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### **DIVERSIONS**

# THE STYLE INVITATIONAL C



# Wit hunt!! Our Mueller report findings.

#### **BY PAT MYERS**

In Week 1334 we provided you some links to the full (minus redactions) Mueller report investigating Russian interference in the 2016 election and whether certain American someones had a hand in it. And we asked you to link any two words from anywhere in the report. We didn't hear from as many Losers as usual this week; Marli Melton added a note that "I got so fascinated & horrified by the report itself that I had a hard time getting around to any entries.'

# 4th place:

**Hoax Hicks:** The president's former Miscommunications Director. (Gary Crockett, Chevy

# 3rd place:

**Decision-balancing:** I prefer not to use the term "procrastination." (Dave Prevar, Annapolis)

#### 2nd place and the trio of googly-eyed windup chattering teeth:

**Coal comfort:** Thoughts and prayers for black-lung victims. -A. Wheeler (Chris Doyle, Ponder,

#### And the winner of the **Lose Cannon:**

Trump-tweet: To make a wrong story short. (Steve Smith, Potomac)

#### **Muellarity ensues: Honorable mentions**

Ally-oops: Foreign Service slang for the president's blunders at NATO meetings. (Chris Doyle)

Alabama baby: A zygote. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

All-hands Love: Safe sex. (Drew Bennett, West Plains, Mo.)

Attachment expert: Staple genius. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Brown collar: An exceptionally enthusiastic sycophant. (Duncan

Stevens, Vienna, Va.) Catherine Okay: The Russian

daughter. (Duncan Stevens) Constitutional options: All those

empress's less accomplished

articles and amendments. - D.J.T. (Kevin Dopart)

Dated dirt: Gossip that's past its tell-by time (on Twitter, 12 hours) (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf)

**Exploratory fabrication:** "Dad, what if we said we just talked about Russian orphans again?'

(Frank Osen) Factual report: FAKE NEWS FROM THE FAILING MEDIA (Roy

Giuliani assertion: A

Ashley, Washington)

pronouncement made with toe firmly in cheek. (Kevin Dopart)

Hannity probe: The Fox host investigates all the ways President Trump is the greatest. (Frank Mann, Washington)

# New contest for Week 1338: Picture This — cartoon captions

Yet again, as we have twice or more each year since 1994, we offer a set of inscrutable cartoons by Bigger Shot Than Ever Bob Staake and ask you to scrut them. This week: Supply a caption for one or more of the cartoons above. As always, a number of people will come up with the same general idea, so the funniest description or dialogue is going to get the ink.

Submit entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1338 (all

Winner gets the Lose Cannon, our Style Invitational

Our second prize this week is intended to address the lamentable gender imbalance in Invite ink: Over the years, entries by XYish individuals have outscored XXies 2 to 1. Sometimes the Empress is accused of discriminating against women, which is nuts because (a) she doesn't see entrants' names when she's judging and (b) WHAT? So perhaps it is because the Invitational's prizes don't attract the little ladies, which is why this week we offer a booklet called "Weber's Girls' Guide to Grilling." The cover features a photo of an attractive young woman picking up a piece of grilled meat with tongs all by herself, while a lovely friend in a stretch tank top and holding a glass of wine aahs in fascination. The inside pages feature cute daisy pictures along with descriptions of gas grills followed by "See, it's not that complicated, is it?" This relic from the grill company, donated by Loser Daphne Steinberg, dates all the way back to . . . 2005. Have at it, girlies!

Other runners-up win our "You Gotta Play to Lose" Loser Mug or our "Whole Fools" Grossery Bag. Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, "Too-Weak Notice" or "Certificate of (de)Merit." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). Deadline is Monday night, July 8; results published July 28 in print, July 25 online. See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline "Wit Hunt" is by Jesse Frankovich; Bill Dorner wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev. "Like" the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at bit.ly/inkofday; follow @StyleInvite

**▶ The Style Conversational:** The Empress's weekly online column discusses the week's new contest and results. Check it out at wapo.st/styleconv.

**Investigative intercourse:** Tryst but verify. (Kevin Dopart)

KGB lunch: "Have your peephole call my peephole." (Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

Mnuchin-land: A mythical country paved with gold bricks and landscaped with hedge funds. (Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)

Moniker leaks: What's happening in the brain area that stores the names of everyone I know. (Marli Melton, Carmel Valley, Calif.)

More-on: Someone who doesn't disrobe at a nudist colony. (Chris

Oligarch-crazy: Totally into totalitarians; MAGAGA. (Kevin

Poke-eon: How much time my kid has spent on that app. (Sam

Mertens, Washington) Possible fire: Though there's definitely a dumpster. (Jesse Rifkin,

**Questionable translation:** He said Xi said. (Beverley Sharp)

Arlington)

Redaction figure: A plastic William Barr doll. Comes with a black Sharpie that actually redacts! (Bill Dorner, Indianapolis)

Scott obstruction: Malady of the low-flow toilets. (Dave Prevar)

**Ship covers:** Tarps that keep a naval vessel out of sight when the president's out of his mind. (Steve

Sit. Deliver: In this film, a math teacher returns to East L.A. 50

years later. (Duncan Stevens)

Sociopath Santa: Who got our 8year-old son a drum set? (Luke Baker, Columbia)

Stone Hannity: Maddow bucket list item. (Jon Ketzner, Cumberland, Md.)

Tennessee Twitter: A postcard. (Rick Haynes, Ocean City)

Tool-holder: The driver's seat of a BMW. (Mark Raffman, Reston)

Troll-house: Cookies you should avoid unless you're a WORTHLESS PHILISTINE with NO TASTE who should be SHOT. (Duncan Stevens)

Unclear warfare: "The president just told us we're bombing Nambia! Wait, hang on." (Duncan Stevens)

Unlikely infomercial: Ronco Spray-On Armpit Hair. (Jesse Frankovich)

Post Magnitsky: Newspaper's puny prize for putting on capitalist refrigeratorsky. (Chuck Helwig, Centreville)

**Express dumping:** What the Empress seems to do with most of my brilliant entries. (Ivars Kuskevics, Takoma Park)

Inapplicable-Inappropriate-Not-Reading-Or-Listening-To-The-**Instructions-Invite-Troll-Entry:** Deliberately failing to follow the rules in the hopes that the Empress will give you ink for being cute. (Gregory Koch, Falls Church)

Still running - deadline Monday night, July 1: our contest for jokes with anagrams in the punchline. See wapo.st/ invite1337.

#### EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS "CAN YOU DIGIT?" 83 Love interest of 58-Down 50 Stiff collars 113 Deli choice 18 Difference 79 Talent show By PAM AMICK KLAWITTER 114 People fixers: between Snow in le Alpi 80 Pressure: Pref. 84 Liability winning and 52 Kay of "Rich losing, maybe 20 Word in an 86 Aussie leaf 115 TV's "New Girl' Man, Poor Man' **ACROSS** 55 Longtime munchers 116 Involve 85 How much Prepared for a 56 Eva of DOWN 90 Front door space debris 22 Small racer 27 Asian menu 7 Pizzeria chain, Argentina 57 Used Yelp, travels 1 Hangdog 91 Week 86 Sullivan's pupil 2 Cousteau's sea familiarly 3 Nest egg letters 4 Action in a legal 11 Grey Cup gp. 14 ER figures attachment? 92 Banned bug promise Inedible wraps maybe 58 Love interest of 87 Like some bagels 83-Across 59 Baseball's Pee 88 It may be 17 What worms spray 93 Fla. NBA team 'Vette roof option 30 Maui's scenic 5 Words from help do, soilwise unwanted 89 Things to aspire 18 Rowling teacher \_\_ Highway 31 Babe's relatives 94 Barcelona bears Brewpub choice 6 Cole of "Angie 60 Blow one's top to 90 Walks 20 Silk on the Seine 21 Unite in a Scientologist Hubbard wanna" do. ir Tribeca' 36 Wilson of Unite in a 7 Incalculable 63 Bridge positions 92 Hardly look common cause Swift hit 8 "Guess again" Ranger 37 Brown of publishing 99 Crew membe 102 Butcher's cut 64 Stand-up fare 65 Risky kind of Extinct bird 9 GM subsidiary forward to 96 Bar words that until 2017 Duds Official fuel of \_\_ Today: magazine for 10 LPGA star Pak 38 Snack cake NASCAR since 97 Key with four in the World 68 Mystic's deck brand 39 Scratches (out) 40 React to a Kennel double talk? sharps: Abbr. 98 Tick off Golf Hall of 104 5 1/2 and 8 3/4 26 Unobstructed boring speech "This is only \_ 72 Let go 73 \_\_ Féin 75 Actresses e.g. ... and a hint to this puzzle's 11 Smartphone 100 Renaissance 42 "This is only \_ 43 Comes down You, in the Bible feature instrument 32 Mustard, e.g.: 12 It's underfoot 101 Yemen neighbor 109 RSVP cards, 47 Angelou's "And Still " 33 Bruins legend element 106 92-Across say 110 Terrible start? Davidson 14 Dr. Howser of '80s-'90s TV banner 107 Bollywood star 48 Up in the air 111 "Come-faithful" freshness and Roku 15 They involve 49 Movement in some Bach 77 Pretense 78 E-file Aishwarya \_ 108 Popular skit 35 Place to find a 112 Clavell's "Shogun" sequel responsibilities 38 Blood prefix 16 Largish combo alternative show, for short 40 Problem for the 41 Eight hours per 42 Nods from NASA 43 Loner of a fish? 44 Prospecting tool45 Laryngitis docs46 Post-Civil War economic growth period Food service trade org. 52 Midsummer arrivals 53 Vintage autos 54 Kid \_\_: reading genre 55 Shopper's indulgence 60 Lord's domain Audi's rings, e.g. Fortuitous

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

Answers to last week's puzzle below.

# HOROSCOPE

xwordeditor@aol.com

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

64 On a lark 66 Co-star with

volumes 69 Musical

Goldie, Ruth Henry, et al 67 Courtroom attention-gette 68 Reference

markings 70 Toon bartender

Circle makers Sham

73 Phishing target,

briefly 74 With no time to

spare 77 Nero's 902

muscles

"\_\_ Walked Into My Life"

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | June 30: This year, you'll gain an understanding of others and what drives them. You could find some of their motivations curious. If single, you'll get into the dating process. Try to avoid anyone who is emotionally unavailable. If you're attached, you and your partner seem more connected than you have been in a while. You enjoy being together as a couple. Gemini always has interesting perceptions and feedback for you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Although you may have the best intentions, what you say might be taken too literally, even if you mean to be humorous. Weigh the pros and cons of going to the movies, a concert or some other place where you don't need to talk. You'll get into less trouble.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You might want to rein in your spending. You love beautiful things. You appreciate quality. Those natural inclinations easily can get you into trouble. You could persuade your sweetie to pitch in and pay for such purchases

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Although you might not be doing anything differently, you seem wittier and more content than you usually do. A partner cannot get enough of you. If single, you have quite the entourage.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Your emotions take over before you can restrain yourself. Perhaps sharing what's in your heart is better. Don't take someone's first reaction personally. This person will probably change their mind.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) Your friends could come up with a provocative set of plans that you don't want to say no to. On the other hand, a child or loved one could feel left out. See whether blending the two different relationship types is possible. You'll be happier.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) An older relative would appreciate your company. This person adores you but might not be expressive. Make it your pleasure to go out to lunch or the movies together. If you understood how important this afternoon time could be to this person, you'd smile.

each one of them. You'll gain a

better sense of what's going on.

Keep it light.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You might want to see a situation differently. Listen to the other parties involved and imagine being

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You express a willingness to share more with a specific person. Oneon-one relating could be rewarding. You'll enjoy yourself so much that you could forget your budget. Enjoy, but don't make a big deal of doing

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) No matter what you decide to do, you'll tend to go to excess. A partner or loved one could come up with one tempting idea after the other. Go for the moment; you're likely to have a blast while you're out.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You have a lot to do and complete. Focus on one item at a time; you'll reach your goal fast enough. Don't be tempted by a friend to toss your schedule into the air and join them. You might enjoy yourself now, but the consequences might not be amusing.

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AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Your inner child demands release. You're likely to pursue some hobby that you've enjoyed for years. A friend or several friends would love to join in. You feel silly but have a great time.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You might be more tense than you realize. Your source of stress might come from a judgment that you're making around your personal life. If you can clear the air or have a helpful talk, do just that.

# Answers to last week's puzzle.

