

Style Invitational

BY PAT MYERS

Report from Week 1012

in which we asked for limericks about topics in the news: A dismaying number of the close to 1,000 entries lacked the “hickory-dickory-dock” rhythm essential to a limerick, but we knew there’d be plenty of gems. Many more winners are included in the online Invite at bit.ly/invite1016.

THE
WINNER
OF THE
INKIN’
MEMORIAL

6-year-old suspended for pointing his finger like a gun

Because hand-“guns” make principals fret,
Here’s a tip you must never forget:
Do not stick your first digit
Up your nose while you fidget
Or they’ll swear you’re a suicide threat.
(Kevin Dopart, Washington)

2 Winner of the yellow-goo-popping squeeze ball:

Hugo Chavez dies
In Caracas, the tension’s at boil
As a dictator’s shuffled his coil,
And the foreign states vie
To install their own guy,
Because it’s a small world, after oil.
(Mark Raffman, Reston)

3 Pope Benedict dressed to the hilt —

Prada shoes, golden threads in his kilt —
But for Francis, no-flair
Vestments simple and spare:
Say! A Catholic without any gilt!
(Danielle Nowlin, Woodbridge)

4 In a Paris cafe I’m alone,
Eating steak, when I call the garçon,

“Got a question here, chief.
Is this meat really beef?”
“Non, monsieur, zat’s zee filly mignon.” (Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

’round the bend.
While he’s not very tall,
Un loves basketball.
He could play horse or be its back end.
(Howard Walderman, Columbia)

Weary was **House Speaker Boehner**

When he noted, “It couldn’t be ploehner
That we’d get much more done,
And might even have fun,
If my colleagues were just a bit soehner.” (John Glenn, Tyler, Tex.)

Lululemon’s too-sheer yoga pants

I was wary and, yes, a bit frightened,
But my interest in yoga’s now heightened:
I just stare, in a trance,
Since my classmates’ new pants
Became sheer, or as I say,
“enlightened.”
(Seth Tucker, Washington)

Rep. Rob Portman supports gay marriage

“Same-sex marriage?” cried Portman. “No way!”
Till he found out his own son was gay.
If he’ll only act on
Bills affecting his spawn,
Let’s sequester his kids for a day.
(Denise Sudell, Cheverly)

Through **the fiscal mess**,
congressmen showed
They deserve every cent they are owed.
They still merit their pay
For the diligent way
They keep kicking the can down the road.
(Brendan Beary, Great Mills)

“News in Brief,” March 13 Post

In Rome, a new symbol of hope;
In Springfield, a serial grope;
In Arundel, that “stag”
With his catheter bag:
Just a pervert, a pope and a dope.
(Nan Reiner, Alexandria)

Limericks: Honorable mentions

Little knives on a plane are now fine
Since the TSA says they’re benign,
But the agents on guard
Are now forced to work hard
To keep people from cutting in line.
(Kevin Dopart)

Since with women, **the GOP’s** found,
Their support’s on the shakiest ground,
They’ll shore up their image

before the next scrimmage,
To make certain it’s all ultra-sound.
(Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

Sen. Rand Paul’s filibuster
If you’d scuttle a measure on cloning,
Marriage rights, or assault-weapon owning,
Make them fall, one and all!
Take a tip from Rand Paul:
The deadliest weapon is droning.
(David Smith, Stockton, Calif.)

Dennis Rodman has made a new friend,
Though the guy may have gone

THE ELIGIBLE BACHELORS (AND A FEW BACHELORETTES)

These 100 horses — almost all of them male — are among the almost 400 nominated for this year’s Triple Crown races:

Abraham	Empire Star	Know More	Orb	Super Ninety Nine
A Certain Saturday	Falling Sky	Leaving Trax	Overanalyze	Syndicated
Amerigo Vespucci	Far Rockaway	Liberal Spin	Oxbow	Taken by the Storm
Always Curious	Fear the Kitten	Lines of Battle	Palace Malice	Texas Bling
Are You Kidding Me	Flashback	Little Distorted	Perfect Set	The Candidate
Back Off Buddy	Fortify	Little Jerry	Persuasive Paul	Third Choice
Beholder	Forty Tales	Looking Cool	Private Access	Tiz Fitting
Bench Press	Giant Finish	Malibu High	Power Broker	Tiz a Minister
Best Play	Glowing Ember	Merit Man	Protocol	Transparent
Black Onyx	Goldcents	Mineworks	Purple Egg	Tree of Life
Carving	Hard to Name	Mr Palmer	Python	Triple Cross
Caviar Dreams	Hardrock Eleven	Mudflats	Qualify	Uncaptured
Clearly Now	Hear the Ghost	Mylute	Really Sharp	Undrafted
Curly Top	He’s Had Enough	My Name Is Michael	Revolutionary	Unlimited Budget
Declassify	Incognito	Noble Tune	Segovia	Verrazano
Departing	Itsmyluckyday	Normandy Invasion	Silent Admirer	Vyjack
Distiller	Ive Struck a Nerve	Now and Then	Song to You	War Academy
Dreaming of Julia	Java’s War	Onlinepoker	Speak Logistics	Way Best
Dry Summer	Just Win Baby	Only in America	Standup Paddle	Weewinnin
Dynamic Sky	Kid Twist	Ore Pass	Storm Fighter	Will Take Charge

Sources: horse-races.net; bloodhorse.com



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

THIS WEEK’S CONTEST

Week 1016: Foaling around

Python x Just Win Baby = Snaked Ambition
Fear the Kitten x Overanalyze = Felis Envy

While those pink-and-red equal-sign icons continue to pepper the pages of Facebook, what a fitting time to pony up our annual horse-“breeding” contest — in which virtually all 100 racehorses on our list are, as usual, male.

This contest, which has been one of the Invitational’s most heavily entered since it debuted in 1995 — some people enter this contest, and only this contest, every year, and the Empress routinely gets thousands of entries — works like this:

On this page is a list of 100 of the horses nominated for this year’s Triple Crown races. “Breed” any two and give the “foal” a name humorously reflecting the names of the parents, as in the examples above. As in the real thoroughbred registry, a name may not exceed 18 characters including spaces. You may use numerals and/or punctuation, but they count as characters. The usual limit of 25 entries per week will be rigidly enforced. Take care to spell the parents’ names correctly, since the Empress will be searching for those names during the judging. And do the E a favor and double-space your list of entries, if you’re sending a bunch. Don’t bother making a three-way combination, or using a name from the list as a foal.

Winner gets the Inkin’ Memorial, the Lincoln-statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives the book “Political Babble: The 1,000 Dumbest Things Ever Said by Politicians.” (Examples: “When many people are out of work, unemployment results.” — Calvin Coolidge; “I would have made a good pope.” — Richard Nixon.) Donated by Loser Amanda Yanovitch.

Other runners-up win their choice of a yearned-for Loser Mug or the ardently desired Grossery Bag. Honorable mentions get a lusted-after Loser magnet. First Offenders receive a smelly, tree-shaped air “freshener” (FirStink for their first ink). E-mail entries to losers@washpost.com or fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday, April 15 (since you won’t have anything else due around then); results published May 5 (online May 2 — just before the Kentucky Derby). Include “Week 1016” 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/inviterules. The subhead for this week’s honorable mentions is by Tom Witte. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev.

Still running — deadline Monday night — our contest for musical fictoids. See bit.ly/invite1015.



STYLE CONVERSATIONAL Have a question for the Empress or want to talk to some real Losers? Join us at washingtonpost.com/stylconversational.