

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Askmasters: Winning questions

BY PAT MYERS

Week 1404 was our umpteenth-plus-one Ask Backwards contest, in which we give the "answers" and you supply the questions. Perhaps the best question of the bunch was submitted by too many people to credit:

A. The Washington Football Team's Mascot. Q. What is the name of the Washington Football Team's mascot?

Special bonus! To weigh in on the categories "Ken Jennings and Kylie Jenner" and "Alex Tribeca," the Empress recruited Ken Jennings himself! Ken's faves among those entries are noted below.

4th place:

A. @UnrealAbrahamLincoln. Q. Who tweeted: "Great speech yesterday in Gettysburg! Union widows LOVE their President (ME)!"? (Frank Mann, Washington)

3rd place:

A. Shut Up Man. Q. Who is Florida Man's attorney? (Jeff Hazle, San Antonio; Pia Palamidessi, Cumberland, Md.)

2nd place and the Kenes army-style cap:

A. Ken Jennings and Kylie Jenner. Q. Who are Mr. Trivia and Ms. Trivial? (Rob Huffman, Frederickburg; this was Ken's favorite in this category as well)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

A. The Republic Forwhichistan. Q. Where can you find One Asian Underdog — except he's invisible? (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

Stinqueries: Honorable mentions

A. May 30, 2022. Q. When is the earliest we can expect this year to be over? (Sarah Jay, Churchville, Md.)

A. \$750.02. Q. What tax bill suggests that somebody forgot to deduct the Sharpie ink used in his 1040 signature? (Gary Crockett)

A. \$750.02. Q. When we all finally go back to work, what will be the peak toll on I-66? (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

A. Alex Tribeca. Q. Who can be found in a Lower Manhattan bar ordering his daily double? (Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

A. Alex Tribeca. Q. Who replaced Art Flushing? (Kevin Dopart, Washington; Frank Mann; this was Ken's "Alex Tribeca" choice, though "too bad there's not a MANHATTAN neighborhood that sounds like 'Fleming'")

A. Alex Tribeca. Q. To whom do you say, "I'll take one-bedroom apartments for \$6,000 a month, Alex"? (Gary Crockett; Dan Helming, Trenton, N.J.; Ken's second choice)

A. The New Cabinet Department We Need. Q. What is the Department of Presidential Affairs? (Jesse Rifkin, Arlington; Steve Smith, Potomac)

A. The New Cabinet Department We Need. Q. What is the Internal Reality Service? (Joe McManus, Silver Spring, a First Offender)

A. The New Cabinet Department We Need. Q. What is the Department of Homeland Serenity? (Edmund Conti, Raleigh; David Shombert, Harrisonburg, Va.; Frank Mann)

A. Chris Wallace's Glasses. Q. Which was the second ugliest of the spectacles at the first presidential debate? (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

A. Chris Wallace's Glasses. Q. What got more spit on them than a pitcher's mound? (Deb Stewart, Damascus)

A. Chris Wallace's Glasses. Q. When the Fox News crew gets together, what do they drink the Kool-Aid in? (Leila Boyer, Dunkirk, Md., a First Offender)

A. Downton Outhouse. Q. Where is there always a long line of ladies-in-waiting? (Beverley Sharp)

A. Downton Outhouse. Q. What did the servants check for creepy Crawleys? (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.; John O'Byrne, Dublin)

A. Downton Outhouse. Q. What building's anteroom had only one footman? (John Hutchins, Silver Spring)

A. Downton Outhouse. Q. On whose walls would you find the inscription "O Lord, Grantham pees"? (Greg Dobbins, Boynton Beach, Fla.)



New for Week 1408: Re-Organization

The American Rung Association: Sponsoring charity balls for social climbers. (Kathy El-Assal) American Foundation for the Bland: Support and advocacy for the terminally boring. (Jeff Contompasis) Panned Parenthood: Support group for people filled with regret about bringing ungrateful brats into this world. (Jeff Contompasis)

It's that time of year when many of us are paging through the Combined Federal Campaign catalogue of charities — thousands and thousands. So we'd better offer some more choices, right? Back in Week 1254 we had a contest to change the name of a commercial business by one letter; Loser Jeff Contompasis suggests this week's variation: Slightly change the name of a nonprofit organization and describe it, as in the examples above (Kathy El-Assal's was an inking entry back in Week 997 for dubious causes). You might also include a funny slogan. By "slightly" we mean that the original name should be easily recognized; it doesn't have to be a one-letter change.

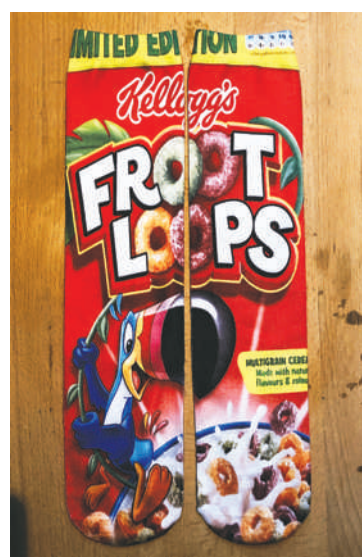
Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1408 (no capitals in the Web address). Deadline is Monday, Nov. 9; results will appear Nov. 29 in print, Nov. 25 online.

Winner gets the Lose Cannon, our Style Invitational trophy, or its replacement trophy (TBA). Second place receives this season's de rigueur fashion statement: a pair of stretchy socks that, between them, replicate a box of Froot Loops, all the way up to the "nutrition" information.

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, "No 'Bility" or "Punder-achiever." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline "Askmasters" was submitted by both Chris Doyle and Kevin Dopart; Jesse Frankovich wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev; "like" the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at bit.ly/inkofaday; and follow @StyleInvite on Twitter.

THE PODCAST IS BACK WITH... In Episode 5 of "You're Invited," host Mike Gips interviews Gene Weingarten, the founder and deposed Czar of The Style Invitational. Gene shares some juicy stuff about the Invite's early days and weighs in on today's contests as well. Hear it at bit.ly/invite-podcast.

The Style Conversational: This week the Empress shares the picture that Gene talks about in the podcast. See wapo.st/conv1408.



You can toucan if you win this week's second-prize socks.

A. The Republic Forwhichistan. Q. What country's language has the letter Elemenopee? (Gail Carter, Martinsburg, W.Va., a First Offender)

A. The Republic Forwhichistan. Q. Where do they sing about "the toilet's last cleaning"? (Frank Mann)

A. The Republic Forwhichistan: Q. Where do they have libertine adjusters for all? (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

A. Ken Jennings and Kylie Jenner. Q. Who are a man who did thunderously win, and a woman who is wondrously thin? (Mark Calandra, Wenham, Mass.; Ken Jennings: "A stretch but it's such a nice spoonerism! I'm such a sucker for those.")

A. Ken Jennings and Kylie Jenner. Q. Whose SAT answers did Aunt Becky think she was buying, and whose did she actually buy? (Ivays Kuskevics, Takoma Park; Ken: "I also liked this one, but I had the biggest crush on Lori Loughlin as a kid.")

A. Ken Jennings and Kylie Jenner. Q. Whose careers got a

big boost from "Jeopardy!" and a celebrity family feud? (Steve Smith)

A. @UnrealAbrahamLincoln. Q. Who tweeted, "James Buchanan? Hah! He'll go down as the worst president in the next 160 years!" (Mark Raffman, Reston)

A. The Washington Football Team's Mascot. Q. What is the PAC Rat? (Chris Doyle)

A. The Washington Football Team's Mascot. Q. Who is Owen Sixteen? (Frank Mann)

A. The Washington Football Team's Mascot. Q. What's that big shrugging emoji being painted on FedEx Field? (Hannah Seidel, Alexandria)

A. A Mazel Tov Cocktail. Q. How did God ignite the Burning Bush? (Stephen Dudzick, Olney)

A. A Mazel Tov Cocktail. Q. What drink is made from Manischewitz and cream soda and is often hurled? (Jeff Lubbers, Takoma Park; Andrew Hatzziannis, Rockville)

A. Shake, Rattle and Plop. Q. What was a 1954 hit for Bill Haley and the Commodores? (Frank Osen)

A. Shut Up Man. Q. What superhero has been called in to moderate the next debate? (Jim Derby, Gettysburg, Pa.; Sarah Jay)

A. Shut Up Man. Q. What is a positively brilliant, supremely witty ripoeste? — N. Pelosi (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

A. LAP, CLAP and WAP. Q. What are one thing you know Santa has, and two you hope he doesn't? (Mark Raffman)

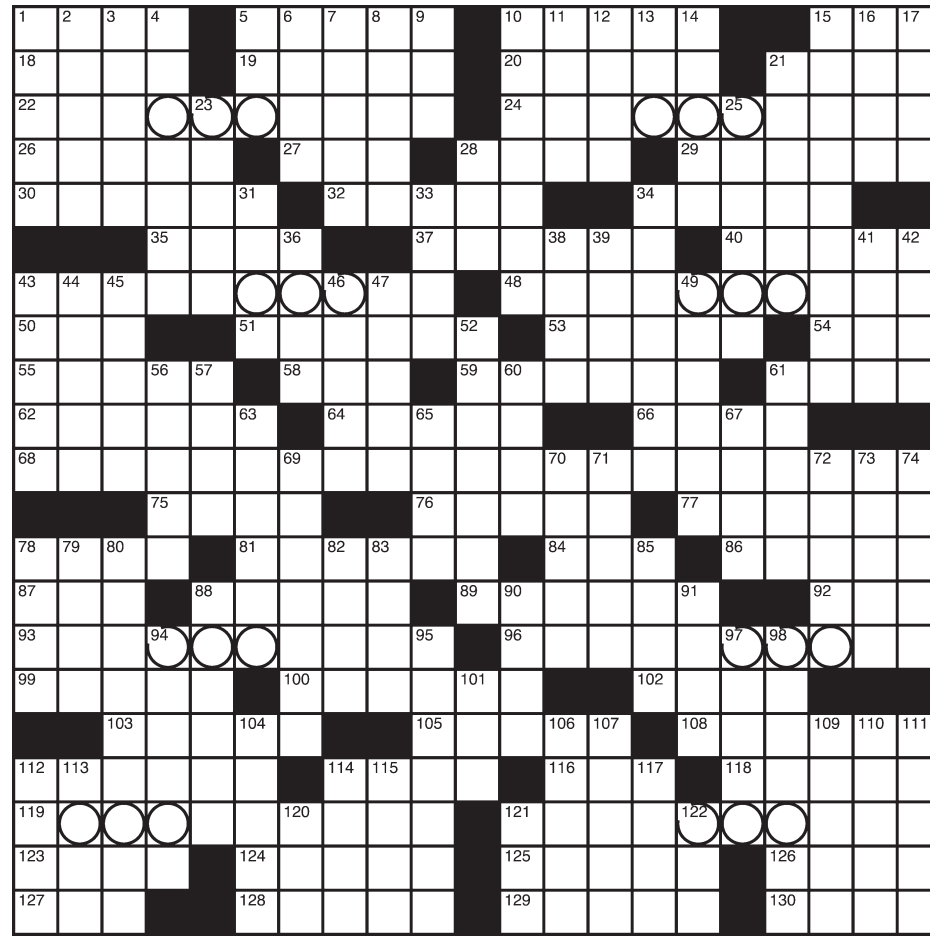
More A's and Q's in the online Invite at wapo.st/invite1408.

Still running — deadline Monday night, Nov. 2: Our contest for ads from space, a prison, etc. See wapo.st/invite1407.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

- "IT'S TIME" By C.C. BURNIKEL
ACROSS
1 Not yet bought
5 Kvetch
10 Mushroom sought by mushroom hunters
15 Econ. barometer
18 Bar on a truck
19 Swiss luxury brand
20 Butler's love
21 Provider of expert advice
22 Swindler
24 "It's hopeless"
27 fly: run-scoring out
28 World's largest tennis stadium
29 Social media profile picture, often
30 Clue follower
32 Muralist Rivera
34 Cybertruck maker
35 Rod's partner
37 "Over here!"
40 Hoods at a monastery
43 Meat brand spelled out by a four-year-old in ads
48 C-SPAN addict, say
50 Miley Cyrus label
51 Noisy bunkmate
53 Prepare for another drive
54 Holiday lead-in
55 Conspiring faction
58 Italy's cont.
59 "Look before you leap," e.g.
61 Advanced teaching deg.
62 2009 aviation biopic
64 Authoritative code
66 Art
68 Timely mnemonic, or what the circled letters depict
75 Arcade giant
76 Rear
77 Hand at sea
78 Improv bit
81 Coordinated
84 Closest peeps
86 Texas site of Pizza Hut headquarters
87 Helen Reddy's "Woman"
88 Flood control
89 Big name in bowling shoes
92 Dudes
93 Some Nehi drinks
128 Look after
129 Exorcist's target
130 Overly curious
99 Suite spot
100 Mount Rainier's Native American name ... and a Microsoft typeface
102 Soothing succulent
103 "Look before you leap," e.g.
105 Ethereal glows
108 Whitman's dooryard bloomers
112 Pelican State campus
114 Backfire sound
116 Co-star with Chevy and Gilda
118 Open veranda
119 Cable company offering
121 Fugitive trackers, at times
123 Big party
124 Caffeine-rich nuts
125 Curling venue
126 Vending machine inserts
127 Rapper Lil X
128 Look after
129 Exorcist's target
130 Overly curious
23 Autumn blossom
25 Coast Guard mission
28 Before now
31 Sewer's bottoms
33 "Reader, I married him"
34 Taco truck fare
36 The Beatles' Penny, e.g.
38 It's driven on a trail
39 Has a balance due
41 In real time
42 Piece inside a pumpkin
43 Seal-hunting swimmers
44 Whippersnapper
45 Pole thrown by Scots
46 "Seriously?"
47 Wild throw, usually
49 Crown collection
52 Wine and dine
56 Elite guests
57 Airport screening likelihood
60 Pie crust ingredient
61 Gas brand with a red "o" in its logo
63 Team from College Station, Texas
65 Stefani of No Doubt
67 Show appreciation
69 Selection process for MLB All-Stars
70 Crusoe creator
71 Swiss coin
72 National rival
73 Shaped like a megaphone
74 Danish coin
78 Sound of resignation
79 Syrup used in pecan pies
80 "It puzzles me"
82 Jon of "Chicago P.D."
83 "You betcha!"
85 "Look, señorita!"
88 Stanford who co-founded Stanford University
90 Winter Palace monarch
91 Prison division
94 Intellectual nitpicker
95 Scoundrel
97 Sheer linen fabric
98 Grayish-yellow green
101 Clown for the camera
104 Tech whizzes
106 Put on a pedestal
107 Capital SSW of Portland
109 Not allowed
110 Batting practice sites
111 Spacek of "The River"
112 Texter's parting
113 Where the iris is
114 Farm bundle
115 Med school subj.
117 Barcelona boy
120 "The Simpsons" bartender
121 Launch site
122 Spam holder



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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY MADALYN ASLAN

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Nov. 1: You're energetic, brilliant and forceful, and excitement in your profession is a prerequisite. This year, you quit what's not stimulating and succeed in a project of your own making. Common sense is necessary to deal with the approaching acclaim. If single, you attract many but turn them down for commitment this year. If attached, you're relieved to be completely honest with your partner, who adores you. Pisces drives you mad with desire.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Today emphasizes money and purchases. Do not overextend yourself financially. Set funds aside to cover an unexpected expense. Consider new directions concerning budgeting. Financial brainstorming sessions offer valuable perspectives about security issues.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) A competitive spirit encourages you to be progressive and to experiment today. An important relationship intensifies. Be aware of your own aptitudes. Do some soul searching to determine how best to be who you are and do what you can.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Your insight is keen; memories are vivid and poignant. Plan something reminiscent of childhood activities. You will savor quiet moments, cherishing chances to release stress. Intuitively you realize that a tranquil mind knows the right moments.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Today impacts your circle of friends and long-range goals. Reflect, but delay steering away from established associates or committing to a new direction. An invitation is extended to participate in an organization. Think this through before acting.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Memories of grandparents or relationships with grandchildren are heartwarming, and any volatile situations with in-laws should settle down. It is also a wonderful day to combine business with pleasure.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Appreciation of beauty marks today. Employ art and music to heighten your connection to the heavens. Today is also perfect for travel or for enrolling in a study and learning program. A sense of

freedom and completion surrounds you. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Today reveals how family dynamics are shifting. Hidden facts come to light; a message from the spirit world arrives. Your attitudes and perceptions are in flux. Heed subtle signs and synchronicities.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Today blesses a commitment you make. Listen to suggestions. Others are competitive and a bit argumentative; focus on tolerance and cooperation. A partner has definite plans and ideas involving you. Compromise is key.

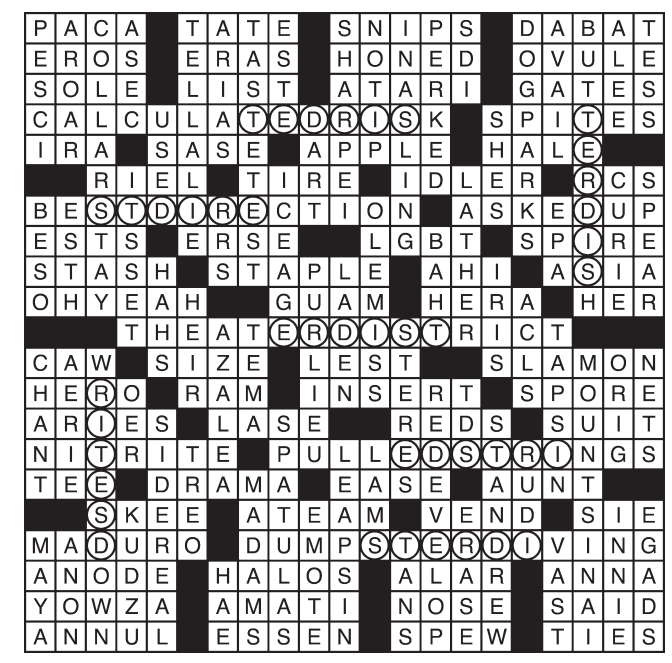
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Today emphasizes a need for clarity. Make time to release stress and clear away clutter. Heed a hunch about the well-being of a cherished pet. Also, a new animal may find its way to your door.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You can feel unusually scattered, uncertain and divided regarding matters of the heart. But Venus comes to the rescue. A healthy and loving relationship begins to deepen, and this restores you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Communicate with family members concerning home improvements and repairs. Now would be a wonderful time to bless your dwelling, perhaps with a sage smudge. Visitors suggest interesting ideas and offer valuable insights during casual conversation.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Be tolerant of others' beliefs. It's not the time to be too forceful if debating politics. Anticipate some intriguing conversations and messages. Several short journeys are likely. It's a great time to catch up on current events.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



10/25/20