

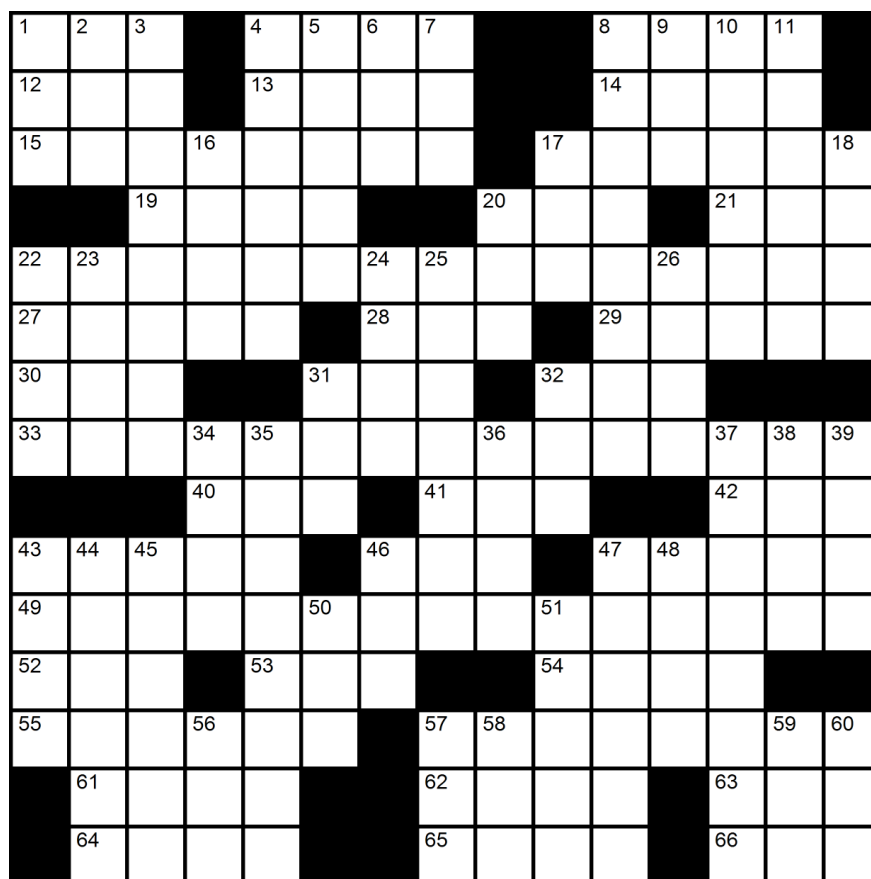
by Mike Selinker

*Eighteen centuries ago, the Pirkei Avot coined the axiom "Pray for political stability, for if not for fear of the government, men would swallow each other alive." A functioning government seems crucial to societal progress, yet in recent weeks that has seemed quite elusive. This puzzle includes some pointedly punny barbs in the direction of those who turned off the lights.*

**ACROSS**

- 1 Republicans
- 4 Shine brightly
- 8 He inspired Kevin Clash's book *My Life as a Furry Red Monster*
- 12 Country that opposed 13-Across
- 13 WWII faction
- 14 Cook ahi, perhaps
- 15 What the Republicans reached a point of, or hoped to get from voting the way they do most of the time?
- 17 What some Oscars honor
- 19 Rent-\_\_\_
- 20 *This American Life's* Glass
- 21 Greek letter
- 22 Emulate the House since the Republicans gained a majority?
- 27 With "The," its 10/08/13 headline was "Congressional Aides Withholding Sex Until Budget Compromise Is Reached"
- 28 \_\_\_ *Day Now* (Alan Cumming film)
- 29 Alternative to Slurpees
- 30 Nonetheless
- 31 Least frequent NFL result
- 32 Noted hallucinogen
- 33 What the Republicans found the government impasse to be?
- 40 Hill occupant
- 41 DC Comics cowboy Jonah
- 42 Vote against
- 43 He-Man's sister
- 46 It was founded in 1983 as Control Video Corporation
- 47 Palmolive spokesperson who said "You're soaking in it!"
- 49 Emulated a Republican strategist on 10/01/13?
- 52 Path of a catapulted stone
- 53 "Bleccch"
- 54 Type of saxophone
- 55 French Polynesian vacation site
- 57 Ex-House Majority Leader who last shuttered the government in 1995, suggesting his name was apt?

## This Week's Wisdom: STABILIZE YOUR GOVERNMENT



- 61 Mortgage option, slangily
- 62 Cain's brother
- 63 Caustic agent
- 64 House Majority Leader Cantor
- 65 Feel bad for
- 66 Use a needle
- 24 Placed
- 25 What My Son John had off, and also on
- 26 Hard rock band that released...
- 31 ...this explosive single in 1976
- 32 Unit of illuminance
- 34 Drug buster
- 35 Skilled at thinking logically
- 36 Clutched
- 37 See 18-Down
- 38 Herb in a Simon & Garfunkel line
- 39 Looked at
- 43 2003 Samuel L. Jackson remake
- 44 Zimbabwe's capital
- 45 *Reptiles* lithographer
- 46 Query
- 47 One way to put it
- 48 Kick in, as chips
- 50 French assent
- 51 *Glengarry Glen Ross* author
- 56 "\_\_\_ Fell" (Beatles tune)
- 57 Beer source
- 58 \_\_\_-Wan
- 59 Vote for
- 60 Tree used for making longbows

**DOWN**

- 1 Second Amendment concern
- 2 Disney Junior's spy bear series *Special Agent \_\_\_*
- 3 One who takes something and gives nothing
- 4 Death March origin
- 5 Town far from the city's core
- 6 Broadcast
- 7 Site with a Bing search button
- 8 One seeking mental diversion
- 9 Permit
- 10 \_\_\_ d'
- 11 Lavishly decorated
- 16 \_\_\_-1 (Ghostbusters' car)
- 17 Quest for Indy
- 18 With 37-Down, Detroit vehicle?
- 20 Unwelcoming
- 22 Train rider, perhaps
- 23 And higher, as in a cost