



THE ENIGMA

January 1991

North Hollywood, California

No. 1042

WORDS OF ONE SIBYL

HELP, THIS REQUEST BELONGED IN DECEMBER!

The 1991 Directory arrives with the February ENIGMA. Please send corrections, e-mail addresses, phone numbers, requests to delete phone numbers, new noms, all that stuff—today! Before you solve a single flat! If you changed your address during the year, I've deleted the old phone number. And if your membership expires with this issue, do renew immediately, to avoid disappearing from the Directory.

HELP, THE DUES ARE HIGHER!

But not much. The Board has voted to raise annual dues three dollars—\$13 the first year of membership and \$11 thereafter. Overseas, add \$9 for postage. If you just renewed, or your sub extends longer than a year, and if you feel so moved, donate a little something.

Large-type subs stay at \$20, subsidized by donors; you can always send more if don't need the subsidy.

A great many Krewe have been regularly augmenting every renewal with modest to huge contributions, so that true puzzle-lovers who are temporarily or permanently unable to afford membership can be afforded temporary or permanent credit. Treesong suggests (there was no vote taken) that holders of complimentary or scholarship subs send at least a token dollar or a note at renewal time, so we'll know you're there and that you care. If you've sent flats, sol lists, or kudos, we know already.

HELP, WE'RE MOVING!

From Al Gebra: "Even when membership was around 100, I wondered how editors found time to write so many personal notes, so you need not apologize [for writing delays]. Suggestion: if each ENIGMA said: 'The editor regrets that she can't correspond with members as much as she would like,' then you could cut one paragraph of apology from every letter you write, thus providing you with time to write a few more!" Good idea.

That paragraph seems an apt introduction to a small but poignant piece of news: Smaug and I are buying a house in Portland, Oregon. We're now engaged in the crazymaking business of arranging bridge loans and contracts, fixing up and trying to sell our house here, and—pretty soon now—moving. I'll keep you posted. Try to maintain an understanding, even a forgiving attitude about delayed correspondence, lapses of attention, and, no doubt, various matters in the ENIGMA.

HELP, THE INQUIRER ARTICLE WAS WONDERFUL AND, SO FAR, WE HAVE 325 REQUESTS FOR MINI-SAMPLES

On December 2, an article by John Grossman (CLEAN REEF) about NPL and the 1990 convention appeared in the Philadelphia *Inquirer's* magazine section. Nice coverage—quotes next time—and probably he and we will forgive the editor who titled his piece "The Word Nerds." By December 6, I had 26 SASEs with requests for mini-samples, and sent out the minis. On December 7, a day that may live in infamy, Smaug arrived home with the mail, grinning madly, and said, "Remember Miracle on 34th Street?" Eighty-nine more SASEs. Three-hundred twenty-five by the 14th: just over our current membership. And still coming. Among the enclosures are six noms, a few \$10 checks, a lot of eager-sounding notes, and one flat. We'll have to update and reprint the mini-sample, and add a cover letter; the SASEs are all here waiting. I'm bemused but only mildly terrified: the last big article, in GAMES, brought us Brillig, Mr. Tex, Uncanny, Wabbit, probably Ostrich (he'd heard of us from Word Ways), et al. Who knows what talent lurks in this

new bunch? (Yes, but what if they all join? Don't be silly, Sibyl; they won't all join.)

Treesong will send you a photoreduced copy of the full seven-page article for a dollar and a SASE.

HELP

A thought from Smaug: "While it is true that NPL runs a lean, almost minimalist publishing operation, there are some toys it would be nice to have. If you or your company would like to donate an obsolete IBM-PC or compatible computer (pre-80486, that is) with an internal hard drive and modem—and, possibly, a fax board—we would have an electronic answering machine for League correspondence, last-minute flats and notices, and so on. And you would have a tax write-off. We can even date it 12/31/90, if you work it right." (This system would give us fax and e-mail use without the cost of a dedicated line, fax paper, or some express-mail postage.)

NEW MEMBERS, NEW NOMS, NEW ADDRESSES

Faro introduced Dirty Jack in May 1988: "J. W. Miles writes: 'DIRTY JACK, consigliere for our family, is stealthy, mean, obscure, and shoddy; he can never remember whether he has fired 5 or 6 rounds, and he uses unwashed money. He is fairly nommed for now.'" I'd been wondering how to introduce HARVEY, Victor Y. Hare, at a familiar address (Box 30071, Palm Beach Gardens FL 33420-0071); then Treesong forwarded this letter to GotS, from Vito Corleone: "Jack has been permanently transferred to a forest station outside of Regina, Saskatchewan, partly to recover from his past 2 1/2 years before your mastheads. We are dispatching an alternate compound resident to NPL duty effective January 1991." Okay.

Welcome to Patricia Oleszkiewicz, 8 Holland Court, Poughkeepsie NY 12603, who has a gift subscription from her niece, TIN RICHES (see below); to Steven J. (Jim) Sherman, 2512 Rock Creek Drive, Bloomington IN 47401; and to Wendy R. Shields, 30 W 170 Branch Avenue, Warrenville IL 60555.

Welcome to TIN RICHES: Christine Piatko, 208 Ridgedale Road, Ithaca NY 14850, e-mail address piatko@cs.cornell.edu. She says that Saphir has gotten tired of lending out her ENIGMA copies, and so . . .

Jim Ellison (Oct 90) is KRISHNA, a divinity transposing to his profession (1 6). The nom of Gary Teachout is now game (all lowercase, he notes); and he is at this new address: c/o Puget Bridge Supply, 8539 Greenwood Avenue North, Seattle WA 98103-3613, 1-800-327-4292. "After 27 years of supplying books and materials for the game of bridge, I decided the company needed to open a store that carries all types of games for people over the age of ten. Thus gary's games came into being. Now I have two game businesses to keep me busy. I may never get a chance to solve anything." Bridge players can call the 800 number above for a free 32-page catalog. Besides the bridge supplies, gary's games has books—over a thousand titles on games—some five thousand different games, parts for adventure gaming, no Nintendo-type stuff, and special ordering for out-of-print games.

More changes: Arepo—A-411 South Catherine Street, Thunder Bay, Ontario Canada P7E 1K9, (807) 622-8853. Ocotillo—6722 East Jean Drive, Scottsdale AZ 85254, (602) 948-3654. Xmas Tree—2853 West 85th Place, Chicago IL 60652. Ab Struse (his Hoozoo should be in February) is still at 34 Park Row, New York NY 10038, and, like Beryl, has had post-office problems. If your letter to either of them is returned, try again; enclose the first envelope so they'll have hard evidence of postal folly.

Trazom to Treesong: "I got the new members from Sibyl over the phone so I could send my last batch of welcoming letters; I send them from my office."

THE ENIGMA is the monthly magazine of the National Puzzlers' League, a non-profit educational organization founded in 1883. Membership dues are \$13 the first year and \$11 yearly thereafter; membership includes a subscription to THE ENIGMA. Add \$9 for overseas airmail. Add \$9 for large type ENIGMA (US only). Send dues to the treasurer, SENOR, David A. Rosen, 207 East 27th Street, #3K, New York NY 10016. The editor is SIBYL, Judith E. Bagai, Box 9747, North Hollywood CA 91609.

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A couple of days ago, a young woman who works in my building and whom I know only slightly stopped me on the way out and asked, 'Are you Trazom?' Yes, I said, my curiosity piqued. 'Well,' she said, 'my father got your letter and since it came from the Chronicle he asked me about it. He said the person must have something to do with music, since "Trazom" is "Mozart" backwards, so I thought of you.' Turns out she's the daughter of Douglas and the sister of Judith Underwood [Dec 90]. I asked if she was interested herself, and she said, 'Oh, I don't know—not unless there are cryptic crosswords involved.' I'm going to give her a mini-sample on Monday; I think we may have quite a clan on our hands here."

CONGRATULATIONS

144 taped a segment of the game show Trump Card (it airs here just before The Challengers), which was on December 10, and won \$5250. "I'm also pleased about my fourth-place finish at the Long Island Crossword Tournament, hosted by Famulus on November third. One more thing: I'll shortly be profiled in 'Who's Who Among Republicans' because of my extensive volunteer work on behalf of local candidates."

By Thanksgiving, Famulus had racked up \$112,480 on The Challengers before missing a critical question and leaving happy.

GATHERING

The American Cryptogram Association marked its sixtieth anniversary at its annual meeting/convention in Montreal, August 24 - 26, at the Maritime Hotel and St. George's School of Montreal. (This report is quoted or paraphrased from remarks by Apex Dx and Wabbit.) Apex Dx hosted the formal meetings; Wabbit worked on pre-con communications, tourist information, and hospitality-suite refreshments. Other NPL members included Dendai Dix (Double Dendai in the ACA).

In his opening remarks, Apex Dx discussed cryptography for "able, motivated youngsters, offering both challenge and sense of achievement, and nurturing verbal, logical, and [perceptual abilities]." He has used cryptograms and cryptarithms with such students in the US and at McGill University summer programs.

"Wabbit enciphered this year's banquet menu. Heavily influenced by her membership in the NPL, she departed from the usual encryption and sneaked in a few charades, picture rebuses, and puns. Mutterings of unprintable expressions could be heard throughout the area as we awaited our meal." I've seen the menu, which has wonderful Wabbit cartoon rebuses, along with gettable items like "[course] 2. KANJM JWM KDCCNA" and "5. Lassie bloom & menagerie lock-opener joint"; and less gettable ones, especially for hungry solvers, like these: "4. abjfc opsbps rutgefc xhug idsat"; "6. RUTH'S RICE PUFF"; and "7. CEATIO FEEOM LFTRK."

Dr. Hereward Senior, Canadian author and historian, spoke at the banquet on recent Canadian political and constitutional crises. A mature and seasoned appraisal, Apex Dx notes, of particular interest to Americans unfamiliar with Canadian politics.

"The convention was saddened by the loss of a number of key members, including 'the computerman's computerman,' Mike Barlow, whose idea and hope the Montreal convention had originally been."

GIZMO has succeeded PHOENIX as president; G-MAN is first vice president and is overseeing plans for a 1991 convention in Buffalo.

MORE GATHERINGS

Ditto writes that the party at her house was not only for those Krewe mentioned (Dec 90). "I don't want any Krewe member to feel slighted. This was the annual potluck Sunday-brunch combined meeting of the Far Afield [formerly Fairfield County] Puzzlers of New York and Connecticut and the North Jersey puzzlers. My only role in it was to provide the house . . . Willz (NY) and Norman and Robin Landis (NJ) did the calling and planning."

Ditto adds that all Krewe are welcome—let her know if you'd like to attend next October. (You can tell her now; she'll call you then.) The Equinox gatherings in Berkeley are also open to all Krewe members and interested friends. They are usually held on the first Saturday after the vernal and autumnal equinoxes. Call Hot or Trazom for details.

Jaelti and Cork attended the Wonderful Weekend of Words at Mohonk Mountain House in New York. "Willz did his usual great job with word games." Prizewinners included Tihz Wa, Sluggo, Jaelti, and Cork. Edwin Newman and Thomas Middleton were guest speakers.

Smaug and I enjoyed a short visit and long Chinese dinner with Twisto and Val-U, who were on their way back east after a visit to Berkeley, where they had spent time with Hot, PQogo-PhQred, and Trazom.

DEPARTMENT OF YET-UNANSWERED QUERIES

"What's the point of printing two flats with the same base?" It's either that or holding one for a year—longer if the base is especially memorable. (I have several flats on hold now: they arrived just days too late to print with their doubles.) Some of you enjoy seeing how the same base is treated by different composers. Mangie handled duplications the same way, so that neither flat seemed derived from the other. Once she printed two anagrams on the same base; one had about twice as many solvers as the other.

"Why are some enumeration words in brackets?" I'd like a leisurely discussion on this subject in the new guide. The brief version is found in the Penetralia heading every month. Phrases (any sols or parts of sols longer than a word—good grief, L'Etoile, Top 40) are supposed to be dictionary entries in most flat types; when a non-entry phrase appears, it's so noted. Non-MW phrases in these types are expected to be familiar (national brand names, names of famous people) or likely to be entries one day (sleep apnea). Not arbitrary stuff like "a book," "my great-uncle," etc.

But some types regularly and legally have non-entry phrases: the anagram, rebus and suber, palindrome, spoonergram, heteronym, and homonym and its variations. (The Guide includes letter banks; I still like to let you know which lb phrases aren't entries.) When one of these exempt types does have an entry phrase, it may—may—be [bracketed] in the enumeration. Bracketing is a solving help; I don't do it if it seems pointless or too helpful. Also—answering a recent complaint—an entry phrase depends on context. In October 66 (carrot-and-stick figures), "stick figures" is no more an entry phrase than "hard copy" would be in the sol "Work hard, copy this page."

LOOKING BACKWARD

Pebbles writes: "I notice going through Sept '89 that someone had [my base] already. Not surprising. ENIGMA certainly is an effective way to increase one's vocabulary. I'll never forget 'mammothrept' [1990, Merlin's Sept 32 rebus] as long as I live! It's going to be a bit hard to work into conversation . . ."

(On to 1990) September 23—Jo the Loiterer explains that "Elvira" was a big hit for the rock band The Oak Ridge Boys. He adds: "Also, in December 1987, #11, Gladys May was unmarried and pushin' thirty-eight." November 5—Ira Gershwin wrote the lyrics to many of his brother George's tunes—including those to "Someone to Watch Over Me." Someone watching over you suggested I explain that, muttering something about a generation gap.

DECEMBER: MISTAKES, NOTICES, CATCHUPS, COMMENTS, DUCKS

Page 4—Crossw rd Magazine was not misspelled in December. Or now. Smaug figures that the dot in Dr. Wssorc's nom is an imploded O. "Or a singularity, if not less."

1—Unwritten NPL law: Every phonetic flat will annoy somebody. So will many rhymes. From a local column on restaurants: "At 54th and Vermont, he pulled into the dingy parking lot of Mr. Jim's, a rib mecca whose radio slogan used to be: 'You need no teeth to eat Jim's beef.' (As poet Richard Meltzer once pointed out, if you actually have no teeth, it rhymes.)"

2-See below. 14-*C=phrase. 45-not *. 46-SEVEN is + usage. 55-line 2 of final quatrain should have terms, not signs of abuse. 56-By WABBIE (Wabbit/Mangie). 87-SCOR'D. 88-Begins *[*]l. X-5, clue b-Change "mid-afternoon" to "mid-morning."

C-4 seems to be harder to crack than any of the others. Evidently its pattern words aren't findable in the usual places. (Some of us crypt-solvers have never looked in those places, and wouldn't know. Check the new Guide for a non-vowel-spotting, non-Cryptodycting note on solving.) Smaug produced C-4 after listening to the sound of hair loss. I was tearing it out over the absence of medium-difficulty cryptograms. We both believed he'd constructed one. Oh, please, send some.

(Retrieved from the Land of Lost Puzzle-Notes): December 76-Merlin: "Purposely understated in the style of the old Little Willie verses. Speaking of Little Willie, here's my contribution to the genre [Dec 60]." I believe the original "dynamite" verse ends: Curiosity never pays:/It rained Willie seven days."

2-Pork, not duck. Once (Oct 18) can be attributed to aging eyes; twice is either an unconscious attempt to keep kosher or the beginning of an odd tradition. Perhaps it's the revival of an old one: in the mid-sixties, I was teaching one of those catchall survey courses young instructors are glad for, because they aren't English Composition: Chaucer to Donne; The Novel from Pamela to Ulysses. Those courses. European Drama from Sophocles to Somebody. In this case, from Oedipus the King to The Wild Duck, and on the first day of class I assigned Oedipus the Duck and then lowered my head to the desk. What was done could not be undone, and soon we had The Duck at the Top of the Stairs, The Duckness of Malfi, A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Duck, and much, oh much more. And we are here as on a duckling plain, where ignorant armies quack by night. (To Microduck and Nightduck, my apologies for having made their fare fowl.)

JANUARY PUZZLES

USPS willing, you'll have this issue the last week of December. Some puzzles that might have appeared last month will certainly still be timely. Happy holidays, again.

A Penetralian welcome to Arepo (69, 93) and The Porter (63).

These flats are probably easier than others, unless I've guessed wrong: 2, 3, 4, 7, 9, 14, 16, 17, 27, 28, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41-43, 44?, 56, 58, 59, 73, 77, 78, 83, and 84 and 85 for many. One or two flats and crypts are really hard.

2-Beacon/Qaqaq. 9-Hot/Beacon, and seemingly ENIGMA's second-ever sonnet. (I had one in September '85.) 16-9C; not really MW usage; but it's covered in the NI2 entry. 17-Munro: "For those bothered by June 56. Last word of verse NI3 usage." 20-Windrif: "Figure I may as well join the other 200 Krewe who are sending you this same answer to Twea's Nov 35." (Good idea; the other 199 didn't send it.) 22-An advance hint: two things about the verse should help narrow the field. 25-Elgar/Dirty Jack.

29-Optional ending from Mr. Tex: "Disney spurned my adaptation/(Stupid Mickey Mouse operation!)" 30-Wabbit/Mangie. 37-It's only because this flat is so easy that one part can bypass the interlock description. 38-Talon: "Treesong pointed out in GoTS that my Nov 62 was a gender offender. A valid point, in my view: so to make up for ignoring half the world's anthropophagi, I've composed a companion verse." 47-Qaqaq/Windjammer.

49-Joker/Fraz. 52-Merlin: "I never seriously considered using "backs" instead of "bacs" in the last stanza." 63-Corn Cob/The Porter. 65-Elgar/Dirty Jack. 69-HE: as of October 1990. Non-puzzle-note-readers may have interesting experiences solving this one. 71-A petting Zoo. 72-Forget ducks; here's another in a growing series of sheep flats. 89-Not directly apposite: a punning allusion. 100-"Inspired by Faro's Sept 100 and by another recent anagram." KU crypt-Heed its title well.

Hints and 9-Seek answers are on page 19. Happy, peaceful new year!

P E N E T R A L I A

"... hidden things or secrets." Solution words and phrases not in 9C (9th Collegiate) are labeled for the most recent Merriam-Webster dictionary in which they appear: 12W (collected NI3 Addenda), NI3, NI2 Add., or NI2. Non-MW words are noted. Tags: + means slang, foreign, obs., arch., dial., etc. * means capitalized. MW phrases may be [bracketed] in anagrams and flat types where non-MW phrases are allowed.

Send solution lists to PHILANA, Judy Adamski, 2507 Almar, Jenison MI 49428. They must be received by February 25.

1. LETTER SHIFT (7, 4 3) (TWO=NI3)

The ONE bangs shut her TWO, admires her poems as she views them, Prepares them all for mailing—maybe this time they will use them. She puts on makeup, dons her boa; ready for the street, Sashays to her best corner. Even poets have to eat.
=MANGIE, Buffalo NY

2. REBUS (6 2 12 5)

DEILST

If you need to find a word in NI2, Or you're looking through the phone book for a name, Or you're thinking "Where do I fall?" as the teacher gives the roll call, Just remember that the entries there are SAME.
=BEAQ, Tutoria AY

3. REBUS (6)

Y

I thought a casino With blackjack and Keno Belonged in the heart of the Vatican. The bishops said, "Nix, Your opinion is SIX!" The Pope muttered, "You can say that again!"
=MR. TEX, Los Angeles CA

4. SECOND-LETTER CHANGE (6)
(ref. October 58)

If Brillig wants to sip those margaritas To the sound of north winds whistling... well, she may. I'll drink to soft guitars and gentle breezes, Served by smiling, gentle ONES down old *TWO way.
=PEBBLES, Princeton NJ

5. SECOND-LETTER CHANGE (7)

6. LETTER BANK (6, 10)

(dedicated to B. Grogan)

To swig a BEGUN of brandy's a DONE— And much nicer—way to get rid of the chills

Than to don a wool sweater and hope to feel better

By sipping hot tea and swallowing pills.

So, go to the TEN in your warm, cozy den

And take out the kirsch or the boof right away.

You're out of good brandy? Take wine, if it's handy,

Like SIX, pal, or sherry. A votre santé!

=WABBIT, Montreal PQ

7. ACROSTICAL ENIGMA (6 6) (NI3)

A. I get a nice standing ovation For doing my magic and tricks.

B. Eristic, I like disputation. Not yellow, I get in my licks.

*C. Raccoons, though, imbue me with fear, so

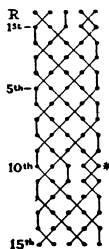
A rabbit is used to amaze.

I like to make one disappear, so I call out the conjuror's phrase.

=AL GEBRA, Pinehurst NC

8. ENIGMATIC REBUS (3 5, *1 6)

(5 involves NI2 usage; reading has NI3 usage; rubric is NI3 material)



My father's father headed up the Currency Exchange In far Johannesburg, where I was born; And when I was a little tyke, I thought it sounded strange Till he explained it, one November morn: "We make cash trades from nine to five, and when the day is done, Record them to our lawyers' satisfaction. The foreign trades I delegate—but let me tell you, son, Before we SOL in detail each transaction."
=TRAZOM, Berkeley CA

9. HETERONYM (11; 4, 2 5)

When Cyrano de Bergerac's famed nose
Begins to bleed, he uses this technique
To staunch that sanguinary mess that flows
And cut it off, before the ladies freak:
He takes a couple ONE from off the line
(A couple? Yes! Just one is not enough!)
And clamps them on his schnozz and counts to nine
(Much more would hurt, and C.B.'s not that
tough).

Then, when the blood begins to TWO around
Until he's dizzy. (This last part is grueling!)
Then Cyrano, who knows his nose is sound,
Is free again, and goes back to his duelling.
(Disturbing? Yes, but nowhere near as grave
As how post-nasal drip makes him behave!)
=HOT CON, Berkcon CZ

10. TRANSPOSAL (7) (FIRE=NI2, related wds in 9C)

The preacher stood outside the brothel door.
The madam answered, smothering a yawn.
"Again?" she sighed. (They'd been through this
before.)
"You've come, in righteous fury, with the dawn,
To huff and puff and censure me for FIRE?
You tiresome RIFE!" "No ma'am," said he, polite.
"My purpose, for the nonce, is to inquire:
Pray, did I leave my wallet here last night?"
=TRAZANNY, Berutte CT

11. FIFTH-SOUND CHANGE (9, 8)

(GREAT=NI3 pron.)
Today he's a TINY as witty as Hope.
Tomorrow? A dullard, the stodgiest
dope.
It's lucky this fickle, mercurial
GREAT
Is blessed with a steady,
unflappable mate.
=NIGHTOWL, Rochester NY

12. PHONETIC REBUS (***7)

GU

You simply don't realize the time
and expense it takes for a tabloid
to make up its headlines—
The manpower needed, the long con-
sultations, the hunt for the story,
the sweating for deadlines.
Why, "PRESLEY ANNOUNCES HIS CUCUMBER
SECRETS TO TELEPATH ALIENS" needs,
for depiction,
The resident experts in para-
psychology, gardening, Elvisiana,
and FICTION.
=OSTRICH, Lookout Mountain GA

13. LETTER SHIFT (7) (both NI3)

A ONE from the North was bold. Wow!
He'd TWO all his flockmates, and
how!
He'd soar straight into town,
Then he'd fly upside down!
He's a stuntgoose in Hollywood now.
=JOKER, Cleveland Heights OH

14. CURTAILMENT (5)

Sheik Abou Ben Bunny
Was loaded with money,
But the SHORTs in his
TALL
Very soon spent it all.
=WABBIT, Montreal PQ

15. CHARADE (7)

Despite my ONE for TWO,
My drinking days are
through—
I've been a SEVEN off
all brew.
=IXAXAR, Holiday FL

16. REBUS (*8)(see note)

BCDEFGHJKLMOPQRSUVWXYZ
Don't understand drama.
I can't seem to see
Why TOTAL's a classic.
It's all Greek to me.
=PHIZZ, Mahwah NJ

17. REBUS (6)

Meanings two:
Part and glue.
=MUNRO, happaqua NY

18. SPOONERGRAM (12, 5 6)

I guess I'd say he has an equine
kind of mind;
His skill with them's as good as you
could ever find.
He knows just how to get a FIRST
in shape to race,
Or make a SECOND through a
treacherous hilly place.
=ULK, Enid OK

19. ACROSTICAL ENIGMA (*7'1 7) (NI2)

- A. She wrote these lines, I do
believe,
Beneath a tree on nuptial eve.
B. "His mother nags me once an hour:
'Bow to his heightened sense of
power.'
C. O, do old cooks with manner
solemn
Pore over Frugal Gourmet's
column?
D. Esurient for lima beans,
Peas, rutabagas, limes, and
greens,
E. Batches of cookies, muffins,
tarts;
¶ 2 of Julia's volume
starts . . ."
Oh, nuts! The bridegroom never
showed.
The bride wept buckets. End of ode.
=WINDJAMMER, Chicago IL

20. TRANSPOSAL (6) (FORMER=+)

The UPPER season's hard to take.
Does not your NETHER region ache
At thought of piles of leaves to
rake

And slippery sidewalk ice to break?
=WINDRIFT, Bellevue WA

21. REPEATED-TRIGRAM DELETION (4 *)
(NI3) (DELETED="often cap.")

The native Israeli third-grader,
Who hadn't completed her homework,
Decided to stay home from school.
The DELETED would ALL in the
morning:

Fake sniffles, force coughs, and
claim fever—
It was that or be called the class
fool.
=JO THE LOITERER, Basking Ridge NJ

22. REPEATED-LETTER CHANGE (8)
(TWO=NI2+)

The scarlet limes, they thought,
looked bad,
And yellow grapes? He must be mad!
The blueish orange drew in frowns.
They ONE at fruit he drew in browns.
But here's why Dali's really
through:

They screamed on seeing lemons
TWO.

=DUMBO, A., W. Nowhere MA

23. ACROSTICAL ENIGMA (5) (NI3)
(B=NI2+ spelling)

A. Nevada, New Hampshire, Kentucky,
Nebraska,
Connecticut, Utah, Rhode Island,
Alaska,

B. Texas, Missouri, New York,
Indiana,
Hawaii, Wisconsin, Wyoming,
Montana.

Our Seal represents us all, every
last section—

Our nation survives yet another
election!

=NEWROW, Brookline MA

24. HOMONYM (3 2, *)

Grand-père was a Frenchman,
a real Gallic cutie;
But ONE, who's from TWO, has
a brogue that's a beauty.
You're confused?
I'm amused.

=JUNIOR, Mill Valley CA

25. INTERLOCK (8)

Dasher, it's no time for ONE
With Christmas TOTAL still undone.
(The TWO tradition I would miss
THREE mistletoe—that extra kiss.)
=ELJACK, Palmkill NFL

26. ENIGMATIC REBADE

(3, 3, 3, 3, *1*1, 3, 3)

[ME, fr. OE scearu cutting, tonsure;
akin to OE scieran to cut—more at
SHEAR]

Oh, I'm a THREE at drama—yes, I
have my act together—

But to SIX me as a no-fun actor's
just wrongheaded. Rather,
A veteran of vaudeville, I have
entertained GIs:

I've been in FIVE performances, been
hit by custard pies.

A skit in Viet Nam played up the
weirdness of the food—

I ate a sweetish TWO and squirmy
FOUR. (They booed and bood.)

Another time, a Shakespeare takeoff
proved a bit more fun

When every other word was "thou" or
"thee" or "ONE."

And then one time I stumbled in a
SEVEN full of sows—

The soldiers loved the slapstick,
but my agent had two cows.

=QAQQAQ, Astoria NY

27. FOURTH-SOUND CHANGE (10)

You can't drive to Fairbanks
in winter.

"It's FIRST," all the experts
would say.

In winter, the highways are SECOND.
Far better to try it in May.

=PHIZZ, Mahwah NJ

28. BEHEADMENT (6)

"Wasn't trying to TWO that you're
fat,"

I said quickly, to ward off a spat.
I ONE said, "Have some more—

We'll widen the door."

Now then, where was the insult in
that?

=UNCANNY, Butte MT

29. PHONETIC BEHEADMENTS (6, 5, 6)

I never really much liked Bambi
(Felt he was too namby-pamby).

In my new CLUMP, the deer's much
blunter:

I have him tracking down the hunter
Who killed his mom. The guy is
found

And Bambi knocks him to the ground.
His eyes are gouged, his clothes are
UMP—

Then Bambi's mom crawls from her
LUMP!

So Bambi and his zombie mommy
Slice up the man like cheap salami.

It's Bambi with a touch of Rambo—
Which is why I call it Bambo.

=MR. TEX, Los Angeles CA

30. SPOONERGRAM (4 6, 5 6)

Last night I was munching my usual snack—

Pastrami on rye bread, along with a ONE—

And thinking that lately it's hard to keep track

Of how tempus fugit and how the weeks run.

When I was a kid, though, the weeks seemed to me

To take a few eons (at least) to get through.

Could the cause of the difference conceivably be

That Father Time's scythe has turned into a TWO?

=WABBIE, Montalo QY

31. LAST-LETTER CHANGE (3-3, 6)

The cookie jar stood there, FIRST on the shelf.

The house was entirely quiet, and so In order to snare a sweet treat for himself,

The boy figured NEXT was the best way to go.

=PANACHE, Culver City CA

32. DELETION (3'1 3) (NI3)

I've been waiting a LONGER now!

Where's my prescription?

If you can't give the LONER I'll have a conniption!

=OSTRICH, Lookout Mountain GA

33. ACROSTICAL ENIGMA (*15) (NI3)

(A=NI3+; *B, C, E=NI3; *D=NI3 usage)

A. By all accounts, I'm very rich, But being wealthy has a hitch:

*B. Abodes like mine would bring regret

For vanished glory, if a debt,

C. Loss of job, or vengeful spouse Made me lose my fancy house.

*D. Aim to make investments sound— With money, never horse around.

E. Host edgy guests in manner grand— Show them opulence firsthand.

Make sure a sudden Wall Street slump Doesn't force you down (like Trump)

To common levels in a dump.

=NIGHTOWL, Rochester NY

34. PHONETIC DELETION (8, 7)(HIGH=8)

"Me have vision!" Tonto cried.

"Two badmen—one have mustache!

No . . .

Have beard! No, wait . . ." The masked man sighed:

"Oh, great—my HIGH believes he's LOW."

=UNCANNY, Butte MT

35. REPEATED-BIGRAM DELETION (7)

(FIRST-NI3, SECOND=part of NI3 phrase)

A nutty man, this Orléans.

He'd make a SECOND fainéant:

Draws only O's as figure skater,

And loves to FIRST his calculator.

=MUNSONG, Chapchester NA

36. REBUS (6)

Y

Said Arius, "Jesus's place

Was below God's." Said Jansen,

"God's grace

Unto all' is a lie."

Said Pelagius, "I

Have no sin."—SOL has many a face.

=BEACON, Tucson AZ

37. PARTLY REVERSED INTERLOCK

(*5 *6; *4, *4, 3) (ONE, TWO not

MW; TWO doesn't interlock. Sung to "The Battle Hymn of the Republic")

Oh, our boys are in THE TOTAL

Where the desert EERHT is hot,

And the prickly heat, it itches—

it is not a pleasant spot.

But the cause is good, they tell us,

Though the duty there is not.

Yet we keep standing by.

Oh, it's not a war of honor,

It's a war for cheaper gas.

It's a war to drive our Fords and

Chevys, and our Dodge Cutlass,

Our imported ONES and TWOS (we hate to ride the transit—mass).

So we keep standing by.

=CORN COB, Snow Camp NC

38. BEHEADMENT (6)

The cannibal's likely to grow

somewhat DROLL:

Whenever she's hungry, she nibbles her ROLL.

=TALON, Iowa City IA

39. REBUS (5)

B

Like Hitler, more a KEY than human,

Consider Harry (S for?) Truman;

He made that ruthless snap decision

To drop those fatal bombs of fission.

=IXAXAR, Holiday FL

40. PHONETIC REBKUS [6 3 4]

On Harry Truman's desk a famous sign

Informed us he was not the one who

LINE;

Whatever came,

He'd take the blame.

=ULK, Enid OK

41. DELETION (5) (MORE, *LESS)
 42. FOURTH-LETTER CHANGE (4)
 (ONE, *TWO)
 43. PHONE-IC REBUS (*4)
 This MORE to French Lit is an
 excellent buy.
 Concise, it's not ONE—and the price
 isn't high.
 Here's an entry for *TWO, who wrote
 Les Misérables,
 And there's La Fontaine, much-
 beloved for his Fables.
 A brief note on REBUS (Born Julien
 Viaud) —
 His Pêcheur d'Islande is a work you
 may know.
 I see here a mention of novels by
 *LESS.
 Les Faux Monnayeurs is among them?
 Ah, yes!
 =BELLES LETTRES, Clinton CT

44. CONSONANTIC (*5, *5; *4 *3)
 (TWO—not an MW phrase)
 For the Black Bears' psychology
 course,
 A teacher in ONE sent his crew
 To the movies—to study a case
 Of autistic behavior, in TWO.
 =NEWROW, Brookline MA
 45. FIFTH-SOUND CHANGE (9, 8)
 (GREAT=NI3 pron.)
 The ONE did impressions, and wasn't
 half-bad.
 Took requests from the crowd:
 "Silver!" "Blue!"
 He was knocking them dead, when a
 wise guy yelled, "Plaid!"
 Sighed the ONE, "Everybody's a TWO."
 =UNCANNY, Butte MT

46. PHONETIC REBUS [*6-2-3-4]

J
 E
 .

Need help with something?
 Good old Clare
 Will rush right to it—
 Yes, she's THERE.
 =PEBBLES, Princeton NJ

47. METATHESIS (3-5) (both wds NI3)
 There goes Henry, there goes June;
 What a PRIMAL honeymoon!
 Airline strike? He laughs, "Don't
 fuss,
 Honey—we'll enjoy the bus."
 Eight days' rain, no chance to hike.
 Henry burbles, "Don't you like
 April showers? What's the matter?"
 Off goes June with noisy clatter.
 Tell me now: why does she vanish?
 He's too FINAL Pollyannish.
 =QAQAMMER, Astago NL

48. REVERSED TERMINAL DELETION (*7)
 (like STAFF, FAT)
 To you he's doubtless always
 represented
 A soaring spirit, inspiration's
 force.
 But symbolism hadn't been invented
 When we first met, so I prefer, of
 course,
 A simpler TWO. Now, don't think me
 demented,
 But to me ONE's just a funny kind of
 horse.
 =MANGIE, Buffalo NY

49. ACROSTICAL ENIGMA (5 4) (NI3+)
 A. Under clouds, I feel the heat.
 B. Gentle rain? I eat and eat:
 C. Apples, pears, a ginger treat.
 D. Nervous, I have sweet on sweet.
 Weather's worse; the rain's now
 white.
 What an awful springtime sight.
 =JAZ, Clevelonto ON

50. LETTER BANK (7, 11)
 A burglar broke into my house
 And stole my TV—what a louse!
 But the meanest purloining of all:
 My poor baby's SHORT have all TALL.
 =WINDJAMMER, Chicago IL

51. PHONETIC FALSE PAST TENSE (5, 5)
 Hagar the Horrible, hand held high,
 shouts a lusty "NOW!"
 Near his table, (will she THEN him?)
 stands his frowning frau.
 =ULK, Enid OK

52. TRANSPOSAL (11)
 (ONE=NI3+, TWO=NI3 usage)
 These are a few of my taxable
 things:

My wages, my interest,
 The items I buy,
 My capital gains,
 My estate when I die.

I'm fretful and ONE, for the cost
 really stings.

And lately I've heard an incredible
 tale:

The puzzles we work on—
 The rebus, charade,
 The letter bank, padlock,
 And every subade—

May be subject to tax though we weep
 and we wail.

We must offer up TWOs to prevent
 such a tax
 From being imposed upon NPL backs,
 Or instead of the brackets our
 system's now got
 We'll all pay a "flat tax," believe
 it or not.
 =MERLIN, Bismarck ND

53. TRANSPOSAL (*8, *8)

I was building some window slats—
really a grind—
When a kid from up north of here
saw me and whined,
"I have got myself lost, and I can't
seem to find
How to roam to the hill known as
OUT. Do you mind?"
"It's due west, but the pathway is
not well-designed,
So just look to the sun as your
guide," I opined.
He was staring so long that his
vision declined—
Now that's twice in one day that
I've made an IN blind.
=OSTRICH, Lookout Mountain GA

54. ACROSTICAL ENIGMA (3'1 7) (NI2+)

A. Mentation ought to help you here.
(Ed.: Would color judgment, I
should fear.)

B. All owls are wise and swift, they
say.
(Ed.: This flat's approaching
disarray.)

C. To rye I drink with cheery zest.
(Ed.: The tale grows worse. It's
junk at best.)

D. I dot each i and cross each t.
(Ed.: It's still no gem, you must
agree.)

Okay, I'll sober up, forsooth,
And share a fundamental truth:
A hog won't grunt his gratitude
An instant ere he's barbecued.
=AL GEBRA, Pinehurst NC

55. SPOONERGRAM (5 *3 *6; *4 4 6)
(three-way; *3 *6 not MW)

I ONE on a newscast on ABC
Speak of Arabian tyrant's greed:
"Even the nomads, once fierce, now
flee;
One of these days you are apt to
read
Saddam has just made the TWO. The
chief
Is weakening, soon will come to
grief."
=NIGHTOWL, Rochester NY

56. INITIAL-WORD SUBSTITUTION
(6, 3, 3, 6)

A rajah took his weaverbird from
out its gilded cage
And perched it on an elephant,
attended by a page.
To keep a FOUR within a ONE might
make a skeptic scoff;
But I'd be keen to know just TWO
and THREE he pulled it off.
=TRAZOM, Berkeley CA

57. SPOONERGRAM (9, 6 3)

(BITING ROOK = 9)
I raised my windows high today.
Alas, my screens were put away.
The storms weren't up yet. Hark—
some twitters!
Six uninvited winged critters
Flew in my house.
(I hate that.)
Three moths dropped by, a hungry
dove
Wolfed all the cakes I'd baked with
love,
And then a nasty BITING ROOK
Drank my expensive WRITING BOOK.
I shot the grouse.
(I ate that.)
=WINDJAMMER, Chicago IL

58. REBUS (*7 *1. *8)

≤ C ≤ S

Higgledy-piggledy,
THIS IS THE REBUS PART,
From whom much modern-day
Poetry comes,
Though long perceived as a
Humanitarian,
Couldn't be trusted to
Not steal your plums.
=BEACON, Tucson AZ

59. TRANSPOSAL (6, 6)

Bigots picture a senior citizen
as a doddering old fool;
Conjure up FIRST of this denizen
in senility (very cruel).
To you bigots: desist from this
SECOND, for you will grow older,
too;
Else, just as you've done unto them;
young bigots will do unto you!
=TE-ZIR-MAN, Elmont NY

60. WORD DELETION (10)

It was the era when Ron Reagan got
a boost
From helpmate Nancy, she who truly
ruled the roost.
To ONE bad luck on special days, she
used astrology.
A mining engineer, who really knew
geology,
Would copy Nancy. When the planets
were in TWO
He mined, and found a most extensive
lode of VIEW.
=IXAXAR, Holiday FL

61. ENIGMATIC REBUS (9)(NI3)

P IOU

This Indian mallow is really a must:
Gram uses the pods when she's
stamping a crust.
=JOKER, Cleveland Heights OH

62. CONSONANTCY (4 3, *11)

("ONE=not MW, but should be")
 African politics leaves me
 bewildered—
 The coups and revolts drive me bats.
 There's one every month in TWO or
 Dakar,
 And you can't tell the ONEs from
 the rats.
 =TRAZOM, Berkeley CA

63. PHONETIC DELETION (9, 7)
(SMALL=12W usage)

"Archaeology's fun, I just love it.
 And the guys who work here at the
 site
 Are so cute! I'm in love with that
 blond guy—
 We went dining and dancing last
 night."

"Good grief!" said her friend, sotto
 voce;
 "He's as cultured and bright as
 Stallone.
 That SMALL's digging men here, while
 we
 Dig for shards, LARGEs, pieces of
 bone."
 =CORTER, Snowsonville NC

64. HETERONYM (7-5, 7'1 4)

You're asking me
 If A or B.
 Well, B, and A—
 That's odd, I'd say.
 =ATLANTIC, Portland OR

65. PHONIGMATIC REBUS (11) (NI3+)

PPPI U.S.

"Auld acquaintance"? Be forgot:
 Why offer SOLs to what is not?
 =ELJACK, Palmkill NFL

66. ENIGMATIC REBUS (12)

MANGIE BRILLIG WABBIT DITTO
 PHILANA CERES LOLITA EOS
 WINDJAMMER RAINBOW EN CLURE

Stick to simple English words.
 Abstruse WHOLE is for the birds!
 =WINDJAMMER, Chicago IL

67. SPOONERGRAM (9; 6, 3)

When Grogan and his chubby nephew,
 Joe,
 Had watched the great space shuttle
 blast and go
 Up from its ONE and into orbit
 space,
 An eager look lit up the nephew's
 face.
 "I want to be an astronaut! I do!"
 But Grogan said, "You first must
 lose your TWO."
 =IXAXAR, Holiday FL

68. SUBER (3 7)

LU HT

A film's out on Poe: Nevermore,
 Starring Shirley MacLaine as Lenore.
 Pauline Kael's pen
 Wrote about "mise-en-scène,"
 But SUBER review said, "A bore!"
 =BEACON, Tucson AZ

69. REVERSAL (WHATSIT=6, NI3;

HE=*3 *3, neither *3 MW usage)
 "People of business! It's not time
 to pack!
 We are open for business! Let's
 bring business back!
 And don't rush to pawn all the
 family jewels:
 There's allowance for fun in the
 Socialist rules.
 You'll wear neckbands and WHATSITs
 and rings through your nose
 In the social Utopia that's
 Ontario's.
 Much-adorned women? In style
 under me;
 Have a peek in my Cabinet . . ."
 Thus spake Premier HE.
 =AREPO, Thunder Bay ON

70. LAST-LETTER CHANGE (8, 4 4)

(4 4 = not MW, common phrase)
 After the second consecutive sack,
 The coach heard the quarterback say,
 "That tackle's an EIGHT, he's our
 line's FOUR FOUR.
 Send in some more beef right away."
 =PANACHE, Culver City CA

71. PHONETIC BEHEADMENT (6, 6)

My pet START is a health nut if
 ever I saw one:
 Fat on the meat and he blows his
 wee top.
 Vegetables? Sure, but especially a
 raw one.
 Tea is his beverage—as long as
 it's STOP.
 =MANGIE, Buffalo NY

72. REBUS (13) (ref. Oct 71)

steel
 cashmere
 merino
 cotton

Our shepherd, exhausted, spent two
 weeks in bed
 Dreaming up schemes to get out of
 the red.
 His wife grew impatient: "We must
 get ahead!
 All this REBUS is getting us
 nowhere," she said.
 =PEBBLES, Princeton NJ

73. HEAD-TO-TAIL SHIFT (7)

The Arkansas Adulterers (a team
that's rated X)

Take on the Nashville Nymphos in
the World Series of sex.

Both teams are fit and ready to play
extra TWO of ONE.

(One player gets to second base
before the game's begun!)

=MR. TEX, Los Angeles CA

74. ENIGMATIC REBUS (7 4)

In the beginning God created
the heaven and the earth.

The trollop ate the scallops and the
shrimp and blackened fish,
And then she tried the lobster
(which she thought was most
delish).

She wasn't quite prepared, though,
and it dribbled on her dress.

The REBUS learned that night that
no protection means a mess.

=QAQAQ, Astoria NY

75. REBUS [6 5]

S

Mrs. Ramsbottom said to her husband,
"I want to go down to the shore.
We could celebrate wee Albert's
birthday:

Tomorrow he's going to be four."

Mr. Ramsbottom didn't like bathing,
But gave in, and they went to the
beach.

Little Albert played down by the
water—

And suddenly let out a screech!

A huge wave picked up little Albert.
Mr. Ramsbottom ran to his child.
He managed to swim out and save him,
Though the surge of the water was
wild.

Mr. Ramsbottom still reminisces,
And he sighs—with no little
regret—

"If it just hadn't been for that
REBUS,

I would never have had to get wet!"

=PEBBLES, Princeton NJ

76. ENIGMATIC REBUS [*8 6] (NI3)

(Non-MW rubric and reading)

Keillor

The Whippets were losing all game
long;

By the eighth they trailed 5-2.

In the last of the ninth, at
twilight,

They came back with a COUP.

A dismal prospect faced the fans.
They filed out glum and bitter.

With two out, Marsh stood at the
plate,

A weak, erratic hitter.

It was like that day in Mudville
When Casey came to fame.

But then Marsh drew a base on balls
To keep them in the game.

Torvald poked a single out
And Marsh was safe at second.

The center fielder dropped a fly,
And now a comeback beckoned,

For both the runners had advanced;
Hope was again alive.

But here came Heinrich to the plate,
His average, .105.

You know the rest. He worked the
count

To the storybook three and two.
Then hit the next pitch out of
sight.

And thus occurred our COUP.

=BEAGLE, Mass City MI

77. WORD DELETION (7)

On a visit to Canberra

I got to see an OUT—

The cutest little creature

I'd ever seen, no doubt.

From there, I WHOLED to Athens,

Where I toured, then shopped for
hours.

Bought a lovely Grecian INSIDE

In which to put my flowers.

=WABBIT, Montreal PQ

78. PHONETIC FALSE PAST TENSE (4, 5)

Each tanker PRESENT will agree

We must not lose more PAST at sea.

=ULK, Enid OK

KU. What you see's not what you get.

TIVOLI, Glendale MO

J K Y Z Z A B Q C D E F Q G A H A D F D B D I L M H Q A N O B Y L

Z M Q J B E H H A F A P Q F Y P Y F Q M J F A A Z Q Y M Q Y Z D G-

Y B D E M Q O F D O Y I Y H L D Z, H F Y Z M B Y H A M Q H A F G,

L G O F A M M A M Q R A G E M A P Q Z A S M Q Y Z J K D F M,

M Z D S M Q Y E P L A Z J A.

79. LETTER BANK (7, 11, *12, 14)
(TWO, THREE = NI2)

The conceit of youth sure FOURS
that kid;
He's a bumptious, THREE young boy.
To beat the dickens out of him
Would bring unholy joy.

He's never sorry, always TWO.
He seems to think no rule
Should ONE to him. Some day he'll
learn—

Though not, I'll bet, in school.
=MERLIN, Bismarck ND

80. BEHEADMENT (8)
(FAT=NI3+, SLEEK=NI2)

The salmon leap right up the creek;
The old ones and the FAT swim SLEEK.
=ALF, Medford MA

81. ENIGMATIC REBUS [*5 *6]

When Ogden Nash was young and brash,
he wrote that mulebriety
Meant passing up the front page—
yup, for fashion and society.
The famous bard was just as hard on
males—gave them no chance.
He said they'd skip the front-page
trip for football and finance.
So who'll peruse the latest news of
what goes on at TOPIC?

The rubric's here; don't fret, poor
dear. You're not just presbyopic.
=WINDJAMMER, Chicago IL

82. METATHESIS (5)
(ONE=+ usage; TWO=NI3+)

A dromedary ONE his burdens well,
But a sulky ass or TWO? You cannot
tell.

=DIRTY JACK, Palm Beach Gardens FL

83. ACROSTICAL ENIGMA (6) (A=phrase)

A. Near Tennessee I drive at night;
I pass some sculptures on my right.
(These sculptures, from the Civil War,
Show heroes, cannons, steeds, and more.
But I can't sightsee; I must leave.
There're more miles left than you'd
conceive.)

B. Another night. It's plain to see
I'll drive until I'm eighty-three.
(An eighteen-wheeler's what I drive;
At times, it makes me feel alive.
But I've seen fourteen states so far,
And passed most every make of car.)


C. Elongate highways stretch ahead,
But soon, I hope, I'll go to bed.
(This trip, it seems, will never end,
Although my goal lies round the bend.
A little nap, a little snack,
And then, of course, I drive right
back.)

"[Deleted] up!" I use that phrase
At least once every couple of days.
=QAAQ, Astoria NY

84. DELETION (*7) (SEVEN=not MW)
His last hit? Pretty Woman's theme.
For thirty years his songs spread
joy.

To trail's end SEVEN chased his
dream,
So say a SIX for rocker Roy.
=PANACHE, Culver City CA

85. REBUS [5 6]

The magician devised quite a
memorable SPREE:
For the climax he
sawed a young lady in three 
=ULK, Enid OK

A N A G R A M S

86. TAG EACH, "TOIL SANS MERCI"
(3 10 7)

87. I, NICE LADY, CAN SO ABANDON
HOLMES ([*5 *5]'1 "7 2 *7")
=OSTRICH, Lookout Mountain GA

88. SIMPLE: RABBLE HATE US (3 8 7)
=AB STRUSE, New York NY

89. ASHLEY'S WEALTH OR TRUMP'S
ASSETS ("3 6 2 5 6 5")
=TRASH, Essex Junction VT

90. RATE "R": SUFFER (NO LOVE)
(*8 2 *7)

91. LAVISH WESTERN (ND?): EVINCE
"TWO SOCKS" (*5 *7'1 *6 *4 *6)
=NIGHTOWL, Rochester NY

92. ZEAL, TALENT, ZEAL! GROUP,
U SHINE! (3 *8 *8' *6)
=RUTHLESS, Palo Alto CA

93. ON-DECK READING [4 9]
=AREPO, Thunder Bay ON

94. AM DEIST? NO!
=ULK, Enid OK

95. O, THE PRANCER IS . . .
=TALON, Iowa City IA

96. O, HOT PINCERS! (3 8)
=NOHOLDS BARD, Arlington VA

97. HURT? HE CAN BLAME
(CASE) (3 [9 6])

A N T I G R A M S

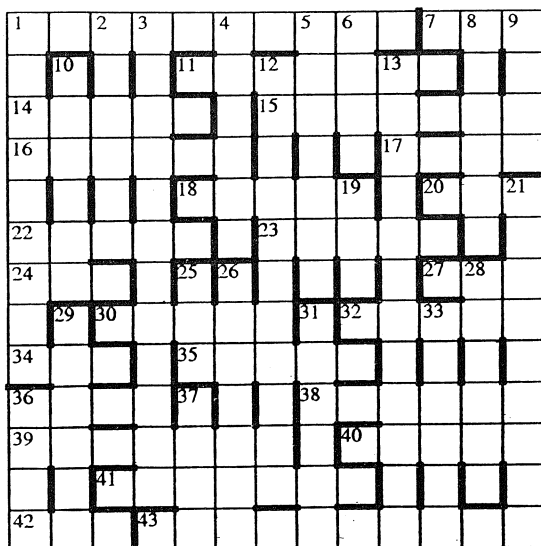
98. THAT NBC WORKER? OH,
NO, MA'AM (3 9 *3 *6)
=WABBIT, Montreal PQ

99. SHIFT TERRA (*5 *5!)
=PANACHE, Culver City CA

100. I, HAM? I, HAM!
=ULK, Enid OK

X-4. JUST THE OPPOSITE!
by HARTH, Winter MW

Clues are normal, but some answer words must undergo a transformation before they are entered into the grid. There are two proper nouns; 32 across is uncommon.



ACROSS

- 1 What questions should be read, somehow, in opposite directions? (Opposite directions? Just the opposite!)
- 7 Sash used in robing
- 11 Vehicle in reverse—dread backing up to club's track
- 14 In exile, hopelessly backwards, it goes around and around
- 15 Fragment half the alphabet, then one last letter at the end
- 16 Runs off East, then rides
- 17 Smile, exist, live
- 18 Dock houses the initial source of power
- 20 Nearly record faint sound
- 22 Japanese cent or Spanish gent
- 23 Outfit doctor with letter
- 24 Not the first part of month
- 27 Shake container
- 30 Hearing note in endless trill
- 32 Cut off portion (half) of icicle in insect? Just the opposite!
- 34 Head off deer in children's game
- 35 Hangs out to use choppers
- 36 Monster is repulsed thus
- 38 Bird, bee hop about
- 39 Come back into green Terra's interior
- 40 Blind usher holds flower
- 41 Belly dancing—hot scam
- 42 The best policy: "Cut, sharpen pen"
- 43 Vagabonds eliminated regression in eccentric star? Just the opposite!

DOWN

- 1 She won't believe an article about a first? Just the opposite!
- 2 Bar nothing in beauty parlor
- 3 Bird, right in weeping willow, within beast? Just the opposite!
- 4 Sack manors, pay the price of freedom
- 5 Some stations rerun Trek now
- 6 Illegally stow braces
- 8 Market's odd, we hear
- 9 Time out for something of interest
- 10 You use it for protection in brothel? Me too!
- 12 Branched lamp's container at beginning of dangerous period inside research station? Just the opposite!
- 13 "Representative-singer in love" in Latin, in personal? Just the opposite!
- 19 Friends, evenly glowing
- 21 Marks new phase (excellent to satisfactory) in monthly payment? Just the opposite!
- 25 Engagement to play up and down
- 26 Groups (teams) in disarray around North Dakota
- 28 Nearly touch outside lines [two words]
- 29 Bloody organ sticking up in runner's head? Just the opposite!
- 31 Appearance in traveling ESP act
- 33 Demand the French knitting implement
- 36 Love found in tender rejection
- 37 Promenade among porticoes, to Athenians!

OCTOBER SOLVERS

The October ENIGMA had 93 flats, 5 forms, 7 crypts, and 2 extras; 70 solution lists were received. AVIDAN, CANON/HUDU, ELGAR, JOKER/MANGIE, NIGHT-OWL, OSTRICH, PEBBLES, PHILANA/MERCURY, TRAZOM, and WINDJAMMER/QAAQ had completes; GECKO, MANX/PEN GWYN/JO THE LOITERER, MERLIN/ERIC/JUNEBUG/KRISHNA, MUNRO/SAL, TRASH, WINDRIFT, and WOODIE/KAPRY KORN had flat completes. Welcome to new solver KRISHNA.

Accepted: #44-ONE-TO-ONE for ONE-ON-ONE (2) [see 9C]; #66-PERSONS for FIGURES (3); #77-ROISTERER for TERRORIST (8); #81-TEAM/TIME. Not accepted: #5-BLABBERMO(U)TH (4); #22-F(J)ORD (3); #33-GAUGING (2); #44-EYE-TO-EYE for ONE-ON-ONE (10) [not MW]; #51-URBANE for HERBAL (3); #52-MONOMANIAC (4); #65-HERO-IN (2); F-1-AMORE for ADORE (3); TRAWL for TRAIL (2); F-3-SCANDA for SCANIA (15) [NI2 Gazetteer below the line].
-PHILANA, Solution Editor

ABACUS 47-3-0-1; AJDE 17-0-0-0; AL GEBRA 92-0-0-0; ALICE 23-0-0-0; ANEMONE 91-4-*1; ANN DHOW 29-4-5-1; ARACHNE 73-*-*-*; ARBUTUS 88-4-0-*; AREPO/SAPHIR 83-*5-*; ATLANTIC 81-*0-*; BAMBAM 46-0-2-0; BEAGLE 79-*0-0; BELLES LETTRES 60-4-0-1; BERYL 0-0-*0; BLACKSTONE 88-*-*0; BRILLIG 82-4-2-*; C'ATTY 89-4-0-1; CORN COB 47-3-2-0; CRATAEGUS 59-2-0-*; DADA 38-*-*-*; DANDYS 0-0-0-1; DEE SWEET 56-0-0-0; EN 65-3-6-0; ERGO 63-0-3-1; GADJET 62-4-4-*; GECKO *1-0-1; HART KING 68-4-3-*; HONEYDEW 77-*5-1; IXAXAR 12-0-0-0; JAELETI/CORK 58-4-3-1; JOPIQUEM 58-3-3-0; JUNCTION 50-3-3-*; LARRY 15-0-0-0; LOLITA 91-*-*1; MANX/PEN GWYN/JO THE LOITERER *-*5-*; MEHITABEL 62-4-6-1; MERLIN/ERIC/JUNEBUG/KRISHNA *0-0-0; MICROPOD 59-3-*1; MINIMUS 67-*3-*; MOMUS 92-3-0-*; MR. TEX 69-0-0-1; MUNRO/SAL *-*3-*; NEWROW 77-*3-1; NOLA 62-0-6-0; PANACHE 59-3-0-0; PASSERINA 85-*0-*; PEKOE 87-1-5-*; PHIZZ 52-0-0-0; RUTHLESS 73-3-4-1; SQUIRREL 92-0-*0; STAX 41-1-0-0; TALON 59-4-6-*; TIM BUCK II 46-3-0-0; TRASH *0-0-0; TRESONG 92-*5-*; TWISTO 0-*0-0; UNCANNY 75-1-0-*; WABBIT 71-4-3-0; WINDRIFT *3-*1; WOODIE/KAPRY KORN *4-*1.

SOLVING FREQUENCY/NUMBER OF KUDOS/TOP KUDOS: 1-53/10, 2-57/1, 3-65/7, 4-66/1, 5-38/1, 6-60, 7-60, 8-62, 9-62/8, 10-63/6/1, 11-61, 12-54, 13-29/4/1, 14-26/1, 15-55, 16-63/5/1, 17-61/1, 18-47, 19-61/1, 20-47/1, 21-54/5, 22-45, 23-44/11/1, 24-37/13/2, 25-42, 26-38, 27-45/3, 28-60/3, 29-65/2, 30-45/2, 31-53/1, 32-61/2, 33-57/3/1, 34-40/3/1, 35-36/5, 36-67, 37-63/3, 38-60/2, 39-39/1, 40-60/9, 41-48/1, 42-60/3, 43-36/2, 44-46/17/3, 45-34/2, 46-59/2, 47-30/8+5/10, 48-29/8+5/1+1, 49-54/11/1, 50-44/1+2, 51-56/1+1, 52-41/3/1, 53-57/8, 54-58, 55-66/3, 56-58/4, 57-43/1, 58-54/4, 59-58/1, 60-55/16/1, 61-62/3, 62-45/3, 63-47/3, 64-42/2, 65-36/3, 66-48/6, 67-61/1, 68-54/7/1, 69-28/7, 70-57/5, 71-27/12/5, 72-43/2, 73-27/1, 74-40, 75-48, 76-66/3, 77-47/17/6, 78-55/2, 79-64, 80-64, 81-59/14, 82-55, 83-67/3, 84-62, 85-60/6, 86-66/20/2, 87-39/4, 88-59/1, 89-53/1, 90-59/3, 91-57, 92-63/1, 93-41/6/2. FORMS: 1-46/2, 2-53/1+8, 3-35/1+6, 4-46/6, 5-36/1. CRYPTS: 1-43/1, 2-44/4, 3-42/7, 4-32/2, 5-30/2, 6-23/4, 7-21/1. EXTRAS: 1-40, 2-36/23/8. ADDITIONAL KUDOS: Entertainment Notes-*1, GREAT's enumeration in 71-*1. [* = not tabulated. Numbers preceding ts are multi-part kudos/top kudos.]

OCTOBER FAVORITES (! means top favorite): ABACUS-3, 52!, F-2, F-3. AL GEBRA-1, 23, 37, 47, 48, 49, 53, 81. ALICE-1, 3, 16!, 44, 46, 86. ANN DHOW-37, 76, C-5. ARACHNE-10, 21, 60, 77!, 81. ARBUTUS-1, 34!, 40, 50, 57, 65, 68, 86. AREPO-23! ATLANTIC-19, 23, 44, 49, 66, 86, 93, X-2. AVIDAN-20, 23, 24, 40, 44, 56, 69, 73, 78, 81, C-3, C-6, X-2! BANTERWEIGHT-9, 27, 31, 49, 66, 69, 76, 77, 81, F-1, X-2!, C-1. BELLES LETTRES-77! BLACKSTONE-9, 35, 40, 47-48, 60, 66, 86, C-7. BRILLIG-24, 35, 49, 70, 71!, 77. C'ATTY-16, 28, 29, 35, 50-51, 60, 81, 86, 87, 89, F-2, F-4, X-2! CORN COB-10, 29, 33, 40, 44, 53, 55, 56, 63, 67, 77, 85, F-2, F-3, F-4, F-5. DADA-16, 30, 86, C-3, X-2. DANDYS-X-2. DEE SWEET-10, 60, 77, 88. ERGO-1, 40, 63, 77!, 78. ERIC-24, 44, 58, 60, 70, 71, 81, 86! GADJET-66, 77!, X-2. GECKO-13, 44, 47, 48, 60, 69, 81. HART KING-9, 23, 28, 44, 49, 87, 90, X-2, C-3, F-2, F-3. HOT-42, 44!, 81. HUDU-27, 47-48, 58, 60, 71!, 81, 83, 85, F-2, F-3, C-4, X-2. IXAXAR-13, 33! JAELETI/CORK-9, 21, 23, 44, 77!, X-2, C-3. JO THE LOITERER-1, 9, 68, 70, 71!, 83, 86. JOKER-69, 93! JOPIQUEM-40, 86, F-2-3, C-2. JUNEBUG-49!, 53. KAPRY KORN-2, 23, 32, 69. MEHITABEL-16, 60!, C-2, X-2.

MERCURY-4, 9, 35, 40, 42, 49, 65, 69, 86, F-4, C-2. MERLIN-23, 24, 44, 71, GREAT's enumeration in 71, 81, 86! MICROPOD-24!, 30, 38, 64, 86, C-3, F-4. MINIMUS-24, 47, 48, 77, 86, 93, X-2! MOMUS-5, 24, 47, 48!, 71, 87, X-2. MR. TEX-1, 16, 46, 53, 60, 77, 81, 93!, X-2. MUNRO-32, 60, 62, 81, X-2! NEWROW-3, 34, 39, 44!, 85, F-2, F-4. NIGHTOWL-9, 44, 47-48, 51, 86, C-6. NOLA-10, 23, 45, 49, 68, 76. OSTRICH-13!, 37, 41, 53, 56, 71, 72, 81, 85, 92, F-2, C-4. PANACHE-3, 17, 38, 42, 58, 77!, 86, 90. PASSERINA-21, 47-48!, 55, 60, 62, 68, X-2. PEBBLES-23, 24, 34, 47, 48, 61, 65. PHILANA-24, 44, 47-48, 49, 61, 86, X-2!, C-2. PHIZZ-3, 10!, 53, 70, 77. QAQAQ-44, 85, 93. RUTHLESS-1, 3, 10, 21, 53, 56, 60, 62, 63, F-1, C-3, X-2! SAPHIR-14, 21, 23, 27, 28, 35, 43, 52, 60, 66, 72, 77, X-2!, C-5. TALON-24, 44!, 66, 77, 86, F-4, X-2, C-6. TRASH-64, 69, 71. TRAZOM-1, 9, 24, 33, 43, 44, 53, 59, 71!, 77, 81, 86, 90, X-2, C-3. TREESONG-1, 24!, 40, 47-48, 49, 60, 68, 71, 83, 87, F-3, X-2, Entertainment Notes. UNCANNY-3, 24, 49, 52, 55, 60, 68!, 70, 86, 93, X-2. WABBIT-58, 60, 61, 85, F-2, F-3. WINDJAMMER-1, 40, 47-48, 50, 71!, 86, C-6. WOODIE-13, 44, 45, 47-48, 71, 77.

NOVEMBER SOLUTIONS

1. CHicane, ARouse, SCute, ROot 2. begin, beguine, begonia 3. twinkling, inkling, obit, two-bit 4. finds finds 5. Madeira 6. hone-sty 7. steady, same as three hours ago 8. carfares, carafes, fracas, scarf 9. mean, man-or 10. LUCre, KORat, FEDora, ENHautt, ALLahabad 11. uprights 12. Riga; aiga, raga, Riva, Rigi 13. ha/irido, we/lter 14. hail; allah illah allah; la ilaha illa allah 15. d/s-alesman 16. eternity, attorney 17. talpine 18. SCOUTH, SEidel 19. PADroadist, DYNasty, SHURking, RICHard, ANEpithymia 20. Thatcher 21. Hero-in 22. queazened, weasand 23. tapes-tries 24. roman a clef 25. glen plaid, pedalling 26. WILLIAM Styron, BUtyrone, R G station 27. I bet we end up in the soup 28. "I Only Have Eyes for You" 29. stressed deb barged under red nude, grabbed desserts. 30. w(all)et 31. sermon, ermine 32. fortreads 33. fuel, flue 34. Ban-galore 35. verily, livery 36. loosen, Laysan, elision, Louisiana 37. MATch, RICHard, IDEal 38. outcrawl, lawcourt 39. Mideast 40. phenocrystic, pyrotechnics 41. strigilation, stridulation 42. paucity 43. get the lead out 44. cave (b)at 45. e(r)gomaniac 46. delegate 47. strike a bargain 48. pigeon-livered; on, el, giver, pied 49. yog/urt, sp/a 50. backs(1)ide 51. next to LA's tab, Brno [ZPG is next-to-last abbr. in 9C] 52. polyanthi, pony-tail, inaptly, plaint, Latin 53. dog(h)ood 54. in-c/j-urious 55. do-na-tions 56. clapped-out 57. Skaneateles, skinny atlas 58. cover-up 59 sy-ringes 60. overturn, turncoat, overcoat 61. penny dreadful 62. cannibal, can nibble 63. or(gan-g)(rin)der 64. red best, bed rest 65. crochet, prophet 66. legroom, legume 67. didos, Di, KU, kudos 68. traipse, tapestries, patisseries, pitter-patters 69. prick-ado 70. bearings 71. wrasse 72. chickens ou-t/p 73. galore, galero 74. Bart Simpson 75. biffy 76. N/s-ew Age 77. science-fiction novella 78. Sigmund Freud 79. thong bikinis 80 Elmont, New York 81. Sean Connery 82. Bush and Gorbachev at the Helsinki summit 83. The History of Tom Jones, a Foundling [Henry Fielding] 84. anabolic steroids 85. a stage entrance 86. misspellings 87. Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary 88. prime-time television 89. "Don't worry, be happy" 90. Alcoholics Anonymous chapter 91. nivellate 92. truculence C-1. Icebox raider in full-length chintz muumuu trips over hem during im-promptu foray sustaining coccyx injury. C-2. Samantha, Muffin rate high on latest listing of names for feline females; Tiger, Rocky prove popular for males. C-3. Ernie gave kelle carve. Anbury'd have saved carpet? Doubtful: clubroot scanty defense against sharp knife. C-4. Clumsy guy, making love, knows not when wife sated. Sixth question irks mate tired of conjugal lo-quacity. C-5. With solid whack, pro sent dimply orb down fairway, past cup into scrub brush behind giant oak. Air, cobalt blue. C-6. Tiny genii zap ski bum; sitzmark [w/] could imply gent slid supinely. Mayhap giant djinn hid body? C-7. Walnut, almond oils pinguefy pyknic corpus. Paunchy humans abjure obesity, munch icky tubers. X-1. Q: Why do most people buy turkey hens? A: Because toms are tough all over. Eric Cutler X-2. One fifth will go into two with none left over, although there may be one to carry then. X-3. Across: go-red [bored], largo (H) [largel], disen- thrall*, Bo's-s [buss], Ro(m)an, tac(i)t, dash [bash], op(in)format(ion), mol-ts (R) [molto], no.-net(R). Down: bo(d)y, re-sourceful*, Hun-K's [dunks], Le(h)ar,

read-mission, "Ealing," atrium (H), t-or so, brow-n [brawn], s-wit [snit].
 Message: GOOD SHOW X-4. ROWS: Barr-is, term-in-i; rel-apse, dun(c)es; El-vis*, cos-e-cant; Tasmania*, past-e; Muir (H), con-verter (2); un(lea)sh*, en-tire; snorts(2), longed*; C(ape)t, re(T) reads; i(some)re, port-a-l; torero*, Made-ira; a-(r)cane, dragnet*; reata*, Roman-ish*; Co(me)dy, Rever(i)e. BANDS: barri(st)er, mini-st-ere-d, s(l)at, heir (H), eve-rye, democratic*, Su(MT)er; elapse*-d, uncentered*, Arizes, inamo-rat-a (R), ME-ros, annu(a)l; vis(cos)e, casti(gat-i)ng, Marden, A(crop)olis (R); man-i-a, partne(R)r-ed, a-more, mere-r; c(onve)*nor*, op(ere)tta*; shelters (H).

1. P	2. SPOTTIEST	3. RHOMBOID	4. STEAK
RES	PIKER R	ARIETTES	TENON
DETER	OKAPI A	TANTALUM	ENURE
DELIMES	TEPEE I	SEALANES	AORTA
RELATIVIAL	TRIENNIAL	TRIMTRAM	KNEAD
PETITESIRAH	I NONCE	SOARAWAY	
SEMISOLID	E INTER	TRAPEZES	
REVILES	S ACFAE	EPIDOTIC	
SARIS	TRAILERED		
LAD			
H			



9-SOUGHT

Answers to November's 9-Seek, from the con, with Senor's answer first. Qaqaq, Beagle, and I each found a few non-con words: shown in parentheses. 1. siesta, tea, evening, matinee. 2. kazoo, drone (S/bluebottle). 3. chandelier, roof, zero (B/joist). 4. junk mail, direct mail. 5. program, telegraph. 6. ten-speed. 7. collie, kennel, canine, dachshund, mush, terrier. 8. outtake, rough cut (B,S/copy desk). 9. czardas, puli (B,S/Finno-Ugric). 10. penetralia (!), heart, endoderm, holy of holies. 11. biodegradable, harmless, placebo. 12. Roller Derby, splice. 13. egotism, suicide, egoism, autoerotism, introvert, soliloquize (Q/behave). 14. pinto, psoriasis, calico, leukoplakia (B/harlequin; S/splash). 15. grandfather clock. 16. mousse, bog, foam rubber (B/pulp; Q/marshmallow; S/pith). 17. lederhosen, braces. 18. slumber party. 19. Peace Corps, Third World. 20. albino, leukocyte, alabaaster, albumen, blanch, Caucasian, color, pallium (Q/snow).

December's 9-Seek answers, from the Far Afield meeting. Philana and I played at home; our variants are in parentheses. 1. toxophilite, Robin Hood. 2. Columbus Day, Lucayo (S/croton). 3. greeting card, bar mitzvah, and (okay?) Presidents' Day and (S/Commonwealth Day). 4. Franglais. 5. Afro, raccoon, squirrel (S/fox). 6. public television, Clio. 7. gypsy cab. 8. guinea pig, laboratory, Off Broadway (S/vivisection). 9. lower case (P/Golf; S/stop). 10. admiral of the fleet, joker. 11. word square, cross cut (P/level; S/parallel bars). 12. kiss, gloss, chap, mouth, labial, Ubangi. 13. nee. (Did you find any others?) 14. zoot suit, sleeping bag, cushion, ironing board (S/pommel horse). 15. Hades, Dis, Charon (P, S/outer planet). 16. Solomon's Seal, Chinese checkers, jack (P,S/pentagram-bizarre, for 6-pointed? Look it up.) 17. Watergate. 18. plaza, checkers, (P/cube; S/Pythagorean theorem). 19. area code, party line, receiver, wire tap, call, dial, ring (P/exchange; S/modem). 20. googol.



DECEMBER HINTS

11-appears as originally printed. Yes, it could be PRIMES, but another clue (and pun) would be lost that way. 16-does not require higher math. 18-treesong wants you to know that EARLY has a six-letter prefix. 39-blackbird reminds that the "seven-letter bird (wryneck)" refers to Blackstone's May 43, and is not needed for solving. 77-Other forms are in 9C-not an unfamiliar word. Rubric letters could be capitalized, but the low-ascending may be suggestive. 42-Yes, it means "peltican." Try a bunch of rubric indicator words. Then, either thought of a particular kind or a reverse list, or both. 59-This almost went on the easy list. It is clued. (Vital/rival wouldn't really work.) 86-Neither the alien nor the film.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. Etiquette al fresco. (* words not MW usage) BEACON, Tucson AZ
 GRACEFUL XQZ HU JUFKUE NAFJO QO YAGLA-
 GJ AL ORU RBYU ORQO ORUZ DACC ORUL TB
 YCQZ AL ORU YBAJBL AKZ. == *XAJJ *XQLLUFJ

2. Re R & R Rx? QAQAQ, Astoria NY
 ZR CA! FQ JW *X *C *H *U ZX *H *T KZ JL *Y *I?
 FQ *T *H KZ PB "FK?" WZ NZ! RB: "FX FK FQ
 DI KZ CB...PA CB, *Y *I FQ *Z *M JQ FQ!" QZ
 PB FK.

3. Sorry, you'll have to speak more clearly. SMAUG, North Hollywood CA
 ZJESD BRUGANAMD, FIEGA; NUTA LAEYP
 ZWMDJADEG LIYPZ: GIMSOZA UYDEGORUDEIM
 DJAYUBEZDZ UMP GUDZ. DYW ED.

4. Seasonal greetings. WINDRIFT, Bellevue WA
 *KPBCWPZ *KMCI UWPKB F OZWJZGGZK JMKGO,
 MYOWC VXFG RPKV NWMJ KMWGO, AIXF KXP F-
 ZKYC: VZPIQ NCFGPHC GWCC VXFGPKB.

5. Gentle soul. WINDJAMMER, Chicago IL
 THE RITZY=MATE LTHO UIT NAITZY OITG
 MUTIN MATZ PTR, YTN ZITNA, BYTZM "OTIF"
 ZCM ZITYL ZTIE. (MATN ATIMF, NAT.)

6. Three-letter violence. MICROPOD, Meredith NH
 TRI PLE SJZ YZW VWZ QYZ. KJB FYM MLB
 KJZ QGK. MGL IYV, JXS LYP YHM KGF, DCL
 TWZ LGZ, XGH PYX, CJZ PLE BJH QLD VWH.

7. Partners in crime. AJAX, Goldens Bridge NY
 ZDWQCB *VKWJZQXF LDNEAXY, CUBGXMZPW *YQ-
 WXAB *CBXLQ'QZV NJZBYDO FXYKQMV B, LMQGGJ
 JBNMIXYQ, JCUBVFZ.