

The Style Invitational

Week CXV: What Kind of Foal Am I?

Breed **Stratus** to **Windward Passage** and name the foal **Flatus**.

Breed **Dubai Destination** to **Raven Power** and name the foal **Dubaibai Blackbird**.

Breed **Expect** to **Spitfire Man** and name the foal **Expectorator**.

Breed **Fonz's** to **Easy Grades** and name the foal **All AAAAYYYYY's**.



BY BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

This Week's Contest, as it is every year, was suggested by Michael "Mikey the Tout" Hammer, who may have moved from Herndon to Arlington but who remains obsessed by the ponies. Elsewhere on this page is a list of all the horses eligible for Triple Crown races this year. Your job is to mate any two of them and propose a name for their foal, as in the examples above. As per Triple Crown rules, no name may exceed 18 total characters, including spaces. (You may ignore the actual genders of the horses if, like Mike, you happen to know them and have charted their estrus cycles.) First-prize winner gets a set of three decks of "Humor for Dummies" cards by Malcolm Kushner, "America's Favorite Humor Consultant." The Czar cannot adequately communicate the degree of humor embodied in these cards, except to quote from one of them: "Here are some useful words for child-rearing that don't yet exist. (But they should!)"

1. Toyvay: An exclamation that's uttered when you enter a room with playthings strewn all over the floor.
2. Diapersuade: A threat to make someone else change the diapers.
3. Tantrumped . . .

First runner-up wins the tacky but estimable Style Invitational Loser Pen. Other runners-up win the coveted Style Invitational Loser T-shirt. Honorable mentions get the mildly sought-after Style Invitational bumper sticker. Send your entries via fax to 202-334-4312, or by e-mail to losers@washpost.com. U.S. mail entries are no longer accepted due to rabid, spit-flying fanaticism. Deadline is Monday, April 15. All entries must include the week number of the contest and your name, postal address and telephone number. E-mail

entries must include the week number in the subject field. Contests will be judged on the basis of humor and originality. All entries become the property of The Washington Post. Entries may be edited for taste or content. Results will be published in four weeks. No purchase required for entry. Employees of The Washington Post, and their immediate relatives, are not eligible for prizes. Pseudonymous entries will be disqualified. The revised title for next week's contest is by Seth Brown of Williamstown, Mass.

Report from Week CXI,

in which we asked you to answer any of that day's letters to advice columnists in The Post in the voice of some celebrity, living or dead. (We have summarized the letters in the results below.)

◆ Second Runner-Up: *I am overweight. Would you please tell your readers that dumping someone because she's not good-looking is a shallow thing to do?*

I'm not gonna trash someone because he dumps a whiner like you. Your empty love life is not his fault. It's not Mommy's fault, Daddy's fault or Krispy Kreme's fault. There's only one person to blame and you know very well who that is. Bill Clinton. —Michael Kelly. (Jonathan Paul, Garrett Park)

◆ First Runner-Up: *I have a live-in girlfriend, but I've been flirty with a woman at work who really attracts me. Should I stop the flirtation, leave my girlfriend, or leave both of them and start anew?*

I'm not sure I see the problem here. —Brigham Young. (Art Grinath, Takoma Park)

◆ And the winner of the "Jimmy Neutron" rubber wig: *I have custody of the kids, and there's an arrest warrant out on my wife for delinquent child support. She is coming into town because her mother is dying. Would it be wrong of me to notify the police? Tell your ex-wife's dying mother that if she ever wants to see her daughter again, she will have to pay the delinquency.* —Niccolo Machiavelli (Mike Genz, La Plata)

◆ Honorable Mentions

I am a divorced, balding 65-year-old woman who wears a wig. Should I tell my boyfriends about this before we get intimate? Or should I try to figure out some way of holding the wig on during intimacy?

Wear a sack over your head. And have your boyfriend wear a sack, too, just in case yours breaks. —Don Rickles (Chris Doyle, Burke)

What is it with wigs and old ladies? Do they think they are fooling us? Do they think we don't know that powder blue is not a natural hair color? Why don't they just put cotton candy on their heads?

—Jerry Seinfeld (Joseph Romm, Washington)

Do what I do: Before you remove it, make sure they're too drunk to remember.

—Burt Reynolds (Bob Dalton, Arlington)

Mix equal portions of honey, starch and lemon Jell-O powder in a soup can. Stir in some pencil sharpener filings, simmer five minutes, and you have a paste that will hold a wig on a bucking bronco.

—Heloise (Steve Fahey, Kensington)

Apply the wig to your head with nails from an air-powered roofing gun.

—Leopold von Sacher Masoch. (William Bradford, Washington; David Kleinbard, Jersey City)

Is your boyfriend a great deal older than you, and wealthy? If so, I would recommend that you marry him quickly, and then yell, "SURPRISE!"

—Anna Nicole Smith (Jennifer Hart, Arlington)

I have custody of the kids, and there's an arrest warrant out on my ex-wife for delinquent child support. She is coming into town because her mother is dying. Would it be wrong of me to notify the police?

We've got a little surprise for you. It's not her mom that your ex is coming to see. She's coming to see her new lover. Let's go ahead and bring him out now . . . Say hello to your own FATHER! —Jerry Springer (John Kammer, Herndon)

I am overweight. Would you please tell your readers that dumping someone because she's not good-looking is a shallow thing to do?

Hey, if you can fit in the back seat of a '75 Cutlass, you're all right with me, sweetcheeks. —Joey Buttafuoco. (Mark Young, Washington)

If you need to hire the best 10 people for your company, but they all happen to be of the same race, what would you do?

They all HAPPEN to be of the same race? Of COURSE they are all of the same race. —John Rucker (Roy Ashley, Washington)

I think there's a better option. In the real world, there would be far [emphasis mine] more excellent people than I would ever be able to see. So I'd take extra time . . .

—Doris Kearns Goodwin (Elden Carnahan, Laurel)

What do the expressions "weird science" and "forfeit caffeine" have in common?

They'd both be good names for a rock band. —Dave Barry (Allon Vishkin, Rockville)

I have a live-in girlfriend, but I've been flirty with a woman at work who really attracts me. Should I stop the flirtation, leave my girlfriend, or leave both of them and start anew?

Go ahead and check out the chemistry with your co-worker; if things work out, you can always put the squeeze on the pope for an annulment with your current mate. If things don't work out, you can have your co-worker beheaded. —Henry VIII (Arthur M. Litoff, York Springs, Pa.)

Go for the one with the best marbling. —Jeff Dahmer (Milo Sauer, Fairfax)

Introduce the two ladies. You know, see how things develop. Please send me another letter describing the results, in graphic detail.

—Bob Guccione (Art Grinath, Takoma Park)

Have them duke it out with tire irons. Winner gets you. —Tonya Harding (Jennifer Hart, Arlington)

MISS MANNERS

Judith Martin

When Goodwill Won't

Although Miss Manners is not a member of that vast population described by the telemarketing industry as grateful to be rescued from her own reverie by a cozy voice addressing her as an intimate friend and surprising her by anticipating her wishes as a consumer, she has to agree with one point an industry spokesman has made.

In opposition to the possibility of Congress's passing legislation to establish a national registry of people whom they are forbidden to call, a representative of the telemarketers' trade association pointed out that all such restrictions amount to using the law to deal with actions that do not constitute wrongdoing, but are merely annoying.

Miss Manners also believes that the law should not have to regulate mere annoyances, as opposed to actions that do serious damage. The law has more important things to do, and, anyway, it is not very effective in discouraging petty annoyances. It is helpless to prevent your uncle from smoking in your living room and the neighbors' children from cutting across your lawn. You may dream about your uncle's being condemned as a public health hazard and suing the neighbors' children for property damage to your lawn or mental health damage to yourself, but it is not going to happen.

Annoying behavior is supposed to be regulated by the etiquette system, which can't fine or jail violators, but uses the threat and punishment of social disapproval. Your uncle should respect your house rules because he doesn't want to upset you—or someone he is more wary about angering, such as your aunt or your mother. The neighbors' children should keep off the grass because they'll get into trouble with their parents, and their parents should respond to your request because they don't want hostile neighbors—and are seizing the chance to make you make your children turn down their music.

But Miss Manners is forced to admit that the law has had to start regulating petty annoyances over the last few decades in instances where etiquette regulation has failed.

The reason etiquette has failed is that it depends on summoning the goodwill of the annoyer, or someone with moral authority over the annoyer, to refrain from creating annoyance. This is why its first defense is to assume that the annoyance was unintentional ("Uncle, dear, I'm so sorry, we don't have smoke in the house, but you could have a smoke on the porch") and its second defense is to summon creditable help ("Ma! He's your brother, make him stop!").

When no one cares—or is smart enough to real-

ize that a society where no one cares quickly becomes as unbearable for scofflaws as for their victims—the system doesn't work.

So yes, she is afraid that the telemarketing system is never going to be controlled through etiquette. The industry's position is that it doesn't care if it annoys some people as long as it can make a profit getting to others. Etiquette cannot operate where there is no goodwill or moral sense or community concern to reach.

Gadgets to stop the calls are proliferating, and all Miss Manners can do is to assure the timid that although she has a total ban on retaliatory rudeness, politeness does not require them to take such calls or, if caught, to hear them through. She has to concede that a national registry of people who want protection from such calls is needed, but also that it will not solve the problem. If you resent the annoyance of these calls, you are not likely to want to interrupt your life even more to take legal action against violators.

But if it works, she has another request: She wants her name on a national register that would protect her from having to listen to the clever ploys that people have developed to use on telemarketers.

Dear Miss Manners:

My fiance and I are both in our forties and have never been married, and so we have nearly all of the things needed to form a household. In fact, we have more than a single house can hold, since we both own our homes.

The problem is how to tactfully say in the invitations that we prefer the Wishing Well Wedding, since we really don't need or want a bunch of gifts.

Just now, Miss Manners has another unpleasant message she would like to put tactfully. Hers is: If you have more than you need, perhaps twice over, why aren't you thinking of giving things away to people who are in need, rather than wishing for more?

Oh, dear, she is afraid that some things don't lend themselves to being said gently. A prime example would be: "When you come to our wedding, we're planning to collect money from you."

Feeling incorrect? E-mail your etiquette questions to Miss Manners (who is distraught that she cannot reply personally) at MissManners@unitedmedia.com—if you promise to use the black or blue-black ink you'll save by writing those thank-you, condolence and congratulation letters you owe.

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Richard's Poor Almanac will return.

It's Post Time!

The Horses Eligible for This Year's Triple Crown Races

A TABLE FOR THREE; A. P. ASPEN; ABOVE THE STORM; ABSOLUTELY; ADMIRATION; ALERT; ALUMNI HALL; AMERICA'S STORM; APACHE THUNDER; ARMAN; ARTAX TOO; ASHTON HALL; AUTHENTICATE; AXIS; AZILLION; BACK IN BLACK; BAROMETRIC; BATTLE BOB; BAY COMMANDER; BEAUTIFUL INDY; BELLA BELLUCCI; BELTERRA; BEYOND OUR WILDEST; BIG BURNER; BILLY ELLIOT; BIN-YAMIN; BLUE BURNER; BLUE LEAH; BLUEFORMER; BOB'S IMAGE; BOLD TRUTH; BOSTON COMMON; BRAVO CHARLIE; BROAD ELEGANCE; BROBBEL; BULLDOZER; BULLISTIC FLIGHT; BUNK N TED; BURMA RED; BURNT EMBER; BUSTER'S DAYDREAM.

CALIFORNIA COOL; CALVERSTOWN; CAME HOME; CAMP DAVID; CANADIAN PESO; CAPPUCHINO; CAPTAIN CHESSE; CAPTAIN SQUIRE; CARSON CITY SLEW; CASA CHICA; CASHEL CASTLE; CASTLE GANDOLFO; CENTURY CITY; CHANGE THE RECORD; CHANGE IN THE WEATHER; CHARLOTTEER; CHIEF WHITEFEATHER; CHISELLING; CHOP CHOP; CINEMA CAT; CITY EDITOR; CLASSIC CASE; CLASSIC HERO; CLERGY; COINCIDE; COJET; COLONIAL BAY; COLONIAL GIFT; CONSTITUTION; CONTROL TOWER; CORNER THE MARKET; COTTONWOOD COWBOY; COUNT DE SAVIGNARD; CRAP SHOOTER; CREEKVIEW; CRIMSON HERO; CRIPPLE CREEK; CRITTENDEN; CROWN THE KING; CRUISIN' CAJUN; CURMUDGEON; D' COACH; D'BEHR; D'S ROYAL SURPRISE; DADDY'S BRIGHT STAR; DANCES WELL; DAN THE BLUE; GRASSMAN; DAYBREAKER; DEELITFUL GUY; DEER LAKE; DEFINITE EDGE; DELLA FRANCESCA; DEPUTY DASH; DESERT SAND; DEVIL HUNTER; DIAL A HERO; DIATHEKE; DISTINCTION; DOC'S ALLOWANCE; DOMINATED DAY; DOUBLE ZERO SEVEN; DRIFTING SONG; DUBAI DESTINATION; DUBAI SQUIRE; DUBAI TIGER; EALING PARK; EARL OF DANBY; EASY GRADES; EASYFROMTHEGITGO; EL GENERAL; ELEGANT PERFORMER; EQUALITY; ESSAYONS; ESSENCE OF DUBAI; ETHAN MAN; EXPECT; EXPECTED HOUR.

FAST DECISION; FATHER STEVE; FEBRUARY STORM; FISHER POND; FISHER STATION; FLAG DAY; FLYING DASH; FLYING FREE; FLYING SHARP; FOLKESTONE PARK; FONZ'S; FOREIGN AUTHORITY; FORNER HALL; FORTY NINE DEEDS; FRENCH ASSAULT; FULL MANDATE; GAMBLE; GARRISON HILL; GIANT AMERICAN; GLAMDRING; GO EASY; GOLD CITY SLEW; GOLD DOLLAR; GOLD MINE; GOLD SHADEED; GOLDEN SLEW; GOSHIN'S LAD; GOT THE MESSAGE; GOVERNOR HICKEL; GRAVITATE; GREAT DREAMER; GREY BEARD.

HABIBTI; HALO'S TIGER; HANDSOME HUNK; HARBOR STAR; HARLAN'S HOLIDAY; HAWK WING; HAWK'S TOP GUN; HECANDIGIT; HIDDEN DRAGON; HIGH MERIT; HIGH STAR; HIGH THUNDER; HISTORIC SPEECH; HIT THE TRAIL; HOLD THAT GLITTER; HOLDTHEHELM; HOLY STING; HONEY'S CAITLIN; HONOR IN WAR; HOT CONTEST; HOT WAR; I. R. WOOD; IBN AL HAITHAM; IDE RATHER; ILLICIT AFFAIR; IMPERIAL GESTURE; IN HALO'S IMAGE; IN TIME'S EYE; INAUGURAL ADDRESS; INDIAN GROUND; INTREPID SOUL; IRON DEPUTY; JACK'S SILVER; JANADEL; JAZZ BEAT; JEREMIAH JACK; JIMMIE J; JOEY FRANCO; JOHANNESBURG; JOHAR; JUSTASTORM; JUSTIN'S THUNDER.

KAMSACK; KING'S CONSUL; KING'S TALE; L X EXPRESS; LABAMTA BABE; LAFFIT; LAKE OF BAYS; LAST

STAND; LATERAL PASS; LAWN MOVER; LEAD BY EXAMPLE; LEGISLATOR; LIBERTY RUN; LIKE A HERO; LINE RIDER; LISTEN HERE; LORD OF THE THUNDER; LOYAL RICHARD; MAESTRO; MAGIC WEISNER; MAJOR STORM; MAN FROM ARTEMUS; MAN OF DESTINY; MANANAN MCLIR; MAPP HILL; MARASCA; MARSHAL CODY; MASSIAH STREET; MAX'S BUDDY; MAYAKOVSKY; MAYBRY'S BOY; MENACING DENNIS; METATRON; MICHAELS BRANDY; MIGHTY GULCH; MIGHTY SAVIOUR; MISTER G. O.; MONARCH BAY; MONARCH OF THE GLEN; MONTHIR; MOUNTAIN RAGE; MR. MELLON; MR. PAT; MUCHO RAPIDO; MUSIC BY THE SEA; MUSIC'S STORM; MUTINY ON THE BOUNTY; MY MAN RYAN; MYSTIC SALSJE.

NAHEEF; NATIONAL PARK; NETCONG; NOBLEST; NOKOMA; O'MURPHY; OCCIDENTAL TOURIST; OCEAN SOUND; OFFICER; ON PARADE; ON THE LEANS LIST; OPPORTUNIST; OUTSTANDER; PEEKSKILL; PELIRROJO; PEPPERMINT KID; PERFECT DRIFT; PERFECT RIDE; PERSONAL REWARD; PERUVIAN SUMMER; PHOENIX RISEN; PINCH HITTER; PISTON; PLAY AROUND; POLITICAL ATTACK; POPULAR; PRAIRIE GULCH; PRAIRIE PREDATOR; PREMIER PERFORMER; PRIVATE EMBLEM; PROBLEM SOLVER; PROFESSOR HIGGINS; PROUD CITIZEN; PROWLING; PUBLICATION; PUCK; PUERTO BANUS; QUEENS CAROUSEL; QUEST; QUEST STAR; QUIET AMERICAN FORCE; RAHN; RAHYNSKY; RAMPANT ROLL; RANDY'S BULLET; RAPADASH; RARE PRESENCE; RAVEN POWER; RED MASQUE; REGAL SANCTION; REPENT; REQUEST FOR PAROLE; ROAR OF THE TIGER; ROCK THE STONEROYAL GEM; ROYAL MORO; RUN UP THE FLAG; RYLSTONE.

SAARLAND; SAINT APPEAL; SAINT MARDEN; SARATOGA BLUES; SARAVA; SATURDAY HERO; SAVANNAH BAY; SCREEN IDOL; SEA DUB; SEATTLE GLORY; SEEKING THE CAT; SHADOW HAWK; SHAH JEHAN; SHARPS 'N FLATS; SHERM; SHOW ME IT ALL; SIGHTSEEK; SILENT FRED; SINGLE RAINBOW; SIPHONIC; SIX G'S; SLEDGE; SLEEPING WEAPON; SLO GIN JACK; SMOK'N FROLIC; SMOKED EM; SMOOTH JAZZ; SNOOPY BLUES; SOLOMON'S DE-CREE; SPECIAL OFFER; SPEED HUNTER; SPILLIKIN; SPINNING TALES; SPITFIRE MAN; SPRING MEADOW; STAGE CALL; STAGE MUSIC; STEADY ROLLIN; STEPHENTOWN; STERLING GOLD; STIKINE; STORM COMMANDER; STORMED; STORMLINE; STORMY FOREVER; STRATUS; STRIVE; SUNDAY BREAK; SUNKOSI; SUNRAY SPIRIT; SURROGATE.

TABLE LIMIT; TANK'S EXPECTATION; TASMANIAN TIGER; TELL J; TEMPERA; TEMPESTUOUS WIND; TEST OF TIME; THATSALLMON; THE SENATE; THE SEWICKLEY KID; THE STATE; THE WARDEN KENNY B; THE FULL CIRCLE; THE WAY I SEE IT; THUNDER BOOT; THUNDER DAYS; THUNDER FORCE; THUNDERSTORM; TIGER TOWN; TIZAWINNER; TOMAHAWK LAKE; TOUGHKENAMON; TRACE-MARK; TRADITIONAL; TRUE MONARCH; TWENTY ONE CATS; TWENYSEVENTH STREET; TWO COACHES; U S S TINOSA; UNANIMOUS DECISION; UNBRIDLED TRICK; UNCLE VIC; UNFACED; URSA MINOR; VAN ROUGE; VOLKONSKY; WADSWORTH; WAR EMBLEM; WARNERS; WERBLIN; WHEATER; WHERE'S THE RING; WHISKEY BILL; WHISPER HANDSOME; WHITE FLAME; WILD HORSES; WINDWARD PASSAGE; WISEMAN'S FERRY; YOGA; YOU; YOUGHAL BAY; YOU GOT TAWANNA; ZIGEUNER.

Next Week: **Ambrose by Any Other Name**