

Are You Sirius?

THEY SAY THAT SOME PEOPLE COUNT SHEEP to help them fall asleep, although I've never met anyone who actually admitted to doing that. Sometimes when I can't sleep, I recite the little sonnets I've created in this column over the past few years. I haven't done one for a while, and I need some new verse to fight insomnia, so thanks for your indulgence.

Last time, I didn't even tell you the category (famous scientists) of the things being anagrammed. This time, it'll be easier. The subject is stars. There is one anagram per line, a star anagrammed in either one or two consecutive words. The rest of the words in the poem are meaningless. All the stars are single words—no answers like Alpha Centauri appear. The full names of some stars may have more than one

word, but in those cases, the stars are commonly referred to by single words.

The stars will be familiar to the fervent stargazers among you. Others may have to consult a reference source. Let me know if you are able to solve all 14 names without any help.

Thanks to Eric Klis, Bob Fink, and Jerry Miccolis for test-solving and editorial suggestions.

A Star Is Born

An artisan (let's stretch the definition)

Did wonders with a soup can he had drained.

His model sat near looking mighty pained

And gave no indication of contrition.

"I hate to brag, but I nailed my audition.

My tardiness is easily explained:

You sing; present a scene; then get detained.

My costar calls it 'Broadway Inquisition.'"

The way one sees an ox pull on a yoke.

The way a Lee ad makes one overpay.

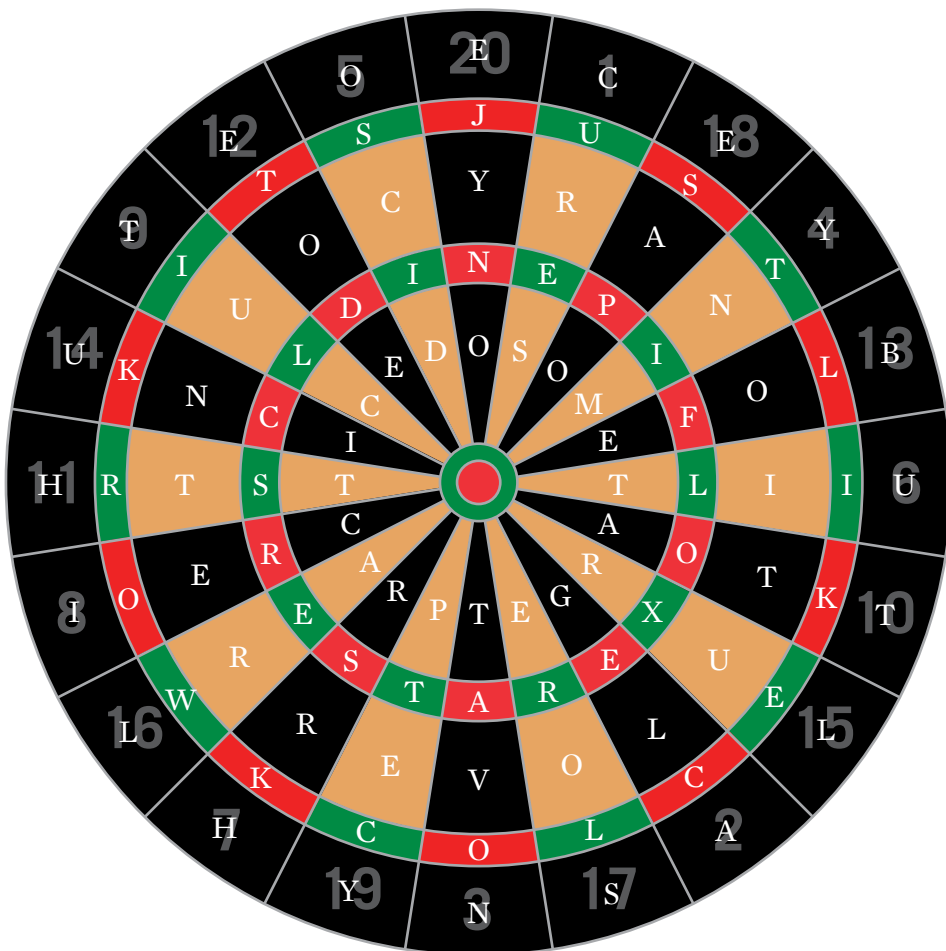
You give a gal an inch, pal, and you're through.

So April Fools! She stopped to do some coke.

Now empty your gelée tubes while ye may;

A new star lives on old stars' residue.

TOM TOCE is a senior manager for actuarial services with Ernst & Young in New York and is a member of the Jeopardy Hall of Fame. Solutions may be emailed to thomas.toce@ey.com. In order to make the solver list, your solutions must be received by July 31, 2016.



- Outer bull's-eye = E
- Inner bull's-eye (clockwise from 20) = D, S, G, A, A, Z, U, F, I, A, D, O, I, N, V, A, Q, C, V, B

Previous Issue's Puzzle—Darts

As many of you pointed out, there was an error in the printed diagram. There were two 18s and no 2. Per a standard dartboard, the 18 in the five o'clock position should have been a 2.

The five-word taunt derived from substituting letters for the numbers on the outside radial section is “Can you hit the bull’s-eye?”

Clues

1. RESCUES—Anagram of “secures”
2. ELEGIAC—First letters of “estimated life expectancy gets increasingly attenuated, causing”
3. NOVATED—NOVA (“A big star suddenly”) + TED (“Edward casually”)
4. AMENITY—Anagram of “anytime”
5. BODICES—B (“blue”) + O (“orange”) + DICES (“cubes”)
6. UTILIZE—Homophone of “you till ayes”
7. SHIRKER—SH (“Quiet”) + IRK (“torment”) + ER (“hmm”)
- 8). REVOICE—REVO (“turned over”) + ICE (“Diamonds”)
9. CUTICLE—Anagram of “Cut lice”
10. TAKEOUT—Outside “Takei’s trout”
11. THREATS—Anagram of “Hatter’s”
12. DEVOTEE—DEVO (“rock band”) + TEE (“three-way joint”)
13. BEEFALO—BEE (“drone”) + FALO (“mixed up foal”)
14. QUICKEN—QU (“question”) + ICK (“an utterance of disgust”) + EN (“extreme elements in Esfahan”)
15. FLEXURE—F (“Loud,” from “forte”) + homophone of lecture (“sermon”)
16. RENEWAL—RENE + WAL (“Wally’s falling short”)
17. AREOLES—Anagram of “Are Leos”
18. APOGEES—Reversal of SEE (“date”) + GOP (“Republicans”) + A (“I”)
19. COTYPE—Anagram of “Toce? Yep”
20. ENJOYED—EN(JOY)ED (“unusual need”) around JOY (“Carol’s first word”)

Solvers

Solvers at the Excruciating Level:

Steve Alpert, Bates & Buckner, Bob Campbell, Lois Cappellano, Todd Dashoff, Mick Diede, Sean Donohoe and Josh DenHartog, dba T.O.C.E (The Thousand Oaks Cryptic Enthusiasts), Mathew Eberhardt, Deb Edwards, Bob Fink, Phil Gollance, John Herder, J&J Holloman, Paul Ivanovskis, Ruth Johnson, Eric Klis, Paul Kollé, Ken Kudrak, David Lovit, Tim Luker, Jon Michelson, Lee Michelson, Dave McGarry, Philip Morse, Jerry Miccolis, John Murray, David & Corinne Promislow, Bill Scott, Jon Turnes

Solvers using some hints (or not saying):

Dean Apps, Karl Baker, Glenn Bier, Bob Buck, Laura Cremerius, Tim Fitzgibbons, Bruce Fuller, Catharine Hornby, Jeff McLane, Jim Muza, Karen Skoglund, Doug Szper, Dave Wallman, Frank Zaret