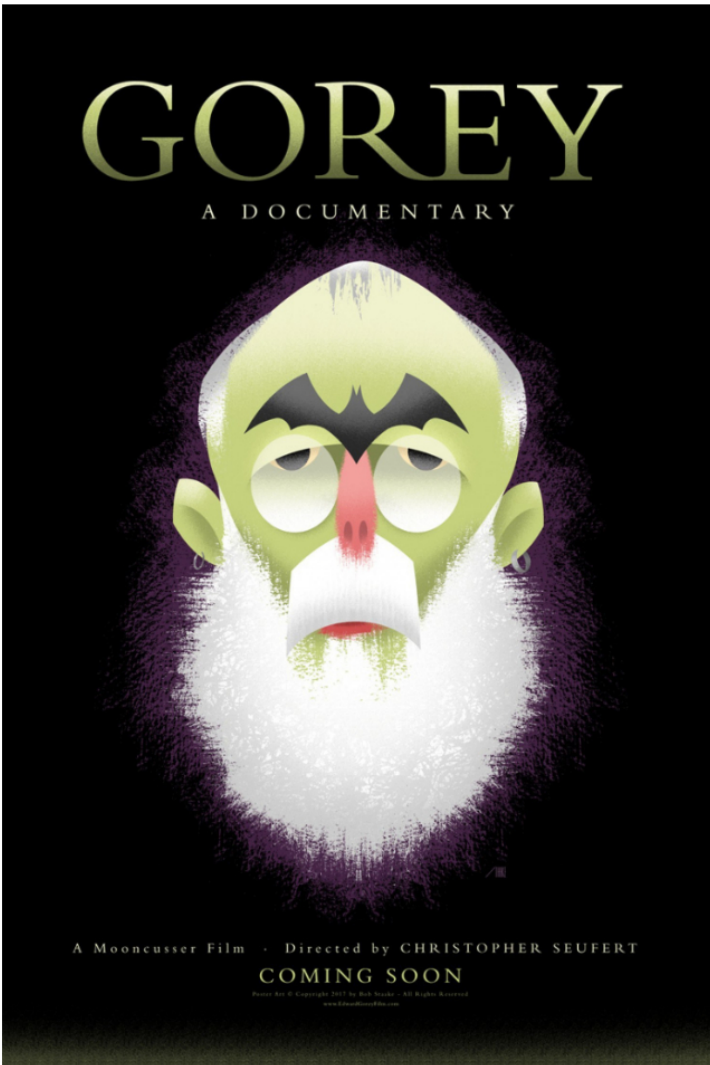


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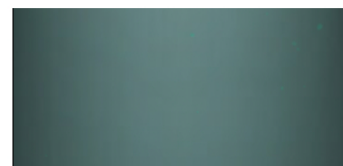
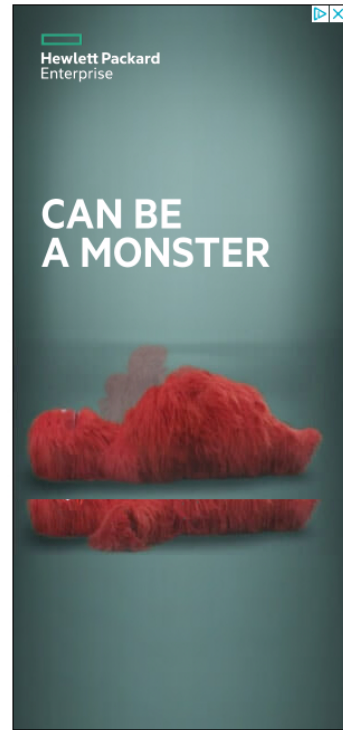
Style Invitational Week 1233: Alphabet noir – modern A-to-Z couplets



Our Bob Staake's poster for an upcoming documentary on Edward Gorey, this week's second prize. (Art and design by Bob Staake)

By Pat Myers June 22, 2017 [Email the author](#)

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



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dispense with the grisliness and instead use the alphabet-couplet form on the Invite's usual targets.

4th place

G'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:

I'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 Covfefe, 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 Wilmes, 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)

G is our Greatness both here and abroad;

H is Hyperbole (masses applaud). (Kevin Dopart)

I'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 Vlad? (Ward Kay, Vienna, Va.)

K is for Keeping top secrets quite safe

L is for Leaks: why we're now seen as treyf. (Jules Minton, Beverly Hills, Calif., a First Offender)

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M's Montenegro, whose chief was just seen;
N's Nudged aside so our boss-man could preen. (Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.)

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)

M is for Merkel and May and Macron;
M's Metro, whose progress is steadily slowing;
N's Nowhere, the place I am currently going. (Duncan Stevens)

M is for Merkel and May and Macron;
N is for None of them tweet on the john. (Chris Doyle) |

O is for Oceans, their rising's a threat;
P's for Peninsulas (shrinking when wet?) (Kevin Dopart)

O is O'Reilly, admirer of loofahs;
P is for Pink slip — good riddance, you [doofus]! (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)

E is for Empress, whose health I am drinking.
F is for Flatter. (It worked! This is inking!) (Robert Schechter)

Still 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.

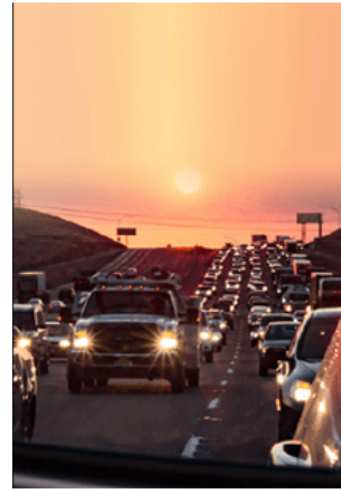
Eats & Drinks newsletter

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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 — published late afternoon Thursday, June 22 — the Empress tells about last weekend's Flushies, the Losers' 22nd annual award festivities. Check it out at wapo.st/styleconv.

This story has been updated

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Pat Myers is editor and judge of The Style Invitational, The Washington Post's page for clever, edgy humor and wordplay. In the role since December 2003, she has posted and judged more than 700 contests. She also writes the weekly Style Conversational column and runs the Style Invitational Devotees page on Facebook. Follow @patmyersTWP

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