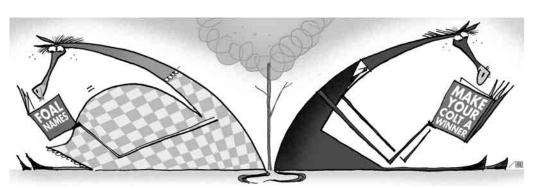
D2 SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 2005

The Washington Post

The Style Invitational Week 604: Fun for the Roses



BY BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Roman Ruler x High Fly = Pontius Pilot Apprentice x Zap = You're Fried! Biloxi Palace x Premium Tap = Indoor Plumbing

This week's contest: It's time to play the field again, as we ask you to "breed" any two of the horses on a list of those qualifying for this year's Triple Crown races, and tell us a good name for their foal, as in the examples above by Mike Hammer and Russell Beland. (The horse names appear at the bottom of this page.) As she did last year, the Empress has pared the list of almost 400 nominees to a workable 100, consisting of experts' "top contenders" (so there's a chance of actually seeing in the Kentucky Derby a horse whose name you used) and supplemented with promising names that we hope are unlikely to prompt entries too similar to previous years'. The actual sexes of the horses don't matter, which is a good

thing, since they're almost all male. Like the names of the actual horses, the name of the foal must be no more than 18 characters, including any spaces. Send as many entries as you like (this week always brings out the obsessed), but the Empress advises you to put your best work at the top of your list; her lorgnette starts to slide down her nose after she's seen 50 mediocre entries and no good ones. Please double-space to avoid imperial wrath.

The winner receives the Inker, the official Style Invitational trophy. First runner-up gets a lovely little handbag consisting of a polished coconut shell, bisected and reattached with a zipper. A perfect accompaniment either to an inaugural ball gown or, Monty Python-style, to video of the Kentucky Derby.

Other runners-up win a 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 by e-mail to *losers@washpost.com* or, if you really have to, by fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday, April 11. Put the week number in the subject line of your e-mail, or it risks 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 1, the Sunday before 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 Tom Witte of Montgomery Village

Report from Week DC (we returned to Roman numerals for the occasion), in which we asked how Washington would be affected by the return of baseball. Dozens of you wittily posited that our town would heretofore be known as "first in war, first in peace, and last in the National League." Dozens more made plays on "Nats" vs. "Gnats," and predicted that left field would be much smaller than right field for the foreseeable future. Yeah, yeah. The funniest entry that didn't fit the contest was from Jeff Brechlin of Eagan, Minn.: Peter Angelos's kids will be forced to take an allowance cut. There were also a couple of inadvertently funny entries from foreign readers, who gamely sent in stuff about "baseball matches" and, along with innings, had players making "outings."

Special extra-contest note! As you'll see below, the winning entries for this contest are amusing but not classic. Surely there's another, better baseball contest still to be done. We have till October to do it, and you have eight days to come up with the idea for it. Send it in a separate e-mail with "Baseball contest idea" in the subject line; the best and most workable idea (good examples help make a persuasive case) wins a genuine bobblehead doll of the late Chuck Thompson, Voice of the Baltimore Orioles — complete with audio — donated by Elden Carnahan of Laurel.

♦ Second runner-up: Not content with merely being weenies about snow, the area also gets a chance to shut down operations when it rains. (Brendan Beary, Great Mills)

♦ First runner-up, winner of the 1920s photo taken outside the Washington American League Base Ball Club: Fans vote their favorite National onto the All-Star team. Unfortunately, he will not be allowed to play, but will merely sit in the dugout as a team delegate. (Mike Cisneros, Centreville)

MISS MANNERS

Judith Martin

Marrying for Money

hich do you suppose is the social form that people are most anxious about wording correctly?

Well, yes, wedding invitations. Perfectly normal people go etiquette-crazy when planning to be married and demand to know the proper way of doing everything, including some startlingly improper acts.

But it is not the correct wording for inviting the guests for which Miss Manners is constantly being asked. On the contrary, the very correctness of that tradition annoys people who claim to want formal invitations. It's "too formal," they protest. And, apparently, using their names does not sufficiently "personalize" it. So instead of writing perfectly nice informal invitations, they mess with the formal sort, lopping off honorifics and inserting extra words and thoughts about their pride, happiness and cordiality.

What they want to get exactly right according to tradition is a line they believe goes somewhere at the end. Here are some examples among thousands — of the most frequently asked wedding question:

"My son and future daughter-in-law have two beautiful children and have lived together for eight years. She wants to put on the invitations that they would both prefer money instead of gifts. How do you word it in the invitation?"

"Where does the information about gift registries go? I have seen it on the back of the invitation and on a separate card (with the couple's mailing address for convenience). Which is the right way?"

"What would be the proper way to tell guests that we would appreciate monetary gifts, certificates, cash, checks, etc., without sounding snobbish? Someone suggested a poem on the subject but neither of us are poets. Would you happen to have anything to that effect in your archives?'

"I know it is tacky to ask for cash or checks in lieu of regular gifts, but what about gift cards? A friend suggested I use these lines: 'For the giftminded, we would like to keep our load light as we (all) will be traveling. Gift certificates or cash is acceptable.' Help!"

"What is the polite way to express that money would be more welcome than physical gifts? We

My husband's good friend is getting married in

May. The other good friends are planning quite the

strippers and strip clubs. I'm not naive, and I know

that a little green gets you much more than some

My husband has been invited. I am having an

incredibly hard time with this. I cannot believe for

a second the girls will not touch him or vice versa.

I can't help but feel I'm being asked to swallow

bachelor party for him, including an array of

don't need anything but do not want to disallow monetary gifts by saying 'No gifts please.'

"Is there a way to bring up contributions to a 529 plan as an option for a wedding gift?"

"My fiance and I are senior citizens who do not wish material gifts but would not mind receiving monetary gifts. We do not want to appear greedy so this is a dilemma for us.'

"How do we put on the invitation that there will be Dollar Dances with the bride? I've been at weddings where guests were caught without the cash to participate."

"My stepdaughter wants to include in the invitation a request that guests contribute money toward their honeymoon. Is there a tactful way to do this without being crude?"

"I did not register for our wedding, because I would like to do a money tree that I have heard about. Could you please help me? I want to be gracious on how I do this.

"How would we ask for a money tree-type thing without sounding like a 'gimme-pig'?'

Miss Manners is sorry to have to tell them all that she does not have a gracious and tactful extortion plea in her files, and that their qualms about sounding tacky, greedy and crude are fully justified. Only gimme-pigs regard their wedding guests as cash cows.

Dear Miss Manners:

I have been unfortunate in that my mother had never taught me how to sit "like a lady." I've been told that it involves crossing one's ankles and placing one's feet flatly on the floor. Whenever I attempt this, my foot ends up on its side, giving me much pain after sitting for a long period. Am I attempting this correctly?

Not exactly. Etiquette may occasionally pull someone's leg in a playful mood, but it never twists an ankle.

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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ASK AMY

Dear Amy:

What is considered good protocol when a woman suffers the loss of a child and then faces Mother's Day?

A friend of mine lost her newborn after a few days of life, and soon Mother's Day will be here with all the celebrations of motherhood.

My friend was a mother, still is a mother. I believe she would appreciate a gesture of understanding from family, but how could I phrase

a card without being callous? And not to be exclusive, would men appreciate

♦ And the winner of the Inker: The cherry blossoms will no longer be the only things in town that burst forth with great vigor in spring, immediately begin to fade, and in a few weeks are pretty much forgotten until next season. (Dudley Thompson, Raleigh)

♦ Honorable Mentions:

When they're on the bench, the Supreme Court Nine take to chewing sunflower seeds, spitting tobacco juice and blowing balloon-size gum bubbles. During oral arguments, lawyers keep getting drilled by the righty, Scalia, who relies solely on breaking balls. (Chris Doyle, Forsyth, Mo.)

To boost ticket sales, school vouchers can now be exchanged for an evening at the ballpark for a family of four. (Rob Poole, Ellicott City)

Hillary Clinton can add the Nationals to the teams of which she is supposedly a lifelong fan. (Bird Waring, New York)

Speakers on the House floor will call timeout to step away from the microphone and adjust their crotches. The resulting FCC fines will force C-SPAN to go to a seven-second delay. (Pam Sweeney, Germantown)

Rasheeda Moore joins Nationals pitching staff in a setup role. (Mark Eckenwiler, Washington)

If during a lengthy filibuster a senator loses his or her voice, a pinch speaker may be employed. (Sanford D. Horn, Alexandria)

STAR

GAFF

Freddy Adu will kick out the first baseball. (Chuck Smith, Woodbridge)

A bunch of overpaid egos will alternate between trying to stop their opponents from making any progress, and sitting around doing nothing while one or two of their number occasionally get up and attempt to make progress. But now, you have to pay to watch them do it. (Seth Brown, North Adams, Mass.)

Dan Snyder will get into a bidding war for Jason Giambi. (Bob Dalton, Arlington)

The 17-year "cicada cycle" will be supplemented with the 117-year "Nats championship cycle." (Ron Jackson, Chevy Chase)

In honor of the late, great manager of the Senators, the new team's concession stands will sell Ted Williams Popsicles. (Russell Beland, Springfield)

Once people get used to a team that sucks for 162 games a season, having one that sucks only 16 times a season won't seem so bad, right? (D. Snyder, Potomac) (Brendan Beary)

The Washington Post, Jan. 1, 2006: Out: Not Going to Caps Games. In: Not Going to Nats Games. (Eric Fulton, Bethesda)

Next Week: Anticdotes, or My Faux-Called Life

THE HORSES

AFLEET ALEX ANDROMEDA'S HERO APPRENTICE AWESOME TWIST BANDINI BIG TOP CAT BILOXI PALACE BLUFF BY SUNDAY CADILLAC CRUISER CALL THE MARINES CANTEEN CAT ROBBER CHEKHOV CHIPS ARE DOWN CLOSING ARGUMENT COMMODITY TRADER COMPULSIVE CONSOLIDATOR COUNT ME IN CUSTOMER DADDY JOE DANCE WITH RAVENS DEAREST MON DEFER DEFY THE ODDS

DEVIL AT SEA LANDSLIDE LOST IN THE FOG MAGNA GRADUATE DIAMOND ISLE DILIGENT PROSPECT MASQUERADER DISTORTED DON'T GET MAD DRUM MAJOR MONARCH LANE MORE THAN SOME-EXIT LEFT WHAT FIRST WORD MR. CONGENIALITY **FUSAICHI ROCK** NEVER AT DUSK NOBLE CAUSEWAY OLYMPIC PLUNKIT GALLOPING GROCER GENERAL JUMBO PREMIUM TAP PROUD ACCOLADE RAVING ROCKET GIACOMO GOING WILD GOLDEN SHINE ROCKPORT HARBOR **ROMAN RULER GREATER GOOD** HARLINGTON RUSH BAY SCIPION SCRAPPY T HIGH FLY HIGH LIMIT HOLE IN THE HEAD SHAMARDAL SILENT BID SILVER TRAIN I LIVE FOR THIS I'M BLUFFING SINGLE MON IN EXCELSIS JOLLY MON KANSAS CITY BOY SNACK SO LONG BIRDIE

SORT IT OUT SOUTHERN AFRICA SPANISH CHESTNUT STORM SURGE STRAIGHT LINE SUN KING SURVIVALIST SWEET CATOMINE TALES NOT TOLD TETRAHEDRON TEXCESS THREE HOUR NAP ULISTNINTOME ULTIMATE UNBRIDLED ENERGY UNCLE WHISKERS WAR PLAN WHAT'S UP DUDE WHOLLY SMACKERS WILD DESERT WILKO WRAPPED YES YES YES ZAP

him cheating under the "acceptable" guise of a bachelor party.

removed clothing.

Dear Amy:

If I were to not "allow" him to go, I know it would cause months of tension between us. I also would have to listen to his friends rib him about how I've got him on a pretty tight leash.

I'm also a little jealous of him. It's occurring to me that he has several unwed friends, so for the upcoming years, my husband will have the opportunity to go out and have sexual fun with beautiful women. I, on the other hand, must bring the potato salad to the bridal showers.

Any hints on how to make this easier?

Double Standard in Denver

Your husband could visit strip clubs while on business trips or during lunch breaks. He could cheat on you without the benefit of a bachelor party. I don't know if he WOULD do these things, but you seem pretty sure of it.

I'm on your side here, really I am, and if controlling and "not allowing" your husband to go to a party would fix things, then I'd say go for it. But forbidding him won't fix your problem.

You need to talk. I know it's a lot simpler to forbid something than to express how you feel, but if you two talk this out calmly, then you might be able to outline some very real compromises. For instance, I'll bet your husband doesn't consider visiting strippers to be cheating, and wouldn't you like to hear his reasoning?

I receive lots of letters about bachelor parties, and I don't know if I'll ever truly understand how men justify celebrating a marriage by visiting strippers, but some do.

In terms of women being stuck with bridal showers and potato salad, if the only alternative is strippers — male or female — I'll take the salad.

Both sides vulnerable

♦ A J 10 8 4 2

EAST

A 8 7 4 3

East

Pass

♥ J 10 2

\$965

🔶 K 5

NORTH

\$ 9 5 2

♥ 8 4

4 10 4

SOUTH (D)

♣ A K Q J 7 2

North

1 ♦

♠KQ

♥ K 6 5

♦Q6

West

Pass

Opening lead: ♥ 7

All Pass

WEST

🜲 J 10 6

973

***** 83

♥ A Q 9 7 3

The bidding:

South

1 🗭

3 NT

the acknowledgment of Father's Day with the loss of a child?

Wanting to Be Supportive

I don't know if there is enough protocol in the world to cover such pain, grief and longing. That's why I think you would do best to concentrate on honoring your friendship by being both sensitive and honest during what would have to be a very painful time.

I think that if you send a card (the kind that doesn't have any preprinted message would be best), along with a heartfelt note to the couple the week before Mother's Day, it would let them know that you are thinking of them and that you will be thinking of them on the day. If you don't really know how to express your feelings, it's fine to say so, but make sure to say that they are wonderful parents (if they have other children) and that you treasure their friendship through times of sadness as well as joy.

I think it would also be good to check in with your friends by phone to see if they would like to get together with you on Mother's Day, perhaps just to go to a movie, out for coffee, or for a walk through the park. They may decline, but it would be good to leave the door open.

And yes, of course, I assume that fathers are sensitive to the emotional content of Father's Day. However, if you are closest with his wife, it might be best to let her pass along your best wishes.

Write to Ask Amy at askamy@tribune.com or Ask Amy, Chicago Tribune, TT500, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60611.

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BRIDGE | Frank Stewart

sense of humor is what makes you laugh at something that would make you furious if it happened to you. Somebody may have thought what happened in today's deal was humorous, but it wasn't West.

South's bid of 3NT suggested long, strong clubs with stoppers in the unbid suits. If South had a hand with balanced distribution and, say, 20 high-card points, he'd have jumped to 2NT or opened 2NT.

East put up the 10 on the first heart, and South took the king and led the queen of diamonds. When West followed with the three, showing an odd number of diamonds and dummy played low, East smoothly played low.

East hoped South would repeat the finesse, and then dummy's diamonds would be as dead as a lame joke. Alas, South didn't need the diamonds. He raced off six club tricks and led a diamond to the ace. When the king fell, South took the rest, and East turned various shades of red.

"Amusing," North said blandly. "Either seven tricks or all 13."

West, meanwhile, displayed no sense of humor whatsoever. If East applies the Rule of 11, South goes down. Since West's opening lead was his fourth-highest heart, East can subtract seven from 11. The remainder of four is the number of higher hearts dummy, East and South hold.

Since East can see the eight, 10, jack and South's king, he knows South has no more hearts higher than the seven; nor is West likely to have held fewer than five hearts. So East should grab the first diamond and lead the jack and another heart.

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