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## SOFT OPTIONS

By Byron Walden/puzzles edited by Will Shortz
Answers on Page 19

## Across

1 Hearten
7"...and it flopped"
11 Attack with snowballs, say
15 Graceful bird
19 Crossword header
20 Clearer in hindsight?
$\qquad$ Winans, 12-time Grammy-winning gospel singer
23 Apollo 11 landing spot 25 Eligible receiver? 26 Quickly maturing security, for short
27 Helps
28 Flying terrors of myth
29 With 42-Down, Oscars category from 1963 to 2019
30 Misfortunes
31 Semicircular recess
32 Items used by barkeepers,
barbecuers and blacksmiths
34 Wackadoodle
35 Enhanced tape format released in 1987
37 Beat poet Cassady
38 Spewed forcefully
40 Take off the board
43 À la $\qquad$ (spit-roasted)
47 Spree
48 Black- $\qquad$ albatross
49 Knee-jerk response 50 Remove cargo from
53 Describing the 32-Down's image
55 Milk source
56 Impends
57 Inscribed with some ancient characters
58 Whirling toon, familiarly
59 Order, in a way
60 Nonfiction films, informally
61 Metaphor from an hourglass
$\qquad$
64 "Come !"
65 This: Sp.
66 Sitcom planet of the '70s and '80s

67 Animal life
68 Pondered
69 It's probably over your head
70 One star, typically
73 Relentless go-getters
74 Carl XVI $\qquad$ (king of Swe-
den beginning in 1973)
76 Little bump
77 Eve's third son
78 Soccer chant
79 ___ 3000, half of the hiphop duo Outkast
80 Persuade with patter
84 A majority
86 Offensive football positions
88 Ruby of "The Jackie Robinson Story"
89 Edgar Rice Burroughs novel, with "The"
94 Talk Like a Pirate Day outbursts
95 Dormer section
96 Turn aside
97 Actress Amanda
98 Taking a bow at the symphony?
99 Waif
100 "A warehouse of facts, with poet and $\qquad$ in joint ownership" ("The Devil's Dictionary" definition for "imagination")
101 Its motto is "Agriculture and Commerce"
104 Opposite of exo-
105 Woe for a speeder 106 $\qquad$ Blinken, Biden's
secretary of state
107 Bit of "kit chat"

1081974 spoof with the tagline "Would you buy a used secret from these men?"
109 Bits of machinery
110 Latin phrase meaning
"based on forecasts"

## Down

1 Having legs
2 Cool shade
3 Weakness
4 Sledge, wedge, etc.
5 Sports org. with the Pittsburgh Maulers and Philadelphia Stars
6 SFO setting: Abbr.
7 Sang hosannas to
8 Car part the Brits call a "wing"
9 Heading for commonly sought info
10 Capote nickname
11 $\qquad$ light
12 Sweeping works
13 Reveals
14 Don't give up
15 Intellectual movement
16 Tyke
17 Performing well on
18 Candy with two flavors in one box
21 Flexible cutters
24 Kid Cudi or Lil Baby, e.g.
29 Fixed look
31 Enveloping atmospheres
32 Pope Pius XII called it"a holy thing perhaps like nothing else"
33 0dor-fighting spray brand
35 Parts of some brackets
36 "Yankee Doodle" has 16 of them
39 Entertainers with bright futures

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## 41 Partner of poivre

42 See 29-Across
44 Juice regimen
45 Like épées vis-à-vis foils
46 Stretches out
48 Curve
50 Experience
51 Music genre for Erykah Badu and D'Angelo
52 Many people find it intolerable
53 About $98 \%$ of the human genome
54 Word meaning "desire" in a classic Sanskrit text

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51

Big tear-jerker
62 Went under
63 Word with fine or signature 68 Hands, in slang
71 1980s White House nickname
72 Dilute something, in a way
73 Battery parts?
75 Up in the air
77 Maker of the Ring in "The
Lord of the Rings"
80 Surgical instrument with thumbholes
81 Joy who wrote "Born Free"
82 Forgiving

83 Talent for discernment 85 Mic -check noise
87 Cattle-ranch identifier 89 "The Crucible" setting 90 Sheepish?
91"Swell!"
92 "I can do this. Hit me."
93 Some 10-pointers in Greek Scrabble
95 Dish made from durum, say 98 Prefix with futurism
99 Kids of boomers
101 Grads-to-be: Abbr. 102 Not prescription, in brief 103 Scottish negative

