The Style Invitational

THIS WEEK'S CONTEST

Week 763: Another Time Around the Track



BY BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

ome might call it beating a dead horse, but judging from the enormous response to Week 759, as well as to the same contest the previous two years, we think there's more life in the old nag yet. This week: "Breed" any two of the winning "offspring" included in this week's results, and name THEIR **foal.** Though we regret not limiting the number of entries four weeks ago, we won't limit them this week either, because it's a harder game: Not only are there fewer names to work with, but many of the names already contain puns, and your wordplay should be significantly different from the original. As always, the names must

The winner receives the Inker, the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place gets a 1997 Kentucky Derby souvenir T-shirt AND (gee, we are just too generous) three souvenir glasses from the Preakness, all donated by Tom Boyle of Laurel.

contain no more than 18 characters, including spaces.

Other runners-up win their choice of a coveted Style Invitational Loser T-shirt or yearned-for Loser Mug. 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 by fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday, May 12. Put "Week 763" 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 31. 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 results is by Chris Doyle. This week's Honorable Mentions name is by Tom Witte, who is lucky we found it buried in a list he sent of 209 revised-title and honorable-mention ideas, most of them clinically lame. The idea for the Week 761 contest, playing off dictionary headings (entries accepted through Monday night), was by Dave Prevar.

REPORT FROM WEEK 759

in which readers "bred" any two of the 100 horses on a list of Triple Crown eligibles (all of them male, as it happened) and named the foal: There were hundreds of excellent entries this week (including that one you sent in but we didn't run), but believe us, you wouldn't want to read them all at once. Even more Losers than usual went for scatological entries, which

Massive Drama + Visionaire = The Foresight Saga (Jonathan Paul, Garrett Park)

Polonius + 10161 Dan. Hamburger Hamlet (Charlie Cordova, Reston)

fortunately tended to cancel one another out: names sent by four or more people go straight to the manure pile. Combinations like Hot Chili + Fierce Wind brought lots of gas jokes, and let's not discuss Big Brown. Note: If you sent one of the entries below but didn't get credit: Well, playing the

horses is always a gamble. We tried. The winner of the souvenir Kentucky Derby glass (empty): Big Truck + Pillar of Salt = Mover and Shaker (Bryan Crain,

AND THE WINNER **OF THE INKER** Pyro + Mapmaker = **Your Heatin' Chart** (Cy Gardner, Arlington)

SIRE LOSERS: HONORABLE MENTIONS

Aaron's Rod + Blackberry Road = Handheld (Harvey Smith, McLean)

Access Code + Casual Conquest = PIN the Tail

(Mark Eckenwiler, Washington) **Arizona + In Orbit = AZ the World Turns** (Joe and

Amy Neff, Warrington, Pa.) Arizona + Old Ninety Eight = Oh, He's Only 71

(Sanford Horn, Alexandria) Arizona + Sacred Icon = Torah!Torah! (Chris

Doyle, Ponder, Tex.) **Big Brown + Blackberry Road = Thumbs UPS**

(Kevin Dopart, Washington) **Big Truck + Arizona = Good Yuma Man** (Chris Doyle)

Blackberry Road + Hot Chili = Text Mex (Stephen

Bonanza + Behind at the Bar = Ponderosé (Bruce W. Alter, Fairfax Station) Bonanza + Behind at the Bar = Hoss's Ass

(Ned Bent, Oak Hill) Bonanza + Notgivinmyloveaway = Westward Ho

(Pam Sweeney, Germantown) **Booted + Top It = Best in Shoe**

(Mae Scanlan, Washington) Cannonball + Texas Wildcatter = Projectile

Varmint (Dudley Thompson, Cary, N.C.)

Cannonball + Tulips Dandy = Bellyfop (Cy Gardner)

Casual Conquest + Total Bull = I'll Call You (Russell Beland, Springfield)

Casual Conquest + Vent = Tryst and Shout (Roy Ashley, Washington)

Clemens + Total Bull = Samuel Longhorn (Michael Martin, Staunton, Va.; Chris Doyle)

Clemens + Hello From Heaven = Reports of My Death (Michael Peck, Alexandria: Ira Allen, Bethesda)

Clemens + Attempted Humor = Mock Twain (Mark

Clemens + Whistle Stop = MARC Train (Dudley

Clemens + Daddy Rabbit = Who Framed Roger (Larry Yungk, Arlington; Kevin Dopart)

Clemens + In Orbit = Roger, Houston (Mike

Clemens + Pyro = Pants on Fire (Michael Mason,

Clemens + Sacred Icon = Scared Icon (Mike Sikorski, Rockville)

Court Vision + Monogram = Letter of the Law (Russell Beland)

Daddy Rabbit + Revenge Is Sweet = Lucky **Human's Foot** (Andrew Hoenig, Rockville)

El Gato Malo + Pyro = Tyger Tyger

(Laurie Brink, Cleveland, Mo.)

Etched + Storming Off = Cut and Run (Laura Bennett Peterson, Washington)

Etched + Vacation = Acid Trip (Ed Conti, Raleigh) Fast Talking + I've Heard It All = Fast Listening

Fierce Wind + Big Brown = Hits the Fan (Carol

Ostrow. Laurel)

Georgie Bov + He's Sum Charmer = Dim Sum (Kevin

Groomedforvictory + Storming Off = Perm und Drang (Laurie Brink)

Hello From Heaven + Luvandgo = Cherubimbo

(Mae Scanlan) Hello From Heaven + Court Vision = Holy See

(Kevin Dopart)

Hello From Heaven + I've Heard It All =

Yahwehtever (Jonathan Paul) I've Heard It All + Close to the Vest = Bullshirt

(Mae Scanlan)

I've Heard It All + Monogram = BFD (J.D. Berry, Springfield) In My Footsteps + On the Rocks = Dr. Shoals (Rick

Haynes, Potomac) In Orbit + Hello From Heaven = In Obits

(Pam Sweeney; Sam Laudenslager, Burke)

Mapmaker + Behind at the Bar = Atlas Chugged (Cv Gardner)

Monogram + U S Treasury = \$0\$ (Larry Yungk)

Mask and Wig + Luvandgo = The Scarlet Pimp (Barbara Turner, Takoma Park)

Massive Drama + Fierce Wind = Artsy Fartsy (David Komornik, Danville, Va.)

Mr. Harry + Daddy Rabbit = Bugs Stops Here (Mike Jackson, Annandale)

Mr. Harry + Excess Capital = Potter's Weal (Barry Koch, Catlett, Va.)

Notgivinmyloveaway + Stratospheric = Virgin

Airways (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village) Pillar of Salt + Full Charge = Salt and Battery

(Bernard Brink, Cleveland, Mo.; Harvey Smith; Mike

Pyro + Daddy Rabbit = Bun Baby Bun (Mia Wyatt, Ellicott City)

Pyro + Yankee Bravo = Don L'Arson (Mae Scanlan) Revenge Is Sweet + Orbit = What Goes Around

Sacred Icon + Pillar of Salt = TaberNaCle (Pam

(Lori D. Price, Leesburg)

(J. Larry Schott, Gainesville, Fla.)

Sacred Icon + Wise Answer = ReplyHazy TryAgain

Sea of Pleasure + I've Heard It All = YachtaYachtaYachta (Chris Dovle)

Signature Move + Total Bull = John Hancrock

(Stephen Gilberg, Washington)

Texas Wildcatter + Behind at the Bar = There Will Be Bud (Jan Brandstetter, Mechanicsville; Cy Gardner; Russell Beland)

Tiz Now Tiz Then + Aaron's Rod = Don't Tiz Me Bro (Dudley Thompson)

U S Treasury + Visionaire = I See Debt, People

Vacation + Excess Capital = Buy Your Leave (Ross Elliffe, Picton, New Zealand

White Shoes + Big Brown = I Hate That Dog (Chris Rollins, Cumberland, Md.)

You Better Believe + I've Heard It All = Talk to the **Hand** (Mary Jo Sweeney, Crownsville)

You Better Believe + Pyro = Hot Dogma (Tom Witte) And Last: Attempted Humor + I've Heard It All =

Next Week: Whacksy Buildup, or Google He Eyed

4,065 Entries (The Empress, Washington)

Those Pricey Seats: A Hit, or an Error?

SEATS, From C1

The other night, in a game against the Pittsburgh Pirates, the Nationals might as well have draped the infield tarp across most of the 500 cushy seats directly behind home plate. The section was no more than onethird full, with not a soul in sight in dozens of rows

The big hole where the people are supposed to be looks strange enough when glimpsed from lessprivileged vantage points within the stadium, but it looks downright dowdy on television. Because many of those vacant seats appear in the background of every pitch shown on TV, home viewers could easily conclude that no one's in attendance, even when there are thousands of enthusiastic fans in the rest of the park (as there were against the Pi-

rates that night). "We're trying to show the action on the field, but there's no way around showing that piece of the stands," says Todd Webster, a spokesman for the Mid-Atlantic Sports Network (MASN), which carries Nationals and Orioles games.

"There's nothing you can do about it short of hiring George Lucas or Steven Spielberg" to dress up the background with a computer-generated

Officially, at least, the Nationals say there's no problem. Team spokeswoman Chartese Burnett says some of the exclusive seats are spoken for, but people just haven't bothered to claim them. "We've always had a very large no-show number," she says. "That's just been a tradition here. We've also typically had a very late-arriving crowd, just as we did at RFK," the team's home in its

first three seasons in Washington. But that explanation leaves out some key details; Burnett declined, for example, to say how many season tickets have been sold in the section. Nor would she divulge how many of the seats are usually sold on a single-game basis.

There is, in any case, a much simpler explanation for the 41,888-seat park's vast wasteland. "They're expensive tickets," de-

clares Beth Ladd, a fan from Alexandria who was one of the lucky dozens of people sitting in the Presi-



Thanks to the vacant seats, the Presidential section is roomier than planned.

dential seats for the Pirates game Thursday night.

A season ticket to the Presidential section is \$300 per game. A single ticket runs \$325 (and \$335 for "premium" Saturday games). You want the front row? That'll be \$400,

Those numbers put the Nationals, who are cellar-dwellers in their division, at the top of the heap in at least one major league category. The most expensive season tickets to New York Yankees games, for example,

Sox — last season's World Series champs — charge \$325 at their top end. The priciest seat at Oriole Park Varde is \$80 Direct comparisons, though,

are \$250 per game. The Boston Red

aren't entirely fair because a Presidential ticket does entitle its holder to such perks as a Nationals Park parking pass ("based upon availabilitv"), a free buffet and access to the stadium's three high-roller clubs. From one of the clubs, fans can also neer down at the Nationals' indoor batting cage and postgame news

But doesn't the pricing disparity suggest that the Nationals overestimated their appeal among Washington's wealthiest baseball fans?

Burnett says yes, more or less: "I think with everything about the park, we're still in the evaluation phase.... We're taking a look at all things across the board. Who knows? Our pricing structure may be tweaked."

Not that the fans sitting in the luxe section have too many complaints. "These are incredible seats." enthuses Pat McVeigh, 36, sitting about eight rows back from the field for Thursday's game. "I'm not sure people understand how spectacular these views are and how elite these seats are.

McVeigh says his company, Bridge Education of Arlington, bought four Presidential seats as a business investment. For his firm, which provides technology training, the chance to bond with potential clients, partners and vendors for a few leighted hours at the nark is an invaluable marketing opportunity. "As a baseball fan and as a businessman, this is certainly worth \$300 to me." McVeigh says. "No question about

A few rows away, Beth Ladd's husband, John, a lawyer, enjoys the close-up view. As the Ladds' three young sons take in the game, John Ladd calls the seats "fantastic." But he does acknowledge being a bit puzzled by the sparse turnout surrounding his family. "I'm sure the owners have a plan," he says, "but I don't know what the plan is.'

McVeigh suggests that a little promotion wouldn't hurt. "Once word gets out. I think these will be the most sought-after tickets in town,"

"When you sit at the club level or in the suites, you get removed from what the game is all about, what you loved about it as a kid," he says. "When you sit here, you can hear conversations on the field, you can hear the snap of the bat. It brings you back to your first game, you

McVeigh certainly didn't have to worry about anyone obstructing his view. On Thursday, he was sitting a few rows back, about 60 feet from home plate — all by himself.

CAROLYN HAX

Adapted from a recent online discussion:

When is it okay to contact an absentee father who mom says was abusive to her, which is why she had to leave him? Do I wait until I need someone to walk me down the aisle (in the next year or two) or do I just not contact him at all because it could be dangerous? I haven't seen him in 17 years and I'd like some closure, and to meet my half-siblings.

Contact your dad when you're confident in your reasons, and when you're ready to handle whatever comes of it, even if it bears no resemblance to what you had hoped.

You also may need to make peace with your mom; between the lines, you sound skeptical of her abuse claims. Whether it comes after talks with Mom or with a reputable counselor or both, consider contacting Dad as a later stage of putting old issues to rest, not the opening one - and certainly not one staged to coincide with your

wedding. Besides, an absentee father who abused your mother can't be your only choice to walk you down the aisle. Let vour mother do it; she raised vou. Or, another prominent figure in your upbringing. Or, walk yourself. Traditions are an optional guideline, not marching orders against all reason.

Dear Carolyn: Two of my dearest single friends have herpes. Both have

have it. I think they would like each other for other reasons, but I would also like to help them with this issue. Is there any tactful way of setting them up, while telling them about their shared affliction/characteristic?

talked about the difficulty of dating people who do not

Two choices. (1) You set them up, and let them figure the rest out. (2) To each one separately, say, "Would you ever want to be set up with someone else who has herpes?" They can guide you on the rest. To be clear: No names until you have both friends' consent. Granted, it's an odd proposition. You're essentially go-

ing out and telling these two friends, hey! I found someone you can get nekkid with! Hm. Certainly, too, if they wanted herpetic heartthrobs only, the Web stands ready Still, No. 2 does what the Web does — spares them The Conversation — without the Web. Even though you

know their I-have-herpes talk will go better than each of them expects, they'll still dread it. Unfortunately, if you try 2 and you get a "no" from either, then you'll have to let time pass before employing method 1.

Re: Herpes:

Ya gotta know your audience. I really would not be interested in being set up with someone primarily because we both have herpes (sorry, but the "other reasons," while maybe true, just didn't sound like the primary goal here). I consider herpes to be a relatively insignificant piece of information about me that I would prefer not to be put first and foremost.

Then again, I don't go around complaining to friends how hard it is to date with herpes. Sure, a guy or two has disappeared immediately after being told, but sometimes they disappear for other reasons, too, and generally I just get the "appreciate the honesty, let's move on" response.

Appreciate the honesty, let's move on.

Read the whole transcript or join the discussion Read the whole transcript of James live at noon Fridays on www.washingtonpost. com/discussions.

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