

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

# Stir search: TV anagrams and more

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1458, we asked the Losers to choose a TV show, then use all the letters in its name at least once to create a new episode of that show — or a new show. Sometimes they made true anagrams, rearranging all the letters without repeating any; those entries are marked below.

4th place:

**America's Funniest Home Videos** > **Send the Nice Man Our Homemade Errors From the VCR**: Producers indulge senior viewers by allowing them to mail in their tapes. (*Amanda Yanovitch, Midlothian, Va.*)

3rd place:

**Dancing With the Stars** > **Right-Wing Whiner Can't Cha-Cha** — **Sad**: Looking back at the one time, in 2006, when Tucker Carlson tried to be human. (*Frank Mann, Washington*)

**2nd place and the inflatable roast turkey**:

**Breaking Bad** > **Baking Bread** (*an anagram*): Walter White finds a better way to make a lot of dough before he dies. (*Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.*)

**And the winner of the Clowning Achievement**:

**Gilligan's Island** > **Ding-a-lings in Sand**: Still "Gilligan's Island." (*Coleman Glenn, Huntingdon Valley, Pa.*)

**Cringe-watching**: **Honorable mentions**

**Seinfeld** > **Life's End** (*an anagram*): A show about nothingness. (*Mark Raffman, Reston*)

**Hill Street Blues** > **Tele-Shill Buster** (*an anagram*): Detective weeds out posers who write fake reviews for QVC merchandise. (*Diane Lucitt, Ellicott City*)

**Jeopardy!** > **Jeopardoy!**: To counter perceptions of intellectual elitism, contestants are given tranquilizers before competing. "Uh, what was the clue again?" (*Byron Miller, Cobble Hill, B.C.*)

**Lost in Space** > **Plastic Noses, Lips et al.**: The Space Family Kardashian travels the universe, searching for... you guessed it... attention. (*Frank Mann*)

**The Lone Ranger** > **The Orange Gloater**: "Believe me, I know all about outbreaks. I alone can clean up the West... but I won't be wearing a mask." (*Jesse Frankovich*)

**24** > **42**: A CIA agent saves President Clinton from a box of exploding cigars hidden in the Oval Office. (*Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.*)

**Mare of Easttown** > **Manatee or Sow? WTF?**: An ex-president reviews an HBO series about a female detective. (*Mark Raffman*)

**All in the Family** > **Finally, the Mail!** (*an anagram*): Remember when the Postal Service was fast? Those were the days! (*Jesse Frankovich*)

**American Idol** > **Melodic Crania**: This week, contestants sing songs that are sure to get stuck in your head. (*Scott Richards, Hollywood, Md.*)

**Batman** > **Bantam BAM!**: Robin proves he's no chicken. (*Kevin Dopart, Washington*)

**Bewitched** > **Witch Bed Itch**: After seven years of marriage to Darrin, Samantha yearns for something more. (*Diane Lucitt*)

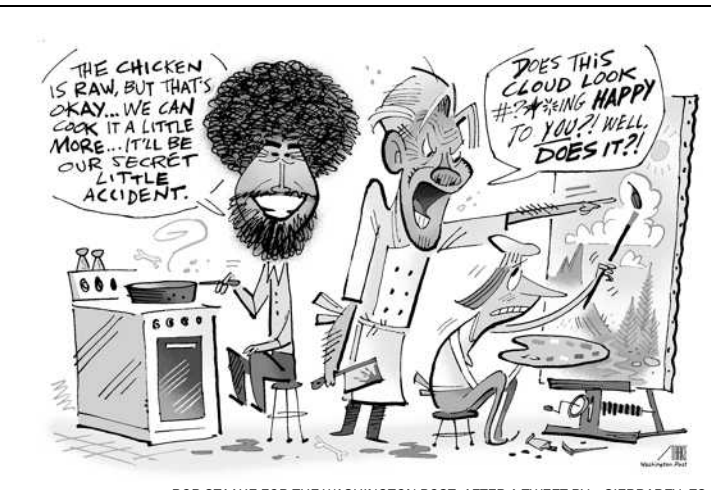
**Saturday Night Live** > **River Vans and Hardly Any Laughter**: Having a Chris Farley hologram host the show did little to improve SNL's ratings. (*Jon Chasson, Dulles, a First Offender*)

**Breaking Bad** > **Edgier Baking**: This week, chef Paul Hollywood challenges his contestants to prepare a dozen identical, perfectly pure crystal meth rocks. (*Kevin Dopart*)

**Cheers** > **Screech**: Where everybody screams your name. Recast with Fran Drescher as Carla, Gilbert Gottfried as Cliff, and Bobcat Goldthwait as Norm. (*Bob Kruger, Rockville*)

**Columbo** > **Cool Bum** (*an anagram*): A shambling, cigar-addicted wanderer in an open raincoat stumbles into homicide scenes and mesmerizes suspects into forgetting to call their lawyers. (*Ira Allen, Bethesda*)

**The Apprentice** > **Cheap Intern**: Why pay your employees if you don't have to? Or lawyers, for that matter... (*Milo Sauer, Fairfax*)



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST, AFTER A TWEET BY @SIERRAREY\_73

New contest for Week 1462: Time for a new career?

This week's contest was suggested a while back by Loser Daphne Steinberg, who alerted the Empress to the imagined quotes above, which were in the form of a tweet by someone using the handle @SierraRey\_73, who might in turn have been inspired by a Reddit writing prompt in which writers approached the same "another universe" what-if — if ranting TV chef Gordon Ramsay and mellow TV art teacher Bob Ross had switched professions.

**This week: Tell what would happen if any two people switched professions or other roles, as in the example above. It could be in the form of quotes "by" the two people, as above, or in some other description. Don't write a whole story, as the Reddit writers did; shoot for 50 words or fewer.**

Submit up to 25 entries at [wapo.st/enter-invite-1462](http://wapo.st/enter-invite-1462) (no capitals in the Web address). Deadline is Monday, Nov. 22; results appear Dec. 12 in print, Dec. 9 online.



A little toy virus kept in line by a little toy antibody: This week's 2nd prize.

**Winner gets the Clowning Achievement**, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives an adorable pair of **mini-plushie microbes**, part of our series of prize internal critters: first, there's a *Pithovirus sibericum*, or zombie virus (because it was revived after lying in permafrost for 30,000 years); but also — whew! — there's a cute little Y-shaped antibody! Both donated by Dave Prevar, who hereby admits to sending viruses through the mail.

**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, "A Small Jester of Appreciation" or "Close, but Ceci N'est Pas un Cigare." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). See general contest rules and guidelines at [wapo.st/inviteFAQ](http://wapo.st/inviteFAQ). The headline "Stir Search" is by Jon Gearhart; Tom Witte 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/conv1462](http://wapo.st/conv1462).

**The "You're Invited" podcast**: Seventeen half-hour episodes, including dish from the Empress and the Czar, and tips from top Losers. See [bit.ly/invite-podcast](https://bit.ly/invite-podcast).

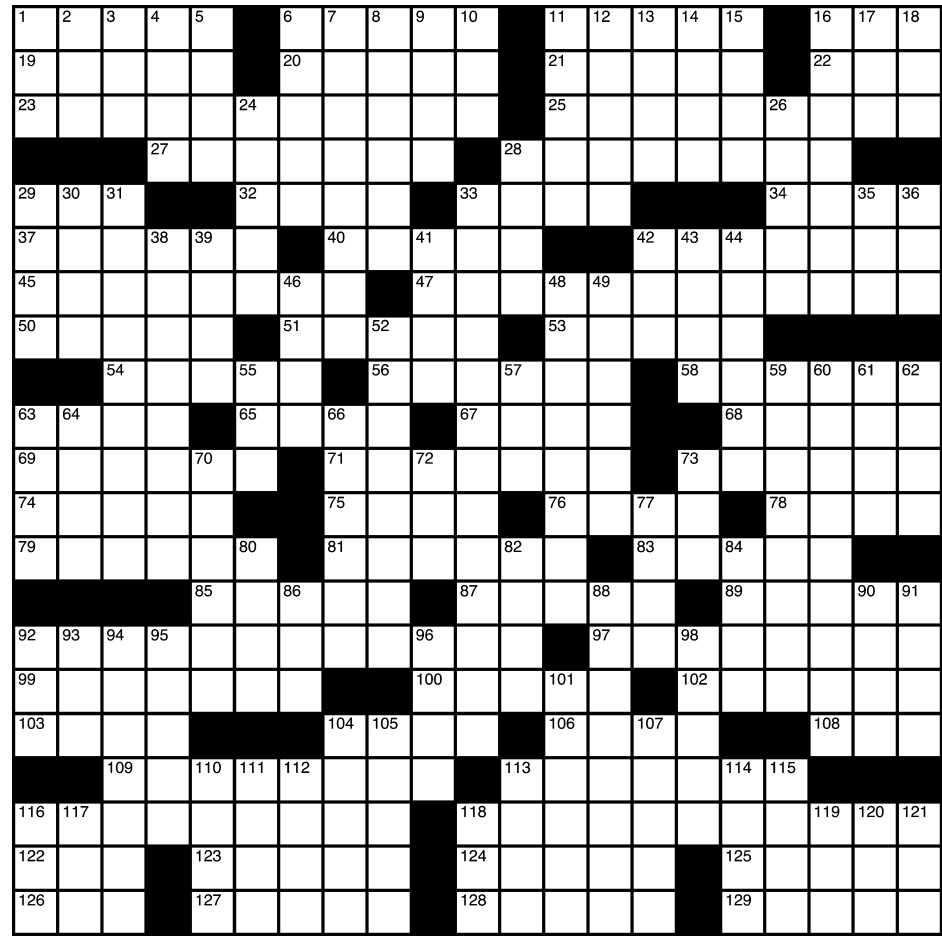
- Dallas** > **Salad**: The EWings make a fortune in both oil and vinegar. (*Pamela Love, Columbia*)
- Dennis the Menace** > **Emaciated Man Seethes**: After Dennis blurts out, "Jeepers, you sure are fat, Mister Wilson," Martha puts her husband on a no-carb diet. (*Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore*)
- Dennis the Menace** > **Send Nine Machetes**: Mr. Wilson devises a devious mail-order plan to keep Dennis off his lawn. (*Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg*)
- ER** > **Re: Re: Re: Re: Re**: A battle between doctors and administrators is fought within County General Hospital's email. (*Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn*)
- Fawty Towers** > **Fly Swatters?** **Owl!**: After overhearing Basil talking to Sybil about West Nile virus, Manuel takes matters into his own hands. (*Glen Matheson, Bay Shore, N.Y.*)
- Game of Thrones** > **Hot Frog Enemas** (*an anagram*): Epic family squabbles lead to heated amphibious incursions. (*Chris Damm, Charles Town, W.Va.*)
- Game of Thrones** > **Man Forgets Hat, Roasts on Nest of Hornets**: Cersei Lannister's ruthless cruelty is on full display when an ambassador disregards head-covering protocol. (*Sarah Walsh, Rockville*)
- Gilligan's Island** > **Nail-Sliding Gals**: Ginger and Mary Ann try to summon help by making noises with a chalkboard they found on the island. (*George Thompson,*

- Springfield*)
- Grey's Anatomy** > **Rearrange Eyesores**: Every week, a different cosmetic surgery fail. (*Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase*)
- Gunsmoke** > **Men, Guns, No Keg**: All hell breaks loose when the Long Branch Saloon runs out of beer. (*Jonathan Jensen*)
- Happy Days** > **Yappy Shad** (*an anagram*): After jumping the shark, Fonzie takes career advice from a talking fish. (*Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf, Melissa Muckenhirn, Urbana, Ill.*)
- Sex and the City** > **Chatty Snide Ex**: In this episode, Mr. Big finally gets to tell his side of the story. (*Matthew Blair, Silver Spring*)
- And Last: The Weakest Link** > **The Least Weak Ink**: Every week this game show's hostess mocks "Loser" entrants for their pitiful attempts at humor. (*Hannah Seidel, Alexandria*)
- And Even Laster: Project Runway** > **We Reject Your Crappy Entry**: The Empress gets her own TV show. (*Bob Kruger*)
- And Very Lastest: How I Met Your Mother** > **We're Without Rhyme, Rhythm or Wit**: Meeting cute at a Style Invitational Loser brunch. (*Gary Crockett*)
- More honorable mentions in the online Invite at wapo.st/invite1462.*
- Still running — deadline Monday night, Nov. 15: our contest for eponyms, words based on people's names. See wapo.st/invite1461.**

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

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|---|---|
| <p>"CREATURE FEATURES" By GARY LARSON</p> <p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 Folksy greeting</p> <p>6 "Skip to _": 1840s partner-stealing dance</p> <p>11 Tree on the Lebanese flag</p> <p>16 At all Square</p> <p>19 Long periods</p> <p>21 One of the ABC islands</p> <p>22 Bambi's cousin</p> <p>23 Playlist for Bullwinkle?</p> <p>25 Pot for Sebastian of "The Little Mermaid"?</p> <p>27 Prevents from draining</p> <p>28 Really good thing to live</p> <p>29 Little bit</p> <p>32 Have-__ : disadvantaged ones</p> <p>33 Made haste, old-style</p> <p>34 Vaccine pioneer</p> <p>37 Restless</p> <p>40 "Everything's fine"</p> <p>42 "I need this ASAP!"</p> <p>45 Abnormally tense</p> <p>47 Soul mate for Jimmy?</p> <p>50 Somewhat, informally</p> <p>51 Gray ones are hard to resolve</p> <p>53 Defunct Houston hockey team</p> <p>54 Online message board</p> <p>56 Shin armor that's a homophone for a synonym of "mourn"</p> <p>58 Obstacle</p> <p>63 Preserve, in a way, as beef</p> <p>65 Soybean paste</p> <p>67 Goatee site</p> <p>68 Johnny's "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas" role</p> <p>69 Name on a "Little Women" book jacket</p> <p>71 "The Elements of Style" co-author</p> <p>73 The Indian Ocean's Bay of __</p> <p>74 Sambuca flavoring</p> <p>75 Model position</p> <p>76 Wild about</p> | <p>78 PC "brains" source for</p> <p>79 Hot dog entrepreneur</p> <p>81 Muss</p> <p>83 Obama daughter</p> <p>85 Puts out there</p> <p>87 Edison rival</p> <p>89 Deceived</p> <p>92 Emotional triggers for Mickey?</p> <p>97 Annual</p> <p>103 Across-planting event</p> <p>99 Least considered</p> <p>100 __ space</p> <p>102 Horseshoe-shaped fasteners</p> <p>103 Peach or beech</p> <p>104 Absorbed</p> <p>106 Gritty film genre</p> <p>108 Private</p> <p>109 Technical drawings</p> <p>113 Didn't do well at all</p> <p>116 Topping Daffy created?</p> <p>118 Online news</p> <p>122 Tony winner</p> <p>125 Score</p> <p>126 Possessive pronoun</p> <p>127 Remains unsettled</p> <p>128 Like some jackets</p> <p>129 Snail trail</p> <p>DOWN</p> <p>1 Run smoothly</p> <p>2 Plastic __ Band</p> <p>3 "Horton Hears a __!"</p> <p>4 Computer insert</p> <p>5 Hesse-based automaker</p> <p>6 Harshman of "Even Stevens"</p> <p>7 More frothy</p> <p>8 Plague bug</p> <p>9 Doing mess work</p> <p>10 Seagoing letters</p> <p>11 Store</p> <p>12 Transposed letters, say</p> <p>13 Pair</p> <p>14 Briefly, briefly</p> <p>15 Steamed state</p> <p>16 Unyielding</p> <p>17 Refusals</p> <p>18 "Owner of a Lonely Heart" band</p> <p>24 Skater Harding</p> <p>26 Many a Marley fan</p> <p>28 torch party light</p> <p>29 MADD concerns</p> <p>30 Year in Tuscany</p> <p>31 Healthy snack for Yogi?</p> <p>33 Old joke told by Quick Draw McGraw?</p> <p>35 Rapper Tone-__</p> <p>36 Elec. bill unit</p> <p>38 Floor</p> <p>39 Target of a wish?</p> <p>41 Emotional injury</p> <p>42 German article</p> <p>43 However, in texts</p> <p>44 "Yeah, right"</p> <p>46 "Ashes to Ashes" author</p> <p>47 Hoag</p> <p>48 Hollows</p> <p>49 A Wayans brother</p> <p>52 Bit of encouragement</p> <p>55 Actress</p> <p>57 Sushi serving</p> <p>59 Southwestern farm owner</p> <p>60 Ping-Pong gear for Goofy?</p> <p>61 Hilo feast</p> <p>62 Some additions</p> <p>63 Close-knit group</p> <p>64 O'Neill's daughter</p> <p>66 Deadly sins, e.g.</p> <p>70 Naval builder</p> <p>72 Cougars of the Pac-12</p> <p>73 Feathery wrap</p> <p>77 Old Russian ruler</p> <p>80 Snatches</p> <p>82 "... we forget" native</p> <p>84 Untidy sort</p> <p>86 Boring routine</p> <p>88 '70s-'80s NHLer</p> <p>90 Like Cheerios</p> <p>91 Nasdaq rival</p> <p>92 "The A-Team"</p> <p>actor</p> <p>93 Dinghy mover</p> <p>94 It may be a lemon</p> <p>95 Mideast chief</p> <p>96 Klutz's cry</p> <p>98 Delta of "Designing Women"</p> <p>101 Inveigle</p> <p>104 Vied for the America's Cup</p> <p>105 Cries from flocks</p> <p>107 Signed</p> <p>110 Rush job letters</p> <p>111 Serious blow</p> <p>112 Wreckage</p> <p>113 Vegas draw</p> <p>114 Sugar bowl marchers?</p> <p>115 Nonstick cookware brand</p> <p>116 "Obviously!"</p> <p>117 Beehive State</p> <p>118 Old PC component</p> <p>119 Peyton's brother</p> <p>120 Shade tree</p> <p>121 Coloring medium</p> |
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11/14/21 xwordeditor@aol.com ©2021 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

**Happy Birthday | Nov. 14:** You are charming and enthusiastic about life. You are also strong-willed, determined and confident. (Your love life is often dramatic.) This year will be a quieter year. You will find that your focus is on partnerships and your closest friendships. It's totally appropriate for you to concentrate on your own needs to discover what will enhance your personal happiness.

**Moon Alert:** After 11 a.m., there are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions. The Moon is in Aries.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) Look around you with a critical eye to see what needs to be changed or improved. What do you see? What springs to mind? What small things can you do to begin to improve your everyday environment?

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) This is a good day to do some private thinking about how you can introduce new habits into your life that make a practical difference in a positive way. It might be just one thing that you change.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) Today you might want to listen to the advice of someone older or more experienced. It's helpful to get input from others, because that person has a different point of view.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) Today you prefer the company of serious people because you're in the mood to discuss serious matters. Meanwhile, people admire you because they see you as sensible and reliable.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) A serious discussion with someone from another culture or a different country might open up new dimensions today. You might put a new spin on how you see a political situation.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) This is a good day to do some serious research so you have a better idea of what you owe and what you own. When it comes to your money and assets, always remember, information is power.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Welcome any chance for a serious discussion with a partner or close

friend today, because it will yield some practical, useful information. In fact, you might attract someone to you today who wants to have this kind of discussion.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Today you are aware of what needs to be done because you have a strong sense of duty and obligation to both yourself and others. You will work hard to complete your to-do list.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You can make great headway if you want to practice a particular skill in the arts, perhaps a music technique. Or you might use this same dedicated approach to practicing a skill related to sports or working with children.

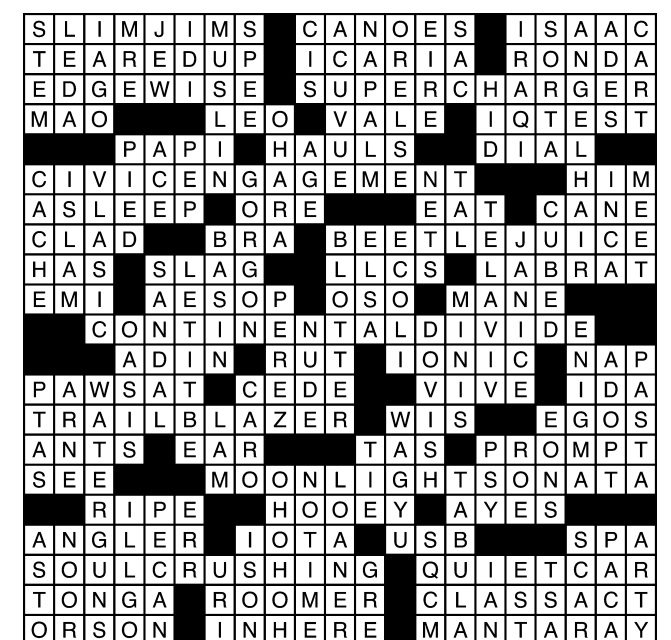
**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Family discussions will be serious

today; however, they will yield some practical results. This might be a good time to put your cards on the table and let others know what you expect and also what you're prepared to offer. This might encourage someone.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You'll be careful and thorough in your approach to whatever you do today. Ah yes, you'll be like the wise carpenter: "Measure twice, cut once." Choose work that requires attention to detail, because today you will not overlook things.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) You might have to take care of someone else today. In whatever you do, you will take a thrifty and careful approach to things because you're in a serious, practical frame of mind. This can be a productive day.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



11/7/21