

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

The Pollyannas: Spinning bad news into good

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1114, we asked for headlines that put "an optimistic perspective on some otherwise not-so-promising news" so it could fit in with the positive, inspirational articles featured in the Post's e-mail newsletter the Optimist. We welcomed headlines from the past, present or future and got all three. The online version of the invite, at bit.ly/invite1118, contains links to explain some of the references.

4th place

After Monster Storms Hit Vanuatu, 32 More People Know Where Vanuatu Is (Kathleen DeBold, Burtonsburg)

3rd place

1793: How to Stop Head Lice from Spreading to the Rest of the Body: Marie Antoinette Learns One Quick Trick (Pie Snelson, Silver Spring)

2nd place and the candy-pooping leprechaun:

Adorable Hamster Survives Earthquake That Killed Thousands (Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.)

And the winner of the Inkin' Memorial

Milk Cartons Are Beautified With Youthful Portraits (Mark Raffman, Reston)

The floptimists: Honorable mentions

A New Foreign 'Pen Pal' for 47 Senate Republicans (Jeff Shirley, Richmond)

Rising Income Gap Reduces Number of 1-Percenters to 0.5 Percent (Mark Raffman)

As RadioShack Goes Out of Business, Look for Deep Discounts on All Pong Games (Roy Ashley, Washington)

American Inventiveness: Four in 10 People Find Clever Ways to Live on Scant Resources (George Ann Rosenberg, Washington)

Boko Haram Moves Girls Out of Poverty (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

O'Reilly, Williams Unhurt as Bombs Explode in Ukraine, Syria, Yemen (Robert Schechter)

D.C. Rabbi Proves That 'Liberal-Arts' Types Can Be Tech-Savvy, Too (Mark Raffman)

Record Number of Families Spotted at Disneyland (Kevin Dopart)

Get Ready for Swimsuit Weather with Miracle Sub-Saharan Diet (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

Falling Tree Unites Man With Great-Grandmother He Never Knew (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

Florida Bans 'Climate Change'; Key West Now Safe From Flooding (Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.)

You might be selected to get line-by-line personalized tax advice about your 2013 return (Pam Sweeney, Burlington, Mass.)

Town of Mariupol Hosts Russian Army Reunion (Warren Tanabe, Annapolis)

Over Past Year, Secret Service Made White House More Inviting to Visitors (Kevin Dopart)

Metro Riders Celebrate Less Crowded Trains With New 'Survival of the Fittest' Program (Nan Reiner, Alexandria)

Fat, Homely Northern White Rhino Soon to Cease Being an Eyesore (Jeff Shirley)

NSA Noted as a Leader in Internet-Based Learning (Warren Tanabe)

Women in Government: 'Joe Biden Has Our Backs' (Kevin Dopart)

Climbers Fertilize Mount Everest (Pam Sweeney)

Utah Aiming Not to Use Lethal-Injection Drugs (Kevin Dopart)

Happy Headlines from the Past — and Future

1865: 'Our American Cousin' Knocks 'em Dead at Ford's (James W. Hertsch III, Alexandria, Va.)

1961: Berlin's New Wall Offers Miles of Fresh 'Canvas' to Street Artists (Mike Gips, Bethesda)

1937: Sturdy N.J. Mooring Tower



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Breed 'em and weep: Week 1118, our foal classic

Tradesman x Hold My Purse = Jenner Bender
Mutaa hij x Easy to Say = Easy for You to Say
Mr. Z x Vandalaize = Cut It Out, Zorro

Ready Get Set x Punctuate = Ready, Get Set . . .

Let's sound the Loseaphone, the official Style Invitational bugle — it's Post time. It's the 21st annual running of The Style Invitational's horse name "breeding" contest (not counting its spinoffs), which always draws thousands of entries in competition for a bobblehead, a \$4 mug, a flimsy bag or a paper-thin magnet that hundreds of entrants will fail to win. On the other hand, while the Kentucky Derby charges owners at least \$50,000 to walk a colt or filly into the starting gate, we'll let you in for the price of a double-spaced e-mail. Below is a list of 100 of the more than 400 racehorses nominated for this year's Triple Crown events; your job is to "breed" any two of them and name the "foal" to reflect both names, as in the examples above. No, it doesn't matter that almost all of the horses in the list are male; this isn't Indiana, for cryin' out loud. A name may not exceed 18 characters including spaces, as in the real racehorse world, but one or more of the characters may be punctuation marks or numerals. You may run words together to make the name fit if it's simply hilarious, but the name still should be easy to read. Make sure to spell the original horse name correctly in your entry, or the Empress might not find it as she clicks her search button for the progeny of each horse on the list. As always, you may send as many as 25 entries, and they can all be on the same e-mail; in fact, the E would like that.

Acceptance	Easy to Say	Mr. Z
Action Hero	El Kabeir	Mutaa hij
American Pharaoh	Equilibrium	My Point Exactly
Apollo Eleven	Escalate	Nasa
Armored Car	Fantasy Pain	No Problem
Baloney Mike	Far From Over	Ocho Ocho Ocho
Battle of Marathon	Far Right	Overcontrol
Because I'm Happy	Firing Line	Pain and Misery
Big Ben	Flashy Jewel	Prospect Park
Black Lab	Frat Boy	Puca
Blame Jim	Frosted	Punctuate
Bold Papa	Gangster	Pure Excitement
Bolo	Giant Story	Quality Bird
Bourbon Commander	Great Stuff	Ready Get Set
Calculator	Harmonic	Richard the Great
California Coast	Help From Heaven	Royal Squeeze
Carpe Diem	Hero of Humor	Scamp
Changing Direction	Hold My Purse	Shaken Not Stirred
Classy Class	How You	Skill Not Luck
Cold Spice	In the Pocket	Squeegie
Colonel Fish	International Star	Super Surfer
Comfort	Itsaknockout	Take Charge Brandi
Condo Commando	Just Kidding	Texas Red
Crafted	Kid Zip	The Man
Cross the Line	Killingit	Tough Customer
Danny Boy	Kiss the Road	Ultra Sharp
Daredevil	Leave the Light On	Upstart
Data Driven	Letuspray	Vandalize
Defined	March	Will Did It
Dirt Monster	Mighty Mousse	Willing to Travel
Dortmund	Moon River	Wisecracker
Dubai Sky	Mr. Jordan	Your Thoughts
Eagle	Zip N Bayou	

These 100 horses are among this year's more than 400 Triple Crown nominees on a list published by BloodHorse.com.

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a genuine owl pellet, a blob of stuff that an owl coughed up after snarfing down a baby bird or little mouse. Pull it at with tweezers and you can find bits of bones and feathers and sundry other ex-animal parts. Donated by Mike Creveling.

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 designed by Bob Staake: either "The Wit Hit the Fan" or "Hardly Har-Har." 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, April 13; results published May 3, on Derby Weekend (online April 30). You may submit up to 25 entries per contest. Include "Week 1118" 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. The "Pollyannas" headline is by Tom Witte; the honorable-mentions subhead was submitted separately by Beverley Sharp, Dave Prevar and Jeff Shirley. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev. "Like" the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook 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.

Withstands Blow From Dirigible (Jeff Shirley)

Distant Past: Boat Family Survives 40-Day Flood by Eating Griffins, Unicorns (Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

Distant (?) Future: Robotic Overlords Acquiesce to Our

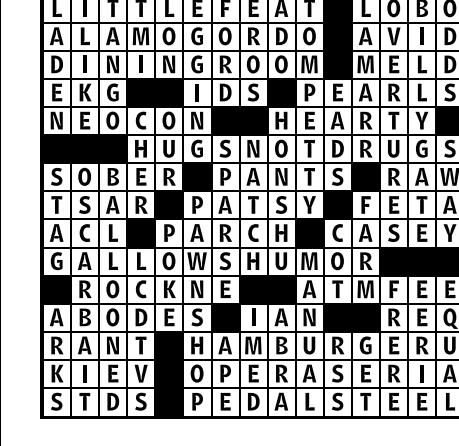
Demands: Friday's Nutro-Goo Injections Now to Be Pizza-Flavored (John Kammer, South Riding)

Still running — deadline Monday night, April 6: our encore song parody contest. See bit.ly/invite1117.

BY BOB KLAHN

ACROSS	1 Gorillas	34 1957 Ray Bradbury	56 Stress test tests	9 Graphic beginning	33 Obtain without effort
	6 Trim	title that serves as a metaphor for packing	57 Digest digests	10 Longbaugh's Place	34 Scale whose pitches can be obtained using a chain of six perfect fifths
	10 Pound impounded at Pisa	all of the joys of summer into a single bottle	58 "Lost Generation" coiner	11 Fly down the road	12 First African-American U.S. poet laureate
	14 Betty in "Nurse Betty"	35 Chimera-like shade	DOWN	13 Classic so-long song	13 Showcase
	15 Edward G.'s "Little Caesar" gangster	36 Grade made in the shade	1 Fighting finish	18 Egg examiner	40 Northern
	16 Grind	37 Determined	2 Dr. Jekyll's first name	24 Doubly good, in a way	41 Rudimentary
	17 Secret	38 Took advantage of the spread	3 Ill-deserved	26 Chief Justice in the Dred Scott case	42 Japanese colony from 1910 until 1945
	19 Bike basket barker	39 "Last of the Red-Hot Mamas"	4 Gambling tips?	27 Dracula's mother-in-law?	43 "Mostly Ghostly" series author
	20 Barnacle, e.g.	40 Hot spot	5 Rockefeller Center muralist	29 Fleeting flash	44 De Niro co-star in three Scorsese films
	21 "The Joy Luck Club"	41 They're out on a limb	6 cracking (form of asphalt pavement distress)	30 Sagacious	45 Spot market pros
	22 There's one on a one	42 Out of bounds	7 Captivate	31 Purpose, the fifth of the seven principles of Kwanzaa	47 Short yardsticks
	23 Putting-off words that are often off-putting	43 Complex part?	8 Sound maker	32 Supported	49 Mahjong suit
	25 "Cold Mountain"	44 Rigid austerity			50 Approve, briefly
	26 Broadway's barbaric barber	45 Twist, essentially			
	28 Cool place to live	46 Whence Sagan's dragons			
	30 1984 Streep-D Niro romance	47 Prepare parsley, perhaps			

Answer to last week, No. 260



SUNDAY CHALLENGE

Today we launch a new Sunday Arts&Style puzzle, the Sunday Challenge from CrosSynergy, our daily crossword supplier. Fans of the former Post Puzzler can check out editor Peter Gordon's brain-teasers at his Web site, www.fireballcrosswords.com.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | APRIL 5: This year you demonstrate the vitality and sharpness that your sign is known for. You tend to be idealistic. Be more understanding of others. You will be more contemplative than you've been in the past. If you are single, you might meet someone who makes you daydream. Take your time dating this person to be sure he or she is right for you. If you are attached, the two of you often disagree. Agree to disagree on various topics to avoid making a big deal out of your differences.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Loved ones surround you. One person will request some extra time with you. Make it your pleasure, but schedule the visit for later in the day.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Remember, Sunday is a day of rest. You easily may find your temper rising, so schedule the perfect day for you, and make sure to spend time with an adored group of friends.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You'll sparkle in the morning, and others will respond accordingly. A loved one might take offense if he or she doesn't get enough time with you.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Make plans to join a loved one for a late brunch and a movie. You might find that a partner or

associate feels left out. You might be surprised by the firework display that results.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Speak your mind, and consider a different outlook. Trust in your ability to bring others over to your way of thinking.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Even if you just decide to run out the door for breakfast, make sure you know where you stand financially. Use this morning and early evening to work on your budget.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Be spontaneous, and go for what you want. A loved one might be equally impulsive. Hopefully your paths are not on a collision course! Date on a child or loved one in the late afternoon.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Sleep in as late as you want, or dedicate your morning to a special activity. Make plans for later in the day. For your sign, relaxation is very important to your well-being.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Use the morning to touch base with various people at a distance whom you don't get to see often. You might hear news that will make you rethink a decision. Take the afternoon just for you, whether you need time to go shopping or do your taxes.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Keep reaching out to someone at