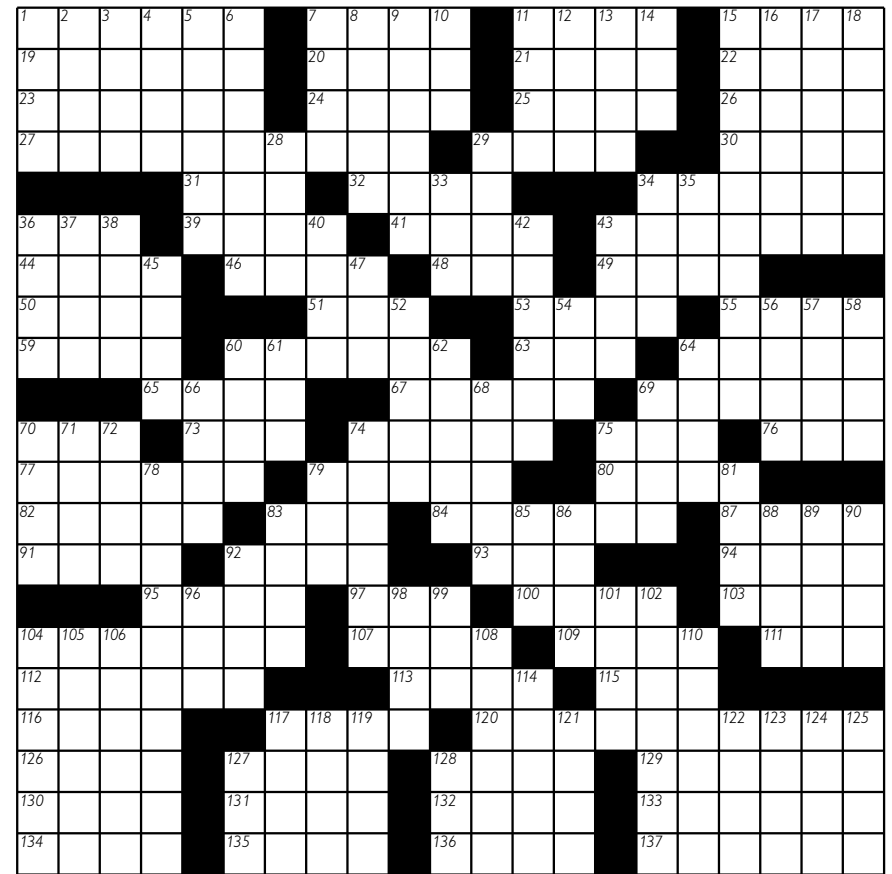


18 Sower counterpart  
 28 Forge of Vulcan  
 29 Slangy rarity (thrown in for the cruciverbalists)  
 33 "I like \_\_\_\_" (1952 slogan)  
 34 Small lake  
 35 With 20A, succeder's state  
 36 "... \_\_\_\_ with a fish!" (Dr. Seuss line)  
 37 Seaweed  
 38 Melee  
 40 Hot baths and tubs  
 42 Extreme ones?  
 43 With "the", final, er, purchase?  
 45 Desert "monster"  
 47 Flow partner  
 52 Greet  
 54 Unity, in a way  
 56 Trouble for a parade  
 57 Tuscan flower  
 58 Where to find life, so they say, with "the" (*cf.* 74A)  
 60 His partner  
 61 Woolly one  
 62 Inevitable part of life  
 64 Kind of gram  
 66 Rages  
 68 Buttinski-ed, as it were  
 69 Rent or take on  
 70 Chicago radio station  
 71 Soap ingredient  
 72 Primitive  
 74 Did some kvetching  
 75 Fitting  
 78 A leveling of the playing field, in a way (Mt. St. Helens environs after May, 18, 1980, e.g.)  
 79 Where to pump  
 81 Problem for a tap or dater

83 Cop a ' \_\_\_\_ (slang expression, involving belligerence)  
 85 Tenet's old haunt  
 86 Ecclesiastical garbs  
 88 The Fourth Pythian and the Fifth Isthmian are classic ones  
 89 What eagles do  
 90 Second (of four) voices  
 92 Word with Eastern, Scottish, Latin, or Old  
 96 Industrial container  
 98 Score line, sometimes  
 99 Sally or Norma  
 101 Political collective  
 102 \_\_\_\_ bar (really stupid criminal trick)  
 104 Once (uh...) and future (uh...) climatological phenomenon  
 105 Totalled  
 106 Cal Ripken was a famous one, as was Brooks Robinson  
 108 Cooking verb, as with tough meat  
 110 "\_\_\_\_ on the beach..." (start of a holiday photo caption)  
 114 \_\_\_\_ so ("shucks; I reckon")  
 117 Runner of 1999 cinema  
 118 Kind of surgery or test  
 119 Minor specie  
 121 "Sin of \_\_\_\_"; he who violated levirate law  
 122 It is supposed to raise consciousness  
 123 Prude, pickpocket, or dandy  
 124 In \_\_\_\_ (place of origin)  
 125 Extremely wide  
 127 Kind of relief  
 128 Construction or shoot site

## Levels of Analysis in a Dangerous World



Does God sometimes push the reset button? Last year, I wrote of calamities, natural and human-caused, and pointed out that, hey, they've always been with us and, surely, they always will, so we may as well cease the fretting and stewing and hand-wringing. That puzzle was entitled "Gallows Humor." The first part will, of course, forever hang over us—bad things *do* happen to good organisms, to good species, to...entire galaxies—but within a month, the waters came upon Banda Aceh, then withdrew, carrying away the dead and the still living...and it was all no longer funny. So: A year of winds and waves and crashing walls of earth might lead us to believe that, at the least, Nature is desperately trying to shake her tormentors. Perhaps there is some anthropomorphized truth in this, though the better answer is undoubtedly to point out that Nature is under no obligation to attend to human sensibilities. As Terry Pratchett notes, God may indeed keep his eye on the sparrow, but he doesn't lift a finger to slow its fall. Or, to paraphrase Mr. Spock, the needs

of the larger future are greater than those of the smaller present. Is this more or less how God should have answered Job? This is an end-of-the-year puzzle, not a theological essay. And yet, the season demands, if not a thorough exegesis of how the universe works, at least some sincere reflection. This is my attempt, short form; believe it or not, I infer, from all this, *hope*, on several levels. Each of us does, after all, come from a long line of survivors: Sometimes we *can* dance a tarantella on the cusp of a catastrophe curve.

*Albert G. Swanson 12/2005*

### Across

- I Dearth, of a sort  
 7 ... \_\_\_ *Spee*, of WWII fame  
 II Dour (*cf.* 18D)  
 15 Bulgarian town or museum  
 19 "Attach your cable to the \_\_\_..." (one step in setting up your satellite system, referring to the low-noise amplifier unit)  
 20 See 35D  
 21 It flows into the sea at King's Lynn  
 22 Series of DJ mixers; Yeager vehicle Glamorous Glennis, spelled out  
 23 "He's \_\_\_", sung by Peggy Lee  
 24 Certain courtly advocate  
 25 Josip Broz  
 26 "\_\_\_ Mac" (Jobs advice)  
 27 Deleterious doctrine or scourge  
 29 Phrase preceded by a gasp, perhaps  
 30 It's famous for pancakes  
 31 Slave Turner, for one  
 32 Actress Lena  
 34 Passo \_\_\_ ( a ski mecca, now)  
 36 Chicago-based corp.  
 39 One in Düsseldorf
- 41 With out, made a living  
 43 \_\_\_ Party, of Mountain Meadows Massacre fame  
 44 Hype, as a book  
 46 Where to find raised hackles  
 48 Recent Miss Universe Machimoto  
 49 "I smell \_\_\_"  
 50 Well-named fruit  
 51 Auto option, for short  
 53 Astronaut Jake  
 55 *Dies* \_\_\_  
 59 Missionary to the gentiles  
 60 What to say about Leroy Brown, in brief  
 63 Lucas' FX Co.  
 64 Stash  
 65 Have \_\_\_ (go drinking)  
 67 Streisand 1983 vehicle  
 69 Sharpening, as a weapon  
 70 Two person card game  
 73 A common verb  
 74 Still somewhat trendy theory  
 75 Hurt  
 76 Chaucer alludes to his great waters in "The Miller's Tale" (the language of which is a clue to the spelling)  
 77 Mystic Robert and namesakes  
 79 Horse rhythms (of interest to those who study symmetrical

systems—and of vital interest to those interested in the theme of this puzzle)

- 80 Cattle \_\_\_  
 82 Aeolian and Lydian, to a composer  
 83 Norse god (*cf.* 70A)  
 84 Greek goddess of the crossroads  
 87 Name with Parks or Santa  
 91 Some shirts or supports  
 92 Kind of roast or session  
 93 Weakened (abbr.)  
 94 Baal, Errol, Elvis, or Ringo  
 95 *Metamorphoses* fellow  
 97 Musician's asset  
 100 Wd. in some clues  
 103 It is needed for Scotch malts  
 104 Quarantine  
 107 Slattern; uninspired  
 109 Largo or adagio  
 111 Hindu honorific  
 112 Run a museum  
 113 Physicist Bak and author Andersson  
 115 Awrd. created by George V  
 116 Spew  
 117 *Comida* \_\_\_; crazy in Cadiz  
 120 Where, or when, to find certain metaphorical equestrians  
 126 Mine to Jean *de* Joinville  
 127 Auger  
 128 One at the top of a food chain (disregarding, of course, the worms, *et. al.*)  
 129 Scottish lullaby word  
 130 Father of Hieronymos and Harmonia  
 131 Famed mathematician Turing  
 132 Greek peak  
 133 An ore  
 134 In Star Trek II and III, the Genesis Planet becomes kind of a metaphorical one  
 135 Kind of pillar (*cf.* 129D)  
 136 Acne sufferer, often  
 137 This word, noun and adjective, is in the title of works by Albert Camus and Richard Adams, respectively

### Down

- 1 Tent feature  
 2 Kind of entrance fee  
 3 Celestial neighbor (*cf.* 70A) or bar  
 4 "\_\_\_ next" (baseball or cricket observation)  
 5 *Sine* \_\_\_ (Vaughan Williams tune)  
 6 Interpret  
 7 \_\_\_ *Turismo*  
 8 Controversial EU politician Buttiglione  
 9 Gene alternative  
 10 It might be avian  
 11 Dark; punk  
 12 Destroy  
 13 Comparison phrase  
 14 *Deus* \_\_\_!  
 15 The Permian one was a mass example, as was the K-T  
 16 It was surely more widely studied in Portugal before 1497 (var. sp.)  
 17 Common "Whatever" phrase with love, reason, way, or god