

## Tales of America's Black Puzzle Master

"Catch a N\*gger By the Toe," and More Horrific Racism



Timothy E. Parker is a Guinness World Records Puzzle Master, the author of over 100 books, and a TV producer with 226 show credits. TV legend Merv Griffin, the creator of "Wheel of Fortune" and "Jeopardy!" called him, "The best puzzle maker in the world."

Timothy E. Parker has also been a victim of extreme racism and defamation for two decades, not from any of his millions of solvers, but from a small-minded, bigoted group within the crossword construction community.

Now that Parker's not bound by any confidentiality agreements, he names names and reveals the shocking details about what he has been going through for over 20 years.

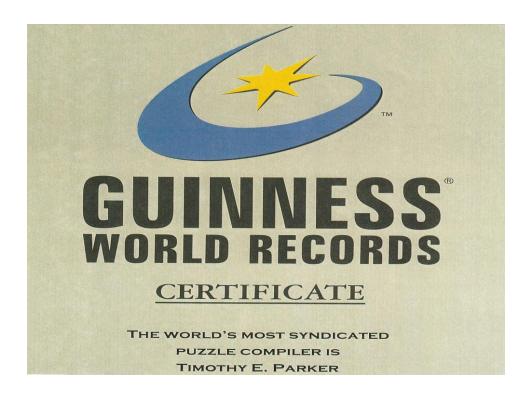
These revelations include members of the crossword construction industry, responsible for supplying crosswords and puzzles to newspapers and Websites throughout the country, who have done such things as a joke about catching "a n\*gger by the toe" in a forum with Parker present, threaten Parker with embarrassment if he offers a hand that "I will not shake," and telling him as a black man, "he makes too much money."

Please read on. There is much more and it's bad.

#### WHO IS TIMOTHY E. PARKER?

Timothy Parker is the most successful African American puzzle composer and editor in history. He created and founded the Universal Crossword, Puzzle Society, Family Time Crossword, and 17 other puzzle franchises.

From scratch, he built one of the largest puzzle followings in history. His audience is so large that Guinness World Records recognized him as "The World's Most Syndicated Puzzle Compiler."



As the first African American to run a worldwide crossword syndicate, Timothy was also the first and only crossword editor of any stripe to simultaneously run two major puzzle syndicates, the USA Today Crossword for nearly 13 years and the Universal Crossword for 21 years.

Recently, Parker launched Brain Games Hub, a professional thinking games company, and created the world's first AI crossword with learning and teaching abilities.

Many of the world's biggest companies, including Disney, Microsoft, Pat Sajak Games, Comcast, Warner Bros, the Smithsonian Institute, the Arthritis Foundation, Merriam-Webster's, Sony, and hundreds of newspapers, have used Parker's puzzle content,

including the Boston Globe, South China Times, Le Monde of France, the Toronto Star, the New York Post, the New York Daily News, and the Baltimore Sun.

Parker's work has appeared in a variety of countries around the world, including Russia, China, South Korea, India, Canada, Japan, Italy, Saudi Arabia, and dozens of others.

Parker edited the first crossword puzzle ever published in Reader's Digest and coauthored a book with the late Dr. Tim LaHaye of the "Left Behind" book and movie franchise.

In 1996, Parker published the first online crossword to appear in a daily newspaper, created the first online crossword with buttons for solving letters, words, and puzzles, the first crossword with a timer, and the first crossword with animated congratulations upon successful completion.

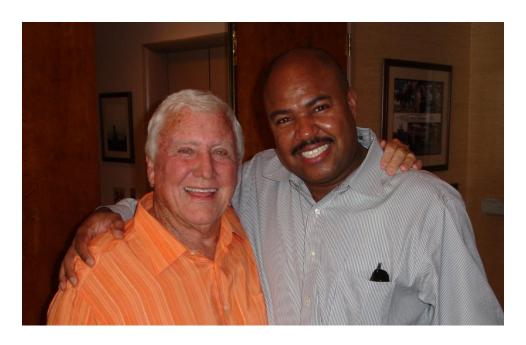
Nearly every crossword innovation from Parker has been copied by competitors.

Parker is called a "Quiz Whiz" and a "Visionary" by People Magazine, and many of the best crossword constructors, including Mel Rosen, Bernice Gordon, Thomas W. Schier, Lynn Lempel, Elizabeth Gorski, Gail Dean, John Sampson, and others, trusted Parker to edit and publish their work.

Parker called them all, "Great, great people."

Parker has published over 20,000 various crossword puzzles as of October 2022, the most in American crossword history.

Besides Parker supplying content for the ABC hit show, "The Mole," legendary TV host and game show creator Merv Griffin, creator of "Jeopardy!" and "Wheel of Fortune," hired Parker to co-produce and write, solo, all 225 episodes of Griffin's last game show, "Merv Griffin's Crosswords."



Timothy E. Parker with TV Legend Merv Griffin, Creator of "Wheel of Fortune" and "Jeopardy!" in Beverly Hills, California

Several people Parker outs for racist behavior, including Tyler Hinman, Ben Tausig, Kevin McCann, Evan Birnholz, Matt Gaffney, and others, defamed and denigrated Parker after it became known that he is Black.

Among the list of racist atrocities directed at Parker, the only Black person of renown in the history of puzzle construction was something Parker found "beyond belief."

Parker says, "Even knowing how racist these individuals are, this is a higher level of hate. In my opinion, whites erasing Blackness is equivalent to digital lynching. How can you conclude anything but racism being behind something this reprehensible?"

Posted on Twitter is an altered image of Parker with his face whitewashed and his career accomplishments mocked and trashed. This is from people inside the crossword construction community.



Parker says, "my business is word-based, but I have no words for this level of racial hatred. This is sickening."

"Try explaining this sort of digital lynching to your young Black grandchildren who may want to follow in your footsteps."

"Imagine building a career from square one that entertains millions, never missing a deadline in 26 years, being recognized by Guinness World Records for your work, and being subjected to this abominable bigotry."

"They pretend to welcome diversity but are actually hypocrites. But that's not even close to the worst thing I've faced, unfortunately."

### The Fake Crossword Scandal

Early in his career, after Parker's race became widely known, things took a dramatic turn for the worse.

In 2016, several competitors with far smaller market shares than Parker pushed an alleged crossword scandal against him, punctuated with lies, defamation, and innuendo.

Parker's reputation was severely damaged by the fake scandal, which resulted in his dismissal after 13 years with USA Today.

The damage caused by a small mob of racists in the crossword industry caused some at "corporate levels," to feel threatened and became "skittish."

Several competitors of Parker, including Tausig, crossword writer Matt Gaffney, Washington Post Magazine crossword writer Evan Birnholz, and others, accused him of plagiarizing over one thousand of the fifteen thousand crossword puzzles Parker had published up to that point. Parker calls the accusation, "a lie from the bowels of hell. These bigots know that."

This statement is not only blatantly false, but Parker has owned the puzzles involved from the beginning.

His accusers based their false accusations on *fewer than 100* of Parker's 15,000 crossword *themes, not puzzles,* matching some previously published puzzles.

Themes make up the three-to-four longest answers of crossword puzzles, and they are usually the subject of the puzzle's title, but there are 70-74 other answers as well.

Parker was accused of having the same three or four *theme* answers, out of 76-78 answers per puzzle, in the same places as other puzzles.

But this occurred in less than 100 of his 15,000 puzzles, hardly "scandal" material. This total is 000.7% of the total number of crosswords Parker had published up to that point.

A Timothy Parker puzzle has never had more than four of the 76 answers in the same location as another puzzle published by another author.

According to the accusers, some puzzles had more similarities, but those puzzles were Parker's own puzzles, not those of others.

There were times when Parker willfully used remastered variants of his own puzzles.

Parker owns all rights to his created works and all rights to the puzzles he has bought from others. You cannot plagiarize your own work.

In other words, as the accusers well know, Parker is free to use his own puzzles in any way that he pleases.

In a review, *The Washington Post* could not find any plagiarism on Parker's part. But that revelation did not stop the bigotry.

The same group of racists repeated the plagiarism lie repeatedly to damage Parker as much as possible.

Parker states, "In my view, it was the clear demonizing of a Black man for being more successful than they, plain and simple. These longtime racists know I am within my rights to do anything I want with my own puzzles, just as they do. "

"To me, the difference in this industry is clearly one set of rules if you are white, and another set of rules if you are Black. That's wrong. I underestimated how deep that racial hate descended and just how low these people could go."

To address accusations of repeated puzzles, it was an outside company, not Parker, that worked out a scenario to use Parker's archived puzzles for USA Today's weekend edition.

Parker never selected or delivered any of the archived puzzles; they were chosen, managed, and distributed entirely by the distributor without any involvement from Parker.

Parker says, "I was told well in advance of the arrangement to use some of my archive puzzles, and I had no problem with that whatsoever. My archived puzzles were used every weekend for several years and I found that to be quite flattering. I never had a single issue with the arrangement."

To denigrate Parker, bigots tied his repeated puzzles to the fake scandal, as if Parker had plagiarized *his own puzzles*. Parker calls it, "complete nonsense."

"The puzzle construction industry has many wonderful, gifted, talented, and ingenious people. I have many friends in it to this day. As with many communities, it only takes a few to ruin it for many. But racism should always be completely rejected."

"Evan Birnholz, a once-a-week crossword writer for The Washington Post Magazine, is one of the most reprehensible and disgusting bigots I have encountered in 26 years." – Timothy E. Parker

"Birnholz might be psychotic with hate. I genuinely think he hates Black people... like KKK-hate Black people. That is my genuine opinion of him," says Parker.

Parker continues, "Jeff Bezos, who I think is brilliant, is on my bucket list to meet. If I ever do, I have something to share with him about one of his employees."

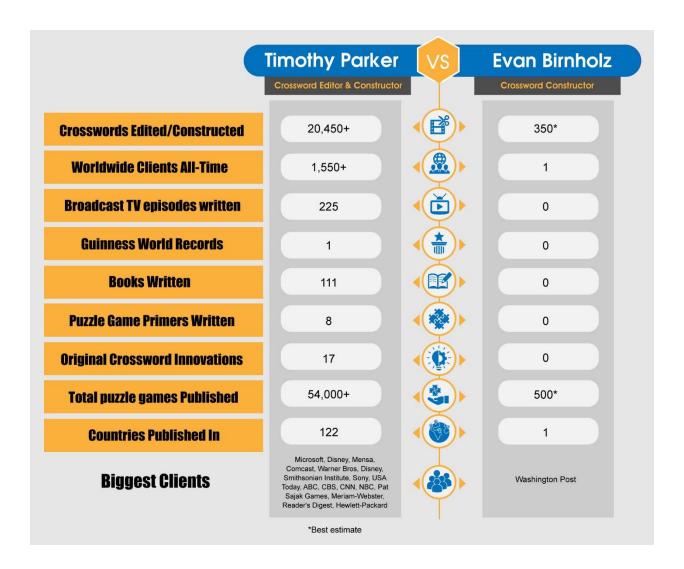
Here are just some of the many things Parker documented concerning longtime crossword racist Evan Birnholz.

- Birnholz advised on Twitter to not complain about crosswords unless it is a horrible clue or about Timothy Parker.
- Birnholz publicly questioned the authenticity of the phone number of Parker's
  office and challenged whether Parker was lying about an employee, who turned
  out to be Parker's own half-brother.
- Birnholz, who, after 10 years in crossword construction, still has only one client
  and makes a single puzzle a week, convinced a gullible writer at the Huffington
  Post that a Parker crossword theme was a secret rape joke.

Parker is known for family entertainment. HuffPost then published the story, which Parker called "beyond ludicrous" and "the dumbest article on puzzles ever written."

"Of the 300,000 plus solvers of the puzzle in question, Birnholz seemed to be the only person complaining of a 'secret rape joke' which Parker says reveals a lot about Birnholz's mindset." Birnholz was called out on Twitter for bringing up such a strange and vulgar interpretation of a crossword theme.

- Birnholz bragged on Twitter about Parker's "damning" Google page that includes
   Birnholz's crossword rape accusation.
- Birnholz trolled a Parker client and recommended that they not get Timothy Parker crosswords, trashing his work. Parker says, "I had a direct line of communication with a client, and Evan Birnholz finds out and then contacts the same client, expressing complete negativity about my work. I can't even imagine what type of hate it takes to stalk like that. I think Evan Birnholz is a despicable human being, and racist to the core."
- Birnholz has committed "actionable" defamation against Parker many times. He has
  called Parker a "serial liar" for no reason and often pushed the absurd lie, several
  times, that Parker had "copied" New York Times Crosswords.
- Birnholz once tried to get others in the industry to agree that "Timothy Parker can't
  do anything." Here is a comparison of their puzzle careers, which Parker implies as
  proof Birnholz holds "classic" white supremacist views.



Parker says, "If the entirety of all puzzle history was Mario Puzo's "The Godfather," Evan Birnholz would not be allowed on the estate unless he was delivering pizzas. Conversely, based on my career achievements, I could give the order to have him whacked before he reached the front gate latch."



Timothy E. Parker has been involved in charity work for kids for over 30 years. Here he is with TV legend Dan Rather in the 1990s, doing volunteer work for Project D.A.R.E., designed to help keep kids off drugs.

# Crossword Contest Winner Tyler Hinman Revealed that He Thinks There Should Be a Limit to How Much Money A Black Man Can Make.

Tyler Hinman, a crossword puzzle contest winner who once created puzzles for Parker, is one of the people Parker considers to be "strongly racist."

Hinman emailed Parker that he would no longer collaborate with him after Parker began doing TV, newspaper, and magazine interviews and it became clear that he was Black.

Hinman informed the African American Parker that Parker, "makes too much money."

Parker says, "Apparently, Tyler Hinman had mistaken me for a slave and him for a slave owner."

Parker said he was "shocked to the core" reading Hinman's racist email. "The thought that a white male would stop collaborating with a Black man because the Black man "made too much money" is racism on an extraordinary level."

"Hinman also sent me his guestimate of how much he, "thought" I made. Apparently, I was over his self-imposed limit of how much money a Black man can make in America. I hope Tyler Hinman is never in a position to decide the promotion or salary of any Black employees in any business, anywhere."

Initially sending pleasant emails and requesting to be published by Parker, Hinman became increasingly critical of Parker after it was revealed that Parker is Black.

Hinman advised others publicly not to buy Parker's puzzle books, constantly criticized Parker's TV work with Merv Griffin, even as petty as looking for any perceived flaws in every Parker clue for entire episodes, and claimed he would not want to be on Parker's show, even though he was never invited.

Hinman boldly admitted his bigotry and hatred toward Parker online. After someone complimented Parker's work online, Hinman wrote, "Stop making Timothy Parker look good. You're undermining my whole operation."

Parker says, "Tyler Hinman needn't ever worry about being on any of my shows, I have a strict "no racists allowed" policy. And as far as him not sending me any more puzzles after it became known that I was Black... missing puzzles from Tyler Hinman was akin to missing one bean in one of those mega-cans they sell at Costco."

Once It Became Known That Timothy E. Parker was a Black Man, Constructor Ben Tausig, who was Published by Parker Several Times, Pushed the Fake Plagiarism Scandal and Called Parker an "exquisite fraud"

According to crosswordtracker.com (a database with years of published crossword clues),
Ben Tausig's Inkwell Crosswords published this clue and answer, "For reals, yo!"

As Parker describes, it's "typical racist garbage, along with a lot of "in the hood" clues within the industry, clearly taking a swipe at Ebonics and mocking Black people."

"This clue fits Ben Tausig's attitude toward Black people, based on what I have personally learned from dealing with his racist attacks."

Tausig, like serial-racist Evan Birnholz, accused Parker of plagiarizing his own crossword puzzles. He even said, "The evidence is here," even though there is no evidence and never has been.

Parker says, "Tausig knows that the buyer of a crossword puzzle owns all the rights to it.

After selling all rights to the work and receiving payment, Tausig wants constructors to still own all rights to the sold work."

Parker says, "The rules in the crossword business have been clear and consistent for 60 years. You can't sell your car to someone and expect to use it on Saturdays to run errands."

Parker also says, "It is extremely easy to figure out why Ben Tausig would call a Black man a fraud for using his own property. I think he is terribly racist."

"I used to get nice emails from him, and I bought and published several puzzles from him.

Once my Blackness was revealed, he turned exceedingly nasty."

The puzzle clue database also lists the word "puke" among Tausig's works. This is the only recorded time of such a disgusting word being used in a crossword puzzle.

Parker says, "Apparently, besides the horrific "for reals, yo" debacle, Ben Tausig has used a word so amateurish and disgusting, that not only should he never be allowed to publish another crossword, but his driver's license should be suspended for two years."

Kevin McCann's Cruciverb.com site featured a discussion entitled "Catch a nigger by the toe" following the revelation that Timothy Parker visited the site.

The long-running crossword constructor site, cruciverb.com, run by Kevin McCann, coauthor of "The 21st Century Crossword Puzzle Dictionary," allowed an extremely vulgar thread in which the n-word was completely unfiltered and joked about.

Parker said, "They were not writing the abbreviated "n-word" under Kevin McCann's watch. They were writing "nigger" under Kevin McCann's watch, in full view of me and anyone else. Even though several good people begged and demanded it to cease, it went on under McCann's watch for an extended time.

"It was beyond belief that these people were freely using the unfiltered n-word with Kevin McCann's approval. I was shocked and humiliated at what I was seeing."

McCann, in addition to allowing the free use of the n-word, defamed Parker in an article McCann wrote on the site.

The libelous article included this lie, "For those who are unaware, Timothy Parker was fired as USA Today crossword editor for plagiarizing - blatantly copying New York Times puzzles and publishing them as his own."

Parker calls this an 'actionable' lie. "Considering how much damage and trauma these lies have caused, it would be honorable to allow McCann and his cohorts to bring all these allegedly 'blatantly copied puzzles' to court. I'd like to see them, too."

Ironically, Kevin McCann published a crossword dictionary with words allegedly copied from over 10,000, yes *10,000* published puzzles, of which *none* are believed to have been written by McCann.

Sidenote - Several posts on McCann's n-word-linked site have articles with the byline, "From Will Shortz." Shortz is the editor of the New York Times Crossword. More on him later.

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Crossword Constructor Matt Gaffney Used the Word "Murder" to Describe a Black Man's Themes Being Similar to Some Others, But Claimed "Great Minds Think Alike" When He Did The Same Thing.

Parker says, "Gaffney works with words for a living, I'd guess. Crossword editors are careful with words in general. It took thought by Gaffney to use the word "murder" when describing a Black man involved in a fake crossword scandal. It is not an accident."

"Matt Gaffney is the same guy who sent me an email, after it was revealed that I was Black, warning me that he would not shake my hand if extended toward him. That's Matt Gaffney. His many years of racism sicken me."

After Parker's Black identity was revealed, Matt Gaffney opened a "hate campaign" against Parker. He authored a ludicrous article online for Slate, claiming he "proved"

Parker plagiarized puzzles. But wait. There is something very strange about Gaffney's "writing."

Matt Gaffney also wrote an article in Slate about how he, Gaffney, had a puzzle that matched someone else's theme exactly and in the same places. But in *more* places (5) than any accused of Parker.

What did Gaffney say about his own theme matching someone else's? "Great minds think alike." What did he say about Parker? "It's like a murder mystery solved 50 years later with DNA evidence." Yes, he purposely used the word 'murder.'

Parker believes he has published "at least 10 times" more puzzles than Gaffney and has "millions" more solvers.

"Matt Gaffney has displayed his racism many times in my view. But Gaffney, don't worry.

If you shake a Black man's hand, the black does not come off on you."

Someone has hacked Parker's Wikipedia page for years, diminishing his accomplishments to minor tidbits, but highlighting the fake plagiarism scandal.

All of Parker's church affiliation work was cut, along with a picture of Parker's face. Parker calls it 'Black erasure.' "My hacked Wikipedia page, which Wikipedia will do nothing about,

clearly is written to make me look at bad as possible. Even a Wikipedia editor told me someone was out to get me."

Strangely, an entire Wikipedia section derogatory of Parker appears on Matt Gaffney's own Wikipedia page, practically word-for-word. Gaffney might be the hacker himself.

Parker comments, "How hateful is that? What kind of person demonizes someone on their own Wikipedia page? I consider Matt Gaffney to be a hardcore racist from way, way back. He has displayed his hatred toward me being Black for nearly 20 years now."

Part of Parker's hacked Wikipedia page claims "similarities between 1,537 of the 15,000 puzzles Parker had edited..."

The article does not mention that nearly all of those puzzles have always belonged to Timothy Parker, and that most of the repeats weren't distributed by him.

Parker calls it "intentionally misleading sleight of hand."

Despite Parker's Guinness World Records achievement being verified and mentioned in dozens of newspapers and magazines, including USA Today, the Wikipedia hack says Parker "said" he was named "World's Most Syndicated Puzzle Compiler" by Guinness World Records.

The Wikipedia article also claims that Parker was released by USA Today "after a social media campaign pressuring USA Today to take action against Parker."

The campaign was only a few people from the crossword construction community and not the public. That was inconveniently left out.

### Will Shortz Get a Message

Parker's warning to Will Shortz of the New York Times Crossword - "If Shortz ever mentions my name again, or anything about me, he had better know *exactly* what he's talking about, because that has not always been the case in the past. I'll leave it that for now.

Probably better to concentrate on not publishing the most racist clues in crossword history instead of judging what is "ethical."

The use of the racial term "beaner" in a crossword puzzle edited by Shortz was widely criticized as late as 2019.

According to the Crossword Tracker database, the clue he used is verbatim from an old crossword clue for the same word, also from the New York Times.

The apology from Shortz caused even more controversy and may have been viewed as elitist, condescending, and flippant.

The Crossword Tracker database includes these horrific words allegedly published in the New York Times Crossword, with most or all published during Shortz's tenure as editor.

The extremely racist "Place with homies," for the answer "HOOD," is just one example.

For the answer "homie," The New York Times Crossword allegedly used the exact same clue, "Friend in the hood," three times, per the database

The word "Tranny" has appeared twice in the database, dated at times when Shortz was the editor.

The clue (\_\_\_ Men's Health Crisis) is listed as having the answer, "Gay."

"Sodomite" had allegedly appeared in the New York Times Crossword twice during dates associated with the editorship of Will Shortz.

"Sambo," a disgusting and horrific word that denigrates Black Americans, has appeared in the Times Crossword twice, according to a database search.

Parker comments "It's disgusting that such words could have been published. Editors of Middle School newspapers don't use such despicable and hurtful words. It's embarrassing to the crossword construction industry to publish such racist garbage."

"The New York Times Crossword was iconic before Shortz got there, and I believe it will continue to be iconic long after Shortz is gone."

There's more. According to the Crossword Tracker clue database, the vulgar gay slur that starts with an "F" and ends with a "G" was published a total of 21 times in the New York Times Crossword.

At least one of those times listed is dated during Shortz's time as editor.

The database lists other publishers of the slur, including The Washington Post, and the USA Today crossword before Parker was the editor.

The author of the fake scandal article, Oliver Roeder, boasted about his role, wrote Parker used "fake names," and posted on racist Evan Birnholz's Twitter page.

Timothy Parker says, "It has been my pleasure to be interviewed many, many times for TV, magazines, newspapers, and websites during the past 26 years. The only interviewer I have ever disliked and distrusted is Oliver Roeder whose name somehow appears prominently on my Wikipedia page, has ties to known racist Evan Birnholz, and seems to have gotten some valuable "perks" from writing the article."

Roeder gloated several times about his involvement in the fake scandal and used a derogatory phrase, "fake names" instead of the proper term "pseudonyms" to describe Parker's use of multiple names for his own puzzles, a common practice in the industry.

After Roeder published the article igniting the fake scandal, he was rumored to have been published in the New York Times Crossword by Will Shortz. Shortz also allegedly wrote the foreword for a book by Roeder.

Parker calls these various ties, "Very disturbing, if true. And I certainly believe they are." In addition to these people, he says there are over a dozen more involved in some way or another, and that along the way he learned a lot about loyalty and lack of it.

#### Conclusion

In addition to these people, he says there are over a dozen more involved in some way or another, and that along the way he learned a lot about loyalty and lack of it.

Timothy E. Parker says, "It's never been my intention to be an activist, but I don't want anyone, especially a young person of color, to ever experience the racism I went through because of my skin color."

To raise money for books and computers for underserved schools, Timothy founded blackthinker.org, and he is donating thousands of his own puzzles and books to the schools for "thinking activities."

Currently, he is in talks with a "well-known" civil rights organization and has "all options on the table." Starting October 23, 2022, Timothy Parker will have a full Social Media presence to shout his message loudly and often.

He can be contacted immediately on Twitter, at <a href="https://twitter.com/BrainGamesHub">https://twitter.com/BrainGamesHub</a> and Reddit <a href="https://www.reddit.com/user/BrainGamesHub">https://www.reddit.com/user/BrainGamesHub</a>

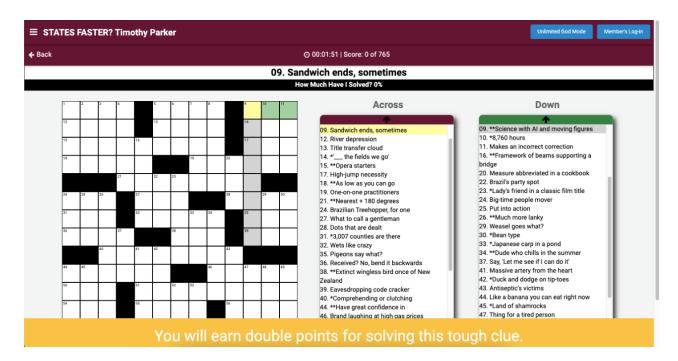
Timothy invites anyone in the media to contact him at <a href="mailto:TP@timothyparkercrosswords.com">TP@timothyparkercrosswords.com</a> for more information, interviews, exclusives, live appearances, etc.

"Please help this story go viral. The issue of racism must not be ignored at any time.

Thank you." – Timothy E. Parker

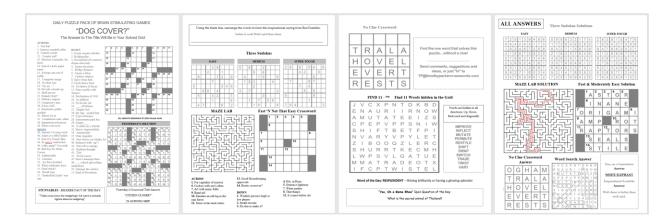
Timothy Parker is working on his autobiography, which promises "no holds barred," and a documentary featuring the non-sports, non-entertainment achievements of great Black thinkers throughout history.

He has created the world's first daily A.I. Crossword with learning and teaching capabilities which programmers from three countries.



World's First A.I. Crossword Created By Timothy E. Parker

Timothy Parker has a massive collection of printable puzzles and has created the world's first A.I. Crossword available at patreon.com/braingameshub



Timothy's Daily Print Pack – 4 Pages of Puzzles Per Day

\_\_\_\_\_

"I am so grateful to all the puzzle fans I've served for many years, and I especially appreciate the wonderful letters and messages you have sent me. I have received many over the years, like this one." – Timothy E. Parker

(This is an actual, unedited letter to Timothy Parker)

"Thank you Timothy Parker. (Crossword writer)

I'm currently in bed sobbing because I just remembered your name. Once or twice a week me and my Grandpa used to FaceTime and do your crosswords. We used to try and finish as fast as we could and beat our old times. We would tell stories and joke and blame you whenever we couldn't figure one out. If we were slow my grandpa would say something like "Timothy Parker is laughing at us" But it's too hard to do the crosswords by myself

now. And I miss my grandpa so much. Last time I spoke to my grandpa I told him I was pregnant. He was so happy. He died 3 weeks later two days before we were supposed to do a crossword. I wonder what it ended up being about. I know I don't know you Tim or the imaginary crossword league that we were apart of but thank you. Because one day when this doesn't hurt so much I am going to pick up a crossword and practice until I can do them by myself and hopefully my daughter will enjoy doing them with me. And I can tell her all about my grandpa and how special he was."