

Comedy or Tragedy?
by Squonk

Sure, everybody loves 30 Rock and The Office, but what about those poor misunderstood sitcoms that hardly had a chance to get off the ground? I'm planning a mini-marathon honoring some of them, but I still need a really good title for the event. Maybe you can help. The first seven puzzles below honor different failed sitcoms. The solution to each is an eight-letter word (or, in one case, a three-word phrase). Then use these answers in the final Scheduling puzzle. I hope these puzzles bring a bigger smile to your face than the original sitcoms did!

Baby Bob (2002)

Premise: Adam Arkin and Joely Fisher as first-time parents who discover their baby can talk

Recent investigations in the CBS vault have uncovered synopses for several unaired episodes of the series. The titles of these episodes share a certain wordplay property with the series' title. Figure out the titles, and you can then find two equal-length clues (of different sorts) leading to this puzzle's final answer.

1. Bob tries to use parliamentary procedure to stage the overthrow of his parents. (6 6)
2. For a school science fair, Bob creates a volcano that spews martini garnishes. (5 4)
3. Bob dresses as a policeman when he visits his cousin, Old Macdonald. (7 2 1 4)
4. Bob sneezes. Loudly. (5 4)
5. Bob gets spun around by a cyclone. (7 6)
6. Bob's mother is livid when Bob spits up on her expensive sweater. (6 5)
7. In a game of Charades, Bob must act out the phrase "E pluribus unum". (7 5)
8. Bob uses sticky material to attach the bottom of a picture to the wall, but he neglects the other side. (2 4 2 3)
9. Bob becomes a Missouri DJ, often telling his listeners to relax. ("4 5, 2. 5")

E/R (1984-1985)

Premise: George Clooney as an emergency room doctor...no, not that series

It looks like we have some special guests this week!

- Cassandra, for example
- She was told to “just walk away”, in song
- Serving of corn
- Smell
- Beverage or bread
- Stat for Smoltz
- Famous group from Athens
- Raise
- Piece maker?
- Fictional caregiver
- Only
- Necessity for most Super Bowl parties
- Gold source
- Wanton look

Flying Blind (1992-1993)

Premise: Nerdy Corey Parker romances free spirit Tea Leoni

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1. Unalakleet | • Bond |
| 2. Lawton Fort Sill | • Clean |
| 3. Gnos | • Curse |
| 4. Philip Billard | • Defect |
| 5. Eleftherios Venizelos | • Friend |
| 6. Gandhinagar | • King ____ |
| 7. Manchester | • Peril |
| 8. Luanda | • Pleased |
| 9. Dera Ghazi Khan | • Plug |
| 10. Pangborn | • Pretends |
| 11. South Jersey | • Pulp |
| 12. Kearney | • Succeeding |
| 13. Exeter | • Supermodel |
| 14. Chitose | • Thought |
| 15. Boire | • Trash |
| 16. Ashley | • What this puzzle should be, if you know IATA |

Good Sports (1991)

Premise: Farrah Fawcett and Ryan O'Neal as mismatched anchors on a sports network

They're not quite on speaking terms apparently...

1. COLE/HOOD/CLUE
2. BASS/SAT/STEAM
3. DAWN/PUTT/CARD
4. SHARE/CUTTER/ALLOY
5. PUNK/CC'ING/SLICK
6. SHUT/SOUL/DINK
7. ROCKET/NERVE/SALLY

Homeboys in Outer Space (1996-1997)

Premise: Um...there are these homeboys, and they're in outer space

But where's home?

YUWR (1)

QZUIR (6)

DLRN QRGJSDRNW (3)

YSDIUDY WNGVUDEQ (2)

MON EUIMUW (8)

LVIDN YSWMPV (1)

CNDESW IUVNONSE (6)

QLZNWYSV (4)

That's My Bush! (2001)

Premise: The wacky personal life of the 43rd President

C	A	C	A	E	D	D	I	E	I	A	L
E	A	E	A	I	E	E	R	S	I	O	N
R	H	R	H	I	L	G	S	T	N	O	P
T	L	R	K	Q	N	L	Y	T	R	S	U
		S	N	R	U	P					

When Things Were Rotten (1975)

Premise: Mel Brooks takes on the Robin Hood legend

Let's honor some good sitcoms for a change. Unfortunately, in this puzzle, they've gone rotten! Or rather rot-ten. Each letter has been shifted either ten places forward or backward in the alphabet (where Z loops back to A). To make matters worse, Robin Hood has stolen two letters from each title, replacing them with asterisks. Spacing is still preserved in the titles.

ROM**SXON
 **OUBI
 OLUB*LENI BELO* HQICEDN
 C*Y*POBT
 RKHD*I *SBVOH
 CEBZR* RH*MD
 KBV Y* *RO PQCSBO
 OLUDSDW I*KT*
 *ZYD S*JO
 O**JO DOID
 KHBO*DUN NOLUB*FCODD
 PHIO*N*

