

CRYPTOGRAMS

Edited by MOSAYC

C-1. Magic bullet?

GENEAL, Providence RI

T SEEM SPRY EX WEB QWDXHIU TB LIMBDZI: DB'K
 OEB NICU KJDIODXDJ, LPB DB WIRYK. ^KDC
 *TRIATOMIC *XRIZDOS

C-2. Fie!

(see note)

raw, Ogdensburg NY

*JKLL MNOPQ, *SMNTUMJ, *MVOQW XKNYZJK
 AMZQW OMYK QPYK. *LOMNT MJX OSK *BKJKL
 CMYT MO *DMNT MJX OSK *CKMJLOMYT.

C-3. Short story.

(see note)

GRIDDLE, Santa Rosa CA

*RLQCSPCL'P “*UYWFECTMLR” MLPKMSCQ EH
 URTC BO *UBF *UYWFE, “*IWT TMDCS'P
 ^USRDCTP,” RLQ *DBTURMSC'P “*FMGSBFCIRP.”

C-4. Sound off.

(see note)

raw, Ogdensburg NY

MNOPQPRS *T*U*T VWXLVW, MYZNAWNT OPBA RWC
 MSYAQD QW *RWAUSEWBQ: *BPUUAS ASU VPUPXO
 *BNUU YXU ^APQQAS ^BSU ^BPUPXO ^VWWU.

C-5. A classic from day one.

(see note)

SCARAB, St. Paul MN

STOCKIN-GLHOLI EROCH EUTG JOCZ JGUSDTGV
 *RGTZOKLG-ZDIICG KJJVYTOLI; BOGQGTV GLXKN
 YUTS-QOSER OL ^UD ^YUOT *O*O*O.

C-6. Royal pain.

SCARAB, St. Paul MN

FAIRY USJGWS OGNZSRN SCBZTNX OSMXZXNSRN
 ZRXAJRZG, TMIZXZRY. QZGYRAXZX:
 XIT-JGNNMSXX WSYIJS XFRQMAJS.

C-7. Master switch.

WABBIT, Montreal QC

WIFEC REAC *QUIS, *TION, IZK CIGO UZ HIBZA
 AU QBF LEI QIPDBF, QIRM QAIBZYC MOAQ. AOT
 DIIOK, “DIC!” DIRK, DOGOWA, DUNAOX.



Nov./Dec. 2010

The National Puzzlers' League

#1274

EDITOR SNARLED, “I’M A GRINCH A LOT!”

Once upon a time, a grumbly, old editor sat down to write a farewell message to his beloved Krewe. Four years had passed since he had first taken up the editor’s quill, and he had grown weary at heart. He considered titling his final message: “EDITOR INSIDE OF SCRAP BOX AT LAST.”

My friends (the old editor wrote), due to a remarkable confluence of events, this issue is actually three issues rolled into one. To begin with, it is a tribute to Merlin, a member for more than 40 years and a rock of the Krewe, who passed away in July. A memorial volume, compiled by Mercury, accompanies this issue; and several new puzzles composed in Merlin’s honor have found their way into these pages.

This is also our annual special theme issue, and this year’s theme plunges us into the realm of fairy tales and folklore. Proceed warily, for witches, ogres, and trolls have laid traps to ensnare you at every turn. Yet you will also have encounters of rare beauty and enchantment, and in the end your reward will be great. Along the way, you will meet six Fair Maidens in a new mini-extravaganza penned by Squonk, who has contributed exceptional puzzles to the November issue for five straight years. His latest adventure won’t count in the official solving stats, but solvers who send in the correct final answer will be accorded great praise on the Page of Laud. (Speaking of adventure, another headline I might have used is: “EDITOR’S CROSSBOW AIMED WEST.”)

Finally, December has arrived, and the holiday season is upon us, which means the time has come round again for my annual meditation on gratitude. I want to thank the members of the *Enigma* staff, volunteers all, without whom this slim volume of poetry and puzzles would not exist.

Jo the Loiterer performs with distinction as our forms editor. ^V (Vroo) is our extraordinary extras editor. Mosayc rules the cryptograms page. Early in my term as editor, Fuldu also served as crypts editor.

Hot and Trazom masterfully edit our cryptic crosswords (and please note that there are five — count ’em, five — cryptics in this issue!). Hot also coordinates the cryptic clue-writing contests.

Kudos and bangs go to Endgame, our solutions editor. Previously during my tenure, this vital task was performed by Pebbles, Wampahoofus, and Scarab.

Philana compiles the monthly solutions. Mercury, our hard-working treasurer, provides the membership reports. Smaug prints and mails *The Enigma*.

Dragonfly stepped down recently as picture flats coordinator. If you would like to serve as a liaison between composers with ideas for picture flats and artists who can realize them, please volunteer for this position. Over the years of my editorship, those artists have included Toonhead!, Tennaqist, T McAy,

Zebraboy, Randd, Tinhorn, mum, and Dragonfly herself. And me, occasionally. (I designed the *Enigma* title logo, featuring the NPL's traditional Sphinx; the background tessellation uses the Torturer type font designed by Dart.)

Production editor Wrybosh puts the issue together. (My advice to Teki: Get material to Wrybosh early and give him plenty of time to work his magic.)

The team of testsolvers and proofreaders, past and present, includes Geneac, Loquacious, Lunch Boy, Pebbles, Saxifrage, Tahnna, Tinhorn, Trazom, Treesong, Wrybosh, and Xemu.

If there is one person who is absolutely, indispensably essential to *The Enigma*, it is our chief testsolver, Philana. Not only does she solve everything that goes into *The Enigma*, she solves everything that doesn't make the cut as well. (My advice to Teki: Be very, very nice to Philana.)

Of course, there wouldn't be an *Enigma* without the brilliant composers who write the puzzles and the clever Krewe who solve them. And there wouldn't be an NPL without the dedicated people who keep it going. These include the NPL Board: Xemu, president; G Natural and QED, vice presidents; Spelvin, secretary; Mercury, treasurer; and Willz, historian. Qoz and In sin t are the webmasters. Alaraph, our postmaster, manages the npl-folk mailing list. We had a terrific convention this year, thanks to the ConPac organizers, program directors, and all the presenters of puzzles and games.

Thank you, one and all, for keeping afloat this wonderful old organization, which reached the venerable age of 125 on my watch. And thank you, my friends, for giving me the honor of serving you these four years. I've never undertaken a task that was more enjoyable or more gratifying. I dearly wish that I could continue to serve for four more years. Alas, as another headline might have put it, "EDITOR BREAKS UNDER PRESSURE THAT'S PRONOUNCED."

Fortunately, this tale does have a happy ending. Teki, who has been serving as flats editor, will assume the mantle of editor next month. I am extremely grateful to him for all his assistance (indeed, for enabling me to complete my term), and I wish him the best of luck. He'll make a great editor.

So, my friends, as I prepare to return to civilian life (I plan to retire to the country and write my memoir, *5,000 Ways to Clue the Letter X*), I wish you joy for the holidays, a prosperous new year, and happy puzzling! May you all live, like the heroes of any good story, happily ever after.

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- | | |
|---|--|
| 4 Thing elves cooked around Tuesday (6) | 18 Stare awkwardly, like some Jamaicans (6) |
| 5 Oak table part I rebuilt at last (5) | 20 Harmful factions start to take leftovers (5) |
| 6 Gone into Hawaii with Olivia the actress-turned-prophet (7) | 22 Sob about Republican in more pain (5) |
| 7 "Smooth Taxi Agency" gentlemen (4) | 23 Bizarre ogre following a hockey player from Houston (4) |
| 8 Bust clots after old flame celebrates (6) | 24 James, Hera, and Ezekiel's leader (4) |
| 14 I dream about the vacant realm of a sheik (7) | 25 Abandon show on the radio (4) |
| 16 Alley joined north part of Turkey? (6) | |

(Continued from page 37)

baseball players/positions. When sorted into standard position order (P, C, 1B, 2B, 3B, SS, LF, CF, RF), the initial letters of the corresponding extra words spell the victim = ALBATROSS, and the last letters spell the reporter = COLERIDGE.

X-7. Across: plait, crops, reign; askew, lotte, going; anti, T-men, wren; match, narcs, ranch; Pinta, siren, adits; hoots, splash, doeth.

Down: tippie, cereal, encage; hollow, Odessa, merlot; umiak, roast, enoki; existed, Alpines, regrets; sandwich, lasagnes, entrench; nut-brown, runtiest, marinara; arcadia, smashed, snapper; Waldorf, ravioli, Basilan; catsup, Cretan, cattle; usher, bahts, ensue.

Top row: three-course meal. Bottom row: after-dinner naps.

F-2.
BTNIRN
LOATHE
OUTHIT
OCTANT
THECAE
HERALD

F-3.
WRAAVR
HERMAE
IMMURE
TEASES
ELDEST
STASES

F-1.
STATELINES
RECITATIVO
TETRAMETER
ASSESSMENT

F-6.
BR&ON
CELLO
ELIDE
LATIN
LYSED

F-5.
QAQAA
ELURU
STELA
HARER
MINSK

F-7.
XYZZY
HAOLE
OWEIT
SLANT
ASSES

X-5.
ACIDNA * ANDERP
MAGENDANRRHEA
EMI * EDRTHUMPS
TONEHJURYIRET
RLINEAGETDELI
OERSLOUG * RELT
* FALLF * VOICE *
ATOC * DSLIDONO
ZOOSLREMNANTR
IVOWAILSGSOLI
NEVADAEBE * DEA
GRIMDNDULCETL
SSHAT * CKTASK
* = CREOLE, GREEK,
HMONG, POLISH, LATIN,
SIOUX, CATALAN, HINDI,
ZULU

F-4.
TIHZA
OBEAHS
PERMIT
PREBLE
LIMIER
ESSAYS

X-6.
LINDMICEG
ARIESCUBA
YONEGOTTI
MNEMONICE
AIEITSERL
DCENTERED
DELTALOWN
EVERYMAEU
NCROWDS

F-8.
grier cb
eo desai
torest s
uKonhigh
pawNomao
sinuousP
nestled
queenNisp
Yes, the knight
(N) in the 5th
row has the
king (K) in the
4th row in
check.

X-7.
THREECOURSEMEAL
IOOXNEDMEANENLA
PLAITREIGNCROPS
PLSSRESARDALKIA
LOTTEASKEWGOING
EWRENLANTIETMEN
AWUDCSRUSCSBASE
RANCHMATCHNARCS
CLTAUAVBREASIA
ADITSSIRENPINTA
DOETHHOOTSPLASH
IRSLEELWAUEARUT
AFTERDINNERNAPS

X-10. NORTHWEST AIRLINES — by JANGLER, Nashville TN

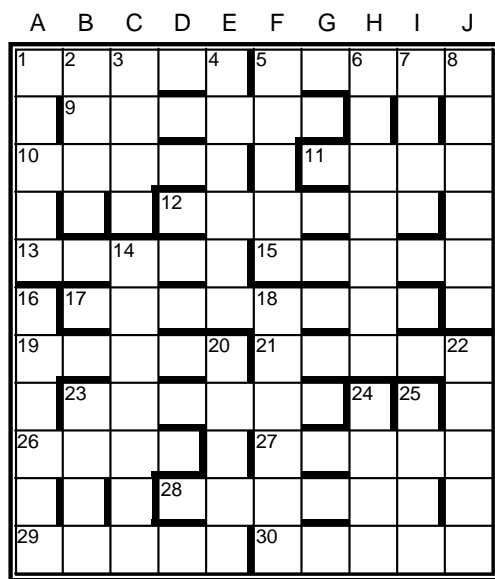
Thank you for choosing Northwest! The grid represents one of our airplanes' seating charts. Each Across answer must have one letter (a "passenger") added to it before entry to form a new word. Some of the added letters will fall in unchecked squares, and so there may be more than one letter that works; however, if chosen correctly, the passengers, when read in grid order (left to right and row by row) will spell out the plane's destination.

Down answers are normal, but each Down clue contains a "boarding pass" in the form of an extra letter which must be removed before solving; the column of the seat to which that boarding pass corresponds is given by the removed letter, while the row is given by the position of that letter within the clue.

Not all boarding passes will correspond to seats containing passengers, and vice versa. The letters in the seats corresponding to boarding passes but not passengers, read in grid order, will spell a word telling you where the passengers without a boarding pass must remain with respect to the plane. That word is of special significance to the person whose name is spelled out by the passengers without boarding passes (again, in grid order), a person who will also not be traveling with us on this flight. (A good thing, too — what that person stands for is completely antithetical to the direction our company is going.)

Across

- 1 Weaves first pair of Madras shirts (4)
- 5 Heads get beaten soundly? (4)
- 9 Sweethearts solve cryptic (5)
- 10 Japanese liquor jar without trace of hooch (4)
- 11 Fight limitless army of bees (3)
- 12 Offers to buy fetching new ties (5)
- 13 Discussion about Panama, e.g. (4)
- 15 Work the land where one may put cabbage? (4)
- 17 Modernist architect having run low risk (7)
- 19 Leave two things you don't want on your face in your ear? (4)
- 21 Pilots a Cessna halfway (4)
- 23 Top-notch ballplayer Pete got up (5)
- 26 Blended ale, mead (3)
- 27 Story Norse god mentioned (4)
- 28 Appeased editor after three-section exam (5)
- 29 Cats, perhaps, walk the wrong way (4)



30 Heartlessly cut Miss Cleo, e.g. (4)

Down

- 1 You and Di objectively enthralled by most of Jagger's songs (5)
- 2 Unendingly call to female voice (4)
- 3 So, Jangler's head initially resembles fly (4)

CRYPTICS IN AMERICA — by White Oak

America needs more cryptic crosswords! Just like french fries, robotic hamsters, and teen vampire movies, cryptic crosswords are essential to human culture and civilization. Every magazine with a college-educated readership and every metropolitan newspaper should be running a cryptic crossword, giving solvers a wider choice of puzzles and writers more opportunity to publish.

My plea in June X-4 for help in popularizing cryptic crosswords brought four responses. The earliest was from Geneal, who simply sent the single word: "Ideas." Here are the other suggestions [followed by my comments]:

Alice: Get it on TV somehow, maybe as a reality show/competition sort of thing. This idea is inspired by the fact that "So you think you can dance" has had a dramatic effect, with dance studios suddenly getting far more students of all ages and types. The show has totally popularized dance. "So you think you can solve cryptic crosswords" doesn't have quite the same ring to it, but maybe "Cross Words: as sharp as you are?" Someone can probably come up with a better title/clue; I'm an avid solver but not much of a constructor of cryptics. Or maybe that can be a future cryptic cluing contest: Come up with a clue that could be the title of this hypothetical TV show aiming to popularize cryptic crosswords among average Americans!

[Great idea! I'm not skilled at this sort of thing myself. Anyone interested in taking this on? Perhaps the show could start out on a cable or local channel. Could it even be done in a YouTube format? We have some NPLers with movie experience in *Wordplay* (and other public media, I'm sure). Do any of you want to offer insights on this? Anyone else want to try a turn in the public eye? I think plenty of NPLers, myself included, would volunteer to write puzzles for the show.]

Lirath: My suggestion is to make solving them worth spectacular prizes or fabulous riches.

[Yes, indeed! Could the above TV show get corporate sponsors and give prize money on par with *Jeopardy!*, etc.? Could NPLers arrange a fabulous but inexpensive prize (winner's name in a future *New York Times* crossword, e.g.)? How about a non-televised type of contest with prizes?]

Mr. Do! Most cryptics, with all their intrinsic rules, are too intimidating for the casual solver. (I myself cannot solve most variety cryptics beyond the basic levels, including most *Enigma* cryptics.) Puzzles with clearly stated rules, perhaps limited to only one or two rules (anagrams only, for example) to start might be a better variation for beginners. Also bear in mind that most solvers are unfamiliar with many of the conventions, abbreviations, etc. commonly used in cryptics as well. Not "dumb it down" per se, but ease them into the difficulty curve.

[I agree there's a steep learning curve involved in shifting from solving American (definition type) crossword clues to solving cryptic crossword clues. Puzzles using clues of all one type would let new solvers skim short instructions, get a feel for one type of wordplay, and have the satisfaction of completing a whole puzzle. I've written cryptics with all anagrams; I'd love to see Krewe efforts with other wordplay types. Puzzles like this could be a new genre enjoyable in itself for many solvers, as well as a stepping stone to solving full cryptic crosswords.]

I'll share an idea of mine: Small puzzles in which every answer fits a topic (such as the beach, baseball, Halloween, etc.). I've distributed some of these to friends and acquaintances and gotten a very positive response. The topic works as an added hint, helping new solvers guess which part of the clue is the definition. I didn't use symmetrical grids, but I've discovered that while setters may admire each other's skill in filling a symmetrical grid, most solvers couldn't care less about symmetry. I don't know where to go with this idea, though, as magazine editors won't consider a non-symmetrical puzzle. A few of these puzzles I clued with all anagrams and put on the fronts of greeting cards I designed. I'm hoping that as cryptic enthusiasts send them to potential wordplay puzzlers, familiarity with cryptic-style clues slowly spreads through American culture. I've given each respondent a couple of birthday cards to send. Geneale noted that they aren't suitable for non-puzzlers, but maybe for people who currently enjoy American-style crosswords. If anyone else would like to help distribute these, please send me an *Enigma*-sized SASE (or \$2.00 to PayPal: cryptic.crossword@gmail.com). Help spread the wordplay! Sudoku went mainstream a few years ago. Cryptic crosswords could be next. Let's make it happen!

ANSWERING THE CALL — by Hot and Trazom

We challenge NPL members to respond to White Oaks's call. Please construct and submit "introduction to cryptic" crosswords, with the following constraints:

- Maximum dimensions: 8×9.
- Either bar diagrams or black squares.
- Themed or not.
- Relatively easy clues, perhaps restricted to a single type.
- Detailed explanations of the solution, to be published elsewhere in the same issue of *The Enigma*.

Once we have enough "NPL School of Cryptics" puzzles to make a comprehensive introduction to the genre, we'll compile them into a booklet which we will make available through the NPL website.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jan. 9–16 — Stan Newman's Crossword University, Western Caribbean cruise from Tampa on Holland American Line's MS Ryndam; info:

www.speialeventcruises.com/crossword

Jan. 14–17 — The MIT Mystery Hunt, Cambridge MA, www.mit.edu/~puzzle

Jan. 29 — Los Angeles area puzzle party, chez Music Man in Woodland Hills. For info, call our Bluff, (805) 499-1880.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 8 Come before pressure is lost or withdraw (6) | 24 Space by barrel being raised reveals rodent (6) |
| 9 Iran till today maneuvered in a customary manner (13) | 25 Whim to replace nitrogen by phosphorus in liquid mixture (6) |
| 12 Succession of sounds from orchestra's place — alto unyielding (7, <i>hyph.</i>) | 27 Transferable design tied up (5) |
| 13 I tried non-dressed-up performance (9) | 28 American Italians accepting an example of 4 (5) |
| 16 Takes steps, seeing southern US river dry up (6) | 30 Fiber is found in seasoning (5) |
| 18 Close Utah church group (6) | 33 Initially, nobody ever admits readiness to be stingy (4) |
| 19 Typical: unfinished skirmish and subsequent attack (7) | 34 Lacking vitality not subject to obligation (4) |

(Continued from page 35)

- C-2. When the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Henry Kissinger, it made political satire obsolete. Tom Lehrer
- C-3. Look for my upcoming memoir about attending Hebrew school with the Wonka brat and Sweeney: "Veruca, Todd, and I".
- C-4. Cartoon bar offers happy hour followed by dopey hour, sleepy hour. Grumpy hour comes next morning.
- C-5. Topical forest holds genetically engineered trees producing pulp exclusively designed for newspapers.
- C-6. Rain over head. Room full. Crax: "Four-year tour over, Teki will take over." Maso: "Come back west!" Xemu: "Done." Let's play!
- C-7. Gnarled gnome grabs gnotobiotic gnu. Gnat bites gnome, gnu escapes into metamorphic rock quarry. How gneiss!
- X-1. Artists are just children who refuse to put down their crayons. Al Hirschfeld
- X-2. If we are taught what to think, but now how to think, we end up not thinking at all. Mordecai M. Kaplan
- X-3. Bigamy is having one wife too many. Monogamy is the same thing. Oscar Wilde
- X-4. Consulting: If you are not part of the solution, there is a lot of money to be made prolonging the problem.
- X-5. *Across*: acid, nacre, oleander, agenda, rhea, emigre, eked, thumps, tone, jury, ire, lineage, deli, o'er, slough, mongrel, fall flat, invoice, toccata, land-slid, Ono, zoos, remnant, vow, ails, soli, Nevada, behind, idea, grim, dulcet, shiatzu, luck, task.
Down: camo, degree, NNE, antre, Druid, repellent, pastitsio, metropolis, arugula, rhythm, Kens, hellcat, leftovers, Rao, ongoing, eco, hazings, tinsed, uxorial, Alan Ladd, dash, swami, riant, lets, elk, indict.
- X-6. *Across*: [three b]lind mice (thriller), scuba, [one b]y one (boxful), Gotti, mne-monic, A[l]fjie (outdated), [two b]its (advantage), [P]erl (almanac), centered, Delta, [c]lown (Leo), every, cro[ss]words (rabbi).
Down: lay, ironic, *Nine*, deem, icons, cutie, Ga[rf]ield (service), gotta, M[cF]adden (singing), crewed, eeler, intro, Elmo, roar, nus.
 This puzzle combines the Seattle MARINERS baseball team with *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*. Omitted parts of answer words are abbreviated

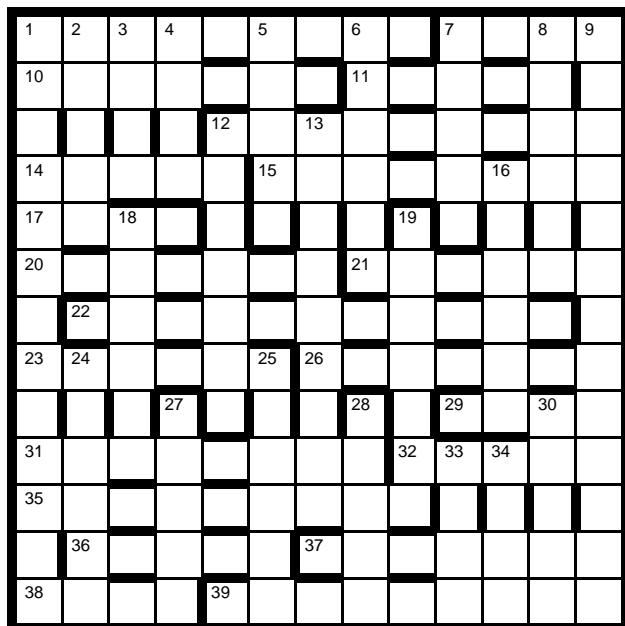
(Continued on page 39)

X-9. ANONYMOUS

To fill the grid correctly, substitutions must be made in the spirit of this issue, producing entries that are not real words. Five individuals will be replaced by intruders who might PRESENT RIPE FIREFLY AMIGO. The constructor's nom is to be deduced.

Across

- 1 Being of one mind, United Nations shows nothing in the way of ill will (9)
 7 19th or 20th in order (4)
 10 Math figure's in minority without exponent above (7)
 11 Discovery is center of controversy (5)
 12 Actor Paul ground tropical herb (9)
 14 From Japan I seize child of immigrants (5)
 15 Obama's affiliation with editor called for (8)
 17 Ever likely to be won when intelligence is gone? (4)
 20 Return flight with fat duck (7)
 21 Secret code included in musical session for piano (6)
 22 US in process reviewing flight-related science (11)
 23 Seduce mate, nearly, on the way back (6)
 26 Put the kibosh on resistance exercises to perform outside (7)
 29 Vessel in a navy organization (4, *abbr.*)
 31 Novelist — not Harte, unfortunately (8)
 32 Code word for letter modifying ink or paper (5)
 35 Attempt is heard by doctors' group describing crystalline property (9)
 36 Mother in one game is insect, finally (5)



- 37 Returning city whores like a bed (7) [NI3]
 38 Author's dish from 32 (4)
 39 Coldly hum within, lacking energy, stupidly (9)

Down

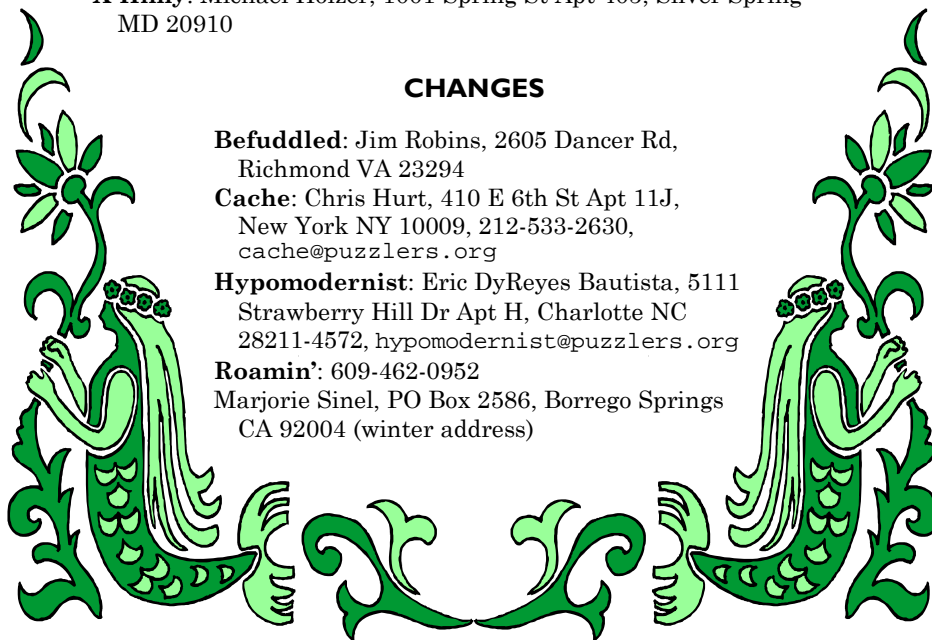
- 1 Daunted at rule — awfully pure (13)
 2 Presently holding a seat that's lost for sure (5, *hyph.*)
 3 Creatures put one with Eliot initially (4)
 4 28 is one accepted by Italian-Americans (4)
 5 Multiplying first four by ten cools tempers (5)
 6 Grumbles but for minute pronounces (6)
 7 Note system has olfactory content (5, *hyph.*)

NEW MEMBERS

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OCTOBER ERRATUM

25 — The shorter word is +.

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER AFTERNOTES

- 1 — The rubric represents the number 70 in cuneiform in the Sumerian base-60 system.
 4 — The Transamerica building, the tallest and most recognizable skyscraper in the San Francisco skyline, is shaped like a pyramid. Trazom is a music critic for the *Chronicle*.
 13 — To the tune of “Tik Tok” by Ke\$ha.
 28 — To the tune of “I Hate Men” from *Kiss Me, Kate*.
 52 — In England’s opening match of the 2010 World Cup, goalie Robert Green was benched after failing to save a long-range shot from U.S. midfielder Clint Dempsey, leading to a 1–1 draw.
 53 — Malian referee Koman Coulibaly became the subject of international controversy after officiating the 2010 World Cup match between the U.S. and Slovenia, where he called a disputed foul that negated a goal by U.S. player Maurice Edu, leading to a 2–2 draw.
 C-3 — The sol puns on “Baruch atah Adonai” (Blessed are you, the Lord), the opening of many a Jewish prayer.



OCTOBER HINTS AND NOV./DEC. EASY LIST

10 — The spaces between the rubric letters play a significant role.
 19 — It’s a well-known psychedelic rock track whose enumeration would give it away instantly.
 20 — Both SHORTS are the same guy, an American politician.
 25 — The longer word is often heard these days in decrying partisan politics.
 32 — Synonym of “a large genus of small chiefly tropical New World frogs ... that commonly complete metamorphosis within the egg.”
 Easy list: 4, 6, 7, 10, 12, 16, 18, 25, 31, 35, 37, 39, 42, 44, 45, 48, 52, 54.

31–25/7, 32–22/2, 33–21/3, 34–24/6, 35–20/2, 36–24, 37–18/3, 38–14/1, 39–19, 40–24/1, 41–27/9, 42–22, 43–13/1, 44–27, 45–17/2, 46–29/1, 47–20/3/1, 48–29, 49–27/1, 50–29/5, 51–28/2, 52–20, 53–15. FORMS: 1–24/2, 2–21/2, 3–21, 4–21, 5–22, 6–21/3, 7–20, 8–16/5. CRYPTS: 1–24, 2–24, 3–22/1, 4–21/4, 5–23/1, 6–22/2, 7–23/2. EXTRAS: 1–18/1, 2–23/1, 3–23/1, 4–23/3/1, 5–22/24/7, 6–13/13/3, 7–15/12/3. MISCELLANEOUS: KU-1–2/2/1, Vraabby’s Easter egg–*/1. [* = not tabulated]

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER FAVORITES (! means top favorite): Abacus–6, 26, 30. Alice–1, 22, 28, 41, 45, 47, X-5! andma-Gray/turk–7, 10, 31, 40, 46, F-6, C-4, X-1, X-5. Badir–5, 28, 50, KU-1, F-8, X-5. Btirn–1, 13, 25, 38, KU-1! F-2, X-5, X-6. Dada–C-4, X-5, X-6, X-7. /dev/joe–8, F-1, F-6, F-8, X-5, X-6!, X-7. Dragonfly–28, 29, 30, 41, C-4, X-5! (e)met–1, 5, 7, 13, 19, 25, 31, 41, X-5!, X-6, X-7. Endgame–9, 16, 21, 28, 47!, C-6, X-5, Vraabby’s Easter egg. Ergo–31, C-6, C-7. Hot–1, 25, 41, X-5, X-6, X-7. Jerg/Newrow–10, 14, 25, 31, F-8, X-5, X-7! Jo the Loiterer–7, X-5, X-6, X-7. Libra–5, 13, 14, 22, 25, 27, 32, 37, 43, F-2, X-5! Lyric–50, 51, X-5!, X-6, X-7. Mercury–21, 29, 33. Mr. Do!–7, 10, 28, 29, 31, 34, 49, C-4, X-2, X-5!, X-6. Munro–X-5!, X-6, X-7. NJ Ninja–10, 18, 24, 30, 31, 33, 34, 41, F-1, F-8, X-4, X-7! Pebbles–21, 25, 37, X-5. Pen Gwyn–50. Quicks?lver–13, 25, 34, 37, 45, X-5, X-6, X-7. R/EDS–12, 21, 31, 35, 41, C-5, C-7, X-5, X-6, X-7! Satyr Eyes–7!, 25, 30, 34, 50. Treesong–3, 6, 19, 27, 28, 34, 47, 50, F-6, X-3, X-4!, X-5. Tril–1, 7, 25, 32, 41, F-8, X-5, X-6! Wabbit–7, 35, 41, X-5. Witz–8, 15, 25, 28, 33, 51, C-3, X-4, X-5, X-6!, X-7. WebCatt–34, 41, X-5!

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER SOLUTIONS

1. I nurse vent Y [in Ur, seventy] 2. water-loving, gravitational wave 3. unhand, unhandsome 4. chronicle, conical 5. wert holding; red light, green light, one two three 6. punch-eon 7. HAMmock, LEThal 8. codesigned [C; ode signed] 9. swart, straw 10. i(ron or)e 11. c/o-uter 12. stonker, storken 13. glimpser, Seemiller grip 14. feldspathic’s, self-dispatch 15. pulse, repulse 16. momentary, monetary 17. voracious, porraceous 18. Ph-arise/on-e 19. Strongyle, Genoese lottery; Isole Eolie, usually, sell, sea lily 20. Tony Hayward [draw Y, ah, Y not] 21. sell baseball 22. swam-p/i 23. decision, scission 24. British, brattish, brutish 25. zoo, Zeus myth 26. Pleiades; plea, ides 27. beauty q/m-ark 28. rival, viral; atheism, metathesis, at the same time 29. team up, teacup 30. one-stop flight [on E’s top, F light] 31. enigma, imagine, I manage, nine-inning game 32. euchred; uke, Kurd 33. mansion, Manchin 34. light opera; top, Lyra 35. prepare, erasers 36. Sala-h/m-i 37. eclat, cattle call 38. shoecraft, cast of characters 39. dermal, marmalade KU-1. use tin tole, nominee. a tin Gone [U (=high-class); set into Leno (=Jay), mine (=pit) eating one (=an)] 40. put about [put a B out] 41. oven is on 42. w/H-ayward 43. milks, Kis Kilim 44. caring, Nina Garcia 45. p(op q)iz, zip 46. to Tylenol 47. coislander, raisin-colored, *Arsenic and Old Lace* 48. Lady Gaga 49. the NBA champion Los Angeles Lakers 50. alphabet 51. the World Cup champions 52. England’s goalie Robert Green 53. ref Koman Coulibaly

C-1. Sign posted on wall at gym: “If you are taking up cross-country skiing, best start with a small country.”

(Continued on page 37)

X-6. KNIGHT'S-TOUR CRYPT (*4 *6
7 4 4 4 4. 4'2 3. 4'2 5-4 6 7 . . . 3 2
3 *10 5 4 3 2 4! *5 *9)

```

      W H
    E _ A
  U T T R      T
H E C E      L E D M      L
  T H      A E S D L N T B      F
E W O R S N T A P I T E E I O T
T A      E O H O L T G E D I E H N C
T T Y E U I D E R E Y V W R R A H D O
H H M R N Y D A S T E E N I T I D E
G C Y E E L Y E A T D N D H W I
  E B      L S

```

=769, Margate FL

(Continued on page 36)

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER SOLVERS

The August/September *Enigma* had 53 flats, 8 forms, 7 crypts, and 7 extras; 35 solution lists, representing 62 solvers, were received. Abacus/R/EDS/Wabbit, 8/Badir/Btnirn/QED, Andreas/Witz, /dev/joe, Joker/Lirath/LeXman, Momus/Panther, Philana/Mercury, and Quicks?lver had completes. Gabby/Vraal and Jo the Loiterer/Manx/Pen Gwyn/Stewball had flat completes.

Accepted: #8—COSCRIPTEd; #9— OLIVE/VOILE, PALER/PEARL; #11— P/G-AWKY (6), S/E-AGER (4), T/D-ENSE; 28—SAUCE/CAUSE for VIRAL/ RIVAL, SITE for TIME; #31—GAMINE for ENIGMA; #40—GOT for PUT (2). Not accepted: #17—GLUTINOUS/GLUTTONOUS, DISGUSTING/DEGUSTING (2), COMPELLENT/ REPELLENT, or REPULSIVE/COMPULSIVE; #30— LAY-OVER (3) or NON-STOP for ONE-STOP. ENDGAME, Solutions Editor

Ajde 19/0/6/3; Alice/Hot/Ming 38/0/0/3; andma-Gray/turk 18/*/6/6; Askew/Bactam 23/6/5/3; Avidan/Banterweight 26/0/0/1; Billy the Kid/Buttorkup/Kapry Korn 47/*/6/4; Clio 39/*/*/*; Dada 1/6/*/3; Dragonfly 40/0/*/4; (e)met 47/0/0/3; Endgame 41/*/*/4; Ergo 17/0/5/3; Gabby/Vraal /*/*/*/6; Geneal/GrandBairn/Serendipity/Wampahoofus 47/*/*/*; Hemlock/Lyric/Munro 44/*/*/*; Jerg/Newrow 48/*/*/*; Jo the Loiterer/Manx/Pen Gwyn/Stewball /*/*/3/*; Libra 46/*/*/4; Mr. Do! 33/3/*/6; NJ Ninja 29/7/*/5; Owler 28/0/0/1; Pebbles 49/4/6/*; Satyr Eyes 42/2/*/0; Shaman 19/7/0/0; Treesong 48/*/*/6; WebCatt 14/1/0/1.

SOLVING FREQUENCY/NUMBER OF KUDOS/TOP KUDOS: 1—17/5, 2—16, 3—28/1, 4—29, 5—17/3, 6—26/2, 7—24/7/1, 8—15/2, 9—19/1, 10—29/4, 11—19, 12—11/1, 13—20/4, 14—14/2, 15—22/1, 16—22/1, 17—11, 18—27/1, 19—13/2, 20—27, 21—22/4, 22—24/2, 23—13, 24—24/1, 25—23/10, 26—25/1, 27—19/2, 28—23/7, 29—27/3, 30—18/4,

X-7. VERTICAL ANAQUOTE (*1 2 3
4 9 2 3 *6 *6. *1. *8)

```

A A E E H I I L M P R S S T T
E H F T O D D T N N I E E T U
T B S N E N S J A H A A U T C

```

=²fl, Redmond WA

X-8. SHUFFLED QUOTE (see note)

```

A . * _ C A A : _ _ A E _ E A A
E C D * R A A N * G E I ^ H C L
L E I G S C M R A H I S A N L R
Y P K O T H R T E L W V S P T

```

=769, Margate FL

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER PUZZLES

6, 29, 41, 53 — Vraal/Gabby.

8 — In a reversed palindrome deletion charade, a palindromic sequence three letters or longer is removed from each of a pair of words. The remaining letters are brought together and reversed to form a new word. Example: motor, agog; arm.

9, 25, 42 — Welcome, new composer Hyperion!

11, 30, 44 — Scarab/Earl E. Byrd.

11 — In a chop 'n' swap, a letter is removed (chopped) from somewhere in the middle of a word; the two pieces remaining switch positions (swap).

Example: SHAME → chop the A → swap the parts → MESH.

14 — Wabbit/Wrybosh.

15 — Gabby/Vraal.

20 — Hot/Scarab.

21, 36, 51 — Ulk/Earl E. Byrd.

22 — Andreas/Witz.

27 — SETTER is lowercase in NI3, but most people nowadays would probably capitalize both words.

53 — A two-letter state abbreviation is replaced with another state abbreviation. Example: spa, sky.

61 — In a palindrome deletion, a sequence of three or more letters that make a palindrome (though not necessarily a word) is deleted from somewhere inside a word, leaving another word. The shorter word is not enumerated.

F-5 — In an Eight Queens Square, blanks represent eight chess queens such that no queen is in a position to capture any of the others; it is up to you to determine where on the 8×8 grid those blanks are. Note that some lines contain two separate words, while others contain just one.

F-6 — These three forms have the same shape, which is relevant to the theme and left to the solver to discover. The forms exhibit left-to-right symmetry.

C-2 — First five * words not MW.

C-3 — *UYWFECTMLR, *FMGSBFCIRP = not MW.

C-4 — *RWAUSEWBQ, *BPUUAS = not MW.

C-5 — *RGTZOKLG-ZDIICG = not MW.

X-3, X-8 — Rearrange the characters in each column to form a quote. A * or ^ appears before capitalized words. If there is no punctuation or * or ^ between adjacent words, then _ is inserted between them to represent the space. The text was broken into four rows and the characters in each column were then sorted vertically. See example at right.

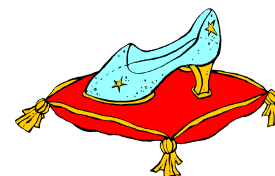
SHUFFLED QUOTE

```

A ! * _ B E _ _ A _ D
I C G _ L F _ C A R H
S N K ' O I C E O T P
Y O U A R U T N

```

Sol: You're nothing but a pack of cards! Alice



PENETRALIA

Solution words and phrases not found in 11C (11th Collegiate) are labeled for the most recent Merriam-Webster dictionary in which they appear: 10C, 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, heteronyms and homonyms, variations on these types, and flats labeled "freewheeling."

Send your solution lists after January 1 to **ENDGAME**, Joel Hess, c/o Irvington Village #507, 420 NE Mason St., Portland OR 97211-3486 (endgame@puzzlers.org). All lists must be received by 11:59 p.m. PST on January 31.

1. ENIGMATIC SUBER (5 3)

1111

One thousand one hundred eleven of
The songs that I most deeply love
Are on my iPod — bluegrass, blues,
Blue Moon, Blue Monday, Blue Suede
Shoes,

Pavane, progressive, polka, punk,
Flamenco, fusion, filk, folk, funk,
Ska, skiffle, salsa, samba, soul,
Rap, ragtime, reggae, rock and roll,
Calypso, country, cabaret,
The Beatles, Bangles, bop, ballet,
Jay-Z, jazz, JLo, ZZ Top,
Tejano, tango, techno-pop,
Grunge, girl groups, guy groups,
gangsta rap —
My iPod has a KILLER APP.
=WRYBOSH, Montville NJ

2. TRANS-CROSS (*6, 6, 6, 6) (EVIL = *6 = not quite MW usage)

EVIL City is hardly a nice little ILYA.
It's teeming with baddies who surely
would kill ya

As quickly as greet you or offer their
hand.

Each day it seems some fiendish caper
is planned,

But don't move away to a far Alpine
ENYA

Or flee to some game reserve hidden
in Kenya.

You'll find that the crime rate is quite
close to zero

Because of our great vespertilian hero
Who swoops down on criminals,
hollering "EVEN!"

Just mention his name, and the crooks
start a-leavin'!

=SCARAB, St. Paul MN

3. HETERONYM (*5 4 *3, 3-5-4) (*5, *3 = not MW or not MW usage, neither MW)

Since Ms. Guisewite's retired her strip
of renown,

She can sketch what she wants —
even Stimpy shrunk down

And bewinged, with nine heads. Ne'er
will ONE, but a TWO

Is a challenge, with nine beaklike
noses of blue!

=UCAOIMHU, Somerville MA

4. ENIGMATIC REBUS (10 4)

TEMPS

Was poor Cinderella's wicked old
TEMPS

To keep her away from the ball?

I'd say not; her nefarious scheme went
awry —

Cindy grabbed up the prince, after all.
=ENDGAME, Portland OR

44 IRA revolutionary rough period
elevated anger? (7, 2 wds.)

47 Paradise in back of house —
room where poker might be
played (4)

48 It's a sharp move: king getting
support with ace in the end
(9, *hyph.*)

51 Greek characters stood up for the
audience (4)

53 Disguise pair of clubs, nothing next
to Big Slick (5)

54 Zigzag on snow — zigging with
snow out of base unit of pure
substance (5)

56 Sort of gum used for thickening
preserve mostly (4)

57 Sailor catching tailless red
crawfishes and a whale (6)

58 Rushes from coasters travelling
backward at high speed (9)

59 Tips of marinated roast sirloin
done adding some hot seasoning
blend (4, 2 wds.)

Down

1 He loses opener for beer (3)

2 Magic: are you any spelled? (4)

3 Bad bosses get in your head too
much (6)

4 Deals up with no heart — it has
runner-runner? (4)

5 Falling back, reportedly folds
again? (7)

6 Nice king follows close to heart for
Star Trek character (4)

7 Stayed and waited in line
(sandwiches not ordered in) (9)

8 Number three busted (5)

9 Takes on mafia leaders (4)

13 Queens with unusual auras and
heavenly bodies (7)

15 Redeal the first half, short
diamonds and hearts (4)

16 Really crappy stocking —
spandex (5)

18 Evenly glue half sheet of paper (4)

19 Process of printing literature —
how detailed (5)

21 Both/either of Rhonda Wilder,
Chuck Henry (5, 2 wds.)

22 Sound car operator (5)

23 Begins to crash parties (6)

28 Plants the last out almost having
bet the stack (6)

30 Plain raise over everyone (5)

31 Shaped like a tooth with modern fit
sculpted (9)

32 Radio and television boosted
support . . . support for me (5)

33 Lassie: genuinely entertaining dog
[NI3] (7)

34 From the speaker, no stable
sound (5)

37 Laura Reed has money (5)

39 A snakelike creature climbs toward
shelter (4)

40 Beaten with poker face, thrown
off (7)

42 Grasslands cut the lowest (4)

45 Lar has thrown a stone (6)

46 Not pretty, lacking finish, like
some diamonds (5)

48 Kings dropping in houses, empty
large quantities of beer (4)

49 Lawman chewed pear (4)

50 Ponder tail at front for birds (4)

52 Rowers: logical operators in the
sound (4)

55 State to collect tax for pier (3)

Rank

Ace	A	Jack	J
King	M	Ten	T
	(the Man)	Nine	N
Queen	L	Eight	E
	(the Lady)	Seven	V

Suit

Six	I	Spade	S
Five	F	Club	C
Four	U	Diamond	D
Three	R	Heart	H
Two	O		

Big Slik

Cheater

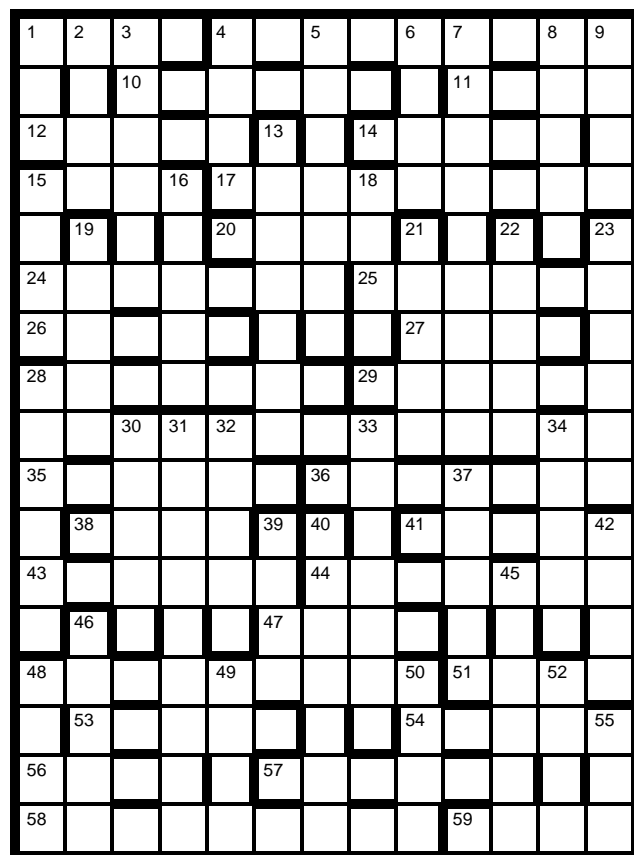
Joker

Dealer

Holdm

Bluff

Stax



Across

- 1 A poker player sometimes beaten by the ace of diamonds? (4, *hyph.*)
 4 Deal the cards with clubs removed (9)
 10 All-in bet — it can keep you on your toes (6)
 11 In a state of awareness about pair splitting right away (4)
 12 Follow leader getting away from queens, folding (5)
 14 Holdm on the case for some time (5)
 15 Dance to resist passing out (4)
 17 I commend turning draws with pair qualities (9)
 20 Record draw on right side of table (4)
 24 Talk about insult and curse (7)
 25 Rings neutralize electric current (6)
 26 Stock taken back by culprit — stealer (5)
 27 Dandy clothing shortened at edge (4)
 28 The amateur opening with three oddly creates drama (7)
 29 He's getting old playing gin and weeding the garden (6)
 35 Inactive flop please (6)
 36 Large houses with elaborate tea sets (7)
 38 Loss and gain (4)
 41 Student left mistakes within the margins (5)
 43 Plant contributing to virulent illness (6)

5. FREEWHEELING LETTER BANK
(8 3 4; 5 *9 2 3, 3 2 3 1 4 5)

'Twas the first of December as Linda
and Drew
Gazed fondly upon their adorable Sue.
The youngster lay sleeping, so Mom
and Dad sent
An e-mail to Santa, and here's how it
went:
"For Sue we request an adorable
sleigh,
A diminutive one for that most special
day."
Fast forward and Santa is up in the
sky,
And yells to the parents, while circling
by,
"I've placed a FIFTEEN by your
fireplace for Sue,
And now I must hie. THIRTY FOUR
PLUS A FEW!"
=EARL E. BYRD, Aiken SC

6. REVERSED DELETION (7)

Drag upon a REEFER? Yuck!
No, thanks. Besides the smell,
Your lungs go black, you cough and
hack,
And you will look like hell.
I could go citing sources re
This suffering and sadness;
Instead I merely plead sincerely:
Stop this REFER madness.
=VRAABBY, Millpeg NB

7. METATHESIS (7)

One fateful day in thirty-four,
Young Ruggiero was no more.
A bullet hidden in a gun
Struck down this legendary ONE.
An up-and-coming star of flicks,
He lost his life at twenty-six.
The TWO's report of the event:
A sad and tragic accident.
=GROUCHO, Cliffside Park NJ

8. REVERSED PALINDROME
DELETION CHARADE (8, 4; 4)
(FIRST, SECOND; CHARADE)

Political analyses
Of ancient stories show
How seeds of our democracy
Were planted long ago.
The ancient Viking SECONDS tell
The deeds of gods and kings
But never, in these stories, of
The peasants do they sing.
But in the middle ages, while
The nobles still told tales
Of kings and knights and courtly love,
CHARADEs down in the vale
Would make up stories of their own,
Of foxes, hares, and birds.
It all seemed quaint and innocent,
But hidden in the words
Are little jabs at royalty,
Extravagance, and pride.
The FIRST of feudal times reveals
The discontent inside.
=LEXMAN, East Moline IL

9. HEAD-TO-TAIL SHIFT (*6, 6)
(FIRST = NI2)

High in the autumn sky tonight
The star named FIRST is shining
bright,
Reminding me of tales of yore,
Of gorgons, cyclops, blood and gore!
Yet gods may help combat these forces,
With gifts of shields or winged horses!
Despite the dire chimera's breath,
Bellerophon, of course, SECOND death!
=HYPERION, Dallas TX

10. FREEWHEELING
CURTAILMENT (7, 2 4)

HUMP his desk he stuck wads of gum,
So when the teacher said,
"I do expect you all to HUM!"
He hung his guilty head.
=WABBIT, Montreal QC

11. CHOP 'N' SWAP (7)

We all call it "Christmas," but really these days
 We mark its occurrence in quite different ways.
 For many it's truly a spiritual time
 To honor the birth of a savior sublime.
 For others it's all about children, it seems,
 As visions of Santa Claus dance in their dreams.
 For some, though, it seems to be more like a BOOT —
 A time that invites them to holler and hoot,
 A time meant for revelry, dancing, and such
 And often for drinking and eating too much.
 Some candy is great in that latter regard,
 Especially the kinds that are chewy, not hard.
 Brown sugar? Molasses? They surely should do
 To whip up a few of your favorite TABOO.
 =SCARE E. BYRD, St. Paiken MC

12. TRANSPOGRAM (*6, *2, *4)
(ONE = not MW, TWO = part of phrase; can be sung by Zero ONE)

If I were a fishman
 (Blubbi-bibbi-bibbi-bibbi-bibbi-bibbi-bibbi-blub)
 All day long I'd watch my female kin
 Sing and lure the sailors in!

TWO, who makes the "fire" on their sails,
 And protects their ships from stormy gales,
 Would it send God's planning off the rails,
 If I were a man with scales?
 =UCAOIMHU, Somerville MA

13. DELETION (*6) (TOTAL, LESSER) (TOTAL is part of 11C phrase)
CURTAILMENT (*6) (TOTAL, CUT OFF)
TERMINAL DELETION (*6) (TOTAL, MIDDLE)
CHARADE (*6) (TOTAL; LEFT, RIGHT) (*LEFT = not MW, RIGHT = * abbr.)

Louis won by LESSER, did he have a better draw?
 Maybe Rory could have done without the wind and raw
 Conditions of the second round which caused him to balloon
 To 80, fighting for each stroke on Friday afternoon.
 Tiger wasn't MIDDLE much of a threat, couldn't putt;
 Despite two different flat sticks, he was stuck within a rut.
 The saddest note of all was that our friend *LEFT wasn't there.
 For even with a RIGHT beside him, giving tender care,
 The doctors said he couldn't fly from Spain due to his brain
 Which suffered from a stroke which CUT OFFed speech; so inhumane.

A bunch of players afterwards, they opted for a rest;
 Remember now "The Open" is oft called golf's greatest test.
 Perhaps a cruise along the Thames or maybe on the Clyde.
 Or even on the TOTAL (UK, not C. Bay) they'd glide.
 =R/EDS, Ste. Anne de Prescott ON

14. CHARADE WNFR (6)
(one TWO = NI3+ usage)

My dead and buried masculine
 Scottish Jewish granddaughter . . .
 =WASH, Montmont QJ

- | | |
|---|---|
| 17 Santa's little helper: responsible and steadfast (9) [NI3] | 29 Santa has left for new career (5) |
| 21 Returned home, angry to be on Santa's naughty list (6) | 30 Leading Iowa university comes first — a place you'll never see Santa (6) |
| 22 Carlos's band, like, flipped over new beat, Ace (7) | 32 Discussed Ireland with priest (5) |
| 24 Santa shaking present (7) | 34 Jumping up, klutz uses the TV remote (4) |
| 27 Busiest attorney takes midday break (6) | 38 I've heard charred wood is a form of eyeliner (4) |

X-5. TEXAS HOLD'EM — by WHEELS, Georgetown ON

The row labels represent the six players and the dealer in a game of Texas Hold'em. In the completed grid, the hole cards for each of the six players are represented in the labelled rows as a set of four adjacent letters consisting of two letter pairs (not necessarily a word or part of a word). One letter in each pair represents the suit and the other represents the rank (see chart below). Either the rank or the suit may come first in each letter pair. For example, the two of clubs and three of diamonds could be represented by OCRD, CORD, CODR, OCDR, DRCO, RDCO, RDOC, or DROC. If a row has two sets of four adjacent letters that could form the hole cards, you should use the leftmost set. The Dealer row has the five community cards represented by the first 10 letters (flop: 1-6; turn: 7,8; and river: 9,10).

Two pictures can be found near the center of the completed grid. The first one is outlined by the squares containing an appropriate 5-letter word written several times Boggle-style (some letters are used more than once). The second picture is formed by shading squares containing the letters of an appropriate 3-word phrase (3 2 6). These words, taken separately, are written Boggle-style, and the second picture is contained entirely within the first. Some ambiguities are resolved by knowing that both pictures are bilaterally symmetric, and by noting that both pictures are described by the Dealer row. However, you'll have to change the last three letters in that row (such that valid crossing words are formed) to get the description of the second picture. Colored pencils may be helpful.

Finally, two crossing entries are too big to fit in the grid. Figure out how to enter them so that they fit and coexist peacefully to complete the pictures. The enumerations in these two clues reflect the grid entries, not the answers.

As you'll see, one of the players thought that he might have the winning hand at the turn, but was defeated on the river. Complete the puzzle by identifying the player who won and the winning hand (which is near and dear to me).

The puzzle can be solved without knowledge of poker, but may be more enjoyable with some basic knowledge of poker jargon and rules. A site such as pokerterms.com or Wikipedia may be helpful.

Rank

Ace	A	Jack	J	Six	I
King	M	Ten	T	Five	F
(the Man)		Nine	N	Four	U
Queen	L	Eight	E	Three	R
(the Lady)		Seven	V	Two	O

Suit

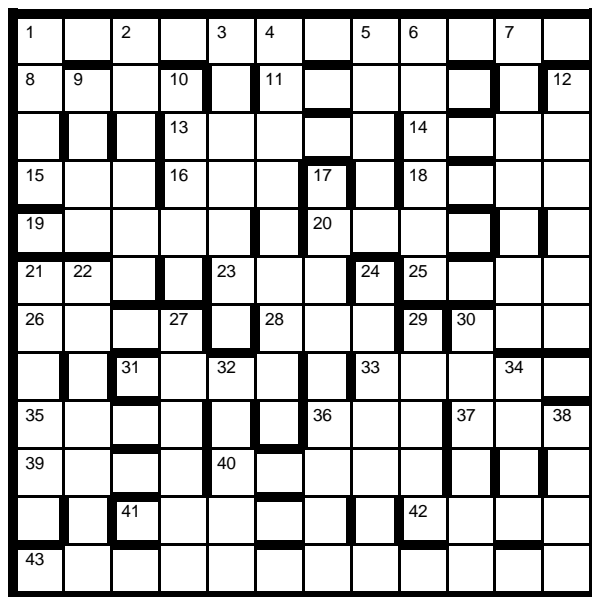
Spade	S
Club	C
Diamond	D
Heart	H

X-4. WORST CHRISTMAS EVER — by LEXMAN, East Moline IL

It's amazing how one tiny mix-up can ruin a perfectly good holiday . . .

Across

- 1 Father's an expert, taking time with a piece of furniture (12, 2 wds.)
 8 Cursed heartless mind (4)
 11 Santa was returning (5)
 13 Closing oven, I snarled (5)
 14 Two states make isinglass (4)
 15 Eat broth with nothing left out (3)
 16 Cruel, losing head over Scottish rejection (3) [NI3]
 18 Give in, not finishing Russian crepe (4)
 19 Pole, like in Santa's home (5) [NI3]
 20 Mentioned shopping plaza bash (4)
 21 Landslide covers cable (3, abbr.)
 23 Famous suicide method: a small pipe (3)
 25 A type of butter filling promotes health (4)
 26 Alternately, Santa has expressions of delight (4)
 28 Start off healthy, with beer (3)
 30 Run bats for pitcher (3)
 31 Complain about Santa, for example (4)
 33 Snobbish, I try to break up about snoring (5)
 35 Santa: a media-embracing celebrity (4)
 36 Copy a letter in Hebrew (3)
 37 Authorization to take a beech tree (3)
 39 Finishes ship, front to back (4)
 40 Act like Santa and dance around bag (5)
 41 Chair has too little stuffing (5)
 42 Talk of the town: head of department is high (4)



- 43 Unreliable person — the gutless, portly knight — while heading west on the road to New Mexico (12, 3 wds.)

Down

- 1 Degrees of acidity at center of Red Sea (4, abbr.)
 2 No place in ring for correspondent (6, 2 wds.)
 3 Then Santa brought up instrumental music (7)
 4 Santa raves, drunk, restrained by a prohibitionist (9)
 5 Left out of a mansion, Teresa's home (5)
 6 Bit of fun: I'm busting a cloud (6)
 7 I hear Lucy van Pelt has no truck with Santa (7)
 9 Case in perpetuity (4)
 10 Packed in goldenseal (5)
 12 God's promise in California: the end to Santa Ana winds (6)

15. ENIGMATIC REBUS (10 (2 2) (HELL-BROTH)

attempt

REBUS (6 1 4 6 6) (RAN THE SHOW)

IE UNDERTAKE HUNGRY

ENIGMATIC SUBER (6 5, 2) (LAST)

DdancerAthy's aunt

Thrice the candied yams I've stewed.
 Twice I've steeped my figs in wine.
 Timer cries: "It's stuffing time!"

"Mom! Please scrape bird to the bone,
 My boys love entrails, throw in

Loads! Oh, 'bout that bird now — Mins
 Baked per pound? Ah, thirty-one's
 Swell for flavor. E'ery piece'll
 Drip with juice. Oh, dripped grease'll

Sputter. Mother — boil with butter,
 Sage to taste, it's great!" I utter.

Why do we, thanks-giving, make
 Fuss and froth and bellyache?
 My kin descend, like a fog —
 Adults, kids, even the dog —
 With forks they eat everything
 Scarfing all save napkin rings.
 HELL-BROTH anyway) and Tums
 Knock them out till morning comes.

And so, although I RAN THE SHOW,
 I'm expected to clean! Oh, woe!

Let it drag on? That's obscene,
 I'm the dummy, I will clean
 Off the counters, every splash —
 Who digg'd the carcass out the trash?!
 Good lord, that blaspheming dog,
 Has some gall — yuck, what a hog!
 Slivers of potato strips
 Now on the floor, not past our lips,

Linger in congealing sauce
 Which I must remove by force,
 Such grueling work is my LAST course.
 Add thereto if I let it stay.
 I see it now, there's just no way —

Double all my toil and trouble
 If I do not scrub with bubbles
 Dirty dishes of their grime;
 I'll need them soon, come Christmas time.
 =GOBBLE, Winford MJ

16. ENIGMATIC REBUS (*15)

wrinkle avocet

By turning straw to gold I found
 Great fabulistic fame
 I'll take your first-born child unless
 You tell me — what's my name?
 =ENDGAME, Portland OR

17. FOURTH-SOUND CHANGE

(*6, 6) (FIRST = not MW usage)
 TRANSPOSAL (*5, 5) (A = not MW)

Had FIRST remained a SECOND,
 There would have been no King.
 The same is true of Gladys.
 We'd ne'er have heard him sing.

But happily, they didn't,
 And in our hearts, A B.
 So let us thank his forebears
 As we bless his memory.
 =GROUCHO, Cliffside Park NJ

18. FREEWHEELING FIRST-SOUND CHANGE (2'2-2-4; 6, 4) (GAL, PAL)

A GAL whom I know is most shiftless,
 And her PAL, it is wild as a fount
 With locks everywhere in profusion.
 I'd not hire her for any amount!
 =JOKER, Cleveland Heights OH

19. PHRASE SHIFT (4 4 6 4 *6)

There was an Athens general
Who took his strategy
From Aesop's fable's morals (but
Recalled imperfectly).
When he attacked the northern lands
He cut a blackthorn switch
To serve as battle standard, held
Up stiffly — not a twitch.
When asked the reason, he explained
That Aesop had declared
That he who holds the STICK. His men
Just shook their heads and stared.
=LEXMAN, East Moline IL

20. SPOONERGRAM (10, 10)

Pinocchio winced as he stared at the
mirror.
His lengthening schnozz couldn't be
any clearer.
He worried his day of demise might be
nearer.
So, quick as his fingers of wood would
admit,
He called his oncologist lickety-split.
He shouted "my nose has expanded a
bit,
I fear that the tissue could be
KNOTTY PINE!"
"Maintain a relaxed state of calm. You
are fine,"
Said the doctor, whose word choice
was oft POTTY NINE.
"It would seem you have uttered a
mendacious lie,
And your untruthful falsehood is
causally why
Your poor nose has grown bigger.
You'll live and won't die.
As a doctor with medical training, I
know
That your growth is benignly
unthreatening, so
If you're forthrightly honest, away it
will go!"
=HOB, Berkul CN

21. PADLOCK (6, 6; 4)

In his accustomed BARD pig three
Beseeched his brothers endlessly:
"Forsake all play. It's time," he said,
"To work with haste, or wind up dead."
And, following his own advice,
He RENDED round at more than twice
His usual speed — a pig hell bent
On mixing up some fresh cement
To build a BARREN house of brick
With sturdy walls four inches thick.
And what of piggies one and two?
It's with a heart that's filled with rue
That I disclose the awful truth:
They failed to live beyond their youth.
=ULLY BYRD, Grand Chicken IC

22. FIFTH-LETTER CHANGE (6)

As I did ONE the antique store
I really wondered why they wore
These strange TWOs three hundred
years ago.
So was it that they always lied?
Their parting ways were never spied.
But was there anything to hide — or no?
=ANTZ, Vancouver BC

23. TRANSPOSAL (6) (MAGENTA = +)

Their wintry feast of Saturn's famed;
The Romans, though, had others, named
For Faunus, Consus, Ops, Larenta,
Plus one named for this MAGENTA
(Winter-solstice-ish, then) tide
Which now are on the NAMETAG side
Of Saturn's feast (they're in its shadow).
Don't, though, let that make you mad
— oh,
How your back and shoulder'd ache
As all month long you had to make
Long toasts (unless your MAGNATE
region
Had the strength of half a legion
And your cartilag'nous GATEMAN
Had a strength at least as great), man!
=UCAOIMHU, Somerville MA

X-2. CONTENTMENT — by (e)met, Berkeley CA

The clues for this mini-cryptic are divided into two groups. For Group A, you must change one letter in each answer, forming a new word, before entering it into the grid. The replaced letters (in clue order) will spell an instruction. Each answer in Group B must be modified according to this instruction — again forming a new word — before entering it into the grid. (And if you say this puzzle is too hard, please follow the instruction yourself!)

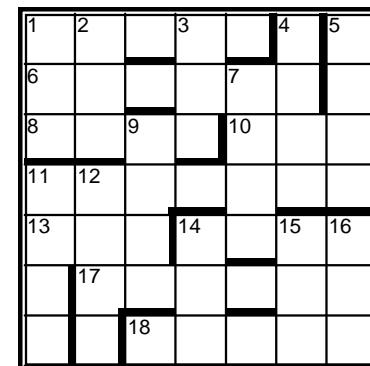
Group A

- 7D Buried in complaints, an expert
is calm and rational (4)
13A MVP to doff cap and pitch (3)
14D Long snake tail is amputated
from wild pig (3)
10A Fitting a part (3)
1D Intern Monica's last threesome:
heaven! (3)
3D Computer display hardware is
very good, getting an A (3, *abbr.*)
4D Heard evidence since then in
Scotland (4)
14A Exhausted animal shakes off
drop of sweat (4)
8A Gym called housing where "it's
fun to stay"? (4, *abbr.*)
1A Delivers salutation and post-
script after simple header (5)
12D Trucks removing center of circles
(4)
9D Shofar is annoyance, starting
late (4)
16D Oddly, Greek returns beer
container (3)

Group B

- 6A To the female nature, the
beginnings of great love: yielding
in a playful manner

- 11A 480 grains of corn? Out, ye
lunatic! (2 *ws.*)
17A Grotesque figure is object of
Popeye's desire in, for example,
newspaper retrospective
18A Mr. Rogers, friend as would befit
a king
2D Sci-fi actor shows up back in
Wyoming
5D Bill loses head and chases shy
roadrunner hunter
11D Athletic girl redesigned my boot
15D Mingling is constant, as a couple
moves from the back to the front



X-3. SHUFFLED QUOTE (see note)

_ J E _ _ * _ A H _ _ C _ _ A A _ B M _ _ I _ C E _
* N F _ E C H E N E E G H * D O D N O _ I K E O O .
K N O H N F K N O M I O R E G S E O R A I S H T W S
O O O W O W O T T N Y T U W I T L S T T P T N
=769, Margate FL

F-6. ??? (see note)

A.

Across:

- 1 Do often?
- 2 Drunkard
- 3 Inferior building material
- 4 Opportunities
- 5 The elements herein are part of one
- 6 Mont Blanc, e.g.; Periphery
- 7 Not entirely open; Current unit
- 8 George's lyricist; Smidgen
- 9 Homophone of 10B; August personage?
- 10 Paved the way; Homophone of 9A

Down:

- 1 Spa treatment
- 2 Dieter's concern
- 3 The Titanic's was Harland and Wolff
- 4 Headliner
- 5 Groan-inducing
- 6 Diplomacy
- 7 Like prêt-à-porter
- 8 More viscous
- 9 Forum shopper

B.

Across:

- 1 Special breakfast food?
- 2 *Yes, I'm a Witch* artist (Amende)
- 3 Inferior building material
- 4 Well-mannered
- 5 In a 7B, perhaps
- 6 Bit of fodder; CPA's busy month
- 7 *A Chorus Line* finale; See 5
- 8 Douglas or Fraser; Connections
- 9 Salt Lake City jock (not MW usage); Digital peace sign
- 10 Kind of blue; NYC and DC are on it

Down:

- 1 Chucklehead
- 2 Italian ice or sorbet relative
- 3 Nearly fell
- 4 Allows
- 5 Creates a cardigan
- 6 Curvy molding
- 7 Downer

8 Some big, bad home-wreckers? (inferable)

9 Placed in advance

C.

Across:

- 1 Half of X!
- 2 Midday refreshments
- 3 Superior building material
- 4 Last bit of booze
- 5 Receipt
- 6 Drunken utterance; ___ Khan
- 7 Wing; Whack
- 8 Iniquity; Wiliness
- 9 "We Know Drama" channel (TV Guide); Joey
- 10 Earlier than now; Caravansary

Down:

- 1 Cascades mount
 - 2 Showering with praise or ice
 - 3 Operatic singing style
 - 4 Family diagram
 - 5 Obscures
 - 6 Deeds
 - 7 Arid area
 - 8 Even more superior building material?
 - 9 *Ratatouille's* "Remy" (VideoHound)
- =ZEBRABOY, Cold Spring KY

EXTRAS

X-1. SOMETHING DIFFERENT SQUARE

- 1 Couch potatoes
 - 2 Thick potherb soup
 - 3 Lie in bed?
 - 4 Expert understands smart machine tech
 - 5 Underpants examinations
 - 6 Displace a movie dog
 - 7 Carapace?
 - 8 Memorable times soar
 - 9 Apply more seasoning to Ms. Bombeck
 - 10 Places assigned to a truck
- =WABBIT, Montreal QC

24. REBUS (5 8)



What motivates those teenagers to goad a charging bull?

A thousand pounds of animal; the stadium was full.

The bull, he cleared two barriers and landed in the stands.

He lurched, he charged, he even gored, ignoring all commands.

So who's at fault? We're not quite sure; some handlers are ashamed.

More likely I'd THE ANSWER GOES RIGHT HERE should all be blamed.
=R/EDS, Ste. Anne de Prescott ON

25. FREEWHEELING FOURTH-LETTER CHANGE (^8, ^3 ^5)
(clued in order)

Hesiod's WORKS described the gods with vividness and feeling.

MOSES *and the Ecstasy* described a painted ceiling.

=HYPERION, Dallas TX

26. WELDED TRANSPOSAL (10 12)
(10 = NI3, 11C-inferable)

I believe that you will find my WELDED TRANSPOSAL moderately engaging.

The answer to this puzzle won't come to you immediately.

Eventually, you will have a correct hunch about one of the answer words.

From that, you will infer what letters should be in the other word, and finally figure out that word, too.

As a final check, you will confirm the tagging.

=WRYBOSH, Montville NJ

27. LETTER BANK (7, 10, 6 5, 4 11)
(REST, STEER, SETTER, STREET) (REST = inferable, SETTER = NI3, STREET = not MW)
FALSE NEGATIVE (6, 8)
(THERE, HERE)
(can be sung; see note)

See the thankful people eat SETTER's bounty. When the STREET In the bird has said they can, They will gorge on tryptophan (Whose THERE group has one N STEER

In its rings) — then, growing HERE, Laze. (They don't resist, for they Aren't one-REST resistors, say.)
=UCAOIMHU, Somerville MA

28. LETTER BANK (*4 *4, 8, 11, *6 5, [2 4 5 1 7]) (WALK, STROLL, LOPE, JOG, RUN) (WALK = not MW, STROLL = NI3)

Caught *Top Chef: Just Desserts* (Season One)? There, Spicy drama just couldn't be tenser. Bitter chefs, when they're blaming, are RUN; their Salty language can challenge the censor.

We saw WALK have a bittersweet meltdown.

As a chef, though, I'd bet he'd make quick work

Of some STROLL (from when Israel dwelt down

In old Egypt with mortar and brick-work).

Hey, Top Chef! Can you do me a favor, So this flat doesn't turn out Icelandy? Have the chefs LOPE a symph'ny of flavor,

Baking JOGs spiked with apricot brandy.

=JO THE LOITERER, Basking Ridge NJ

29. OVERLOADED HETERONYM
(12, *5 7) (12 = NI3; *5 = not MW)

The New York Yankees' leading guy,
Despite the wishes of some fans,
May often get left out to dry,
If not in ol' George S.'s plans.
Then tempers flare; the heat is on!
(George got burned by 07's GONE.)
=VRAABBY, Millpeg NB

30. TERMINAL DELETION (5 3, 6)
(5 3 = not MW; with apologies to
Mr. Poe)

Once upon a midnight dreary, I was
paging, weak and weary,
Through some thick and vaguely eerie
volumes of forgotten lore.
As the pages I was flipping, suddenly I
felt a dripping,
As of liquid gently slipping from my
finger to the floor.
'Tis a LEMUR, I imagined, causing
dripping on my floor —
Only that, and nothing more.

But my EMU I, distraughtly, soon
determined had been faulty.
For the liquid was my salty tears
descending to the floor.
Eagerly I wished the morrow; hoping
then that I could borrow
From the sun surcease from sorrow,
sorrow for the lost Lenore —
For the now immortal lady, named by
Edgar as Lenore —
Nameless once, but nevermore.
=SCARE E. BYRD, St. Paiken MC

31. WELDED TRANSPOSAL
([*4 *6] 2 2 [*5 *5])

I didn't like "Blithe Spirit."
I loved "The Canterville Ghost."
His fans may hate to hear it,
But HE'S AS DRY AS TOAST.
=MR. TEX, New York NY

32. FALSE OPPOSITE (7, 10)

Sitting in my family tree
Reading genealogy,
Seeking criminality.

Cousin Rose or Uncle Sam
Would never try to run a scam.
I'm the PRIMER! I'm the first!
Morals of the very worst!

Snuck into the Cineplex!
Played Go Fish with marked decks!
Ate some TWO bread Pesach eve!
Wrote a crib sheet on my sleeve!
Tried to heist a (piggy) bank!
Shaved a Q-Tip, made a shank!
Mailed my sister overseas!
Changed report card Fs to Bs!
I must have broken every rule;
I'm so bad and I'm so cool!
=raw, Ogdensburg NY

33. PHONETIC REBUS (*4 3)

Panic at the pole; all the BOYs are sick.
Bound to mean no toys, carried by St.
Nick.
=, Ste. Anne de Prescott ON

34. WORD SUBSTITUTION (*8, 3,
*1, *6) (ONE = not MW usage)

Leave it to me to help out both a d-
Ownhearted doll (long time betrothèd)
And Antarctic birds whose home may
melt.
They'll marry each other! A wedding
with smelt
And a Frank Loesser score. This idea
is neat.
She's itching to hitch, the bird's got a
tuxedo.
Yes, that's what yours truly is
planning to do:
So stand by as THREE TWO the
FOURs and ONE too.
=OWLER, Los Angeles CA

- 4 Prehistoric mound
- 5 Emblem of life
- 6 One of a score you might have
- 7 Musical genre ironically unknown
at William McKinley High School
- 8 Roll, either way
- 9 Tolkien's doctors?

B.

Across:

- 1 Most menschy
- 2 Equiangular figure
- 3 One per cent of a googol's square root
- 4 Preambles

Down:

- 1 Winners may do it; losers may eat it
- 2 Wolf
- 3 One of five in *Phèdre* (RH2)
- 4 Pen
- 5 Moroccan port
- 6 *To Live and Die* ____ (VideoHound)
- 7 Shield of Zeus or Athena
- 8 Blackthorn
- 9 XXX

C.

Across:

- 1 Like a shot's path, ideally
- 2 Enzyme that can change one sugar
to another
- 3 This page, for one
- 4 Surfer's ear and the like

Down:

- 1 Senior on the Seine
- 2 Top
- 3 It was used against Michael Milken
and Bud Selig
- 4 Small quantities?
- 5 Top
- 6 Words with "whether"
- 7 Trails
- 8 Man, for one
- 9 Artichoke hearts?

D.

Across:

- 1 CH₃CONH₂ (though MW says
C₂H₅NO)

- 2 Poems of retraction (as of praise of
Biden?)
- 3 Movable helmet parts
- 4 This one, like the previous three, is
shaped like the Monoliths in *2010*

Down:

- 1 Three-banded armadillo
- 2 Spelunk
- 3 One of an E.E.'s E.'s
- 4 Lost in rural Britain?
- 5 Pier
- 6 Kvetch
- 7 David Bowie's "____
Everything" (Rock Stars Encyc)
- 8 Dingle
- 9 NC motto starter
=æ, Cambridge MA

F-5. EIGHT QUEENS SQUARE
(see note)

Across:

- 1 Where you can see black and white
movies (TV Guide); The Murder
Weapon
- 2 Moon spots; Life force
- 3 Thickening agent
- 4 Crybaby, maybe; She played
Garrett on *The Facts of Life*
(imdb.com)
- 5 Kind of beam; Engenders
- 6 Where there's a will...?
- 7 Resume; Japanese plum vinegar
(encarta.msn.com)
- 8 Murder Suspect One; Soft

Down:

- 1 Morning; The Murder Victim
- 2 Sorcerers; Space walk, e.g.
- 3 The Murder Suspects' Trail; Number
- 4 Atlas' father
- 5 Plier; Willing
- 6 Legal abbreviation; Murder
Suspect Two
- 7 Regards as comparable
- 8 Whence denim gets its name; Happy
=LEXMAN, East Moline IL

F-2. SEQUENTIAL SQUARES

A.

- 1 Murray R. Pearce (NPL)
- 2 Treat as comparable
- 3 Uproar
- 4 Kobe's team (World Almanac)
- 5 Spanish-born pianist, 1895-1980
- 6 Mythical monster, familiarly (Trivia Encyc)

B.

- 1 Loud kisses
- 2 Former forms editor and prominent formist (NPL)
- 3 Esoteric
- 4 Rains, for one (Amende)
- 5 German children (11C-findable)
- 6 Is disdainful

C.

- 1 The Desert Fox
- 2 Iroquoian language
- 3 For years, the only NPLer in North Dakota (NPL)
- 4 Englishman of noble birth
- 5 Adrianople, today
- 6 Adjective for gentry

D.

- 1 Ecological communities
- 2 Fabricate
- 3 Exaggerate
- 4 League member, 1968-2010 (NPL)
- 5 Salad herb
- 6 Very high

E.

- 1 Butterfly's title (Encyc of Opera)
- 2 Some blues
- 3 French song composer, 1848-1933 (Oxford Companion to Music)
- 4 Fit for crop-growing
- 5 Letter bank for Neil Miller
- 6 Progress

F.

- 1 Casablanca currency
- 2 Most of the Pleistocene epoch
- 3 University or school head

4 Quantity of rain, in a 1957 movie title

5 Agile, long-legged rodent

6 Legendary wizard

=AI, Charlottesville VA

F-3. VARIOGRAM HEXAGON

```

      x x x
    x x x x x
  x x x x x x x
    x x x x x
      x x x

```

Across:

- 1 Single-pip playing card
- 2 Verbal exams
- 3 Quality of an aestival period
- 4 Scamp or scoundrel
- 5 Decay

Down:

- 1 Saturday
- 2 Belonging to us
- 3 What tuilles, jambeaux and greaves are part of
- 4 The cardinal who administers papal affairs when there is no pope
- 5 One of a division of western Mongols
- 6 Opp. of NNW
- 7 Sunday

=JO THE LOITERER, Basking Ridge NJ

F-4. SEQUENTIAL FORMS (see D, 4 Across)

A.

Across:

- 1 It might be golden (though this one isn't)
- 2 Trademark for EpiPen contents
- 3 Least agreeable
- 4 Some fliers

Down:

- 1 File
- 2 Bart's teacher
- 3 Bolt

35. LETTER BANK (3 1 5, 6 8)
(3 1 5 = not MW)

Did Judah Maccabee eat latkes?

Any claim he did is rot, 'cause

There is TONS of evidence

He did — and, using common sense,

His opportunities were nil;

The Old World was spud-free until

Some ages after Judah died.

(We just eat SNOOTS because they're fried.)

=UCAOIMHU, Somerville MA

36. CHARADE (4 7)

It's Christmas Eve and freezing rain

Falls down upon the polar plain.

It THREE the runners on the sleigh,

While other problems also weigh

Upon the mind of old St. Nick.

A coating of some ONEy ick

Has stained his suit. It's very thick.

It could be glue, or something worse.

The elves have all begun to curse.

They argue over who's to blame,

And each denies another's claim.

But through the WHOLE of Santa's wife

There comes an end to all the strife.

She gets the elves to all agree

To cut the fighting and to key

Upon the work which must be done

Before her husband's evening run.

It works, and she receives her due.

The jolly gent takes time to TWO

His cap to her before his sleigh

Flies upward, upward, then away!

=ULLY BYRD, Grand Chicken IC

37. WORD DELETION (8)

"I'll bet you you can't steer that WHOLE
Along this cold, IN street."

He tried, but every time he did,

He landed on his seat.

At last he had to holler, "OUT!"

I must admit defeat."

=GROUCHO, Cliffside Park NJ

38. LETTER BANK (5, *7, 9, *10)

(SAD TUNE, DEAD SEA

TUNA, AD DUDE SENT,

UNATTESTED) (DEAD SEA

TUNA = NI2 usage)

LETTER BANK (6, 8, 8, *3 *7)

(NOUGHT, TOUGH NUT, NON

THOUGHT, HUNG OUT)

(NOUGHT = +, HUNG OUT =

not MW)

The SAD TUNES that were played

At this UNATTESTED station

Were so funny, had us laughing

At the comic situation.

Manly Herb the TOUGH NUT

Loud plaid suits he donned

Pitching his NON THOUGHT

To Jennifer, the blonde.

He hopes to add her

To his short list of NOUGHT,

But winning this sweetheart

Takes more than he's got.

The news reporter, HUNG OUT

With his Silver Sow award.

Bailey's better at the job.

By Johnny she's adored.

The AD DUDE SENT Andy

Plans to show the kahuna

He can stop this thing sinking

Like DEAD SEA TUNA.

=WHEELS, Georgetown ON

39. PHONETIC DELETION (11, 8)

Eggs Benedict is peachy keen

On Christmas, Easter, Halloween...

I love to eat that creamy TREAT

Surtout on TEAT; it can't be beat.

=ENDGAME, Portland OR

40. LETTER BANK (9, 5 8)

Riding NEAR

Hurts my rear.

I like cars.

They have FARs.

=WRYBOSH, Montville NJ

41. OVERLOADED FOURTH-
LETTER CHANGE (4 3, 7)

Today's walk in the wood
Offered much to be desired.
The exercise felt good,
But now my dogs are tired.
I scratch them (though they're
smelly!),
But still feel overtaxed.
Then rubbing on the belly
(My CHILL) makes me relaxed.
=VRAABBY, Millpeg NB

42. DELETION (5)

The SONE of wedding bells filled the
Delft air.
A girl with STONE earrings just
married Vermeer.
=HYPERION, Dallas TX

43. HETERONYM (*1 5 7, 5 5 3)
(IN CAN, INCAN)

Many ask how Giselle
Would know Grumpy so well
(In *Enchanted*) since she's
Andalasian, and he's
From a land neath my reign.
It's not hard to explain:
When my rule here began
Of all dangers, IN CAN
With Narissa the Queen
As the worst; thus the keen,
Cunning Grumpy was sent
To her court as ambassador.
(Why not a placider
Friend of Snow White?
Lack of ire isn't quite
As important as smarts
To the diplomat's arts,
And the pals of that INCAN
Less good at hard thinkin';
E'en Doc, in his specs,
Is less sharp.)

Charming, Rex
=UCAOIMHU, Somerville MA

44. FALSE INHABITANT (5, 8)

The emperor wore not a stitch,
A visible condition which
Precipitated quite a stir.
Indeed, it's fair to say there were
Some thoughts that he'd gone round
the bend
And that his SPA perhaps should end.
But these were mostly just suppressed
As it was rumored he was dressed
In clothes of a peculiar weave
That only fools could not perceive.
And so the "uproar" faded fast.
However, it was SPANned, at last,
When from a child these words arose:
"The emperor's not wearing clothes!"
=SCARE E. BYRD, St. Paiken MC

45. HOMONYM (5, 5) (ONE, THREE)
HOMONYM (4, 4) (TWO, FIVE)
HOMONYM (3, 3) (FOUR, SIX)

When I observe how tall the grass has
ONE,
I always TWO and THREE, "No fun."

To crop a crop that no one eats, SIX see,
Is just a useless chore to me.

Why must I do this work that I abhor?
Why can't the lawn be FIVE by FOUR?
=WHITE OAK, Derwood MD

46. INTERLOCK (10) (THREE = abbr.)

I'm thinking I really do not like this beer,
It's ferric in nature the taste.
Diatomaceous earth, it should have
been used
Instead of a rare type like THREE
I'm thinking you ONEd 'cause you're
so cavalier
And now this TWO will go to waste.
Your filtering medium you have abused
Resulting in ALL flavor, see!
=R/EDS, Ste. Anne de Prescott ON

60. LETTER BANK (13, 5 3 7 *8 5)
(ONE = inferable, THOUSAND =
not MW; can be sung)

Deck the Halls! Our group, of course,
has
(Fal-la-la-la-la, la-la, la-la!)
Not one war-cart pulled by horses,
(Fal-la-la-la, la-la, la-la!)
Nor a carriage, merely boughs and
(Fal-la-la-la, la-la-la, la-la-la!)
Gay attire, so ONE we'll THOUSAND!
(Fal-la-la-la-la, la-la, la-la!)
=UCAOIMHU, Somerville MA

61. PALINDROME DELETION (7)

A series of phases that take place alone
In a cell with a series of steps:
This process would then be THE BIG
WORD QUINONE,
Requiring a number of reps.
There wouldn't be need of a *WEENY
WORD QUIE
To act as the host for a mob.
There wouldn't be anything for them
to see;
He would not indeed have a job.
=R/EDS, Ste. Anne de Prescott ON

ANAGRAMS62. A RARE, HOT BEING
FRIGHTEN'D! (3 4-9 6)
=769, Margate FL63. MYTH AID OR GOFER? (5 9)
=LEXMAN, East Moline IL64. TEN? NO
=WRYBOSH, Montville NJ65. SORKIN, W/ TALE O' TECH
(^3 ^6 ^7)
=UCAOIMHU, Somerville MA66. AND A DIVINE COLOR [*8 2 *5]
=ENDGAME, Portland OR**AMBIGRAMS**

67. ...OR, A CNN 'HAM'
68. RUDE FL AREA... DOLT! (*4 *10)
69. DEMOCRAT TIMELINE (1 7 8)
70. WHEN DEM. VOTERS CAN
BOND (ON OUTSET) (*8 6, 3 8 3)
=769, Margate FL

71. BIANAGRAM (*4-*5 3 *4-*3)

TWO HEROINES (DEN WARDS)
NO HARDENED SISTER? WOW!
=769, Margate FL

72. BIANAGRAM (^3 ^4 ^4 1 ^4 ^4 ^8)

REEL TALK, RE: DULL, GRAY
NAOMI WATTS
I TOUT W. ALLEN'S GAMELY
R-RATED LARK
=769, Margate FL

FORMS

F-1. LEFT RHOMBOID

Across:

- 1 See 3 Across (NPL)
- 2 See 3 Across (NPL)
- 3 NPL formist who'll be missed (NPL)
- 4 Female deity
- 5 Missing link, perhaps
- 6 Microseism

Down:

- 1 March or Mach
 - 2 Out of bed
 - 3 Paradoxical sleep abbr.
 - 4 Explorer John and actress Charlotte
 - 5 Earnest money
 - 6 Named, archaically
 - 7 Mountain of central Switzerland
 - 8 Alaskan cape
 - 9 Beaver block
 - 10 Negative vote
 - 11 Radical or radial
- =JO THE LOITERER, Basking Ridge NJ

53. ALTERED STATE (6, 3-3, 6)
(FRAN = 3-3)

I say "KUKLA!" on a high!
Is it an altered state?
(Will people raise a hue and cry?
The FRAN this could create!)
But no, the OLLIE passed me by —
I'm merely feeling great.
=VRAABBY, Millpeg NB

54. FIRST-LETTER CHANGE (5)

Is this a mirage that I see before me?
Is there some TREE for thinking it a
FREE?
=ANDREAS, Vancouver BC

55. PHRASE SHIFT (4 — 2 4 4)

Vicki's Vixens: losing money!
(Vicki doesn't find it funny.)
Fans don't come to watch them play,
But what makes them stay away?
It's the fuchsia-and-chartreuse
That they SOL such awful hues
Before now. Moral: don't play sports
Sporting pink-and-bright-green shorts.
=TAHNAN, Arlington MA

56. LETTER BANK (3-8, 3 5 4 4 3 6 4)
(LATHE = NI2-inferable,
HEALTH = not MW)

Newt Disney got rich telling little girl
frogs
And young LATHEs that the next
slimeless human one snogs
Might turn into a handsome
amphibian prince.
(He did not know why all of them
bought it, but since
A more bird-centered tale warned him
not to kill HEALTH,
He avoided dissecting the source of his
wealth.)
=UCAOIMHU, Somerville MA

57. REBUS [5 4]

br

Jennings, in Seattle, thought he'd try
to win a game;
Signed up for a contest with "A
^GAME ^SHOW" as its name;
Ended in the basement. All the
knowledge in his brain
Couldn't help with Hathor's test 'cause
Ken had to abstain.
=TABLESAW, Los Angeles CA

58. CONSONANTCY (7, 7)

When Goldilocks went to the home of
the bears
She had lots of trouble with porridge
and chairs.
The porridge was sweetened with
syrup of corn,
Which she didn't like, for she much
preferred PORN.
She stood on a chair to reach up to a
shelf,
But the darned thing gave way, and
she fell on herself.
She tried all the beds. When she found
one "just right,"
She laid herself down for a dream-
littered night.

When the bears wandered in, Baby let
out a groan
That awakened the sleeper. With eyes
big as PRONE
She stared at the trio, then ran out
the door
And never ate porridge again any more.
=SCARAB, St. Paul MN

59. LETTER BANK (6, 9)

I wrote this ONE
To be a TWO
For flats not done,
Flats yet to do.
=WRYBOSH, Montville NJ



Fairy tales are known for their heroines. The puzzles below honor six such women. All but one of the puzzles will lead you to a single word as a final answer. Then combine the answers from all of the puzzles to find the name of the fairest maiden of them all.

The Princess (and the Pea)

Get that pea out of my bed!

Across:

- 1 Fastening device
- 6 Any song from the '60s, today
- 7 Mrs. Gorbachev
- 8 Prepare to pray, perhaps
- 9 Goes bad, as milk

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9				

Down:

- 1 Closes up (a bottle)
- 2 Latin American plain
- 3 Sayonara synonym
- 4 Scrooge, famously
- 5 They can come from thunder or bells

Across:

- 1 Diver's acronym
- 6 Modern necessity for a busy doctor
- 7 Brilliant or conspicuous success
- 8 Villains' homes
- 9 Like JPEG's compression algorithm

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9				

Down:

- 1 Take over for
- 2 Tree that helps you make chocolate
- 3 Tangelos

4 Yogi, Boo-Boo, etc.

5 Adjective for certain pretentious people

Across:

- 1 Won every game
- 6 Lowest point
- 7 Fish
- 8 Body parts with caps
- 9 Features of many suburban houses

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9				

Down:

- 1 Winding
- 2 "I ___ cookie!" (child's cry)
- 3 Tool used in some 9-Across
- 4 Crowded (into)
- 5 Long lock

Across:

- 1 True
- 6 MS Word shortcut
- 7 Skipped the restaurant
- 8 Mold
- 9 Humans have two

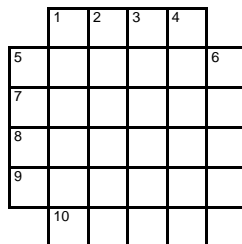
1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9				

Down:

- 1 Collect
- 2 Carpenter's tool
- 3 Climber's tool
- 4 Carp
- 5 3 p.m. or so

Across:

- 1 Little lady
 5 6-Down
 7 Europe's second-largest peninsula
 8 Items with religious significance
 9 It goes down stairs, alone or in pairs
 10 Droops



Down:

- 1 Prints untruths
 2 Ms. Bedelia, of kiddie lit
 3 Jump
 4 Disasters harmful to marine life
 5 Word after "Dear" in some letters
 6 5-Across

Scheherazade

? MN *CAJJAQW *SQTJOFDB: ^WARR *UBADBRIF
 RETVR EDBRDJS AF *WARRARRAXXA EITRD CAVE
 RTAVIB'R ZDQZ MIZN.

? JP *LSJDWCK *JMKDFK: *FWIYKRKDLGK
 CPSTLGAMQKD CKIGKIFKR GW RKLGA JP
 ALIUMIU ALOOXFMILGKC XIRWMIU ZIWGC LIR
 CKKMIU AMC HMYK JKYWDK KNTMDMIU.

? LO *JDSEVSQ *HFIQS: RAMF KSQ WQHZMBWQP
 *LWZZWS DVS AWZSF RZAID WQ BWQPVO RAF
 DVWFDO VAMFJ.

? LC *GZHEEFBC *K'*RKEEKB: RHEOHEDFBKVX
 QBHEITKOUFB HEI GHTSZC UHPF RHB HRRSIFEO
 HEI TFFO VW MSOU ^TSXGSO.

? FC *GRITOLKVSL *OQYOLK: URL JREEI RIENNA
 OL VTN *WRVIDOEE ^USHLVROLI RLM UOIINI
 VTN *RUNQOWRL ^QNYSEHVOSL.

? KO *NMDV *JFDBBGPS: IUTRM IDFQUTVX
 XPTEERTMJ, *SDTJO DVS UMP JTJFMP
 PMLTVTJQM DKGCF FUMTP QUTRSUGGS DVS
 *LP. *LCPWUO.

47. PHRASE SHIFT (3 5)

Beachside Bistro's losing money
 (The owner doesn't find it funny).
 Former clients tell me that
 It's not the place for quiet chat.
 Music's loud! Young patrons yammer!
 Staff shouts orders! Oh, the clamor!
 Simply put, the problem is:
 The PHRASE SHIFT's causing lack of
 biz.
 =WABBIT, Montreal QC

48. MYNORETEH (*5, 4 1)

The fables of ERA ARE problem for me:
 Their moral pronouncements eschew
 subtlety.
 =LEXMAN, East Moline IL

49. ENIGMATIC REBUS (4 (*8) 4.)

"2, 4) (*8 = not MW; reading has +
 word and involves non-MW
 material)

Dad

She shouldn't have too much trouble
 getting out; she just has to undo
 those locks.

F. Scott

To his dad, F. Scott wrote, "We
 Should team up, old man, to free
 That young lass with lengthy hair
 In that tower over there.
 As my wife asserts, a maiden
 Gets quite antsy when she's stayed in-
 Side so long, and wants to run;
 So we ought to let the one
 With long hairs upon her TWO O'-
 CLOCK together as a duo
 On a two-Fitzgerald quest
 To unloose the overtressed?
 I refuse (but wish you luck, sir —
 And best wishes to your *uxor*)."
 =UCAOIMHU, Somerville MA

50. FREEWHEELING DELETION
(11; ^2, 3 3 2)

"B gone! Where should I wipe my feet?"
 "That's not important, son.
 You need a better grade in A.
 Just get your homework done!"
 =GROUCHO, Cliffside Park NJ

51. THIRD-LETTER CHANGE (9)

Rapunzel was twelve when her captor
 consigned her
 To live in a tower where no man could
 find her.
 That beautiful BUNTING, however,
 was clever.
 She'd let down her long golden tresses
 whenever
 A good-looking fellow would wander
 by under
 Her lookout. One day, it occurred, to
 her wonder,
 The son of the king galloped near on
 his charger.
 Good-looking he was, but, alas,
 growing larger,
 All due to his fondness for BUSTING
 down masses
 Of foods rich in sugar and starch and
 molasses.
 And thus his attempt to ascend
 yielded stresses
 Too massive for even Rapunzel's thick
 tresses.
 He plummeted down, and anon he
 would straddle
 The hard leather seat of his charger's
 brown saddle.
 =ULLY BYRD, Grand Chicken IC

52. TRANSPOSAL (6)

The baseball team was warned
 While visiting the palace,
 "Because they shred the rugs,
 No CELIA in the ALICE!"
 =ENDGAME, Portland OR

The Little Mermaid

Looks like Ursula stole a little more than Ariel's singing voice . . .

Related to milk, as a certain acid: C

Bone that is usually spotted?: N

Ireland's potato problem: E

Loved, as grandchildren: A

Hardy partner: L

Idiot: N

Like Lady Gaga's July 14, 2010
concert: U (2 wds.)

Pakistan's second-largest city: H

Only actress to portray both Queens

Elizabeth: N

Canine that's easy to snuggle with: P

Decide (possibly to do a puzzle again?): V

Barrio resident, perhaps: N

Common currency: L

Other participant in the "Han shot
first" controversy: E

????????? ??????:

Snow White

REGIMENTED RIOTS

CAB ENDOWS MOVIES

AMENDABLE SIRENS

BALANCE PUB TRYST

ATTAIN JULEP BULB

WORRY ARCTIC DONS

UNRATED PUFFY SUN (one is 2 wds.)

1. 2nd of 6 = 7th of 8

2. 5th of 6 = 6th of 8

3. 2nd of 5 = 3rd of 9

4. 6th of 6 = 3rd of 8

5. 3rd of 6 = 6th of 8

6. 3rd of 6 = 5th of 8

7. 2nd of 5 = 4th of 9

Rapunzel

Rapunzel has been measuring how long her hair has grown each weekday for five consecutive weeks. She noted that, each week, there were two days her hair did not grow at all, one where it grew one foot, one where it grew two feet, and one where it grew three feet.

The grid below represents the days she measured her hair. The numbers outside the grid give the sum of the numbers in that row or column, treating adjacent non-zero digits as a multi-digit number. (For example, if, in one week on Monday, her hair grew 3 feet, on Tuesday, it grew 1 foot, and on Thursday, it grew 2 feet, the sum for the week would be $31+2=33$.) Note that numbers may be repeated in a single column.

					24
					15
					24
					6
					321
25	313	15	4	24	

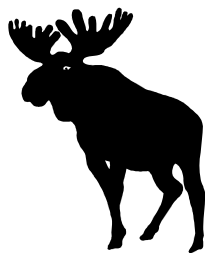
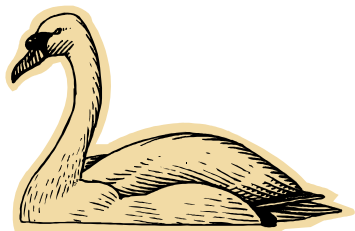
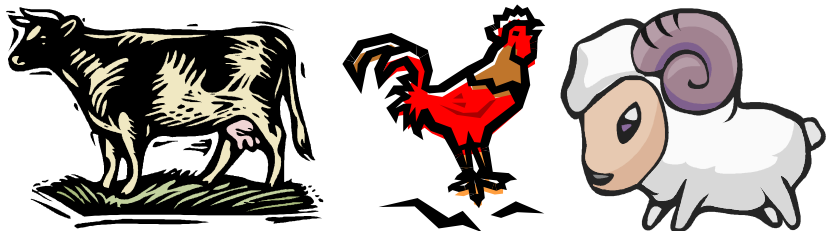
Beauty (and the Beast)

I keep getting them mixed up.

Beauties (alphabetized by last name):



Beasts (in random order):



$$? + \text{[Skeletal Diagram]} - \text{[Train]} = ?$$

$$? + R - \text{[Rock]} = ?$$

$$? + \text{[Portrait of Franz Schubert]} - \text{[Musical Notation]} = ?$$

$$? + \text{[Limes]} - \text{[1996 US Quarter]} = ?$$

$$? + \text{[Knife]} - \text{[Ice Skating Rink]} = ?$$

$$? + B - \text{[Grocery Store]} = ?$$

$$? + \text{[Cookie]} - \text{[Robe]} = ?$$

$$? + \text{[Ear]} - \text{[Fan]} = ?$$