

The Style Invitational

THIS WEEK'S CONTEST

Week 810: What Kind of Foal Am I?



BY CAROLYN GUY

Giant Oak x Gluteus Maximus = Heck of a Trunk

Another spring, once more around the track: At the far right of this page is a list of 100 of the more than 400 horses eligible for this year's Triple Crown races; as in past years, your job is to "breed" any two — even though almost all are male, and a few are geldings — and provide an appropriate name for their foal, as in the example above. As in real life, the names cannot be longer than 18 characters, including spaces. If you're writing more than a handful of entries — and limit yourselves to 25 in any case — be sure to double-space the list; we always get many thousands of entries for this contest, and the Empress, while arguably semi-divine, has but two eyeballs.

Winner gets the Inker, the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives this extraordinary teacup courtesy of Carolyn Guy of Mechanicsville, Md., who is not a Loser but is a "faithful fan of the Invitational since Week 1." But there's a catch: Because we are not about to put this delicate little gawgaw in the mail, you must accept the prize in person from the Empress at the 14th annual Flushies, the Losers' own annual awards luncheon, Saturday, May 2, in College Park. See the Losers' Web site, www.gopherdool.com, for details. If you place second and don't come, we'll send you a Loser T-shirt instead, and give the teacup to the highest-placing Loser who does show.

You have to be there.



Other runners-up win a coveted Style Invitational Loser T-shirt. Honorable Mentions get one of the lusted-after Style Invitational Magnets. First Offenders get a smelly tree-shaped air "fresher" (Fir Stink for their First Ink). 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, April 6. Put "Week 810" 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 April 25. No purchase required for entry. Employees of The Washington Post, and their immediate relatives, are not eligible for prizes. Pseudonymous entries will be disqualified. This week's Honorable Mentions name is by Roy Ashley; the revised title for next week's results was submitted independently by Jeffrey Contompasis and Mike Ostapiej.

REPORT FROM WEEK 806

In which we asked for "disqualifying statements" made by a would-be romantic interest: We got many entries along the line of "After my fourth wife's death was ruled an accident..." and "Cat Number 27 is named..." Several Losers cited actual dates: Francesca Kelly's suitor offered to show her the human ear he kept in a jar. Elizabeth Molye's would-be beau bragged, "I make beautiful babies with white women." Maureen Driscoll swears her date confided, "I never thought I'd go out with someone as old as you." And Ann DeMart's driving companion noted, "That's the scar from when I tried to cut my arm off."

We interrupt these results to show you the latest Style Invitational Magnets, to be awarded to future Honorable Mentions. Lee Dobbins of Arlington and Ed Gordon of Georgetown, Tex., who came up with the left and right slogans, respectively, each win the ever-more-famous Bob Staake's original sketch for the design, along with the actual magnet in the usual business-card size.

DIDN'T GET PAST FIRST BASE: HONORABLE MENTIONS

"This is the nicest restaurant in town that's more than 500 yards from any school, playground or bike path." (Kevin D'Eustachio, Beltsville)

"April 20? No, I'm sorry, I can't — I always celebrate Der Führer's birthday alone." (Michael Turniansky, Pikesville, Md.)

"Please don't hold your fork that way. Watch. Do it like this. Better." (Dave Zarrow, Reston)

"I like to talk in rhyme. I do it all the time. I find it quite sublime." (Rob Cohen, Potomac)

"You know, the real way to collect butterflies is to pin them to the board while they're still alive." (David Kleinbard, Jersey City)

"I was going to take you to a fancier restaurant than this, but I thought you might feel out of place." (Dot Yufer, Newton, W.Va.)

"Then the guy tells me my butt tattoo looks infected, so I say, 'Which do you mean, the tattoo on my butt or the one OF a butt?'" (Russell Beland, Fairfax)

"Sorry I'm late, but I couldn't find my Tuesday underwear." (Mike Ostapiej, Tracy, Calif.)

"I'm sorry I'm staring. I'm just used to seeing you through the blinds." (Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.)

"While we wait, let's get the packets from the other tables so we can sprinkle them and make sugar angels!" (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

"Spending time with my kids is so much easier now that they're all in the same prison." (Sally Fasman, Washington)

"A lot of people are, you know, prejudiced against dogfighting..." (Michael Reinemer, Annandale)

"Chris Hansen looks a lot taller in person." (Gordon Barnes, Alexandria, a First Offender)

"My therapist says I'm ready for a transitional relationship." (Matt Wagner, Hagerstown, Md., a First Offender)

"I was really hoping Bush would run for a third term." (Mike Ostapiej)

"Like so many other people, I got caught up in the self-asphyxiation craze for a while." (John Shea, Lansdowne, Pa.)

"With the opposite sex, I usually bat around .200, but with you I have the distinct feeling that it'll be closer to .400 or at least .344, which is Ted Williams's lifetime batting average." (John Shea)

"Is this the part of the date where you trot out some spiel about your quote-unquote values?" (Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.)

"Two factors!! Sorry, I always shout that whenever I hear a prime number." (William Kane, Arlington)

"Hey, don't you work out at 6:30 on Monday-Wednesday-Friday, and 9-11 a.m. Saturday, and then drive home in

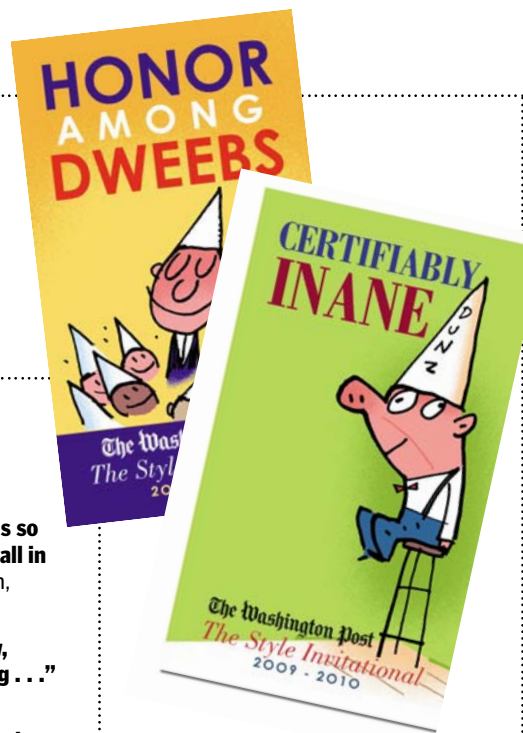
4 "I always flush six times because I want to be sure everything has gone down and flushing seven times would just be stupid." (Andrea Kelly, Brookeville)

3 "... President unquote Obama..." (Art Grinath, Takoma Park)

2 the winner of the remote-control-motif necktie: "I like tapas because I can put each little dish on a separate credit card." (Cy Gardner, Arlington)

AND THE WINNER OF THE INKER

"I'm so excited — I've never been on a second date before." (Peter Metrisko, Chantilly)



your red Honda Civic, usually stopping for coffee at either Starbucks or Tiger Mart depending on whether you need to refill your tank using your Speedpass?" (JB Richardson, Falls Church, a First Offender)

"Okay, now, I'll sneak into the movie and then let you in one of the exit doors." (Chuck Smith, Woodbridge)

"I hear that flat-chested girls try harder in the sack." (Chuck Smith)

"Hey, babe, I'm playing Obama tonight, and do I have a stimulus package for you!" (Tom Lacombe, Browntown, Va.)

"What did Jeff Brechlin mean by that? Well, what Jeff Brechlin wanted you to know is that Jeff Brechlin is happy to meet you, and that..." (Jeff Brechlin, Eagan, Minn.)

"I wish my sister's breasts were as large as yours." (Stephen Dudzik, Olney)

"My last girlfriend was the Empress, though we never actually went out..." (Drew Bennett, West Plains, Mo.)

Next Week: Pretty Graphic Expressions, or Dim Suns

HORSES FOR WEEK 810

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Abound | Omniscient |
| Action in May | Parade Clown |
| Advice | Party Hard |
| Affirmatif | Pauper's Prize |
| All the Bases | Pedestal |
| Andiron | Pitched |
| Antitrust | Perfectly |
| Baryshnikov | Platinum Van |
| Beethoven | Poltergeist |
| Big Drama | Precious |
| Boydhood Dream | Package |
| Bridging | Presto Change |
| Bunker Hill | Quarter Given |
| Buzzin and Dreamin | Red Spider |
| Century Gold | Red Wine |
| Charitable Man | Remember |
| Checklist | Mike |
| Chocolate Candy | Retap |
| Clicker | Retap |
| Coffee Bar | Right One |
| Cribnote | Danger to Society |
| Danger to Society | Desert Party |
| Desert Party | Dream Now |
| Dream Now | Driving Snow |
| Driving Snow | Dunkirk |
| Dunkirk | El Rapido |
| El Rapido | Empire State |
| Empire State | Everyday Heroes |
| Everyday Heroes | Fast Draw |
| Fast Draw | Flat Out |
| Flat Out | Giant Oak |
| Giant Oak | Gluteus Maximus |
| Gluteus Maximus | Gone Astray |
| Gone Astray | Hello Broadway |
| Hello Broadway | Hold Me Back |
| Hold Me Back | I Want Revenge |
| I Want Revenge | Ice Road |
| Ice Road | Il Postino |
| Il Postino | In the Juice |
| In the Juice | Jack Spratt |
| Jack Spratt | Just Ben |
| Just Ben | Life Goes On |
| Life Goes On | Logic |
| Logic | Lookn Mighty Fast |
| Lookn Mighty Fast | Lyn' Heart |
| Lyn' Heart | Map of the World |
| Map of the World | Marquee Event |
| Marquee Event | More Than Wiling |
| More Than Wiling | Mr. Fantasy |
| Mr. Fantasy | National Monument |
| National Monument | New York Baby |
| New York Baby | Nowhere to Hide |
| Nowhere to Hide | Oil Man |
| Oil Man | Old Fashioned |
| Old Fashioned | |



BY RANDEE ST. NICHOLAS

A hard-charging guitar workout is the point of Prince's "LOTUSFLOW3R," in which the spirit of Jimi Hendrix is much in evidence.

Prince 3-CD Set May B 2 Too Many

RECORDINGS, From Page C1

ways, they're also filled with titles that look like typos — further evidence that the unspoken life's mission of His Royal Badness is to drive copy editors crazy.) The generally strong quality comes as something of a relief, given some of his earlier, execrable efforts, from "The Rainbow Children" to "Come."

The sprawling three-album set will be available exclusively at Target stores and on the company's no-Easter-eggs-required Web site beginning tomorrow for \$11.98. Including the tracks from "Elixer" — a limp, fairly generic set of airy, cooing soul by Bria Valente, who is Prince's new Tamar (who was supposed to be his new Apollonia) — that works out to roughly 4 cents per song.

Call it the Prince stimulus package! And don't bother with the double-entendre: The formerly freak-nasty singer scraped his dirty mind — and music — out of the gutter when he became a Jehovah's Witness. One reminder comes on "Love Like Jazz," a snoozy "LOTUSFLOW3R" song on which Prince, now 50, sounds downright tame as

he sings about the female form over some Esquival-style lounge music.

Prince could have easily cut this and several other duds (helter-skelter surf-pop song "No More Candy 4 U," the cranky hip-hop rant "Ol' Skool Company") to make a single, superlative disc out of the project. But he'd apparently rather leave the editing to others. That, and he opted to keep his musical personalities separate.

"LOTUSFLOW3R" is a moody, meandering, esoteric psychedelic-rock album on which the little purple polygot gets in touch with his inner "Purple Haze" and pays homage to Jimi Hendrix via liberal use of Hendrix's sonic signatures, from the wah-wah that opens "Dreamer" to the driving fuzztone chords of the explosive workout "Wall of Berlin."

It's one guitar virtuoso feting another, with Prince turning in dazzling instrumental performances on track (the simmering statement song "Colonized Mind") after track (the tender but blistering

"Boom"). Occasionally, though, the instrumental prowess simply sounds self-indulgent, as on the New Age almost-instrumental "Back 2 the Lotus," whose shifty, spacey jazz chords suggest Prince trying out for Phish.

Prince turns his funkier side loose on "MPLSoUND" (short for Minneapolis Sound), which is full of frisky club songs that tend to blend the musician's vintage synth-and-drums sound with some modern twists, most notably the Auto-Tune vocal effect. Whereas Auto-Tune can be a dangerous weapon in the hands of some artists, Prince uses it sparingly to add to the giddy feel of club jams such as the boastful "(There'll Never B) Another Like Me" and the high-octane standout "Chocolate Box." It's thrilling stuff that serves as a reminder of why we loved Prince in the first place.

Prince uses it sparingly to add to the giddy feel of club jams such as the boastful "(There'll Never B) Another Like Me," "Wall of Berlin"

DOWNLOAD THESE: "Chocolate Box," "(There'll Never B) Another Like Me," "Wall of Berlin"



That Famous Twitter Feed Could Be a Lot of Baloney

TWITTER, From Page C1

ity.)

Things have gotten a little confusing for fans. Thanks to the democratizing powers of the Web and the rapid rise in popularity of Twitter, the very famous and the only slightly famous are finding themselves with virtual doppelgangers.

Already, a Web site has been launched to try and resolve such important questions of online celebrity identity. The U.K.-based Valebrity.com seeks to verify that the famous folks you're following online really are who they say they are.

"Nobody knows who's who on these social networking sites," said Valebrity's founder, Steven Livingstone. "Even the celebrities themselves are coming to us now and saying, 'Is this one real?'"

Livingstone's site identifies personalities like Ashton Kutcher and Ryan Seacrest on its list of real Twitter users, but for many Twitter users, authenticity may be beside the point. A few weeks ago, a Twitter feed supposedly belonging to "30 Rock" star Tina Fey was identified as fake. At the time, the faux Fey's feed had 50,000 readers. Today, it has more than 200,000.

Typically, social networking sites pull down fake accounts if there are complaints or if the site suspects fraud. But sometimes that can backfire: Facebook temporarily deleted actress Lindsay Lohan's page in December, under the impression that it was bogus. The move became news after the actress complained in a letter posted to her MySpace page.

Ronald R. Snider, an Alexandria lawyer who sometimes handles copyright issues, said that the matter is "uncharted territory" from a legal standpoint. "As far as whether it's legal or not, that's a big issue," he said.

But Snider said he would be disinclined to pursue a case against such Internet impostors. "People like this are assured to be judgment-proof," he said. "They don't have any money."

You don't even have to be all that famous to attract an impersonator, it seems. Livingstone said most people assume — wrongly — that people want to impersonate globally famous celebrities. But he spends just as much time trying to verify the online identities of taster-makers who are experts in their field but aren't household names.

A Twitter feed supposedly run by political consultant Frank Luntz scored 2,000 followers before the joke, or whatever it was, was revealed earlier this month. That feed, which was written by



Fake Twitter feeds score large followings (200,000 for Tina Fey's) and small (2,000 for political consultant Frank Luntz's).

"Nobody knows who's who on these social networking sites. Even the celebrities themselves are coming to us now and saying, 'Is this one real?'"

Steven Livingstone, Valebrity.com founder

one of Luntz's former employees, has since been taken down.

Washington Post art critic Blake Gopnik recently attracted a Twitter impostor of his own. As with the fake Luntz feed, the impostor generally posted non-malicious comments that looked plausible to the casual observer. But after the fake Gopnik posted a dismissive comment about a museum, the real Gopnik received some snarky remarks on an art blog at the Seattle Post-Intelligencer. The fake Twitter feed has been removed.

Not surprising, said Livingstone. "When it comes to the more niche markets, you'd think, 'Why would anybody bother?' But if you have 1,500 people following you and you're in a niche market, those people are all focused on what you're going to say. The people who are in it are much more likely to do something if you tell them to. They'll act on your every word."

What does Twitter make of this identity confusion?

"Doesn't happen too often," Twitter co-founder Biz Stone wrote in an e-mail that was short enough to be a Twitter post. "Impersonation is against our terms."

Christopher Walken, the real one, could not be reached for comment.