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D2 SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 2004

The Washington Post

The Style Invitational Week 552: What Kind of Foal Am I?

Breed **ALPHA TO OMEGA** with SHUFFLE PASS and name the foal **DELTA BAD HAND**

BORIS JORDAN X MACH SPEED = AEROFLOT

PHILANTHROPIST X **RUSH INTO HEAVEN** = PAY AS YOU GO

It's Mate Madness time again, time for our annual Run for the Neuroses as we ask you to breed any two of the horses on a list of those qualifying for this year's Triple

BY BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POS

Crown races, and tell us a good name for their foal, as in the examples above. There's a difference this year, though: Instead of comprising all 400-plus early nominees, this list consists of a sensible 100 names: Most are taken from lists of experts' "top contenders"; some have been added by The Empress at her whim. This move, she hopes, will help preserve her sanity by limiting the possible combinations and permutations (and thereby the number of entries), and will also deter those maniacs who found the full list on the Web in February and have been thinking up names for weeks. Ironically, this year's list is more likely to include the eventual Kentucky Derby winner, since for the first time it includes all 15 late nominees, from whose ranks the winner often comes. (The list appears at the bottom of this page and on washingtonpost.com.) The actual genders of the horses don't matter. Maximum 18 characters, including spaces.

Listen up: Even with this truncated list, this is still a relatively easy contest to come up with some answers for. But that doesn't mean you ought to send in all 423 combinations that pop into your sorry little head. Go ahead, send as many entries as you like, but if there's nothing brilliant and original at the top of the list, we're not likely to make it to the bottom. And if you don't double-space them, they may be hurled trashward.

First-prize winner receives the Inker, the official Style Invitational Trophy. First runner-up wins a 1,000-piece Elvis jigsaw puzzle, as if you wouldn't have wasted enough time doing this contest. Other runners-up win the coveted Style Invitational Loser T-shirt. Honorable mentions get one of the lusted-after Style Invitational Magnets. One prize per entrant per week. Send your entries via fax to 202-334-4312 or by e-mail to losers@washpost.com. Snail-mail entries are not

accepted. Deadline is Monday, April 12. Put the week number in the subject line of your e-mail, or you risk being ignored as spam. Include your name,

postal address and phone number with your entry. Contests are 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 May 2 (the day after the Derby). 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 Phyllis Reinhard of East Fallowfield, Pa. This week's contest was suggested an eternity ago by railbird "Mikey the Tout" Hammer of Arlington.

Report from Week 548, in which we asked you to tell us some hints that celebrities gave us as children about their destinies:

Fourth runner-up: Georgie Santayana flunked history, and had to repeat it. (Brendan Beary, Great Mills)

♦ Third runner-up: Little Kreskin was amazing—even as a young child he knew he'd grow up to be a charlatan. (Russell Beland, Springfield)

Second runner-up: Ralphie Nader put training wheels on his training wheels. (Milo Sauer, Fairfax)

◆ First runner-up, the winner of the book "Wind Breaks: Coming to Terms With Flatulence":

MISS MANNERS

Judith Martin

The Great Equalizer

hen etiquette is accused of being elitist, the assumption is that it harbors snobs and bullies. Maybe that it trains them. Perfectly nice, easygoing people get anywhere near the subject, it is believed, and they turn into monsters.

This charge has the entertaining side effect of driving Miss Manners to distraction. Etiquette is the originator and increasingly lonely defender of the bizarre notions that it is wrong to flaunt wealth and wrong to push people around, even if you are in a position to get away with it.

What is more, it does this out of sheer goodness. The fact that it might be good for business to treat people politely or that it might be wise not to make enemies are only possible extra benefits. Promoters of etiquette who use the promise of material success as a bribe may not be able to deliver.

Human nature being what it is, there are always those who admire people who seem to have the strength to defy the boundaries of decent behavior. Miss Manners has also noticed that an amazing number of people plead to get into commercial clubs where they know they are likely to be scorned at the door, and that fear is an age-old deterrent for keeping people in line.

Etiquette condemns flaunting wealth and power on the whimsical grounds of it being wrong. Miss Manners therefore is stern with herself about not enjoying the spectacle of wild extravagance and behindthe-scenes rudeness that is being recounted by the maids and aides of those who crossed the line from violating etiquette to violating law. It is not illegal to be crude and rude, and juries should be rendering their verdicts on whether the law was broken, not whether the accused is ostentatious and obnoxious.

Still, it is a satisfaction to see that the public loses its infatuation with individuals and becomes outraged by their violations of mere etiquette's requirements of modesty and noblesse oblige. Miss Manners tries not to think about the possibility that a wee bit of envy might be feeding that disillusionment. Nobody loves a bully or a showoff.

Yet that may account for the outrageously mistaken idea that etiquette corrupts.

Etiquette is about treating people with consideration and dignity, remember? Yet sometimes apparently nice, easygoing people get overexcited when they accumulate money and power, and begin to behave badly. If they are hit by social ambition, they are probably, at the same time, engaged in learning more elaborate etiquette than they had needed previously-rules having to do with handling massive amounts of silver, domestic staffs, yachting and charity balls, for instance.

That they happen to be acquiring the etiquette for their fancy dry goods at the same time that they are losing the basic premise of manners confuses observers into supposing that both are part of the training course.

Not true. The flashing diamonds and watches, and the flashes of invective at employees, are things they learned on their own.

Dear Miss Manners:

We have a group of friends that get together for parties and friendship. But I totally disagree with this one guy's approach to the women. He has to make his rounds and kiss each on the lips. That's right, on the lips.

In my book, it's disgusting and unhealthy. When he kisses my wife I get totally upset. My wife knows that I do not approve of this.

What is your suggestion on this matter? Am I wrong in feeling the way I do about this lip-kissing? I've approached him once and let him know that he was out of line.

Then be thankful he is not kissing you. Or perhaps not, because then you could object.

Miss Manners is sorry to tell you that a husband who tells another gentleman not to kiss his wife makes himself ridiculous. It is up to the wife to offer a handshake (shooting out the hand has the advantage of preventing a close approach) or turning her cheek.

Feeling incorrect? E-mail your etiquette questions to Miss Manners (who is distraught that she cannot reply personally) at MissManners@unitedmedia.com or mail to United Media, 200 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10016.

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DEAR ABBY

Can they provide three hours of exercise every day in an escape-proof area outside its cage? ■ Do the adults want the rabbit, too? A rabbit should be a family pet.

If people have questions about rabbits and their care, please ask them to contact my organization. We are happy to answer questions. Our Web site is www.rabbitnetwork.org and our phone number is 781-431-1211.

Finally, if a rabbit is right for you and your family, please adopt one from a shelter or rescue group. You enrich your family with a new member and also teach your kids the lue of saving a life. The Suzanne Trayhan, president, House Rabbit Network group can be an excellent resource.

Dear Abby:

"Paul" and I have been dating for about 10 months. He is wonderful. He is going through a divorce because throughout his 20-year marriage he was unfaithful to his wife. Paul swears he will never cheat on me because I am exactly what he has been looking for.

Paul's friends are cheaters, too. and frankly, I'm worried he will eventually stray, no matter what he says now. Recently Paul asked me to move in with him. I am 32 and he's 46. Do you think because he's older /ill reall he able to Loving an Ex-Cheater



Baby Jessica Lynch had a normal birth, not an emergency Caesareah, and it took 2.5 hours, not 25 hours. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

And the winner of the Inker: At the family's holiday gatherings, Frau Schwarzenegger kept little Arnold occupied by putting him in charge of the fruitcakes. (Walt Johnston, Woodstock, Md.)

♦ Honorable Mentions: Stevie King would wake up his parents at night to complain that there were no monsters under the bed.

(Chuck Smith, Woodbridge)

Little Ollie Stone suspected that more than one of his classmates—perhaps Mrs. Stone as well-was breaking the lead on his pencils. (Jeff Brechlin, Potomac Falls)

"One day, Nicky, you're going to grow up and find that the world doesn't revolve around you," warned Mrs. Copernicus. (Brendan Beary)

Little Jerry Seinfeld drove his parents nuts with all his questions: "Why do they call it doo? All it does is sit there. And what's the deal with those two dogs?" (Mike Connaghan, Alexandria)

Little Donnie Quixote decorated his room with Red Sox pennants. (Mike Genz, La Plata)

Donny Trump didn't have an imaginary friend: He had an imaginary toady. (Chuck Smith)

Billy Buckley defenestrated dihydrogen-monoxide-engorged spheroid bladders. (Milo Sauer)

Like any child with a Christmas birthday, young Jesus always felt a bit shortchanged. (Russell Beland)

That Davy Letterman always had 10 excuses for everything. (Sanford Horn, Alexandria)

Al Sharpton's mommy told him the same lie that all parents tell their kids: "You can be anything you want someday—even president of the United States! (Ken Advent, Parma, Ohio)

To Al Einstein, it sure seemed that time moved slower when you were with your relatives. (Jeff Brechlin)

No one dreamed that little Michigan would grow up to be a famous dancerof course, he didn't have any legs as a tadpole. (Russell Beland)

After Buddy Selig's lucky ball was stolen on a class trip to the nation's capital, Buddy vowed he'd never bring a baseball to Washington again. (Walt Johnston)

Handwriting was Jenny Lopez's best subject—her S was prettier than anyone else's.

(Frank and Cindy Curry, Kingwood, W.Va.)

Mikey Powell demanded a quarter every time someone uttered his dad's obscene and indecent first name. (Rich Mehrenberg, Manassas)

Georgie Orwell hated it when his older brother was left to watch him. (Brendan Beary; Jeff Brechlin)

Little Anna Nicole Smith dated her kindergarten teacher. (Tom Witte; Marc Leibert, New York)

Jayson's second-grade teacher was delighted with his book report on Kant's "Critique of Pure Reason." (Marc Leibert)

Little Rodney Dangerfield played kick-the-can with the neighborhood boys. He was the can. (Chris Doyle, Forsyth, Mo.)

Little Davey Gest couldn't wait for his first beard. (Chris Doyle; Chuck Smith)

Mrs. King warned Donnie not to put his fork near the electrical outlet . . . (Mark Young, Washington)

Little Mickey Mantle was a fussy eater; at dinner he'd try to trade his liver for something to drink. (Russell Beland)

Little Monica could never remember to put her clothes in the laundry. (Bill Spencer, Exeter, N.H.)

Little Byron White liked to write his name in the snow. (Tom Witte)

Jimmy Watson and Frankie Crick were always getting their Slinkys tangled up. (Mike Connaghan)

Billy Spooner kept asking people to play Don the Tail on the Pinky. (Chris Doyle)

Denny Kucinich liked to see if he could enter a room and no one would notice. (Roger and Pam Dalrymple, Gettysburg, Pa.)

"I'm telling you, Ted, if you keep making that awful face, it's going to freeze that way," warned Mrs. Williams. (Elden Carnahan, Laurel)

Yet again, young Mohandas was sent to the principal's office for not fighting. (Elden Carnahan)

When the boys wanted to play doctor, Pammy Anderson would say, "Okay, you be the plastic surgeons."

(Scott Campisi, Wake Village, Tex.)

♦ And Last: The parents of the Style Invitational Czar had an unusual potty-training method: "Poop! We want more poop! Show us the poop!" (Jessica Lynne Mathews, Arlington)

Next Week: Show Us Your Best Quantities, or Measuring Shticks

months? Is there a place in their house for a

Easter is coming. Many families

still purchase rabbits as pets for

their children. Parents often think

rabbits are good "starter" pets and

getting themselves into. As a result,

too many of these poor creatures

Before getting rabbits, people

seven-to-10-year commitment? That

What will happen if their child gets

is the average lifespan of a rabbit.

end up in animal shelters and

children learn that pets are

Are they willing to make a

don't understand what they are

Dear Abby:

disposable.

should consider:

rabbit cage? ■ Are they willing to pay to get it spayed/neutered and provide vet care? Do they know that most rabbits

hate to be held? Will their child accept that? Are they willing to ensure that

children under 7 won't pick up the rabbit without supervision? Rabbits are fragile; their legs or spine will break if dropped.

Both sides vulnerable

▲ K 10 8 4

🗣 Q 7 6 5 2

SOUTH (D)

♥K94

🗣 A 4 3

♦ K 2

West

Dbl

Opening lead:
5

🔺 A Q 9 6 2

EAST

♠ J 3

♥ J 10 7 6

♦ J 10 8 5

🗣 J 10 9

East

All Pass

NORTH

♥ 53

♦ 76

WEST

A 75

🐥 K 8

♥ A Q 8 2

The biddina:

South

1 🛦

♦ AQ943

The topic of bunnies, baby chicks and ducklings as Easter gifts is one that recurs every year. I hear from people who work in animal shelters deploring the fact that the helpless little creatures are later dumped when they cease to be novelties. I hope readers will take to heart what you have written, particularly the suggestion that if a rabbit is going to be adopted, a shelter or rescue

BRIDGE | Frank Stewart

friend the English professor complains that his students are careless with their grammar.

"One student asked me what difference it made if he said someone behaved 'bad' or 'badly,' " the prof told me. "He said it amounted to the same thing."

"What did you tell him?" I asked. "A pretty coed happened to be walking by," the prof said, "so I asked him whether he thought it made any difference if he looked at her stern or sternly.

The prof was today's North, and both he and East looked at their partners sternly after the deal. South drew trumps with the ace and king and next led a club: jack from East, ace, eight. West won the next club and cashed the ace of hearts and then the ace of diamonds. South claimed the rest, making four.

"Next time I'll bid four," South said with a shrug.

"You wouldn't make three against better defense," East growled. "My partner should dump his king of clubs under your ace. He knows from my play of the jack that I have a sequence, and we surely need a club trick to defeat the contract.'

If East wins the third club and shifts to the jack of hearts, South will play low, but West signals with the deuce. East then leads a diamond, giving the defense five tricks.

"My partner played it badly," the prof remarked sternly. "To stop East from winning a club trick, declarer should draw trumps with the king and ace and lead a low club without cashing the ace. If West plays low (best), declarer takes the queen and plays low from his hand on the next club.'

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The Style Invitational: The Horses

Action This Day	Eurosilver
Alpha to Omega	Farnum Alley
Ascertain	Fire Slam
Ashado	Forty Five
Birdstone	Friends Lake
Blushing Indian	Frisky Spider
Boomzeboom	Gamblin
Borrego	Go Now
Bride's Best Boy	Gran Prospect
Call Me Shane	Grand Score
Capac	Greek Sun
Capitano	Halfbridled
Coded Warning	Hippocrates
Cuvee	Humorously
Decibel	Immense
Eddington	Imperialism
End of an Era	Jose

Kaufy Mate Mustanfar Our Emm Pomeroy Purge Monocular

	Rock Hard Ten Rush Into Heaven Saint Afleet	Strong Cat Sunday Times
ı t	Send It In Shadowland Shaniko Shiloh Bound	Tapit Terrifika The Cliff's Edg Tiger Heart
ebar) IN	Shuffle Pass Silver Minister Sinister G Sir Oscar Skipaslew Smarty Jones Smoocher	Tiger Hunt Tricky Taboo Trieste's Hono Under Caution Undisclosed Value Plus
l Rush ot wre	Song of the Sword St Averil Stolen Time	Victory Light Willy o' the Val Wimbledon

No, I do not. And birds of a feather flock together. Listen to your intuition. Instead of moving in, move on.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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North

3 🔺

Keeping Quiet Kilgowan Last Frontier Limehouse Lion Heart Little Matth Man Lucky Pulpit Mach Speed Madcap Escapade Malin **Master David Minister Eric** Mr. Jester Mr. Mabee Mr. Trieste

New Science Paddington Perfect Moon **Philanthropis Polish Rifle** Preachinatth **Proper Prado** Pure America Pvt. Lynch **Quiet Hero Quintons Gold Read the Foot** Relaxed Gest

errifika The Cliff's Edge iger Heart iger Hunt ricky Taboo írieste's Honor **Inder Caution** Indisclosed alue Plus ictory Light Villy o' the Valley imbledor

