DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Report from Week 1066: Pun for the Roses

BY PAT MYERS

In our 20th annual running of the Invitational's most popular recurring contest, we paraded a list of 100 of the 3-year-old racehorses nominated for this weekend's Kentucky Derby and the rest of racing's Triple Crown, and asked readers to "breed" any two names to produce a "foal" whose name cleverly reflected those of the parents — as do the names of many real racehorses.

This year's field — totaling several thousand entries from more than 300 breeders — was perhaps the cleverest the Empress has seen in the 12 of these contests she's judged. If your incredibly ingenious foal failed to get ink, it's not alone. Racing luck, you know? But you might be able to vary it slightly for this week's "grandfoal" contest.

Just a few of the very good entries submitted by too many people to be credited individually: Breeding Cairo Prince x Deceived to produce Pyramid Schemer, or Egypt Me; Constitution x Oogeley Eye = We the Peephole. Dozens of people did something about Bernie "Made Off" and "Crimea River." And a few too many bred Undertaker and Guggenheim to produce the otherwise highly inkworthy More Titian.

The winner of the Inkin' Memorial

Toast of New York x General A Rod = Toast in New York (Jim Stiles, Rockville)

2nd place and the 2009 souvenir Derby hat:
Best Plan Yet x Cut the Net = Best Pla_ Y__ (Pie Snelson, Silver Spring)

3rd place
I Earned It Baby x Undertaker = I Urned It Baby (Pam Sweeney, Burlington, Mass; Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

4th place
Russian Humor x Constitution = What Constitution? (Roy Ashley, Washington)

Pony Excess: honorable mentions

Toast of New York x Wry = Bagel and a Sneer (Perry Beider, Silver Spring)

Commanding Curve x All Tied Up = Bank and Trussed (Gary Crockett)

Fire Starter x All Tied Up = Arson a Sling (Dudley Thompson, Cary, N.C.)

Fascinating Rock x No Nay Never = The Nope Diamond (Jennifer Rubio, Vienna)

Deceived x Cut the Net = UConned (Mike Gips, Bethesda)

Streaming x Financial Mogul = Wizzer of Wall St. (Laura Bennett Peterson, Washington)

Guggenheim x Twenty Percent = Gu (Craig Dykstra, Centreville)

Candy Boy x Life Is a Joy = Peter Paul & Merry (Jonathan Paul, Garrett Park)

No Nay Never x Gift Diamond = OK, Just This Once (Mark Hagenau, Derry, N.H.)

Athens x Fire Starter = Pi Rho (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn; Pam Sweeney)

Life Is a Joy x Only I Know = So Buy My Book (Josh Feldblyum, Philadelphia)

Rise Up x Excessive Kid = Coup de Tot (Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

Effinex x Coastline = That Beach (Beth Morgan, Palo Alto, Calif.)

Guggenheim x Harpoon = Abstract Dart (Kathryn Perry, Fort Worth, Tex., a First Offender)

Oogeley Eye x Commanding Curve = Alien Wife Form (Danielle Nowlin, Woodbridge)

Brilliant Mess x Poker Player = Lindsay Lowhand (Steve Honley, Washington)

Poker Player x Matador = Hoyle of Ole (John McCooey, Rehoboth Beach, Del.)

Scotland x Matador = Kilty as Charged (Katherine Wolf, Gaithersburg, a First Offender)

Midnight Hawk x Bobby's Kitten = Midnight Snack (Warren Tanabe, Annapolis; Diana Oertel, San Francisco)

Misconnect x Mr Speaker = Off on a Tan Gent (Dave Silberstein, College Park)

Mr Speaker x Twenty Percent = Tip (Harvey Smith, McLean; Howard Walderman, Columbia)

Mr Speaker x Russian Humor = Cry Me a Ribber (Nan Reiner, Alexandria)

Noble Moon x Streaming = Lunar E-Clips (Steve Shapiro, Alexandria; Kelly Ronayne, Alexandria)

Our Caravan x Fire Starter = Pack of Camels (Danny Bravman, Chicago)

Russian Humor x No Nay Never = Nothin' but Nyet (Mark Raffman, Reston; Craig Dykstra; Kathy Hardis Fraeman, Olney)

Athens x The Custodian = Greece Is the Ward (Nan Reiner)

Athens x Harpoon = Olympic Spear-It (Kathryn Perry)

Crushed It x Athens = Homer (Nancy Israel, Bethesda; Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Best Plan Yet x Deceived = YouCanKeepYourPlan (Mark Raffman)

Commanding Curve x All Tied Up = Commanding Perv (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

Scotland x Harpoon = Plaid the Impaler (Roy Ashley)

Russian Humor x Uncle Sigh = Vlad the Inhaler (Kathye Hamilton, Annandale)

Scotland x Vegas Strip = Clans Casino (Dave Silberstein)

Skydive x Smack Smack = Splat Splat (Tom Witte)

Vicar's in Trouble x Skydive = Parish Hooters (Jeff Shirley, Richmond)

Vicar's in Trouble x Smack Smack = Heresy's Kisses (Jeff Contompasis; Christopher Lamora, Los Angeles)

Sportscaster x Candy Boy = Gregg Gumball (Mia Wyatt, Ellicott City; Kathye Hamilton)

Exit Stage Left x California Chrome = Parting Glints (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

Noble Moon x Hoppertunity = Keister Bunny (Jeff Shirley)

Big Bazinga x Flat Gone = Age Plus Gravity (Warren Tanabe)

Big Tire x Scotland = The Wheel McCoy (Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.)

Bourbonize x Bobby's Kitten = Louis Cat Toys (Dudley Thompson)

Ride On Curlin x Bourbonize = Ride On Hurlin (Mary Lee Fox Roe, Mount Kisco, N.Y.)

Ring Weekend x Harpoon = Tolkien'BoutShaft (Andrew Hoenig, Rockville)

Culprit x Cairo Prince = Perp'll Reign (Kevin Dopart)

Charge Now x Gift Diamond = Ion the Prize (Kevin Dopart)

Commandment x Superlooper = Thou Shalt Knot Steel (Dudley Thompson)

Financial Mogul x Commandment = Dow Shalt Not (Steve Price, New York)

Got Lucky x Commandment = Tryst and Shalt (Jeff Shirley)

The Custodian x Commandment = Janitorah (Laurie Brink, Cleveland, Mo.)

Commanding Curve x Deceived = Pitch Set Me Up (Chris Doyle)

Pax in Terra x Crushed It = Gloria in Eggshells (Steve Honley)

Mental Iceberg x Cut the Net = Brain Frees (Ben Aronin, Arlington)

Dunkin Bend x Spot = Cruller DeVil (Gina Smith, Germantown)

Exit Stage Left x Our Caravan = Gettin Outta Dodge (Lorri Mechem, Warrenton)

Exit Stage Left x Russian Humor = Snagglepussy Riot (Peter Jenkins, Bethesda)

Scotland x Fascinating Rock = Loch and Lode (Elizabeth Kline, Frederick; Mike Gips)

Financial Mogul x Fire Starter = Cash and Carrie (Bernard Brink, Cleveland, Mo.)

Fascinating Rock x Fire Starter = Not Billy Joel! (Joanne Free, Clifton)

Skydive x Russian Humor = Flatimir Putin (Neal Starkman, Seattle)

Guggenheim x Flat Gone = Blank Lloyd Wright (Danielle Nowlin)

Pax in Terra x Gift Diamond = Peace and Carats (Steve Glomb, Alexandria)

Commanding Curve x Crushed It = &*^$ Mammogram (Steve Langer, Chevy Chase)

Still running — deadline Monday night: Our contest for a poem using only the 1,000 most common words. See bit.ly/invite1069.

BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Week 1070: Colt following — our 'grandfoals' contest

For the ninth straight year, we trot the horses right back onto the track for a "grandfoals" contest: **"Breed" any two of the foal names that got ink this week, and name the offspring to reflect the parents' names,** in the style of the dozens of first-generation combinations that get ink today. Just as for the Week 1066 contest, the names are limited to 18 characters including spaces and punctuation marks. Don't "breed" three horses together, and don't breed two names to come up with third name on the list. And as always, you may submit as many as 25 names.

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives TWO glamorous prizes, and they're both to eat: a pack of Crick-ettes dried cricket snacks, sour cream and onion flavor ("Servings: 1; Calories: 9") AND a lollipop with an embedded cricket, discourtesy of Mike Gips. In neither delicacy has the slightest effort been made to hide its cricketude: They're complete brown bugs.

Other runners-up win their choice of a yearned-for Loser Mug or the ardently desired "Whole Fools" Grossery Bag. Honorable mentions get a lusted-after Loser magnet, either the Po' Wit Laureate or Puns of Steel. First Offenders receive a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). E-mail entries to losers@washpost.com or, if you were born in the 19th century, fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday, May 12; results published June 1 (online May 29). No more than 25 entries per entrant per week. Include "Week 1070" 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/InvRules*. This week's honorable-mentions subhead is by Kevin Dopart. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at *on.fb.me/invdev*, and click "like" on Style Invitational Ink of the Day at *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*.

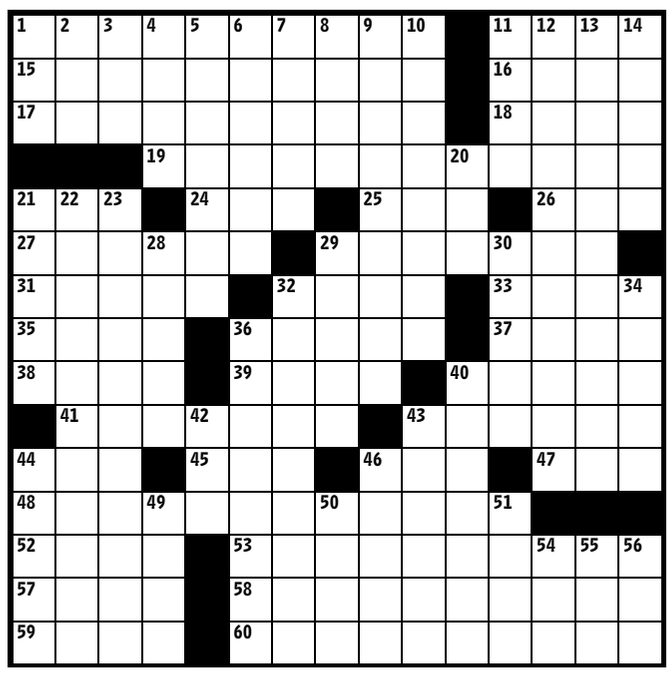
POST PUZZLER

No. 213

BY FRANK LONGO EDITED BY PETER GORDON • FIREBALLCROSSWORDS.COM

ACROSS
1 Alternative to oatmeal, non-dietarily
11 Judgment seat
15 Eponym of a Tanglewood concert hall
16 He sings "Mister Cellophane" in "Chicago"
17 Was similar to
18 Half-pipe component
19 Book describing a "tizzle-topped Tufted Mazurka"
21 They often get marked up: Abbr.
24 ____ Mae (Whoopi's "Ghost" role)
25 Opposite of inadequately
26 Home to the U. of Windsor
27 Expresses
29 Amino acid in hair and skin
31 Got out of stocks or bonds
32 It might make an Arab stop
33 Absolute abstainers
35 Exposure therapy target
36 Like many puns
37 Public bathing beach
38 Its driver might have a handle
39 "Voyage to India" Grammy winner's middle name
40 County between Cornwall and Somerset
41 Historic mansion in Newport, Rhode Island
43 Off the wall
44 Message that may address bullying, briefly
45 Ring outburst
46 Edge of fashion
47 Viroid makeup
48 Common window cleaner
52 Avatar of Vishnu
53 Fandango data
57 Big schlep
58 Cut portion, often
59 Response to "Good work!"
60 "Pieces of My Mind" essayist

DOWN
1 Unproven skill, briefly
2 Podded plant
3 Master, later
4 California home of an annual classical music festival
5 Connecticut home of an annual oyster festival
6 Pool side
7 Sonata's sister
8 Singer's stand-in?
9 Something to take a hit in
10 Lead-in for a bit of bad news
11 Streaking, e.g.
12 Place for pink dolphins
13 Car commercial come-on
14 High note?
20 High-degree?
21 Bungles
22 Like most hoods
23 Old-fashioned pile driver
28 Astonishingly coincidental, maybe
29 Rock with bits
30 Goldbrick
32 Decrepit
34 "War and Peace" orphan
36 Newt's wife
40 Federal Triangle is one of its stops, familiarly
42 Many periods are in it
43 Gordon ____
44 Epic kickoff
46 Battle-ax
49 Like some wines
50 Conjuring aid
51 Loaded, in Lima
54 Esquire's target
55 Orange-to-Redlands dir.
56 Hogpen



Answer to last week, No. 212

A	G	A	T	E	S		C	A	G	E		S	U	B
M	A	N	I	L	A	P	A	P	E	R		A	N	Y
B	L	A	C	K	P	E	P	P	E	R		L	A	G
L	O	C	K		I	T	T	A	K	E	S	T	W	O
E	R	I	E		D	I	A	L		D	O	L	A	N
D	E	N	T	S		T	I	L	T		P	A	R	E
			M	A	V	E	N		H	A	W	K	E	S
	C	O	A	T	I	S		B	A	B	I	E	S	
S	E	N	S	E	S		T	E	N	E	T			
P	R	A	T		A	C	R	E		T	H	R	O	W
L	A	P	E	L		H	A	R	M		C	U	R	E
I	M	P	R	U	D	E	N	C	E		A	P	E	S
T	I	E		N	E	W	C	A	R	S	M	E	L	L
U	S	A		G	R	E	E	N	C	H	E	E	S	E
P	T	L		E	N	D	S		K	E	L	S	E	Y

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | MAY 4: This year you may find someone challenging an idea or way of life. Discussions will be animated, but not too personal. As a result, you will open up. If single, you will have your share of admirers. However, as a relationship evolves, you may find the person in question is too distant. If attached, the two of you have been on a seesaw of who is in control and who gets the final say. Toss the power games aside, and enjoy the positives that you share as a couple.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19)*
You continue your jog down the path of surprises. You keep life exciting. A family member will express his or her caring. Invite others over for a late brunch.

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20)*
A sudden insight may be clouding your vision at the moment. Go off to a ballgame or a movie. You will notice that you can gain yet another perspective.

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20)*
Make a new purchase, but be sure to do some price comparison first. A friend may surprise you by joining you on an adventure. Stop for a meal together and catch up on news.

CANCER *(June 21-July 22)*
You have a situation more under control than you thought. Relish the unexpected comment from someone you look up to.

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22)*
You may opt for a lazy day at home and decide not to answer the phone. Watch movies, read the paper and return a call if you want. You'll be surprised by how much better you'll feel by tomorrow.

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)*
Make a point to follow the crowds and hook up with mutual friends. Whether you are watching or participating in a sport or activity, you'll express a sense of enthusiasm.

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)*
Don't assume that you won't run into anyone, even if you are just going into the office to clear out some excess paperwork. Be careful with your spending.

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)*
You naturally might resist someone's efforts to take control, but it might be easier to just let this person run the show. Go off to visit a friend in a nearby city, or accept an invitation to an offbeat event.

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)*
You easily might decide to venture in a new direction, as you may dislike the thought of continuing as you have been. Check in with a loved one before firming up a decision.

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)*
Friends will be delighted to see you, and they might extend new invitations. Resist being controlling with a difficult associate. It is not the worth the frustration.

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)*
Call a family member to see how he or she is doing. You might want to squeeze a late lunch into your plans. You have more energy than you realize.

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20)*
You might decide to indulge a loved one. Someone might be more vested in getting together with you than you realize.

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Worried about a free-spending friend

Ask Amy
AMY DICKINSON

Dear Amy: Some of my college friends *have graduated and acquired entry-level jobs in our respective fields.*

One friend has always been a "spender," and the rest of us are concerned about her future.

She depleted her savings while studying abroad in college, then took out student loans for an expensive graduate program in a liberal arts discipline. She had a very difficult time finding a job, but now that she is making a modest salary, she is still living paycheck to paycheck without putting any money away.

When we saw her last weekend, we saw all of her new purchases from the past few months, including an iPad and designer clothing. She and her fiance are planning a wedding on her parents' dime, and yet she is convinced that her parents have "more money than they let on" and will eventually pay off her debt and spring for a down payment on a house.

Should one or more of us speak with her about her poor habits? Her fiance is more of a spender than she is, and the rest of us are concerned that 10 years from now, we'll be hearing they are filing for bankruptcy.

Saver friend

Your friend is making choices. You don't approve of these choices (I don't, either), and if these choices have an impact on you, you can weigh in.

Otherwise you'll have to wait for an opening. The next time she brags about a splurge, you can respond by asking, "Don't you ever worry about your financial future?" She will say no (worrying about the future would interrupt her current habits), and you can respond by saying, "Well, I do. I worry about it quite a bit." Financial guru Suze Orman has written the perfect book for your cohort: "The Money Book for the Young, Fabulous & Broke" (2007, Riverhead).

Dear Amy: I am concerned *about my mother's self-esteem.*

She is applying for jobs after a period of unemployment and frequently makes disparaging remarks about herself. I try to boost her self-esteem by telling her about all her positive characteristics — of which she has many — but she cannot believe what I am telling her.

She seems very discouraged and constantly repeats the ways she believes she isn't good enough. How can I help her?

Distressed Daughter

You might not be able to single-handedly boost your mother's self-esteem. Self-esteem goes much deeper than confidence-boosting remarks can repair (although this definitely helps).

You should focus on how this affects your mother's job search. Her choice of words — even her body language — will influence how potential employers see her.

Practice an interview with her. For every unsure or negative statement she makes, help her craft an alternative that is both positive and truthful.

Role-play and have her play the interviewer. When she asks a question, demonstrate ways for her to present herself, and then switch parts so she can practice.

Write to Amy Dickinson at *askamy@tribune.com* or Ask Amy, Chicago Tribune, TT500, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60611.