

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Inquiries: Ask Backwards winners

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1302**, our perennial Ask Backwards contest, the Empress listed 15 "answers" and asked for the questions. Too often for individual credit, the Supreme Court softball team was said to have no one who'd play in center field, or that its games always ended up 5-4. And that a pith helmet is what should be worn to a golden shower.

4th place

**A. Grace at the Trumps' Thanksgiving dinner.**  
Q. After Lisa at the White House Halloween party and Julie at the Veterans Day breakfast, whom did he grab next? (Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)

3rd place

**A. The Supreme Court softball team.**  
Q. What is the latest place Brett Kavanaugh was caught trying to steal third base? (Peter Jenkins, Bethesda)

2nd place and the squeeze eyeball and splatty poop emoji:

**A. An almost-everything bagel.**  
Q. What favorite food did Elizabeth Warren cite as evidence of her Jewish heritage? (Mark Raffman, Reston)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

**A. A pith helmet.**  
Q. After her idea for special makeup was rejected, what did Megyn Kelly suggest that Melania wear on her Africa trip? (Bob Kruger, Rockville)

Flat is the question: Honorable mentions

**\$3.33 AN HOUR**  
What is half the minimum wage in Hell? (Robyn Carlson, Keyser, W.Va.)

What is Metro's latest fare for a trip from Dupont Circle to Metro Center? (Ira Allen, Bethesda)

What's probably not the best way to receive your Mega Millions winnings? (Jesse Frankovich)

**AN ALMOST-EVERYTHING BAGEL**  
What's a good breakfast choice for people who are allergic to kitchen sinks? (Rob Huffman, Fredricksburg)

Which Dunkin' Donuts product contains every ingredient except taste? (Mike Gips, Bethesda)

What name change did the deli's lawyers suggest for the everything bagel? (Dudley Thompson, Cary, N.C.)

**IT'S A POPULAR DRINKING GAME, OF COURSE**  
What is Imbibe and Consent? (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

What is Ring Around the Rosé? (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

**FLAKE, CAKE AND RAKE**  
What are someone Trump always puts down, something he never puts down and something he never picks up? (Bob Kruger)

"Can you please read the instructions on this Budget Back-Hair Removal Kit?" (Will Stutzman, Millersville, Ohio)

What words were discarded from early versions of McDonald's slogan "You deserve a break today"? (Beverly Sharp)

**GRACE AT THE TRUMPS' THANKSGIVING DINNER**  
What is "Let us prey"? (Mark Raffman)

What includes lots of bragging about electoral college totals? (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

When a dozen new indictments are announced on Nov. 22, what will Fox News be airing? (Allen R. Breon, Clarksville)

What are three choruses of "I Feel Pretty"? (Joshua Rokach, Silver Spring)

**AND SO WE NAMED HIM KANYE**  
You say your new puppy is snippy, wags his tongue a lot, and won't stop yelping? (Mark Raffman)

You wanted to name your son an anagram of a country, but didn't like "Uper"? (Jon Ketzner, Cumberland, Md.)

**ELON MUSK COLOGNE**  
What drives the opposite SECs wild? (J. Larry Schott, West Plains, Mo.)

What product's slogan is "For when



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New for Week 1306: PolitiCaroling: A song parody contest

From **Week 585**, back in the middle of the George W. Bush administration:

To "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer"  
**Putin the Red knows tactics He learned at the KGB. Rigging Ukraine's election, That's a covert specialty. He's not for spreading freedom, He just wants complete control. Mr. Bush, one suggestion: Look again into his soul.** (Harvey Smith, McLean)

Fourteen years ago, and only one of the names has changed. In the Empress's first song parody contest, Loser Harvey Smith referred to the president's response when a reporter asked him if he could trust Vladimir Putin: "I looked the man in the eye. I found him very straightforward and trustworthy — I was able to get a sense of his soul."

After all these years, we again combine two of the E's passions: song parody contests and Christmas songs. **This week: Write a song about something in the news lately — political or otherwise — using a Christmas, Hanukkah or New Year's tune.** We'll give you an extra week to get the parodies done. If you make a video, we might feature it in the online Invite, but it's the quality of the lyrics that matters most.

Submit entries at the website [wapo.st/enter-invite-1306](http://wapo.st/enter-invite-1306).

Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy. And since we're getting our holiday season underway, second place receives a dainty collectible porcelain toilet ornament, in a gift box. Martha Stewart always includes one of these on her own tree. Well, she should. Donated by Kyle Hendrickson.

**Other runners-up** win our "You Gotta Play to Lose" Loser Mug or our Grossery Bag, "I Got a B in Punmanship" (or perhaps a new design). Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, "We've Seen Better" or "IDiot Card." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). **Deadline is Monday night, Dec. 3;** results published Dec. 16 (online Thursday, Dec. 13). See general contest rules and guidelines at [wapo.st/InvRules](http://wapo.st/InvRules). The headline for this week's results is by Jesse Frankovich; Jesse also wrote this week's honorable-mentions subhead. Join the Style Invitational Devotees on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](http://on.fb.me/invdev). "Like" Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at [bit.ly/inkofday](http://bit.ly/inkofday); follow @StyleInvite on Twitter.

**THE STYLE CONVERSATIONAL** The Empress's weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. Especially if you plan to enter the parody contest, check it out at [wapo.st/styleconv](http://wapo.st/styleconv).

What is "Money-Saving Halloween Ideas With Megyn Kelly"? (Ivars Kuskevics, Takoma Park; G.T. Bowman, Falls Church)

What's "Dan Snyder's Greatest Sports Moments"? (John Hutchins, Silver Spring)

What is "In Pog We Trust: Legends of the 1990s Milk Cap Craze"? (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

THE FAIR TO MIDDLING PUMPKIN

What comes on before "A Charlie Beige Christmas"? (Art Grinath, Takoma Park)

What do you use to make the Pumpkin Spice Blahhte? (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village; Jeff Shirley, Richmond)

What did the grandparents call their ordinary grandchild? (Kristin Braly, Baltimore)

THE SUPREME COURT SOFTBALL TEAM

Who's No. 1 in the D.C. Justice League? (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

What team has no pitchers because they've switched to kegs? (Gary Crockett)

Whose mascots are named the Racing Precedents? (Jeff Contompasis)

Whose pitcher would have been drafted by the Red Sox had Game 3 gone one more inning? (Hildy Zampella, Alexandria)

More honorable mentions in the online Invite at [wapo.st/invite1306](http://wapo.st/invite1306).

**Still running — deadline Monday night, Nov. 19: our Googlenopes/Googleyups contest.** See [wapo.st/invite1305](http://wapo.st/invite1305).

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

"BRO HUG" BY C.C. BURNIKEL

**ACROSS**  
1 Stack in a cabinet  
5 "What a surprise to run into you!"  
9 Fraternity letter  
14 Out of juice  
18 "It's my turn!"  
19 Quick looks  
21 Used at the table  
22 Actress Swenson  
23 Corporate criminal's undoing  
25 Orbit, e.g.  
27 Public row  
28 Sign at a takeout window  
30 Ethereal glows  
31 "Basket of Bread" painter  
33 Finish off  
34 Decline the invite, perhaps  
36 Benchmark: Abbr.  
39 Sparty's school  
43 Game show hosts  
46 Most faithful  
48 Glass work  
49 Old cereal box no.  
50 Traditional Indian wedding garment  
51 Support person  
52 Cantina hors d'oeuvres  
54 Elle Girl rival  
56 Scandalous biographies  
58 "Dude, you with me?"  
60 Cease  
61 K.C. to New Orleans dir.  
62 "Get my point?"  
63 Corporate deal  
65 Facial hair, for short  
66 RB's gains  
68 Football helmet part  
71 Strange  
72 Personal account  
75 82-Across' powerful patients  
76 Glorifying tribute  
78 Bit of sunshine  
81 Plaza Hotel girl  
82 75-Across' docs  
83 Place for slanted columns  
85 Gets rid of  
87 Big name in winter boots  
89 Double-curved arch

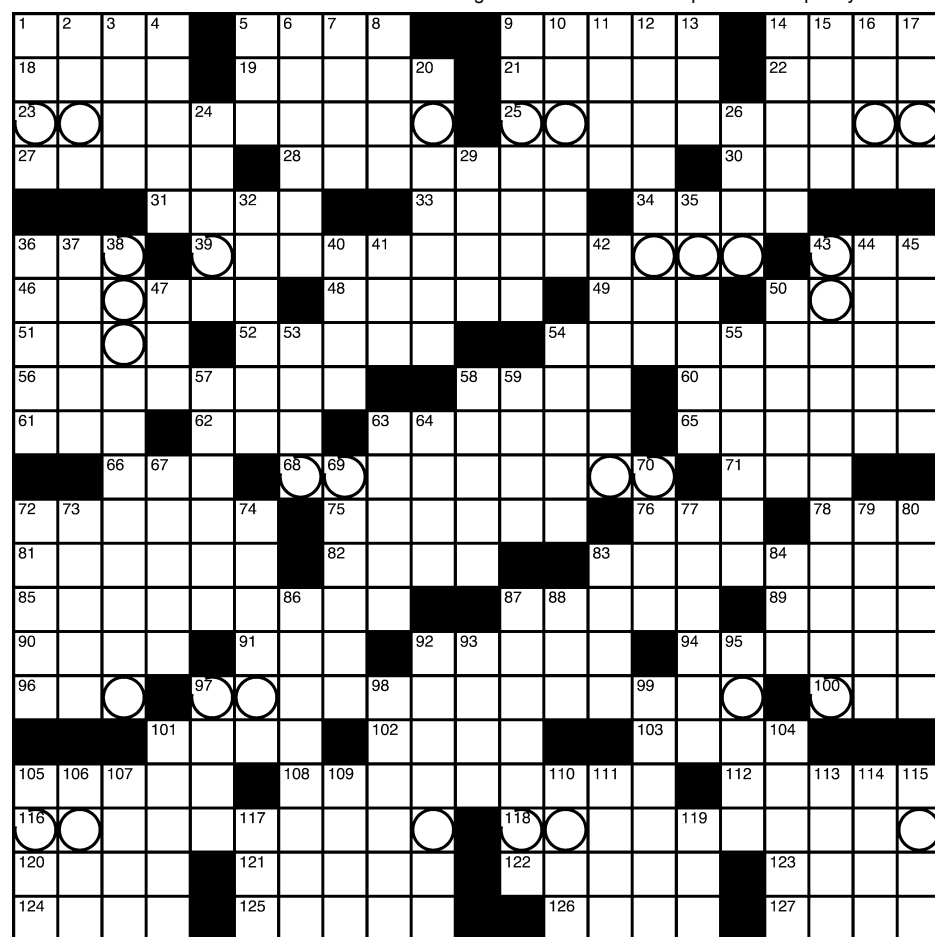
90 Fish voiced by Ellen DeGeneres  
91 Corp. bigwig  
92 Tamilu producer  
94 Rockies range  
96 Barnyard mom  
97 1898 battle site  
100 High degree  
101 Tune for two  
102 One writing birthday wishes, at times  
103 Food-inspection org.  
105 Thrash  
108 Is pure perfection, scorewise  
112 Sundance flick  
116 "Miracle on Ice" setting  
118 Bit of thrill-seeking equipment  
120 Fail to include  
121 Tavern sign abbr.  
122 Didn't take well?  
123 Sweet place?  
124 Brutal reviews

125 Straight from the mint  
126 Manipulative type  
127 Mideast sultanate  
**DOWN**  
1 Carmex targets  
2 Apple variety  
3 Deceive fans  
4 Lay out  
5 Make a call  
6 Like a super saver?  
7 Get the news  
8 "Just joshing"  
9 Pueblo spirit being  
10 Rival of Sparta  
11 Equal  
12 Sports drink brand  
13 Darth's childhood nickname  
14 Bring to light  
15 Many an MIT alum  
16 Isla surrounder  
17 They may make lakes

20 Heavy hammers  
24 OfficeMax purchase  
quantities  
26 Basilica section  
29 Sound from a happy crowd  
32 Pint-size  
35 Place to see  
36 Color commentator's data  
37 Puts to the test, as patience  
38 "10" co-star  
40 See 41-Down  
41 Beverage made with 40-Down  
42 Starbucks size after Venti  
43 Puff, e.g.  
44 Trounce  
45 Lucky roll in el casino  
47 Sargasso Sea  
48 Spawner  
50 "What a shame!"  
53 Guinness  
55 "Doctor Zhivago"

54 City on the Loire  
55 Nixed  
57 Birthplace of St. Francis  
58 Minor surgery targets  
59 Longest-serving Dodger coach  
Manny  
63 They may be stationary  
64 Body of soldiers  
67 Lacy place mat  
69 Wear  
70 Issuer of bulls  
72 Victor at Gettysburg  
73 Jostling joint  
74 Get out of a jam  
77 Mouth features  
79 Hollywood role  
80 "Aw, man!"  
83 Apt name for a tuxedo cat  
84 Flower holder  
86 Hot weather woe  
87 Insects in hieroglyphic  
88 Omega, in physics  
92 Zoomed past

93 Stack in a till  
95 Steve's singing partner  
97 [This is gonna be bad]  
98 Venetian old master  
99 Mess up  
101 Plans often ignored around holidays  
104 Dried poblano chili  
105 Playwright's worst nightmare  
106 Priest of the East  
107 Similar  
109 Follower of a rising curtain  
110 Ballerina attire  
111 Nephew of Abel  
113 Destine for failure  
114 Hogwarts librarian  
115 Pinco  
115 Early sinning site  
117 Brown of jazz  
119 Eternally, in poetry



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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Nov. 18:** This year you push hard to achieve a long-term goal, which could affect your day-to-day life. You might find that your routine changes, but your daily life seems more exciting. If you are single, you meet people with ease. When choosing a sweetie, consider what you want from a relationship before you get too involved. If you are attached, the two of you are more romantic with each other. Choose to appreciate what the other person has to offer. Aries might push you to be more direct, but ultimately it is your choice.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19)  
What seems like a great idea in the morning could be a failure by the afternoon. Hold out until a close friend or loved one approaches you and gives you feedback. This person could open up a door that has remained closed up till now.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20)  
You could be too tired to keep pushing as you have been for the past few weeks. Put up your feet and relax. Do not worry about all the things you need to do. Take some much-needed downtime.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)  
Your friends are not likely to leave you alone. Calls and other forms of communication could keep you busy. If you planned for a quiet day, let that thought go. Say yes to a get-together with friends.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22)  
You might get up early to see the sunrise or head off to church. Before you make it home, you probably will be invited to brunch. Wherever you are, relax and go with the flow. A partner could be in a bad mood, especially if they missed breakfast.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)  
A loved one demands your time early in the day. You know your limits and recognize when you have had enough. By the afternoon, you could get together with a friend. Go off to the movies and relax. Let go of recent stress.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)  
You might want to try a different approach or handle a situation differently. When a partner decides to be more proactive, you are likely to relax and go with the flow. You can go along with this person's choices.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)  
In the morning, you might want to reach out to a family member whom you have not heard from in a while. You'll feel more upbeat as a result. You might want to make plans that involve just you and a key loved one. You need some time with this person.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)  
Your creativity entices a loved one. You might want to spend some more time with this person. Pursue a mutual hobby or favorite pastime. This experience is likely to draw you closer together.

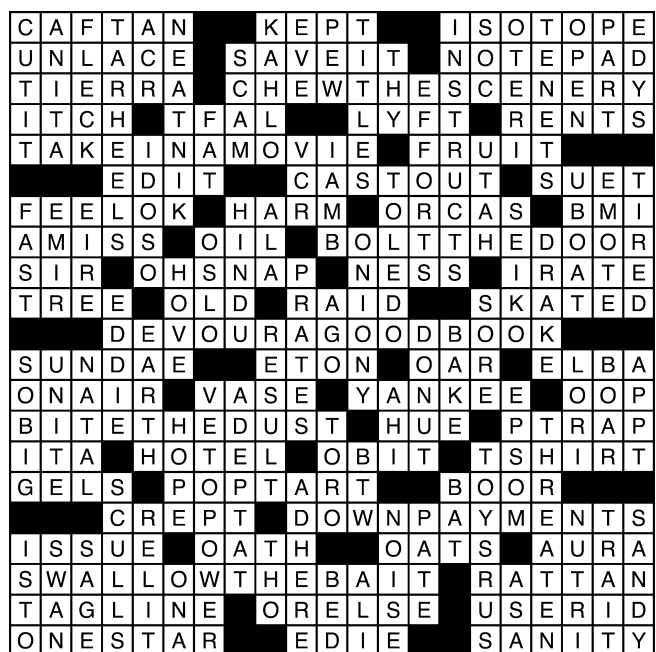
**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)  
You could be hesitant to say what's on your mind. You might want to spend some time away from the here and now. You would like to invite a certain person to join you for an adventure. Explore the possibility, but do so subtly.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)  
You could be out of sorts, as you have many ideas that will be nixed. Listen to a loved one about what they think. The two of you could have a fun time together, but you might be overly concerned about a roommate or family member.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)  
You need to clear your mind of an obligation or two before you accept an offer that could take you right out the door. You don't have to go far to get past a problem or situation that serves as a distraction in your life. Seek out a loved one for some feedback.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)  
Your best hours occur in the morning. You could feel exhausted, but you might have some errands you want to get done. Do not allow anyone to slow you down. Go where you want. Curb excessive spending if possible.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



11/11/18