

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Mixed media: Winning headline anagrams

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1423, inspired by (a.k.a. ripping off) the Wordsmith.org website Anagram Times, we asked readers to choose a headline from The Post or another publication, and to rearrange all its letters into an anagram. It's a tough task to make something that uses exactly every letter — none missing, none extra — into a readable line of English; in the process of finding the gems below, the Empress read through hundreds of anagrams like "Wintertime splotch subjugates oath. Notebook: Curb, force truth. Havoc hens fret. Onto presumptive theme: 'I.'"

4th place:

Headline: WHO fact-finding mission departs China empty-handed
Anagrams to: **Whining of D.T.: 'As if! China started Dems' phony pandemic!'** (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

3rd place:

Ted Cruz admits he has 'no defense' for Texas' current energy debacle = **Decent excuse for strange beard? Ted Cruz freely admits he has none.** (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

2nd place and the Butt Station desk set:

Biden moves to hard part of reversing Trump legacy = **Removes 'perfect' bathroom stain, gravy puddle ring** (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

And the winner of the Clowning Achievement:

Perseverance Probe Successfully Lands on Mars = **Endless Probes From Space Cleverly Scan Uranus** (Jesse Frankovich)

Magnets = Angst 'em: Honorable mentions

Fauci predicts 'open season' for vaccinations by April = **"Can a professional stab us?" "Correct — dive in!" [Yip of panic.]** (Hannah Seidel, Alexandria)

Doodles and giggles: Some senators spend impeachment trial in distraction = **I scanned phone, Googled at "presidential transgressions committed," dismal!** (Kristin Braly, Baltimore)

Make the magic happen = **Keep the MAGA champ in** — Josh Hawley . . . OR . . .

Impeach the peak G-man — Nancy Pelosi (Mark Raffman, Reston)

Can I Still Wear My Grandmother's Fur? = **Run wild, nasty girl! From the cameras.** (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

House managers wrap up their case in Trump impeachment trial = **"Trump is a cheap, repugnant, immature man who repeats rich lies."** (Jesse Frankovich)

Health code violations = **Ooh, locals invite death!** (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

Millions lose power in Texas, northern Mexico as blackouts and bitter cold continue = **Notable climate-hoax notion tricks town's credulous, inexplicable moron residents** (Kevin Dopart)

Millions without power as winter weather blasts the U.S. = **This white-out's terrible! Lotsa snow! We ain't warm! Help us!** (Jesse Frankovich)

The glories of cabbage = **I forage, eat gobs, belch** (Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore)

Pence remains loyal to Trump = **It's truly man-romance, people** (Chris Doyle)

Tracking Biden's political appointees = **Picking tepid, banal Eastern politicians** (Hannah Seidel)

As mating rituals go, Valentine's Day isn't so bad = **Bods uniting at a sassy animal love isn't G-rated!** (Steve Allison, Milford, Conn., a First Offender)

Impeachment impressions = **Mitch simpers: "A spine? Me? No."** (Duncan Stevens)



New contest for Week 1427: Rocky of ages, or Badenov for you?

1957: Introduction of the Edsel: Building a Car Bomb, or The Lemon Doesn't Fall Far From the Tree (Russell Beland, Week 540)

1066, the Norman Conquest: Saxon Violence, or Let Me Run This Bayeux (Brendan Beary)

1854, the Charge of the Light Brigade: Fools Speed Ahead, or Is That Your Final Lance, Sir? (Chris Doyle)

Hey, wish The Style Invitational a happy birthday — we just turned 28 last Sunday. And in a nod to invite history, and history in general, the Empress is redoing one of the first contests she ran after deposing the Czar in 2003: And it itself is a homage to "Rocky and Bullwinkle" (and similar titles), the pun-filled Cold War-spoofing cartoon series that informed the comic sensibilities of many a Loser of a certain age.

Along with dialogue laden with what we'd now call dad jokes ("Round trip?" "Got any square ones?"), the wordplay went up a notch with the teaser for the next episode: The announcer gave two titles, at least one of them a pun. For one about a threatened execution, it was "Tune in next time for 'Axe Me Another,' or 'Tails, You Lose.'" And so this week: **State any historical event — right up to 2021 — in the "A, or B" pun format** as in the examples above, all of them inking entries from the 2004 contest.

Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1427 (no capitals in the Web address). **Deadline is Monday, March 22;** results appear April 11 in print, April 8 online.

Winner gets the Clowning Achievement, our new Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a practical-joke toy called **Sneekum Pet Pranksters.** It's a little box you put in your shirt pocket; then surprise your erstwhile friends as a little hairy monkey-monster head suddenly pops up. Think how that would impress your Zoom-date! Donated by Dave Prevar.



Nothing says studly as much as popping one of these guys out of your pocket.

Other runners-up win their choice of our "For Best Results, Pour Into Top End" Loser Mug or our "Whole Fools" Grossery Bag. Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, "No 'Bility" or "Punderachiever." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline "Mixed Media" was sent by both Tom Witte and Jesse Frankovich; Dave Prevar wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](https://www.facebook.com/invdev); "like" the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at [bit.ly/inkofday](https://www.facebook.com/bit.ly/inkofday); and follow @StyleInvite on Twitter.

The Style Conversational: The Empress's weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. See this week's at wapo.st/conv1427.

Biden team pledges aggressive steps to address chip shortage = **President delivered bagged crisp potatoes, gets (shh!) messages** (Joe Neff, Warrington, Pa.)

How to stand out while working remotely = **Lo! the muted-toilet work is wrong, anyhow!** (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station)

Hustler publisher always tested limits = **Larry established I must sleep with lust** (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

Taking your 9 to 5 on the road = **95: Ratty, honking auto rodeo** (Jonathan Jensen)

Love, in all its permutations = **Mull alternative positions** (Kevin Dopart)

Love, in all its permutations = **A million venal prostitutes** (Duncan Stevens)

Love, in all its permutations = **Simple vanilla is not utter 'O'** (Danielle Nowlin)

"I'm not a cat," says lawyer having Zoom difficulties = **Miaow! Activating a shy, crazy feline lifts U.S. mood** (Bruce Niedt, Cherry Hill, N.J.)

In the Galleries: Personal and political perspectives on the past = **In the Galleries: It's liver, onions, Scotch tape, and paper pet lapels** (Frank Osen, Pasadena)

What's sexy in a pandemic? **Caution. = Pony twins exhaust academician** (Chris Damm, Charles Town, W.Va.)

It's time for baseball = **Baltimore fails best** (Duncan Stevens)

Mardi Gras celebrations restricted following last year's super-spreader event = **A seeming result's wild party girls can't reveal parts in order to score free beads** (Jesse Frankovich)

About the impeachment trial = **A beaten Trump: 'I loathe Mitch'** (Jonathan Jensen)

The GOP's lout caucus = **Thug coup: Lost cause** (Jeff Contompasis)

What are sperm telling us? = **Get in! Her wall's upstream!** (Chris Doyle)

Trading her classroom for a police beat = **For a teacher, it's grim. No dollars. Be a cop.** (Mark Raffman)

And Last: **Loser: Try, toil, ace!** = (headline:) Closer to reality = **Loser: Toil, cry, eat** (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

More honorable mentions in the online Invite at wapo.st/invite1437.

Still running — deadline Monday night, March 15: The latest installment of our bank headline contest. See wapo.st/invite1426.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

"PI DAY" By JEFFREY WECHSLER

- 1 Yellow smoothie
- 7 Chick's sound
- 11 Turin-based automaker
- 15 One going through an eyelet
- 19 Anthology compiler
- 20 Loud sound
- 21 For the most part
- 23 Squeal on
- 24 Shrimp dish ordered online?
- 26 Equestrian action
- 28 Sticks in a parlor
- 29 Gulf of California state
- 30 Simile words
- 31 Divert
- 33 Mumbai apparel
- 34 Not someone you'd want in the cockpit?
- 39 NYSE events
- 43 Effect, as a law
- 44 In its current condition
- 45 Candidate's concern after the latest poll?
- 51 Lows
- 53 Complete
- 55 French region associated with an eggy dish
- 56 Decorates tees
- 58 Hurl insults (at)
- 60 Ricoh rival
- 61 Retired jet
- 62 Fertile
- 65 Hit with a water balloon, say
- 67 Restaurant kitchen array
- 68 Hook during a typically slow period?
- 72 Russian milk drink
- 75 Driver's target
- 76 Punctilious to the extreme
- 77 Shakespearean "Shake a leg!"
- 80 Online exchange
- 81 Carouse
- 83 Temporary stay
- 86 Toledo is on it
- 89 Ukase
- 92 Defensive castle feature
- 93 Physician for longshoremen?
- 95 National symbol
- 97 See 96-Down
- 98 Bawl

- 99 No-brainer card game?
- 101 Soft drink options
- 106 Humiliate
- 108 Discernment meas., in meteorology
- 109 Tolerates
- 111 Fish tank buildup
- 112 Optimal
- 117 Like most clouds, compared to cirrus clouds?
- 121 Carried with effort
- 122 Doesn't give up
- 123 Prayer wheel spinner
- 124 Missing the mark
- 125 CEO's helper
- 126 Like venison
- 127 "The Killing" actress
- 128 Exclusive date

- 2 Month after Shevat
- 3 Filled food truck buy
- 4 Very much
- 5 "Take a shot at it"
- 6 Con ___
- 7 Puritan sch.
- 8 Very long time
- 9 Celebrate an anniversary, say, with "out"
- 10 Like veggies in platters
- 11 Marker choice
- 12 Supermodel
- 13 FBI figure
- 14 Hardy title
- 15 teenager
- 15 CNN medical analyst Wen
- 16 Protective suit
- 17 Blue Grotto isle
- 18 Sewing machine
- inventor Howe
- 22 Army sgts., e.g.
- 25 Flee
- 27 Valley known for viticulture

- 31 Small opening
- 32 Talk show VIPs
- 34 HVAC system openings
- 35 Nin of literature
- 36 Officer trainee
- 37 Etching supply
- 38 Terre Haute
- 40 Enters en masse
- 41 Tokyo-born peace activist
- 42 Newton honorific
- 45 Betelgeuse's constellation
- 46 Negative afterthought
- 47 Unworldly
- 48 Water container?
- 49 Aware of
- 50 Bank conveniences
- 52 Word with interest
- 54 Gave money for
- 57 Figure (out)
- 59 Part of a moth's life cycle

- 63 Hide
- 64 March ___
- 66 Significant times
- 68 NFL Titan, when in Houston
- 69 Let go
- 70 Break, as ties
- 71 Very much
- 72 Growth in a wet forest
- 73 Actor Morales
- 74 Expert's discovery
- 77 Impresario Sol
- 78 Goddess of peace
- 79 Shift key neighbor
- 82 Elevates
- 84 Give fresh energy to
- 85 Nabisco brand
- 87 Noisy disturbance
- 88 Bar supply
- 90 Game that might end in a library
- 91 Dance genre
- 94 Murkiness

- 96 With 97-Across, words before "good reason?"
- 99 Free thing to try
- 100 Something done after a meal
- 101 Pioneering decal brand
- 102 Orchestral pair, at a minimum
- 103 Enjoys an elegant meal
- 104 Skillful
- 105 Drill bit purchases
- 107 ___ stop
- 110 Chase, as flies
- 111 Exercise actively
- 112 Bail products
- 113 Medical breakthrough
- 114 Et ___ and others
- 115 Transmit
- 116 Avant-garde
- 118 Touchdown nr. calculation
- 119 Holm of "The Hobbit"
- 120 Punk subgenre

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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY MADALYN ASLAN

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | March 14: Intellectual, flexible and affectionate, you have a fine sense of humor, and you use it to great effect in a new project this year. There are many incredible opportunities in your work. Grab them. If single, be wary of idolizing someone you are unable or unlikely to attain. You meet your mate in May. If attached, you have certainly found your opposite, who complements you beautifully. Sagittarius lights your fire.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
Life will be especially bright and beautiful today. You will receive invitations and can enjoy love opportunities. Be receptive to sudden chances. Flexibility and a progressive outlook will guide you toward success.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Today brings heightened intuition. If you have always wanted to learn to read the Tarot, meditate or interpret dreams, now is the time to do so. You will progress quickly with such studies. Good manners are a must when practicing reading others.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
Today affects your partnership sector in a powerful fashion, signaling that a relationship could either begin or end. Do not resist change. News from longtime friends and family members will recall happy memories.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
New insight into who you really are comes into focus today. A friend could be jealous or troubled. You could be called to mediate a disagreement between companions. Annoying as this may be, your help will do much good.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
A delayed goal or dream is finally realized. Compose an affirmation relating to a second chance or starting over. Awakenings and vivid daydreams occur. If asked to mediate a dispute, be sure to keep any personal bias concealed.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Loyalty is very important to you. It's important to recognize when a situation isn't working and let go to make way for something better. Today can bring a close link to someone considerably older or younger.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Today provides insight and

perspective. Others are more sensitive to your needs. It will be easier to access the roles others play and to work out obligations or projects involving them. You'll feel accepted and included.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Intellectual thought and reason rule your health house. Learning all you can about health situations is especially important. The duality hinted at by different trains of thought shows that there might be multiple factors affecting your well-being.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Today promises an interesting liaison or two. Mysterious, unpredictable and talented individuals are about to enter your circle. There is some deep attraction and some potentially meaningful romantic interludes.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
The day begins on a bright note, surrounding you with light and promise. Situations with children are about to improve. Discussions about travel will provide a new outlook. Be patient if there is a sudden lack of cooperation on the home front.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
A startling awakening will indicate where true love really is available to you. Explore the healing qualities of art, music and companionship. Subtle energy fields will be evident in your health picture.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
You are cautious about acting upon risky advice from others, which is good. Today could bring impractical business associates or partners your way. Be progressive; realize that growth can come about if the old patterns are disrupted.

Answers to last week's puzzle.

B	C	C	B	A	J	A	H	E	F	T	D	I	S	M	A	L				
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