

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Har-brained ideas: Week 1322 ink

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1322** we asked you to think up some inventions that still had a bit of a bug . . .

4th place:

**Michael Jackson Cuddle Pillows.** "He'll be there to comfort you . . ." (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

3rd place:

**The Swiss Army Gardener:** A handy, foldable multi-tool combining a shovel, rake, hoe, hacksaw, pitchfork, pruning shears and posthole digger. (Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)

2nd place and the 'hand-clapping' fly swatter:

**The next James Bond movie chase** scene, conducted by driverless taxis. (Dan Helming, Trenton, N.J.)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

**Braille alphabet soup.** (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

You-reek-a: Honorable mentions

**Individually wrapped potato chips** for all those times when you want to eat just one. (Jeff Shirley, Richmond)

**A security feature on ATMs** that asks loudly, "YOU ENTERED 7732 FOR YOUR PIN. IS THAT CORRECT?" (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

**The Decade at a Glance** Calendar. (Mark Calandra, Wenham, Mass.)

**Corporate voice mail** that works only if the caller is calm and polite. "I won't transfer you to one of our associates until you apologize for shouting." (Martin Bancroft, Bellevue, Wash.)

**A device that provides soothing relief** to aching joints by gently warming the hand with flowing water while you're sleeping. (Jeff Contompasis)

**An "I Haven't Voted Yet" sticker** to help you vote twice. (Jesse Frankovich)

In case of an electrical outage, power your **BreatheEZ oxygen pump** by jogging briskly on the attached treadmill. (Noah Meyerson, Washington)

**Spanx burqas.** Fittingly modest. (Kevin Dopart)

Remove *all* the wax from your ears with the **Q-Tip Drill Bit.** (Todd DeLap, Fairfax)

**A tic-tac-toe book for Mensa members.** (Rick Haynes, Boynton Beach, Fla.)

Dorian Green: **A miraculous tree food** that keeps oak and maple leaves a bright and healthy green color until the moment they fall off the tree. (John Greenlees, Burke)

The end of that frustration of opening toys: **Molded plastic packaging with a built-in razor knife** for easier opening. (John Hutchins, Silver Spring)

Fly Byes: Men's **pants zippers** that **automatically close** after the 17-second Standard Urination Interval. (Neal Starkman, Seattle)

**A bathroom scale** that **automatically shares the results** to Twitter and Facebook. (Duncan Stevens)

**The two-way nanny cam,** for babysitters who need to know what you're up to! (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station)

An **invisible fence for defense against burglars.** Complete with several shock collars for putting on potential home invaders. (Roy Ashley, Washington)

**FunnyAccountants.com:** A dating site where the two of you can find each other. (Warren Tanabe, Annapolis)

**Pop-up sympathy cards.** (Mark Calandra)

**The Tooth Fairy Savings Bond:** Imagine that delighted little gapped smile in the morning! (Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.)

**Pocket Mucus Sucker:** This battery-powered vacuum draws snot from your nose through plastic tubes into a receptacle in your pocket. (Rob Cohen, Potomac)

**A 36-inch-wide, 12-inch-deep rearview mirror** that completely eliminates blind spots behind a car. (John Hutchins)



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1326: Foaling around

**Country House x Mantra = No Place Like Om Cutting Humor x Dull Knife = ZZZZinger Much Better x Improbable = 2020?** Hi yo, silver (to mix equine metaphors): It's the 25th annual Style Invitational foal-naming contest, almost always the most popular of the year. While the Kentucky Derby accepts only 20 entrants to run on the Churchill Downs track, the Empress will probably be judging about 4,000 horse names (and printing about 50).

Below is a list of 100 of the nearly 400 3-year-olds nominated for this year's Triple Crown races, the Derby, Preakness and Belmont; your job is to "breed" any two names and name the "foal" to reflect both names, as in the examples above. (It makes no difference that there are only two fillies on the list — go, Cairo Cutie and Jaywalker! — and that some are geldings.) As in actual thoroughbred racing, a name may not exceed 18 characters including spaces, but one or more of the characters may be punctuation marks or numerals. You may run words together to stay within the length limit, but the name should be easy to read.

**Super-important for the Empress's sanity!** Make sure you (a) spell the original horse names correctly in your entry, and (b) use the "Name A x Name B = Foal Name" format as shown in the examples, so that the thousands of entries will be properly sorted. As always, you may send as many as 25 entries; don't number them, please (sorting issues again). And don't bother to suggest Name A x Name B = Third Name on the List; it won't get ink.

- |                    |                   |                    |
|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Admire             | Gray Magician     | Omaha Beach        |
| And Seek           | Great Sense       | One Bad Boy        |
| Andor              | Haikal            | Outshine           |
| Annualized         | Harvey Wallbanger | Picasso            |
| Another twistafate | He's Smokin Hot   | Plug and Play      |
| Bankit             | Hidden Scroll     | Plus Que Parfait   |
| Blue Steel         | Higgins           | Polar              |
| Bodexpress         | Hitch             | Punchline          |
| Bourbon War        | Hold Your Tickets | Roadster           |
| By My Standards    | Identifier        | Rotation           |
| Cairo Cutie        | Improbable        | Royal Meeting      |
| Castle Casanova    | Incorrigible      | Seclusive          |
| Code of Honor      | Instagrand        | Sergei Prokofiev   |
| Coliseum           | Jaywalk           | Shootin the Breeze |
| Comical Ghost      | Jeans n' Boots    | Signalman          |
| Country House      | Kingly            | Sir Winston        |
| Curlaway           | Last Judgment     | Skywriting         |
| Current            | Long Range Toddy  | Sly                |
| Cutting Humor      | Mantra            | So Alive           |
| Daring Disguise    | Master Fencer     | Spinoff            |
| Don Vito Corleone  | Maximum Security  | Synthesis          |
| Dream Maker        | Mercy Rule        | Tactius            |
| Dull Knife         | Midnight Curfew   | Tax                |
| Easy Shot          | Mind Control      | Time Is Now        |
| Escaped            | More Ice          | Trophy Chaser      |
| Everfast           | Mr Mike           | Van Beethoven      |
| Exchequer          | Mr. Money         | Vekoma             |
| Family Biz         | Much Better       | War of Will        |
| Federal Case       | Mucho Gusto       | Well Defined       |
| Final Jeopardy     | Muralist          | Wicked Indeed      |
| Frolic More        | My Legacy         | Win Win Win        |
| Galilean           | Nitrous           | Zoomer             |
| Game Winner        | No Rules          |                    |
| Go Away            | Olympic Runner    |                    |

Submit entries at [wapo.st/enter-invite-1326](http://wapo.st/enter-invite-1326) (all lowercase).

Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy.

Second place receives a **Double Your Glovin' Two-Pack:** First, a pair of **Handerpants**, which are very thin fingerless gloves in a tighy-whitey motif. But also **DishPlay After Dinner Theater**, which comprises a pair of yellow dishwashing gloves with little faces drawn at the thumb-forefinger nexus, an angry-looking mustachioed one on the left hand and a lipsticked lady on the right. "Their snappy rubber repartee will turn chore time into fun time!" I hope the Fred brand doesn't branch out into proctology gloves. The Handerpants were donated by Dave Prevar, the DishPlay by Loser Patty Hardee.

**Other runners-up** win our "You Gotta Play to Lose" Loser Mug or our "Whole Fools" Grocery Bag. Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, "We've Seen Better" or "IDiot Card." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). **Deadline is Monday night, April 15** (isn't it for everything?); results published on Derby weekend: May 5 in print, May 2 online. See general contest rules and guidelines at [wapo.st/InvRules](http://wapo.st/InvRules). The headline "Har-Brained Ideas" is by Jesse Frankovich; Duncan Stevens wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the Style Invitational Devotees on Facebook at [on.fb.mc/invdev](https://www.facebook.com/on.fb.mc/invdev). "Like" Style Invitational Ink of the Day at [bit.ly/inkofday](http://bit.ly/inkofday); follow @StyleInvite on Twitter.

**THE STYLE CONVERSATIONAL** The Empress's weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. Especially if you plan to enter this week, check it out at [wapo.st/conv1326](http://wapo.st/conv1326).

**The Penny Dispenser :** Put in a dollar and it will return 100 pennies. (Mark Raffman, Reston)

**A salt-and-sugar shaker set.** (Eric Nelkin, Silver Spring)

**Let's set up a platform** on the Internet where everybody can publish any idea at any time for all to see with no editing. That way we

can all be friends! (Ellis Burruss, Brunswick, Md., a First Offender)

More honorable mentions in the online [invite](http://wapo.st/invite1326) at [wapo.st/invite1326](http://wapo.st/invite1326).

**Still running — deadline also Monday, April 15: our contest for jokes for the White House correspondents' dinner. See [wapo.st/invite1325](http://wapo.st/invite1325).**

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

**"JUST DESSERTS"**  
By PAUL COULTER

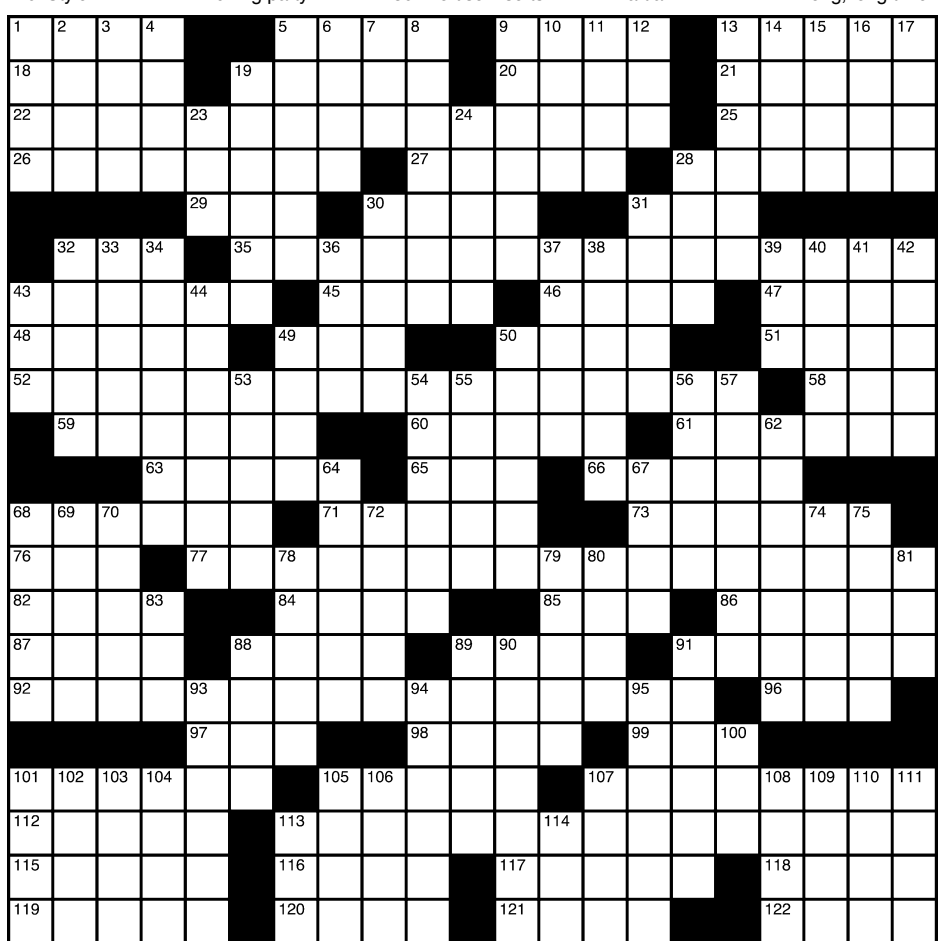
- ACROSS**
- "Beat it!"
  - Rubberneck
  - Preserve, in a way
  - Grammar topic
  - "East of Eden" director Kazan
  - Only part of Egypt in Asia
  - Brio
  - Bedouin, e.g.
  - Sure sign that Spot got into today's dessert?
  - Doubtful story
  - Cause of a stir?
  - Nutritious beans
  - Metaphorical fate of a hatchet?
  - HuffPost owner
  - Prefix with phobia
  - Damage
  - APO mail recipients
  - Krispy Kreme rep's agenda?
  - Medicinal plants
  - Beams
  - Give birth to
  - Boris Godunov, for one
  - Broadcast sign
  - NFL six-pointers
  - Kopf, across the border
  - Agitate
  - Ice cream order toppings?
  - Prof's aides
  - Appear that way
  - Record holder
  - Rose garden pests
  - Run out, as a subscription
  - NYSE debut
  - Request before a shot
  - Remain at home
  - Coil of yarn
  - Passes
  - Campaign trail pro
  - Final roadside stop for an egg treat?
  - Ness, for example
  - Soviet news acronym
  - Double curve
  - One washing off the driveway
  - Langston Hughes poem
  - Light-seeking flier

- Slew
- Beach: South Carolina resort
- "You've made the Heath bar perfectly!"
- One of two in seven: Abbr.
- Blows it
- Bygone Ford
- Tropical lizard
- "The Witch Project"
- Italian almond biscuits
- Boy with a bow
- "Nice apple tart, Christopher?"
- Chip away at
- It's sometimes enough
- They're not idlers
- "Buddenbrooks" author
- One tweaking pitches
- Style

- DOWN**
- Half of quatorze
  - Whodunit game
  - "O patria mia" singer
  - Young boys
  - Paid male escort
  - Like some quotes: Abbr.
  - Pale language
  - Like plastic pink flamingos
  - "Later"
  - "The West Wing" actor
  - Golden Triangle country
  - Sci-fi spin-off before "DS9"
  - Roll out
  - Enjoy a view from on high
  - Both: Pref.
  - Big party

- Henry James biographer Leon
- Hair holders
- Draft pick
- They're heard in jams
- Barn bundle
- Dumbfounded
- Expert
- Classification between family and species
- Absurd
- Dudley's toon foe
- Hindustani language
- English assignment
- Does a reception job
- Env. enclosure
- Query in Matthew
- Food at a bar
- Head lock
- Roll out
- Biblical language
- Chinese menu
- possessive
- Mortise inserts

- "College Football Live" channel
- Grasping tool
- Fat, e.g.
- Corrupt
- Ostentatious
- Bullies
- Focus of an heir war?
- Clutter
- Small Champagne bottle
- Zipper part
- Big name in kitchen foil
- Buckwheat porridge
- "Yum!"
- Fishhook fastener
- Supply
- Flips (through)
- Typist's left hand home keys
- "\_ Day": 1993 rap hit
- All the rage
- Kate of "The Martian"
- Bacon portion
- Contest with picadors
- Iron and zinc
- Carpenter's need
- Dull gray, as winter skies
- "Get Shorty" novelist
- Leonard
- R&B group
- "Rhyme Pays" rapper
- Expert
- Informed about
- Right hand
- Cram, with "up"
- Centers of activity
- First-rate
- Plus-size supermodel
- Alpine transport
- Toon Charlie, memorably
- "This \_\_\_ working"
- Statelyhouse VIP
- Long, long time



4/7/19 xwordeditor@aol.com ©2019 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY | April 7:** This year, you often feel as if you must use restraint in your communications and actions. You might want to create greater stability than in the recent past. Many people around you could be into control games. The only way to win is not to play. If single, you have many choices. If attached, the two of you seem to balance each other. Express your happiness. Taurus provides stability, but sometimes boredom.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19)  
Your expenses seem to be going out of whack. You might not be able to express your feelings as you would like. A higher-up or older person could be testy. Work with their energy rather than openly disagreeing.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20)  
Your personality emerges, allowing greater give-and-take. Someone understands you far better than you realize. Be willing to look at an issue that could involve your spirituality, travel and a special person in your life.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)  
You have a lot on your mind, no matter which way you look at a situation. You might prefer to observe rather than to act or speak. Your caring emanates from a very solid space, though you can become manipulative.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22)  
You naturally gravitate to where your friends are. Be more upbeat and progressive than in the recent past. A friend presents you with an offer that you cannot refuse. Let go of an issue with an associate or partner.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)  
You could be wondering which way you want to go with a personal matter. A discussion with a respected friend or elder could bring up concerns you haven't thought of. Be more open and in touch with your feelings.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)  
Reach out for a loved one who you care a lot about. If you decide to change your concerns or plans, you will need to update this person as well as others. Do not hesitate to get past a bias when dealing with a complicated matter.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)  
One-on-one relating might be highlighted. Listen to news that is forthcoming. A loved one or close associate comes in and shares plans more completely. Understand how vulnerable the other party might be in this situation.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)  
Defer to others and get past an immediate concern. You need to allow others to demonstrate their knowledge and caring. Give a key person the time and space to do just that. You discover how important you are to this person.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)  
Someone might be waffling about making plans. Actually, you have a lot to do and might not be upset at a change of plans. Share these feelings and help lighten up your mood. Be more forthright about how you feel in general.

Answers to last week's puzzle.

