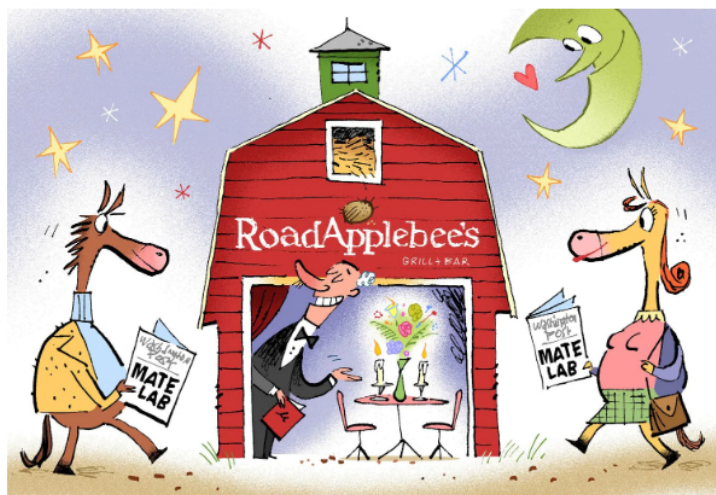




Entertainment

Style Invitational Week 1326: Foaling Around — our most popular contest

'Breed' 2 horse names and name the foal. Plus winningly bad ideas for inventions.



(Bob Staake for The Washington Post)

By **Pat Myers**

April 4

(Click [here to skip down](#) for the winning problematic inventions)

Country House x Mantra = No Place Like Om

Cutting Humor x Dull Knife = ZZZZinger

Much Better x Improbable = 2020?

Hi yo, silver (to mix equine metaphors): It's the 25th annual Style Invitational foal-naming contest, almost always the most popular of the year. While the Kentucky Derby accepts only 20 entrants to run on the Churchill Downs track, the Empress will probably be judging about 4,000 horse names (and printing about 50).

At the bottom of this column is a list of 100 of the [nearly 400 3-year-olds](#) nominated for this year's Triple Crown races: the 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 makes no



Most Read Entertainment

difference that there are only two fillies on the list — go, Cairo Cutie and Jaywalker! — and that some are geldings.) 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.

Super-important for the Empress's sanity! 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. As always, you may send as many as 25 entries; don't number them, please (sorting issues again). And don't bother to suggest Name A x Name B = Third Name on the List; it won't get ink.

Submit entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1326 (all lowercase).

Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy.

Second place receives a **Double Your Glovin' Two-Pack**: First, a pair of **Handerpants**, which are very thin fingerless cotton gloves in a tighty-whitey motif, complete with fly (for what, a knuckle?). But also **DishPlay After Dinner Theater**, which comprises a pair of yellow dishwashing gloves with little faces drawn at the thumb-forefinger nexus, an angry-looking mustachioed one on the left hand and a lipsticked lady on the right. “The more you work, the more animated they become, and their snappy rubber repartee will turn chore time into fun time!” I hope the Fred brand doesn't branch out into proctology gloves. The Handerpants were donated by Dave Prevar, the DishPlay by Loser Patty Hardee.






Other runners-up win our “**You Gotta Play to Lose**” Loser Mug or our “**Whole Fools**” Grocery Bag. 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 15** (isn't it for everything?); results published on Derby weekend: May 5 in print, May 2 online. See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline “Har-Brained Ideas” is by Jesse Frankovich; Duncan Stevens wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the Style Invitational Devotees on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev. “Like” 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, published late Thursday afternoon, discusses each new contest and set of results. Especially if you plan to enter this week, check it out at wapo.st/styleconv1326.

[And from The Style Invitational four weeks ago . . .](#)

HAR-BRAINED IDEAS: PROBLEMATIC INVENTIONS FROM WEEK 1322

In [Week 1322](#) we asked you to think up some inventions that still had a bit of a bug . . .

- 1** Taylor Swift finally released new music after a much-hyped countdown. Here's everything to know. 
- 2** What it's like to lose to unstoppable 'Jeopardy!' champion James Holzhauer 
- 3** **Perspective** Her 'God Bless America' is a classic. Her two racist songs, a scandal. Should Kate Smith be banned from the ballpark? 
- 4** What to expect in 'Game of Thrones' Season 8, Episode 3 
- 5** **Review** For years, one reporter investigated allegations against Bill Cosby — even when no one was listening 

Post REPORTS

Latest episode

And then there were 20: Biden (finally) enters the race

▶ Listen 31:07

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4th place:

Michael Jackson Cuddle Pillows. “He’ll be there to comfort you ...” (Kevin Dopart, Washington)



Whole lotta glove: This week's second prize includes both fingerless Handerpants and the dramatic latex AfterDinner Theater.

3rd place:

The Swiss Army Gardener:

A handy, foldable multi-tool combining a shovel, rake, hoe, hacksaw, pitchfork, pruning shears and posthole digger.

(Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)

2nd place

and the ['hand-clapping' fly swatter](#):

The next James Bond movie chase scene, conducted by driverless taxis. (Dan Helming, Trenton, N.J.)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

Braille alphabet soup. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn, Va.)

You-reek-a: Honorable mentions

Individually wrapped potato chips for all those times when you want to eat just one. (Jeff Shirley, Richmond, Va.)

A security feature on ATMs that asks loudly, “YOU ENTERED 7732 FOR YOUR PIN. IS THAT CORRECT?” (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

The **Decade at a Glance** Calendar. (Mark Calandra, Wenham, Mass.)

Corporate voice mail that works only if the caller is calm and polite. “I won’t transfer you to one of our associates until you apologize for shouting.” (Martin Bancroft, Bellevue, Wash.)

A device that provides soothing relief to aching joints by gently [warming the hand with flowing water](#) while you’re sleeping. (Jeff Contompasis)

An “**I Haven’t Voted Yet**” sticker to help you vote twice. (Jesse Frankovich)

In case of an electrical outage, power your **BreatheEZ oxygen pump** by jogging briskly on the attached treadmill. (Noah Meyerson, Washington)

Spanx burqas. Fittingly modest. (Kevin Dopart)

Remove *all* the wax from your ears with the **Q-Tip Drill Bit**. (Todd DeLap, Fairfax, Va.)

A **tic-tac-toe book for Mensa members**. (Rick Haynes, Boynton Beach, Fla.)

Dorian Green: A **miraculous tree food** that keeps oak and maple leaves a bright and healthy green color until the moment they fall off

leaves a bright and healthy green color until the moment they fall on the tree. (John Greenlees, Burke, Va.)

The end of that frustration of opening toys: Molded **plastic packaging with a built-in razor knife** for easier opening. (John Hutchins, Silver Spring, Md.)

Fly Bys: Men's **pants zippers that automatically close** after the 17-second Standard Urination Interval. (Neal Starkman, Seattle)

A **bathroom scale that automatically shares the results** to Twitter and Facebook. (Duncan Stevens)

The **two-way nanny cam**, for babysitters who need to know what *you're* up to! (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station, Va.)

An **invisible fence for defense against burglars**. Complete with several shock collars for putting on potential home invaders. (Roy Ashley, Washington)

FunnyAccountants.com: A dating site where the two of you can find each other. (Warren Tanabe, Annapolis, Md.)

Pop-up sympathy cards. (Mark Calandra)

The Tooth Fairy Savings Bond: Imagine that delighted little gapped-toothed smile in the morning! (Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.)

Pocket Mucus Sucker: This battery-powered vacuum draws snot from your nose through plastic tubes into a receptacle in your pocket. (Rob Cohen, Potomac, Md.)

A **36-inch-wide, 12-inch-deep rearview mirror** that completely eliminates blind spots behind a car. (John Hutchins)

The Penny Dispenser : Put in a dollar and it will return 100 pennies. (Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.)

A **salt-and-sugar shaker set**. (Eric Nelkin, Silver Spring, Md.)

An **inline wheelchair**. (Jesse Frankovich)

A **hydroelectric vehicle** that could be charged simply by placing the attached water wheel into a nearby stream. (Jeff Contompasis)

Saran Rat: A trap that swaddles rodents in clear plastic film. (Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

Autonomously operated bumper cars: Enhanced with accident-avoidance sensors and software. (Mark Raffman)

Monsanto's new hybrid vehicles perform better than all competitors, but [you have to buy new ones every year](#). (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase, Md.)

A comb with a fold-out fork built into the handle. — A. Klobuchar (Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.; Jeff Contompasis)

Let's set up a platform on the Internet where everybody can publish any idea at any time for all to see with no editing. That way we can all be friends! (Ellis Burruss, Brunswick, Md., a First Offender)

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Still running — deadline also Monday, April 15: our contest for jokes for the White House correspondents' dinner. See wapo.st/invite1325.

DON'T MISS AN INVITE! [Sign up here](#) to receive a once-a-week email from the Empress as soon as The Style Invitational and Style Conversational go online every Thursday, complete with links to the columns.

The 100 Triple Crown nominees we'll be using for Week 1326:

Admire

And Seek

Andor

Annualized

Another twistafate

Bankit

Blue Steel

Bodexpress

Bourbon War

By My Standards

Cairo Cutie

Castle Casanova

Code of Honor

Coliseum

Comical Ghost

Country House

Curlaway

Current

Cutting Humor

Daring Disguise

Don Vito Corleone

Dream Maker

Dull Knife

Easy Shot

Escaped

Everfast

Exchequer

Family Biz

Federal Case

Final Jeopardy

Frolic More

Galilean

Game Winner

Go Away

Gray Magician

Great Sense

Haikal

Harvey Wallbanger

He's Smokin Hot

Hidden Scroll

Higgins

Hitch

Hold Your Tickets
Identifier
Improbable
Incorrigible
Instagrand
Jaywalk
Jeans n' Boots
Kingly
Last Judgment
Long Range Toddy
Mantra
Master Fencer
Maximum Security
Mercy Rule
Midnight Curfew
Mind Control
More Ice
Mr Mike
Mr. Money
Much Better
Mucho Gusto
Muralist
My Legacy
Nitrous
No Rules
Olympic Runner
Omaha Beach
One Bad Boy
Outshine
Picasso
Plug and Play
Plus Que Parfait
Polar
Punchline
Roadster
Rotation
Royal Meeting
Seclusive
Sergei Prokofiev
Shootin the Breeze
Signalman
Sir Winston
Skywriting
Sly
So Alive
Spinoff
Synthesis
Tacitus
Tax
Time Is Now
Trophy Chaser
Van Beethoven

Vekoma

War of Will

Well Defined

Wicked Indeed

Win Win Win

Zoomer

 0 Comments



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Pat Myers

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 