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Entertainment

# Style Invitational Week 1262: Clue us in

An especially challenging backward-crossword; plus Part 2 of our 1217 Kook's Tour

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(Grid by Evan Birnholz/DevilCross.com)

By Pat Myers January 11 [Email the author](#)

(Click [here to skip down](#) to the winning entries in our retrospective contest)

**ANTIQU**: Phone more than two years old


**FAQ**: Useful tips at [CurseToAvoidFilters.com](#)

**ITSPAT**: What the camel did when asked to pass through the eye of a needle

Once again, we present a filled-in crossword grid and ask you to supply clues for one or more of the answers. But it looks to be more of a challenge than usual: This time, Washington Post Sunday Puzzle Guy Evan Birnholz has supplied the Empress with a crossword from his own archives, at DevilCross.com, that's, well, devilish: For one thing, it has a lot of people's names. For another, some of Evan's own wordplay is inkworthy in itself: For instance, his clue for ERASES is "Draws a blank?" But let's give it a go: **This week: Supply one or more creative clues for the filled-in crossword grid above — as many as 25 clues in all.**

Please write each entry on its own line, as "WORDFROMTHEGRID (without

Ad







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## Most Read Entertainment

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spaces even if you interpret it as multiple words): [your clue]," as in the examples at the top of the column. This will let the Empress sort the entries without producing her famous Howls of Utter Judging Despair. You can see Evan's clues at [wapo.st/invite-grid-1262](http://wapo.st/invite-grid-1262) or in list form in this week's Style Conversational column at [wapo.st/conv1262](http://wapo.st/conv1262) (published late Thursday afternoon).

Submit your entries at the website [wapo.st/enter-invite-1262](http://wapo.st/enter-invite-1262) (all lowercase).

Winner gets the **Blue Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives *such* a Loserly prize: It's a how-to video for doing something that hardly anyone does anymore — in a medium that's also almost entirely obsolete. And so deepest thanks to Daphne Steinberg for donating a mint-condition copy of "[Dance the Macarena](#)" — on VHS tape.

**Other runners-up** win our "[You Gotta Play to Lose](#)" Loser Mug or our Grossery Bag, "[I Got a B in Punmanship](#)." Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, "[No Childishness Left Behind](#)" or "[Magnum Dopus](#)," or more likely their successors, now being created. First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" ([FirStink](#) for their first ink). **Deadline is Monday night, Jan. 22**; results published Feb. 11 (online Feb. 8). See general contest rules and guidelines at [wapo.st/InvRules](http://wapo.st/InvRules). The headline for this week's results is by Beverley Sharp; Tom Witte wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](https://on.fb.me/invdev). "Like" Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at [bit.ly/inkofday](http://bit.ly/inkofday); follow [@StyleInvite](https://twitter.com/StyleInvite) on Twitter.

**The Style Conversational** The Empress's weekly online column, published late Thursday afternoon, discusses each new contest and set of results. Especially if you plan to enter, check it out at [wapo.st/styleconv](http://wapo.st/styleconv).

[And from The Style Invitational four weeks ago . . .](#)

## DOUBLE-YORE FUN: OUR 2017 RETROSPECTIVE, PART 2

In [Week 1258](#), the second half of our Kook's Tour of last year's contests, the Empress invited you to enter (or reenter) Weeks 1230 through 1254, which ran June through November; some entries focus on more recent events.

### 4th place

#### Week 1251, things to be thankful for:

I'm thankful for my favorite things to eat, puppies, and Oxford commas. (Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)

### 3rd place

Week 1232: Despite Peg's best efforts, her co-workers continued to misinterpret "Me too" as "Meat? Ooh!" (Steve Honley, Washington) "It's okay, it's okay — I said Mr. CROSBY would like to meet you." (Roger Dalrymple, Gettysburg, Pa.) (Bob Staake/for The Washington Post)

(Thor Rudebeck, Chicago)

### 2nd place

and the [nose-basketball game](#):

#### Week 1235, song parodies about science:

To the tune of "[Under the Sea](#)" from "[The Little Mermaid](#)":

New houses built on the ocean

Are truly a sad mistake

broad strokes in 'Botticelli in the Fire'



## 5

### Perspective

Trump's Super Bowl party without the Eagles, as mocked through cartoons



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Are truly a sea mistake.

You dream about water views, bud?

Best find yourself some nice lake.

Best find yourself some nice lake.

Antarctica's calving icebergs;

Warm water fills up more space.

The coastline you see today will

Soon be in a different place.

Under the sea, under the sea,

Thermal expansion won't let your mansion stay water-free.

We've got no precious little tyke

To keep his finger in the dike.

Miami Beachers may become creatures

Under the sea.

(Perry Beider, Silver Spring, Md.)

#### **And the winner of the Lose Cannon:**

#### **Week 1254, change a company name by one letter:**

**Philip Mortis:** The tobacco company adopts a name that better reflects its business. (William Kennard, Arlington, Va.)

#### **So last year: Honorable mentions**

**Week 1230, creation dialogues:** *The chicken:* "And at the exact instant, I shall create its egg, thereby vexing humans for eternity!" (Bill Dorner, Indianapolis)

#### **Week 1230, creation dialogues:**

Labor1: Someone left bar codes on some of the horses!

Labor2: I am *so* sorry. Want me to fix it now?

Creator: Meh. Accidents happen and it's too late now.

Labor3: Someone left bar codes on some of the big cats!

If your head's getting bare, it's time to grow some hair: Rogaine.

If you're hoping to sprout, come try this stuff out: Rogaine.

On your top, it won't stop--grow a mop!

Rogaine.

When a follicle's dead, it can restart your head, Rogaine.

Give the ladies a thrill, use minoxidil, Rogaine.

Baldness gone, chicks will fawn — grow a lawn!

Rogaine. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

#### **Week 1239, combine two or more movie titles:**

"Doctor Zhivago, This Is Spinal Tap": A poorly trained Russian immigrant physician must rely on his nurse's expertise to avert medical disaster. (Hildy Zampella, Falls Church, Va.)

**Week 1240, limericks with a gh- or gi- word:**

Said the daughter, "Let's not have a tiff:

**Week 1240, limericks with a gh- or gi- word:**

Said the daughter, "Let's not have a tiff:

Use a hard 'g' like 'giving' or 'glyph.'

For this kind of a file,

There is only one style —"

No, said Mom: "Choosy mothers choose '.gif.' (Mark Raffinan, Reston, Va.)

**Week 1242, then/now jokes:**

Then: Coal jobs,

Now: LOL! Jobs?! (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Then: Going to a dictionary to find out what "online" means.

Now: Going online to find out what "dictionary" means. (Neal Starkman, Seattle)

Then: The Reagan years — More Ron! More Ron!

Now: The Trump years – (homophone redacted) (Bruce Carlson, Alexandria, Va.)

Then: You look forward to your senior prom.

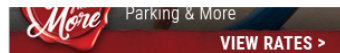
Now: You look forward to your senior discount. (Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

**Week 1243, neologisms that don't include a T, R, U, M or P:**

Slease: What you sign to rent a room by the hour. (Warren Tanabe, Annapolis, Md.)

**Week 1245, stupid complaints to the editor:**

On the front page, you wrote "Tomorrow shower." Please be advised that I shower every day and don't need personal hygiene tips from you! (Mark Raffinan)



**Week 1246, pair a sentence from a Post article with a question it might answer:**

A. "We're dealing with it."

Q. "President Trump, what are you and your team doing with that not-full deck? (Beverley Sharp)

A. "They got me a stool."

Q. Secretary Mnuchin, what birthday gift did "the American people" leave on your doorstep? (Ellen Ryan, Rockville, Md.)

A. Santa arrived by helicopter in Panama City, Fla.; by parachute in Thousand Oaks, Calif; and alongside a marching band in Minneapolis.



Q. How has the animal rights movement affected the North Pole transportation system? (Ellen Ryan)

**Week 1247, dialogue from a reinterpreted movie title:**

"Twelve Angry Men": "And with that penalty for too many players on the field, the Redskins are once again forced to punt . . ." (Roy Ashley, Washington)

"The Dirty Dozen": "Ew, what happened to these bagels?" (Jonathan Caws-Elwitt, Northampton, Mass.)

**Week 1248, (Un)True Confessions:**

You know that person at the coffee shop who orders a small (but in a large cup please so it can cool) peppermint half-cappuccino, half-latte with two espresso shots, almond milk, and coffee grinds only from countries that operate sustainable agriculture cooperatives? Well, that's me. (Sean Bender-Prouty, Arlington, Va.)

I like to fill an unused poop bag with Tootsie Rolls and eat them at the dog park. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

**Week 1250, poems featuring words used in a certain year for the first time:**

1989: I'm a HELICOPTER PARENT.

When my kid goes to the potty

I am there to supervise him

As I CAFFEINATE with LATTE,

And all day I send him emails

(With his dad a :BCC)

Just to tell him he's my baby

Though he just turned 23. (Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.)

**Week 1251, things to be thankful for:**

That when I got his email I noticed "The Central Bank of Nigeria" rearranges to BET ON THE REAL AFRICAN KING. I almost didn't give him my PIN! (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

**Week 1252, new medications:**

Yomamamine: Treats extreme ugliness, obesity, stupidity and easiness. (Jesse Frankovich)

Effineffin: Provides temporary relief of bad language among teens hanging out, meeting Grandma, etc. Proven as effective as adult-strength Bleepitol. (Frank Osen)

**Week 1253, fictoids about clothing and fashion:**

The now-infamous clothier Frederic Jacque stole the design of the athletic supporter from German clothier Otto Schlönggräbe, to the relief of athletes worldwide. (Stephen Litterst, Newark, Del.)

What Al Gore actually invented was the hairnet. (Jesse Frankovich)

A Chicago haberdasher named his new fur hand-covers "Mittens" in honor of his beloved, *very* recently deceased cat. (Christy Tosatto, Brookeville, Md.)

**Week 1254, change a company name by one letter (or switch two letters):**

Breitbart News: Scooping the most prurient political dirt. (David Patch, Toledo)

**Still running — deadline Monday night, Jan. 15: our obit-poem contest, See [wapo.st/invite1261](http://wapo.st/invite1261).**

0 Comments



Pat Myers is editor and judge of The Style Invitational, The Washington Post's page for clever, edgy humor and wordplay. In the role since December 2003, she has posted and judged more than 700 contests. She also writes the weekly Style Conversational column and runs the Style Invitational Devotees page on Facebook. Follow @patmyersTWP

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#### Analysis

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