



November 2016

The National Puzzlers' League

#1345

## EDITOR'S MUSINGS

Soon enough this month, the national election will be over and the political insanity will return to the local level, where it belongs. Then we can start to focus on the really important stuff—the upcoming holidays. Let me be one of the first to wish you happiness during them.

## PUZZLE PARTY — by BLUFF

Our next gathering is scheduled for Saturday, November 19, starting at 12 noon. It will be at our permanent “home”, the Center For Inquiry in Hollywood. In a future email, I'll provide the address and parking directions, as well as the snacks/drinks/ice assignments. Please let me know if you are planning to attend and if you are bringing anyone. The puzzle agenda will be:

BIOPIC – Doppler

LYRIC SNIPPETS – Music Man

ELEMENTAL CONTAMINATION – R. Green

GOBBLE – Eedoc/Que Sera

TRIOS V – Bluff

Looking forward to seeing you all in a month, Bluff (John Suarez) 805-499-1880

## NEW MEMBERS

Yarlagadda Police, Karimnagar India, has been given a gift membership by Midas.

## REJOINING

**Epilog:** Arthur Kinsman, 579 Old Bedford Rd, Concord MA 01742

**Mucho Plus:** Brennan Smith, 230 Charlotte Dr, Newport News VA 23601,  
[muchoplus@puzzlers.org](mailto:muchoplus@puzzlers.org)

**Uniorn:** Gary Fisher, 115 Thorncliff Rd, Spencerport NY 14559

## CHANGES

Nicolette Barischoff, 6532 Cleomooore Ave, West Hills CA 91307

Klée Brägger, 6532 Cleomooore Ave, West Hills CA 91307

**Draco:** David Wilson, 9 Cedar St Unit 1, Somerville MA 02143,  
[draco@puzzlers.org](mailto:draco@puzzlers.org)

**Mikefornow:** Michael Morris, 1400 Geary Blvd, San Francisco CA 94109-9306

## RESIGNED/REMOVED

Ian D. Chaney (Whovian), Jonathan McCue (Jasters), Bill Pemberton (ACOSH), Diane Prentice (Harmless Fun), Puzzlephant Productions, Matt Tabak (Titan)

## NATIONAL PUZZLERS' LEAGUE BOARD ELECTIONS 2017

It's time to select the Board members for the upcoming year. You may cast your vote by electronic ballot at <http://krewe.puzzlers.org/election>. Alternatively, you may vote on the enclosed postcard ballot. Needless to say, you should vote only once, using one or the other of the prescribed methods.

To assist you in your selection, the four candidates for Second Vice-President (the only position being contested) have described their reasons for challenging for the post. I present them to you in alphabetical order of their noms. –Teki

### B-Side

My favorite part of the National Puzzlers' League is how welcoming it is. From getting a letter when you first join to everything that's in place at Con to help you navigate around if it's your first time, we really make an effort to make sure everyone feels welcome and everyone has a good time. I'd love the chance as Second Vice-President to be on the front line of those efforts when it comes to greeting new members and to help make sure (along with the rest of the board) that the NPL continues that tradition as it continues to grow and change over time.

### Jabberwock

There are two things I would like to accomplish by joining the Board: first, I'd like to help bring some visibility into what the Board is doing to the membership. In the (somewhat distant) past, there were occasional articles in *The Enigma* reviewing what the Board discussed and what actions they chose to take. Obviously, not everything the Board discusses can be shared with the general membership, but I would like to see everything that need not be kept confidential made public to the Krewe.

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#### National Puzzlers' League Board of Directors

President: QED  
First Vice-President: Sprout  
Second Vice President: Fuldu

Secretary: Expelliarmus  
Treasurer: Mercury

Editor: Teki  
Historian: Willz

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The *ENIGMA* (ISSN 1932-4448) is the monthly magazine of the National Puzzlers' League (<http://www.puzzlers.org>), a nonprofit educational organization founded in 1883. Membership dues are \$23, including a subscription to *The ENIGMA*; \$30 for overseas airmail; \$30 for large print (North America only); and \$15 for members not receiving printed issues. Send dues (in US funds, payable to the National Puzzlers' League), address changes, and requests not to mail printed copies to the treasurer, MERCURY, Joseph J. Adamski, 2507 Almar St., Jenison MI 49428, [treasurer@puzzlers.org](mailto:treasurer@puzzlers.org). PayPal payment is accepted using [treasurer@puzzlers.org](mailto:treasurer@puzzlers.org). Back issues are \$1.50, from the editor. **Web contacts:** To create a *puzzlers.org* alias or join the npl-folk list: [postmaster@puzzlers.org](mailto:postmaster@puzzlers.org). To report website problems: [webmaster@puzzlers.org](mailto:webmaster@puzzlers.org). To obtain a username/password: [treasurer@puzzlers.org](mailto:treasurer@puzzlers.org). **Submitting materials:** Send extras to ¶ (VROO), Bruce Leban, 13816 NE 36th PL, Bellevue WA 98005, [extras@puzzlers.org](mailto:extras@puzzlers.org). Send forms to JO THE LOITERER, Julian Ochrymowych, 35 Smithfield Court, Basking Ridge NJ 07920, [forms@puzzlers.org](mailto:forms@puzzlers.org). Send cryptic crosswords to XEMU, Guy Jacobson, 4 Adrian Ter., Bridgewater, NJ 08807, [cryptics@puzzlers.org](mailto:cryptics@puzzlers.org), and CRAX, Craig Hamilton, 647 Sierra Vista Ave. #C3, Mountain View CA 94043 (same e-mail address). Send cryptograms to LEXMAN, Alex Kolker, 462 47th Ave, East Moline IL 61244, [crypts@puzzlers.org](mailto:crypts@puzzlers.org). Send flats to BTNIRN, Sandy Kutin, 16 Magnolia Ln, Princeton, NJ 08540, [flats@puzzlers.org](mailto:flats@puzzlers.org). Send convention material to T MCAY, [conprogmgr@puzzlers.org](mailto:conprogmgr@puzzlers.org). Send articles and anything not covered above to the editor, TEK1, John McNeill, 6501 Brush Country Rd. #106, Austin TX 78749, [editor@puzzlers.org](mailto:editor@puzzlers.org).

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The second thing I would like to try is to pilot a program to expand our membership by targeting High Schools. I think that if we were to offer High School libraries a free electronic subscription to the Enigma we might attract people who would very much enjoy being part of the NPL but would never find us on their own, at no cost to us (perhaps coupled with a new, non-voting, free student membership for the interested students). I think starting with two or three schools and seeing how it goes would be a very interesting experiment. And if one of the schools we select is an inner-city school, we would have the opportunity to get some more diversity into the Krewe, which I would view as a very good thing.

**Jeffurry**

Hello, I'm Jeffurry and I'm running for Second Vice President of the NPL. I joined the NPL in October 2004 and have been very happy to have found my tribe: a group of people who have enriched my life throughout the year and at every convention from Los Angeles in 2005 to Vancouver in 2015. I was unfortunately unable to attend this year's con in Salt Lake City, which only made me want to be more involved with the NPL.

One of the functions of my regular job as an assistant professor is to run all campus-wide elections, a job that involves reading, understanding, and following bylaws to ensure that all elections are run fairly and correctly. Fortunately for us in the NPL our constitution is not nearly as long as what I have to deal with at work, but as Second Vice President I will ensure that it is being followed.

Most importantly, I promise to wake up not only for the Saturday breakfast meeting, but also for the board meeting before the breakfast meeting. I can sleep when I'm not at an NPL convention.

Thank you for your time.

**Lirath**

I'm looking forward to the possibility of serving the NPL as 2nd VP. Since I joined the NPL in 2007, it has been a delight, and I feel I've gotten SO much out of it. I've managed to contribute a fair number of puzzles to the Enigma. I've solved, with fellow Krewe, nearly every puzzle you've thrown my way. That's likely why, at only my 2nd Con, I volunteered to host a Con in Salt Lake. It was time to give back. Serving as an officer would continue this. I feel like I have the time and enthusiasm to support our organization. I have a lot of experience working with boards of various kinds, including current service on the American Library Association's Council, representative to the Idaho Commission for Libraries steering committee and VP on my local community theatre's board. I've been a manager for almost 30 years, and would greatly appreciate the opportunity to help keep the NPL on a strong course.

**OCTOBER HINTS AND NOVEMBER EASY LIST**

65—\*FIGHTS is a well-known product name.  
68—Why drone?  
November Easy List: 4, 16, 17, 19, 59, 60.

## ROAD TO BeaCon: SNACK TIME — by EVOO

It's too early for lunch, but we're hungry now. The junk food you get on the road can be so monotonous. We want something different! (And no, the last bit of taffy doesn't count.)

	A	E	I	O	U
<b>Snack cakes</b>			7. Make perfectly nice head-knucklings into terrible ones (4 4 7)	2. Those stockings you got in Cleveland (*4 4)	
<b>Lollies</b>				8. Competent uses of paper towels (4 4-3)	4. Devices that transmit concepts over phone lines (4 6)
<b>Other Candy</b>	14. Complaint by someone who's had too much Manischewitz (3-4 2)	6. Ricochet all over the place (5 1-2-2)		9. Feast in your Hawaiian neighborhood (4 4)	
<b>Beverage</b>	12. Cravat that gets this party started (3 3)	3. Foolscap you put up in front of windows (5 5)		13. Answer to "Do ya know how big this battery is?" (4, *1*1*1)	
<b>Salty starch</b>		1. Fanatical—but not entirely (4-7)		10. Machine for hoisting Fido's baby (3 5)	15. Sound that bothers DeFazio, Kosnowski, and Squigman (*6 5)
<b>Meat</b>		11. One of the guys who date Mr. Piscopo and Mr. Kyser (4 2 *3 2 *3)	5. Korean rodent that conveys magical power (*5 4 5)		
<b>Final answer (9)</b>	Intermediate answer, which is an abstract quality that starts with a vowel and ends with a consonant (and whose column is given by the letter you extract) (9)				

AEAE [9], AEAOU [4], AEAUUAU [1], AEIEU [3], AIEE [7], AOAO [6], EAAAA [4], EAUOOEOA [12], EEEIOE [10], EOUOOOUE [2], IEAOE [7], IEE-EO [2], OIOOE [5], UAE [4], UIE [4], UIOOOOIE [8]

## NOVEMBER PUZZLES

Road to BeaCon: Combinom \$8.90/Ucaoimhu

32. In a Consonantcy Deletion, one consonant at a time is removed from the initial solution's consonants to give the consonants of each successive solution. Example: brand, abroad, bead.

39. In a Consonantcy Curtailment, one consonant at a time is removed from end of the initial solution's consonants to give the consonants of each successive solution. Example: bring, brain, Uber.

53. This clever flat doesn't work like a normal flat of its type.

66. Welcome, new composer A-plus. (A-plus is a third-generation flat writer. His mother is Arachne and his grandparents were Peri and Peer.)

F-6. These squares aren't connected in the sense outlined in the Guide, but in another way for the solver to discover.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

### Third Quarter 2016

#### (Jul 1 to Sep 30)

Balance 6/30/2016	\$34,278.60
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#### INCOME

Renewals/rejoins	\$2,614.92
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New memberships	584.00
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Donations	90.52
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Interest	1.11
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TOTAL INCOME	\$3,290.55
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#### EXPENSES

Jul-Sep <i>Enigma</i> printing	\$2,844.64
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Postage	1,128.14
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Photocopies	87.36
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Directory printing	53.76
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Envelopes (with printing)	430.00
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Guide printing	18.64
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Golden Sphinx awards	20.17
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Web site	242.35
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Electronic payment fees	75.50
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TOTAL EXPENSES	\$4,900.56
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Balance excluding conventions	\$32,668.59
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2016 con balance final	-2,642.11
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2017 con balance	-5,000.00
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BALANCE 9/30/2016	\$25,026.48
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*Mercury (Joe Adamski), Treasurer*

# 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, welded flats, variations on these types, and flats labeled “freewheeling.”

Send your solution lists after December 1 to QUICKS?LVER (solutions@puzzlers.org) or mail to LIRATH, Eric Suess, 1901 Parr Rd., Pocatello ID 83204. All lists must be received by 11:59 p.m. PST on December 31.

## 1. CHANGE OF HEART (4, 5, 4, 5) (A, B, C, D)

November 21st, my morning class,  
My physics prof hands out an A WITH B  
So choked with Greek my mind goes  
blank (alas!).  
I'm giving thanks that it's a D WITH C.  
=LEXMAN, East Moline IL

## 2. LETTER BANK (7, 5 5)

Though on Tuesday the polling may  
seem to be SORE,  
To run 51 ROSES would be even more  
Slow and sluggish; to tell which one's  
group in each state  
Gave more shouts would require an  
eon or eight.  
=UCAOIMHU, Somerville MA

## 3. SOUND BANK (7, 13)

I took out a three-month-old box from  
the fridge  
In the back—without label, I pulled up  
the latch an'  
I opened it, rotting green ooze met my  
nose—'twas  
So CHAPLAIN that I nearly lost AP-  
PALACHIAN!  
=FIRETRUCK, Woodinville WA

## 4. THIRD-TO-FIFTH CHANGEVER (6)

At this year's World-Wide Festival of  
TWOs,  
I tried to win with chickpeas  
bourguignonne.  
But when I tried the lentil crêpes, I knew  
I had no chance—I was out of my ONE.  
=\$8.90, Arlington MA

## 5. LETTER BANK (7, 6 7)

Thank you! My neighborhood's new  
ENGINEER  
Delivered my monthly subscription on  
time.  
Each of the REIGNs was an  
interesting one;  
The writers, quite clearly, are all in  
their prime.  
=WITZ, Vancouver BC

## 6. OVERLOADED PHONETIC FALSE RUNNING MATE (8, 6)

She broke her leg while having kittens.  
This year, I had to have her MITTENS.  
=WRYBOSH, Montville NJ

## 7. TRANSPOSAL (6)

A C-section will leave you  
With VEP WIRES in your PREVIEW.  
=FINIKY RADICAL, Vancouver BC

## 8. REBUS (8 4)

FRULEe

Flats must be well clued.  
This should be a FOOD.  
=QT-OH, Acton MA

KU-1. LETTER BANK (8, ^4'1 ^4 ^5)  
(RATION, SLEW) (RATION =  
inferable; SLEW = not MW)

If I told you that Tortoise's magic-  
themed SLEW  
(With a name that evokes lines like  
"Gimme a Q!")  
Was a wonderful puzzle-vanganza, I  
guess  
None who did it would utter (to briefly  
express  
Disapproval, contempt, disbelief,  
irritation,  
Or any like feeling) the least little  
RATION.  
=UCAOIMHU, Somerville MA

9. ITALIAN-STYLE REVERSED  
CONSONANTCY (4, 7)

Do come and join us! Have a ball!  
Your drive is not too far.  
The club is just the thing for you  
(Our rating is subpar).  
We chip in, we've garish pants—  
You're putting on the green!  
We got a turkey, this course: bisque.  
One whiff—you'll skip with fervor  
brisk.

How can I go and leave this space?  
My studies are not done  
I feel I am in a gray place—  
Hot tea and saucers run.  
I feel that I am getting close;  
Encounters all the time  
Prevent me from my work: morose!  
A cover-up's a crime.  
=FIRETRUCK, Woodinville WA

10. DELETION (7) (COMPLETE)  
DELETION (6) (FOODIE)

I've the perfect holiday deal:  
No food prep, but all of the meal!  
The salad is ready to toss,  
In a jar you've got cranberry sauce.  
The COMPETE just needs to be heated,  
When you're FOODE hungry, just go  
get seated.  
No box will be left unchecked,  
In this COMPLETE FOODIE project!  
=FINIKY RADICAL, Vancouver BC

## 11. FIRST-LETTER CHANGE (8)

I feel like I'm gaining some GROUND  
With my plan to learn curious words.  
New vocab comes faster and faster,  
But some words are just for the birds!

A classic example's "AROUND"—  
A downy, felt cover on leaves.  
N13 says it's a brain network too.  
Defs such as these are pet peeves!  
=WITZ, Vancouver BC

12. REPEATED-SOUND DELETION  
(8, 2 4) (2 4 = findable)

It is my TALL  
That we are SMALL.  
If this is true,  
You think so, too.  
=WRYBOSH, Montville NJ

13. REVERSED PALINDROME  
DELETION (7)

"Of possible SHORTs there are  
LONGs that are fun,"  
They say, "What possessed you to pick  
out that one?"  
It might stand for something... or not.  
Now we're done.  
=QT-OH, Acton MA

14. POPOVER GROUP (4, 4, 5)  
(one step is a letter change)

Young Davy and two other boys  
Are at his mom's house, making noise.  
A sleepover! Bags on the THREE,  
(No snacks)—one bud's sick of TV  
And TWO of Davy, can they run  
His mom's camcorder for to ONE  
A skit, but Davy's mom's awake  
And asks, "Would you boys rather bake?  
I've sure you're hungry now. Come read  
The recipe right here, agreed?"  
=FIRETRUCK, Woodinville WA

15. OVERLOADED CONSONANTCY  
(8, 8)

My magical craft has two rotary wings,  
Which are powered in full by a magical  
stone  
Which is not, though, chatoyant, like  
most of those things.  
(So of course you now know that it  
isn't a KNOWN.)  
=UCAOIMHU, Somerville MA

16. FALSE PARTNER (6, 8)

Jabberwock says that I'm really quite  
mean.  
He worried a comment like that  
crossed the line.  
The mean is measure of center, you  
know.  
So I'm in the middle, a place where I  
shine.

I told him a person as skewed as he is,  
Should opt for the KIRK; it divides  
things in half.  
The editor's note, which contained my  
response,  
Showed I'm a SPOCK and can make  
people laugh.  
=WITZ, Vancouver BC

KU-2. PARTIALLY REVERSED  
INTERLOCK (13)  
(HERE = New Oxford American  
Dictionary, and no other)

Among the NOAD's verbal beauties,  
I'd have to say my favorite OWT HERE:  
Willful avoidance of one's official duties.  
The ONE to "dereliction"'s very clear.  
=TREESONG, West Chester PA

17. FIRST-LETTER CHANGE (5)

I'm an herbalist rapper who's chill.  
My FILLS are about sage and DILL.  
=FINIKY RADICAL, Vancouver BC

18. CONSONANTCY (6, \*1 4 3 2)  
(NUMBER TWO = online 11C)

Munoz-Ibanez for mayor this year!  
He needs cash.  
He needs votes.  
He needs ONE.  
See him through!  
Returns coming in—looking good;  
never fear!  
He has won!  
Beat them all!  
Takes the prize.  
NUMBER TWO!  
=NEWROW, Brookline MA

19. REBUS (8)

DNS

Your Thanksgiving turkey can be a  
delight  
Assuming your cook gets the DNS  
right.  
Too quick from the oven? Your bird  
will be spurned.  
But leave it too long and it's sure to be  
burned.  
=EARL E. BYRD, Aiken SC



## 20. PALINDROME (5 6 7 3)

Warning: It's important to be  
 Decked with (say) a stylish ruby;  
 If you wear a stone of red  
 That's cheaper and old hat, instead,  
 Those armed with coshes will irately  
 Strike! (A ROTOR wielders greatly.)  
 =UCAOIMHU, Somerville MA

21. LETTER BANK (9, \*13, 7 8)  
(RIMOSE, MEMOIRS, MISS RO-  
SIE)

The City of David (a king who's  
 discussed  
 In the first book of MEMOIRS) is  
 named after crust-  
 Covered stuff, full of gliadins (proteins  
 from wheat  
 Seeds — like zein, they're RIMOSEs),  
 which many folks eat,  
 So it goes down their throats to their  
 stomach mucosae,  
 Which have epithelia over MISS RO-  
 SIE.  
 (That ran a bit long; I should simply  
 have said  
 That the meaning of "Bethlehem"'s  
 just "House of Bread.")  
 =UCAOIMHU, Somerville MA

22. THIRD-LETTER CHANGE (\*5)  
(FEEST = part of NI3 var. phrase)

Sure, Pesach is hard with a FEAST  
 and no bread,  
 But Yom Kippur's a fast, with two  
 FEEST Torahs read.  
 =FINIKY RADICAL, Vancouver BC

## 23. MYNORETEH (\*6, 3 3)

Revolution was sparked  
 When those five were slain,  
 So the people of SWEDEN  
 Did NED EWS in vain.  
 =LINKO, London UK

## 24. ENIGMATIC REBUS (5, [3 2 8] 6)

F

The scent of love is in the air  
 For some, but others may despair  
 Because the odor that they own  
 Is one which renders them alone.  
 But artists whose job is "Take care  
 Of people's presence in the air"  
 Will comb through tomes and plants  
 for their  
 Ideas to help poor folk to loan  
 The scent of love.

One day one artist took a dare  
 To find some magic way out there  
 Within a fern-filled forest known  
 For its scents milder than cologne.  
 With just one SOL the hearts that  
 wear  
 The scent of love!

(OI to Uncommon Scents)  
 =FIRETRUCK, Woodinville WS

## 25. TRANSPOSAL (10)

Our presidential candidates leave  
 much to be desired,  
 But their respective running mates  
 seem somewhat more inspired.  
 One's job has proven he is WEST; the  
 other runs a state.  
 Which makes one wonder why it was  
 they didn't hesitate  
 To join the tickets headed by the  
 uninspiring two.  
 Alas, perhaps we'll never fully  
 understand their STEW.  
 =EARL E. BYRD, Aiken SC

## 26. LETTER BANK (9, 12)

A bug that bugs  
 Is GUVS a VUGGS.  
 =WRYBOSH, Montville NJ

## 27. WORD DELETION (8)

ANN I wanted was a chance  
 To grow even sturdier plants.  
 My first onion split in two,  
 So I made a BRAN-NEW BREW.  
 =FINIKY RADICAL, Vancouver BC

28. HETERONYM (3, \*6 2; \*7 4)  
(can be sung)

Sondheim!  
 By the blue  
 Scandinavian water!  
 For just ten  
 Kroner, seventy FORGE  
*The Park with George*  
 Is a bargain! (The numbers  
 There are Arabic, you'll see,  
 Not Hebrew;  
 By the blue  
 Scandinavian FOR G.  
 E. and yod  
 Aren't very well known,  
 Polls have shown...)  
 =UCAOIMHU, Somerville MA

## 29. WELDED TRANSPOSAL (16 10)

Supposeably, the lieberry  
 Contains my text on speaking: see  
 My CORNELIAN CALORIE.  
 =FIRETRUCK, Woodinville WA

30. WORD DELETION (11)  
(ALL = var.)

Decided to have an affair;  
 Arranged for an OUT to prepare.  
 Her business is ALL from my home.  
 Just cross a street twice and it's there.

I asked that she bring some fresh IN;  
 The rest was for her to select.  
 She gave me an earful and more.  
 Success? Yes, in every respect!  
 =WITZ, Vancouver BC

## 31. ENIGMATIC REBUS (4-2-5)

turkey

Obama says, "Our poor endure by  
 living FOUR-TWO-FIVE.  
 The one percent cite lack of jobs, but  
 that is simply jive.  
 The truth is they don't give a hoot.  
 They simply do not care.  
 And that is why they won't step up to  
 paying their fair share."  
 =EARL E. BYRD, Aiken SC

32. CONSONANTCY DELETION  
(\*6 \*4, 4 \*6, \*8, 6) (SINGO = pre-11C)

When the President needed time off  
 (R&R),  
 His STING set him up for a journey  
 not far.  
 At that Greensboro college, he SAG  
 and he ran.  
 Count on this lady to make the best  
 plan.  
 STRING's office: like clockwork with  
 her at his side,  
 And the spotlight on SINGO produced  
 campus pride.  
 =NEWROW, Brookline MA

KU-3. PALINDROME  
BEHEADMENT (7) (neither MW)

"I'm making installation arts  
 From undivided rabbit parts."  
 I *think* that's what \*SHORT Weiwei  
 said—  
 "LONG"'s meaning went over my  
 head.

P.S.

I know "LONG"'s not 11C.  
 Its real source is a mystery.  
 Apologies, with all due deference  
 For my indeterminacy of reference.  
 =LINKO, London UK

### 33. PROGRESSIVE RBUS (5; 7; \*4, \*4 8) (5 = NI3; NI3 usage in reading)

Some leaders from the past convened  
To run a mock UN event.  
"I'm Ireland," claimed one, who leaned  
In close and hyped his new three-cent  
Piece: "Better than the silver FIVE  
We minted 'til I turned fifteen!"  
They took a break, and—man alive!—  
The others, in the SEVEN 'tween  
The meeting's halves, deduced that  
there'd  
Been fraud: "He's from the Buckeye  
State!"  
Upon return, they thus declared  
Him "STAR FOUR COMMA STAR  
FOUR EIGHT!"  
=HALE, Kitchener ON

### 34. PHONETIC PALINDROME (5 3 \*8)

The Pilgrims ate  
Till they were sick.  
And how'd they rate  
The chow? Each KICK  
Folk *could* put up  
Went up to state  
(Per Siskel), "Yup,  
That stuff was great!"  
=UCAOIMHU, Somerville MA

### 35. TRANSPOSAL (9)

My work's on the line;  
I've seen people sacked.  
As BARD, life is DRAB.  
Great risk is a fact.  
=WITZ, Vancouver BC

### KU-4. FIRST-SOUND CHANGE (\*5, 1'3-2 3) (UNE = not MW)

Parmi les scooters, rien est mieux  
Que l'UNE GT 125. DEUX?  
=TREESONG, West Chester PA

### 36. SWITCHBACK (7)

My older monitor accrues  
Magnetic fields and rainbow hues.  
It hurts to look at, though it's clean.  
Then CEDAR sore eyes: GRADE the  
screen!  
=FIRETRUCK, Woodinville WA

### 37. SECOND-TO-FIFTH LETTER SHIFT (\*5, 5) (BRIDLED, BIDDED)

At a BIDDLED's pace he walked up  
BRIDLED.  
No wonder they lost faith and idol'd.  
=FINIKY RADICAL, Vancouver BC

### 38. ENIGMAFIC REBUS (4-7)

Columbus found America in fourteen  
ninefy-frdo,  
He came ashore af Plymoufh Rock fo  
see rdhaf he could do.  
FOUR-SEVEN fo fhe currenf day, and  
Donald hopes to rdin.  
He promises fhaf he rdill make our  
counfry greaf again.  
=EARL E. BYRD, Aiken SC

### 39. CONSONANTCY CURTAILMENT (\*10, 9, 8, 6, 3)

I'm off to STREWN!  
I leave at noon.  
The plans are STREW:  
Complex. Brand new  
STAR equipment—  
Tricky shipment.  
SEAT trek will cost  
Me many thou.  
Am I a SEE?  
It seems to me  
That cold and white  
Should suit me right.  
=NEWROW, Brookline MA

40. REVERSED FIRST-LETTER  
CHANGE (6, 2-2-2) (both NI3+)  
(can be sung)

The Philistines stole the Lord's Ark.  
Oh, the Philistines stole the Lord's Ark.  
For blaspheming that item,  
Th'Almighty done smite 'em  
With BLOOMs where no sun rends  
the dark.

You mess with the Ark, you must pay.  
If you mess with the Ark, you must pay:  
Return that Ark, and some  
Appropriate ransom  
To make mice and BLOOMs go away.

They sent enough MOOLA  
The Heavenly Ruler  
Brought mice, BLOOMs, and plagues  
to a stop.  
They paid to the tune of...  
I'll tell you, though you'll nev-  
Er buy it. I swear! Look it up:

Ten statues of pure solid gold.  
Five mice and five BLOOMs of pure gold!  
Of all that you're liable  
To read in your Bible,  
This may be the queerest tale told.  
=X, Cambridge MA

41. PALINDROME BEHEADMENT (12)

When seducing folks, success  
Begins with YOU (though I confess  
That fact is not so useful). Yes,  
A BAYOU helps you more, I guess.  
=FIRETRUCK, Woodinville WA

42. CHARADE (9)

If \*TWO ever say candle-making  
Is my WHOLE, don't agree.  
Please ONE me out of that lie,  
Before it burns down to the THREE.  
=FINIKY RADICAL, Vancouver BC

43. OVERLOADED TRANSPOSAL  
(6, 3 3)

Cried one fellow, "I love protactinium  
oxide!  
I've just finished eating a thirty-pound  
block!" Sighed  
His friend, "No, that block contained  
element 90,  
And not 91; you are full of QUITE  
FINE TEA."  
=UCAOIMHU, Somerville MA

44. LETTER BANK (7, \*11)  
(FAST, STAFF)  
LETTER BANK (8, \*14)  
(SET, TEST)

Swift was the wedding  
And really small too.  
A STAFF FAST event  
With a miniature crew.

What was the reason?  
A TEST hurricane.  
We're SET up the windows,  
Getting ready for rain.  
=WITZ, Vancouver BC

45. PHONETIC CONSONANTCY  
WNFR (\*7, 7) (\*7 = not MW)

Earwax plagues wizards...  
=TREESONG, West Chester PA

46. FALSE FEMININE (4, 4)

So Jack and Jill  
Went up that hill  
To fill their brand-new pail.  
But at the peak  
It sprang a leak;  
Their task was doomed to fail.  
Now when they're HE  
They face a SHE  
To make their frail pail hale.  
=ANDREAS, Vancouver BC

## 47. WORD DELETION (7)

Achashverosh? Not the brightest.  
 He was not smart in the slightest.  
 Not like Solomon the Wise—  
 AND, *he* was a GRANDIZE GRIZE.  
 =FINIKY RADICAL, Vancouver BC

## 48. OVERLOADED LETTER BANK

(8, 3 3 5, \*11) (8 = NI3;  
 3 3 5 = not MW)

Say those at Charlie's Beef-Plus-Brew  
 Who hear some lesser poet spew  
 His odes to the Risorgimento,  
 "This is one amazing BENTO."  
 =UCAOIMHU, Somerville MA

49. TRANSPOSAL (\*7 \*5, 8 4) (clued  
in order; MATE = not MW)

Nine legal minds,  
 At keyboards they sit,  
 Typing and editing text.

Each TEAM member now  
 Is a tech-savvy MATE.  
 Can virtual trials be next?

(The answer's the same  
 In the U.S. and here, so  
 Location will not leave you vexed.)  
 =WITZ, Vancouver BC

## 50. SPOONERGRAM ([6 4], 5 4)

Our cabin walls are ONE—we have em-  
 braced  
 The "country" look. I realize, though, my  
 taste  
 In rustic décor has its limits: I  
 Want indoor plumbing! I'm no prig, but  
 my  
 Condition makes me need to use the TWO  
 Times every hour at least—what would  
 you do?  
 =QT-OH, Acton MA

## 51. CHARADE (8) (WHOLE = NI3)

With seven kids in our collective, we  
 (My wife and I) must WHOLE  
 effectively.  
 It's not enough: we're woefully  
 outnumbered,  
 And when we are, with one kid each,  
 encumbered,  
 The rest run loose, committing petty  
 crimes  
 And vandalisms. Truly there are times  
 Our need runs far beyond mere baby-  
 sitting:  
 Indeed, some THREE-TWO-ONEs  
 would be more fitting!  
 =LEXMAN, East Moline IL

52. TRANS-CROSS (4, 6, 7, 3)  
(C = var.)

You think that I should watch how  
 much I weigh  
 And lead a healthy lifestyle? I should, like,  
 Contort my arms and legs while doing A  
 Or B about the city on a bike?

And exercise is not enough—I should  
 Eat only superfoods like kale and C?  
 No, thanks, my friend. Here at the  
 bar, I'm good.  
 I'd rather just sit still and drink my D.  
 =\$8.90, Arlington MA

## 53. XVALKQCAT MXESB (9 4 3 5)

GSKPM

Bam Vxzcyv fyrxb cy bcsgi falpc  
 Qvg bxx zpqc mqib tyknmabx cpx bsv.  
 Esc nxynfx nafuxm Abqqt'b lfqbb  
 Extqsbx cpxi uavg cpx bnxctmsk usv.  
 By Vxzcyv pagxb ac av pab myyk,  
 Gmxbbxg fadx q gyymbcyn ym q eeyd.  
 BYF by nxynfx tqvyc uavg ac—  
 Osbc Bam Vxzcyv pqb q fydy!  
 =UAMXCMTD, Zyygavraffx ZQ

54. OVERLOADED PHONETIC  
PADLOCK (5, 6, \*6) (\*6 = not MW)

"I know a lot about this stuff; that  
streamlined little suit  
You wear beneath your *gi* (when, in  
defense, you execute  
Your locks and holds) should never be  
festeoned with such enormous  
Nails!" an ALL THREE expert once  
decided to inform us.  
=UCAOIMHU, Somerville MA

55. CONSONANTCY (\*8, 5 1'5)  
(ARTIE = \*8 = 11C but 11C-  
findable usage)  
FOURTH-LETTER CHANGE  
(\*5, 3 2) (DENT = \*5)

While \*ARTIE \*DENT is widely seen  
As cold and calculating,  
He can at times DENY a thin  
Veneer of charm placating  
Detractors. On the other hand,  
RATs have a special way  
Of resonating sympathet-  
ically: so lovely, they.  
=QT-OH, Acton MA

56. OVERLOADED HOMONYM  
(5-2, \*3-\*3) (\*3-\*3 = not MW)

Traditional candidates Donald and  
Hillary  
Are stupid, ridiculous, easy to pillory.  
Don spews such venom, all frothy and  
spittle-y.  
Hil seems to think San Marino's in  
Italy.  
We're facing a difficult choice this  
November,  
So what should you do, as an NPL  
member?  
Well, Martin and David are both well  
respected,  
Could HOMONYM voting get those  
two elected?  
=WRYBOSH, Montville NJ

57. OVERLOADED THIRD-LETTER  
CHANGE (8) (DEWORMED)  
PALINDROME DELETION (8)  
(one instance of DEWORMED, only)

Conducting DEED, the Navy Seal  
confirmed  
The map was flawed, proposing its  
DEWORMED.  
=LEXMAN, East Moline IL

58. BEHEADMENT (7)

You've been insulted: What to do?  
You could just BLATHER to yourself—  
Consign your anger to the shelf—  
Or else you could go all kung fu,  
Precipitate a big to-do,  
A LATHER that would long persist  
Despite entreaties to desist.  
What happens next is up to you!  
=EARL E. BYRD, Aiken SC

59. CURTAILMENT (6)

I asked if MONKEYs were kosher.  
My MONKE said, "No way, that's fo' sure."  
=FINIKY RADICAL, Vancouver BC

60. FALSE SUPERLATIVE (3, 6)

Believe me, THREE, I have done  
nothing wrong.  
My darling, I'm as SIX as life is long.  
=\$8.90, Arlington MA

61. ENIGMATIC REBUS (\*8)

OIsickOI

Oi! you sicko—I resent the claim  
That Aussie men "romance" their  
sheep. The same  
Is said back where you're from, of  
ANSWER males  
In towns like Milan, Cairo, and Versailles.  
=LEXMAN, (location omitted)

62. PALINDROME (\*5'1 6. "4 5 4)  
 (\*5 = not MW)  
 FIRST LETTER CHANGE (5)  
 (MIKE = \* = not MW)

Our pets are stuck behind a pile of  
 junk and can't get out.  
 But actor MIKE is here—he'll twist  
 and stretch and BIKE them. Doubt-  
 ers wonder if his build allows such  
 flexibility.  
 It's true, REFER and they'll take care  
 of you some day," says he.  
 =QT-OH, Acton MA

63. TRANSPOSAL (8, 4 4)  
 (clued in order)

On seeing a sunset, I flee to the east,  
 And on seeing a sunrise, I flee to the west.  
 It's their glow, and their color, for  
 anything LEAST  
 Makes me STEAL and run off (as  
 you've probably guessed).  
 =UCAOIMHU, Somerville MA

64. REBUS (^6 ^10) (non-MW usage  
 in rubric and reading)

head-to-tail shift letter shift  
 metathesis reversal

THE SOL conjures up brief depictions  
 of some  
 Who were friends with the one who  
 created it. Num-  
 Bered from one to fourteen, number  
 nine's preface reads,  
 "Nimrod" (homage to Jaeger)—to ten  
 then it leads.  
 =QT-OH, Acton MA

## ANAGRAMS

65. BAD WOOFER, E.G. (6 2 3)  
 =FIRETRUCK, Woodinville WA

66. SOCCER BALL IN NET?  
 IMMENSE ABLE NOU RF!  
 (\*6 \*5, 6 3, \*1\*1 \*9)  
 =A-PLUS, Pittsburgh PA

67. MANNER: "COME DO IT!"

68. YES, ASTRON. IS LEGEND  
 (\*4 2\*6 \*5)  
 =LEXMAN, East Moline IL

69. DO LOAD CERN HERE. ALL  
 RIGHT! (3 ^5 ^6 ^8)

70. DREAD HAT: "TO SLYTHERIN  
 PERCH". CRUD! (\*5 \*6 3 3 ^6 ^5)  
 =raw, Ogdensburg NY

71. HINT: UM, WEATHER ARC (^9 \*7)

72. AIR VEEP BATTLE [SIC],  
 INDEED! (4 12 6)

KU-5. TO LET RAT IDLE IN \_\_\_\_\_  
 (\*6 \*8)  
 =TE-ZIR-MAN, Margate FL

## AMBIGRAMS

73. GEE, I'D VOTE... HER? H.  
 CLINTON? MAYBE! (\*8 ^6: \*8 \*3)

74. ETCH 'EM (CAMP, PUNGENT  
 PAIR) (3 \*5-\*5 8)

75. AM AN ELECTION "THINKING  
 CAP" (3 \*7-\*5 8)

76. BIANAGRAM (3 7 2 3 \*8 \*4)

I GO THERE... ATE... LONG CHIC  
 LIFE ENDS  
 REFLECT: GEE, DELIGHT IN  
 NOSH... CIAO!  
 =TE-ZIR-MAN, Margate FL

**FORMS****F-1. SQUARE**

- 1 Support structure
  - 2 Loosen
  - 3 Skirt descriptor
  - 4 Large house
  - 5 Make an effort
- =LEXMAN, East Moline IL

**F-2. PYGMY HOURGLASS**

Across:

- 1 Head backs
- 2 From east Ulster
- 3 Annul
- 4 Folks from 2 Across
- 5 Urban means of transp.
- 6 12-toed creatures?
- 7 Metal
- 8 Flavor enhancer
- 9 Greek word form meaning "tomb"  
that's part of a cemetery inscription  
(MW-inferable)
- 10 Japanese electronics giant  
(Brands & Their Cos.)
- 11 Hyderabad people: var.
- 12 Viscid mucuses
- 13 Lippitude

Down:

- 1 Metalloid
  - 2 Juan Felipe Herrera, currently
  - 3 With 10 Down, Nietzsche's *Twilight of* \_\_\_\_
  - 4 Burmese rice, heated before milling
  - 5 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century silver German coin
  - 6 Art of horsemanship
  - 7 NPL's phonetic transpogrammatic  
shiny tiny figurine? (not MW)
  - 8 Informal information channel
  - 9 Viverrids
  - 10 See 3 Down
  - 11 Mediterranean 18-to-30 inch measures
  - 12 Abu Dhabi's place
  - 13 Red state?
  - 14 Label
- =NEWROW, Brookline MA

**F-3. CRYPTIC DOUBLE SQUARE  
(5X5)**

My clue separation program doesn't appear to be working, so clues may run together but remain in their normal sequence. One answer is two words.

**Start of clues**

Batter facing pitch not easy to figure  
out it goes round either way—a  
revolver

Back off explosive type exercising  
glutes without time for red units'  
broadcast

Dumps some papers following card-  
sharp's opening bluffs

Dishonest game found in decadent  
area

Unlikely in any circumstances saying,  
"Train stopping"

Spot court action half standing

**End of clues**

=ANDREAS, Vancouver BC

**F-4. SQUARE**

- 1 Card?
  - 2 Displaying more sorrow
  - 3 Wordlessly
  - 4 Things Sam Crawford, Ty Cobb and  
Honus Wagner (for three) were all  
pretty good at hitting
  - 5 Champion
  - 6 Ancient charm (NI3)
  - 7 Romeo or Juliet at the start of Act  
III, Scene 5
- =JABBERWOCK, Truckee CA

**F-5. SQUARE**

- 1 Alight, as some food
  - 2 Reptile
  - 3 Flowering bush
  - 4 Hammer
  - 5 Wind
  - 6 Chatroom romancing (11C-inferable)
- =LEXMAN, East Moline IL



F-6. "CONNECTED" SQUARES (see puzzle note)

### GEOGRAPHIC SQUARE

- 1 Capital city of an Indian Ocean nation
- 2 River where Stratford lies
- 3 California city in a Creedence Clearwater Revival song
- 4 Ninth largest city in Oklahoma

### TELEVISION SQUARE

- 1 *Come \_\_\_\_ With Me* (UK cooking programme)
  - 2 *American \_\_\_\_*
  - 3 PBS science show
  - 4 Actor Jack, with roles in many TV westerns
- =ROSEBUD, Mounds View MN

### F-7. TRUNCATED INVERTED PYRAMID

Across:

- 1 First (and second) of Tishri
- 2 Downspouts
- 3 Set in motion
- 4 Cracks
- 5 Longings
- 6 Standard time

Down:

- 1 Rabbi
  - 2 Take too much
  - 3 Title of respect
  - 4 Meats you wouldn't eat on 1 Across
  - 5 Having large haunches
  - 6 Gives extreme unction
  - 7 Armor plate
  - 8 Handles
  - 9 Copies
  - 10 Non-educated delinquent, in the Urban Dictionary
  - 11 For instance
  - 12 Horse or heroin
- =WITZ, Vancouver BC

### EXTRAS

X-1. MOSAIC QUOTE (2 3 6 3 9 5 6.  
\*5 \*9) [4 columns, 3 rows]

AD HE IS LA LI LL  
VE NG ON NS GE GR

ND NE OS RA WH YL  
TE OS UD ES SM OU

=TE-ZIR-MAN, Margate FL

X-2. ANAQUOTE (7, 4 8 3 4, 3 8 4 2 5  
3 4 5 5 4 4 4 4. \*6)

ABO AGE AST AUS DLA DMO EME FIT  
GOE HAT HEC HEM KES KNO OSE PRO  
REE SAN SIN SLI STB STE TOR TOT  
UTW WHO WLE WSA YTH

=WITZ, Vancouver BC  
(Gary)

X-3. KNIGHT'S TOUR CRYPT (6 2 4:  
"4. 2 4 5'1 4, 4. 2 2 5'1 4, 2 4 2 6.")

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

=raw, Ogdensburg NY

X-4. KNIGHT'S TOUR CRYPT (\*1 5 2  
\*1 4 1 5 \*1'1 4 6 2 1 7. \*4 3 \*6)

E O H H **I** J E N P M F  
I N R W A E A E E O U  
A M T O W D E U F  
N V E W S T I C F  
E A I N R I R R  
K A A N F D

=TE-ZIR-MAN, Margate FL

## X-5. VERTICAL ANAQUOTE (2 6 2 3 4 \*3 3 2 3 6 3 3 \*5 4 4 3 4. \*1. \*1. 3 \*4)

A A A D D D E E G I K L N N O O O S T T T T W W  
 A F H D H I S T E E D E H N A L V V E I N T O U  
 L K V H O O T A L H N A I L I N O S H N E W C B

=R/EDS, Ste. Anne de Prescott ON

## X-6. VERTICAL ANAQUOTE (5 3 2 4 10 2 \*6 4 6 2 9. \*7 \*3)

A A B E E E E E H K M N O O O O R R R S T T  
 I K N A A N S S B E D D E L T H I T Y N R  
 F V B E N T Y H L S O E Y R S T A E E P R

=TE-ZIR-MAN, Margate FL

## X-7. SHUFFLED QUOTE

— ' 5 — \* C . \* — \* — E ' — E — A  
 \* I 2 A — E E H D E F D I N F D E H N I T  
 H P H M . G O O R I R R O O N N S K W O W  
 L W H Y B L T T T I S S T U R T T R

=WITZ, Vancouver BC

## X-8. SHUFFLED QUOTE

— C — I . — A — I E — A — H A E D  
 M C — L L — C — L E \* E I P O N E  
 O N A R O \* E O O M L P O R R O I  
 U Y E S S L F R T N S P P R T T R

=TE-ZIR-MAN, Margate FL

## X-9. VERTICAL ANAQUOTE (3 5 4. 2 3 6. \*1 2 5. 9. ^7 \*7.)

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

=raw, Ogdensburg NY

## X-10. X-WORDS — by WHEELS, Georgetown ON

The answers to the X-words are clued in alphabetical order of their answers. Each of these answers is too long to fit in the grid and must be modified (in the same way) to form *two* new answers that intersect at one of the X squares. Each of the numbered clues contains one extraneous word that must be removed before solving. These extraneous words are the definitions of the modified answers. The contents of the X squares read left to right will describe the system at work here.

## X-Words

Accompanying date, Ann awkwardly  
 has tense time  
 Babbles incoherently about a lady at a  
 club (2 wds.)  
 Bum team's turn to hit first  
 Moonshine Prohibition ultimately on  
 organization of Ness (Eliot), pri-  
 marily  
 Effect the price charged by a veteri-  
 narian?  
 Succession of cracking sounds at

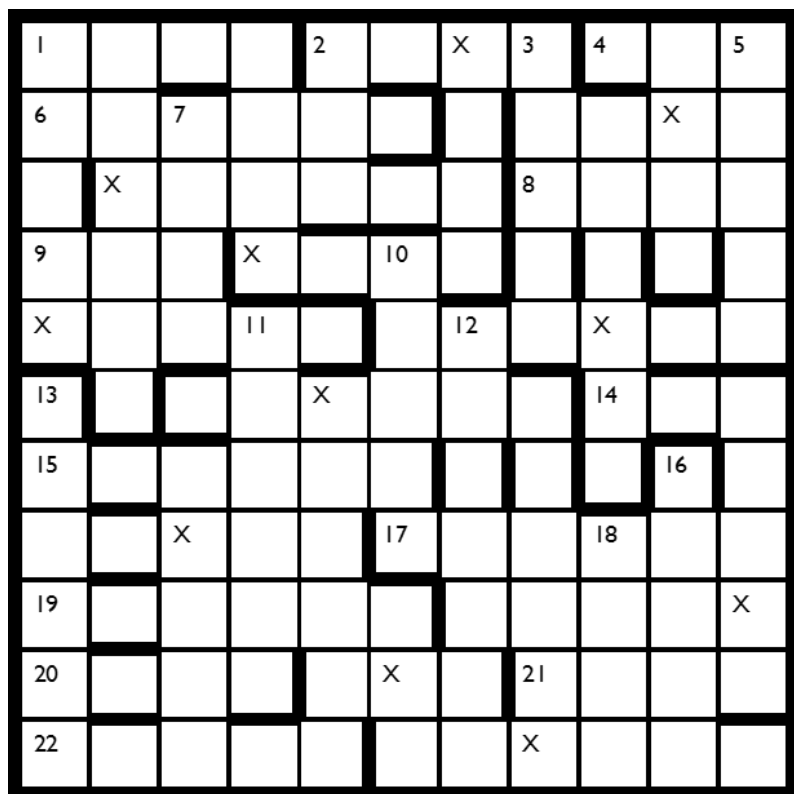
AT&T ... breaking up ... Turkic  
 language being echoed (*hyph.*)  
 He provides food break with atmos-  
 phere outside of the historic city  
 NASA at an abandoned California city  
 (2 wds.)  
 Number-cruncher still embracing this  
 hitless Kinsler of the Detroit Ti-  
 gers  
 Meat dish in bar with a double helping  
 of black goo taken orally (2 wds.)  
 Double latte rejuvenated informer

**Across**

- 1 Helper sat around getting paid salary primarily (4, *abbr.*)
- 4 Rush echoed drum perfectly (3)
- 6 Most recent overture coming from One Direction singer (6)
- 8 A navy sailor left at pier (4)
- 9 Heard song ages before (3)
- 14 Center of corn with a couple of vitamins containing zero proteins (3)
- 15 Soldiers outside of metropolitan battle showing courage (6)
- 17 Lecture about human mores ultimately stern (6)
- 19 Show up a noble poet in recital (6)
- 20 German party song made untrue statements (4)
- 21 Blue Moon's second "filling beer" plant (4)
- 22 Vessels in the sound with narrow nets (5)

**Down**

- 2 Dead zone in North America is in Quebec (3, *abbr.*)
- 3 Browns top of small pie (5)
- 5 Religious Rastafarians talk about protecting rulers (5)
- 7 New soaring tricks featuring red bird (4)
- 10 State tracks, charts accounts (5)
- 11 Laced shirt at front just over half of teddy (6)
- 12 Sincere robbers — brazen with brains (7)
- 13 One masculine painter gripping top of paint stick (6)
- 16 Mafia leader cries out "Suffer ... in the end he gives" (5)
- 18 After last bit of Epsom salts, I train up for long distance race (4)



## AUGUST SOLVERS

The August 2016 *Enigma* had 89 flats, 9 forms, 7 crypts, and 6 extras. 31 solution lists, representing 61 solvers, were received. The 2 miniganzas are not counted in the regular scores, but the number of solvers and the kudos for each are included below. 14 miniganza solution lists, representing 31 solvers, were received.

BanterWeight/Dragonfly/Libra, DelphiRune/Papayagi/RUgame?, Dischorran, Donimo/Wordsmix, Joker/LeXman/Lirath/YoMama, Jo the Loiterer/Manx/Pen Gwyn/Stewball, Loki-5, Philana/Mercury, Quicks?lver, and Witz/Andreas had completes.

DelphiRune/Papayagi/RUgame?, /dev/joe/Vraal/Tinhorn/Om Nom, Dischorran, Donimo/Wordsmix, Joker/LeXman/Lirath/YoMama, Jo the Loiterer/Manx/Pen Gwyn/Stewball, Loki-5, Philana/Mercury, Quicks?lver, R/EDS/415 lb of snake, Tyger/weefoot/Wolverine, Treesong, Unigram, and Witz/Andreas solved both miniganzas.

Welcome, new solvers A-Plus and Were-Lincoln!

Accepted: 56-BUFF, BUFFET; 72-TEST for BEST (7).

—QUICKS?LVER, Solutions Editor

FLATS/FORMS/CRYPTS/EXTRAS SOLVED (\* = complete): aaaHaaa 0/0/0/1. Ajde 24/0/4/2. Alice/A-Plus/Arachne/Hot/Ming 87/0/0/0. Badir 61/4/6/0. Barkis/QT-Oh 67/8/6/0. Buttorkup 49/4/\*/4. /dev/joe/Vraal/Tinhorn/Om Nom 88/\*/\*/\*/. Finiky Radical/Magi Mirstory 46/0/4/0. Firetruck 66/3/2/1. Geneal/GrandBairn/Melifer/Serendipity 72/\*/6/\*/. Jabberwock 51/7/0/0. Linko 54/\*/0/2. Lyric/Munro 88/\*/6/\*/. Newrow/Jerg 81/\*/\*/5. NJ Ninja 56/\*/4/\*/. Pebbles 68/7/6/5. R/EDS/415 lb of snake 87/\*/\*/\*/. Treesong 85/\*/\*/\*/. Tyger/weefoot/Wolverine 81/\*/\*/5. Unigram 60/1/0/1. Were-Lincoln 39/2/0/\*.

SOLVING FREQUENCY/NUMBER OF KUDOS/TOP KUDOS: FLATS: 1-30/2, 2-30/3, 3-23/4, 4-28/2, 5-23/6, 6-25/6, 7-28/3, 8-22/4, 9-18/1, 10-18/3, 11-19/6/1, 12-29, 13-28/1, 14-26/1, 15-27/6, 16-26/2, 17-30/1, 18-24/3, 19-29/1, 20-26/1, 21-30/1, 22-21/4, 23-23, 24-22/4, 25-27/1, 26-20/2, 27-20/1, 28-27/5, 29-24/3, 30-25/2, 31-27/9, 32-17/3/1, 33-22/1, 34-27/1, 35-29/8, 36-28, 37-25/2, 38-20/6, 39-27, 40-26/4, 41-27/2, 42-27, 43-29/1, 44-28/2, 45-29/2, 46-24/5, 47-30/4, 48-28/3, 49-29/1, 50-28/1, 51-22/1, 52-24/9/2, 53-24/4, 54-21/7, 55-26, 56-16/1, 57-19/4/1, 58-27, 59-26, 60-13, 61-22, 62-30/5, 63-18/1, 64-19/2, 65-28/2, 66-29/7, 67-30/2, 68-28, 69-27, 70-18/3, 71-28, 72-26, 73-18/2, 74-28, 75-18/1, 76-29/1, 77-25/1, 78-15/4, 79-29/3, 80-27/3, 81-17, 82-23/5, 83-29/1, 84-26/7, 85-29/1, 86-16, 87-24/4, 88-22/2, 89-29. FORMS: 1-22/8, 2-26/3, 3-21/3, 4-24/3, 5-21/5, 6-24/2, 7-23/2, 8-23/1, 9-23/1. CRYPTS: 1-25/2, 2-24/3, 3-24/3, 4-23/3, 5-23/6, 6-20/2, 7-17/7. EXTRAS: 1-22/1, 2-23, 3-23, 4-23, 5-18, 6-25/18/11. MINIGANZAS: "Missed Directions"-14/1, "Road Trip Bingo"-14/2.

KUDOS (! = top kudos): aaaHaaa X-6!. Alice 47, 66, 83, 84, X-6!. A-Plus 5, 22, 31, 63, 70, 78. Arachne 5, 22, 65, 73, 77, X-6. Badir 2, 8, 41, 46, 87, F-1, X-6. Barkis 3, 46, 62, C-5, C-7, X-6. Buttorkup C-1, C-2, C-3, C-4, C-5, C-6, C-7.

DelphiRune 3, 11!, 32, 33, 35, 45, 46, 67, 80, 85, F-1, F-4, F-5. /dev/joe 29, 53, 54, 66, 79, F-1, F-2, F-3, F-4, F-7, F-8, F-9, X-6!. Dischorran 4, 10, 14, 34, 38, 53, 54, 79, 87, 88. Donimo 2, 5, 10, 24, 28, 31, 57!, 66, 84, C-7. Dragonfly 6, 10, 15, 48, 62, 87, C-2. Finiky Radical 1, 7, 15, 17, 21, 30, 31, 35, 46, 47, 50, 52!, 53, 67, 75, 79. Hot 31, 35, 37, 38, 40, 48, 52, 84, X-6. Jabberwock 22, 24, 28, 31, 38, 41, 44, 51, 62, 65, 73, 76, 78. Jo the Loiterer 15, 26, 48, 52, 54, 66, 88, F-1, F-3, F-5, F-6, C-5, X-6. Libra 3, 8, 15, 18, 29, 40, 52, 70, 78. Lyric 7, 11, 13, 28, 35, 52, C-1, X-6!. Mercury 15, 16, 35, 47, 49, 53, 54, 56, 62, C-3, C-4. Newrow 28, 31, 52!, 78, 82, F-5, X-6. NJ Ninja 1, 5, 7, 8, 18, 19, 25, 40, 45, 82, 84, F-2, F-3, F-5, F-7, X-6!. Papayagi 11, 32. QT-Oh 3, 31, 46, 52, 84, X-6. Quicks?lver 2, 4, 6, 11, 16, 18, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 35, 43, 54, 66, 82, 84, F-1, C-4, C-7, X-1, X-6!, "Missed Directions", "Road Trip Bingo". R/EDS 11, 15, 24, 27, 38, 47, 54, 66, C-7, X-6!. Rugame? 11, 22, 32!, 35, 80. Treesong 5, 9, 20, 31, 35, 37, 38, 52, 57, 64, 70, 84, F-1, F-6, X-6!, "Road Trip Bingo". Tyger 6, 62, 66, 87, F-2, C-3, C-5, X-6!. Witz 8, 31, 38, 54, 57, 64, 80, 82, F-1, C-2, C-5, X-6!. Wordsmix 5, 6, 22, 29, 40, 44, 52, 57, 82, F-1, F-4, F-5, X-6!.

## SEPTEMBER SOLUTIONS

1. guitars, Sagittarius 2. Mojave Desert 3. stimulating; litmus, giant  
 4. conf-i/o-rmation 5. Boris, Horace 6. rebut, *et tu Brute* 7. tide is high, hide is Thai  
 8. caper, Capra 9. ta(b[le t]en)nis 10. donut, doubt 11. gandy dancer [G and Y, dance, R] 12. gramMAR, amBLE 13. oilbird, leeboard, Labor Day 14. chicory, hickory; chicory, chickadee 15. liberates, beastlier 16. cart, cataract 17. Bay State, base eight 18. agnostic, coasting 19. Gouda, Ouagadougou 20. distraught [D is T; r, aught] 21. Schub-a/e-rt 22. offended, ellipsis 23. Pikachu, pikuach 24. fineth, fifteenth 25. harpist, "this is Sparta!" 26. Brown, Rowan 27. Michael Richard Pence 28. brownnoser if [B row, N: no serif] 29. clearance, Clarence KU-1. Pranjali Vachaspati; prajna, vlach, tapias 30. pikeman, Pokemon 31. take a breath, heartbreaker 32. thiopentone, thin on top 33. effloresce [EFF (=3839 in hex), lo-res CE (=206 in hex)] 34. C(ape S)able 35. (We)(we)noc 36. a-man-dine; trout, tutor; gill net, telling 37. chest hair, chaos theory 38. inquest, iniquities, unquietness 39. antic syntax 40. "bread", a bull sputters; spreadable butters 41. outed, ragged, ragout, edged 42. albedo, doable 43. has a shot? not a chance [H as a shot (=BB, in ABBA); not 'a Chance' (in "Take a Chance on Me")] 44. shuttlecock, cuttle shock 45. mileage, my liege 46. stinger, interesting; r(epe)(tit)ive 47. sap, cackle, pp [Snap, Crackle, Pop] 48. benight, in the beginning; blighter, let there be light 49. halalas, ash 50. jocular 51. damp mulch clump mad 52. dropkick, kickoff, offset, setback, backdrop 53. latent, talent 54. corn(m)éal 55. thruppence, Trump-Pence 56. se(d)ated 57. ginseng, dreamed 58. maraschino, cot, Moschino, carat 59. scalp aches, estimates escape; lax 60. no(NPL)us 61. mantelpieces [MANTEL pieces]; mental breakdown [MENTAL breakdown] 62. panhandle, manhandle; passive, massive [both a la pa/mar] 63. N(intend)o 64. forcible, forb [a la bicycle/bike] 65. Bljou, BIGot, MBiras, APple 66. dated a Ted, ate 67. Ferrari, farrier 68. dry bones, buy drones 69. Jesuit!, je suis 70. trophies, Shishito pepper 71. lobar, low bar 72. s(ch)olar 73. Democratic National Convention 74. Lin-Manuel Miranda 75. Madama Butterfly 76. cogito, ergo sum 77. gymnast Simone Biles 78. prime minister 79. important 80. jihadist 81. Donald Trump and Mike Pence 82. Republican National Convention

- C-1. Man to shrink: "One night I think I'm a wigwam, next night a teepee."  
Shrink says, "You're just two tents. Next!"
- C-2. I needed a Tylenol GIL after the movie BY of the deaths of Romeo BOY and Juliet GIRL. Montag(u)e; Cap(u)let
- C-3. He dies. She dies. They marry. They break up. Evil triumphs. Love conquers all. It was all a dream. It was his sled.
- C-4. One sometimes finds what one is not looking for. Scientist Sir Alexander Fleming (predictably)
- C-5. Uplifting or downgrading observation: Escalators do not break; rather, they simply become stairs.
- C-6. Printed sign above ubiquitous (almost obsolete) electronic office equipment: "Face up to fax."
- C-7. Czexit: Farewell Symphony excerpt zanily reconceived by Dvorak as soulful dumka followed by furiant.
- X-1. Victor Borge asked "You want something by Bach? Which one, Johann Sebastian or Jacques Offen?"
- X-2. We can only be said to be alive in those moments when our hearts are conscious of our treasure. Thornton Wilder
- X-3. When asked, "Is sloppiness in speech caused by ignorance or apathy?" an English teacher replied: "I don't know and I don't care." W. Safire
- X-4. ...but beautiful mosaics are made of broken pieces. L. J. Nelson
- X-5. All pro athletes are bilingual. They speak English and profanity.
- X-6. You can't retrieve your life (unless you're on Wikipedia, in which case you can retrieve an inaccurate version of it). Ephron
- X-7. In a perfect universe "T. S. Eliot" would be "toilets" backwards. Eric Idle, *The Road to Mars*
- X-8. Criticism, like rain, should be gentle enough to nourish a man's growth without destroying his roots. Frank A. Clark
- X-9. No. President Carter's daughter Amy when asked if she had a message to America's children.
- X-10. A man is not old as long as he is seeking something. Jean Rostand
- X-11. The hardest part about going to Hypochondriacs Anonymous is admitting that you don't have a problem.
- X-12. skateboard; basket, road
- X-13. *Across*: point-blank, overtness, caique, gypsum, scarps, mien, curd, pound cake, swanked, no-brainer, freestyle, meerkats, tabla, bawl, Moog, Israel, rancho, stores, byelaw, head start.
- Down*: basic, likeable, nuclear, Keats, overgrown, type A, Esau, surreal, compound number, Middle Ages, KEYBOARD, one-a-day, esthete, eat crow, kasha, stash, lodestar, wine.
- Keyboard items*: point (entered as .), over (/), pound (#), at (@), and star (\*).
- BACKSEAT ARGUMENTS: *Across*: amp, TC, swear, Rome, three, Boston.
- Down*: RB, as to, two, mehs, RT, cameo, -, preen.
- Solution*: Divide the 8x6 answer grid into eight 2x3 sections. Treating spaces as raised dots ("bumpy splotches"), read each of the eight sections as a Braille letter. L to R, top to bottom, they spell the final answer: reprisal.

F-1.

PLASMS  
TOPHAT  
ORPINE  
SILVER  
ICEAGE  
SASHES

F-3.

LADYSHIP  
OLYMPICS  
TEACAKES  
SEDATEST

F-4.

ABOMBS  
LARIAT  
BRONZE  
URINAL  
MEDIAL  
SNEERS

F-5.

RRRRRRR  
RESHARE  
RSWETHA  
RHEXIAS  
RATINGS  
RRHAGIA  
REASSAY

F-6.

MALACCA  
UNICORN  
RIVULET  
AMITIES  
LEDECKY

F-7.

PEACH  
UVULA  
MEDAL  
ANISE  
STOPS

F-8.

PHELPS  
AERIAL  
TAMALE  
EDIBLE  
RUNLET  
SPEEDS

F-9.

SQUAT  
WALDO  
EQUID  
DARED  
EQUUS

F-2.

A.  
GOLD  
OBOE  
LOSE  
DEED

B.

OGEE  
GOLD  
ELSE  
EDEN

C.

URGE  
ROOD  
GOLD  
EDDY

D.

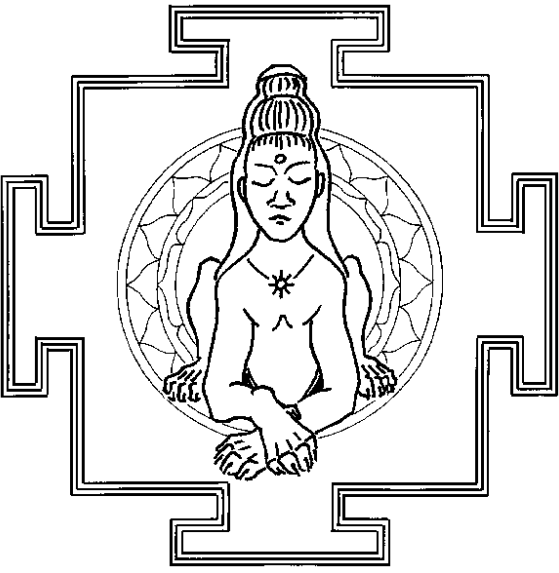
SONG  
OREO  
NEIL  
GOLD

X-13.

.BLANK/TNESS  
CAIQUEGYPSUM  
OSKSCARPSARI  
MIENLTOECURD  
#CAKESWANKED  
NOBRAINERREAL  
UNLFREESTYLE  
MEERK@STABLA  
BAWLACTHMOOG  
EDIISRARELADE  
RANCHOSTORES  
BYELAWHEAD\*T

BACKSEAT ARGUMENTS.

A M P  
T C  
SWE A R  
R O M E  
T H R E  
B O S T O N



**CRYPTOGRAMS**

Edited by LEXMAN

C-1. REPEATED LETTER DELETION (5). QOZ, Redmond WA

PENCIL OFFER XEF GL UXRRCHQ — BXZFER XQW  
 RIHNIR SNRI YHQ'I WH; RH GL HEDKXEW'R IKF  
 UBXDF YKFEF \*C OEFY GL ^G^H^I^I^H ^G^H^H.

C-2. Lost in translation. (\*KVI = not MW) LEXMAN, East Moline IL

DJ TLV UQC ODWY BCLBPC OYL NGLHC  
 GUQDEVUMU, QCSVCNWN JLQ U “\*KVI ^PDRYW”  
 GCUM NLGCWYDMR FLGBPCWCPT IDJJCCMW.

C-3. Red. NEXT LINGO, Lexington MA

WZ MYLWXYNWRV, VYZ SELNTWXR VYZ. KOX WZ  
 MTVVOZWVRV, WX'R XUS TXUSQ FYC YQTOZB.  
 \*ATUZ \*DSZZSXU \*IYNKQYW XU.

C-4. Elementary. GRIDDLE, Santa Rosa CA

“CH JDYPSU JHGPVH QDHJH FPVBSRVTXHU  
 DYPJHJ,” JRTU QDH KRAHU UHQHGQTIH. QDH  
 QHVJH GYO VHOSTHU, “JPVH. SYGN DYAHJ.”

C-5. Clueless. (\*L\*T\*Z, \*J\*L\*Z\*T not MW) raw, Ogdensburg NY

ZY XWVU OZYR WQTRTTZARPX ONMLKRT “\*L\*T\*Z”  
 NJI “\*J\*L\*Z\*T”, TKR LWVPI SUWQNPX HVUIRU  
 XWV NJI FRM NONX OZMK ZM.

C-6. Cold case. WITZ, Vancouver BC

WAGOMVFRDX, YDUWUFUUDIZFRO, FGIIP PDRZOUU  
 XOZROT OVWGIHOO VFTNORU ADVUOGP FU FZ  
 DVWOTUIZFG RTFDZOT.

C-7. Popeye avasts. NEWROW, Brookline MA

ABA CDCE \*FEGHGIGIIJICJC BKBHJHC FCHBHC  
 ECFJFCECA CABHBGL GM J MJH \*JCNCJL JLH  
 LCKCOBO? LG, LCDCE. GE...