

# DIVERSIONS

## THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

# News quippings: Winning bank heads

BY PAT MYERS

**Week 1218** was the latest running of our venerable **Mess With Our Heads** contest; this year, entrants could select a headline from any publication dated March 9-20 and add a bank head, or subtitle, that either reinterprets it or comments wryly. Lots more honorable mentions in the online Invite at [bit.ly/invite1222](http://bit.ly/invite1222).

### 4th place

**Washington Post headline: Tillerson appears to give ground during visit to Beijing**

**Fake bank head:** Chinese officials debate meaning of bag of dirt as a diplomatic gift (Jeff Hazle, San Antonio)

### 3rd place

**Post: March is a time of madness, vasectomies**

**Fake bank:** Which explains why the top seeds often don't make it through. (Hildy Zampella, Falls Church)

### 2nd place and the golf-ball-into-window decal:

**New York Times: Letter From Foreign Policy Experts on Travel Ban**

**Bank:** "F" (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

### And the winner of the Inkin' Memorial:

**Post: Can we be civil enough to save democracy?**

**Bank:** "%&\$#@! no!" agree libtards, wingnuts (Ellen Ryan, Rockville)

### The outer banks: honorable mentions

**The White House serves up a red herring**

President puts ketchup on everything (Bruce Alter, Fairfax Station)

**Person arrested on White House grounds after scaling fence**

Rex Tillerson fails again to get meeting with Trump (Ira Allen, Bethesda)

**Senate votes to ditch standing rules**

Members may sit during national anthem, lie anytime (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

**Flynn Was Paid to Represent Turkey During Campaign**

President signs executive order banning Thanksgiving (Steve Price, New York)

**White House fence-jumper in secure zone for 17 minutes**

President announces contest to rename 'secure zone' (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

**Trump's Foreign Policy Doctrine**

Surprisingly detailed document uses all 140 characters (Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

**President Trump, the king of flip-flops**

Wasting away again in Mar-a-Lago-ville (Dave Matuskey, Sacramento)

**For His Supporters, Nothing Has Changed**

Still Size 42 Small (Dan Helming, Maplewood, N.J.)

**Picking pockets**

Euphemism for 'nostrils' fails to increase social acceptance (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

**Staples to close 70 more stores**

Cash-strapped retailer has no money for padlocks (Gregory Koch, Falls Church)

**Trojans Blitzed by Barrage of 3-Pointers**

Greek soldiers spring from gift horse, attack with tridents (Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

**Why we're unlikely to find any Russian ties in Trump's tax returns**

Because they're made in China (Roy Ashley, Washington)

**Fox's rabies test is positive, police say**

Hannity, O'Reilly found foaming at mouth, as usual (William Kennard, Arlington)

**Art of Empathy**

Long-lost 'Canterbury Tales' chapter centers on kindly but boring character (Steve Honley, Washington)

**Eight OTs almost were not enough**

Local pastor delighted in turnout for Bible study class (Chris Doyle)

**Republicans may keep focus on leaks in Russia hearing**

Even they want to hear stories about the hotel hookers



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

## New contest for Week 1222: Foaling around

**Horse Fly x Always Dreaming = Pigs Fly**  
**Irap x Talk Logistics = Jay Zzzzzz**  
**Gummy x Takeoff = Goo Bye!**

This year, four weekends from now, marks the 143rd annual running of the Kentucky Derby. And this weekend marks the 143rd — no, it only *seems* that many — the 23rd annual Style Invitational foal-naming contest, usually our most heavily entered of the year. Below is a list of 100 of the more than 400 racehorses nominated for this year's Derby, Preakness and Belmont; your job is to "breed" any two names and name the "foal" to reflect both of them, as in the examples above. (We know, every one of them is male and some are gelded.) 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, but the name still should be easy to read. Make sure you spell the original horse names correctly in your entry, or the sorting program devised for the Empress by Loser Jonathan Hardis might toss it into the virtual manure pile. Please use the "Name A x Name B = Foal Name" format in the examples. As always, you may send as many as 25 entries.

Submit entries at this website: [bit.ly/enter-invite-1222](http://bit.ly/enter-invite-1222) (all lowercase).

The winner of the Derby gets \$2 million, but our winner gets the **Inkin' Memorial**, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives, apropos of our mating contest, "**Leading Youth to Abundant Life**," a genuine 1934 hardcover book (it's dated 1936 by one early owner) intended as a manual for religious-school teachers; it advises, for instance, how to deal with a girl who has been "reading Bible passages which deal with sex relationships."

Action Everyday  
Adorned  
Adulation  
Always Dreaming  
American Anthem  
Archimedes  
Arklow  
Battalion Runner  
Bee Jersey  
Big Gray Rocket  
Blueridge Traveler  
Bobby Abu Dhabi  
Bonus Points  
Bronze Age  
Caucus  
Caucus  
Caucus  
Classic Empire  
Classic Rock  
Cloud Computing  
Comma Sister  
Confederate  
Convict Pike  
Dangerfield  
Divisor  
Downhill Racer  
El Areeb  
Excavation  
Excitation  
Fact Finding  
Factorial  
Fast and Accurate  
Fillet of Sole  
Foggy Night

Girvin  
Glacier  
Gorgeous Kitty  
Guest Suite  
Gummy  
Gunnvera  
Haul Anchor  
Hence  
Hey Mike  
Hieroglyphic  
High Frequency  
Horse Fly  
Hot Dad  
Iliad  
Industrialist  
Irap  
Irish War Cry  
It's Your Nickel  
J Boys Echo  
Just Move On  
Local Hero  
Lookin at Lee  
Made You Look  
Malagacy  
March to the Music  
Master Plan  
McCraken  
Midnight Pleasure  
Mo Town  
My Blue Heaven  
No Dozing  
No More Talk  
One Liner  
Pat on the Back

Patch  
Petrov  
Pollock  
Practical Joke  
Rapid Dial  
Resiliency  
Rowdy the Warrior  
Run for the Cup  
Running Mate  
Solo Saxophone  
Sonneteer  
State of Honor  
Stone Hands  
Takaful  
Takeoff  
Talk Logistics  
Tapwrit  
Term of Art  
The Hardest Way  
The Stranger  
The Walk  
Three Rules  
Thunder Snow  
Timeline  
True Timber  
Tunnel Vision  
Untrapped  
Vanish  
Vending Machine  
Warrior's Club  
Whole Lotta Luck  
Wild Shot  
Source:  
bloodhorse.com

**Other runners-up** win our new "You Gotta Play to Lose" Loser Mug or our Grossery Bag, "I Got a B in Punmanship." Honorable mentions get one of our new lusted-after Loser magnets, "No Childishness Left Behind" or "Magnum Dopus." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). Deadline is Monday night, April 17; results published May 7, the day after the Derby (but online May 4, so you can follow our winning horses). See general contest rules and guidelines at [wapo.st/InvRules](http://wapo.st/InvRules). The headline for this week's results and the honorable-mentions subhead are both by Jesse Frankovich. Join the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](https://www.facebook.com/on.fb.me/invdev). "Like" Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at [bit.ly/inkofday](http://bit.ly/inkofday)

**THE STYLE CONVERSATIONAL** The Empress's weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. Especially if you plan to enter, check it out at [wapo.st/styleconv](http://wapo.st/styleconv).

(Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.)

**Cuba advances, will face Israel next**

Scientists stunned by turbo plate tectonics (Andy Schotz, Frederick)

**And last: Trump budgets for a dumber, dirtier America**

Federal funds to underwrite Style Invitational-based curriculum for

junior high (Jeff Hazle)

More honorable mentions in the online Invite at [bit.ly/invite1222](http://bit.ly/invite1222).

**Still running — deadline Monday night, April 10: our contest to describe the child of any two people in history. See [bit.ly/invite1221](http://bit.ly/invite1221).**

## L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

**"SPOUT NONSENSE" By GAIL GRABOWSKI**

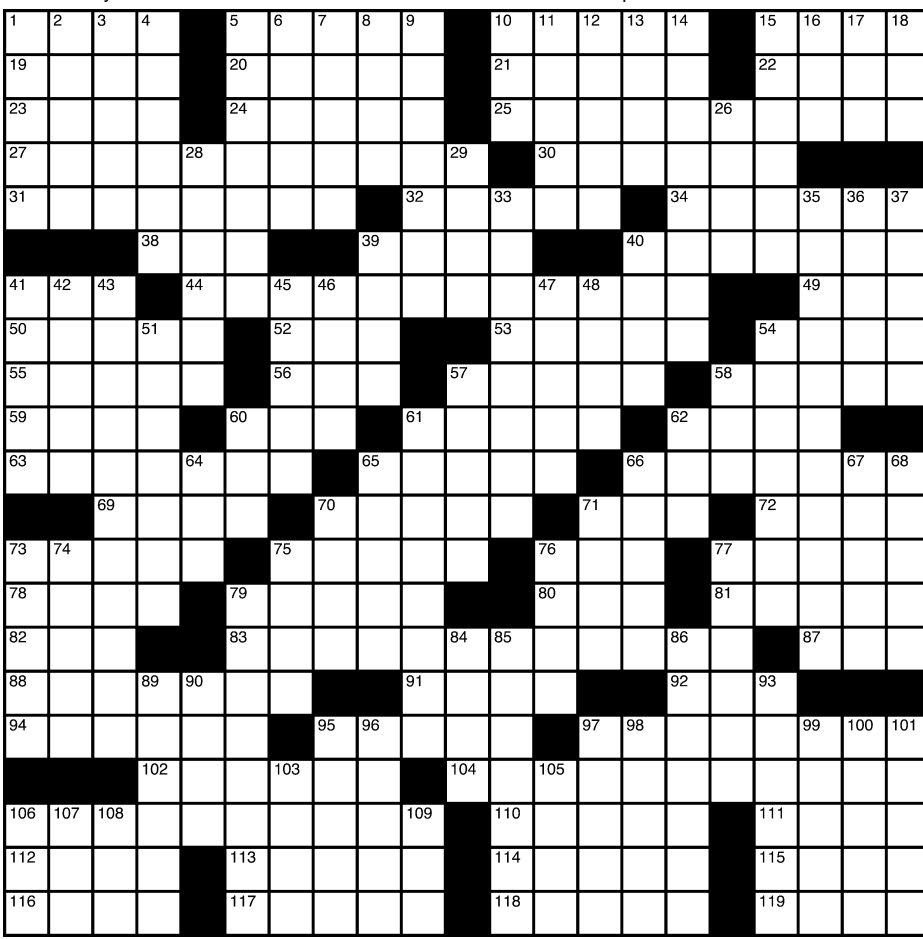
**ACROSS**  
1 Criticize severely  
5 Very little  
10 Musical with the song "A New Argentina"  
15 Roll on a farm, maybe  
19 Major attachment  
20 Many an emailer  
21 Pay  
22 Northern terminus of I-79  
23 Totally unlike wetlands  
24 Golf goof  
25 Plumber, at times?  
27 Boxer in the wrong profession?  
30 Finished behind  
31 NBC show anchored by Lester Holt  
32 "Pagiacci" clown  
34 Muzzleloading aid  
38 It holds water  
39 Snowblower brand  
40 Light beer?  
41 Big bucks, briefly  
44 Herb-carrying semi?  
49 Monogram on L'Homme products  
50 Put up with  
52 Menu words  
53 They're not fast reads  
54 Help in the gym  
55 Allow access to  
56 Play ending?  
57 Considerable care  
58 Is sympathetic (toward)  
59 "This Gun for Hire" actor  
60 Mag man with a mansion  
61 Under attack  
62 Actor Morales  
63 Affected by tears, as makeup  
65 Winter air  
66 "I thought it was a secret"  
69 Biblical brother  
70 Sported  
71 Pester for payment  
72 Quattro competitor  
73 Base with a coach  
75 What an iron often causes  
76 Pen name  
77 Gonzalez in 2000 news

78 Ones not itemized  
79 Willamette River capital  
80 Crescent component  
81 Have an inking  
82 Ristorante suffix  
83 Unlikely to get sick?  
87 H.S. dropout's exam  
88 Environmental destruction  
91 Congenial  
92 Wine flavorer  
94 Filibuster site  
95 Not in anymore  
97 Most shabby  
102 Took the wrong way?  
104 One with a questionable sense of fashion?  
106 News of a crude carrier sighting?  
110 Mumbai money  
111 Stallion's mate  
112 Skedaddle  
113 Lacked roots  
114 \_\_\_ Gay  
115 Island off Tuscany

**DOWN**  
1 Darwin wore one  
2 Sunlit courts  
3 Hitch  
4 Wouldn't commit  
5 Sushi bar order  
6 2014 U.S. Senior Open winner  
7 "I've had such a curious dream!" speaker  
8 Part of a violin  
9 Spot with a bird's-eye view  
10 Flock mom  
11 "Grease" singer  
12 Domed dwelling  
13 Sleuths, for short  
14 Many bars no longer have them  
15 Turn into eventually  
16 Old Testament sanctuary  
17 Deliberate omission, some say  
18 Market closing?  
26 What makes lists briefer, briefly  
28 Red wine choice  
29 "A Doll's House" heroine  
33 "Just curious"  
35 Flat-bodied fish depiction?  
36 The Christina in Wyeth's "Christina's World"  
37 Lats relatives  
39 Maker of nonstick cookware  
40 Lats relatives  
41 Places to browse  
42 Steel girder  
43 "Jush one more, bartender," e.g.  
45 Rubbernecked

46 Minnesota's St. \_\_\_ College  
47 Infomercial pitch  
48 It's trapped in house traps  
51 Ernst genre  
54 Broad-leaved maritime plant  
57 1995 Reform Party founder  
58 Baton Rouge sch.  
60 Female lobster member  
61 Throwing out a chain letter, and others  
62 Really big stretch  
64 Relieved (of)  
65 Spelunker  
66 New Mexico state flower  
67 Remove  
68 Subsidized  
70 Natural elevation  
71 Scuttlebutt  
73 Tastes  
74 As a result  
75 70-Down's opposite  
76 Private home  
77 Opulent home

79 Court conferences  
84 Obedient response to an captain  
85 Like navigable Arctic waters  
86 Like paste, jewelry-wise  
89 Life's work  
90 "... like \_\_\_ not"  
93 Fate  
95 "Pel" problem  
96 Mag sales staff member  
97 Proofer's finds  
98 Two-time Billboard Top Artist awardee  
99 Virtual transaction  
100 Novi Sad natives  
101 Pleasant surprise  
103 Rorschach image  
105 Provide money for  
107 Wrong  
107 Key for Ravel?  
108 Grazing area  
109 Some OT winners



4/9/17

xwordeditor@aol.com

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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

## HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY|April 9:** This year you need to focus on clarity and understanding. It's not that your language skills are becoming weaker; it's that Mercury, the planet of communication, goes retrograde and creates some problems when you're relating to others. Take your time getting to know someone. If you are attached, the two of you often find yourselves in silly arguments because of a verbal misunderstanding.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19)  
Others assume a more dominant role than usual. In a sense, being somewhat passive works well for you. You like seeing others become more assertive. Communication might feel stymied between you and someone at a distance.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20)  
You have a lot going for you. Nevertheless, because of a lack of planning, you might not accomplish everything you had set out to do. You certainly can try, though.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)  
You might not want to get into details with others. You are entering a period when Mercury, your ruling planet, seems to be moving backward. Confirm meeting places and times. Don't get into needless arguments, and avoid signing any legal papers.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22)  
Good feelings surround you; however, be careful with others' feelings. Be discriminating about what you share and with whom. Do what you need to do to get communication flowing.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)  
Communication flourishes, but confusion seems to surround a major decision. You will want to have a conversation about a child or loved one. This person might be very distant or depressed at the moment. Try to avoid a conflict.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)  
You could be tired and withdrawn as a result of dealing with an unusually needy person. You might want to escape to forget about all of your issues. No such luck, though, as your ruling planet, Mercury, goes retrograde.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)  
You are unusually magnetic, and

others seem to be seeking you out right now. You'll have your hands full with so many people wanting some time with you. Choose your words with care, as misunderstandings happen easily at the moment.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)  
You might not be ready to share everything that is on your mind. Some people will push you to try to get you to talk; others will just let you be. A friend is even likely to push you to see things their way.

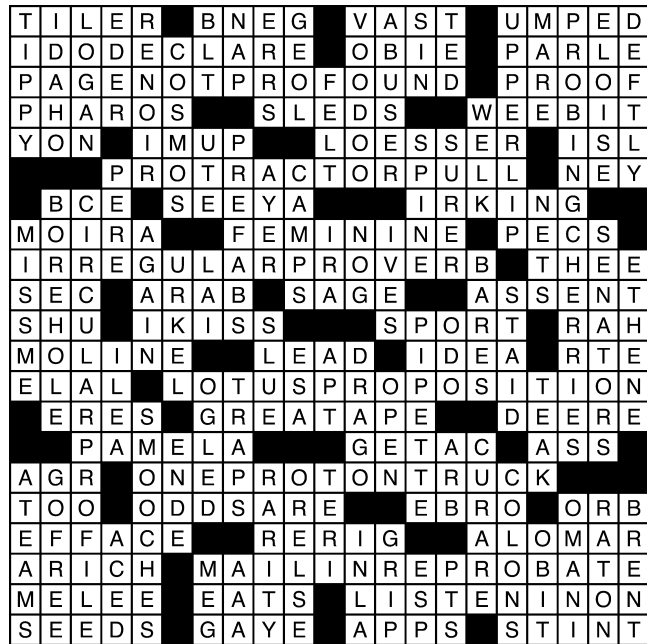
**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)  
Try not to hold a grudge against a loved one. Accept the fact that you might have an unusual amount of work to complete. Get a head start on tomorrow's work.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)  
Your softer side emerges during the day because of the company of a dear friend. Someone you often socialize with could feel left out. Reach out to this person and include them in your plans.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)  
You might be much friendlier and more caring than usual. Someone could misread this friendliness and might decide that you want more from them than what you have expressed.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)  
Deal with a partner or loved one directly. This person could be overly sensitive and might become defensive in a conversation. You are in the process of investigating what is going on with a friend. Ask more questions, if need be.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



4/2/17