

CRYPTOGRAMS
Edited by FULDU

C-1. Unequal and opposite.

/dev/joe, Winthrop MA

* Z E M I E O M Y T H E L S T O R M M E A ' C U M I U L
FLEXTRUM FEEL FLEIUGITEO SLED O E L ' U Y M I U L
E S I C E I B E A M Y O R E O U .

C-2. But maybe from a palace?

100 DOWN, Larchmont NY

Z K N Y I R C U N S N O A U C X U R E U H H U A I H
U H R N S C K L U S P U R L C I P O N K B U C K I N G H A M
P N E U R U A I P U S P U B U P G L A H .

C-3. A foolproof affair. (*XYZW = not MW usage) FULDU, Evanston IL

Z Y X X W * X Y Z W , W Z V U * Y X Y Z T Z V U W X U U X Y Y ,
Z T T Z Y Y W U Z V Y W U V Z U , W Y V T = W Y X T , U V T X W W
Y X Y Y V T X T . T X X U T U V X U .

C-4. Behind the scenes. (INF = not MW usage) DART, Vancouver BC

F G H I J G F K L J F G M H L N F ' K H G G I N F K G H K O J F K H ,
J F K M J F H J I K N I N F , O J L L G F J F H J L G * I O J F G H G
L G H H G M K H . H O !

C-5. His eyes slid down her dress. BARTOK, La Mirada CA

C U B O N M E X P I C O K T O C U M P C A M U M U C P O I U N
R U L E I N B A R T O K T O R M P M L N A U N P C U R U K E X U H
X E M U E A C H C P I N O I S U P K D N P L .

C-6. Outspoken rainbow coalition? CAZIQUE, New York NY

* T D A H , * D U U M G L Y P H A F O R E S A I D , M D B B P X D H
C H A I D E , G F W H M . F P D L L . B R I A U T D H I Y G F S E
H D E I A F U G W P A F W H G S D . (Y G X D A B D S S Y D T U P Z F ?)

C-7. Miserable brat. (QWNAL = not MW usage) GRINCH, San Diego CA

B A L O N E Y G M D C Q A , M I N A L S Q Z F X Y M U H D Q W E N X
M B K I A G N = O L U Q Z Z Q C E M I G Q W N A L , N A E Q G
* M I E P L F M L A Z K E N R T E D Y R A Q G I D N .



THE ENIGMA

Feb/Mar/Apr 2001 Bridgewater, New Jersey #1163

PUZZLES CALCULATED TO DRIVE YOU MAD

R-1. FALSE MENAGERIE
(5, *6 *5 3 *5 *3)

The Imperial Animal—
Marvelous book!
Written by PANTALOON,
Well worth a look.
What kind of animal?
Not gonna tell.
Hint: not a hartebeest,
PA, or gazelle.
=RALF P. OLIO, No Egrets PA

R-2. REVERSED BEHEADED REPEATED BIGRAM AND TRIGRAM DELETION (14)

Each soldier in Camp Swampy has his own GIGANTIC trait
From Halftrack, who commands the others, right on down the line;
Beetle's always sleepy, almost certain to be late;
Sarge—of ample stomach—gulps his beer down by the stein;
Killer's ever on the prowl for pretty girls to woo;
Zero? Well it's possible he's named for his IQ—
They, with all the others, make for one immense snafu.

Marching to a cadence doesn't suit these guys too well,
Even though they're hearing Sarge bark "TINY" loud as hell.
=RALF P. OLIO, Cluing Here UE

R-3. DELETION (4) (both are -)

=RPO, Quiz Ace NY

R-4. ALMOST-BELIEVABLE PHONETIC WORD DELETION
(^5 ^4 3 ^3, 7, ^5 *2)

In their sequel to STREISAND,
Docs Pepper and Scholls
And their friends (it appears)
have ulterior goals:
"I will not eat them made with
Spam™
Or in a car, not e'en a SAND"?
Folks who love dear Sam-I-am
Agree that this book must be banned.

(If anyone TRIES on his vows to Seuss fans,
He deserves the ill fate that will come to his plans.)
We won't see him licensed to make wallets fat—
Our sequel's entitled Horton Smells a Rat.
=RPO, N. Bigwimp NE

R-5. ACROSTICAL ENIGMA
(enumeration and tagging withheld)

- A. The radical Islamic sheik completes
A chain of bomb attacks on U.S. fleets.
- *B. Hadjis of each race and every nation
Regard this man with awe and veneration.
- *C. At Ural mountain hideouts where he's found,
A double-sharp-eyed sentry stands his ground.

Throughout the world, his name is linked with terror.
I can't say more, for that would be an error.
=RPO, Azor MT

R-6. SOUND CHANGE (*6, 7)
(7 = TWO = NI2+, 10C-inferable)

The fish in the bay are great fans of old A;
They've a healthy respect for his smarts,
For he said "All is water" (whatever that means)
And that maxim is dear to their hearts.
Sardines packed in B (little cans) disagree;
They're less keen on the Sage of Miletus.
They exclaim, "All is oil and other sardines!"
(Till folks take out their keys and then eat us.)"
=RPO, Macho WI

R-7. PHONETIC FALSE VERBALIZED PARTICIPLE (4, 4 4)

I knelt at the crap game, cursing my fate,
For I needed to win, and I'd just rolled an eight.
"But I'm not from Decatur," I answered their cry,
And retrieving the FOURS, I blew once on each die,
And I rolled, held my breath, and . . . oh yes, very nice!
A genuine, DOUBLE FOUR, eight on the dice!
=RPO, Anta NH

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R-8. OVERLOADED PHONETIC FALSE SEVENTH (4, 6)

A furnished new apartment, which I moved to just today:
The shelves are moldy, sink has mildew, sheets and towels are gray.
I sit down on the bed and note how much I hate this place.
I need to write a verse, since I just found a sharp, new base.
The deadline for the *Underground Enigma* is this week.
I try to work while who-knows-what are playing hide-and-seek.
I finish my endeavor as a roach crawls past my shoes.
My flat is very dirty, and I think it will get BLUES.
=RPO, Nosh LA

R-9. DELETION (6 *6; *11)

"We have a lovely beach here
But you never take the sun!"
Said Ali to his visitor
To Gaza. "Have some fun!"

You left your tribe and came here
For a holiday, so why
Remain inside your room? Get out!
Enjoy some rays. Come lie

On glistening sand at least an hour
Or two! I must declare
You are the FLAIR I've ever seen,
By far!" remarked the FAIR.
=RPO, Comics-ho VT

CRYPTOGRAMS (continued from back page)

C-8. You could look it up.

HART KING, Rumson NJ

"GOGAGLUG": IRLTFMA * CMAGHTSL * DGMUNGSLY
GYM BRA YRAUMAMA OGALMZ QSEGSA
ONARGEN IMOSIRACNRYTY.

C-9. Tom and Jerry.

XELINT, Santa Cruz CA

STARTERGUN YGNODY DREW DSPDPPEXI NGOS
LBITN. * TSDTET NGITRYLY, PRLYWGUY BRETN
ORFLWG NGLP WSET. * DRY NFFRUWY.

C-10. Doggone it!

NIGHTOWL, Rochester NY

NIJKBM DGC JBKERGC QMYUN WKAZ NPMWCYO
* EZQGCYBK UWKNIJGC, EMYQ QBNNGKF
WCXNZYG OGRUN UCZEMIG ZQNIGKWAO.

C-11. Burma: shave.

WABBIT, Montreal PQ

XEMUSK IDBO * RNU OMGIU, BLEJO XLENYTSCA
NSKG OMDPRKAX CAS KO'DS GECKO. *OBEN JURO
CAPUT CLUI JAGSTX. KGDB HESPAK.

C-12. Holiday on the farm.

XEMU, Bridgewater NJ

PCI DCN LGFS ANKD S BG: GBOKDSEI JEHFLD
MFJEABDG GBIFDS, MKP BSPI (IBDSC), GEJF
BUEACIFZ, WBP PESACH.

C-1. Quaint Quaker garb proclaims peaceful vocation, betokens frugality, seldom adorns worldly charlatan. C-2. Zealous women covet franchise, orate often, argue forcibly. Others, antis, object strongly. Obdurate masculine lawgivers withhold liberty. C-3. Father of teenybopper girl, recalling days of "Itsy-bitsy Spider," wishes daughter were pre-Madonna again. C-4. Poetaster penned asinine ode on dead parrot. Sane editor's response? "Poor taste. Not interested." C-5. Cross Labrador and curly-coated retriever; get lab coat retriever, preferred choice of research scientists. C-6. His heuristics haywire, HAL offs *Discovery* crew. *Also sprach Zarathustra* intro heard also. C-7. Surly miner hauls eight-tonne ingot lodes twice, keeps aging, loses money, prays. Muses spark lyric furor. C-8. Saint Nicholas toured hamlet, saw filthy chimneys would blacken red suit, left toy bundle near town square. C-9. Brno-born trampoliner, Diu nauth girl buy dowry Dvorak dumka disc. Sylphlike houri moves while Tscekh bounces.

NIGHTOWL—8, 44, C-6, C-8. PANACHE—7, 47, 51, 62, 64, 67, 86, 90, X-1! PEBBLES—1, 3, 7, 22, 23, 27, 32, 34, 48, 67, C-8, X-3, X-4! R/EDS—27, 47, 64, 66!, 71, 72, 77, 81, 89, X-1, X-4, C-6. SPELVIN—9, 13, 18, 20, 23, 24, 48, 51, 64, 71, 78, 81!, 87, X-1, X-4. SPROUT—5, 7, 9, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20, 27!, 35, 39, 40, 41, 42, 44, 48, 51, 52, 57, 59, 63, 64, 71, 72, 81, F-3, F-5, F-6, X-1, X-4, KU-2. TAH-NAN—1!, 10, 13, 23, 24, 27, 39, 44, 48, 57, 66, 71, 72, 77, 89, C-8, X-4, 8/81 combination. TRAZOM—17, 20, 33, 48, 56, 64, 72, X-4. TREESONG—1, 4, 8, 10, 13, 18, 23, 25, 27, 29, 33, 51, 57, 81, 97, F-1, F-5, X-1, X-4, sphinx logo, Stamford game, issue theme triathlon joke. TYGER—3, 7, 8, 13!, 54, 64, 67, 68, 83, X-1, X-3, X-4. WAMPAHOOFUS—1, 12, 13, 22, 29, 35, 39, 43, 47, 48, 51, 65, 77, 81, 93, 107, F-5, C-7, X-1!, X-3, X-4. WITZ—12, 20, 35, 43, 64, 66, 72, 103, X-1, X-2, 8/81 combination! WOMBAT—5, 10, 19, 20, 23, 33, 47, 64, 81!, 82-83, X-3, X-4. XELINT—5, 8, 9, 13, 19, 27, 33, 53, 63, 66!, 75.

DECEMBER SOLUTIONS

KU-1. unmoralised, reddens laudes Domino 1. NAVaratra, EAR Conch, ADEno-sine 2. 12-stranded 3. notables, absentee ballot 4. ruminate, room in eight 5. beating time 6. MULch, TUMble, INFancy, PARasite, VOice 7. lacustrine, inarticulateness, Alice's Restaurant, Renaissance literature 8. water opals, Pareto's law 9. therapist 10. Athens 11. Parthenon 12. blustering; blue, string 13. l(each)ate 14. there stirs his toy ("the rest is history") 15. montage, onstage 16. grutten, glutton 17. outrage, goat rue 18. legal eagle. Galega 19. Fort Wayne, Indiana; for Twain, in Deanna 20. chamber-tin 21. stealing, intelligent-sia 22. mustard (Yeats Week) 23. manslaughter 24. Sunday monologue 25. hatred, death threat 26. APricot, OSIRis, OPEra, SISter 27. xystum, I'm too sexy 28. billingsgate 29. J/ett, cav/a 30. drachmae, charade, arched, reach 31. charade 32. curt-ailment 33. curt 34. concupiscent (con [tuberculosis]; cup [c] is cent [ɛ]) 35. Anais Nin's tea do fits elf 36. leadership 37. cellulite, sell Yule light KU-2. Bartok as Dog? M*A*S*H? if this places 38. inverse contriteness 39. "Tom's Diner," Modern Times, remoistened, densitometer, tridimensioned 40. finish outline, high noon 41. pusillanimous 42. m/R-adames 43. reversal 44. haiku, Ukiyah 45. kingdome.com 46. insulated, Aleutian Islands 47. dams lined, I stress 48. pre(c)lude 49. autotype 50. Mr. Tex 51. KIRsch, ITalo calvino, IMAGine, TIpsy 52. shake your booty 53. box lunch, lox bunch 54. whip-persnapper, snippet whapper 55. S-i/u-mmmons 56. spoon-feeding 57. cou-r/n-t KU-3. Birdsong, songbird 58. himself, Flemish 59. cha-d/o-s 60. be right. Alice eyes 61. tarnation, Tarantino 62. Mangie; Jane, me 63. eighter from Decatur 64. go rein 65. resist, sister 66. acerbity 67. foregone 68. a promissory note 69. the Maine disaster 70. the pair of boots 71. (hou)se-to-(hou)se 72. trounces, recounts, construe 73. dang it 74. oo! rag-naked, I ride kangaroo 75. vindicate 76. landmark 77. Kia, Nokia 78. sunk, Sunkist 79. bingo, boing 80. sequined 81. co(n)vert 82. United States Supreme Court 83. Florida 84. Palm Beach County, Florida 85. megaphone 86. "the breadbasket of America" 87. *Rugrats in Paris: The Movie*

[Extra Solutions with the Form Solutions on page 9]

R-10. PHONETIC FALSE DIMINUTIVE (6, *6 *6) (BIG, LITTLE)

Hollywood learns its lessons well—
What they've learned from "Prince of
Egypt"’s

The Good Book's a source of many
tales

That make great rated-G scripts.

They're drawing the story of Jericho
now,

But they've changed it a bit. Oh my
gosh!

A woman's providing the voice for the
lead,

Yes, LITTLE is starring as Josh.

Her circle of friends march around the
town;

No one dares to speak.

They do this once per day six times,
Then at the end of the week,

They raise their BIGs into the air,
And make a tremendous noise.

The walls of the city come crashing
down,

And Josh has defeated the Goy's!

Her good wall hunting method has
worked.

Though some may find it strange
To besiege a town with nothing but
horns

Blown at pointe blank range.

But battle was averted, and so
To give thanks for avoiding this trou-
ble

The trumpeters join for a moment of
prayer

To their God on the rocks and the rub-
ble.

Watch for this animated classic-to-be
Coming soon to a theater near you.
After that comes the story of a very
hard rain,

And a boatbuilder's seagoing zoo.

=RPO, Rubeo SD

R-11. TRANSPOSAL (2: *3 *6, 11)

To: Tony Hopkins
From: Ridley Scott
NUMBER ONE

We're in a spot;
His character in *Hannibal*
Will so upset the cannibal
That Lecter will take NUMBER TWO
Measures. And here's what you'll do:
Dine upon his cerebellum.
Now, which one of us will tell him?
=RPO, Kissme RI

R-12. PHONETIC FALSE ANT-EATER (*2, *8) (*2 = not MW)

A few brilliant Krewe members like
to indulge,
Eating strange things that things
having fur might.

These aardwolfy folks (noms I
shouldn't divulge)

Wolf down insects like ant and like
termite.

Such puzzlers (TWO's one such) have
brain waves refulge-

Nt with facts re: when England
showed her might.

Do you think that their smarts about
EIGHT (that's the Bulge)

Came from eating foods crawly and
worm-ite?

=RPO, Slik PA

R-13. REDRO TAKEOUT (6)

My parrot's often chatty with an awful
lot to say,

But that was not at all what happened
just the other day.

I tried to show him off for friends but
he just hunkered down—

That stubborn bird just ANSWER,
and what he said was, "FROWN."

=RPO, Ui PQ

R-14. WORD SUBSTITUTION
 (*2*1*1, ^10 ^5, 2, 6)
 (RC = 2; can be sung)

Oh, a shark has shiny teeth, dear;
 Jedi sabers glow with light.
 Golden skin, though, has
 MACHEATH, dear,
 And it's seven times as bright—

Bright as *MARCH. (Though, thank
 his maker,
 He's no twin—his "Pollux" whirrs,
 Beeps, and looks like a pepper-shaker
 Or a MARCH with three small -ers.)

Unlike Luke, he has no blade in
 Any form—he's averse to strife.
 (That's why MACHEATH has never
 played in
 Bertolt's CHEAT RC the Knife.)
 =RPO, Macho WI

R-15. ORDER TAKEOUT (6)

Hello solver, our old friend.
 We've got a flat for you again.
 It's a six-letter order takeout.
 We want you to try to make out
 What the base is, but we're NOISE;
 we won't explain
 What should remain
 Within the short word: SILENCE.
 =RPO, Waxed Rhombus NY

R-16. OVERLOADED FIFTH-
 LETTER CHANGE (*4'1 5, 10)

Our man in Atlanta
 Turns heads by the pool.
 "Yow!" says one panter,
 "Get a load of that DROOL!"
 =RPO, Math Lion CA

R-17. ALTERNATING FALSE
 SOUND CURTAILMENT (7, 5, 5, 4)
 =RPO, Detroit EH

R-18. PHONETIC ORDER TAKEOUT
 (10)

There are no loops or cycles in a
 SMALL,
 A singular component, that is all.
 The nodes outnumber links by one.
 Apply
 Some BIG graph theory—that will
 show you why.
 =RPO, Germinate RI

R-19. THIRD-TO-SIXTH SOUND
 CHANGEOVER (4)

In 1492,
 Columbus sailed the ocean blue,
 And when, at last, his ships had SIXed
 The locals' attitudes were mixed.
 While some had said they didn't
 THREE,
 A few were mad as they could be.
 =RPO, Breve IL

R-20. ORDER TAKEOUT (10)

I'm Ralf and I'm proud!
 I'll say it out loud!
 Though I'm not what you'd call
 A mainstreamer at all
 (My mind's on the GRATE),
 My flats are not GATE
 (That is, they're not flat).
 Thanks for the chat.
 =RPO, El Sero NM

R-21. SIXTH-LETTER CHANGE
 INTERLOCK ([6 4], *5 *5)

If you keep an open mind
 Then I think that you will find
 This old flick that starred Yul Brynner
 Deserved to be an Oscar winner.
 You will love *THE KING AND I—
 Just start off with A SWINGIN' EYE.
 =RPO, Rex MT

HART KING 58-5-3-1; IRBS/MANX/PEN GWYN/JO THE LOITERER *.*-0-3;
 KAIZEN 76-0-0-0; LIBRA 99-*5-1; LOKI-5 108-5-6-3; LUNCH BOY/
 WOMBAT 106-4-*-*; MANGIE 96-0-5-0; NEWROW 89-*5-2; PANACHE
 77-0-2-0; PEBBLES 106-5-*-*; ROSEBUD 95-0-0-0; TRAZOM 93-0-7-*;
 TYGER/100 DOWN 98-5-4-2; UBIQ 3-0-*1; WAMPAHOOFUS/JON DARK
 108-5-7*.

SOLVING FREQUENCY/NUMBER OF KUDOS/TOP KUDOS: 1-38/8/1, 2-41/1,
 3-44/4, 4-29/3, 5-41/3, 6-41/3, 7-43/9, 8-39/14, 9-42/6, 10-39/13/3, 11-38/4, 12-39/3,
 13-39/17/1, 14-42/5, 15-43/2, 16-20/2, 17-45/5, 18-40/8/2, 19-42/8, 20-32/12,
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 110-42/1, 111-43/2, 112-46/1, 113-43/2. FORMS: 1-25/3, 2-29/2, 3-27/3, 4-30/1,
 5-30/6, 6-30/4. CRYPTS: 1-37, 2-38, 3-34, 4-35/1, 5-28, 6-24/2, 7-23/1, 8-28/3.
 EXTRAS: 1-28/22/5, 2-27/4/1, 3-34/6, 4-30/21/2. ADDITIONAL KUDOS:

KU-1-*3, KU-2-*3, 8/81 Combination-*3/2, F5/F6 Combination-*1/1. Kray Article-*1, Seuss Theme-*4, Sphinx Logo-*3, Stamford Game-*1, Triathlon Joke-*1.
 NOVEMBER FAVORITES (! means top favorite): ABACUS—24, 27, 34, 49, 64,
 66, 72, 76, 81!, 86. ALICE—9, 13, 20, 33, 48, 51. ARBUTUS—4, 13, 19, 23, 24,
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 64, 69, 81, 97, F-5, F-6, X-1, X-2!, X-3, X-4, KU-1, KU-2, Kray article.
 CACHE—3, 4, 7, 13, 23!, 27, 33, 44, 64, 71, 81, 88, 102, F-1, F-2, F-3, F-4, F-5,
 F-6, X-1, X-4, Seuss puzzles. CAZIQUE—8, 13, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 29, 33, 43, 47,
 64, 66, 81, 86, 97, 100, 101, 112, X-1, Seuss artwork/issue. CHARTS—2, 6, 8, 9,
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 F-2, F-3, Crax artwork. CRAX—1, 6, 10, 11, 17, 18, 23, 27, 30, 35, 41, 51, 57, 58,
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 51, X-1, X-4!, sphinx logo. /dev/joe—8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 19, 20, 27, 29, 33, 34,
 35, 39, 42, 43, 51, 57, 63, 64, 81, 96, 97, X-1, KU-1, KU-2. EARL E. BYRD—7,
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 30, 33, 39, 43, 44, 51, 62, 66, 71!, 81, 82, 83, 92, KU-2. GRINCH—8, 15, 26, 41,
 43, 49, 51, 72, 78, 96. HAMMER—7, 8, 10, 18!, 24, 27, 29, 32, 42, 51, 57, 69, 86,
 100, 102, 109, KU-1, sphinx logo. HART KING—3, 10!, 15, 43, 62, 72. HOT—1,
 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 17, 20, 21, 23, 24, 29, 33, 51, 64, 66, 81, X-1, X-4.
 JO THE LOITERER—8, 43!, 81, 86, 103, 107, F-5, F-6, X-1, X-4. KAIZEN—18,
 23, 31, 34, 57. LYRIC—10, 13, 51, 57, 86, 106, 110, 111, 113, X-1!, X-2, X-4.
 MERCURY—7, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28, 42, 45, 49, 69, 72, 86, 92, X-3. MUNRO—X-1,
 X-2, 8/81 combination! NEWROW—22, 23, 51, 55, 76, F-5/F-6 Combination!

- X-11. GERMAN SAUSAGE
 1 "Vesti la giubba," et al.
 2 Settled snugly
 3 Disk-shoving device in shuffleboard
 4 Superficial burn
 5 Color applicator
 6 Cribbage scorekeepers
 7 On
 8 White crystalline derivative C₉H₈O₄ of salicylic acid
 9 At least one
 10 Mondrian (*)
 11 Cleansing/emulsifying agent made usually by action of alkali on fat or fatty acids and consisting essentially of sodium or potassium salts of such acids
 12 Habitually clean and orderly
 13 Richard Bachman novel (^)
 14 Chachi portrayer (*, not MW)
 15 Rent
- =BARTOK, La Mirada CA

NOVEMBER SOLVERS

The November ENIGMA had 113 flats, 6 forms, 8 crypts, and 4 extras; 47 solution lists, representing 74 solvers, were received. ABACUS/R/EDS, CAZIQUE/GABBY, CRAX/XELINT, DART/KRAY/SAXIFRAGE, /dev/joe, G NATURAL/SPROUT, LYRIC/MUNRO, MOMUS/PANTHER/PHANTOM, PHILANA/MERCURY, SPELVIN/SIDHE, TAHNAN/G2Znii, TREESONG, and WITZ/ANDREAS had completes; ARTISTRY/BARTOK, HAMMER, and IRBS/MANX/PEN GWYN/JO THE LOITERER had flat completes.

Accepted: #4- MIRATE for MUSING; #34-SIX OF THE ONE HALF A DOZEN OF THE OTHER; #72-A MONTH SANS AN R IN IT (2); #87-TAI BO (8). Not accepted: #45-FREIGHT/FIGHTER (2); #55-TIRANA for NARITA (2); F-1 (D)-LEASTEN for LEAST UN (3).

Belated and omitted kudos: CLIO for October: 1, 4, 16!, 27, 53, 55, 63, 65, 66, F-6, X-6, KU-1, KU-2. Treesong pointed out that I omitted CF3-*2, CF5-*2 and CF6.*3 from the August sol report.

—PEBBLES, Solution Editor

AI/GEORGE GROTH 111-4-7.*; AL GEBRA/EARL E. BYRD 77-0-0-0; ALGER 111-0-0-0; ALICE/HOT/MING 99-0-0-1; ARBUTUS 110-5-*2; ARTISTRY/BARTOK *-4-6-*; AVIDAN 111-*7-*; BANTERWEIGHT/mehitabel 109-0-6-2; CACHE/ENDGAME 107-*0-3; CHARTS 109-2-4-3; CLIO 107-5-4-2; D. NESS/SUE++ 107-*7-3; DADA 14-2-*2; DANDR 27-0-0-1; DEE SWEET 45-0-2-1; ERGO 64-0-3-0; FOOBAR 83-0-*3; GRINCH 94-*5-3; HAMMER *-0-0-0;

- R-22. HOMONYM (4 3 4 *2 4)
 (7 = NI2+)

The miser and the misanthrope
 Were off to battle. "Where
 Are we to go?" asked Harpagon
 (In verses by Molière).
 "Should L'Imposteur get troops,
 Or Le Malade Imaginaire?

Should we two, when we sally SOL
 (To use more current phrasing)
 Back up Argan?" Alceste said,
 "Neither option is amazing
 (Not hypocrite nor -chondriac)
 When fire-fights are blazing."
 =RPO, Pinkier VT

R-23. PHONIGMATIC REBUS (9)

S

Kead wokbolthoksolt kcagem
 yfobbdl oaadwouabdmc gdmeye
 ulebsdf psufupbdf: ULK.
 =RPO, Hurc IL

R-24. FALSE DESALINIZATION (8, 4)

The hill's SOMERSAULT is a bit of a
 bummer—
 A lone SOMER SOMERs for a new
 SOMER.
 =RPO, Six Tree MT

R-25. TRANSPOSAL (enumeration withheld) (DONE = NI3)

Crack your DONE and look for
 "DONE";
 Alas, you'll find it's not BEGUN.
 =RPO, Mygrain UT

R-26. PARTLY-PHONETIC TERMINAL DELETION (8, 4)

SECOND FIRSTing to submit
 A Ralf, I've triumphed! This is it!
 =RPO, S. Aloe RI

- R-27. TRANSPOSAL (5 1-6, 5-7)
 (TWO = RH2)

I've recently begun to run.
 I find it fun; it gets my ONE.
 My training table's long on pasta:
 TWO will make me stronga, fasta.
 =RPO, Apace NH

R-28. PHONETIC FALSE COMPARATIVE ADVERB (3, *6 *5)

STAGGER LEE was once funny;
 He made lots of money.
 He just seemed so British and groovy.
 Things changed, I'm afraid.
 In the nineties he made
 Many a lousy STAG movie.
 =RPO, Ess RI

RALFAGRAMS

- R-29. NOT ME (*)
 =RPO, S. Horb WY

- R-30. ADIOS, LETTER N
 =RPO, E. Banjo Cross TN

- R-31. RE SUM: I MADE TEN (4 6)
 =RPO, Quiz Ace NY

- R-32. USE OUR FIX, RIGHT? (*1*1 3)
 R-33. TEXT MISER (*2. *3)
 =RPO, Next IL

- R-34. NEARBY FILL (*4 6)
 =RAL-F, Linferly AB

- R-35. PAT HAS NO ENIGMA
 (PART ONE) (3 3-8 7)
 =RPO, Tibb WA

MONOMANIAGRAM

- R-36. I AM HESS! (*)
 =RPO, Endga ME

R-37. TYRO DOABLE SQUIRE

Thus farm his beet riven blues far woods than duffer be owe litter frog tie reap entrees, aid fox calf ox then, axe reverted alto. Bath fogward any reverie croups hive ore chance if Bach positron. Ether thin chat, ill's formal, my end largo. (Same fords now me.)

Carp

- 1 Braise on type, do thy wrench
- 2 Stem on argon, bingo, of slant
- 3 Sinner Joan, wits I think nor bats aid classes
- 4 Firm clitic rover
- 5 Sorties/nifties moxie stay meter

Wolf

- 1 Overest, on hate I binder
 - 2 Prom thin kittle seem, oaf frees glow
 - 3 Wart if "path do foil gray" recites
 - 4 Ode on carious maternals dug no fixing, enc.
 - 5 Thee Max by jaws, hocks, of otter pinches
- =HALF A CLIO, Garf ME

R-38. ANAFLAT (*5, *1'2 2 1 ^^^^^^5:
2 5 4 5, 3 5 3 4 ^^^^^^5 6—4 5 3 5 4.
(2 2 3 4.))

ANK CHG DIT EAS ESH EYS FIR HEB
HIS HOR IST KRE LLB LTH NDC ORT
OUN PEL REA RTH SOL STA TDO TEA
TLE TOU TTE VET WEI WOR
=RPO, Eunuch Glee RI

R-39. Anakin. RPO, Yttric DE
(*5 5 4 4 ^4 ^4. *4 5 3 6, 3 3 10 6 4 3
6, 3 3 4 3 8 3 3 3 6 *5.)

RHJ RPA RAW RUY HEC HJW HAW YRA
YTC YMY YLR YSO PSY WWK WDW KDM
KJP KJJ GKB BJW MYP DLB DCB DFY
SRM SRA SJB SOR JND JAR JAW JAB
AWY CHO CYJ CGY CSY OKA QAD UOW

R-40. PIECEMEAL
SQUARE
(one word = hyph.)

AR AR DE DP EG FO
OL ON SI UL UR YG
=RPO, Curl HI



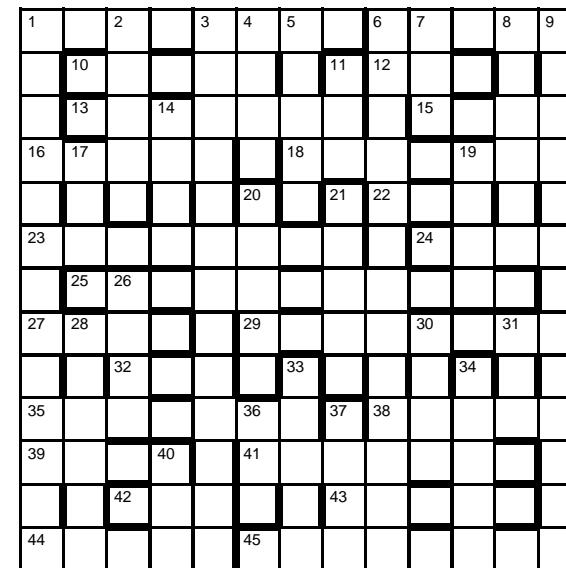
NEW ISSUE!

Non Sequitur reports that his first child, Hannah Isabel Mankowitz Fink, was born at 4:00 a.m. on February 1, 2001 at Bridgeport Hospital. Here are her stats: 7 lbs 10.5 oz and 20" long. Blue eyes, blondish-brown hair. Beautiful. Demo baby for the bathing class at the hospital. Here (on the left) is a photo of Hannah.



I have some news of my own: my third child, Isis Selene Wei-Ang Hsu Jacobson came into the world at 5:34 p.m. on February 8, 2001 at Overlook Hospital in Summit. She was 7 lbs 9 oz at birth and measured 19.5". Also beautiful. Just like big sisters Kira and Tess, Isis came out with a full head of thick black hair. She's pictured on the right.

Mazel Tov, and welcome to the little palindrome and reduplication!



X-5. KNIGHT'S-TOUR CRYPT

(5 2 4 3 4, 9, 3 3 4, 9. *8)

C W K I T D S I E
N G N E I L S O O
L E O D N H E T V
N A G G R O N N O
S E O A C E Y E A
R E O D O E R N L

=769, Margate FL

X-6. ANAQUOTE (5 5 2 1 7 7 2 3 14 7.

*5 *8, 2 ^7 2 3 ^4 ^6 ^4)

ACH ASE AYD CAT CIL CLU DBE EAD
GHW HEC HEL INM INU ION OFT OLE
OMM ORI ONT OTH OUL PEN REC RIO
SGR SHI TES THE UMB UNI USP B
=NIGHTOWL, Rochester NY

X-7. ANAQUIP

(3 8 8 9 4 3 8 9 6 2 8 3 6 4.)

ADA ALL AND CHE EDU FSN GTO HIS
ICD IME ISE ISF KST LEC LEH MPL
OYE OWF RAD RHE RUF SCH SGA SPO
STR VEH YIN
=BLAMMESK, Easton PA

X-8. ANAQUIP

(1 3 2 3 7 7: 3 4 4 3, 3 6 5 2 3 8 2)

AHU ANG BOD DNO EIT ESE FEC FIT
GIS IFY IZE LAN NDS NES NTO OUE
PER SAL THE TPR XCH YMI
=ARBUTUS, Guilford CT

X-9. MOSAICQUOTE (see notes)

(5 9, 8 9, 7 2 11. *5 *8) [4 × 4]

AN EC EL EN ER ER ES EV
UN OP CM AN EI TI RT UA

IT IT LY OM OP PE YH YS
PR SC VE PO RC DB HU ON

=769, Margate FL

X-10. MOSAICQUOTE (3 4 10 3 6 3 2

4 3 4 1 5 6, 3 7 3 3 2 8.) [5 × 4]

AP EC ED ER HI NG NO OU OW PA
GE AS NY DN IS BL OG OT AN YW

SS UB UK UO VE WN WT YO YO YO
HE HA OL KI TA NG YH HN IN OU

=769, Margate FL

X-4. INEVITABILITY—by KEGLER, Hacienda Heights CA

The end of a famous quotation can be found somewhere in the completed diagram. Two of the diagram entries give the author's first and last names, and are clued with wordplay only. Each clue (including those for the author's names) contains a superfluous word, the first letters of which spell out an 11-word phrase describing the quotation fragment.

Across

- 1 Trouble in old West African country (8)
- 6 Strange—I drew nudes bizarrely (5)
- 10 Be concerned lately about disturbed leader in core group (5)
- 12 Santa's young helper nearly flew back (3)
- 13 Principle seen tarnished in Trump reception (7)
- 15 Mother's small wiry body (4)
- 16 Movie alien follows its own reflection, observing hard choppers (5)
- 18 Orally allow our group to produce toiletries (7)
- 22 The lady's father lacks pudgy hands (3)
- 23 Odds and ends destroyed inside tee crate (8)
- 24 Sage ruler keeps something that makes nurses older (4)
- 25 Heathen with faltering heart tests glass spectacles (11)
- 27 Massage your first special gemstone (4)
- 29 Dude initially lassoing tether around palomino's head and going down quickly (8)
- 32 Hopping amphibian left headless (3)
- 35 Dazed TU alums examine pairs of dots? (7)
- 38 Exotic tours get adventurer out of bed (5)
- 39 Following us in an extension (4)
- 41 Hid tools in station lean-to (7)
- 42 Snake nearly harms wild pig (3)
- 43 Gravity also confused our aims (5)
- 44 Rusty bar perch returns spoils (5)
- 45 Open most of silver link (8)

Down

- 1 Soprano Kathleen's reasons for addressing areas of conflict (13)
- 2 Nostrils are between identical poles (5)
- 3 Debonair Charlie cut art, oddly, having a unified design (13)
- 4 Mild balm: use white shark tails again (4)
- 5 Easily, though not at first, suggest refinements (5)
- 6 Reheat snow, per crazy, entertaining meteorologist (13)
- 7 Comfortable shade tree in the middle of Selma (3)
- 8 Save extra notes on hint (6)
- 9 Mix-up of the relay races, seeing dog tear frantically (13)
- 11 Consumed last part of tasty pomegranate (3)
- 14 Gnarled tree to be axed in France (4)
- 17 Threatens at heart to erode island (3)
- 19 Our gerbil has no desire (4)
- 20 Exciting, like a beer isn't? (5)
- 21 Degree not returned for national leader's wand (5)
- 26 Biblical character sounds thoroughly capable (4)
- 28 United Nations competition is hardly inappropriate (6)
- 30 Expression of contempt for famous itinerant bear (4)
- 31 Star rises spectacularly to show Greek characters (3)
- 33 Wilted bloom tears apart (5)
- 34 In sequel, lovers obviously quiet down (5)
- 36 Article missing from reporting assignment yields sound of disapproval (3)
- 37 Drop a long, lurid story (4)
- 40 Sounds like couple dances, also (3)

NEW MEMBERS

Mavourneen Arndt, Box 15, 170 East 6th Street Suite 118, Claremont CA 91711, 909/607-5692, marndt@pomona.edu

Michele Bernstein, 112 Oak Lane, Cranford NJ 07016 has been given a gift membership by zapot.

Grundle: Scott Croshier, 95 Southpoint Drive Apt F, Amherst MA 01002, croshier@yahoo.com, has received a gift membership from QED.

Gypsy: Heidi La Quadra, 11834 Courtney Lane, Moorpark CA 93021, 805/553-9501, ravnssong@aol.com

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Ys: Samuel Freund, 3620 18th Street #21, San Francisco CA 94110, ys@puzzlers.org, xena@best.com

COME TO NEWARK THIS JULY!—by TYGER

Where else but the Hilton Newark Gateway can you be twenty minutes from downtown/midtown Manhattan, spend half what you would if you stayed in Manhattan, and go without sleep for nights on end with 100 of your closest friends? Located adjacent to Newark's Penn Station (buses, Amtrak, NJ Transit, PATH trains to NYC) in the middle of the business district and five blocks from the NJ Performing Arts Center, the Hilton has classy rooms, great food, a 24-hour health club, a rooftop outdoor pool, an airport shuttle, and loads of meeting space that will be crawling with Krewe.

Officially, the Convention takes place July 12 to July 15, 2001, but you are most definitely encouraged to come early and stay late. You can arrive as early as July 6 for the same \$105 per room per night or stay past the 15th and leave as late as the 20th for \$147.34 per night. This rate is for one to four people; roll-away beds are \$21.20 per night. (A very limited number of suites are also available at \$265 per night from July 8 to July 15.) These rates do not include sales tax, and are thus *only* available when you make your reservation through us.

If you have questions about the hotel that you don't want me to know about, their number is 973/622-5000. Otherwise, please continue to call me with any questions at 201/315-3427. (You can e-mail me at tyger@puzzlers.org, but a quick response is not guaranteed.)

The Convention fee is \$197 per person. This covers five meals from Friday supper to Sunday breakfast, the photographer (yes, we have one!), ballroom rental, and more miscellany than I can probably imagine at this point.

Please send your check in U.S. funds made out to the National Puzzlers' League, along with the dates of arrival and departure at the hotel and the names of any roommates you may have, *not to me* but to 100 Down, who has my undying gratitude for this: Ed Rice, 105 Myrtle Boulevard, Larchmont NY 10538. Let him know whether you prefer two doubles or one king bed, and smoking or non-smoking. **IMPORTANT!!!**—The deadline for him to receive your checks and information is June 1, 2001.

You can still get 10% off your Continental Airlines reservation by calling Cruisen Around Travel Agency at 888/573-4400 and mentioning the National Puzzlers' League and tour code IGRD21. (Their fax number is 201/222-3801; email is d.dipoto@worldnet.att.net). If you wait until 60 days or less from your departure date, the discount drops to 5%.

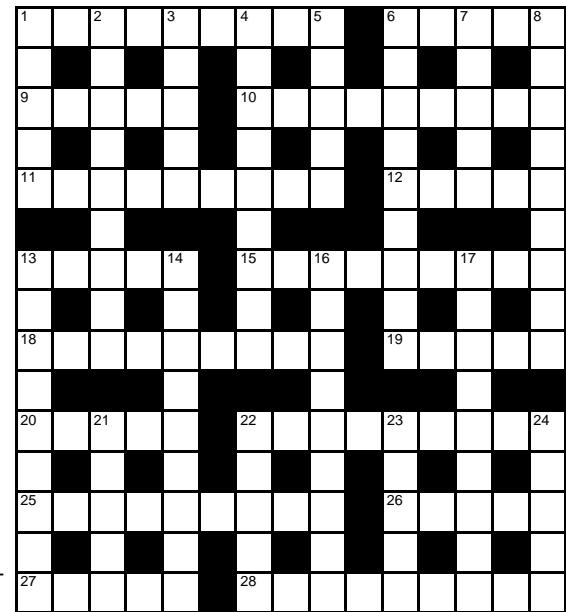
In June, I will send you a confirmation packet with your room information, directions, and some things to do in New Jersey and New York when you're not in the ballroom or the hospitality suite or running around the hotel in whatever it is that Chainsaw and Lunch Boy are cooking up.

If you have any group day trips you'd like considered, please let me know. Possibilities right now are bus rides to the Bronx Zoo, ferries to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, or a lunch cruise in New York Harbor.

See youse in Jersey!

X-2. NINE TO FIVE—by XEIBIT, Montaign QL**Across**

- 1 Judge and prosecutor maintaining one fan tormented actress (9, 2 wds.)
 - 6 Have a meal, swallowing yellow and red fruit concentrate (5)
 - 9 Expression of approval overwhelms 500 commercial writers (5)
 - 10 Stand behind university in Georgia and talk excitedly to electrical engineer (9)
 - 11 To control vipers, use switches (9)
 - 12 Central Sweden seems crowded (5)
 - 13 Quizzes end at 10 a.m. Saturday (5)
 - 15 Long-suffering nude prostitute ran in front of empty cafe (9)
 - 18 After church, Dorothy's aunt is to take a shot at high-school science (9)
 - 19 Scheduled work period provided during quiet time (5)
 - 20 One jerk's prank (5)
 - 22 Smart Alec Hill has Dotty wait (9, *hyph.*)
 - 25 Russ woke, trembling, after general shot in the dark (9)
 - 26 Center of attention: UFOs flying around castle (5)
 - 27 Moves small animals from the back (5)
 - 28 They say a man of rank appreciates bombshells (9)
- Down**
- 1 Ms. Stapleton's denims (5)
 - 2 Incredibly neat maple ID plaque (9)
 - 3 Superior person imposing punishment (5)
 - 4 Casual short peignoir with navy trim at the top (9)
 - 5 Stop sleeping in Ottawa kennel (5)



- 6 Father's following Ollie's partner around river with guides (9)
- 7 No sailor has turned up in desert (5, 2 wds.)
- 8 Model crept nervously around garden (9)
- 13 Foreign execs getting to suspend trades (9)
- 14 Grips pouch sent up into apartment on Sunday (9)
- 16 9-to-5 employee wore dark bucks around health club (9) [NI3]
- 17 Subtle qualities about one's pills (9)
- 21 Those people beginning to enjoy subject matter (5)
- 22 Ties 0-0, reportedly (5)
- 23 Judge and popular sports official moving north (5)
- 24 Files tips (5)

X-3. PIECEMEAL SQUARE
(one word = hyph., another = +)

AU BI EA EB ET GH HR OU
PT QU RA RI SE SM ST US
=LOKI-5, Philadelphia PA

F-5. VOWELLESS TRUNCATED PYRAMID

Across:

- 1 Dickens's Weller, familiarly
- 2 Dickens's Oliver
- 3 Dickens's Bob
- 4 Dickens's heroine of 1855–57
- 5 Dickens's hero whose broken-spirited protégé was Smike

Down:

- 1 Ancient region W of Lydia
- 2 Ancient region SE of Caria
- 3 An old name for China
- 4 One of the British Virgin Islands
- 5 Certain edible products of rape or olives
- 6 Grape of the southern US
- 7 Ancient country with a remnant in 8D
- 8 Country in SE Europe
- 9 European peninsula
- 10 Island NE of Attica, capital Chalkis

=AI, Charlottesville VA

F-6. DOUBLE OCTAGON

Across:

- 1 World War II pricing organization (RH2)
- 2 Perfume
- 3 Macapá, e.g.
- 4 Related to Mendelian characters
- 5 Togs
- 6 Legal place
- 7 It stops traffic

Down:
1 Pouch
2 Vends
3 Milky and translucent
4 Lab apparatus
5 Tezucuan
6 17th century Amerinds
7 Educator schools
=NEWROW. Brookline MA

EXTRAS

X-1. GERMAN SAUSAGE

- 1 Gullibility (+)
 - 2 African antelopes
 - 3 Rotating piece in a linkage
 - 4 Big bird
 - 5 Contrary
 - 6 Exalt again (NI3, but
10C-inferable)
 - 7 Worshipped
 - 8 Differ in opinion
 - 9 Coil
 - 10 A beachgoer might take one
 - 11 Pesters
 - 12 Lampoonery
 - 13 ____ day, Feb. 29 (NI3,
but 10C-inferable)
 - 14 Puff, e.g.
 - 15 Pasty
 - 16 Paraphernalia

- 1+2 February 14 (*9'1 ^3)
 2+3 February 2 (*9)
 3+4 Branch of colorimetry (10)
 4+5 February is _____ Month
 (^5 ^7, not MW)
 5+6 How a jilted lover acts on Feb.
 14 (13, NI3 but 10C-inferable)
 6+7 Censuring (14, NI2, +)
 7+8 Third Monday in February
 (*10' ^3)
 8+9 Liveliness (12)
 9+10 Riggers (12)
 10+11 Person commemorated Feb. 15
 (*5 *1. *7)
 11+12 Relating to the senses
 (12, NI2)
 12+13 Order of dicotyledonous plants
 (*10, NI3)
 13+14 Part of a musical instrument
 played with the feet (5 5, NI3)
 14+15 February 2 (^9 ^3)
 15+16 A cathartic (10, NI3)
 16+1 "Born-on" date for wine (7 4)
 =ALGER, Tucson AZ

DECEMBER FORM AND EXTRA SOLUTIONS

F-1.	M	B	F-2.	MICROSOFT
	PER	DUO		COOLANT
CARED		BURPS		BLADE
CIRCLES		TOADEATERS		ENE
PARTHENON		GLENLIVET	F-4.	D
MERCHANTMAN		ANTONINA		
RELENTING		SONGLET		
DENTILE		OBIL		SH
SOMNE		MUKE	F-3.	ICED
NAG		EYAS		LAINES
N				BEGONIAS
		X-4.		ULTRASENSATIONALIST
TACOBELL		AMARETTO		GAUNTLET
OVARIAN		CARELESS		JEWELS
RENDER		THIVBAIL		SAVE
INNER		SILOASAO	RE	I
AGER		SKILLETS		CD
MED		DENTISTS		A E Y
OR	F-5.	SSSHTRIM		M R A N
S		TOTETICO		R P E L A KU-4.
		OPERETTA		D E C A M P
		APPARENT		A D I N I E O
				P R I N C E S S
				U N D E S I R E D
				R N E L M I N R N A
F-6.	G	Goya		E I A V A G C G I T I
	GLC	Galicia		R O L L I N H O B A R T
MNDRN		Mondrian		A N T E L S D T N S L Y S
HNRMNTSS		Henri Matisse		
MRCLLDCHMP		Marcel Duchamp	F-7.	I
HNRDTLSLTRC		Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec		COS
				BONES
				LARIATS
				STREAMERS

X-1. mustard, hang, slimmest, barns, sneak, Locke, wrap, toms, talented, Piro, dort, man, sitar, nonce; draughtsman, almightyines s, transmissible, Nebraskans, skeanockle, workplace, warm spot, Old Testament, latent period, dirt -poor, mordant, tamarins, containers, countermands X-2. In three words I can sum up everything I've learned about life. It goes on. Robert Frost X-3. Mississippi, *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, "Mister Watson, are you there?", "and they lived happily ever after," "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds" X-4. *Across*: amaretto, careless, bail, silo, skillets, dentists, trim, tote, operetta, apparent. *Down*: acts, aril, revolt, Elba, teases, Oslo, hikes, attic, instep, litter, stoa, Hera, rite, moat. X-5. The modern world . . . is being battered sense less, . . . buried under avalanches of information. Russell Baker X-6. The movies are so rarely great art that if we can't appreciate great trash, there is little reason for us to go. Pauline Kael X-7. carbon, cobalt, iodine, nickel, oxygen, silver, sulfur KU-4. ideal, icer, carpe diem, camped, dynamics, area, napes, reins, lancing, ameer, darn, cinema, posser, apnea, purer, cinch, sentry, serial, union, dealt, devil, Elvis, E -mail, eland, signs, sight, ingot, ergo, data, dairy, riot, rile, icon, nibs, aits, era, eon, all

2001 MIT MYSTERY HUNT REPORT—by SPELVIN

One of the nice things about being an undergrad at MIT is that a large portion of the National Puzzlers' League comes to visit you once a year. The purpose of that visit is the MIT Mystery Hunt, a weekend-long series of intricately linked puzzles which leads to a coin hidden somewhere on campus. Actually, the use of the word "coin" is somewhat loose; the hidden object, which was a penny in the early years of the hunt, has recently come to be any small theme-related item, ranging from the seal for a diploma or a red piece of plastic to a "bloodstone." Nonetheless, tradition still labels the goal of the hunt as finding "the coin," and tradition allocates to the finders the honor of victory as well as the mixed blessing of designing next year's hunt.

The 2001 Mystery Hunt had many revolutionary features; for one thing, it started on time. At roughly noon on Friday, January 12, Squonk addressed an anxious crowd gathered in Lobby 7, beginning with introductions of a formidable team of constructors/organizers that included Eric, Al DeSuda, Ucaoimhu, Lunch Boy, Saxifrage, Storyteller, and diligent webmistress Tabasco. (I was once again on Sprout's team, Setec Astronomy, which also included Anomaly, Kray, Vebrile, QED, Shadow, and new League member Ray Jones; some of the other participating Krewe were etc., Sidhe, Tahnan, D. Ness, Sue++, Wombat, and /dev/joe.) The closely-guarded theme for the year turned out to revolve around horror and an appropriately cliché ghost story ("Agatha Winchester, a witch, was burnt on this campus 300 years ago this weekend . . .") The structure of the hunt itself was similar to that of the past few years, with a series of rounds which were released to all teams over time but released early to teams that could complete the previous rounds. A new and interesting angle to the hunt was that this year, the individual rounds had sub-themes (creatures, horror fiction, phobias, and the supernatural) which helped to keep things fresh and interesting.

After the opening ceremony, we eagerly returned to our home base to begin solving. I immediately took on the manly task of identifying nail polish, while my teammates busied themselves with assembling transparent triangles into a cube, translating a set of passages from various languages, and reporting to hunt HQ to play rounds of Renfield (a card game released a few years ago) and Adventure (a video game released a few eons ago). After completing my cosmetics aptitude test, I was a little disappointed to discover that QED and Anomaly had seized the round's token cryptic crossword, and I consoled myself by solving a fairly straightforward fill-in.

As is usually routine for the Mystery Hunt, we moved very quickly at first but eventually reached a point of frustration; the transparent cube didn't seem to yield anything from any angle, my research on H. P. Lovecraft and the Baltimore Metro was completely irrelevant, and our attempts to fit the round's answers into a diagamorph (referred to as "a non-square word square") were unfruitful. Finally, it occurred to us to leave spaces in the diagamorph, after which the words fell neatly into place and revealed the entity and incantation we were

F-2. PYGMY HOURGLASS

Across:

- 1 Emulating Daffy Duck or Elmer Fudd
- 2 Wailing cries
- 3 Betel peppers
- 4 Molecular or atomic emission resulting from the incidence of a primary radiation
- 5 Very definitely fine
- 6 Main verb (abbr.)
- 7 Through
- 8 Sudden surprise
- 9 *Un ___ in Maschera*
- 10 *Stizostedion canadense*
- 11 Match

=TRAZOM, San Francisco CA

F-3. CONNECTED SQUARES

- A. 1 Make an impression again, in a way
- 2 Flasher
- 3 What a Scotsman may use to stir his porridge
- 4 South American botfly larvae
- 5 A gemstone cut to show a star-shaped figure
- 6 Mixing
- 7 Foretell

- B. 1 Foretell
 - 2 Narrow cloth covers for tables
 - 3 Women named for Samantha's mother on *Bewitched* (Encyc. of Television 1937–1973)
 - 4 Shaved ice molded into a ball and flavored with a syrup: var.
 - 5 Ack-ack
 - 6 Small particle
 - 7 A monastic brotherhood of Jews in Palestine
- =JO THE LOITERER, Basking Ridge NJ



Down:

- 1 A clef
- 2 In this fashion
- 3 A dull resounding noise
- 4 Splash
- 5 Site for singing boatmen
- 6 Verdian premiere of December 8, 1849 (New Grove Dict. of Opera)
- 7 Verdian premiere of January 19, 1853 [NI2]
- 8 A smooth-faced pileless carpet from eastern Transcaucasia
- 9 Stratagem
- 10 Right
- 11 Indefinite numbers
- 12 A clef

F-4. CONNECTED SQUARES

- A. 1 Dull
- 2 One who does not employ something (as an available public facility or a harmful drug)
- 3 Force air violently though the nose with a rough harsh sound: dial.
- 4 Irish games similar to hockey
- 5 A gemstone cut to show a star-shaped figure
- 6 Being dependent
- 7 Foretell

- B. 1 Foretell
 - 2 Gives a new moniker to
 - 3 Company formed from a joint venture of EniChem and Montedison in 1988 (Hoover's Hdbk. of World Business 1998)
 - 4 Member of an ancient people of central Italy
 - 5 By halves, to Henri
 - 6 The habits, ideas and practices of gentlemen (OED)
 - 7 Regards highly
- =JO THE LOITERER, Basking Ridge NJ

108. "EN ROAD", HAD COOL NITE
IN IT (2 3-11 5)
=NIGHTOWL, Rochester NY

109. HEARD HITLER SHOW-
TUNE . . . CAN'T PAN!
(^3 ^9 4 *6 *4)

110. SUBLIME TIP, FOR WHICH
THEY (RAVENS) TOP!
(3 [^5 ^4] ^6-^4 9)
=769, Margate FL

ANTIGRAM

111. THEY WON . . . TAKE RINGS!
(3 [*3 *4] ^6)
=769, Margate FL

FORMS

F-1. DOUBLE HOLLOW DIAMOND

Across:

- 1 Write
 - 2 Burglarize
 - 3 A tropical American tree of the madder family: var.
 - 4 Wheedler
 - 5 Fathers
 - 6 A fixed charge for movement of lots by rail
 - 7 Fictional Belgian (Encyc. of Mystery and Detection); Sumptuous
 - 8 Extract of the heart muscle of cattle; The six-legged larva of certain mites
 - 9 Pitch handlers; Type of chestnut
 - 10 A finback whale: obs.; Illuminated by the sun, perhaps
 - 11 Commit to Newgate; Ambassador, agent, representative or attorney: Anglo-Indian
 - 12 Scylla and Charybdis, e.g.; Proceeding in a line
 - 13 Search again; Doves and lovers
 - 14 Swedish poet (1782–1846); Yak
 - 15 Arbus, Lane, and Sawyer (Amende); Betwixt: dial.
 - 16 Secret believer in God
 - 17 Scattering: obs.
 - 18 Bringing in
 - 19 Fermenting agents: archaic var.
 - 20 Sib
 - 21 Be silent
- Down:
- 1 2.71828183, approx.
 - 2 A leading economic indicator: abbr.
 - 3 A groom in livery: Brit.
 - 4 Boîte
 - 5 Cooked briefly
 - 6 A system for establishing abstract criteria of consistency
 - 7 Aircraft lacking an engine; Echolocation devices
 - 8 An ointment base capable of taking up a large proportion of water; An alkali-trachyte with phenocrysts of anorthoclase and aegirite in a trachytic to hyalopilitic groundmass of alkali-feldspar laths and grains of pyroxene and amphibole rich in soda and usually some glass
 - 9 Eight chupas; Supplicate once more
 - 10 Unsuitable one; Cubic meters
 - 11 Mexican state; Finds the scent: Brit.
 - 12 Grease up; Allows
 - 13 Kind of seabird; Lines with brick or cement
 - 14 Former Spanish currency; Rookery sound
 - 15 Dazed or lethargic state; It's larger than a wood
 - 16 Like some invisible radiation
 - 17 Like the basket fishes
 - 18 Former Scottish county
 - 19 Security interests
 - 20 Yearling sheep
 - 21 Place
- =TRAZOM, San Francisco CA

searching for. Intoning the phrase "Be goo to us" and presenting a photo of the Loch Ness Monster, we gleefully unlocked the second round of puzzles.

Vebrile made the first breakthrough of round two, staring at a series of scrambled sentences and saying out loud, "This is from a Simpsons Halloween Special . . . This is from a Simpsons Halloween Special . . . Hey, I bet these are all from Simpsons Halloween Specials!" Shortly after, I would use similar reasoning to break into a puzzle based on book covers from the Goosebumps series and receive odd looks from my teammates. Other puzzles in the round included a crossword with an interesting letter bank gimmick, a three-part tour of the campus, and a word search that would turn out to be deceptively important.

Eric, who probably holds the record for Mystery Hunt participation (in fact, my first introduction to the hunt was through a *Games Magazine* article Eric wrote when I was in elementary school), takes great pride in constructing the annual scavenger hunt puzzle, which simply asks team members to bring a group of objects in exchange for the answer. We were fairly sure that he had gone overboard this year as we stared at a list that included a valid death certificate, a non-English Harry Potter book, and "an X-rated graphic novel that contains a scene in which a horrible beast is summoned in an occult manner and then has sex with someone." Although we were stymied, we discovered later that most of the other teams had accumulated the required number of items with little difficulty. (Some of the out-of-towners were amazed by this; those of us familiar with MIT culture were less shocked.)

It was shortly before one o'clock that night that controversy reared its ugly head. In a not entirely popular move, Squonk and the constructors had decided to declare a sleep break (sleep is a strange concept foreign to most MIT students) from 1 a.m. to 9 a.m. on Saturday, meaning that if a team completed the second round during that period of time, they would have to wait for the organizers to wake up before getting more puzzles. Because we just love to make things as complicated as possible, Anomaly discovered the key to the final puzzle of the second round at roughly 12:45 a.m. We had it solved about five minutes before zero hour, and then somehow, we managed to interpret the answer incorrectly THREE TIMES. (How we accomplished this is a bit complicated, but you can ask me to tell you the story some time . . . it's very dramatic and I like to emphasize the bit about the member of the team who had the right answer, but whom nobody would listen to. His name rhymes with Schmelvin.)

To make a long story short(er), the deadline passed, leaving the constructors in a difficult position: they knew we knew which entity to summon, but we had failed to actually summon it correctly in time. Thus, if we were allowed to try the summoning again, we would be the only team with the third round of puzzles for the next eight hours, giving us an insurmountable lead. But if we couldn't, we would basically have to sit on our hands for eight hours, allowing everyone else to catch up with us. After a lot of discussion, Squonk made what I feel was an excellent ruling: he declared that headquarters would stay open for two more hours, we would get the third round immediately, and other teams would

gain access to the third round at 3 a.m. (instead of 10 a.m. as originally planned). This decision rewarded our team for solving the round without giving us a ridiculous advantage and ruining the hunt for the other teams, and I applaud the organizers for brainstorming a fair and compassionate solution. And so we launched into the third round, a tribute to phobias that included photos of heavenly bodies (nyctophobia), aerial shots of the campus (acrophobia), dropquotes in foreign languages (xenophobia), and a number of fears to identify (phobophobia). Some of these puzzles fell faster than others (Vebrile recognized the audience responses to the *Rocky Horror Picture Show* instantly, Ray swiftly solved Mathophobia via computer, and Shadow and I had little trouble decoding "Mystery Science Theater 3000" episodes), but once hunt headquarters closed, we were flying blind, since we couldn't verify answers and some of the third round puzzles involved visiting the organizers. Thus, a good portion of the team finally took the constructors' advice, and put in a few hours of sleep.

I woke up to a pleasant morning lull in the action. Ann was making chocolate chip pancakes to be ritually sacrificed, and while we were waiting for some puzzles that required appointments, we were casually mulling over the incomplete set of answers we had attained. (In a brilliant use of a red herring, all of the answers had thirteen letters and "triskaidekaphobia" was conspicuously absent from the list of phobias. It would remain absent from the entire hunt.) We tried scrambling, anagramming, taking first letters, and anything else we could think of, until Kray (proving to me that he isn't human) commented, "Did we try putting them in alphabetical order and reading along the diagonal?" I glanced at some of the words we had from the end of the alphabet and made a offhanded comment along the lines of, "No, then it would have to end in E-U-D, and the only thing with that ending is Freud." I then naively walked away from the blackboard, and by the time I came back, Kray and company had positioned the words with gaps in such a way that one main diagonal looked like it could spell "Sigmund Freud," and the other could spell "Lie on my couch." We hypothesized that the "my" could also be "ze" or "da," but one more answer was enough to confirm the former, and we moved on the final round.

Al DeSuda warned us he'd be torturing us near the end of the hunt, which focused on the supernatural (complete with an electronic Ouija board), and he wasn't kidding. One of the puzzles, "Another Dimension," took about half of our team in cooperation over five hours to solve. Essentially, Al/Tom took the cross-out grids he had seen in puzzle magazines (cross out the letters of the clued words and a message appears) and decided to make it more advanced. Any sane person would boost the puzzle from two dimensions to three. Al DeSuda felt it necessary to go straight to four. To me, the solving process for this puzzle seemed very tedious, but the people who solved it had a great time, so clearly I have no idea what I'm talking about. Another puzzle our team flocked to was "The Braille Witch Project," an ingenious sliding puzzle in which instead of picture pieces, the tiles were associated with sound bites of a monologue from *The Blair Witch Project* that needed to be put in order. Once that was completed, we were told to report to HQ for "Braille Witch 2: Book Of Dimples." It's never a good sign when you show up at the organizers' base and they all have a wicked

98. PROGRESSIVE BEHEADMENT
(7) (THREE TWO = not MW)

I like to THREE TWO Catherine of
*SIX;
No SEVEN of wisdom, she.
She failed to see through King Henry's
tricks,
Who dumped her in 1-5-3-3.
=ANOMALY, Cambridge MA

99. REVERSED DELETION (7, 4 2)

TUB, you kiddies; come and see the
BOUT
As they sing and dance and slug it out!
=WABBIT, Montreal PQ

100. ORDER TAKEOUT (9)

Sid Vicious was a raving punk,
And even worse when he was drunk.
Whenever he got slightly OUT,
He'd start behaving more ABOUT.
=LOKI-5, Philadelphia PA

101. FIRST-LETTER CHANGE
(enumeration withheld)
(*SECOND = not MW)

We're going to tiffin with *SECOND
(Or maybe not tiffin but FIRST).
It's sure to be fun, we have reckoned.
Perhaps we shall eat till we burst!
=100 DOWN, en route to London UK

102. PHONETIC DELETION (9, 9)

Rose is a rose is a rose.
But now they're mostly SICKLY.
Crazy, right?
It's SILLY. Where is the delight
If they don't tempt the nose?
=JAELTI, Manchester NJ

103. PALINDROME (3 8)

The fans of a team that's not winning
Aren't apt to be smiling or grinning:
"Officials are snoring,
Deny my team scoring."
They SPEAK OF THE DEVILS as sin-
ning.
=PHANTOM, Falls Church VA

104. LETTER BANK (9, 4'1 [7 4 3 5])
(THE SENTENCE = not MW)

"This fado's disappointing," I told my
fellow traveler.
"Her diction is deplorable; she hits the
high notes wrong."
"THE SENTENCE" was his answer.
"The WORD is so good-looking,
And her movements are so sexy, who
cares about her song?"
=AIIE, Charalo VY

105. PHONETIC REBUS (5 8, 4 6 3 *5)
(5 = phrase usage; rubric is in
solution to form F-6)

My students and I at the source of the
Amazon,
Near to the peaks of the Andes:
So high on the mountain, I set SOL to
guide us—
At Macapá, toasting with brandies,
We sang ourselves hoarse
For a 2-credit course.
=NEWROW, Brookline MA

ANAGRAMS

106. TV TRIVIA: I AIR A BURN,
KUCHA LOSES OUT
(^8 *1*1: ^3 *10 ^7")
=MAELSTROM, Portland OR

107. NEED PRO? HI, FAN! (5-1-6)
=NON SEQUITUR, Monroe CT

89. HOMONYM (*7, 5 *3)
(*3 = NI3 usage)

A turophile from Rio de Janeiro
Was visiting Quebec. "Say, do you
TWO?
I'd like to try some, Monsieur
Camarero,"
The *ONE asked. Said the waiter,
"Oui, we do."
=WABBIT, Montreal PQ

90. REDRO TAKEOUT (5 4 = THAT)
"You've heard the news on Regis?
It's causing so much THIS!
The scoop is that he's giving up the
monochrome cravat!"
"Good riddance to it. There's a style
I'm sure not going to miss.
Will I like the new one better?" "Well,
what d'you think of THAT?"
=LOKIE, Philo PY

91. HOMONYM (8, 4 4)
(DONE = 4 4; second 4 = + usage)
I was Tory, now Whig, loved birds of
the lea,
A DUN who just moved to be close to
the sea.
The birds of the ocean
Now get my devotion,
So I wait on the shore, hope to see a
DONE me.
=BLACUS, Eastauga PN

92. DELETION (6)

"Blow, winds, and crack your cheeks,"
Lear cried,
Exhorting Nature in GREAT rage and
grief;
And while the Fool stayed by his side,
His wit and wisdom gave no SMALL
relief.
=ARBUTUS, Guilford CT

93. ENIGMATIC REBUS
("^4! ^2 3 ^4 2 ^4")

E.ros

D. Ross:
E.ROS.
=XEMU, Bridgewater NJ

94. BEHEADMENT (*8, 7)
(*8 = not MW)

Dave BARRY
Did not play ARRY.
But he'll live in Fame
'Cause he got game.
=EMBER, Indianapolis IN

95. PHONETIC METATHESIS
(9, 5-4) (POCK = 9)

All his life he had climbed toward the
top,
But he never got there. Things would
stop
The poor lad on his quest;
He'd remain second-best,
Ever POCKed in his hopes to be COP.
=TAHNAN, Cambridge MA

96. CHARADE (13)

English teacher THROWS:
"Know words, know what they do!
I: ONE. Conjunction: TWO,
As you build your prose."
=O KAT, Elcey CA

97. FIRST-LETTER CHANGE (4) (A, D)
SECOND-LETTER CHANGE (A, B)
(B = phrase usage)
BEHEADMENT (B, C)

I think if you're not living A
You ought to have a living B,
So if you end up terminally C,
Your life won't be a living D.
=G NATURAL, On the Road JH

gleam in their eyes. Five minutes later I was wandering around one of the most high-traffic areas of the Institute, blindfolded and yelling out descriptions of Braille letters to teammates in the balcony, who directed me to labeled boxes around the floor. I couldn't see the constructors' reactions, but I suspect a lot of pointing and laughing went on.

Eventually, "Another Dimension" was complete, yielding the answers OUIJA BOARD, FNORD, IHTFP, and THING. Sure enough, typing the latter three words into the aforementioned Ouija board program gave us spaces to enter our other puzzle answers into, a hint to the incantation, and a link that led to instructions for building the sacrificial item: a Rube Goldberg machine that opened a book, rang a bell, and lit a candle. The more technically savvy members of our team (led by Ray) were delighted by this prospect, gathered an assortment of junk, and set to work, while the rest of us (affectionately known as "the useless people") committed ourselves to interpreting the hint and figuring out what incantation would summon Jeane Dixon. After several hours, both factions finished at about the same time, and we triumphantly marched downstairs, proved that our machine worked like a charm (that is, if a charm fails three times and then works on the fourth by sheer luck), and sang a couple of lines from "Que Sera Sera" to gain access to the endgame.

It's a terrible shame we were the only team that got to experience the endgame, because it was a marvelous construction. Reading a transcript of the truth-telling puzzle is nowhere near as entertaining as listening to a ventriloquist Lunch Boy represent the Blob, and a mere description of our experiences in the room that puzzle led us to is nowhere near as hilarious as the events themselves. After solving a simple puzzle that indicated that a screen was a red herring, we pulled the screen back to reveal five tarot cards on the front wall. We puzzled over those cards for forty-five minutes before someone happened to look behind a curtain, a concealed Agatha Winchester let out a bloodcurdling scream, and we made a horrifying realization: the entire room was covered in tarot cards, and there were a good forty or so that we had completely failed to notice. Once we finally found those cards, we systematically applied the answers to all of the other puzzles and the as-yet-unused "spookiness ratings" to get a description of an obscure basement staircase, which thankfully was not so obscure to Vebrale. Sprout climbed a ladder and (somewhat reluctantly) climbed down with a small gem and the responsibility of heading up another Mystery Hunt.

There were plenty of brilliant puzzles I've glossed over in this report (Eric's letter bank crossword variant, Al DeSuda's numerical trivia, a game show hosted by Storyteller, and Ucaoimhu's flag descriptions in a newly invented language all come to mind), and those interested can find most of them archived at <http://web.mit.edu/puzzle/www>. All in all, this year's Mystery Hunt was beautifully designed, smoothly run, and my favorite of the three hunts I've participated in as a solver. The intrepid puzzlers at Setec Astronomy are excited about trying to follow it up next year, and I'm looking forward to that fateful weekend when yet again, the Krewe steps into my world for a few days. Fnord.

1998 COMPOSING AND SOLVING REPORT
(Or, how we learned to love Excel)
—by SUE++ and CAZIQUE

INTRODUCTION

First of all, I guess the appropriate info is “Sorry we’re late.” But at least the 1998 stats are here now. And please remember you’re reading statistics about that year, not 1999 or last year (2000).

THE COMPOSERS

1998 had a bumper crop of debuts in the *Enigma*: 5337, Artistry, Beo, D. Ness, Ember, Flypaper, G Natural, Jon Dark, King Frivolity, Laul, Lilith, Lyric, Mobot, Mooncalf, Noam, Quest, Saxifrage, Spelvin, Sprout, Sue++, Wrybosh, and Xyzzy. Special mention must go to Lilith, Mooncalf, Saxifrage, Wrybosh, and Xyzzy, who each received some distinction in this report, in their first contributing year (see below). So nice to see we’ve become fine upstanding members of NPL society!

1998 saw a total of 1,175 puzzles in the *Enigma*: 975 flats, 61 forms, 83 crypts, and 56 extras. In addition, and not included in the forthcoming stats, there were 35 con flats, 6 KUs, and 28 Ralfs. 39 non-puzzle features of the issues were kudized, led by Meki’s October article “The Quest for Qanaq” (and its 21 companion forms) with 14K and 6B, Panache’s January “Prexy’s Message” with 11K and 2B, and Storyteller’s December article about the Miami mystery hunt, “Please don’t make me do the chicken dance while I’m trying to solve these puzzles” with 11K and 1B.

The 1,175 puzzles were the work of 117 composers. 97 of them contributed flats; 17 contributed forms; 30, cryptograms; and 36, extras. Bartok, Gab-F, Lunch Boy, Meki, Nightowl, Wabbit, and Xeipov all contributed to at least one of each type during the year. Year-round contributors—those contributing at least one puzzle to each issue for the year, including KUs and Ralfs—were Bartok, Earl E. Byrd, Gab-F, Lunch Boy, Merlin, Mr. Tex, Nightowl, Trazom, Ucaoinmu, Ulk, Wabbit, and Xemu.

The most prolific composer overall was Wabbit, with 78.5 puzzles. Close on her heels were Lunch Boy (77.5) and Xemu (75.5). Other generous contributors were Nightowl (59.0), Mr. Tex (49.5), Ucaoinmu (47.5), Bartok (46.5), Ulk (46.0), and Wrybosh (41.0), the last of whom had one heck of a debut year! To round off the top ten, Meki had 38.0 puzzles.

The top three puzzle contributors were also (unsurprisingly) the top three flattists: Xemu had 71.5, Lunch Boy, 67, and Wabbit, 56.5. Other *Enigma* fixtures were Mr. Tex (49.5), Ucaoinmu (47.5), Nightowl (47.0), Wrybosh (41.0), Bartok (40.5), Ulk (37.0), and Merlin (34.0). The Grand King of Forms was Meki by a landslide, with 28 puzzles of that type—almost a third of the total for the year! His heir to the throne was Wabbit, with 8, and then Nucky with 4. Ulk was the extra-meister with 7 contributions, followed by Lunch Boy with 5 and Xeipov, Wabbit, Te-Zir-Man, and Fearless with 3 each. And the Miss America of Crypts was Wabbit (11), with runners-up Nightowl (10) and Gab-F (8).

The most frequent combiflattists were Nightowl and Hap (d. 1989), because of this year’s publication of 16 of their combiflats. After that, Bartok (13),

81. BEHEADMENT (10)

I’ve heard of a cook who had a good look.
 He was told he should toss in his hat.
 So he gathered his muster and started the bluster—
 Campaigning? He had it down pat.
 His dinners were great, the point spread was eight:

Competitors all within sight.
 Yard signs were posted which quite calmly boasted,
 “His cooking is BRIGHT. And he’s RIGHT!”
 =LAUL, Oak Grove OR

82. WORD DELETION (3-5)

Take me, OUT, to the ALL game.
 Take me, OUT, to the park.
 Buy me some Pinot or applejack.
 That’s the way to watch games back-to-back.
 Score is even; bases are loaded—
 And so am I (I’ve no shame!).
 IN or lose, at least I’ll be OUT
 At this OUT ALL game!
 =BEO, Belmont MA

83. OVERLOADED HETERONYM
 (3 3, 2 4)

“Oh, see my new chapeau
 Upon my lovely head?”
 Miss Piggy asked her pals.
 “INDEED!?” her friends all said.
 =WABBIT, Montreal PQ

84. FIRST-SOUND CHANGE (6, 7)

Atop the stove the goulash Bs.
 It As me some; those smells don’t please.
 Alas, as broth boils down to nil,
 Paprika odors make me ill.
 =ULLY BYRD, Grand Chicken IC

85. PARTLY REVERSED WORD DELETION (7)

OUTERing, rolling, and doing the stomp,
 We danced until dawn and we had a good romp.
 Boisterous, playful, funny, and glad,
 You know that a TOTALing good time was had.

But after the party, when dancing was done,
 We all felt quite RENNI from all of the fun.
 =COGITO, Alamo CA

86. FALSE FEMININE (3, *4)
 (SHE = not MW)

Up here, where only eagles fly,
 I sit upon a HE,
 Far above the village I inhabit.
 For I must come here every morn to eat my bowl of SHE,
 Or else it will be stolen by that rabbit.
 =G2ZNII, Somerville MA

87. LETTER SHIFT (11)
 (DONE = NI3, 10C-inferable)

You said that you would come and paint this wall.”
 “I’ve made a start; it has been DONE.
 Before it was BEGUN (no paint at all).
 And if it’s DONE, it’s well begun.”
 =ANDREAS, Vancouver BC

88. PALINDROME (3 4 6)

She wouldn’t stop: “It doesn’t work!
 A piece broke off this morning!
 I cut my finger on the thing! There should’ve been a warning!”
 She kept it up for half an hour;
 it wasn’t even funny.
 I couldn’t stand it any more.
 I gave her back her money.
 =FEDGIE, Romalo, Ity

73. PHRASE SHIFT (5 2 *2. *1. *1.)

The ANSWER appear in his memoirs
and letters,
In '40 (or '60)—a pair of go-getters.
(The Chief, on that date,
At Department of State).
=NEWROW, Brookline MA

74. TRANSDELETION (*7) (NI2)

Hal beat SEVEN in the play.
By bravery he won the day.
In the sequel, his sire died
(In Zion, as was prophesied).
The SIX was that our Hal ascended
To subjects' cheering. And FOUR
ended
With gladsome FIVEs his carefree
time.
And, likewise, here my humble rhyme.
=PANACHE, Culver City CA

75. HOMONYM (10. "2!"; *3'1 4 3)
(*3 = not MW usage)

When Affleck needed surgery upon his
little toe,
He feared the pain. The day ap-
proached—his terror seemed to
grow.
So kind Doc Hotshot rubbed on TWO-
WORD PHRASE the patient cried.
That was the worst part; all went well,
and THREE, quite mollified.
=WABBIE, Montalo PY

76. FALSE FEMININE (*5, 5)
(RA, RAIN)

The RAIN, it raineth towards the just,
The just remaining dry as dust.
(The RAIN, though, still may cause
obscenity
That dimmeth RA's celestial purity.)
=UCAOIMHU, Willington CT

77. LETTER BANK (6; *9, *1*1)

As vassals to their feudal lord,
We've sworn our LIVES to J & H.
And so we toil—tired, bored—
From town to town and stage to stage.
Our only joy: to eat our fill
Of local treats along the way.
That's why while stopped here in
SEVILLE
We'll dine on crawfish étouffée.
=G NATURAL, On the Road JH

78. WORD DELETION (14)
(*GAT = phrase usage)

*GAT man: that describes Sherlock
Holmes to a T;
His wisdom is useful, exposing a RE.
While working at GREAT, in disguise
he is decked;
The gang that he's casing will never
suspect.
=HAPOWL, Rochester NY

79. TRANSPOSAL (9)

The best performance rates high
praise,
And all should honor it—be FIRST;
But groupies and lickspittles raise
Their SECOND homage to the worst.
=ARBUTUS, Guilford CT

80. HETERONYM (9, 7 2)
(BIBBLED = 9; 7 = + usage)

I miscounted my cards while
arranging my hand.
Overlooking a BIBBLED, I bid a slam
(grand).
At a guinea a point, I went down four,
redoubled,
Lost my shirt, and I barely emerged
with my BLUBBLED.
=PANACHE, Culver City CA

Mangie (13), Ulk (12), Xemu (11), Lunch Boy (11), and Cazique (10) are the top friendliest composers.

The overall number of kudos/bangs for 1998's *Enigma* was 5574/426; 4769/334 for 975 flats, 138/5 for 61 forms, 498/83 for 56 extras, and 169/4 for 83 crypts. The average kudos/bangs/solvers per puzzle are 4.9/0.33/43.0 for flats, 2.3/0.08/35.2 for forms, 9.1/1.6/39.2 for extras, and 2.0/0.05/32.5 for crypts. The overall averages were 4.7/0.36/41.8.

Note that throughout this report, we treat kudos for combi-puzzles differently. For per puzzle totals, we give combi-composers half the total of kudos/bangs for puzzles they combined on. However, for kudos per solver and bangs per solver calculations, we credit puzzles with their full kudos/bangs totals.

Continuing his streak begun in 1994, Xemu garnered the most kudos for the year with an astronomical 639.5. (Actually, he's apparently slipping, from his 1997 total of 877 and his 1996 record of 920. Ha.) In fact, the top five kudos-earners were exactly the same (in rank) as last year: Xemu was followed by Lunch Boy (412), Ucaoimhu (362.5), Mr. Tex (322), and Nightowl (229.0). Other luminaries include Rastelli (227.0), Wabbit (209.5), Bartok (202), Trazom (192), Ulk (176), and Xeipov (174).

Xemu also continued his reign as king of top favorites with 71.0 bangs for the year. Then came Rastelli (45.0), Ucaoimhu (37.5), Lunch Boy (28.0), Trazom (27.0), Xeipov (20.0), Elfman (20.0), Nightowl (13.0), Mr. Tex (12.0), and Bartok (12.0).

Who produced the best-liked puzzles? The same six composers (Trazom, Xeipov, Rastelli, Crax, Ucaoimhu, and Xemu) rise to the top in three out of four different statistics, although their exact ranking varies somewhat. All of the following figures, though, count only composers who contributed to ten or more puzzles during the year, so as not to skew the statistics to a person who wrote (or co-wrote) one or two GREAT puzzles but contributed no others. The composers with the highest average numbers of kudos per solver were Trazom (38%), Xeipov (35%), Rastelli (25%), Crax (24%), Ucaoimhu (23%), Xemu (23%), Cache (20%), Quiz (17%), Mr. Tex (15%), and Lunch Boy (14%). The highest average numbers of bangs per solver went to Trazom (6.5%), Rastelli (5.1%), Xeipov (4.0%), Ucaoimhu (2.9%), Xemu (2.7%), Crax (1.7%), Lunch Boy (1.2%), Dart (1.2%), Quiz (0.9%), and Cache (0.8%). In terms of average kudos per puzzle, the winners were Xeipov (13.4), Trazom (12.8), Rastelli (10.0), Crax (9.1), Xemu (8.5), Ucaoimhu (7.8), Quiz (6.8), Cache (6.5), Mr. Tex (6.4), and Lunch Boy (5.3). In terms of average bangs per puzzle, we get Rastelli (1.96), Trazom (1.80), Xeipov (1.54), Xemu (0.91), Ucaoimhu (0.80), Crax (0.55), Dart (0.44), Quiz and Lunch Boy (0.36), and Cache, Non Sequitur, and Bartok (0.25).

Looking just at average kudos per puzzle and breaking it down by puzzle category, the composer of the best-liked flats (using the 10+ rule): were Trazom (12.0), Rastelli (9.7), Crax (9.1), Xemu (8.8), Ucaoimhu (7.8), Cache (7.1), Quiz (6.8), Mr. Tex (6.4), G Natural (6.1), and Kray (5.7). The best-liked forms (using a 2+ rule) were written by Saxifrage (4.0), Form Fiend (3.5) Lunch Boy (3.3), Nucky (2.5), and Meki (2.2). The winner for extras (2+), by a landslide, goes to Xeipov with a whopping 26.33 kudos/puzzle; the next favorite, Meki, was at 6.5. In addition, Lunch Boy averaged 5.2, Wabbit 4.3, and Cork was at 2.0.

The best-liked crypts (2+ rule) were written by Wabbit (5.1), Treesong (3.0), Ditto (3.0), Nightowl (2.7), and Kea (2.3).

The overall average number of solvers per puzzle was 41.8. Which composers were the biggest deviants? Again considering the 10+ rule, the composers of the easiest puzzles were Tyger (50.4), Saxifrage (49.7), Hap (48.3), Lilith (47.6), and Ixaxar (47.3). The meanies at the other end were Cache (32.9), Meki (33.0), Gab-F (35.4), Merlin (36.5), and Trazom (37.0). “Most average” (in terms of difficulty only!) were Kray (42.1) and Nightowl (45.5). If we just look at flats, the average was 43.0, with the easiest composers being Tyger (51.1), Hap (48.3), Lilith (47.6), Ixaxar (47.3), and Wrybosh (46.9); the hardest were Cache (34.1), Trazom and Merlin (36.5), Gab-F (37.5), and Crax (38.5). The Flattist Most in Touch With the Average Krewemember was Kray (43.0). This last stat is fairly ironic, considering that Kray also had the absolute hardest flat of the year (see below)!

THE PUZZLES

1998 was noted for the appearance of some new puzzle types, some of which became instant (semi-) classics. They were the letter-change charade (Feb 60; by Earl E. Byrd), triplication (Mar 36; by Mr. Tex), the reber and subus (Mar 61 by Ucaoimhu), trans-cross (April 5; by Ucaoimhu), change of heart (May 2; by Lunch Boy), heart transplant (June 9, by Xemu;), German sausage (Feb X-3, and June 18 as a flat, both by Xeipov), phrase shift (July 21; by Mr. Tex), terminal rotation (Aug 21, by Bartok), and perpetual rhomboid (Sept F-1, by Meki). Lunch Boy declared that padlocks with 1-letter overlaps were kosher, as exemplified for the first time by Dart (Nov 56). And remember that day in May when Xemu first coined the term “overloaded” (May 43)? That seems so long ago!

For categorizing puzzle types, we lump all variants of a type together. To wit, all rebi (phonetic or not, enigmatic or not, including subers) are together. Ana-, anti-, and ambi-grams are lumped together, as are puzzles with any modifiers (including reversed, phonetic, overloaded, apt, repeated, n-gram, progressive, etc).

The most popular flat type was the rebus, with 197 appearances, of which 63 were straight rebuses, 88 were enigmatic, 23 were phonigmatic, 9 were straight subers, 13 were enigmatic subers, and 1 was a phonigmatic suber. Other popular flat types were anagrams (136), letter banks (90), letter changes (44), heteronyms/mynoretehs (38), transposals (37), and falsies (37).

A tip for those of you going for most kudos in the future: the most-liked flat types (of those types with 10 or more appearances during the year), in terms of average kudos/puzzle, were transposals (8.1), acrostical enigmas (8.0), and rebi/subers (6.6). Least liked were letter changes (1.9), beheadments (2.0), terminal deletions (2.6) and deletions (2.7). The easiest flat types (again, of those with ten or more appearances during the year), in terms of average number of solvers, were palindromes (48.8), changeovers (47.8), and letter changes (47.2); the hardest were rebi/subers (37.4), acrostical enigmas (41.2) and consonantics (41.3).

And now for the overall top puzzles for the year (in terms of total number of kudos):

66. TRANSPOSAL (7)
67. ENIGMATIC REBUS (8 7)
(HELPING WIFE)

ONE, TWO, THREE

Our editor has to be TWO;
He THREE to create a new life.
Don’t ONE though—creating new
’Nigs
Will flow when he’s not HELPING
WIFE.
=ABACUS, Mississauga ON

68. ENIGMA (8)

At the outset, let me say that I’ve a mother.
But you’ll find within my heart I have another.
Now, “another,” that could mean another mother.
Or, objectively, it might well be my brother.
Sounding fishy? Does my logic need repeating?
Should I end, as always, with a simple greeting?
Oh, my gosh, that’s what one usually does when meeting!
Well, again, convention has to take a beating.
=EARL E. BYRD, Aiken SC

69. ENIGMATIC REBUS (14)
(NI3 word (+ usage) in reading)

wheel deal

At Cap’n Ahab’s store, we wheel and deal!
You want a SOL? His price is simply kookly (aye!)
For screens that glow, fluorescent,
where they feel
The blows and wales from speeding
He nuclei!
=UCAOIMHU, Willington CT

70. SUBER (*2 2 3) (*2 = not MW)

XIX

Proudly we present to you
A soccer team composed of Krewe.
Tyger, Willz, and T McAy,
Front and center, lead the way.
Joining them, wide left and right,
Kray and Dart, prepared to fight.
Next in line, three midfield backs:
Wrybosh, Mr. Tex, and Crax.
Fullbacks? We, of course, have two:
Avidan and Ucaoimhu.
Finally, there is HELL TO PAY
(Pebbles freed her up to play).
=EARL E. BYRD, Aiken SC

71. TRANSPOSAL (5 2 6, 4-9)
(THERMOS, MOTHERS)

Little Miss Hacker
Went to her backer
To get her dot-com a loan.
“The NASDAQ went ‘crash’
And we need some more cash,”
She implored in a desperate tone.

“Your management tried,”
The banker replied,
“To take all its guidance from others.
We don’t increase THERMOS
For firms, as it were, Miss,
That do not exhibit some MOTHERS.”
=XEMU, Bridgewater NJ

72. ENIGMATIC REBUS (4 4 6 3 7)

BL BP

The Munster clan (remember Herman?)
Shared their house with flying vermin.
Now they’ve sold it. All the CLUE
Owners took possession—whew!
There’s not a sign of flying vermin—
Guess they all moved out with Herman.
=NIGHTOWL, Rochester NY

61. REBUS ([2-2 5] 8)

Friends, Romans,
countrymen . . .



My guitar ban\l, when touring in
Greece
("Theme from *Shaft*" is our signature
piece),
Lost a foot-worke\l levice;
A state office was nice
An\l replace\l it. (Three cheers for the
MEESE!)
=BEO, Belmont MA

62. LETTER BANK (*5, 6 3)

It's in the news a lot these days:
"Eliminate the PHRASE."
Both oil men in SINGLE WORD
And average folks are heard.

But I propose a better way:
The government should pay.
But do it while I'm here, you see,
And send the check to me.
=MERLIN, Gilbert AZ

63. PHRASE SHIFT (3 '1' 5)

While somber poets take the wreath,
I read a SONNET WITH my teeth.
To be brutally frank, it makes this
poetry-hating slogger ill.
I prefer doggerel.
=MR. TEX, Los Angeles CA

64. ORDER TAKEOUT (9)

Blueberry, cherry, apple, peach—
The dazzling array of SHRIVEL
REACH.
=DEAN MARTIN, Hard Brook NJ

65. FOURTH-TO-LAST
CHANGEOVER (*7)
PROGRESSIVE DELETION (*7)
(*SIX = inferable)
PROGRESSIVE CURTAILMENT
(*5) (TWO = abbrev.)

The night was stormy, air was close.
The lightning flashed, the thunder
roared.
Of sleeping pills I downed a dose.
I tossed, and turned, and dreamt
(and snored).

I stood there in a garden chill:
The SEVEN mansion, home of foe
And dearest love. Above me still
I heard her voice fall here below.

My FOUR against the cold was thick,
My THREE was in the latest style;
My honeyed tongue might do the trick.
I glanced above to catch her smile . . .
. . . And found that garden, house, and
girl
Had vanished. As if hit by bricks,
I mazèd stood, my brain a-whirl.
The year was TWO. 986.

Verona gone, in Paris now
I stood beside Hugh *FIVE at Mass,
His new-won crown upon his brow.
But this scene, too, did quickly pass,

And thunder woke me, nerves on fire—
A migraine you would not believe.
Some Tylenol was my desire.
(But how to take it? *SIX or STEVE?)
=100 DOWN, Larchmont NY

KU-1. HOMOCOMONYM (6, 6)

Producers down at NPR
Have hired a RE to cheer on cue;
They bring them in by train and car.
Talk about the best! It's true:
It's just the coolest TAMM by far.
Oh, how I'd love to join their crew!
=TAHNAN, Cambridge MA

TABLE 1: Overall Top Puzzles, 1998

	Composer/ Type	Base>Title	K	B	S	K/S	B/S
			34	8	47	0.72	0.17
Nov X7	Anomaly cryptic	"Unzipping"	31	9	40	0.78	0.23
Feb X3	Xeipov German sausage		31	7	46	0.67	0.15
Oct 6	Rastelli heteronym	and a man is land-scaping a bonsai panorama, Pa	30	20	35	0.86	0.57
Oct X2	Kegler cryptic	"A Dead Certainty"	28	2	41	0.68	0.05
Jul X4	Elfman Cryptic	"Dream Vision"	27	5	37	0.73	0.14
Dec 23	Xemu enigmatic rebus	Santa," Monica zips up	27	7	48	0.56	0.15
Jan X7	Maelstrom cryptic	"Lucky Sevens"	26	3	43	0.60	0.07
Feb 71	Xemu letter bank	pectoral fins, centripetal forces, tropical rain forest, artificial respiration, professional corporation	26	6	36	0.72	0.17
Jul 11	Trazom phonetic rebus	a tom equate a vier? No virtu	26	4	39	0.67	0.10
Jul 33	Merlin enigmatic rebus	letter bank for "substitution cipher" and "phonetic rebus"	26		44	0.59	0.00
Nov 61	Xemu transposal	Denver omelet, "Love Me Tender"	25	6	54	0.48	0.11
Jul 21	Mr. Tex phrase shift	don't give UPS the hip	24	1	50	0.50	0.02
Aug 3	Xemu transposal	crapshtooter, arthroscope	24	2	44	0.55	0.05
Aug X3	Trazom cryptic	"I Foresee"	23	5	44	0.55	0.11
Feb 22	Xeipov transposal	monosaccharide, academic honors	23	1	34	0.68	0.03

TABLE 1: Overall Top Puzzles, 1998 (cont.)

Composer/Type		Base/Title	K	B	S	K/S	B/S
May X6	Andreas cryptic	"Somewhere Else"	23	5	29	0.79	0.17
Nov 12	Dart/Mooncalf letter bank	calepins, appliances, snail's pace, pencil case, Caesalpinia	23	4	39	0.59	0.10
Nov 38	Rastelli stealth letter bank	atheism, metathesis	23	10	36	0.64	0.28
Nov 39	Rastelli stealth metathesis	rebus, rubes	23	10	36	0.64	0.28
Nov 40	Rastelli stealth rebus	Bank	23	11	39	0.59	0.28

Meki composed four of the top five forms for the year:

TABLE 2: Top Five Forms, 1998

Type	Composer	K	B	S	K/S	B/S	
Sep F1	Double Perpetual Right Rhomboid	Meki	13	2	34	0.38	0.06
May F2	Right Pyramidal Windmill	Meki	12		27	0.44	0.00
Nov F2	Fan	Meki	12		34	0.35	0.00
Nov F3	Hollow Left Star	Meki	9		38	0.24	0.00
Jul F1	Double Square, Vowelless	Xeipon	7		35	0.20	0.00

Not to be beaten, Wabbit composed four of the top five crypts for the year:

TABLE 3: Top Cryptograms, 1998

Type	Composer	K	B	S	K/S	B/S	
Jul C3	Cryptogram	Wabbit	16		48	0.33	0.00
Apr C4	Cryptogram	Nightowl	13	2	29	0.45	0.07
Jun C5	Cryptogram	Wabbit	8		22	0.36	0.00
Mar C3	Cryptogram	Wabbit	6		39	0.15	0.00
Nov C6	Cryptogram	Wabbit	5		32	0.16	0.00
Aug C2	Cryptogram	Rastelli	5		43	0.12	0.00
Aug C1	Cryptogram	Ditto	5		48	0.10	0.00

The top 20 puzzles in terms of kudos/solver (as Crax said in the last report, the ones you probably would have voted for if you had managed to solve them) are shown in Table 4.

54. TRANSPOSAL (10)
(SECOND = NI2)

An issue like this (one that's
SECOND, I mean)
Is not too conducive to FIRST:
For to some, it's the grooviest thing
that they've seen,
While others will think it the worst.
There'll be fisticuffs thrown, there'll
be epithets hurled;
While this solver cheers, that one
boos it.
(Look, I know this is not the best base
in the world,
But hey—it's my one chance to use it!)
=TRAZOM, San Francisco CA

55. REPEATED-LETTER CHANGE
(*7, 7)

You want the inside dope on John, the
famous Earl of ONE?
OK, the TWO is this: the guy could
surely use a gun,
As any British general in America
would do
While fighting the Colonials. Now all
that stuff is true,
But this just might be fable, not the
wholly proven scoop:
One of his descendants here just
ended up in soup!
=NIGHTOWL, Rochester NY

56. TRANSPOSAL (5 6, 6 5)
(A = NI2, B = NI3)

57. TRANSPOSAL (11)

An A approached the B one day.
"Pete, may I enter here, I pray?"
"No, no, my man, the smell of C
Betrays that you're an A to me.
We do not like your kind up here—
You must go back to earth, I fear.
Don't make a scene, put on a show;
No spectacles or D—just go!"
=ANDREAS, Vancouver BC

58. FOURTH-SOUND CHANGE
(*11, 10) (XP = *11)

Vacationing in Cairo, I
Discovered an XP
(While munching on a gyro), high
Up on a wall or three.

Was this an XT, very small,
For "my" or "he" or "oy"?
Initials left by Xeno Paul?
An advertising ploy?

Evangelists, I was apprised,
Had hit the town one week,
And carved them all: they symbolized
Their savior's name in Greek.

I don't care if it's holy text—
I think the practice stinks.
It shows such disrespect! What's next:
. . . ?
=TAHNAN, Cambridge MA

59. REBUS (3 3)

We SOL fanatics. That is why
We never drive ourselves or fly.
=WRYBOSH, Pine Brook NJ

60. ENIGMATIC REBUS [2 4 5]
(non-MW stuff in rubric, prefix in
reading)

George W. Bush is a Republican OX
The Bush inauguration speech was
definitely strange.
"I've given you my promises and none
of them will change.
As stated in my platform, I will make
you all my slaves
With jail or the electric chair for him
who misbehaves."

(Now, granted, I did not observe the
campaign all that closely,
But I can't help surmising that this
pledge was made VERBOSELY.)
=SPELVIN, Cambridge MA

48. FALSE DOUBLE PLURAL
(*6, *9) (VIE = NI2)

Some day I would like to vacation in Piedmont,
The home of the VICES, established eleven
... Well . . . sometime-or-other by some French guy, Peter,
Who meant to show Christians the true way to heaven.

For now, though, I gladly will settle for day trips
To Cambridge or Concord, both much closer by,
Where H. D. Thoreau hung around with Ralph Emerson,
Lived in a shack by a pond, and wrote VIE.
=BEO, Belmont MA

49. FALSE CONJUGATION (*4, *4)
(VERBAL = not MW)

Says Lilith: "I've a modest claim to fame.
I'm VERBAL. Everybody knows my name.
I'm not a demon as in Hebrew myth;
Not yet a legend like, say, Bessie Smith;
Nor politician—I'm no George or Jeb;
Nor PRESENT, goddess born of Nut and Keb.
But one thing that I proudly can aver:
I do not write like Shelley (that poseur)."
=LILITH, Leonia NJ

50. TRANSPOSAL (*8, 3-5)
(LOOP, POLO; neither MW)

He couldn't dance or sing the blues.
He seemed sincere and not a phony.
But all he did was read the news.
LOOP was just a POLO pony.
=MR. TEX, Los Angeles CA

51. PICTURE SENTENCE
CONSONANTCY (4, 3, 4, 4)



*Drawing by Randd
=FEDERICO, Rome, Italy*

52. REVERSAL (5) (NEE = +)
(can be chanted)

"Here's the bread,
Here's the woeful bread,
On which they fed,
Our antecedents fed,
In the la-and, in the land,
Known as E-Egypt"
NEE the matzoh's presence at an E'EN.

(Note: it sounds less strained in Aramaean.)
=UCAOIMHU, Willington CT

53. LETTER BANK (6, 2-2 5)

He'd concealed the loose flesh on his throat with an ascot
(An electric guitarist who tried to look svelte).
For a muted effect, he stepped on the BEETLE.
(Too roughly: the tie fell and folks saw his BELT!)
=WABBIT, Montreal PQ

TABLE 4: Top Puzzles (kudos/solver), 1998

	Composer/ Type	Base>Title	K	B	S	K/S	B/S
			30	20	35	0.86	0.57
Jul X4	Elfman cryptic	"Dream vision"	30	20	35	0.86	0.57
Dec 3	Ucaoimhu enigmatic rebus	An Ames mall I strain, need Leno win minutes . . .	13	5	16	0.81	0.31
May X6	Andreas cryptic	"Somewhere else"	23	5	29	0.79	0.17
Feb X3	Xειρον German sausage		31	9	40	0.78	0.23
May 6	Ucaoimhu phonig. rebus	sake, on Sir Thopas' lists	20	8	26	0.77	0.31
Aug 48	Xemu enigmatic rebus	Trim, tan gent be	19	9	25	0.76	0.36
Jun 52	Xemu phonig-matic rebus	Cineraria	12		16	0.75	0.00
Jun X4	Xyzzzy cryptic	"Tetra Block"	27	5	37	0.73	0.14
Nov X7	Anomaly cryptic	"Unzipping"	34	8	47	0.72	0.17
Feb 71	Xemu letter bank	pectoral fins, centripetal forces, tropical rain forest, artificial respiration, . . .	26	6	36	0.72	0.17
Oct X2	Kegler cryptic	"A dead certainty"	31	5	43	0.72	0.12
Jan 46	Ucaoimhu phonig. rebus	Arthur Day'?) "chisel, it'll lay ties around 'em." . . .	10	2	14	0.71	0.14
May X1	Xειρον German sausage		20	2	28	0.71	0.07
Dec 18	Kray enigmatic suber	knit up tops; on tail, let's say	15		21	0.71	0.00
Sep X5	Hot/Arachne cryptic	"Gone with the Wind"	21	9	30	0.70	0.30
Oct X1	Xειρον German sausage		28	2	41	0.68	0.05
Jun 55	Trazom enigmatic rebus	Del City Pepusch was rot. At Ed	15	7	22	0.68	0.32
Feb 22	Xειρον transposal	monosaccharide, academic honors	23	1	34	0.68	0.03
Oct 6	Rastelli heteronym	and a man is landscaping a bonsai panorama, Pa	31	7	46	0.67	0.15
Mar 34	Xemu enigmatic rebus	ad done. Toe very numb. Ernest	14	6	21	0.67	0.29

In addition to these puzzles, two others appear in the top 20 list when analyzed by total number of bangs:

TABLE 5: Top Puzzles (bangs/solver), 1998 (cont.)

Composer/Type	Base/Title	K	B	S	K/S	B/S	
Aug 71	Lunch Boy enigma	thymine	17	6	27	0.63	0.22
Jan 73	Andreas enigmatic rebus	panda eats, shoots, and leaves	14	5	34	0.41	0.15

The hardest flats for 1998 were:

TABLE 6: Hardest Flats, 1998

Composer/Type	Base/Title	K	B	S	K/S	B/S	
Jun 66	Kray enigmatic suber	Pilfer a bus	1		12	0.08	0.00
Jun 11	Storyteller enigmatic rebus	fellow work a skewered	8	2	13	0.62	0.15
Feb 61	Merlin letter bank	Corpulent, pourcontrell			13	0.00	0.00
Jan 46	Ucaoimhu phonigmatic rebus	Arthur Day?" chisel, it'll lay ties around 'em." "You are tepee	10	2	14	0.71	0.14
Dec 3	Ucaoimhu enigmatic rebus	an Ames mall I strain, need Leno win minutes on a stag	13	5	16	0.81	0.31
Jun 52	Xemu phonigmatic rebus	cineraria	12		16	0.75	0.00
Jan 49	Trazom phonigmatic rebus	Haydn, each affray's in-line, too	10	3	16	0.63	0.19
Apr 35	Earl E. Byrd enigmatic rebus	suitable suitor			16	0.00	0.00
Feb 30	Xemu enigmatic rebus	atrium virgules (or solidi) advertisable	9	2	17	0.53	0.12

At the other end, the easiest were:

TABLE 7: Easiest Flats, 1998

Composer/Type	Base/Title	K	B	S	K/S	B/S	
Nov 7	Wrybosh heteronym	fall flat	5		58	0.09	0.00
Jul 58	Wrybosh letter change	g/v/b-room	2		58	0.03	0.00
Nov 31	Beo heteronym	balder-dash	2		58	0.03	0.00
Nov 54	5337 homonym	minute, my Newt	2		58	0.03	0.00
Nov 53	R/EDS letter change	Sosa, so-so	1		58	0.02	0.00

40. HOMONYM (3 7, 4; 4 *9)
(WOODCHUCK = 3 7, 4)

"That Mrs. March Hare has kept quiet about Our affair," thinks the Groundhog, "is very good luck. Think of WOODCHUCK, and fuss it would cause were it out! It would certainly ruin my day (and WOULD CHUCK)." =UCAOIMHU, Willington CT

44. BIGRAM CURTAILMENT (7) (A, B)
REPEATED-LETTER DELETION
(7) (A, C) (C = *, not MW)
DELETION (6) (D, B)
DELETION (*4) (E, C)

See C on the D eating B with such A!
Zadora in E! A *con brio* display!
=G NATURAL, On the Road JH

45. ENIGMATIC REBUS (1 6 3 1 4)
(non-MW word in reading, non-MW usage in rubric)

George antelope Gregory

My dear, I'll give you pearls,
A bag, a hat, a mink.
I love you HOT BOX GIRLS.
(That's forty quarts, I think.)
=XEMU, Bridgewater NJ

46. PHRASE SHIFT (7 4 4 2) (2 = NI3)
At The Hospital for Anorexic Sloths,
a careless nurse

Picked up the wrong container—made the situation worse:
Instead of broth, she force-fed lacquer to the beast—oh dear!
The headlines read: "Poor patient dies when nurse pours DISAPPEAR!"
=WABBIT, Montreal PQ

47. PHRASE SHIFT (3 4) 6, 2 4 4. 9 3 2)

A sense of doom befalls the fishes.
They see our forks, our pots and dishes.

While perch walk back and forth,
they're crying,
Afraid of what we'll soon be frying.
The pike fear they'll become our (via This SOL, though, as our meal, would be a
Plate full of fish on hand. A dinner,
Less jury-rigged, would be a winner.
=WRYBOSH, Pine Brook NJ

43. PALINDROME (3 2 8 7 4: 2 4)
(BOB)

There's more Pope than pop played by WADD.
Their rule: tunes must show faith in God.
Then, though it's strange,
They make a huge change
And BOB from an opera. It's odd.
=MR. TEX, Los Angeles CA

34. LETTER BANK (*7, 10)
(NONE = 10 = not really MW usage)

The MIT Mystery Hunt is now history;
Though many once looked for that
stone,
The seeking has ceased (for a twelve-
month, at least).
That school on the ONE is now
NONE.

=UCAOIMHU, Willington CT

35. REDRO TAKEOUT (10) (NI3)

Two bright-eyed old geezers were
giving each other
Reports on their painful big toes.
“The doc says that LONG WORDS
are causing my problem.”
“Who cares? I just hope that it goes.”
Just then a young cutie came
sashaying by.

One oldster called, “Hey, little miss!
Hold up for a minute; there’s two
fellows here

Who wouldn’t say no to a kiss.
If not for our feet, we could show you
a ripping
Good time,” he explained with a sigh.
“How very insulting! I’m really not
that
Kind of girl,” was her SHORT WORD
reply.

“And as for you two,” she went on with
a pout,
“All I can say is ‘chacun à son gout.’”
=LOKIE, Philo PY

36. OVERLOADED FIRST-TO-FIFTH
CHANGEOVER (8)

My boudoir is PURE DESIRE:
Cedar logs upon the fire,
Scented candles by the bed,
Ring of roses round my head.
I’m awash in fine cologne.
What a pity I’m alone.
=MR. TEX, Los Angeles CA

37. CHANGE OF HEART (6, 4, 4, 6)
(B = + usage)

The “lady” waits to greet her “guests,”
She meets them in the A.
Upstairs the D’s await behests
For every kind of play.
Outside the B is closing in,
They know what’s going down.
Our lady, though, shows no chagrin,
She wears no trace of frown.
Instead, she laughs and asks her
friend
To peel a C or two:
“The grapes have, sadly, seen their
end,
So these will have to do.”
=EARL E. BYRD, Aiken SC

38. PALINDROME (*6 2 4 3)

I waited till Kansas for fun, though
It turns out I needn’t have done so.
The high times had there
Can be had anywhere;
You don’t have to go to THE ONE,
Joe.
=G NATURAL, On the Road JH

39. LETTER BANK (6, 12)
(SMALL = + usage)

An arrest was made by bobbies one
night
‘Neath London Bridge. The perp’s
name was Dwight,
Gambling the charge—the big (not
small) time.
Dwight was enraged. He thought it a
crime:
“Now, I do not gamble! I do not place
bets!
I own my own business: I fix TV sets.
I don’t steal from others, I earn my
own dough.
I’m a LARGE, not a SMALL. Now
please let me go!!”
=LAUL, Oak Grove OR

THE SOLVERS

77 teams or individuals submitted at least one solution list during 1998. This number has been shrinking over the past years; the last time we broke 100 was in 1989. In this report, we’ve tried to count each team only once, even if its members changed (such as Btnirn/Panther/Momus/Ucaoimhu). Similarly with solo solvers who were also on teams, like Lyric and Munro, who submitted separately for 5 months and for 7 months as a team.

The honor roll of solvers or teams who submitted lists for all 12 months: Abacus, Ajde, Al Gebra/Earl E. Byrd, Arbutus, Askew/Bactam, Avidan, Bambam, Banterweight/mehitabel, Beryl, Cazique/Gab-F (one month solos), Crax/Xemu, Dada, Dart/Kray (one month solos), Ditto, En, Hart King, Honeydew, Irbs/Manx/Pen Gwyn/Jo the Loiterer, Junction, Kaizen, Libra, Lyric/Munro (5 months solos), Momus/Panther, Pebbles, Philana/Mercury, R/EDS/Wabbit, Rick, Rosebud, Teki, Trazom, Treesong, Tyger/100 Down, Ubiq, Wampahoofus, Witz/Andreas, Woodie/Kapry Korn/Billy the Kid. Missing one month were Foobar and Panache. For the teams noted with some solo completes above, their solos are combined for team complete-submitting stats below.

671 solution lists were submitted, compared to 653 in 1997, for an average of 55.9 per month. The least-frequently-solved month was May with 50 lists, and the most-solved was November with 61 lists. The average solution list contained solutions for 62 out of 81 flats, 3 out of 5 forms, 4 out of 7 crypts, and 3 out of 4 extras, for a total of 73 out of 98 puzzles (up from 70 out of 98 puzzles last year).

There were 135 issue completes in 1998—almost a 50% increase over the 92 in 1997, beating 1996’s 111, and probably the most ever (the only other year with more than 100 was 1994). Amazingly, just over 1 of every 5 solution lists submitted was an issue complete. One solver (Trazom) and two solving teams (Crax/Xemu and Philana/Mercury) solved all 1171 puzzles. Each extended a long-running complete streak: Philana/Mercury scored their twelfth straight year complete, for a running total of 152 issues. If all goes well, they will overtake Nightowl’s record of 1177 (134 with Hap) in February 2001. Trazom broke the century mark by extending his streak to 101, and Crax/Xemu’s went to 65.

Three solving teams submitted 11 issue completes: R/EDS/Wabbit, Cazique/Gab-F (ending the year with a 10-issue streak), and Momus/Panther (one month with Btnirn/Ucaoimhu.) Other issue-completers: Dart/Kray (10); Abacus, Treesong (7); Alger, D. Ness/Sue++, Nucky, Pebbles, Wampahoofus/Jon Dark (4); IRBS/Manx/Pen Gwyn/Jo the Loiterer, Lyric/Munro (3); Ai/George Groth, King Frivolity, Teki/Meki, Witz/Andreas (2); and Avidan, Banterweight/mehitabel, Cache/Endgame, G Natural/Sprout, Junction, Squirrel/Gecko/Nightowl (1). Cazique/Gab-F, Dada, R/EDS/Wabbit and Momus/Panther had form/crypt/extra completes for the year.

In addition to the 135 issue completes, 47 flat completes were submitted. IRBS/Manx/Pen Gwyn/Jo the Loiterer again had a year flat- (and form- and extra-) complete, with 9 flat/form/extracompletes in addition to their 3 issue completes. Other flat completers: Cache/Endgame (6); Arbutus (5); Treesong (4); Abacus, Ai/George Groth, King Frivolity, Merlin/Qaqaq (3); Pebbles, Tyger/100 Down (2); and Al Gebra/Earl E. Byrd, Atlantic, Dart/Kray, Lyric/Munro, Quip/Poi, Saxifrage, Woodie/Kapry Korn/Billy the Kid (1).

The obligatory bridesmaid section: Cazique/Gab-F, Momus/Panther, and R/EDS/Wabbit each missed a year-complete by one puzzle. Argh! In addition to those teams' one apiece, these solvers submitted lists missing just one solution: King Frivolity (3); Dart/Kray, Pebbles, Wampahoofus/Jon Dark, Witz/Andreas, D. Ness/Sue++ (2); Abacus, Maelstrom/QED, Treesong.

Not counting the three year-completers, the following solvers solved the most . . .

. . . of the 972 flats: IRBS/Manx/Pen Gwyn/Jo the Loiterer [complete]; Cazique/Gab-F, Dart/Kray, Momus/Panther, R/EDS/Wabbit, Treesong (971); Abacus (965); Cache/Endgame (961); Pebbles (960); Witz/Andreas (944); Wampahoofus/Jon Dark (944); Arbutus (927); Avidan (920); Tyger/100 Down (915).

. . . of the 61 forms: Abacus, Cazique/Gab-F, Dada, Dart/Kray, IRBS/Manx/Pen Gwyn/Jo the Loiterer, Momus/Panther, R/EDS/Wabbit, Treesong, Wampahoofus/Jon Dark [complete]; Witz/Andreas (60); Cache/Endgame, Lyric, Pebbles, Tyger/100 Down (59); Munro, Teki/Meki (58); Honeydew (56).

. . . of the 83 crypts: Beryl, Cazique/Gab-F, Dada, Momus/Panther, R/EDS/Wabbit, Ubiq [complete]; Dart/Kray, Witz/Andreas (82); Pebbles (81); Abacus (77); Teki/Meki (75); Treesong (74); Wampahoofus/Jon Dark (72); Foobar (68).

. . . of the 55 extras: Cazique/Gab-F, Dada, Dart/Kray, IRBS/Manx/Pen Gwyn/Jo the Loiterer, Momus/Panther, R/EDS/Wabbit, Treesong, Witz/Andreas [complete]; Pebbles (54); Teki/Meki, Tyger/100 Down, Wampahoofus/Jon Dark (53); Cache/Endgame, Munro (52); Abacus, Junction (49); Avidan (48).

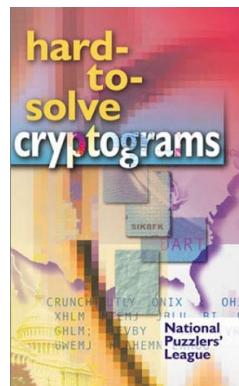
. . . of all 1171 puzzles: Cazique/Gab-F, Momus/Panther, R/EDS/Wabbit (1170); Dart/Kray (1169); Treesong (1161); Pebbles (1154); Abacus (1152); Witz/Andreas (1141); Wampahoofus/Jon Dark (1130); IRBS/Manx/Pen Gwyn/Jo the Loiterer (1125); Teki/Meki (1121); Munro (1087); Avidan (1078); Tyger/100 Down (1067); Lyric (1017); Arbutus (1000).

Well, that's it in a (very big) nutshell. We had a great time doing this report. Thanks to D. Ness for helping with the thankless (Did we say that? We meant "fun!") task of data entry. Kudos to En and Crax for providing the raw data, and to Xemu for initiating the entire effort and prodding us to get it done. And, most of all, congratulations to the Krewe for a great year of puzzling!

Any volunteers for help with the '99 report?!

NPL CRYPT BOOK

I have here in my hot little hands a copy of *Hard-to-Solve Cryptograms* (ISBN 0-8069-5809-X, 96 pages, \$6.95), written by . . . us! This is a collection of 300 crypts reprinted from recent (and semi-recent) *Enigmas*, selected by Torpedo (Peter Gordon), who works for Sterling Publishing. It should be available soon at booksellers everywhere. As the squib on the back cover says, "Sharpen your pencil and your mind, because the world's oldest puzzle organization is about to put your wits to the test!" My thanks to 100 Down for drafting the introduction and especially to Torpedo for making this book happen.



28. ACROSTICAL ENIGMA (12) (NI2)

A. A pledge to all my readers: "Dirt entices.

My chief intent's to air the stars' black vices.

B. P.S. Especially the stars who look good . . .

The more they hide . . . the more they make my book good."

C. And all I dig up, I won't bury; rather,

I'll share disgrace or gossip that I gather.

D. I dearly crave a grapevine that's susurrant,

Alive with rumors, catty, coarse, and current.

I'm writing of the stars, to expose the underbelly:

The fears, the flaws, the falseness.

(But I'm no Kitty Kelley.)

=JO THE LOITERER, Basking Ridge NJ

29. EVEN EXCHANGE (6) (see notes)

Some of you may yet recall
My mishap with the BOAT and waiter.

If not, you'll have to rummage back.
Not now, though—hear my new BOAT mess:

I put some on the stove and sat
To watch some TV commentator.
Next thing I knew the wok was TORT
And all the house was filled with steam.

Well, yes, this time my tongue's unburnt,

But it's been painful nonetheless:
The steam condensed and TERM appeared

Below my backyard kitchen BEAM.
I scrubbed with Lysol till I ached.
In vain. It came back one day later.
We've all been sneezing ever since;
Don't mention BOAT or I will scream!
=DANDR, Sacramento CA

30. SECOND-SOUND CHANGE (7, *6) (STAIN = 7)

I think that I'm mellow, a broad-minded fellow.

I surely don't think I'm a prude.
But the artwork of Florence has sparked my abhorrence.

Each painting and statue's a nude!
Through flowing regalia poke folks' genitalia

And STAIN. It's so pointlessly sleazy.
The half shell and Venus give rise to obscenity

Throughout the Museum Uffizi.

Though others may take it I simply can't fake it.

I'll not condone this with my silence.
I'll hop the next train, leave this town,
go to SPAIN,

To trade in this sex for some violence.
=WRYBOSH, Pine Brook NJ

31. CONSONANTCY (9, *6, *5) (SIX = NI3 usage; FIVE = NI3)

32. CONSONANTCY (5, 4) (V, IV)

Bob and Bill were camping out near Nome,
Bound to get a shot at something live.

"Hey Bob," said Bill, "I think I see a SIX

About to take a tumble in the V—
Quick, aim, before he gets his fur all wet!"

"NINE!" said Bob, agreeing with a grin.

"I've loaded up—FIVE IV makes it a snap,

But if I miss at first, I'll shoot again!"

=NIGHTOWL, Rochester NY

33. LETTER BANK (5, 5 4)

I sit here FIRST (sigh), aging fast,
Remembering my happy LAST.
=WABBIT, Montreal PQ

21. REBUS (10)

MO

Police in Missouri
Prepare for the jury;
They're fretting about my MO.
The perp was an "endo,"
But I am an "ecto,"
A fact my defense plans to show.
=ULLY BYRD, Grand Chicken IC

22. REBUS (2 [4 5])

RO

First the chicken then the egg,
RO some people say.
Whichever side you take, I'll beg
To differ anyway.
=ABACUS, Mississauga ON

23. ENIGMATIC REBUS (8) (NI3)

PS

The PS means there's something
more—
It's not just MgSO₄.
There's 7H₂O to add
To make this mineral, my lad.
=MERLIN, Gilbert AZ

24. ENIGMATIC REBUS [4 6]

DM

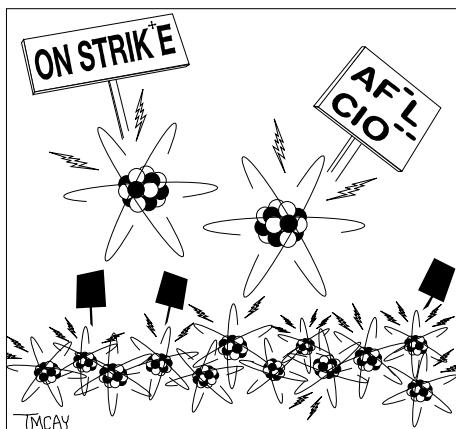
My congressman was caught last
night; the girl was just sixteen.
And re that banking scandal, well,
his hands are not too clean.
His campaign contributions come
from businesses that thrive
Because he pushes bills that will
allow them to connive.
He's not concerned, though, that his
popularity is zero.
He has a great DM. He'll end up
looking like a hero.
=LILITH, Leonia NJ

25. PHRASE SHIFT (1 2 5 4)

I am on a shopping spree—
A pillaging and chopping spree.
And there will be no stopping me
Until I find one tool.

I am on what some would dub,
Dear solvers, WELL COME
TO THE CUB.
I'll turn Hawaii's woody shrub
To legs for my new stool.
=MR. TEX, Los Angeles CA

26. PICTURE FALSE OPPOSITE (3, 5)



Drawing by T McAy
=FEDERICO, Rome, Italy

27. REBUS (8)

Our daughter is a little hussy, dear—
Her cheek's on hire; she's one-oh-hour
at least!
Our darling, hairy, baby girl! I hear
The worst (a nasty hate): our angel's
BEAST!
So, as the saying goes, we ought to
heed her.
(A little hood won't make her hat, good
reader.)
=XEMU, Bridgewater NJ

JANUARY CORRIGENDA

p. 7—In the solution grid for X-4, the fourth letter in the tenth row should be P, not R. 9—Comma after "KNIGHT" in the last line. 14—Second 4 is + usage. 23—The 9 here is really NI3 (and possibly 10C-inferable) usage. If you have an 8 that seems to work, you're almost right. 27—in line eight, insert "in" between "it" and "a." Just a typo, not part of the rubric. 29—The first part is in some newer 10Cs. 37—TWO needs no tag, as it's in 10C. 40—Missing open quote at the beginning of the second stanza. 49—The order of the enumeration should be (*5, *4, *3, *5). Also, M*A*S*H in the verse should have been rendered in double quotes rather than italics, since it's the TV show and not the movie referred to.

DECEMBER AFTERNOTES

KU-1—"Reddens laudes Domino" is the second line of the refrain of the "Boar's Head Carol"; it means "giving praises to the Lord." The other bits of Latin:

Quot estis in Collegio: As many as are in the League.

Caput apri defero: I bear the boar's head.

De gustibus non disputo: I don't argue about taste(s).

22—The word that looks like "latkes" here was originally *μς*, standing for and pronounced "microseconds"; the rhyme and meter reflects this. Hanukkah = 8 days = 192 hours = 691,200 seconds = 691,200,000,000 microseconds. The verse is to the meter of William Butler Yeats's "The Lake Isle of Innisfree." (But that part you knew, right?)

27—Remember Right Said Fred and their song "I'm Too Sexy"?

28—Calling that part of the letter G its "gate" is a bit fanciful, I admit.

KU-2—Actually by Bartok, not Canon. The last part of the reading is "shift his place S [south]," reflecting the fact that Newport Beach is south of La Mirada (where Bartok lives).

46—"Near" as in "Near Islands," which are part of the Aleutians.

77—Brooklyn Heights, Ohio made news a while back by being the first community in the United States to ban cell phone use while driving.

87—"Reptar," which many asked about, is a monster reptile from the movie.

KU-4—This was KUED not because it was too hard to solve, but because it was too hard to understand the solution once you got it. Dart was reading a work of fiction; the 1942 novel *[The] Undesired Princess* by [L. Sprague] De Camp. In it, a character named Rollin Hobart is introduced as having been a president of the NPL:

"He is also, I see," boomed Hoimon, "a person of strong and determined character. He will do, I think. But one more thing: Is he adept at the solution of paradoxes?"

Prince looked blank; Hobart frowned, then grinned a little. The engineer remarked: "Now how did you know I was a puzzler? Hobby of mine, as a matter of fact." He picked up a small white magazine entitled *The Enigma* out of a pile and handed it to Hoimon. "I was president of the National Puzzlers' League last year. Haven't time for that sort of stuff now, though. What is it I'll 'do' for? Solving a paradox?"

EDITORIAL SALMAGUNDI

Newbie Krewbies may be nonplussed by the section of “puzzles calculated to drive you mad” at the very beginning of the issue. These are the handiwork of one Ralf P. Olio, the NPL’s joy-buzzer-wielding bad boy, jester, and seasonal rule-bender. In April (and *only* in April), we publish his seasonal zaniness. On our cover this month is Randd’s insouciant Alfred E. Neuman sphinx, making a comment on his ideological brother-in-tomfoolery Ralf; Randd drew the Don Martinesque sphinx (*Sprooooooing!*) on page six as well. My thanks also go to Dart, who located the MAD font used in the logo.

In this issue is Cazique and Sue++'s great 1998 Solving and Composing Report. I'd like to thank them for producing it and helping us catch up, and I'd also like to thank Emanon, who helped in the formatting of the article. If anyone out there would be willing to help prepare the 1999 (or 2000) reports, please do get in touch with me. Pretty please.

For those of you living on Venus who haven't yet heard the news, En finally won the Stamford Crossword Tournament after years of runner-updom. You go, girl!

FLATS WE NEVER FINISHED READING

Did you ever start to read a flat and discover that you had solved it after reading only the title, enumeration, and a line or maybe two of verse? I thought it might be fun to try to construct the beginnings of flats that are solvable by themselves without needing a full-blown verse. Something like this:

FIFTH-LETTER CHANGE (7) (TWO = inferable)

"The reason I like Ziploc bags," the hermit said . . .

(Answer with the hints below.) Here's another one, composed by Hot:

METATHESIS (12)

Electricity not what it used to be?
Turn off the tube and talk to me!

(Answer next month.) I challenge you clever people to come up with your own “flats we never finished reading” and send them to me. I’ll publish the best ones in the June issue—as regular flats if they’re really solvable. They should have a title with enumeration, plus a line or two of verse, but no more. Ideally, they shouldn’t be solvable from just knowing the enumeration; the verse, however little of it there is, should contribute just enough to make the thing solvable.

JANUARY HINTS AND ISSUE “EASY LIST”

12—There are letter-clues to the band names in the verse. 14—The honestan-
dard diction in the reverse reflects a usage in the solution. 56—A word you might
be able to think of yourselves, though not a familiar one. A good crossword-diction-
ary will help. Easy List: 2, 12 for many, 17, 22, 26, 30, 33, 51, 70 for most, 83,
84, 85, 99. Solution to the “Flat we never finished reading”; rec-l-o-u-se.

13. LETTER BANK (8, 4 3 4, *13)
 (TATS = 4 3 4 = 10C-findable)

14. LETTER BANK (6, 9, 12)
 (LALAS = 12 = NI2)

15. LETTER BANK (4, *9)
 (PAMPAS = *9 = NI2)

18. LETTER BANK (7, 2 6, *4 *8)
 (NOSE, NONSENSE, ONE SON)
 (NOSE = NI3)

19. LETTER BANK (7, 12, *5 *8)
 (AD, DADA, A DAD) (DADA = NI3)

There's a Hunt at the STATS ^LASS
of ^SPAM (if that last
Shortened term, meaning TATS as the
long one, will serve) in
Which one pulls out one's hair, SAT,
and beard at a vast
Bunch of puzzles that LAS the arcane
and unnervin'

How to solve them? Just search, folks,
through Old World and New
(From the Argentine PAMPASes'
lands to the Yupiks'),
And introspect deeply, with no
LALAS, too—
You must concentrate closely upon
your own pupiks.
=UCAQJMHIJ, Willington CT

16. SECOND-LETTER CHANGE (3)
(HOE, HEE)
SECOND-LETTER CHANGE (4)

To HOE on high is "TREE."
To HEE on high is "THEE."
=PANACHE, Culver City CA

17. FOURTH-LETTER CHANGE (6)

The Reverend Jones has snagged
teeth and warts;
His eyes (one blue, one brown) are
small and squinted;
He walks as though the laundry
starched his shorts;
His hair's unruly, rusty-orange tinted;
Each Sunday, though, we listen to his
MASTER,
Enthrallled, and never notice he's so
FASTER.
=HAPOWL, Rochester NY

18. LETTER BANK (7, 2 6, *4 *8)
(NOSE, NONSENSE, ONE SON)
(NOSE = NI3)

19. LETTER BANK (7, 12, *5 *8)
(AD, DADA, A DAD) (DADA = NI3)

As a child, ONE SON drew some tree
house designs
That A DAD built according to plan
(as he would).

Like father, like son, architecturally speaking,
Though the lad did some drafting that
wasn't so good.

(So the boy edits blueprints, deleting wrong lines
By NOSE to correct the mistakes (if he could),
While Pop tries to fix all the parts that are leaking—
He AD every piece of the mis-fastened wood.)

The reconceived tree house rose up in
the pines,
No DADA required to keep it dry.

Should
The boy be spanked? NONSENSE, he
 might, rightly speaking.
Instead, proud and tall, two together
 they stood.
=G NATURAL, On the Road JH

20. PHRASE SHIFT (6 5 4 .*)
'Twas cloven in twain in the strivings
of battles—
Now carpenters join the Heptarchy's
divan.
See Penda and Oswiu sit on the CAT-
TLE's
And Northumbria's peacetime too
short. They began
With a toast, "Fortune smile on my
beautiful land!"
All too soon, one is dead by the other
one's hand.
=NEWROW Brookline MA

10. SPOONERGRAM (2-7, 7 7)
(CD-ROM = 2-7; can it be sung?)

Eddie's out of Coeur d'Alene, and he drives a diesel rig.
He likes his pie and pancakes, and he's mighty, mighty big:
Three hundred fifty pounds and countin',
He's a mountain man;
He's a one-man mountain.
But, Lord above, he's got a heart to match his size.

On Highway Ten a truck stop stands where Eddie likes to go,
Where Rhonda works behind the counter, slingin' hash and joe.
Now, Rhonda Jones, she's a bitty little thing,
Not young no more,
But a pretty little thing,
Catchin' all the lonely fellows' eyes.

Late one night, big Ed comes in before the truck stop closes.
He hitches up his trouser leg and gets down and proposes.
What a sight to see,
that REEDY PSALM
With diamond ring
In his outstretched palm
Askin' little Rhonda for her hand:

"Rhonda, Rhonda, darlin', won't you be my lovin' wife?
Through thick and thin, will you let me in, and share my dreams, my life?
Won't you come and be my children's mom—
You can even share
My CD-ROM,
And together we can travel cross the land."
=XEMU, Bridgewater NJ

11. TRANSPOSAL (7)

Pardon me, sir.
It seems that I've committed TWO.
You
Know it's a crime,
And now I'm serving my time.
I can't afford
To go to Washington to woo you.
Hope I prevail.
I wanna get out of jail.

You're leaving Pennsylvania Avenue tomorrow, before
People coming after you come beat down your door.
The inauguration
There, before the nation,
Then you'll catch the train up north from Union Station.

Downing some Big Macs up in the restaurant car,
When you get to Chappaqua you're not very far.
Time for you to go now.
Train is moving slow now.
Woo, woo, Chappaqua, now there you are.

But before then,
Hope I'm forgiven like the others,
Like Patty Hearst,
And Marc Rich (he was the worst).
In '98,
Remember when your junior ONE had been betrayed—
She pardoned you back then, so
Won't you pardon me too?
=WRYBOSH, Pine Brook NJ

12. SECOND-SOUND CHANGE

(*4-*1, *1.*2)
(*1.*2 = TUSH = not MW)

When he beheld that curvy TUSH,
Puff Daddy melted, turned to MUSH.
=PANACHE, Culver City CA

THIS ISSUE'S PUZZLES

Although this is a combined, three-month issue, the puzzles here are simply numbered straight through. Note: the solving deadline is a month later than usual because there's so darn much to solve. Please remember that although Ralfs aren't officially counted as regular puzzles, you may send in your Ralf sols and kudos if you are so inclined. As often happens in April, the nutsy spirit of Ralf spills over into several puzzles in the regular Penetralia, so watch out!

Monthly reminder: "Overloaded" simply means that the same cueword stands for more than one solution word. Two other non-guide flat types that pop up in this issue: the Phrase Shift and the Order Takeout. In a Phrase Shift, a letter shifts in a well-known phrase. *Example:* the buck sops there. There will always be a clue of some sort to the original phrase in the verse. In an Order Takeout, every sequence of two or more letters within a longer word which are in ascending consecutive alphabetical order is removed to form a shorter word. Only the longer word is usually enumerated. *Example:* defenders, En. A Redro Takeout is the same thing but uses reverse alphabetical order. *Example:* debuted, deb.

R-38—Please submit the two answer words with your solution. 3—Warning: a two-level rebus. 5—This flat refers to something else in the issue. 10C contains what seems to me to be an unfortunate factual error that may make this flat more difficult. 16—TATS is considerably easier to find in NI3 than 10C. 17, 78—Hap (d. 1989)/Nightowl. 21, 84—Ulk/Earl E. Byrd. 29—In an Even Exchange, two words or phrases exchange all their letters in even positions to form two new words. *Example:* fare, cost, fort, case. 35, 90—Loki-5/Mangie. 37—In a Change of Heart, a pair of words (ONE and TWO) swap sequences of one or more letters from the interior of the words to form a new pair (THREE and FOUR). *Example:* ONE = share, TWO = colt, THREE = sole, FOUR = chart. 51—The solution words, in the order enumerated, form a grammatical sentence describing the scene in the picture. 54—The usage of SECOND here doesn't conform exactly to NI2's definition—at least I hope not! 58—Deducing the missing last line is left as an exercise for the solver. 64—Deansk/Wrybosh; welcome new composer Deansk! 73—There are two different interpretations to the *1. *1. here. 75—Wabbit/Mangie. 88—Federico/Mangie. 91—Blammesk/Abacus. 95—Linguistic purists may have a small issue with the phonetics here. It rather depends on how you interpret what's in 10C. 96—Okapi/Hot; welcome new composer Okapi! 103—Welcome, new composer Phantom! 104—Ai/Mangie. C-6—Length rule waived. Heck, the tagging is gone too. Hey, it's April, folks. X-2—Xειρού/Wabbit.

X-9, X-10—The Mosaicquote is another anaquote variation, invented and introduced here by 769. Arrange the 2 × 2 blocks of letters like tiles in a mosaic to form a rectangular array, then read the quote in the normal left-to-right, top-to-bottom order. The [columns × rows] configuration of the mosaic follows the enumeration. See the example in the box to the right.

MOSAICQUOTE (4 3 6 4 3 4) [3 × 2]

AN	IN	OW	SL	ST	YW
AD	RA	TE	DS	CE	HE

Answer: Slow and steady wins the race.

SL	OW	AN
DS	TE	AD
YW	IN	ST
HE	RA	CE

POTRZEBIE

Solution words and phrases not found in 10C (10th Collegiate) are labeled for the most recent Merriam-Webster dictionary in which they appear: NI3, NI2 Addenda, or NI2, or, failing that, RH2 or 12W. Non-MW words are noted. "+" signifies foreign, slang, dialect, obsolete, archaic, and the like. Capitalized words get a "*". Words that are capitalized (as in names, titles) but normally uncapitalized with the same usage get a "^". Enumeration for MW phrases is [bracketed] in anagrams and flat types where non-MW phrases are allowed, to wit: spoonergrams, mutations, palindromes, rebuses, hetero- and homonyms, variations on these types, and flats labeled "freewheeling."

Send your solution lists after June 1 to PEBBLES, Alison Peebles, 24 Markham Road, Princeton NJ 08540 (pebbles@puzzlers.org). All lists must be received by 11:59 p.m. EDT, June 30.

1. PHRASE SHIFT (7 ^2) (7 = NI3, 10C-derivable)

A curious organ is my heart.
It bids me write, with doubtful art,
A tender thought for my old lady:
"Thou art my love. I am thy baby."
So here you see me pen this line,
BELOVED in a valentine.
=CRAX, Mountain View CA

2. BEHEADMENT (*6, 5)

We learned STAR-SIX, bought baby gear,
Fixed up the house. The time drew near.
I got the call; from work I raced.
I got the bags and drove with haste.
Half a day later Hannah was born;
And I was the coach that wonderful morn.
It does FIVE us how great she is;
We cried with joy for our wee Ms.
=NON SEQUITUR, Monroe CT

3. ENIGMATIC REBUS (3 2 *4 3 *4) (* words not MW or not MW usage)

*

Our newborn is unquestionably adorable
And yet some aspects of baby-rearing are nevertheless deplorable.
Though there's no getting around the fact that she's a cutie,
There's nothing remotely appealing about midnight diaper duty.
Sure, she keeps us up at night more effectively than NoDoz;
But even more problematic for us are the photos.

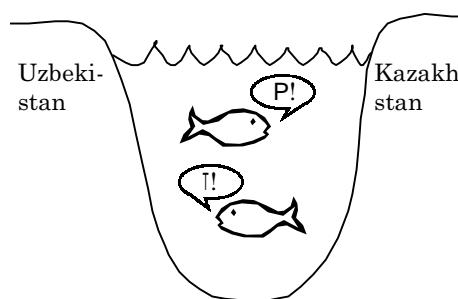
You see, friends, our little bundle of joy looks exactly like her two sisters.
So how, by every star that glisters,
Are we to tell, when we are old and grey and looking through our album, that the newborn in the snapshot is Isis?

Therein looms a crisis.
(But not a new one for us
Because, before she came along,
we used to HORUS.)
=XEMU, Bridgewater NJ

4. ENIGMATIC REBUS (2 4'1 4 2 *3) (some words not MW or not MW usage)

Mr. Deighton's got it bad: "I'm smitten with that chick!
You may think I'm crazy, but that Hatcher's done the trick.
Sure, she may be flighty, but she's Grade A in my book.
Those legs! Those thighs! Those . . . other parts! (Good God, that bird can cook.)
Best of all, she loves me back. I melt with each sweet peck."
Now you see there's naught so lovely DARN IT ALL TO HECK.
=WOMBAT, Renton WA

5. ENIGMATIC REBUS (1 *7 5 4) (*7 = not MW; reading contains word which is part of 10C phrase)



You're looking for THE BACK-PAGE CLUE?

Buddy, I can give you two.
The April Fool's an egotist,
His vanity cannot be missed.
Just listen to him speak and you
Will hear his colors shining through.
=FULDU, Evanston IL

6. CURTAILMENT (10)

Now watch as Xemu struggles with his foe,
Just like the toxic scorpion and snake.
The dreaded NINE are often hard to make,
But Xemu will not miss his fatal blow.
He circles NINE and slowly waits them out
While NINE keep edging closer,
creeping on,
And soon, with Xemu's zone of safety gone,
The NINE resurge and threaten one grim rout.

It looks as though the NINE have Xemu caught!
But now, delivering the lethal sting,
Our editor, triumphant, helps to bring *Enigmas* to our door just as he ought.
Rejoicing, Xemu shouts his cry again:
"NINE fall on each fifteenth with utter TEN."
=VEBRILE, Somerville MA

7. ACROSTICAL ENIGMA (12)

- A. I once had an insight—ding!—
A bulb or bell inside my brain.
- *B. "Aha!" I cried above the swish
Of city traffic in the rain.
- C. "Nice work," I murmured, felt a buzz
Of genius flowing, lacking stress.
- D. (Try to hear the joyful hiss
This verse evokes with every S.)
- *E. Gone is that insight with a boom;
Alas, some villain blew it dead.

I know not what I knew, now gone—
Mere echoes, sounds, remain instead.
=G NATURAL, On the Road JH

8. REBUS (5)

G

The rubric appears on the page as a BETTER.
The reading confirms that it's also a letter.
=WRYBOSH, Pine Brook NJ

9. ENIGMATIC REBUS (*4, 4 *3) (*4 = not MW; *3 = not MW usage; rubric is all around)

The flowers that bloom in the spring (tra la!)
Bring promise of warming sunshine!
So Ms. Plus-Plus and I, in New Eng- (tra la!)
Land, find them a wonderful thing (tra la!),
Whatever you Georgians opine.

And that's what explains, SOL and I chose to sport
Throughout these three months. My dear Qaqaq, in short, (Tra-la-la-la-la-la, tra-la-la-la-la-la)
They're flowers that bloom in the spring!
=UCAOIMHU, Willington CT