

## DIVERSIONS

## THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

## Cinemix: Rearranged movie titles

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1489 the Empress asked you to rearrange the words in a movie title to make a new one (punctuation could change). Among the 1,971 entries, many offered up “*Dreams of Field*” as a boy’s fantasy about Gidget and the Flying Nun.

## 4th place:

**Bad News: The Bears:** A preview of the Washington Commanders’ game in Chicago on Oct. 13. Sequel to “Bad News: The Titans” and “Bad News: The Cowboys.” (Mark Calandra, Acton, Mass.)

## 3rd place:

**Rush Fools In:** The story of Trump’s fast-tracked judicial nominees. (Ryan Martinez, Takoma Park)

**2nd place and the Michael and Dwight ‘Office’ Pez dispensers:**

**2-Toy Story:** Ungrateful grandkids get an earful about what it was like to grow up with just a jump rope and a Mr. Potato Head that was an actual potato. (Susan Gearity, Menifee, Calif.)

## And the winner of the Clowning Achievement:

**Right, Do the Thing ...:** An absent-minded yes-man tries vainly to fulfill his boss’s order ... whatever it was ... (Donald Norum, Charlottesville)

## Film naah:

## Honorable mentions

**Thou Art Where? O Brother!** Once again, an Elizabethan cobbler has to bail out his ne’er-do-well sibling from the village stocks. (Ed Neveleff, North Potomac)

**Drop the Lemon, Kid!:** T-men raid Billy’s lemonade stand. (John McCoey, Rehoboth Beach, Del.)

**50 Dates First:** A woman does not want to rush things in her new relationship. (Michael Stein, Arlington)

**First, 50 Dates:** The hot-dog-eating competition begins with the Dried-Fruit Preliminary Round. (Leif Picoult, Rockville)

**Lesser Children of a God:** In this Don Jr. production, the ex-president recalls his encounters with “Marla’s and Melania’s kids.” (Steve Smith, Potomac)

**Me to Fly the Moon:** On Graduation Day, a cap, a gown and a devilish plan. (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

**Men, Goats Stare at the Who:** Rare footage from an early, sparsely attended concert on the Isle of Wight. (John Hutchins, Silver Spring)

**Miller and Mrs. McCabe:** The creepy Trump aide ends up in the emergency room and — whuh-oh! — his attending physician is the wife of the acting FBI director Trump fired. (Joel Cockrell, Damascus, Md.)

**Park, Jurassic!:** A slow-moving senior citizen can’t decide on a spot for his Chevrolet Caprice and is mercilessly heckled by other drivers. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

**Return of the Planet to the Apes:** A monkeypox pandemic wipes out the human race. (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

**Say “Never Never” Again:** Peter Pan 2. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

**Ted’s Bogus Journey & Bill:** A Texas senator introduces legislation making it a crime to film senators on “fact-finding” trips to Cancún. (Chris Doyle)

**The Air in “Up”:** Spoiler alert! It was helium. (Joe Neff, Warrington, Pa.)

**The Curious Button of Benjamin Case:** A man’s navel slowly changes from an innie to an outie as he ages. (Jon Ketzner, Cumberland, Md.)

**The Suspect’s Usual:** An eagle-eyed detective notices that his mark always orders two eggs over easy with rye toast, orange juice and a side of turkey bacon. (Coleman Glenn, Huntingdon Valley, Pa.)

**Third the Man:** Fed up with being sawed in half, a magician’s assistant turns the tables on her boss. (Jonathan Paul, Garrett Park, Md.)

**“Your Name,” By Me! Call!:** A ghostwriter trolls for work. (Mark Raffman, Reston)

**22, Catch!:** Tired of the spotlight always being on Clayton Kershaw, his Dodgers teammates make him play one game behind home plate. (Roy Ashley, Washington)

**A Beautiful Neighborhood in the Day:** A bitter Mr. Rogers rues urban blight and zoning malfeasance. (Sam Mertens, Silver Spring)



BOB STAAKE/ILLUSTRATION FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

## New contest for Week 1493: Frankly speaking with feghoots

Back in 1994, banjo legend Earl Scruggs started a two-year gig at the Flamingo in Las Vegas. About 10 months in, Scruggs took three weeks off to do some charity concerts, so the casino replaced his act with Americana singer Robert Earl Keen, offering a 40 percent discount on tickets.

The successful move became known as the “1995 Earl Change Special.” (Doug Frank, Crosby, Tex., Week 1100)

The Loser Community — especially the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook — received a shocking blow last week to learn of the sudden death of longtime Loser Doug Frank. Though Doug lived in Houston and hadn’t met other Losers in person, he had been especially active in the



AMY FRANK RICKS

The late Doug Frank, a light of the Loser Community.

Facebook community, and many of its members had developed a special bond as Doug shared not only his sly and sometimes wacky wit — ICYMI, that’s a play on “\$19.95 Oil Change Special” above — but also the long ordeal of caring for his wife, Diann, as she tried in vain to recover from a severe stroke; of his own recurring health problems; and of his recession-time struggles as a geological analyst in the oil industry. He was just 62.

But to most longtime readers of The Style Invitational, Doug was the author of 85 blots of clever, funny Invite ink from 2005 to 2019, and this week we bring back a contest he particularly enjoyed: **This week: Tell a feghoot — a mini-story (a ridiculous one is fine) that ends in a groaner pun on a familiar expression, title, line from a song, etc.,** as in Doug’s inking entry above from 2014. Do check to make sure your pun isn’t already in a million places on the internet.

While it’s fun to tell a long, ever-crazier story, the Empress needs you to keep it to just a few sentences; 75 words will be lengthy for us (Doug’s is about 60). But it also shouldn’t be a simple one-sentence riddle; it should read like an anecdote. Submit up to 25 entries at [wapo.st/enter-invite-1493](http://wapo.st/enter-invite-1493) (no capitals in the web address). **Deadline is Monday, June 27;** results appear July 17 in print, July 14 online.

**Winner gets the Clowning Achievement,** our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives **What’s That Smell?**, described on the box as “The Party Game That Stinks.” Players scratch ‘n’ sniff to identify everything from bacon to manure on 48 “mystery whiff cards” plus four “stank cards.” This is the second of these things that Loser Dave Prevar has “donated” to us.

**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, “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 “Cinemix” is by Kevin Dopart; Roy Ashley wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invudev](http://on.fb.me/invudev); “like” the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at [bit.ly/inkofday](http://bit.ly/inkofday); and follow @StyleInvite on Twitter. Daphne Steinberg suggested a contest in Doug’s memory, Jeff Contompas this one in particular.

**The Style Conversational:** The Empress’s weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. This week, a selection of some of Doug Frank’s classic Invite entries. See it at [wapo.st/conv1493](http://wapo.st/conv1493).

**Andre With My Dinner:** After blowing his trust fund, a spoiled young man learns to make do with cheap champagne. (Terri Berg Smith, Rockville)

**Angry Men 12:** Eleven sequels and the jury still can’t reach a verdict! (Frank Mann, Washington)

**Of Oz, the Wizard:** A snake oil peddler runs for senator in Pennsylvania. (Lori Lipman Brown, Silver Spring)

**Oz of the Wizard:** Bitter rivalries erupt as Harry Potter’s remains are sold off bit by bit. (Tim Harvey, Montgomery Village, a First Offender)

**Fast High at Ridgmont Times:** An understaffed small-town paper, fueled by meth and cocaine, struggles to stay afloat. (Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.)

**Fine! “One Day!”** A worn-down mother agrees to a more flexible schedule for her teenage daughter’s room to be cleaned. (Kate Sammons, Ashburn)

**For Country, No Old Men:** Nashville finally adopts the Lil Nas X demographic. (Diane Lucitt, Ellicott City)

**Frankenstein and Costello Meet Abbott:** A highly unlikely duo helps the baby formula manufacturer solve the shortage. (Eric Nelkin, Silver Spring)

**French the Connection:** A drug dealer does whatever is necessary to maintain his supply. (Ed Neveleff)

**He’s Into Just That — Not You:** A young woman misinterprets the overtures of a shoe salesman. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

**Home Spider? No Way, Man:** A roommate lays down the law about one prospective pet. (John Klayman, Fairfax)

**House Animal:** A day in the life of Rep. Matt Gaetz. (Ryan Martinez)

**Hunting Will? Good!:** The cycle of violence continues as Chris Rock’s sympathizers seek revenge. (Karen Lambert, Chevy Chase)

**Kiss Bang Kiss Bang:** James Bond forgets that Q gave him explosive teeth. (Barbara Turner, Takoma Park)

**Launch to Failure:** Remembering the Biden inauguration. (Ryan Martinez)

**The 2-Part Godfather:** Dr. Frankenstein attempts to bring peace between warring Mafia families by assembling a new Don from a pair of recently whacked rivals. (Steve Benko, Southport, Conn.)

**Kramer vs. Kramer:** In this sequel, the countersuit. (Brian Collins, Olney)  
More honorable mentions in a future Invite.

**Still running — deadline Monday night, June 20:** Our contest for conservative-leaning humor. See [wapo.st/invite1492](http://wapo.st/invite1492).

## L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

“SWITCHING SIDES” BY ED SESSA	79 Cooking stove	117 “LA’s Finest”	USA” actress	53 Forehead-covering hair	84 Nordstrom rival
	80 Tropical veranda	81 Traps in an attic?	17 Stretch on the job	56 Tricky road curves	86 Conservationist
	85 Extremely blah	118 Change for a five	18 Like lemonade	57 Rupees and rubles	87 Season wood, in a way
	87 Temperature unit	119 “The Right Stuff” figure	24 iPad speaker	58 102-Down’s mother	90 Tropical garland
	88 Calendario square	120 Deck chair piece	26 Resort town on Colorado’s	59 Hawaiian “thank you”	91 Male deer
	89 Singer Carly ___		Roaring Fork River	60 Admission of guilt	92 Some electric cars
	90 Cattle that may tip over?		29 Suffix with neat or beat	61 Magazine name	93 Heaps
	93 Out of whack		30 Pop star	62 Not straight	94 Thin-layered rock
	97 Poet Silverstein		31 Gradually vanish	63 “Mean Girls” star	95 Shish ___
	99 Tavern quaff		32 Chophouse choice	64 Lindsays	96 Chris who plays Captain America
	100 Some charity runs		33 In great demand	65 Drinks for the house	97 Extra
	101 “Life’s too short for dull razors,” e.g.?		7 Witticism	66 Key ___	98 Wrestling moves
	105 Effortlessness		8 Tuna in poke bowls	67 Kyiv’s country	102 58-Down’s son
	106 Subject of PETA’s traveling exhibit “Without Consent”		9 NCAA div.	70 Writer/actor	103 FBI guys
	107 Queue for lottery tickets?		10 Surface for shavasana	71 Throw in	104 Beech or peach
	113 North Carolina campus		11 Apple product? by fog	72 Zoo enclosure	105 Dept. formed after the 1977 oil crisis
	114 Dorky sort		12 Maternity ward doc	73 Valletta’s island	108 Reddit Q&A session
	115 New version of an old film		13 Juicer refuse	74 Block that often falls on Wile E. Coyote	109 Droll sort
	116 Jessica of		14 “Right Back ___”: Spice Girls song	75 Genetic material	110 “The Mindy Project” actor
			15 Deep opera voices	76 “Misérables”	111 Org. with Thunder and Heat
			16 “McFarland,	77 House quartet co-star	112 Gulp down
			51 Pts. of a book	83 Little cut	

6/19/22

©2022 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Answers to last week’s puzzle below.

## HOROSCOPE

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

**Happy Birthday | June 19:** You are a passionate person with a strong zest for life. You work hard, but you also love socializing and having a good time. You always approach things with enthusiasm. This year you will work to construct or build structures both externally and internally. Physical exercise will be helpful.

**Moon Alert:** There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions today. The Moon is in Pisces.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) Today you’ll be tempted to buy luxurious, elegant items. Actually, this is a lovely day to buy a romantic gift for someone special. (Don’t leave home without a rose between your teeth.)

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) This is a romantic day for your sign. It’s a wonderful day to schmooze, especially with romantic partners. However, a friend or a member of a group might do something that surprises you or catches you off guard.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) You love an adoring peanut gallery. Meanwhile, today is a time when secret love affairs can flourish. However, be aware that secrets might be revealed today, because something unexpected will put you in the spotlight.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) Friendships with others and your interactions with groups will be warm and caring today. In particular, you will find it rewarding to be involved with an organization that benefits those who are less fortunate. Meanwhile, travel plans might suddenly change.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) You might develop a crush on your boss or someone in authority today. Meanwhile, others might seek out your advice about how to make something look better. Stay on top of banking and shared property details to avoid a surprise.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Feelings of escapism are strong today. You want to travel somewhere with white sands, turquoise waters and drinks with little parasols in them. Some of you might suddenly develop a crush on someone “different.” Today is full of

possibilities and delightful surprises.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Keep your pockets open, because gifts and goodies might come your way today. Someone might be generous to you. Meanwhile, keep an eye on your pet to avoid mishaps or accidents.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) This is the perfect day for a fun outing, in particular, a romantic date. You also will feel tenderhearted with children because your idealism is aroused along with your sense of sympathy and compassion. Artists will be in touch with their muse.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Your home routine might be interrupted today. A family member might surprise you. Focus on work or any task at hand that you want to complete. A work-related romance might begin.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) This is the perfect day for romance

and a special date with your main squeeze, especially this evening. If you cannot share this time with someone else, then do something special for yourself. Treat yourself! Enjoy the arts, parks, museums and beautiful surroundings.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You will enjoy entertaining at home today. You also will enjoy doing something to make where you live look more attractive. It’s the perfect day to relax in a garden or a special place that you have created that gives you pleasure. Family members will be caring and sympathetic.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) You are sensitive to the needs and feelings of others today. You might even feel a “soul union” with someone. You will definitely appreciate the beauty of your daily surroundings, which means it’s the perfect day to visit a park or someplace beautiful and inspirational.

Answers to last week’s puzzle.

L	A	T	I	N	B	A	B	E	S	P	A	R	E	S	H	A	T													
O	R	O	N	O	O	L	I	N	P	I	S	A	N	S	U	M	A													
P	E	R	C	U	S	S	I	O	N	S	E	C	T	I	O	N	N	O	R											
E	S	T	A	T	E	S	T	I	M	E	S	I	N	K	W	K	R	P												
					H	U	G	E	A	S	E	D	D	I	T	T	O													
					S	N	O	R	E	R	S	A	S	P	C	A	L	O	F	T	Y									
					U	N	I	O	N	L	E	A	D	E	R	O	P	T	I	C	J	O	E							
					S	E	N	T	F	I	O	S	H	E	L	E	N	P	U	M	A									
					M	A	E	S	T	R	O	C	S	P	O	T	S	E	M	I	N	A	R							
					C	D	S	B	E	R	G	E	L	I	S	R	E	E	K	S										
										C	O	M	M	U	N	I	T	Y	C	E	N	T	E	R						
										A	M	I	N	O	T	E	R	A	W	A	I	T	M	A	P					
										S	P	I	N	D	R	Y	V	A	L	E	T	M	A	S	C	O	T	S		
										A	I	D	E	S	O	D	A	S	G	A	I	A	A	N	A	S				
										R	A	J	K	E	Y	E	D	C	O	U	N	T	E	R	P	A	R	T		
										I	N	A	L	L	O	C	A	L	A	S	H	A	R	P	E	I				
										N	O	M	A	D	E	N	D	I	T	T	A	I								
										P	A	U	L	L	I	O	N	S	D	E	N	P	I	T	S	T	O	P		
										A	B	A	P	I	E	C	E	S	O	F	F	U	R	N	I	T	U	R	E	
										S	U	R	S	E	T	T	L	E	A	E	R	O	N	O	N	C	E			
										S	T	Y	I	N	S	O	L	E	T	R	I	M	G	L	E	A	N			

6/12/22