

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

The muse at 5: Top '5 x 5' poems

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1270** we celebrated the Invite's 25th anniversary with a "5x5" poetry contest for any of three forms: 5 lines of 5 syllables each; 5 lines of 5 words; or 5 lines of iambic pentameter (ba-DUM five times over).

4th place

5 lines x 5 words:
Dotard tweets his morning whine:
"Tillerson has crossed the line.
Calling me a moron? Fine.
But saying Putin poisoned Skripal?
That's it for me, pal."
(Nan Reiner, Boca Raton, Fla.)

3rd place

5 lines of iambic pentameter:
Shall I compare thee to a lump of clay?
Thou are more agile (well, perhaps a bit);
Thou sleepest all the night and half the day;
When thieves break in, thou carest not a whit.
I love thee, dog, so I put up with it.
(Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

2nd place and the poop emoji pillow and slippers

5 lines x 5 syllables
Some anagram fun:
"I've beaten the draft,"
Said Donald. "It's done."
The elder Trump laughed,
"BONE SPURS? SUPERB, SON!"
(Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

Like socks need shoes, like gangsters seek out banks,
As forks want knives, or sick folk need a nostrum,
A weakling dreams of watching troops in ranks,
Parading while he preens atop a rostrum,
But should that happen here?
We've said, "No tanks."
(Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

Nein to fives: Honorable mentions

5 SYLLABLES x 5 LINES
The Upside of Unsuccessful Negotiations With North Korea
if tête-à-têtes fail
And Doomsday draws nigh
With nuclear hail,
We're free to eat pie
And throw out the kale.
(Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

Trump deals fearlessly
With the NRA
To guarantee that
We'll #neveragain
Until the next time.
(Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Overpaid teachers
Who get summers off,
Such loathsome creatures,
Just pigs at the trough . . .
Taught you to read this.
(Dave Airozo, Silver Spring, an elementary school teacher)

5 WORDS x 5

Initially happy to score me,
Endeavoring now to ignore me,
He paid me a sum
To stay quiet, the bum.
Beyond merely angry, I'm Stormy!
(Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)

At the NBA's big game,
Fergie, without fear or shame,
Heaped derision on her name.
Her jazzed-up, breathy fare:
A bomb, bursting in air.
(Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

The Washington Redskins
name's offensive,
Rude, repugnant and rancor-
intensive,
Reminding us of something
disgraceful.
Get a moniker less distasteful:
Call them the Mid-Atlantic
Redskins.
(Connie Dobbins Akers, Radford, Va., a First Offender)

IAMBIC PENTAMETER x 5:

Trump's lawyer swore she'd leave
there on a gurney
When he took Stormy Daniels's
deposition,
This wouldn't be some civil kid-glove
tourney:
"Ma'am, you're a porn star by your
own admission."
She said, "Yeah, so? You're Donald
Trump's attorney." (Frank Osen)

The sad New York mortician, with a
curse,
Complained his auto's knocks "do
not sound good."
The car technician looked beneath
the hood:
And said, "Alas, the news could not
be worse:



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Week 1274: Heading for a foal — our horse name 'breeding' contest

Walk in the Sun x Last Bad Habit = Walk in the Sin
Mr. President x Clever Mind = Never Mind
Choo Choo x Wisely = Train of Thought
Gold Town x Telekinesis = Mine Over Matter

Once again, it's Post Time: It's the 24th annual Style Invitational foal-naming contest, which if history is a guide will be our most popular of the year. The Empress usually ends up looking at about 4,000 entries, some from people who've been entering this contest (and only this contest) every year since 1995.

Below is a list of 100 of the 360 horses nominated for this year's Triple Crown races, the Kentucky Derby, Preakness and Belmont; **your job is to "breed" any two names and name the "foal" to reflect both names**, as in the examples above. (It matters not to us that all 100 horses are male, and at least one is a gelding.) As in actual thoroughbred racing, **a name may not exceed 18 characters including spaces**, but one or more of the characters may be punctuation marks or numerals. You may run words together to stay within the length limit, but the name should be easy to read. **Make sure you (A) spell the original horse names correctly in your entry, and (B) use the "Name A x Name B = Foal Name" format as shown in the examples**, so that the thousands of entries will be properly sorted and the Empress will have a chance of preserving some small fraction of her sanity. As always, you may send as many as 25 entries.

- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Ali | Flameaway | Quip |
| Alpha to Omega | For Him | Replicator |
| Ark in the Dark | Gold Town | Reride |
| Arrival | Good Magic | Retirement Fund |
| Audible | Gotta Go | Rucksack |
| Ax Man | Gronkowski | Runaway Ghost |
| B On Time | Heck Yeah | Scrapper |
| Bail Out | Hollywood Star | Seven Trumpets |
| Beautiful Shot | Ike | Silver Hammer |
| Biblical | Justify | Slot |
| Big Brown Bear | Last Bad Habit | Snapper Sinclair |
| Blame the Rider | Locomotion | Solomini |
| Bolt d'Oro | Lone Sailor | Somebody |
| Bravazo | Machismo | Sporting Chance |
| Bugle Notes | Magnum Moon | Still Having Fun |
| Call a Cop | Maraud | Strike Power |
| Candygram | Masked | Talent Scout |
| Catholic Boy | Mendelssohn | Talon |
| Chaps | Mississippi | Tattooed |
| Choo Choo | Most Amusing | Telekinesis |
| Clever Mind | Mr. President | Tenfold |
| Combatant | Mt. Rushmore | The Money Dance |
| Dawood | My Boy Jack | Times Square |
| Demolition | My Dream | Tiz Our Turn |
| Deputy Czar | Nero | Tough Times |
| Dream Friend | Noble Indy | Tres Equis |
| Dunk | Número Thirteen | Vouch |
| Enjoy the Journey | Old Time Revival | Walk in the Sun |
| Enticed | One More Tom | Wisely |
| Evaluator | Peppered | World of Trouble |
| Exclamation Point | Personal Time | Yee Haw |
| Explorer | Pony Up | Zing Zang |
| Family Kitten | Private Eye | Source: |
| Firenze Fire | Promises Fulfilled | Churchill Downs |

Submit entries at the website wapo.st/enter-invite-1274 (all lowercase).

Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives the **Farting Bubble Blaster**, a large squirt gun you arm with a canister of cherry-scented bubble fluid: "Sounds like farts — smells much better." Plus battery-powered "FFRRRPT!" sounds. Not included but evidently for sale: bubble fluid that actually smells like farts. Donated by Loser Nan Reiner.

Other runners-up win our "You Gotta Play to Lose" Loser Mug or our Grossery Bag, "I Got a B in Punmanship." Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, "We've Seen Better" or "IDiot Card." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). **Deadline is Monday night, April 16;** results published on Kentucky Derby weekend: May 6 in print, May 3 online. See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline "The Muse at 5" is by Chris Doyle; Chris and Jesse Frankovich both suggested the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at www.facebook.com/invdev.

● **THE STYLE CONVERSATIONAL** The Empress's weekly online column discusses the new contest and results. Especially if you plan to enter this week, visit wapo.st/styleconv, since the E has a few more directions for you.

To get to Broadway, sir, you must rehearse."
(Mark Raffman, Reston)

"**Good morning**, Special Counsel's Office. How may we be of assistance to you now?"
"Ms. Daniels? Two o'clock. We'll see you — ciao!"
"Rex Tillerson? Hi, welcome to the fold."
"Who's this? Mr. McCabe, could you please hold? . . ." (Nan Reiner)

And Last:
Two score and five momentous years ago

"Was not forefathers but a Czar who so
Inveigled us to write his jokes for free
And rack our brains for humor with no fee.
To celebrate this? Better you than me.
(Dudley Thompson, Cary, N.C.)

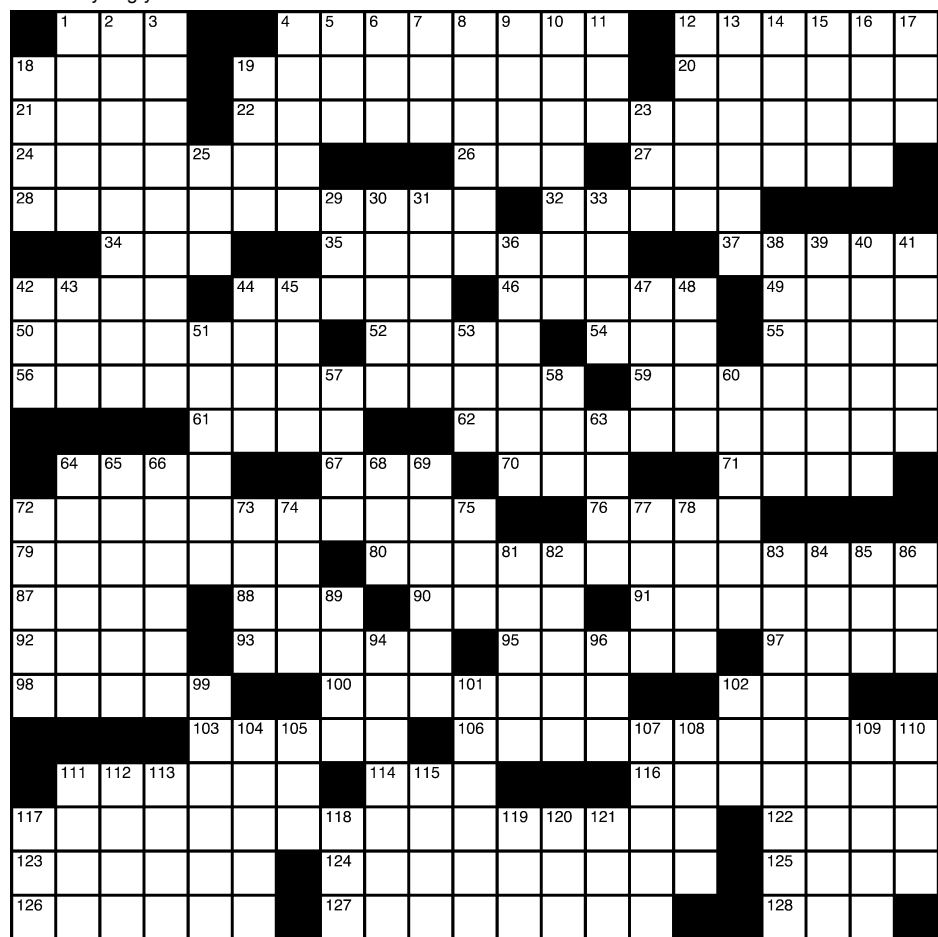
(More honorable mentions in the online invite at wapo.st/invite1274.)

Still running — deadline Monday night, April 9: Our contest to tell us who (or what) would be better for various federal jobs. See wapo.st/invite1273.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

- | | | | | | |
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| 54 Goliath, to David | | | | 89 Full-figured model born | |
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| 72 Uproar over a controversial win? | | | | 89 Full-figured model born | |
| 76 Eponymous salad creator | | | | 89 Full-figured model born | |
| 79 "That is my intention" | | | | 89 Full-figured model born | |
| 80 Niche market for airport bookstores? | | | | 89 Full-figured model born | |
| 87 Emulate a condor | | | | 89 Full-figured model born | |
| 88 Spherical organ | | | | 89 Full-figured model born | |
| 90 "Star Wars" saga fixture | | | | 89 Full-figured model born | |
| 91 Equanimity | | | | 89 Full-figured model born | |
| 92 First word of "Send in the Clowns" | | | | 89 Full-figured model born | |
| 93 WWI battle river | | | | 89 Full-figured model born | |
| 95 Stop on the biny | | | | 89 Full-figured model born | |
| 97 S.F. commuting system | | | | 89 Full-figured model born | |



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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | April 8: This year, you will make some changes that others might find amazing. Consider stopping any wild actions, especially if they could have financial ramifications. You will not want to deal with problems in this area of your life. If you are single, you will meet someone when you are out and about. This person could be significant to your life. If you are attached, you enjoy your time alone as a couple. At times, however, the need for space will interfere. Capricorn emphasizes the importance of financial stability.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
You are fortunate that you can see a matter very differently than how many others do. You are sensitive to others' feelings, and you understand that you can't force people to respond as you wish.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
You are able to make a difference that could surprise even you. A friend might make the first move. Reach out to someone at a distance.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
One-on-one relating seems to bring attention to a partnership that means a lot to you. You could be unusually lucky when relating to this person, as you feel empowered when relating to them. The unexpected tends to point you in a new direction.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
Your emotional nature might be difficult to define, as mood changes are the status quo. Try to go with the flow. Your imagination sometimes leads you down the rabbit's hole. Make sure you test out a "great" idea before recommending it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
You have a style that is unique. Others admire many of your traits. Confusion marks information heading in your direction. Ask as many questions as needed to fill in the blanks.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Your creativity comes into play when interacting with loved ones. Whatever you choose to do will be slightly off the beaten path. Expect to hear some positive feedback. How you communicate makes a big difference in others' responses.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Read the Sunday paper, or rent a movie or two. Indulging every so often helps you recycle and feel

good. An invitation or a surprise arrival could toss your plans in the air. Ultimately, you get to call the shots.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Make your Sunday round of calls early on, if possible. Someone might be looking for you. Your plans could be subject to change, but you must decide whether it's okay to make an adjustment.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Be careful when dealing with your finances. You easily could make a mistake. Avoid any monetary commitments. A little restraint will be helpful. A pleasant surprise heads your way. Listen to what is being offered by another person.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Transform your schedule, which has been routine for quite a while.

You might need to infuse your day with different elements. You'll want to make a difference in a loved one's life. Be careful, as a surprise could be more upsetting than you realize.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Lie low today, and screen your calls and emails for a while. How you see your universe could be changing, as you note changes in your environment as well as in various people in your life.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Your ability to acquire friends from various walks of life surprises many people. You might observe a loved one change their ideas because of what they are experiencing. This change comes partially from your words and actions.

Answers to last week's puzzle.

