52 Wray 53 Smeal 54 Tlan 55 Choc 56 Wish 57 Exac 58 Loge 59 Port 60 Bran 61 What 62 Gibe 63 stagi 67 Sella 69 Dana of 70 Smooching on the bus, for short 71 Some studios 72 Title of respect 73 Bath buggy 74 Lidoaine brand 75 Lidoaine brand 76 Summer in Providence 77 Burial site of many Scottish kings 78 Great fal brand 79 Activity-tracking letters 80 Test for shiv fare 81 Clyde cap 82 Jacot's twin 83 Piker pile 84 Charitie 85 Is for two? 86 Stop 87 Lyon lover's word 88 Golf phenom 89 Down 90 Pencil shape 91 Pulitzer novelist James 92 "Peanut" fast-food source 93 Golden Triangle 94 Squat beneficiary 95 Pool-heating option 96 seeds: omega-3 source 97 Christmas strands 98 "Lull" (1962) address 99 Mail handouts 100 Medicare program offered by private 101 Lake bordering Ontario 102 "Lull" (1962) address 103 Happy hour offerings 104 Scout's

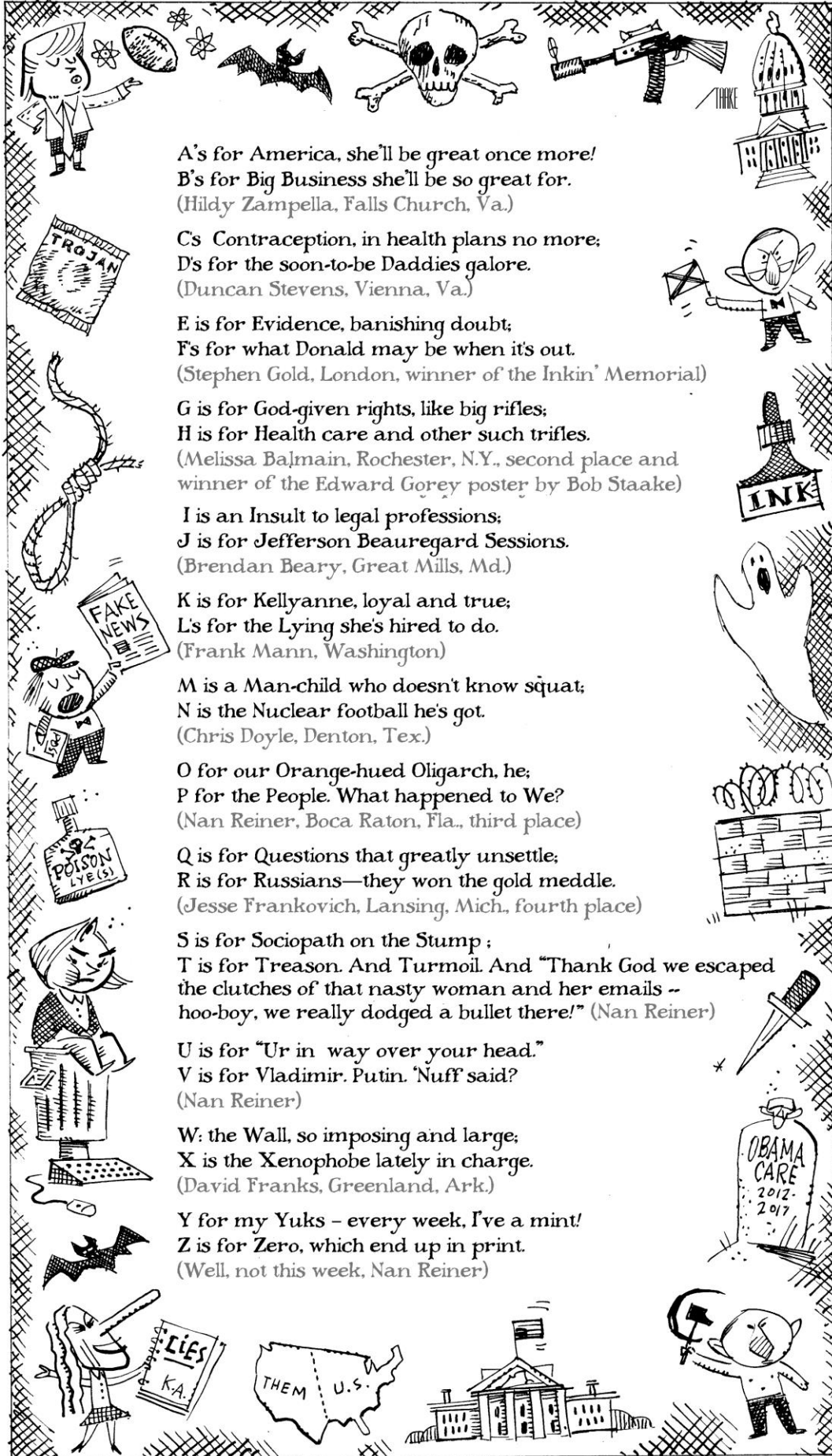
NEXT PAGE: THE ORIGINAL LAYOUT OF THE RESULTS OF WEEK 1229, WHICH FOR SOME REASON THE POST MANAGEMENT WOULDN'T GO FOR.



Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR
HAPPY BIRTHDAY | June 25: This year, you often want to relate to others more openly and with greater sensitivity. Your inclination to want to fix situations and help people emerges. Be careful, as your "fix" might not be what the person in question wants. If you are single, you could meet someone who fulfills many of your fantasies. If you are attached, the two of you often spend hours laughing together. Leo gets uncomfortable around you, as if you seem to see right through him or her.
visit more often.
ARIES (March 21-April 19) More might be going on behind the scenes than you realize. A family member could become as pliable as water out of this hole.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Your imagination is a tremendous resource; use it to jazz up your plans. Invite a friend to take on an equal level.



A's for America, she'll be great once more!  
B's for Big Business she'll be so great for.  
(Hildy Zampella, Falls Church, Va.)

C's Contraception, in health plans no more;  
D's for the soon-to-be Daddies galore.  
(Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

E is for Evidence, banishing doubt;  
F's for what Donald may be when it's out.  
(Stephen Gold, London, winner of the Inkin' Memorial)

G is for God-given rights, like big rifles;  
H is for Health care and other such trifles.  
(Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y., second place and winner of the Edward Gorey poster by Bob Staake)

I is an Insult to legal professions;  
J is for Jefferson Beauregard Sessions.  
(Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.)

K is for Kellyanne, loyal and true;  
L's for the Lying she's hired to do.  
(Frank Mann, Washington)

M is a Man-child who doesn't know squat;  
N is the Nuclear football he's got.  
(Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

O for our Orange-hued Oligarch, he;  
P for the People. What happened to We?  
(Nan Reiner, Boca Raton, Fla., third place)

Q is for Questions that greatly unsettle;  
R is for Russians—they won the gold meddle.  
(Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich., fourth place)

S is for Sociopath on the Stump;  
T is for Treason. And Turmoil. And "Thank God we escaped  
the clutches of that nasty woman and her emails --  
hoo-boy, we really dodged a bullet there!" (Nan Reiner)

U is for "Ur in way over your head."  
V is for Vladimir. Putin. 'Nuff said?  
(Nan Reiner)

W: the Wall, so imposing and large;  
X is the Xenophobe lately in charge.  
(David Franks, Greenland, Ark.)

Y for my Yuks - every week, I've a mint!  
Z is for Zero, which end up in print.  
(Well, not this week, Nan Reiner)