Report from Week 1035

in which we asked what news our cartoonist, Bob Staake, was trying to convey in any of these cartoons: The Empress was pretty darn lenient about what could constitute news, allowing just about any discussion of a public figure, or any sort of event. But still, there’s just no way it could encompass an entry like this one by Dave Komorki for Cartoon B: “Jane finally fulfilled her fantasy of sliding off Claude’s trousers.” No prize for Dave.

2 Winner of the fabulous “Eat-a-Bug Cookbook” plus the box of Larvets mealworm snacks:
Cartoon A: Gov. Rick Perry has decided that the best way to change a woman’s views on reproductive issues is to insert the ultrasound wand directly into her cerebrum. (Robert Dobbins, Herndon, a First Offender)

3 Cartoon B: Nate Silver’s latest statistical prediction for 2016 shows clearly that Hillary Clinton will finish comfortably on top of Chris Christie. (Kevin Doapart, Washington)

4 Cartoon D: Carson Daly interviews Beyoncé during the filming of her new music video, “All the Sinkhole Ladies.” (Chris Doyle, Rehoboth Beach, Del.)

It’s a draw: Honorable mentions

A CARTOON A
Hallmark decides to offset declining Christmas card sales by marketing a life-size Estelle Getty tree ornament. (Ken Schwartz, Burke; John McCooey, Rehoboth Beach, Del.)

B CARTOON B
Tired of twerking, a new but clueless generation takes an interest in dancing cheek-to-cheek. (Jeff Contompassa)

C CARTOON C
CBS plans a temporary workaround for viewers during its dispute with Time Warner. (Frank Olsen, Pasadena, Calif.)

D CARTOON D
A newly discovered photo shows an early cartoonist getting closer to inventing the thought balloon. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

Cartoon C: The Air Force’s “Tail-Look” scandal has exposed serious deficiencies in pilot training. (Mike Gips, Bethesda)

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THIS WEEK’S CONTEST
Week 1039: Shookspeare

Once again, the Style Invitational pursues its primary mission of enlightening The Washington Post’s readers through the literary arts. Often these literary arts run to popo jokes, but today we’ll shoot arguably harder than the school year gets underway: This week: Combine any of the words in Hamlet’s “To be, or not to be” soliloquy, in any order, to create a humorous sentence or longer passage. You may change the capitalization and punctuation of any word, but you may not add or delete “s” or otherwise change the spelling. You may use a particular word only as often as it appears in the soliloquy: for example, “I, Claudius” appears twice, so you could use it twice. There are different versions of “Hamlet” out there; we’ll be using the 1623 “First Folio” text as it appears in Wikipedia (www.wikipedia.org); you can also see it at bit.ly/invite1039hamlet. This contest was suggested by the ever-literary Marni Penning Coleman.

Winner gets the Inkin’ Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a pack of Shakespearean Insult Gum — a set of seven little book-shaped boxes, each containing two gumballs and a different Shakespearean insult (e.g., “Thy wit’s as thick as a Tewksbury mustard,” from “Henry IV, Part 2”). Donated by Loser Nan Reiner, at whom we do not bite our thumb. And we’ll even throw in a set of Grillz candy teeth, which you give fake dental bing until you swallow your smile. Donated with a gritty grin by Mike Gips.

Other runners-up win their choice of a yeardnam or Loser Mug or the ardently desired Grosssey Bag. Honorable mentions get a lused-after Loser magnet. First Offenders receive a Smyly, tree-shaped air “freshener” (FirStink for their first ink). E-mail entries to losers@washpost.com or fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday, Sept. 30; results published Oct. 20 (online Oct. 17). No more than 25 entries per entrant per week. Include “Week 1039” 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 wapo.st/invite1039. The subhead for this week’s honorable mentions is by Mae Scanlan. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at an.fb.me/invdev.

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

Satan Announces Candidacy for N.Y. Mayor, Instantly Rises to Third in Polls (Dale Hample, Silver Spring)

Some paparazzi really can’t get enough of Michael Jackson. (Mark Rafterman, Reston)

Unable to book Alec Baldwin, Channel 7 decided viewers couldn’t tell the difference and instead interviewed a hole in the ground. (Mark Richardson, Takoma Park)

Mrs. Cyrus plans to wait until it all blows over. (Joanne Free, Clifton)

Still running – deadline Monday night: our contest for long, ridiculous answers to simple questions. See bit.ly/invite1038.