

## DIVERSIONS

## THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

## Wizards of HAs: Inking 'ha-' limericks

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1396, our 17th annual **Limerixicon** contest in conjunction with the all-limerick dictionary OEDILF.com, we sought limericks that featured "ha-" words.

## 4th place:

On Twitter, it's rinse and repeat. He shares, but is slow to delete. What some bigot has posted, And then he gets roasted. For beating a **hasty** retweet. (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

## 3rd place:

Our football club's flailing regime, In hopes that a change might redeem Its poor image, took aim At that godawful name. So this fall we can all yell "**Hail** team!" (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

## 2nd place and the Poo-Pourri toilet spritzer:

Will they **hack** the election? You bet! We know Putin's not quitting his pet. Four more years of submission Is their hoped-for condition. Say the Russians: We aren't done — nyet! (Mark Raffman, Reston)

## And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

Here's a fact that you simply can't airbrush: Nothing's worse than a **hairy** old **hairbrush** — Till the dread morning when (As is feared by most men) You have got to admit it's a bare brush. (Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

## Hackery dackery dock: Honorable mentions

I got fired from **Hallmark**. Boss Fred Hated all of my cards that he read. I just couldn't do sappy — Instead, they were snappy, Like: "Eat your damn cake. Now drop dead." (Paul VerNooy, Hockessin, Del.)

I love coffee. Each day I drink lots — At least two, maybe three or four pots! But it must be supreme; I will only take cream. Call me one of the **half-and-half**-nots. (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

"A three-weeks-dead whale?" you might ask, "Or a spilled toxic-chemical cask?" The olfactory sin Is produced from within: **Halitosis** while wearing a mask. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

For your health, just ignore what Trump preaches, Like how beneficial your bleach is. Take no medical cue From the guy with weird hue; Ignore the **harangue**-a-tan's speeches. (Duncan Stevens)

A '70s pop duo votes To leave fame behind and raise goats. John's in back, Daryl's lead As they carry the feed — Even now, they are still **hauin'** oats. (Jesse Rifkin, Arlington)

With tempers still running red-hot, Alexander and Aaron are not, Sadly, changing their minds. That's how **Hamilton** finds He will soon give away his last shot. (Chris Doyle)

On Broadway, no cheering or clappin', No chance to hear **Hamilton** rappin'. But I won't make a fuss 'Cause I've got Disney Plus — Now the living room's where it will happen. (Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore)

The **halberd's** a weapon of yore, An ax with a spike at the fore. 'Twas not like a mace, Which, too, had its place — The difference was bash versus gore. (Perry Beider, Silver Spring)

The spelling of words such as "**half**" Is a bane for an editor's staff. But English is tough If you don't know your stough. So sometimes, you've just gotta lalf. (Rob Cohen, Potomac)

In the Louvre they sustained some bad luck; A suicide bomber had struck. Covered in remnants Of Rubens and Rembrandts, The Venus de Milo said, "Flipping heck! What on earth just **happened**?" (Bob Turvey, Bristol, England)



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

## New for Week 1400: Back on track with our classic 'foal' contest

- Breed Poe with Screech and name the foal Raven Maniac
- Gimme Some Mo x Finite = OK, Guess I'm Good
- Information x Thousand Words = tl;dr

Like almost everything else this year, The Style Invitational's most popular contest faced a what-now? moment this past spring: The Kentucky Derby was rescheduled, tentatively, for Sept. 5. The Empress, not renowned for her Annie-like optimism, decided we'd better do something now than have nothing later: Instead of "breeding" the names of this year's Triple Crown nominees, the Losers worked with the names of previous Derby winners.

But now: We have Actual Derby! So what the heck, let's do it again with the current crop: **This week: Below is a list of 100 of the horses nominated for the 2020 Triple Crown races** — including the 18 scheduled to run in this weekend's Kentucky Derby. "**Breed**" any two of the names and name the "**foal**" to humorously reflect the parents' names, as in the examples above.

As in actual thoroughbred racing, a name may not exceed 18 characters including spaces, but may include punctuation and numerals. You may run words together to save space, but the name should be easy to read. **Please note the formatting instructions** on this week's entry form. They're very simple but very necessary, so that the E may sort the entries and be sure to see your fabulous work among the thousands of foal names submitted.

Amen Corner	Finite	Ready to Roll
American Baby	Finnick the Fierce	Relentless
Ancient Land	Fore Left	Dancer
Art Collector	Fort Knox	Say When
As Seen on TV	Full Flat	Scabbard
Astaire	Gimme Some Mo	Screech
Atone	Great Power	Semper Fi
Attachment Rate	Hail to the Chief	Shooters Shoot
Authentic	High Velocity	Shoplifted
Background	Hit the Road	Sole Volante
Beachcombing	Honor A.P.	Something
Believe Now	Idol	Natural
By Your Side	Informative	South Bend
Candy Machine	Invader	Special Day
Caracaro	Kid Mercury	Spice Is Nice
Censored	King Guillermo	Storm the Court
Cezanne	Kowalski	Super John
Charlatan	Laser Show	Superfecto
Close Shave	Life on the Road	Talkin Malice
Convict	Major Fed	Tap It to Win
Cool Runnings	Market Analysis	Telephone Talker
Dances With Stars	Max Player	The Falcon
Digital	Modernist	Thousand Words
Disc Jockey	Money Moves	Tiz the Law
Double Crown	Mr. Kringle	Tons of Gold
Dr Post	Necker Island	Top Draw
Eight Rings	No Salt	Uprighteous
Energized	No Shirt No Shoes	Verb
Enforceable	Ny Traffic	Villainous
Established	Party Town	Weekend in Court
Explosive	Patrol	Well Connected
Fancy Liquor	Pneumatic	Winning
Fantastic Day	Poe	Impression
Farmington Road	Positively	Wrecking Crew
Fast Enough	Awesome	

Submit up to 25 entries at [wapo.st/enter-invite-1400](http://wapo.st/enter-invite-1400) (no capitals in the Web address). **Deadline is Monday, Sept. 14**; results will appear Oct. 4 in print, Oct. 1 online — the same weekend as the similarly postponed Preakness Stakes.

**Winner gets the Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives an official 1983 Kentucky Derby souvenir mint julep glass, donated by Loser Steve Smith. I understand that this is the same glass used to give 1983 winner Sunny's Halo his daily julep, on the rocks.

**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, "No 'Bility" or "Punder-achiever." 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](http://wapo.st/InvRules). The headline "Wizards of HAs" is by Jon Gearhart; David Peckarsky wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](https://on.fb.me/invdev); "like" the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at [bit.ly/inkofday](https://bit.ly/inkofday).

**BRAND-NEW PODCAST!** Check out "You're Invited," all about The Style Invitational! Hear Episode 1, hosted by Loser Mike Gips, at [NRARS.org](https://NRARS.org).

- **THE STYLE CONVERSATIONAL** The Empress's weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. See this week's at [wapo.st/conv1400](http://wapo.st/conv1400).

Read lots more inking ha- limericks in the online Invite at [wapo.st/invite1400](http://wapo.st/invite1400).

Still running — deadline Monday night, Sept. 7: our contest for fake trivia about summer. See [wapo.st/invite1399](http://wapo.st/invite1399).

## L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

## "BUILDING VOCABULARY" By GARY LARSON

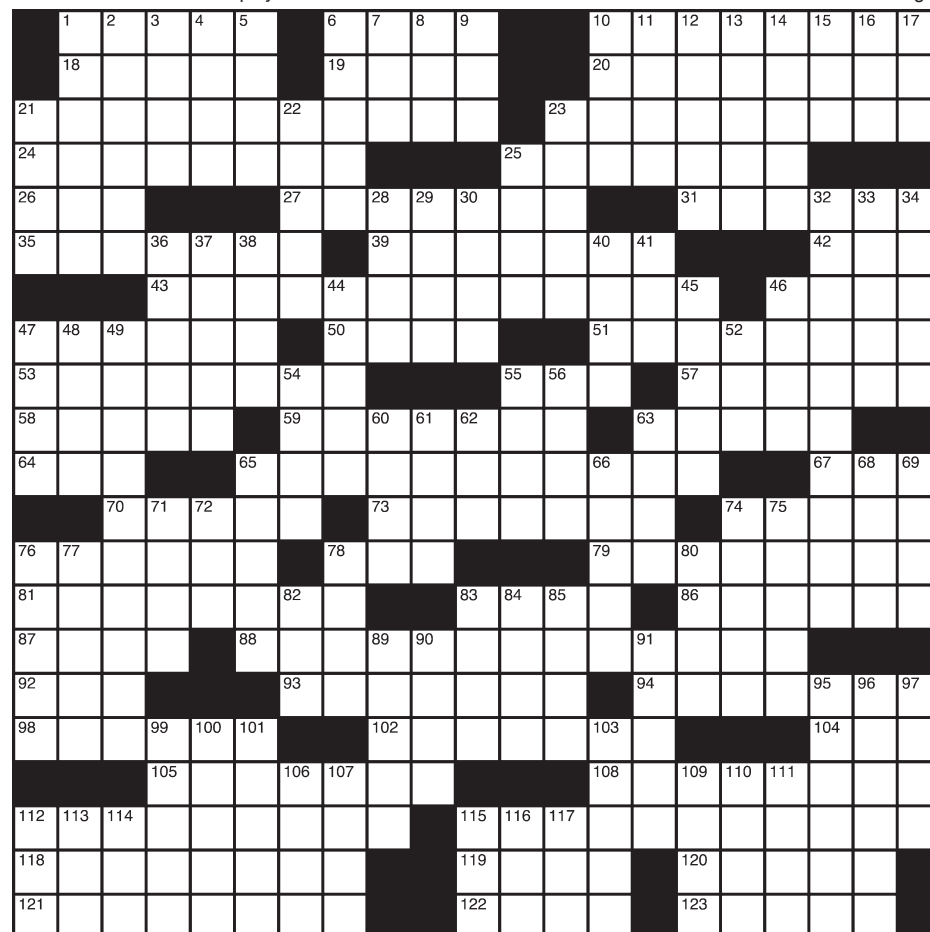
**ACROSS**  
 1 Embarrassment  
 6 Multi-purpose cotton wad  
 10 Knack  
 18 Metric weights  
 19 Baba ghanoush bread  
 20 Fals  
 21 Low-tech iCloud precursor  
 23 Supreme effort  
 24 Like some wells  
 25 Kind of case or law  
 26 Batman and Robin, e.g.  
 27 Loses it  
 31 Savvy  
 35 Dignify  
 39 Because of  
 42 Historic trail terminus: Abbr.  
 43 Boot camp  
 46 Game whose "Discover the Secrets" version includes a baseball bat and a dumbbell  
 47 Half of ASAP  
 50 Voyaging  
 51 Obstructed the progress of  
 53 Literally Latin for "it follows"  
 55 Org. concerned with alleys  
 57 Late bloomers  
 58 Shell for a crew  
 59 Mount once called Tacoma  
 63 Stimulant  
 64 Org. with a lot of baggage?  
 65 Billowy attire named for an early rapper  
 67 Friend of TV's Sheldon  
 70 Entangle ... or disentangle, oddly  
 73 Welcomed at the door  
 74 VP before Gerald  
 76 "Blue" or "Red" cattle dog  
 78 Uncertain sounds  
 79 Bygone data entry method  
 81 Seat sometimes spun  
 83 Crunchy salad bit  
 86 Try to influence  
 87 Novel of the South Seas  
 88 '60s-'70s NBC News White House correspondent

92 Icky stuff  
 93 Dawdles  
 94 Dabs with a towel  
 98 Recorded  
 102 Like original  
 104 Dorm VIPs  
 105 Cause \_\_\_: icon  
 108 Material used to make cans  
 112 Filer's concern  
 115 Manicurist's item  
 118 Air  
 119 Green Gables girl  
 120 Tee off  
 121 Blue  
 122 Big name in little trains  
 123 Eye drops

**DOWN**  
 1 Winter resort feature  
 2 Big name in hotels  
 3 Toward the sheltered side  
 4 Hang-around-the-house footwear  
 5 Morales of "NYPD Blue"  
 6 Willpower  
 7 Prevail  
 8 Scarfed down  
 9 Cave dweller  
 10 Did a takeoff on  
 11 Upgrade, as a dirt driveway  
 12 Levels  
 13 Muhammad's religion  
 14 Drum with a sitar  
 15 Parisian article  
 16 They're allowed  
 17 Rough no.  
 21 Wither away  
 22 Deli bread  
 23 Projecting shelf  
 25 Canine found in cats  
 28 Turn partner  
 29 Popeye's \_\_\_ "Pa"  
 30 Juan's "Look!"  
 32 Place to spin your wheels  
 33 More accurate  
 34 Ranked tournament players  
 36 Two-time N.L. batting champ  
 37 Sweller  
 38 Buildup in a trap  
 40 Triumphant cry  
 41 Indivisible  
 44 QB Jared Goff, e.g.  
 45 Snares  
 46 Ticket  
 47 Second in command: Abbr.  
 48 "Just a few"  
 49 One of two for a positive number  
 52 Venomous snake  
 54 River through Kazakhstan  
 55 Le Pew of toons  
 56 Bit of finishing hardware  
 60 Mosque leader  
 61 Urquhart  
 62 Castle's loch  
 63 Vex  
 65 Eric who founded a reader  
 65 Subs  
 66 F-series camera maker

68 West Coast gas brand  
 69 Doe in many films  
 71 Plus  
 72 Review for accuracy  
 74 Word heard twice in "I'm a Little Teapot"  
 75 Fluns smoothly  
 76 WarnerMedia streaming service recently retired in the U.S.  
 77 Former Irish leader de Valera  
 78 Forearm bone  
 80 Org. with an annual "Week Without Violence"  
 82 Muesli morsel  
 83 Crackers on  
 84 With, on la carte  
 85 Hombre's home  
 89 Death Row Records co-founder

88 Southernmost Great Lake  
 91 Vision-related  
 95 Don or Betty on "Mad Men"  
 96 Top-10 list makers  
 97 WWI battle river  
 99 Afflicted with a breakout  
 100 Tick off  
 101 Tiny  
 103 Fifth cen. pope called "The Great"  
 106 Effortlessness  
 107 Raised  
 109 Cartographer's abbr.  
 110 Chris who plays Kirk in three "Star Trek" films  
 111 Babe Zaharias is a charter member of its HOF  
 112 NFL stat  
 113 Grassy plain  
 114 City council rep.  
 115 \_\_\_ Geo  
 116 "\_\_\_ thoughts?"  
 117 Business mag



9/6/20

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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

## HOROSCOPE

BY MADALYN ASLAN

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Sept. 6:** Innately tasteful, smart and sympathetic, you're often a victim of fate. This year, your plan doesn't work, but something much better does. Your good looks don't hurt, and you project beautifully. Hope returns to your life. If single, you search for the right one and you make a self-fulfilling prophecy come true. If attached, you're golden. Taurus is perfect for you.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19)  
 You get a financial boost today. You are restless and looking for a change. Freedom of thought and action is key. Stay focused as best as you can and plan a list of goals for the upcoming week.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20)  
 Your charm and wit are appreciated today. Make time to listen to others. Relax, enjoy yourself and replenish your body. Remain flexible in your schedule. Foster generosity and listen carefully to a child who has something burning to say.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)  
 You seek peace and harmony today. Lie low and take plenty of naps and time to daydream. Do not feel there is anything you absolutely must do. You can let yourself off the hook. It is a time to rest.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22)  
 Friends play an important role in your day, especially Libra and Pisces. You do well with others, especially in a group. Focus on your wishes and dreams. And make sure that they are still an expression of who you are.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)  
 You are changeable today, so be careful not to overcommit yourself. You pursue a new idea and get very excited about it. Share it online. This revs you up for the new week, and you feel you can accomplish anything.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)  
 You are restless today and yearning for something new, whether it is long-distance travel to a foreign land or taking a seminar on a subject that attracts your interest. Your beliefs are strong and sincere but changeable.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)  
 Even at home today, be aware that your workload could increase and you might feel stressed and overworked. Take time out for an elderly family member. With a stranger you detect deception and recognize insincerity with ease.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)  
 Romance is in the air, and relationship issues figure prominently. You look for balance as you fine tune a love partnership. Harmony and peace are highlighted. It is also a day for feeding your creative juices.

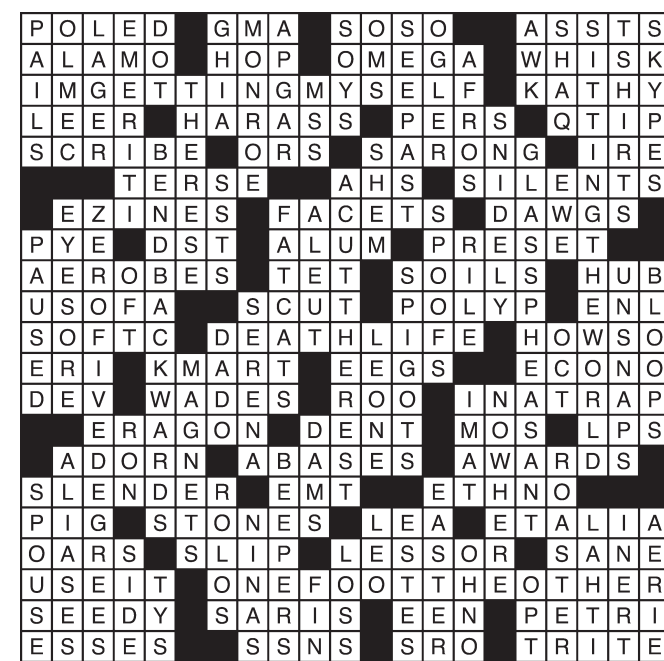
**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)  
 Completing a home project is not as much fun as starting something new, but today demands it. A partner also demands it. So now is the time to wrap up what you have been working on and make room for something else.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan 19)  
 Tomorrow it is back to the grind, so take today to celebrate. Let loose and have fun and recharge your batteries. It is your day to play it your way. And to play with children. Let things be unpredictable, open and innocent.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)  
 You look at your priorities today. Issues about your ideals and what you value arise. Expect emotional reactions related to money and finances. Do something simple with a small group of friends and feel a breath of fresh air.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)  
 Today is great for launching new ideas and brainstorming. Emotions could be volatile. You might be impatient. Follow your curiosity and look for adventure. Get ready for the changes coming in the next week.

## Answers to last week's puzzle.



8/30/20