

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Distance-sing: Corona parodies

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1378 we asked for song parodies about Life in the Age of Corona. As usual, the Empress received hundreds and hundreds of songs, along with videos. Since we can include so few here, please check out the MANY fabulous inking entries from all genres at wapo.st/invite1382.

4th place:

To "Be Our Guest": We must test, we must test, See how far this has progressed. Only then can we go back to work, The experts all suggest. We need more, quite a lot, To find out who's well or not; Being lacking in this vein meant Major failures in containment.

Trump delayed, underplayed, And so now we're all dismayed That in total covid cases we're the best!

Go on, stop being grouchy, Please heed Doctor Fauci: We must test! We must test! We must test! (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

3rd place:

To "There's No Business Like Show Business" There's no virus like cov-virus like no virus we know; Everything about it is surprising, even though our scientists are shrewd; No one has a cure, there's no disguising: we're realizing we're prob'ly screwed.

Take heart, people! Be smart, people; stay home and you'll survive — Even though that turkey's looking mighty bleak — It's grown a fungus and tends to reek; Still, you get to eat it for another week! Enjoy being alive! (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

2nd place and the poster "Thou Shalt Not Covid Thy Neighbor's Spouse":

To "I Hope You Dance": I welcome you to this week's virtual meeting; A couple Zoom rules I think really bear repeating: May you never interrupt the one who's speaking, . . . Hold on . . . Shirley, press your mute, your kids are shrieking, Vanessa, move your cat, 'cause he's blocking off your screen there, Oh, Larry, back up, we're all looking at your nose hair, Promise me that you'll eat breakfast in advance, And if you do stand up, I hope you had the chance To put on pants. Dear God, wear pants. (Hildy Zampella, Alexandria)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

To "New York New York": "Stop readin' the news, it's fake anyway, Don't say that I'm the start of it, New York, New York. Your governor's views aren't leanin' my way, And so I'll have no part of it, New York, New York.

Did I make promises that I don't plan to keep? There's other orders to fill — Read 'em and weep!

If your ICUs are troubled today, Then let's get to the heart of it, New York New York . . . You want to ventilate? Then tell your Prez he's great, It's up to you, New York, New York! (Mark Raffman, Reston)

The second wave: Honorable mentions

To Oklahoma!: Ohhhh! Corona! You're a nasty virus, no mistake! First we said "fake news" and hit the snooze — Now GM must ventilators make! Ohhhhhh! Corona! Have you seen what's happened to the Dow? Needless work avoid, I'm unemployed Gotta save our economics now!

My streaming is way out of hand, And I'm tired of food that is canned! And when we pray . . . Lord! Please get me through this day! Protect us from the covid-19 from corona, Oh, corona! Go 'way! (Jessica Steinhice Mathews, Stanley, Va.)



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1382: For us, it's still Post Time

Breed Real Quiet (1998) with Smarty Jones (2004) and name the foal ReaLY Quiet

Decidedly (1962) x Whiskery (1927) = Covid Day 19

His Eminence (1901) x Pensive (1944) = Cardinal Knowledge

MacBeth II (1888) x Chant (1884) = Double Double

Like Everything Else in the World, this year's Kentucky Derby has been postponed from the usual first Saturday in May; it's now scheduled for Sept. 5. But why should that stop The Style Invitational from galloping on ahead with what's usually our most popular contest of the year? There's a twist, though: We're not using the usual list of horses nominated for this year's Triple Crown races. Below is a list of 100 of the 145 previous Kentucky Derby winners, from 1875 to 2019. "Breed" any two of the names and name the "foal" to humorously reflect the parents' names, as in the examples above. As usual, you get to submit up to 25 foal names.

Yes, there are only three fillies on the list. And there are several geldings. We're word people, not science experts. Sheesh.

Table of 100 Kentucky Derby winners' names arranged in three columns.

As in actual thoroughbred racing, a name may not exceed 18 characters including spaces, but the characters may include punctuation and numerals. You may run words together to stay within 18 characters, but the name should be easy to read. Please note the formatting instructions on this week's entry form.

Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1382 (no capitals in the Web address). Deadline is Monday, May 11; results will appear May 31 in print, May 28 online.

Winner gets the Lose Cannon, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a trophy, too — one donated specifically for the foal contest by Loser Drew Bennett: It's a shiny brass rear half of a horse on a faux-marble pedestal.

Other runners-up win their choice of our "For Best Results, Pour Into Top End" 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). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline "Distance-sing" is by Tom Witte; Tom also wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdex.

"Like" the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at bit.ly/inkofday; follow @StyleInvite on Twitter. The Style Conversational: The Empress's weekly online column reviews each new contest and set of results. Especially if you're thinking of entering the horse name contest, check out the Convo at wapo.st/convo1382.

To Tonight: Tonight, tonight, I'll be at home tonight I'm not supposed to set foot outside Tonight, tonight, I'll eat alone tonight Since my table is not six feet wide Tonight, I'll watch last year's World Series,

A '90s U.S. Open, The Frazier-Ali fight. The sky's still light, But I'll be turning in for the night. Good night. (Rob Cohen, Potomac)

Still running — deadline Monday, May 4: Our contest for bogus trivia about spring. See wapo.st/invite1381.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words. Includes a list of words used in the puzzle and the author's name: xwordeditor@aol.com.

Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY MADALYN ASLAN

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | May 3: Insightful, clever and charming, you create a winner of a year. New financial opportunities appear in May, August and December. Make choices and pursue goals on Fridays, your lucky day each week. If single, you postpone the decisive action needed to ensure success in love.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) A former physical complaint manifests itself again, mainly because of stress. You are so brave, and you've kept it in for so long. But today, find time to take care of yourself. Good news comes your way, in financial form.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Children are the happy focus of the day. After a few nights of restless sleep, brilliant ideas abound. Fresh personal starts are indicated. Expect to be doing a lot of brainstorming. A creative project will go very well.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Today finds you redecorating your home. Moods are high, and in keeping with your already expansive way, rather indulgent. There's nothing small or petty about the way you decorate, especially not now. You go all out.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You seem to be doing a lot of thinking, talking and local running around. Naturally analytical, you use this period profitably by reexamining plans or ideas and discarding whatever or whomever is no longer valuable.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You feel like buying, and could go a bit overboard. Luxury items have a very strong appeal. However, today's aspects are not good for large-scale spending, as you will most likely have to return what you purchase.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Your personal magnetism is high, and you attract the attention of higher ups. But be careful. You get in over your head, and conflict may accompany an immense sex appeal. Do not use others or let yourself be used.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Take care of yourself mentally or physically since you could find

yourself more run down than usual. Sleep, meditate and think. You begin to find your thoughts deepened and intensified as you dig for answers with vigorous determination.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Communication and enthusiasm from others thrill you today. The focus is on friendship and group activities that you follow online. Accept the many invitations that come your way. You feel more popular than you have in some time.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Today emphasizes fun and good times, particularly with an elderly relative. Make sure you check in and see that everything is all right. Try not to let minor hassles at the workplace upset your equilibrium.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan 19) You seem to have a case of

wanderlust today. As you cannot go on a real vacation, take a virtual one. The yearning will also be quenched by browsing through travel books or even just calling a long-distance pal.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Joint income improves today, although there may be a few disagreements with your partner along the way. Obtaining loans is favored, but some might feel unduly pressured to make a financial decision. You need to do your best balancing act.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) A new friendship might be found with a fiery, communicative person. You are likely to share similar outlooks and will learn from each other. Watch out, however, for domestic or romantic discord at home. If attached, your mate is volatile.

Answers to last week's puzzle.

Grid of crossword puzzle answers, including words like SLATS, AERIE, SWIPES, SIESTA, YSL, TEBOW, CURS, BLUE, CURATE, SENSEI, SOAR, SPUN, ARP, MISSION, EMINE, DART, STEPSONIT, HAD, ALOT, KIWITHUDS, YANK, AFRO, RSV, NAURU, ORNOT, ELI, METO, CAMNEWT, GETON, AVER, PATINA, REN, LENS, AD, FOE, GELS, ANASAZI, SHAH, EKE, TOLIFE, GRAPH, AFLCIO, LAV, PALL, ELO, SLETI, ONE, DYES, EATCROW, NAH, ENTREE, GUILTRIPS, UNPC, OUTIE, PTS, D, NEONS.