Style Invitational Week 995: Ask Backwards; plus the victorious V-O-T-E neologisms

By Pat Myers
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An invite perennial in its umptey-umphmth incarnation, Ask Backwards is a contest in which we give you the “answers” and you supply jokes in the form of a question. We’ve usually compared this contest to “Jeopardy!,” but it’s really like Johnny Carson’s giant-hatted Carnac the Magnificent (A. “The La Brea Tar Pits”; Q. What do you have left after eating the La Brea Tar Paches?”), which itself was preceded by Steve Allen’s Question Man (“A. Chicken Teriyaki. Q. Who was the last surviving member of the Japanese air force?”).

Anyway, here are 12 “answers,” several of which were supplied this week by Weingarten the Magnificent, a shambling but kindly-looking man we found on the sidewalk near Washington’s Eastern Market.

• Wikipedia Jones
• The thing that goes “Woo”
• A hug from Chris Christie
• A legitimate belch
• Sanskrit, Aramaic and Pig Latin
• The Marine Corps Marathon
• The Apple Core Marathon
• Gangnam Style section
• Pork belly with two sides
• Google Mirth
• A mink baeculum
• The La Brea Tar Pits

Winner gets the Inkin’ Memorial, the bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place is a genuine mink! Well, a genuine mink baeculum. A baeculum is a penis bone. This one is about the size of a sewing needle, with a little hook on the end. Donated by deservedly retired biology teacher Mike Creveling.
Other runners-up win their choice of a yearned-for Loser Mug or the ardently desired Grossery Bag. Honorable mentions get a lusted-after Loser magnet, possibly the new model whose slogan will be determined in last week’s contest, Week 994. First Offenders receive a smelly, tree-shaped air “freshener” (FirStink for their first ink). E-mail entries to losers@washpost.com or fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday, Nov. 12; results published Dec. 1 (online Nov. 29). No more than 25 entries per entrant per week. Include “Week 995” in your e-mail subject line or it might be ignored as spam. Include your real name, postal address and phone number with your entry. See contest rules and guidelines at wapo.at/inviterules. The subhead for this week’s honorable mentions is by Kevin Dopart; the alternative headline for the “Next week’s results” line is by Tom Witte. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev.

Report from Week 991

in which we asked you to coin a new term incorporating the letters V, O, T and E, in any order but with no other letters between them:

The winner of the Inkin’ Memorial

Tevow: An electronic device that suppresses displays of religious fervor that occur during secular events. “I tevowed the Country Music Awards and watched the whole thing in 12 minutes.” (Laurie Tompkins, Rockville, Md.)

2. Winner of the 1946-vintage Army surplus athletic supporter:

Lovetobut (noun): A polite refusal of an invitation. “I have yoga class on Tuesday nights, so I gave the White House a lovetobut on the state dinner.” (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase, Md.)


4. Remote vortex: The mysterious place where household items seem to go. “The TV clicker had once again slipped into the remote vortex, along with four odd socks and the hamster.” (Gordon Cobb, Atlanta)

Petits fours: honorable mentions

Getover: The person you have a one-night stand with right after a breakup and before the rebound person. “Trey’s been bummed for weeks; he needs to hook up with a getover for his own good.” (Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.; Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.)

Glute-vow: A resolution to make the maximus more minimus. (Rick Haynes, Boynton Beach, Fla.)

Jive tokeys: Larry, Moe and Curly appear on “So You Think You Can Dance.” (Bill McMahon, Ganges, B.C., a First Offender)

Rove-time: That point in a campaign when the Republican candidate goes very, very negative. “This week’s message is ‘Don’t vote for the foreign guy’ — hey, it’s Rove-time, baby!” (Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.)

Mojito-Venus: She definitely looked better last night at the bar. (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

Covette: Your next-door neighbor’s expensive new sports car. (David Garratt, Silver City, N.M.)
**Eve-toga**: A garment made of three strategically placed fig leaves. *(Sudhir Vasudeva, McLean, Va., a First Offender)*

**Keynote-Volvo**: A politically safe but boring speech. "Boy, the speaker really revved the old keynote-Volvo. At least I got a new high score on Words With Friends." *(David Genser, Poway, Calif.)*

**Voteverrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr
A baby was abandoned in a phone booth 64 years ago. Now, DNA has helped explain why.

Steve Dennis, who back then didn’t yet have a name, was found in a telephone booth by two bread deliverymen in January 1954.

Aug 20

Why our culture’s mild obsession with Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen may never end

The Olsen twins remain a source of fascination every time they give a rare interview, like they did this week.

2 hours ago

Three people were caught in a riptide, and a rescuer faced ‘the toughest decision’

Matt Tomaszewski extended his paddleboard to the exhausted couple bobbing in the water: “If you want to survive, you need to reach this beach.”