

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

If the Q fits: Ask Backwards winners

BY PAT MYERS

In our **Week 1356** Ask Backwards contest, we supplied 16 “answers” and asked for the questions. At least a dozen Losers said a **box of Sharpies** would be replacing the supercomputers at the National Weather Service; that **Pierre Defecto** was a French term for ED; and that the new **Crayola color** would be, of course, Peach Mint.

4th place:

Answer: Lil Nas XL
Question: Who’s gonna take his fork to the Old Town Buffet and eat till he can’t no more? (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

3rd place:

A. Pierre Defecto.
Q. How did Donald Trump refer to a disabled Frenchman? (Terri Berg Smith, Rockville)

2nd place and the mini Zen garden litterbox:

A. The middle seat in coach:
Q. Besides a bakery before Easter, where’s the best place to find hot cross buns? (Peter Jenkins, Bethesda)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

A. The Washington Monument elevator.
Q. Where in D.C. can you hear people of all nations and creeds praying together? (Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore)

Bad-askery: Honorable mentions

THE MIDDLE SEAT IN COACH
Where did John Fogerty find himself after his travel agent overheard him rehearsing “Centerfield”? (Paul Burnham, Gainesville, Va.)

In a country song, what might follow the line “She grimaced like she’d seen a roach/Or drawn ...” (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

Where do masochists go when their full-body latex suits stop feeling constricting enough? (John Hutchins, Silver Spring)

THE NEXT CRAYOLA COLOR
What is Burnt Sierra? (Deb Stewart, Damascus)

What is Uearthly Bluish Smartphone Glow? (Duncan Stevens)

What is Tanning-Bed-Goggle White? (Alan Duxbury, Carlisle, Pa.)

What is Ocher Boomer? (Roy Ashley, Washington)

42-3

What is SpongeBob SquarePants’s jeans size? (Will Stutzman, Millersburg, Ohio)

If the New England Patriots had to play away from home on a short week wearing handcuffs and blindfolds, by what score would they be favored to beat the Redskins? (Jesse Frankovich)

What is the answer to the ultimate question of life, the universe, and everything except Kanye West, Jenny McCarthy and Dan Snyder? (Paul Burnham)

What are the average chronological and emotional ages of Style Invitational entrants? (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

LYNT
With what mobile app can you request a navel cleaning from a nearby stranger? (Jesse Frankovich)

LAFT
What on-demand joke-writing service is part of the “gag economy”? (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

What ride-sharing service can you call for a Lincoln Clown Car? (Mark Raffman, Reston)

What command did Gomer Pyle expect just after “Rat”? (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

A BOTOXED SHAR-PEI
What looks more natural than Roger Stone? (Roger Dalrymple, Gettysburg, Pa.)

What’s worse than a cat with lip implants? (Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.)

Which of her pets did AOC name Madam Speaker? (Jon Ketzner, Cumberland, Md.)

A PERFECT CALL
All these years later, how does the Devil regard his decision to make Donald Trump his Great Disrupter? (Dave Prevar, Annapolis)

What’s when someone’s phone goes straight to voice mail? (Erika Ettin, Washington, a First Offender)



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1360: The Iyin’ in winter: Seasonal fictoids

To maintain structural integrity in their ice houses, the ancient Inuit fastened the blocks together with a substance made of whale blubber and seal droppings, called ig-glué. (Jeff Contompasis)

As a young boy in North Dakota, future Supreme Court Justice Byron White enjoyed writing his name in the snow, earning the nickname he carried the rest of his life. (Tom Witte. Week 548, 2004)

Esquimos have more words for “snot” than for “snow.” (Kevin Dopart, Week 702, 2007)

As part of our ongoing mission to spread lies and disinformation, the Empress brings you yet another fictoid contest, this one suggested by Obsessive Loser Jeff Contompasis: Give us some untrue trivia about winter or things that occur in winter, including holiday traditions, as in the examples above; the first was one that Jeff suggested along with the contest; the others are Invite classics.

Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1360 (no capitals in the Web address). **Deadline is Monday, Dec. 9;** results will appear Dec. 29 in print, Dec. 26 online.

Winner gets the Lose Cannon, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a holiday-festive pair of bright red knit boxers that say “Got gas?” all over them. Weirdly, the words are interspersed with silhouettes of gasoline nozzles. I think someone has his exhaust systems confused. Donated by Loser Daphne Steinberg.

Other runners-up win one of our last “You Gotta Play to Lose” Loser Mugs or our “Whole Fools” Grossery Bag. Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, “Too-Weak Notice” or “Certificate of (de) Merit.” 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 “If the Q Fits” is by Jesse Frankovich; Bill Dorner wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](https://www.facebook.com/on.fb.me/invdev). “Like” the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at [bit.ly/inkofday](https://www.facebook.com/bit.ly/inkofday); follow @StyleInvite on Twitter.

● **THE STYLE CONVERSATIONAL:** The Empress’s online column returns next week.



Loser Daphne Steinberg donated this week’s second prize at a recent Loser brunch.

At the Razorback County Fair, what allowed Ida Mae Hokum to beat out her competition for Hog Queen? (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

ANKLE, ANKLE, HOORAY!
What do midwives cheer at the beginning of a breech birth? (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

What’s the cheer at the double Achilles’ tendon rupture support group? (Ken Gallant, Sequim, Wash.)

What do ticks say when they climb past your sock? (Diana Oertel, San Francisco)

What does the rugrat say when he finds his mom? (Jeanne White, Falls Church, a First Offender)

How do you feel, Mr. President, about the house arrest option with wearing a monitor, versus time in federal prison? (Jeff Strong, Fairfax)

THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT ELEVATOR
What is D.C.’s literal tourist trap? (Ward Kay, Vienna, Va.)

What’s the only thing in D.C. that gets right to the point? (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

What totally lame contraction is over 100 feet shorter than its beautiful counterparts in Trump Tower? — D.J.T. (Jesse Frankovich)

IOWA MAN
Who breaks into gas stations to add ethanol to the fuel tanks? (Jeff

Hazle, San Antonio)

What superhero shoots corn silk from his wrists? (Jesse Frankovich)

Who’s expecting Joe to take out the trash while Bernie walks the dog, before Kamala stops by with dinner, and Liz drops off the kids from school? (Frank Osen)

LIL NAS XL
Who’s gonna take his elephant to the old town road? (Jesse Rifkin, Arlington)

Who’s gonna ride his horse till IT can’t no more? (Gary Crockett)

A 10-YEAR-OLD JAR OF NATURAL PEANUT BUTTER

What’s easier to swallow: “There was no quid pro quo” or a 10-year-old jar of natural peanut butter? (Warren Tanabe, Annapolis)

What will Republican senators confirm as a federal judge if President Trump nominates it? (Mark Raffman)

What has slightly less oil on top than Donald Trump Jr.? (John Hutchins, Silver Spring)

RUDY GIULIANI’S MORE PENSIVE MOMENTS
When does he wish he were the red-nosed Rudolph instead of the brown-nosed one? (Dudley Thompson, Cary, N.C.)

At what times does the thought of the undercarriage of a bus come to mind? (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

A DRESS MADE OF LOSER MAGNETS
What is both repelling and strangely attractive at the same time? (Jeff Hazle, San Antonio; Wayne Rodgers, Boise, Idaho)

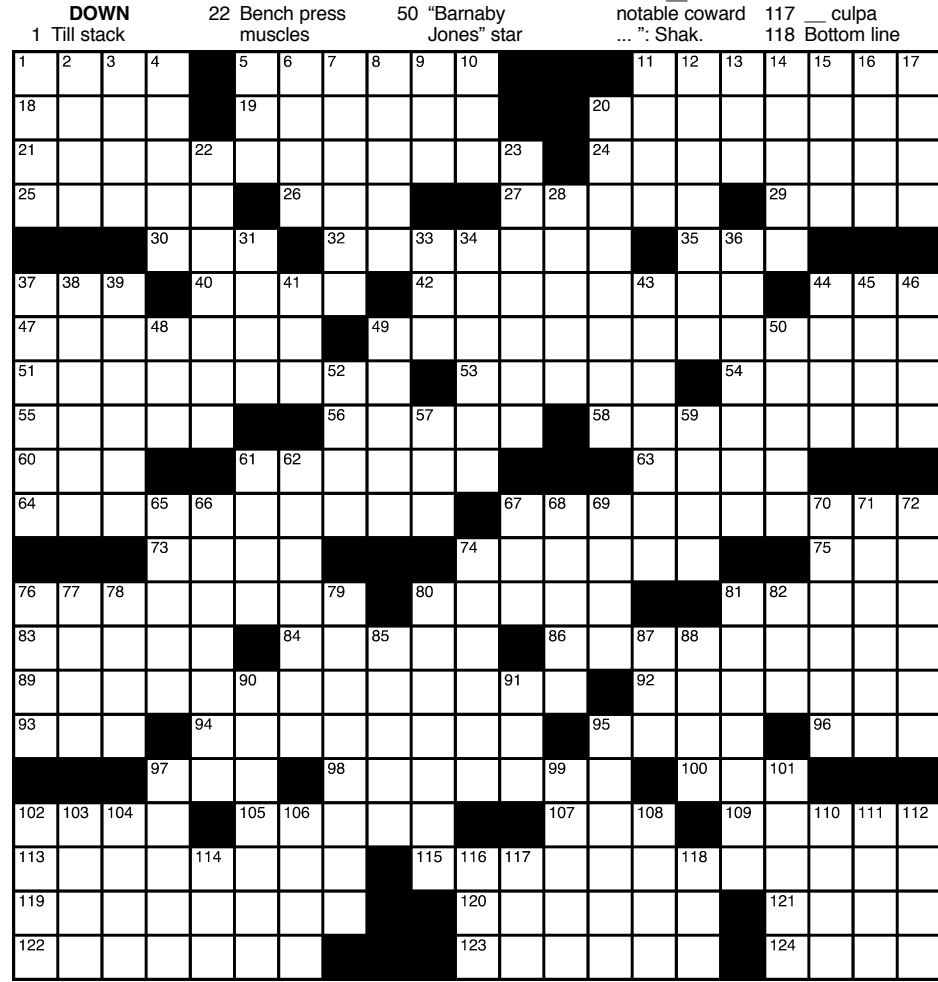
More honorable mentions in the online Invite at wapo.st/invite1360.

Still running — deadline Monday night, Dec. 2: Our contest for “air quotes” that span two or more words. See wapo.st/invite1359.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

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|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| “NAME TAGS” By GARY LARSON | 93 Family docs | 2 Game played in an anagram of itself | 23 Seized, as an opportunity | 52 Numerical prefix | 87 Speed |
| ACROSS | 94 Widespread | 28 Go down, so to speak | 57 Frisk, with “down” | 88 Santa ___ Valley: California wine region | 90 More cozy |
| 1 Milky white kind of glass | 95 One doing stars, say | 3 Swear | 59 Rio greetings | 61 Parial view? | 91 Polar helper |
| 5 “Dumb and Dumber” co-star | 96 Outlaw Kelly | 4 What loafers lack | 31 Like some turkey stuffing | 62 Lombardy-based football club | 95 Sites for fights |
| 11 Confident | 97 “Ben-Hur” studio | 5 Burnable medium, briefly | 33 Eye care product prefix | 65 Nursery item | 97 Patches up |
| 18 Stellar phenomenon | 98 Starts to negotiate, as a price | 6 Dry as a bone | 34 Certain Sooner | 66 Sound of disapproval | 99 Horace, for one |
| 19 Aspirations | 100 Clearasil target | 7 “Made to be broken” thing | 36 ESPN Deportes language | 67 Early rock horn | 101 “Animal House” party attire |
| 20 Self-occificated game with a disc | 102 Formally transfer | 8 Browning’s Ben Ezra, e.g. | 37 Joyous way to break out | 68 Face-to-face exams | 102 Some UPS deliveries |
| 21 Inspiring Gates? | 105 Opposite of piano | 9 Former U.K. recording giant | 38 Surfing wave originally dedicated to Napoleon | 70 “Little House” family name | 103 Duel tool |
| 24 Upright Fosse? | 107 Young socialite | 10 Fashion initials | 39 Symphony dedicated to Napoleon | 71 Second shot | 104 University VIP |
| 25 More tender | 109 Dependable | 11 “___ want for Christmas ...” | 41 Friend of TV’s Sheldon | 72 Sounded ghostly | 106 “Just ___ is not ___”: AT&T slogan |
| 26 Driver’s lic. info | 113 Forthcoming Tyson? | 12 Hindered, as growth | 43 Stay in shape | 74 Green cars | 108 Island near Java |
| 27 Red dye | 115 Forceful Kelly? | 13 ___ City: computer game | 44 Popular spring break locale, informally | 76 Sharp flavor | 110 Mardi Gras follower |
| 29 Use for a fee | 119 Fan of Jerry Garcia’s band | 14 Eclipse shadow | 45 Uncle Remus title | 77 Harvest | 111 Liking wines |
| 30 Family nickname | 120 Flea market deal | 15 “Streamers” playwright | 46 Stone and Stallone | 78 Like many fine | 112 Insignificant |
| 32 Something read to the rowdy? | 121 Part of a pot overload | 16 School since 1440 | 48 Wall St. news | 79 Like many fine | 114 Old reciprocal electrical unit |
| 35 English breakfast ___ | 122 Absorbs the financial hit | 17 Balance on a card, say | 49 French Oscar | 80 Deked, say | 116 Mt. Hood’s home |
| 37 Outrage | 124 “Enough!” | 20 Parvenus | 50 “Barnaby Jones” star | 81 Bolshevik’s foe | 117 ___ culpa |
| 40 Very funny sort | | 22 Bench press muscles | | 82 March opening | 118 Bottom line |
| 42 Hostess output | | | | 85 “He’s notable coward ...”: Shak. | |



Answers to last week’s puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Dec. 1: This year, your high energy carries you through many hassles as well as good times. You also have a hot temper, more so than in past years. Rather than blow a fuse at the boss, learn to express your frustration before your feelings get out of control. If single, your hot temper might frequently distance others from you. Learn to express your feelings in a softer manner, especially if you value the bond. If attached, the two of you love spending time together. Aquarius helps you live in a more colorful manner.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
A friendship takes high priority right now. You might hook up with a friend and join other pals. You let off steam together while participating in a favorite pastime. You also work off some low-level frustration.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
You willingly stand up for what you believe. Others admire your strength and independence. You make good choices, and your temper rarely gets out of control. You might find that you could easily lose it today. Try to get past that feeling.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
One-on-one relating encourages several interesting choices. You could be far more tired and withdrawn than usual. As a result, you allow others to dominate and take a stronger role in events.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
One-on-one relating could force you to take a hard look at some emerging anger. You might have absorbed or swallowed some of your negative feelings. If possible, take a hard look at what ails you. A discussion with a loved one could be helpful.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Be smart and defer to others. You often like to dominate or take the lead role. Demonstrate your confidence in a close loved one by letting them assume your normal role. This person appreciates you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Your sense of humor comes out when you share a situation that you often deal with. Generally, you feel irritated by the person involved, and a change of perspective can only help. You tend to go to extremes right now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Your sense of fun and caring emerges when having a discussion with a child. Be careful how you share what is going on with you. Keep talks light and easy so the other party can identify with you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Your intensity often drives people away as much as it draws in others. You cannot change the dynamics, but you could be more aware of your attitude. Note in the next few weeks when your temper is close to the surface.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
You have an unusual ability to verbalize your points and get your perspective understood. Discuss your feelings, especially if you find your temper has a short fuse.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
You care when spending, even if you are out playing Santa. You do not want Christmas to stress you out. A friend wants to spend time with you, and they can be quite pushy.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
You might be in a position to get your thoughts and opinions heard more than usual. In fact, knowing that others are listening, pick and choose your words with care.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
You might want to take a back seat and not get involved in the impending brouhaha. You could want more time to think through a problem. Your perspective changes as you listen to both sides of an issue.

Answers to last week’s puzzle.

