

BY PAT MYERS

Report from Week 965

Our hugely popular annual contest in which we give you a list of 100 horses nominated for this year's Triple Crown races, and ask you to "breed" any two and name their foal: More honorable mentions from among at least 5,000 entries appear online at wapo.st/StyleInv (click on "Week 969").



Holy Highway x The Lumber Guy = Om Depot (*Susan Thompson, Cary, N.C.*)

2 Winner of the six fake mustaches: Flashy Sunrise x Alpha = Greet the Nude A (*Doug Frank, Crosby, Tex.*)

3 Stat x Wrote = ASAP's Fables (*Laura Bennett Peterson, Washington*)

4 Tiger Walk x Holy Highway = Fairway to Heaven (*Mike Gips, Bethesda; Stephen Gilberg, Washington*)

Not exacta: honorable mentions

Discreet Dancer x One Sock Down = Amish Stripper (*George-Ann Rosenberg, Washington, whose one previous Invite ink was 17 years ago*)

Daddy Long Legs x Harvard N Yale = SAT on a Tuffet (*Mark Eckenwiler, Washington*)

Rousing Sermon x Motor City = Praise the Ford! (*Jeff Brechlin, Eagan, Minn.*)

Souper Speedy x Neck 'n Neck = Instant Canoodles (*Brad Alexander, Wanneroo, Australia*)

The Lumber Guy x Stepping Lite = Paul Bunion (*Marleen May, Rockville; Laura Bennett Peterson*)

Cyber Secret x Liaison = eLope (*Carly Ball, Rockville, a First Offender*)

A Boy Named Em x Explain = Elle Was Taken (*Harvey Smith, McLean*)

All Stormy x Points Offthebench = Raining Buckets (*Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.*)

Awesome Address x Fed Biz = Pork Avenue (*Catherine Hagman, Silver Spring; Jeremy Levin, Washington*)

Mr Percussionist x Backdoor Strike = Keith Mooning (*Mike Gips*)

Barber Shop Rock x Done Done Done = Did-Wop (*Nan Reiner, Alexandria*)

Drill x Big Monster = J. Paul Yeti (*Roy Ashley, Washington*)

Boat Trip x Holy Highway = Rowed to Damascus (*Jonathan Paul, Garrett Park*)

Class President x Rousing Sermon = Summa Cum Loud (*Rick Haynes, Boynton Beach, Fla.*)

Neck 'n Neck x Harvard N Yale = Kiss My Ascot (*Rob Wolf, Gaithersburg*)

Daddy Long Legs x Battle Hardened = Iraqnid (*Susan Gearity, Menifee, Calif.*)

Empire Way x Ever So Lucky = Appian Carefree (*Jonathan Paul*)

Fed Biz x Awesome Address = Luxury Cubicle (*David Ballard, Reston*)

The Lumber Guy x Grouse = Forest Grump (*Alex Mantle, Buffalo, Wyo., a First Offender*)

Diplomat x Segway = Ambassador (*Larry Yungk, Arlington*)

Alpha x Diplomat = Bits and Peaces (*Phyllis Reinhard, East Fallowfield, Pa.*)

Gung Ho x PoliticallyCorrect = Gung ServiceWorker (*J.D. Berry, Springfield; Laurie Brink, Cleveland, Mo.*)

Harvard N Yale x I'll Have Another = One for the Rhodes (*Dion Black, Washington*)

Pretension x Julius Caesar = Prig Latin (*Christopher Lamora, Guatemala City*)

Julius Caesar x Late Night Action = Et Tu, Booté (*Brian Cohen, Lexington, Va.*)

My Adonis x Julius Caesar = A Perfect X (*Rob Wolf*)

One Sock Down x Google My Grandson = Cyber Stocking (*Mark Eckenwiler*)

Souper Speedy x Space Race = Matzo Ballistic (*Eric Fritz, Silver Spring*)

Finnegans Wake x The Lumber Guy = James Joist (*Ellen Raphaeli, Falls Church*)

Exfactor x Monastic = Simon Cowll (*Matt Monitto, Elon, N.C.; John Winant, Bellevue, Neb.*)

Holy Highway x Overdriven = The Bible Beltway (*Valerie Matthews, Ashton; Mike Gips*)

Conserve x Mr Percussionist = Muir Cowbell (*Jonathan Hardis, Gaithersburg*)

Union Rags x Secret Circle = AFL/CIA (*Susan Thompson*)

Diplomat x Neck 'n Neck = Henry Kissing Her (*Catherine Hagman*)

Late Night Action x Street Life = Sex Fifth Avenue (*Chris Doyle*)

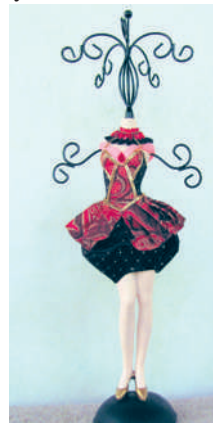
I'll Have Another x Conserve = I'll

THIS WEEK'S CONTEST

Week 969: Colt following

And it's Post time for the second race on our annual horse-"breeding" card; in its ninth year, it spins off this week's results, which should give you an idea of what we're looking for. **This week: "Breed" any two "foals" in today's results, and name the "grandfoal."** You may also use the extra foals that appear in the online version of Week 969 at wapo.st/StyleInv. Just as for the original contest, the name may not exceed 18 characters, including spaces, and your entry shouldn't remotely duplicate any of today's results. And you're again limited to 25 entries.

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln-statue bobblehead that is the new Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives the shapely figurine pictured here; the creepy wires snaking out of where her head and arms should appear are presumably intended to hold jewelry. Donated by longtime Losers J.J. Gertler and Sandra Hull; J.J. explained to the Empress that when he and Sandra found it in West Virginia, "we both immediately thought of you."



Other runners-up win their choice of a coveted Style Invitational Loser T-shirt, a yearned-for Loser Mug or the new, ardently desired Grossery Bag. Honorable mentions get a lusted-after Loser magnet. First Offenders get a smelly, tree-shaped air "freshener" (Fir Stink for their first ink). E-mail entries to losers@washpost.com or fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday, May 7; results published May 27 (online May 25). No more than 25 entries per entrant per week. Include "Week 969" 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/StyleInv. The subhead for this week's honorable mentions is by Kevin Dopart. Join the Style Invitational Devotees on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev.

« Nice curls, but low on brains: The prize for the second-place "grandfoal" in Week 969.



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

Halve Another (*Russell Beland, Fairfax*)

Battle Hardened x Drill = La Femme Makita (*Stephen Dudzik, Olney*)

Plated x Fed Biz = Brass Tax (*Bernard Brink, Cleveland, Mo.*)

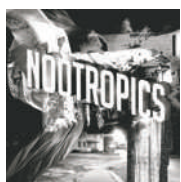
Late Night Action x Flashy Sunrise =

Where Are My Pants (*Greg Pearson, Arlington*)

Still running – deadline Monday night – is our contest for stupid grant proposals: See wapo.st/StyleInv; click on "Week 968."

POP CD REVIEW

Lower Dens Nootropics



Dreamy Baltimore pop band Lower Dens don't care whether you like them or not. There's

hardly a hook to be had, a conventionally structured track to be found, or anything much to grab onto at all on their languorous, minimalist second disc, "Nootropics" (pronounced "No-eh-tropics").

"Nootropics" is loosely intended as a companion piece

to Lower Dens' debut, "Twin-Hand Movement," with an emphasis on the word "loosely." "Movement" concerned itself with connection and belonging; its follow-up is all about future shock, about the fraught connections between man and machine.

At least, that's what it seems like. "Nootropics" is distant and vague, a warm blanket of fog and fuzz and celestial synths from which songs occasionally emerge. Its finest track might be the instrumental "Lion in Winter, Pt. 1," a triumphant noise wall laying waste to the idea that "Nootropics" has to be about anything at all.

Frontwoman Jana Hunter is a recovering freak folkie with a masculine voice buried so low in the mix that it takes a while to even notice she's there. Her murmur propels the watery "Propagation," a track indebted, but not overly so, to fellow shadow pop enthusiasts Twin Sister, and she brings some much needed breakdown-and-release tension to "Lamb," one of a few outright stunners on an album of growers.

— Allison Stewart

A DISTANT SOUND: Frontwoman Jana Hunter lends her low, masculine voice to Lower Dens' foggy, fuzzy tracks.



SHAWN BRACKBILL/MOTORMOUTH MEDIA