

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Scrambled dregs: More anagram wordplay

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1393 the Empress ran a list of fictional businesses and products whose names were self-anagrams: You rearrange all the letters of the first half of the name to make the second half, such as ANAL GAS . . . LASAGNA. All these names were entries in our Week 1388 contest but didn't get ink because their descriptions or slogans didn't quite live up to the names. So instead, we offered them up to the Loser Community for another shot. Some of the entries are also self-anagrams; they're in all-caps.

4th place:

REAL IDIOT

EDITORIAL: Always wrong, but never in doubt. (Steve Smith, Potomac)

3rd place:

LIBERAL

BRILLE: All our books must express consent before you can touch them. (Art Grinath, Takoma Park)

2nd place and the Flying Pig eau de toilette spray:

'PAINT BULL CRAP FOR ME'

REPUBLICAN PLATFORM:

MONEYED INTERESTS, SNEERED TESTIMONY. (Kathy El-Assal, Middleton, Wis.)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

CRUELTY

CUTLERY: Be sure to check out our knives in the back. (Edmund Conti, Raleigh)

LOSERS WHO SENT WORTHLESS ONES:

Honorable mentions

CAN'T ACT ON US

ACCOUNTANTS: We always cover our assets. (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

— We're H & R Blockheads: Our motto: No Convictions. (Howard Walderman, Columbia)

ANAL GAS LASAGNA: It smells just as good coming out as it does going in! (Chuck Helwig, Centerville)

ASSET DECLINE DELICATESSEN: We're not even chopped liver. (Maja Keech, Bowie)

— We know how to make a po' boy. (Stephen Dudzik, Olney)

— We're so desperate we'll serve YOU. (Rick Haynes, Ocean City)

ATROPHIED APHRODITE: Cosmetics for that "come-wither" look. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

CREDIT NAGGERS GREETING CARDS We're Thinking of You Always. That's always. Talk to you tomorrow! (Mark Raffman, Reston)

— "About those presents under the tree . . ." (Edward Gordon, Austin)

DEAD-OR-NOT DEODORANT: Stay cool and confident, even at your own funeral! (Jon Ketzner, Cumberland, Md.)

— You'll smell so good, you'll be wanted either way! (Sam Mertens, Silver Spring)

— They'll keep their social distance when you wear our scents: Gym Fresh, Wet Dog, and our newest, Week-Old Unwashed

New contest for Week 1397: Trope springs eternal

Much as comics can mine and remind the knock-knock or Yo Mama or "he's so xxx" joke, cartoonists continue to return to a few venerable situations as a sort of homage, and as a challenge to produce something fresh and timely. Take this recent cartoon by David Sipress in the New Yorker: Timeless trope: Parched Man Crawling Through Vast Desert. Sipress: Cyclist, clad in helmet, zooms up right behind him. Caption: "Hey! You're in the bike lane!"

The Empress asked Our Own Bob Staake to draw a few of those cartoon trope situations and let the Loser Community offer some new ideas. Bob countered with a better idea, one that lets you create any character within the setting. **This week: Use any of these four standard settings — (a) desert island, (b) bartender at a bar, (c) desert, (d) psychiatrist next to a couch — and describe a cartoon that includes your choice of characters, along with a caption.** Bob will draw at least one of the winners.

No, don't write your entry on a copy of the cartoon. Just send us your plain ol' words, please. **How to format your entry:** Begin with the letter labeling the cartoon, followed by a colon (A:, B:, C:, D:), and then follow it by your idea and caption on the same line. This will ensure that they'll end up in the right group when the E pushes the Magic Sort Button. (You may attach a sketch to show what you're getting at, but you *must* also describe it with text on the entry form.)

Submit up to 25 entries total at [wapo.st/enter-invite-1397](http://wapo.st/enter-invite-1397) (no capitals in the Web address). **Deadline is Monday, Aug. 24;** results will appear Sept. 13 in print, Sept. 10 online.

**Winner gets the Lose Cannon,** our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a **squeezy U.S. Capitol dome** stress reliever, just in case you might be a teeny weeny bit mad at Congress for failing to deliver lifesaving funds to you. Donated by All Mellow Loser Dave Prevar.

**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 new 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](http://wapo.st/InvRules). The headline "Scrambled Dregs" is by Jesse Frankovich; Jesse also wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](https://on.fb.me/invdev); "like" the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at [bit.ly/inkoftheday](http://bit.ly/inkoftheday); 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/conv1397](http://wapo.st/conv1397).

Mask. (Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.)

GRUB MASHER HAMBURGERS: Every order comes with a side of flies. (Eric Nelkin, Silver Spring; Jon Gearhart)

HAPPIEST EPITAPHS: "This dude's consigned to grave and shroud, But don't act glum, or play the grump! The silver lining in this cloud: No more will he read news of Trump." (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

I'M-A-STUD STADIUM: Soon to be renamed I'm-A-Reckless-Entitled-Future-Felon Stadium. (Brett Dimailo, Cumberland, Md.)

ILL STRIDES DISTILLERS: Makers of Johnnie Wobblers, the hooch that makes you hobble. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

IRATE FACE CAFETERIA: Karen needs to eat, too. (Lee Graham, Rockville; Bob Kruger, Rockville)

LARCENIST CLARINETS: Spinoff store of HE BURGLES HER BUGLES. (Mark Raffman)

MASTER PUKER SUPERMARKET: All our meat, dairy and produce is restocked every month! (Hannah Seidel, Alexandria)

MONSTER MENTORS: Our staff of 3-year-olds will teach you future executives how to get your way! (Jeff Hazle, San Antonio)

MY AMUSING GYMNASIUM: Where A LOSER MUST SOMERSAULT. (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

NICE CHEFS RUIN FRENCH CUISINE: Try our McVichysoisse — it's the best cold french fry soup around! (Jeff Bryant, Hagerstown, Md., a First Offender)

— Mais non, not us! We are openly hostile and condescending! (Richard Franklin, Alexandria)

PEDANT TERM DEPARTMENT: Er, technically, that should be "Pedantic." (Gary Crockett; Jon Gearhart)

PUDGIER RACCOON ORGANIC PRODUCE: All prewashed (and some pre-tasted) by our mask-wearing staff! (Marilyn Pifer, Morgan Hill, Calif.)

REAL IDIOT EDITORIAL: If you like this, you'll love our DOPE OP-ED page! (Frank Mann, Washington; Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

SWEATY ANAL TORT ATTORNEYS AT LAW: The best defense is a good offense — and man, are we ever offensive! (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

— Come to us when you're in arrears. (Pia Palamidessi, Cumberland, Md.)

And last: CRUELTY CUTLERY: What the Empress uses as she cheerily trims the entry list. (Mike Ostapiej, Ravenel, S.C.)

More honorable mentions in the online Invite at [wapo.st/invite1397](http://wapo.st/invite1397).

Still running — deadline Monday night, Aug. 17: Our contest for limericks featuring "ha-" words. See [wapo.st/invite1396](http://wapo.st/invite1396).

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

"ATTRACTING THE WRONG TYPE" By MARYELLEN UTHLAUT

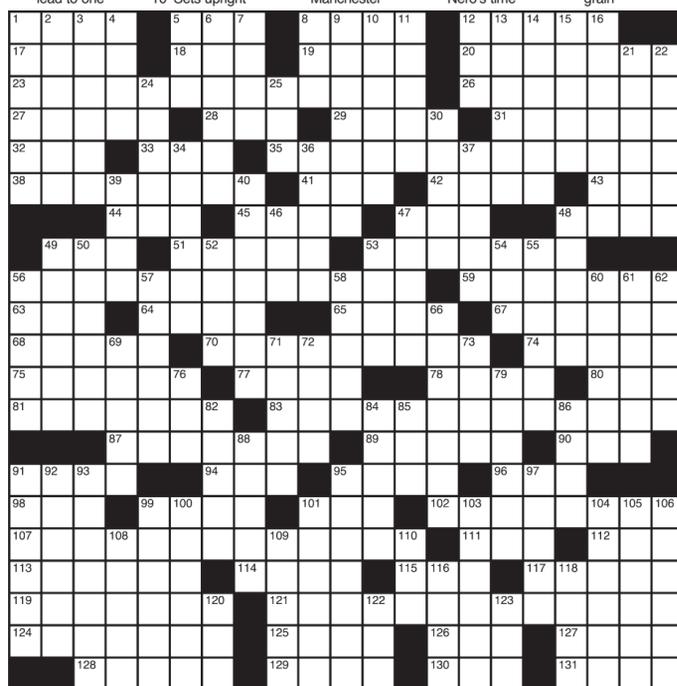
- ACROSS
- 1 Prepare for sushi, in a way
- 5 Experienced
- 8 "Milk's Favorite Cookie"
- 12 light
- 17 Nevada casino city
- 18 Taro paste
- 19 La. or Dak., once
- 20 Parodies
- 23 The ad said "seasonal work" ... and we got an !
- 26 Island wine
- 27 Ewoks' forest moon
- 28 Asian New Year
- 29 Did very well in
- 31 Fan
- 32 Turned up ground
- 33 One of two presidents between a James and an Andrew
- 35 ... "flexible hours" ... and we got a !
- 38 Team that's won six Super Bowls
- 41 NFL linemen
- 42 Open court hearing, in law
- 43 "... the ramparts ..."
- 44 Cape Town's home: Abbr.
- 45 Songwriter
- 47 Rescue plea
- 48 Start to build a
- 49 Prohibition
- 51 Programming classroom
- 53 Tunesful
- 56 ... "fast-paced environment" ... and we got a !
- 59 Fittingly
- 63 Boomerang's path
- 64 Natural soother
- 65 Bearded flower
- 67 Tootsy protector
- 68 Haphazard application
- 70 ... "good driving record" ... and we got a !
- 74 Bodybuilder's asset
- 75 In single file
- 77 Wind catcher
- 78 Very small amount
- 80 Protective shelter
- 81 Horns usually shed once a year
- 83 ... "high-energy position" ... and we got a !

- 87 Covered, in a way
- 89 Caper film subject
- 90 "Eat Better, Eat Together" mo.
- 91 Door support
- 94 One living an orderly life?
- 95 Poetic period
- 96 Hard pull
- 98 Opposite of WSW
- 99 Carp family fish
- 101 Fifth-century invader
- 102 Smoke dispensers, at times
- 107 ... "service-minded attitude" ... and we got a !
- 111 Be mistaken
- 112 ... Been Thinking About You": 1991 #1 hit
- 113 Copy
- 114 Author Bagnold
- 115 Long-bodied fish
- 117 A channel may lead to one
- 119 Shaving cream additive
- 121 ... "strong verbal skills" and we got a !
- 124 Ljubljana language
- 125 Honoring verses
- 126 Word between two cards?
- 127 Germany's von Bismarck
- 128 Coat material
- 129 Microsoft product
- 130 Versatile truck, informally
- 131 Loch with a legend

- DOWN
- 1 Statements of faith
- 2 Six-sided fastener
- 3 Keyed up
- 4 Musical modifier
- 5 Make a choice
- 6 Linger idly
- 7 bar
- 8 Non-Fx
- 9 Puts back up
- 10 Sets upright
- 11 Gluck's "... ed Eurdice"
- 12 Belief system
- 13 Sweetheart
- 14 Like some sports
- 15 Ancient music hall
- 16 School income source
- 21 Program in advance
- 22 "Hell is other people" French dramatist
- 24 Eurasian range
- 25 "Yada, yada, yada" letters
- 30 Visibly anticipate, with "over"
- 34 "Little help here, bud?"
- 36 African antelope
- 37 "Iron Mike" in the ring
- 39 Coastal bird
- 40 Does a metalworking job
- 46 Sailor
- 47 Letter embellishment
- 48 One given the part
- 49 Drink mixer, in Manchester

- 50 Stress
- 52 Farm product
- 53 Reagle of "Wordplay"
- 54 Nebraska senator Fischer
- 55 Weather map line
- 56 Bob Marley, e.g.
- 57 Sway on a curve
- 58 Common quartet instrument
- 60 Emphatic type
- 61 Late to the max
- 62 "The Balcony" playwright
- 66 Taking with force
- 69 Deliver spontaneously
- 71 Like granola bars
- 72 Surround
- 73 Small deer
- 76 ... Puff.
- 79 Shred
- 82 Something to crow about?
- 84 Cell, nowadays
- 85 Always, to a poet
- 86 Cover-up in Nero's time

- 88 Russian note
- 91 Royal ornaments
- 92 Of a battery terminal
- 93 Sources of fine wool
- 95 Less clear
- 97 Strip of equipment
- 99 Anger
- 100 Putting on the payroll
- 101 Job for a stylist
- 103 Let up
- 104 Pupils do it in the dark
- 105 They happen
- 106 Brief scuffles
- 108 Franklin's burned wood
- 109 Providing with funding
- 110 Member of the fam.
- 116 Name possibly derived from the Arabic for "hairy"
- 118 Colorless gas for colorful signs
- 120 Born, in Brest
- 122 "Acid"
- 123 Pumpernickel grain



8/16/20

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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY MADALYN ASLAN

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Aug. 16:** Seductive and goal-oriented, you get your way this year — all the way to brilliant success. After some waiting, that is. It will feel like a very up and down year, although all you touch turns to gold. If single, you date passionately and decide to commit to someone at the end of the year. If attached, you're worshiped by your partner who still has starry eyes. Libra is the most romantic.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) Love, harmony and improved communication prevail at home. Your residence becomes a place of refuge, truly your castle. How about adding a bagua mirror or anti-evil-eye bead to the household's foyer?

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) Variety is truly the spice of life. Today promises an interesting Sunday schedule, punctuated by numerous messages and outings. The secret to juggling ongoing projects successfully is organization.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) Set funds aside to cover an unexpected expense. Companions present cherished plans and suggestions. Cooperation is essential to progress now. Let humor overcome anger, and all will be well. Friends appreciate your creativity and breezy personality.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) Try a flattering new hairstyle, update your wardrobe, and a smile to work magic in your life. Place a favorite self-portrait somewhere in your home to honor your body. It is the beautiful temple of your spirit.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) A volunteer job or charitable endeavor brings satisfaction. Important obligations are met. This sets the pace for today, then creating a yen to quietly enjoy your own home. This is a positive indicator for progress as the day ends.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Today brings supportive friendships your way. You are magnetic in regard to love. But you may want to keep a low profile. Seek a trusted mentor to help you select and prioritize your worthwhile goals.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Today affects your circle of friends and long-range goals, and is excellent for social life. Reflect and regroup but delay steering away from established associates or committing to a new direction.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) The pace quickens today even though it's a Sunday. Prepare to embrace opportunities. Timely action can change your destiny. Observe new developments around you. Be inventive. A whole network of new acquaintances reach out to you.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) An intimate relationship is a catalyst for wish fulfillment. Others introduce you to philosophical truths and cultural experiences. A sense of destiny prevails. Read some amazing poetry. A family situation is resolved satisfactorily.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan 19) Revel in the accomplishments of someone very close to you. A loved one is in a growth mode and would deeply appreciate supportive words of encouragement. You will do well. Experiment with creative outlets. Your vitality peaks.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) An emphasis on healing and problem-solving emerges. You adore animal companions. A relationship with a precious pet deepens. You discover that this connection facilitates healing of your body and spirit.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) Practical expression of creative ideas, perhaps involving a pursuit you enjoy, makes today a cycle of contentment. You can analyze and understand a love situation, finding a comfortable balance between the dictates of the heart and the head.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



8/9/20