



THE ENIGMA

JUNE 2020 • THE NATIONAL PUZZLERS' LEAGUE • EST. 1883 • SPECIAL EDITION

GOLDEN SPHINX BITS

From the Golden Sphinx Committee

/dev/joe, Btnirn, Jabberwock, LeXman, Sue++, and ♀

We're very excited to present this inaugural *Enigma* supplemental issue containing all of last year's Golden Sphinx nominees. We hope you enjoy seeing these excellent puzzles, whether it's a reminder of your solving from last year, or it's for the first time.

The Enigma depends on puzzle contributions from the membership. Year after year the talent and generosity of the many contributors is on display. The Krewe has always been eager to recognize these contributions, as evidenced by the longstanding tradition of giving kudos to individual puzzles, and of tabulating these kudos in the solving report once the year is over. Starting in 2015 (for *Enigma* year 2014), the Golden Sphinxes were an attempt to take this concept even further, by conducting a "black-tie" ceremony (well, at least Teki was in black tie!) at the con banquet to honor exceptional contributors to *The Enigma*. We were very grateful to have Dart step forward and create a beautiful design for the pins, which are small but sincere tokens of our appreciation to the constructors.

From the beginning, the committee has struggled with how to select a few awardees from the many prolific and much-loved constructors from the previous year. Early on we settled on the concept that the awards would be for the favorite puzzles from the previous years; after all, the Krewe had already kudoed their favorite puzzles. However, we quickly ran into some doubts about using straight kudos counts. The main problem was that some types of puzzles have very shallow kudos profiles, with many puzzles sharing the same kudos count. In addition, there is variability in overall kudos between months, and it's hard to say that a 12-kudos puzzle in January, would not prevail head-to-head with a 13-kudos puzzle in December. We also liked the idea of giving the puzzles a "second life" by creating a curated list of top favorites and allowing the Krewe to review them once more and vote on them. In the end, we settled on a process whereby the committee starts with the top 10-ish kudos-earners in each category from the solving report; committee members vote on the

puzzles to winnow to the top 5 (with any committee member who is nominated in a category abstaining from the category); a curated list of these “nominees” is published; the Krewe votes on the nominees and the top n winners in each category are selected.

We hope that this supplemental issue will make it easier to review and enjoy all of the nominees. We look forward to your votes, and to bestowing the awards at this year’s con, in whatever form it takes.

Most of all, our deepest appreciation for all of the 2019 puzzle contributors — your talent and generosity of spirit are what keeps *The Enigma* going. A special thanks to yodaughter, who could have hit us over the head when we broached the idea of a special issue, but instead got excited about all the extra work she would do. Also thanks to Teki for editing all the 2019 puzzles, Quicksilver for compiling the kudos, Qoz for putting the online voting onto the website, and \$8.90 for helpful info during this process.

From the Compositor

Puzzles types are presented in the same order as in *The Enigma*. The puzzles themselves are laid out so as to fit the space and do not reflect any particular ranking. In each regular issue, cryptograms are on the back page, numbered 1 through 7 by estimated difficulty, and they are presented in that way here. Extras changed from being lettered X to E midway through 2019.



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VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

Each member can vote for their one favorite puzzle in each category; it's possible to abstain from one or more categories if desired. Please vote online at <https://krewe.puzzlers.org/sphinxes>.

If you don't want to vote online, please write a list of each nominee you are voting for and its category (limit one vote per category; abstentions are possible). Send the list to Sue++ (Susan Glass, 12 Shady Ln, Framingham MA 01701). Please be sure to include your nom so that we can verify the vote.

The deadline for voting by either method is June 30, 2020, midnight Pacific time; for mail-in votes this means the ballot must be received by then.

PUZZLE NOTES

June F-6. In Quantum Squares, the same set of clues leads to the solutions of two different squares. Solvers had to submit solutions to both squares for credit.

Nov F-14. This is not a Guide form. The shape is designed for this issue. Solve as a 15x15 diagramless with left/right symmetry (and 3-letter word minimum waived) or use the online grid.

Apr RX-1. LeXman

Nov E-7. In an ALTERNATING ANAQUOTE, a quote is split alternately into N-grams of two different lengths. The N-grams of each length are then grouped by length and given in alphabetical order. As an aid to the solver, the first N-gram comes from the first group.

Sep X-1: Crax/Trazom. This cryptic was presented at the March 2019 Equinox Party in Berkeley, and was inspired by Cryptictionary 2017 by 530nm330Hz and Tortoise, presented at BeaCon (Boston, 2017) and based on a version invented by nmHz for a Boston mini-con the year before.

May C-4. DZE = not MW; MPIY = non-MW usage. Solvers had to submit the answer to this riddle along with the plaintext. When you solve the crypt, the thing in its issue which it refers to is YRKZNA (rot-13).



NOMINEES

Solution words and phrases not found in 11C (11th Collegiate) are labeled for the most recent Merriam-Webster dictionary in which they appear: NI3, online MW (www.merriam-webster.com), or NI2. Non-MW words and usages are noted.

“+” signifies foreign, slang, dialect, obsolete, archaic, and the like. Capitalized words get a “*”. Words that are capitalized (as in names or 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.”

The website for voting is available from June 1 through June 30, 2020, or mail your list to SUE++, Susan Glass, 12 Shady Ln, Framingham MA 01701. All mailed votes must be received by June 30, 2020.

Feb 24. TERMINAL DELETION (^6)
TERMINAL DELETION (^6)
TERMINAL DELETION (^7)
TERMINAL DELETION (^9)

You know my favorite northeast
NHL team is the ^FIRST!
It could drive me to SECOND
If you say that they're the worst!
=ewolf, Thousand Oaks CA

Feb 59. LETTER BANK (10, 5 3 8)
(10 = inferable) (can be sung)

Something for chewing, something for
viewing,
Something for everyone—some
ADDER EAR tonight!
Something with kneading, something
with bleeding,
Something for everyone—some
ADDER EAR tonight!
“Folks now want just ADDER EAR,”
said
Juvenal. (See, that quote isn't READ.)
Something that's wheaten, soon to be
eaten;
Something where gladiators fight!
Fall of Rome tomorrow, ADDER EAR
tonight!
=UCAOIMHU, Somerville MA

Jun 43. PHONETIC ACROSTICAL
ENIGMA (8 10 6) (not MW) (F = 2 wds.)

- A. Mental posers for which we train
Stir up centers in the brain,
- B. Were Krewe to gather and commune
Each year in the month past June.
- C. Theology, news, math, and fish,
Science, plants our favorite dish.
- D. *Les Mis*, *Chicago*, and *King Lear*?
Kudos all from what I hear.
- E. Trump and sports and Cheshire cats—
Platform for our favorite flats.
- F. Curt apes, dates and Lego blocks.
A printout of some New York stocks.
- G. Airy mousse from cooking school.
King and queen and jesting fool.
- H. Noh, *Bull Durham*, outer space—
Anything can be a base.
- I. *Mersey Shore* their actors play,
But not a sound is heard today.

The error that I dare not name:
This flat's too bad. I'll take the blame.
=raw, Ogdensburg NY

Apr 10. CYCLEGRAM

(6, *7, 6, *6, *5 *11, *1 ^2 1 ^7 ^4)
(SIGNORA, ORATING = not MW)
(clued in order)

To develop your cultural purview,
And impress your whole circle of friends,
A well-rounded perspective will serve
you.

Take this tour that will start where it
ends.

First, attend all the TINGLING of
Mozart,
Such as Carmen and Don Giovanni.
This will help you become one who
quotes art,
And expand your horizons past Yanni.

Next you'll study the Dutch Reformation.
Desiderius LINGAM, primarily.
His AMENs on free will and damnation
Leave no choice but to praise him
summarily.

Then to cinema: learn ENSIGN
Bergman—
It will give you an erudite aura.
You will soon be your own dramaturg,
and
Better known, say, than actress
SIGNORA.

For your last stop, you'll study
awareness.
And to do this you'll show proper
deference
To Hofstadter's ORATING. In fairness,
It's the last word in cyclic self-reference.

So you've managed to make the ends
meet now.
All your friends know you're no square
vulgarian.
Spun the wheel, made the circuit
complete now.
With this ring, rule them all! (How
Wagnerian.)
=ewolf, Thousand Oaks CA

Nov 30. MIDDLE (6 4; 6, 4)

ONE (9, 11, 14) (SMALLEST =
inferable; MIDDLE = not MW)

The syrup salesman hits the tracks
But always loses dough.
"Trifecta on the stocky" lacks
The winning wager, so
The SMALLEST finds a racing sage
Who says "To the wise TWO,
Tall horses are just all the rage."
The salesman bids adieu
And goes off to debug the way
He wagers at the flats.
(That jargon even LONGEST may
Decode, plus technocrats).
=FIRETRUCK, Kirkland WA



FORMS

Aug F-15. OMNIDIRECTIONAL
TRIANGLE*Provide the apt word for full credit.*

Across (the right way):

- 1 First part of an apt word
- 2 Type of urban railway
- 3 Chinese academic, whose big-character poster criticizing Peking University as being controlled by the bourgeoisie was the triggering event for the Cultural Revolution (Wikipedia)
- 4 Some Central Africans
- 5 Good name for an ant?

Left (the right way):

- 1 Import
- 2 Miley's husband (Wikipedia)
- 3 Her fur?
- 4 Ash
- 5 Fourth part of an apt word

Right (the right way):

- 1 Second part of an apt word
- 2 Size you can't get at Starbucks: abbr.
- 3 Where you went if you didn't go to Canada. Or didn't have bone spurs.

4 Green land

5 Peninsula known as "the garden of Skye" (Wikipedia)

Across (the wrong way):

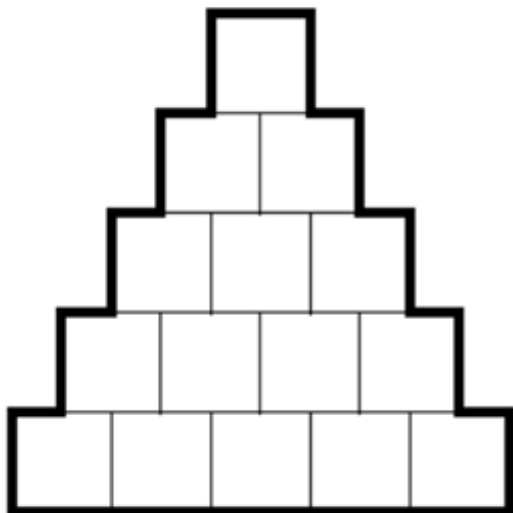
- 1 Third part of an apt word
- 2 The French?
- 3 A German?
- 4 Textile screw pines
- 5 Musical artist Scott, from LA (SoundCloud)

Left (the wrong way):

- 1 Crossword puzzle workers
- 2 What Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan got
- 3 Food for grunts
- 4 English river
- 5 Sixth part of an apt word

Right (the wrong way):

- 1 Fifth part of an apt word
 - 2 What you call a feminist
 - 3 Thing that it's good for a guy to be a, but not so good for him to be the
 - 4 Indians upstate
 - 5 Asian units of weight
- =JABBERWOCK, Portland OR



Jan F-3. SIXPACK

A. SQUARE

- 1 Perform
- 2 Reason for many an ER visit

B. PROGRESSIVE SQUARE

- 1 French illustrator of the Bible and *Don Quixote*
- 2 Western city
- 3 Ancient Gauls
- 4 Islamic chief

C. BIGRAM SQUARE

- 1 French illustrator of the Bible and *Don Quixote*
- 2 Western city

D. SQUARE

- 1 Money
- 2 Titania's spouse
- 3 *Guide to the Enigma* entry (NPL)
- 4 Removes
- 5 T and A, to Ford
- 6 Actually existing

E. BIGRAM SQUARE

- 1 Money
- 2 Fruit
- 3 Name for John or Berle

F. TRIGRAM SQUARE

- 1 Money
 - 2 Many a "Caravan" trekker
- =NEWROW, Brookline MA

A. SQUARE

	1	2
1		
	1	2
2		
	2	3

C. BIGRAM SQUARE

	1	2
1		
	1	2
2		
	2	3

D. SQUARE

	1	2	3	4	5	6
1		1	2	3	4	5
	2		7	8	9	10
2		2				
	3		8	12	13	14
3		3				
	4		9	13	16	17
4		4				
	5		10	14	17	19
5		5				
	6		11	15	18	20
6		6				

B. PROGRESSIVE SQUARE

	1	2	3	4
1		1	2	3
	2		3	4
2		2		5
	3		4	5
3		3		6
	4		5	6
4		4		7

E. BIGRAM SQUARE

	1	2	3
1		1	2
	2		3
2		2	4
	3		5
3		3	6

F. TRIGRAM SQUARE

	1	2
1		
	1	2
2		
	2	3

Nov F-14. DOUBLE OCTAGON VARIANT

Across:

- 1 Touchy, like a topic
- 2 The central black squares of this grid when viewed as a whole (not MW)
- 3 Don't own, in any way (not MW)
- 4 Mrs. King (Amende);
Like some pill coatings
- 5 Closing passage of music (online MW);
Dem;
Rep;
Nick name
- 6 Frat letters;
____ de Klerk;
____ Lovecraft (Amende);
Stretch for some cons or pols
- 7 Passing comment?;
Suck-ups;
Celebrity poker? (IMDb)
- 8 Old TV ministry (IMDb);
Be nosy about (NI3-findable);
Capital gain?
- 9 Grand slam path;
Namesake of a Monopoly Place;
Zin kin
- 10 Pulitzer-winning poet Teasdale;
Battery type;
"Oh, woe!" (not MW)
- 11 Supermodel Cheryl (Amende);
Many lifetimes;
"____ de lune" (Debussy)
- 12 Win over;
In rhythm
- 13 Identifying inclusion on an e-mail
(Macmillan)
- 14 Break for lunch in court, e.g. (findable)
- 15 Pallor

Down:

- 1 Paired action for "borrowing" from a digital text (Wiktionary)
- 2 Prepares pets for indoor living in a flat, say
- 3 Exam grader's option (not MW)
- 4 Hangs overhead;
One difference between two people (Collins)

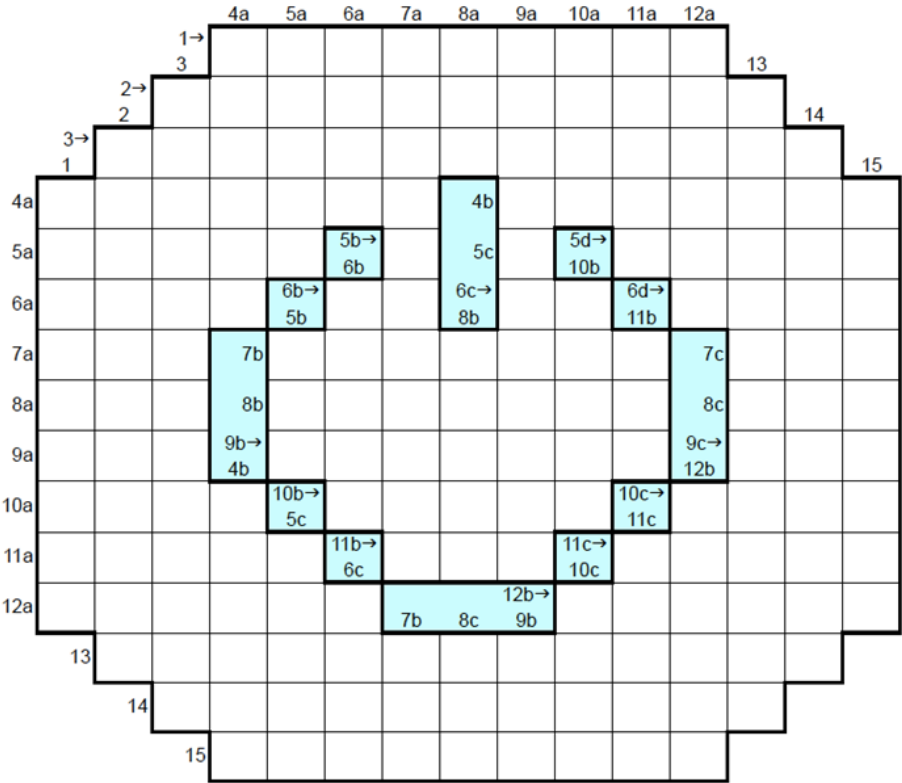
- 5 Be a debtor of (inferable);
Those in 6b Down (NI3);
Decaf pioneer (Wikipedia)
- 6 Private quarters?;
Benning, Bragg and Bliss;
Issa and Charlotte (IMDb)
- 7 Namath moniker (Wikipedia);
Art to dye for?
- 8 L.A. campus (Wikipedia);
Way to get info, on rotary phones (not MW);
Aldorf is its capital
- 9 NPL member seen in *Wordplay* (IMDb);
90's TV chihuahua (Nickelodeon)
- 10 Fake bill tracer; Man of Principle;
Grammy-winning Winans (Wikipedia)
- 11 Late notices?;
Mamma Mia! duet;
Internet sites?
- 12 Vegan's testament (not MW);
Frankenstein Unbound author (Wikipedia)
- 13 *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon* executive producer (Wikipedia)
- 14 Harmful compound found in tobacco smoke
- 15 Fromagerie purchase
=al dente, San Jose CA

Jun F-6. QUANTUM SQUARES

- 1 Disgrace
- 2 Unarmed sculptures
- 3 "Relax! Take ____!" (not MW)
- 4 Utter
- 5 Chemical compound
=FIRETRUCK, Kirkland WA



Nov F-14. DOUBLE OCTAGON VARIANT



Jun F-6. QUANTUM SQUARES

	1	2	3	4	5
1	1	2	3	4	5
2	2	6	7	8	9
3	3	7	10	11	12
4	4	8	11	13	14
5	5	9	12	14	15

	1	2	3	4	5
1	1	2	3	4	5
2	2	6	7	8	9
3	3	7	10	11	12
4	4	8	11	13	14
5	5	9	12	14	15

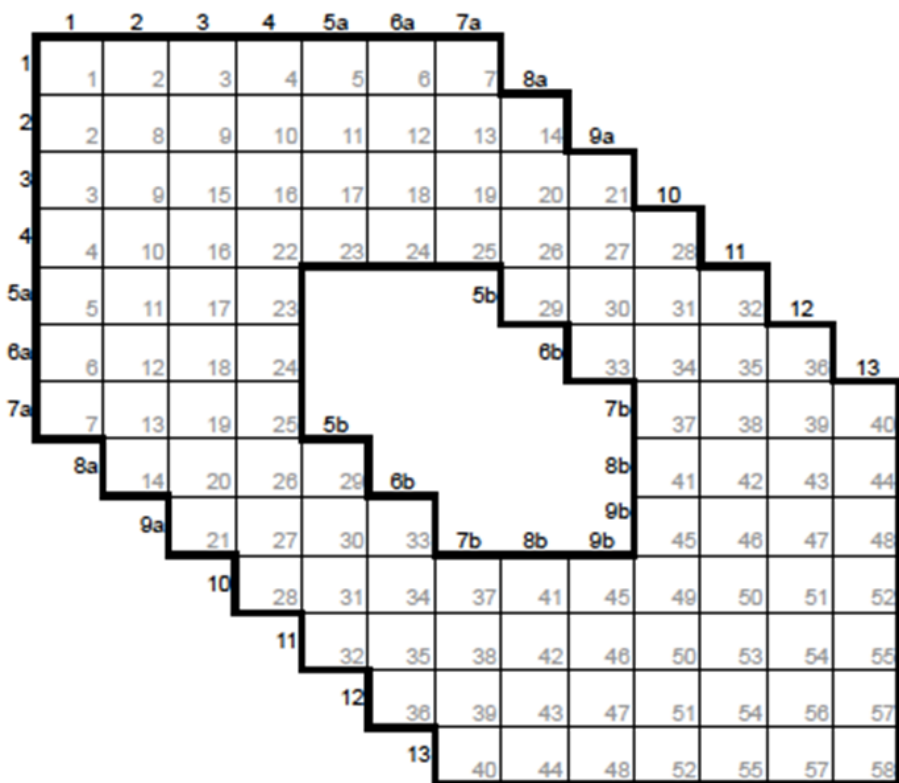
Sep F-3. DOUBLE HOLLOW LEFT CAMBRIDGE HEXAGON

Across:

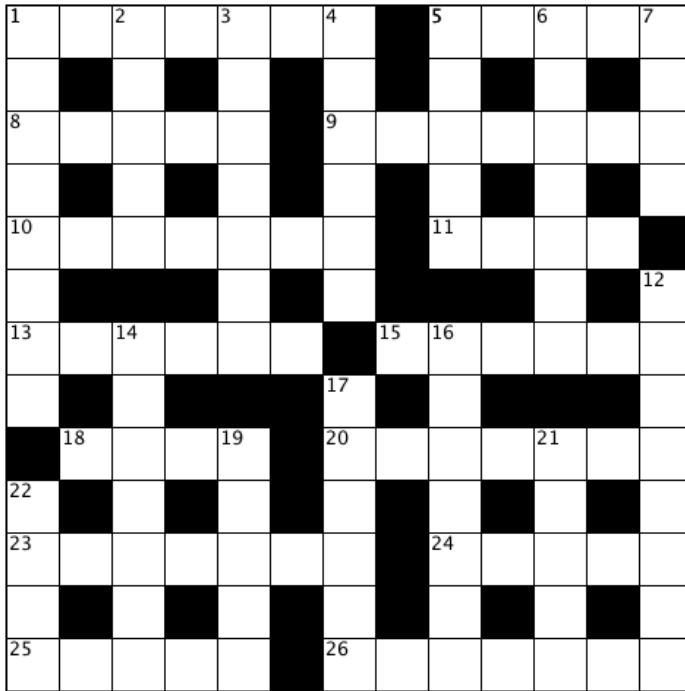
- 1 PDA gadget? (Wikipedia)
- 2 Amazon setting
- 3 National service? (not MW)
- 4 Seriously involved with (11C-findable)
- 5 Setting that maxed out at two;
Slight
- 6 Personnel directory; Home run pace
- 7 Total packages?; Mr. Hyde's home
- 8 Gym bag stuff; Poet's "pitch"
- 9 Recreation area; Breed
- 10 Hemingway Special ingredient
- 11 Siberia setting (11C-findable)
- 12 They may be empty in a snack
machine
- 13 Jones named after a Washington
(11C-inferable)

Down:

- 1 Plot twists and turns
- 2 Hard to reach, say
- 3 Sightseer's guide (11C-findable)
- 4 Feat of holding all the major tennis
tournament titles at the same time
(Wikipedia)
- 5 Rep; Juice name starter
(www.oceanspray.com)
- 6 Colonial poet Bradstreet; Keaton
role of 2016 (IMDb)
- 7 Measure, with "out"; Breed with speed
- 8 Gastropub lineup; D-day battle site
- 9 Stuff in a pocket; Jimmy of fashion
(Wikipedia)
- 10 Sedentary suction feeder
- 11 Mencken's "great unwashed"
- 12 Much tougher to solve
- 13 How clubs may be served (not MW)
=al dente, San Jose CA



SEP X-1. 1968 — BY CRAZOM, MT. CISCO CA

**Across**

- 1 Laundry equipment belonged to that woman (7)
- 8 Returned, for example, with a sample of unguent or cosmetic (5)
- 9 Choose ancient god or ancient princess (7)
- 13 Place to cross a pest (6)
- 24 Excuse mostly involves a bit of deft improvisation (2-3)
- 25 Where a college student might seek help with a character in Thucydides (5)
- 26 Marie Curie, for instance, is captivating in hot spot where a little light comes in (7)

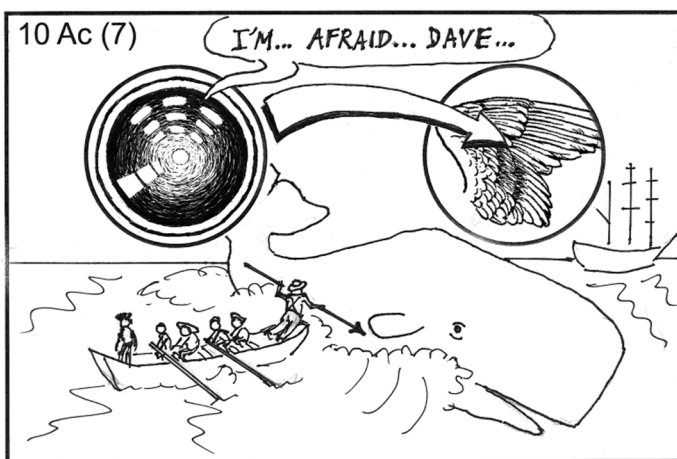
Down

- 3 Adversaries see me in a new way (7)
- 6 Tom, for instance, goes over a record list (7)
- 7 Partially brush against a carpet (4)
- 14 Leafy vegetable wrapped around a piece of eggplant? That's a farce (7)
- 16 Make clear Congress doesn't start program to limit Iowa's primary (7)
- 17 Condiment, after initial exchange, fails to behave correctly (4,2)
- 21 Cold quarters beginning to instill endless depression (5)

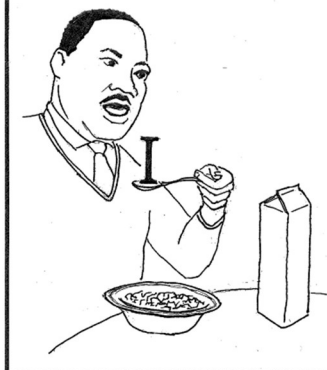
5 Ac (5)



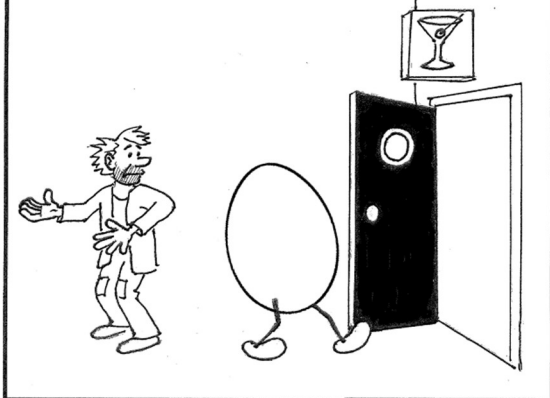
10 Ac (7)



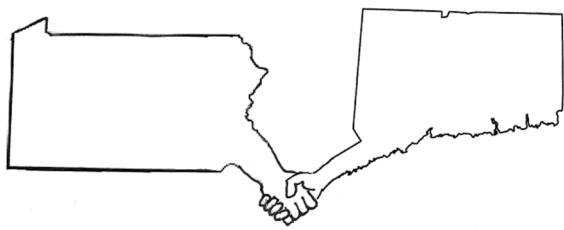
11 Ac (4)



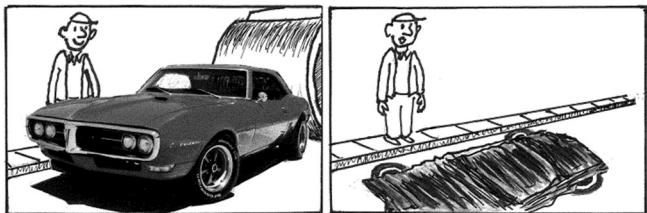
15 Ac (6)



18 Ac (4)

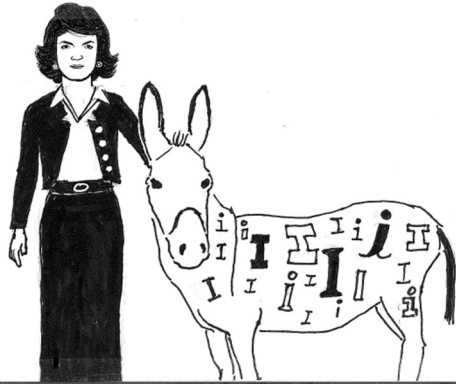


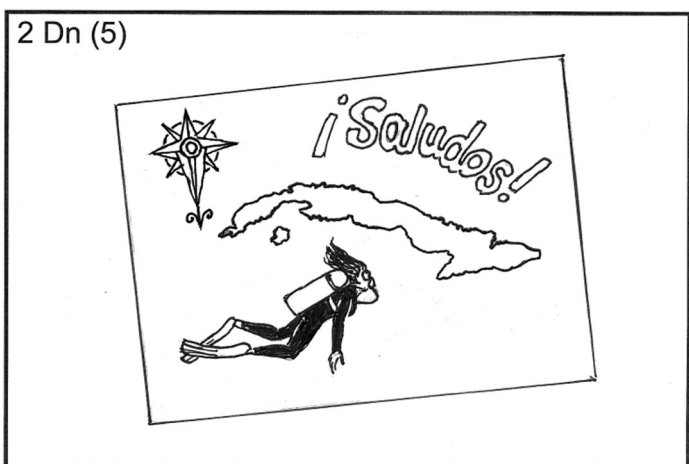
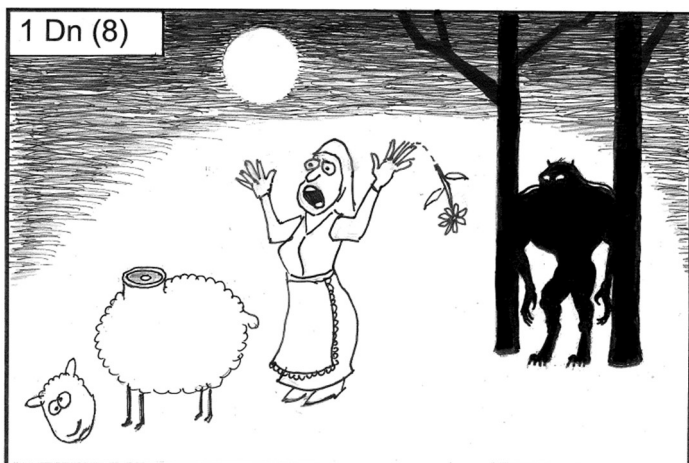
20 Ac (7)

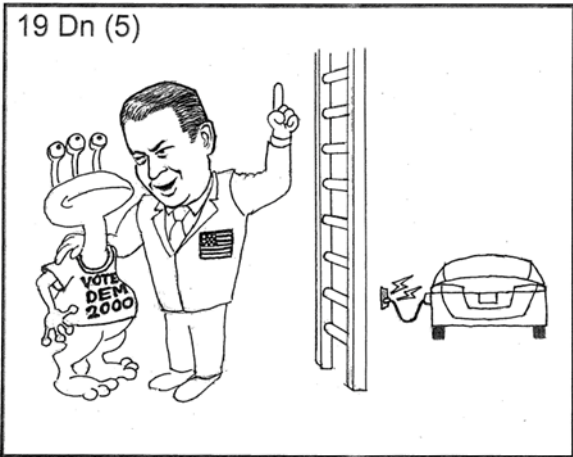
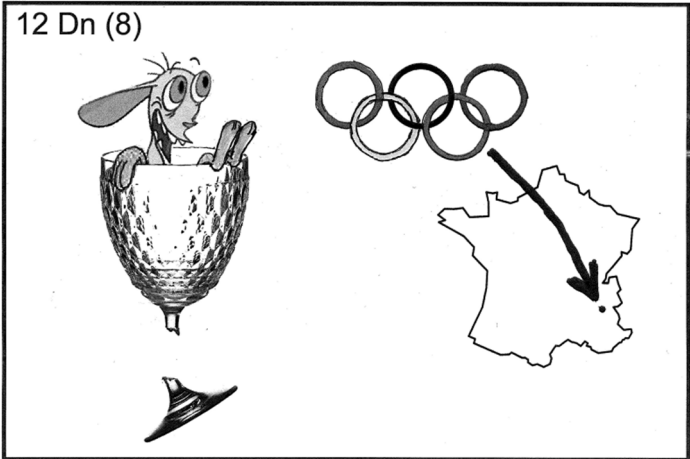
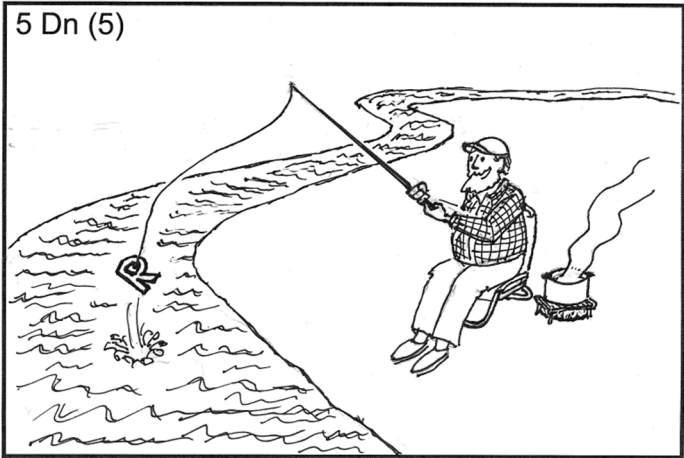


Mr. J.T. Larson of Racine, Wisc., a classic car enthusiast, is shown mere moments before (left) and after (right) his prized 1968 Firebird had an encounter with a steamroller. "Wow! I can't believe it," he said.

23 Ac (7)

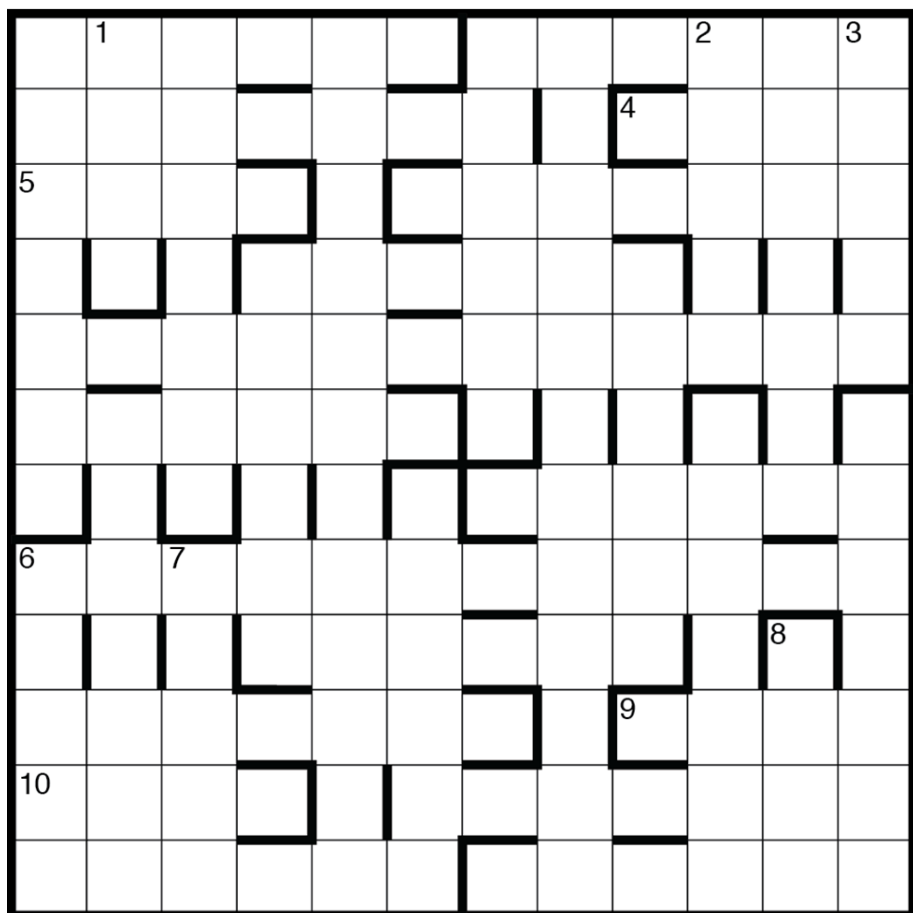






FEB X-1. SIXES AND SEVENS (AND TWELVES) BY FRAZ, TORONTO ON

In this Maltby-inspired cryptic, you are given the positions of the four- and five-letter answers, and must place the rest by deduction. As a small help, in each of the six-, seven- and twelve-letter groups, the answers to the clues are in alphabetical order.



Across

- 4 Ramallah-based organization with unknown stratagem (4)
- 5 Stuff leads to swelling around the eyes (4)
- 9 Crooked door--that stinks (4)
- 10 Test how the group feels without me (4)

Down

- 1 And others behind counter (2 2)
- 2 Extreme museum pieces left university upset (5)
- 3 Storage units next to backed-up sink (5)
- 6 Fish scientist's first two perch (5)
- 7 Scraps 10 helpful grad students (5)
- 8 Crowd Tokyo, for the 2020 Olympics (4)

Six Letters

Rub a pigtail by my ear
Is appropriate for couple of effects in comedy routines
One step away from Caesar being encircled by competition
LummoX attracted to both men and women (yawn) (2 wds.)
Finish wise doctor's prescription
White cherry variety falling off
French engineer provided morsel of food eaten by fish
Regime manipulated political refugee
Poets recalled saint's promise at the altar
Cola and rum beginning to blur cartoonist's signature (2 wds.)
Dealer ordered Smithwick's, e.g. (2 wds.)
English rock star carrying right type of instrument

Seven Letters

Confess Cambridge campus is limited by entrance (2 wds.)
Yellow sand ruined plans
Strongest possibility: plague restricts consumptive illness (2 wds.)
Forsakes reward
Empty each into fine powder, right? (2 wds.)
Rear of price tag before display case
Some minute rosebuds not yet delivered (2 wds.)
Dampener bagel eaten by buddy
Contrived rear-lit courtroom event
Meet Saturday in front of one's vacant facility

Twelve Letters

Sports equipment made solely from pieces of tables (2 wds.)
Made remarks about leader of party, 51, given praise
Sandwich maker voicing criticism of thinking
Sees Istanbul developed propriety

**APR X-5. PRIMARY RULE
BY ANDREAS, VANCOUVER BC**

I wanted to test one thing I learnt in primary school. So I created a cryptic to test this new knowledge. In this self-scored test I scored 17 out of 18. I proudly showed my work to our teacher, Ms Wright. She told me I had in fact made eleven errors. Boo! But I'm not about to change the puzzle now!

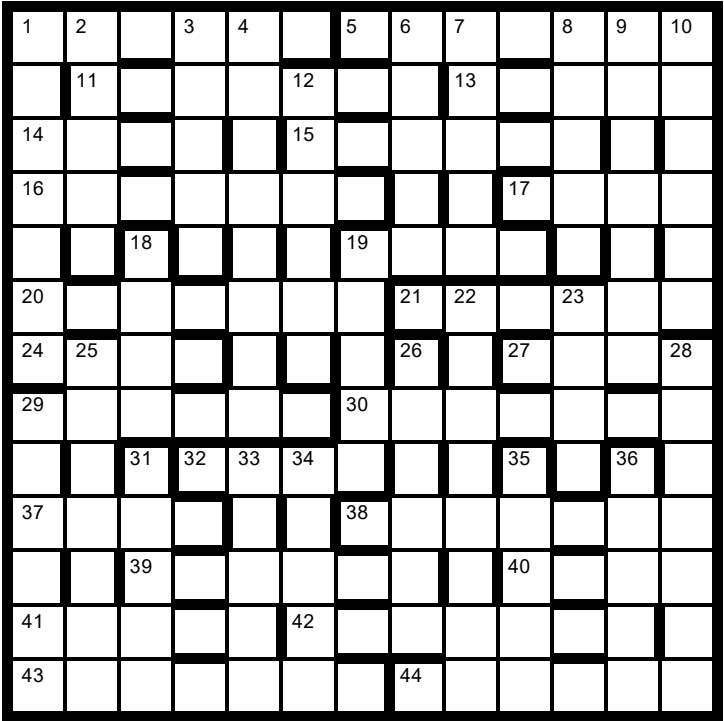
Across

- 1 Roughly speaking bay sometimes covers acre (6)
- 5 By the sound of it making secure upper limit (7)
- 11 Overheated girl employs air conditioner — excellent thing that's really cool (7)
- 13 Ruler rejected agreement in essence (5)
- 14 Turn over Indian weight in tons (4) (2 wds)
- 15 Goes back to fetch a bit of deliciously seasoned salt (2 wds)
- 16 Acknowledge fluctuating price incorporates a base tax at the outset (7)
- 17 Goat's head (male) excellent butter (4)
- 19 Big cheese consumes piece of raw fish (4)
- 20 Be abusive about regular part of some trains (7)
- 21 British music legend wraps tip of twisted clothing round neck (2 wds)
- 24 Crossing isle with loads (4)
- 27 Record one grade I initially substitute with another? (4)
- 29 Pet vehicle that is falsely feminine? (6)
- 30 Grant for one against joint market at an early stage (7)
- 32 Feel sorry for every rebel (4)
- 37 Spiteful remark upset endless women (4)
- 38 German siren learning most of song (7)
- 39 Expose six cutting European articles (6)
- 40 In Glasgow snarl and drink to get close to bar (4)
- 41 Very short attack (5)
- 42 In Munich, you travel over the snow, going west for glasses of beer (7)
- 43 Leaves behind mess for probes (7)
- 44 Small state splitting team's awards (6)

Down

- 1 Some judges are accepted by female society (7)
- 2 Looks after moving front of boxes to the center (5)
- 3 Assessed education behind singer (5)
- 4 Areas of study civil engineer cutting as subject (8)
- 6 Eliminate no vowel in poem containing answer (5)

- 7 Struggle after opening some wine is up-and-down (5)
- 8 It describes for example hardness for this clue? (5)
- 9 Crew rejected English relative for rival (7)
- 10 Composer introducing E natural (6)
- 12 Pitching first, Nepalis out to create attention? (6)
- 18 Fence is alternately white and red (4)
- 19 Recipe filling mushroom pancake (5)
- 22 Trump’s mistake interrupting Latin poet with tweet in midstream (8)
- 23 Announce drop in class (4)
- 25 Inclination to include one that’s most delicate (7)
- 26 Canadian people, wanting piece of excitement, cheer spicy dishes (6)
- 28 Users perhaps silent having passed 100 (7)
- 29 Pauses comedy with parents (6)
- 31 Having plenty, King of France cedes industrial Brittany in the end (5)
- 33 In Montmartre this welcomes one vice and a person out of uniform (5)
- 34 Rob is the eccentric (5)
- 35 Swiss mountain position overlooking lake near Germany (5)
- 36 Original trees last in forest (5)



AUG X-2. CRUSHING IT BY JANGLER, NASHVILLE, TN

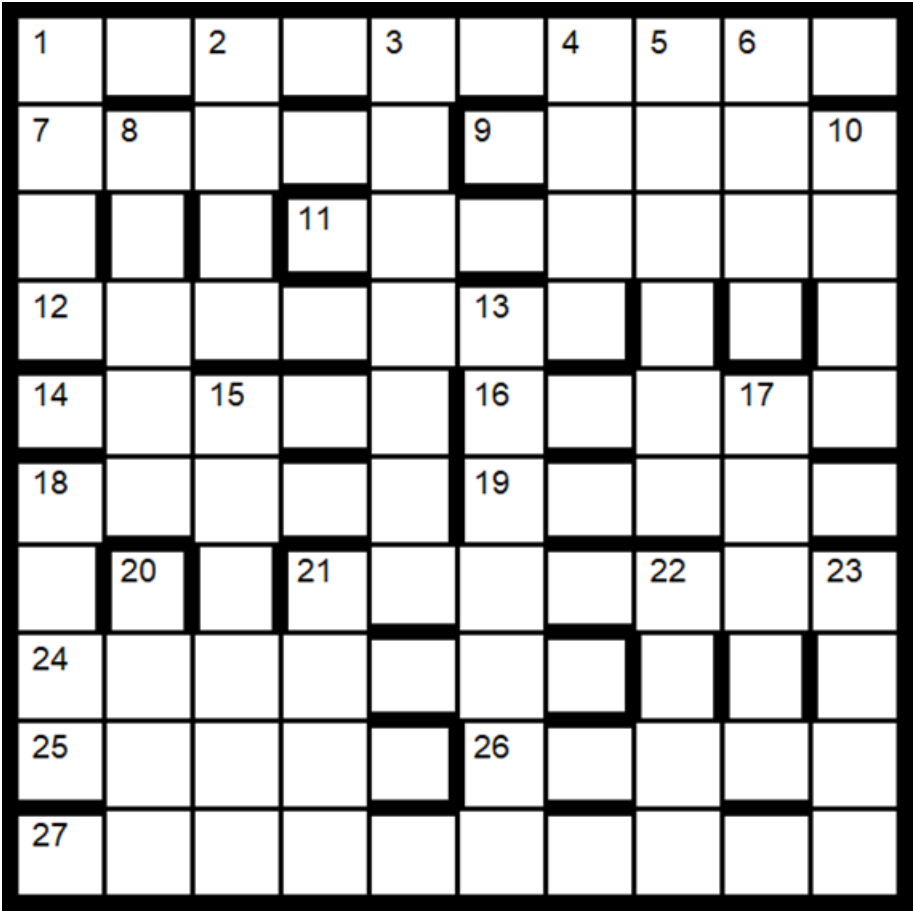
Some unchecked squares in this puzzle will contain two letters each. Reading these squares' first letters (top to bottom) followed by their last letters (left to right) will spell a description of you, the successful solver. *[Note: this is a reprint of a puzzle presented at RockOn! — Ed.]*

Across

- 1 Opening of review: "Act I deteriorated after interminable farce turned blue"
- 7 Essentially avoid a hopeless state
- 9 Rolls around edges of big air rifles (2 wds.)
- 11 Nate led crooked firm (2 wds.)
- 12 Newspaper employees tried so desperately
- 14 Virginia University inscribed, in Latin, with "sucker"
- 16 Our home that man flipped, conveying skill
- 18 Surrealist Dali beginning to baldly make stuff up (*hyph.*)
- 19 "Good to go", snarled Stella (2 wds.)
- 21 Meat under a leg joint, it's said
- 24 "Grease" lyricist's debut with an actress named Lena
- 25 Unusually regal British composer
- 26 Puff with orange relish
- 27 Fruit stewed by Rose Byrne

Down

- 1 500 diamonds cut into cubes
- 2 Mom and I fencing in low country
- 3 Loco mob destroyed former Asian capital
- 4 Genesis creator going back years and years
- 5 Some string-pullers stirred up unrest
- 6 Oddly is not so mad about
- 8 "Gizmo Man" commercial on the radio
- 10 Meyers of late-night television primarily hosts
- 13 Set straight again about a Sacha Baron Cohen character name
- 15 Like cellophane pieces taken from recycling yesterday
- 17 The "empty fish trap" principle
- 18 Introduce the French puzzle
- 20 Golden ring, half off — save three francs
- 21 Snakes and tailless crow
- 22 Birds, say, rotated 180 degrees from WNW
- 23 "Hay-o!" at sea?



NOV X-1 SURPRISE! — BY FRAZ, TORONTO ON

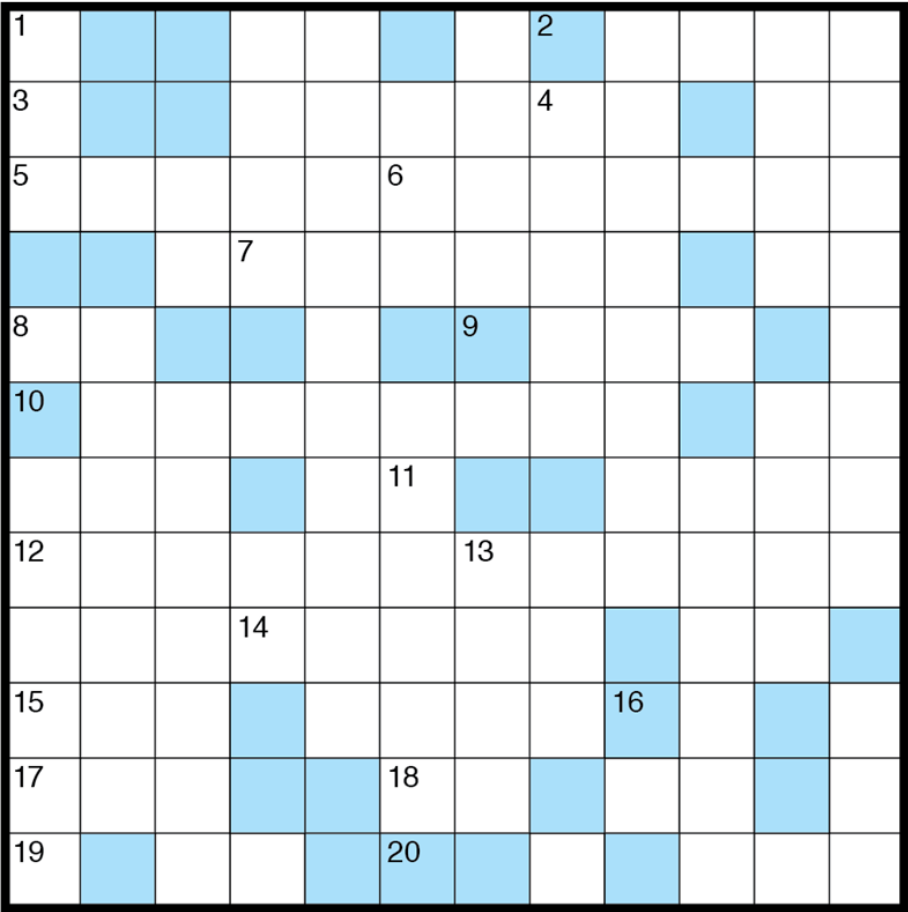
As a surprise, this grid has been affected by some shady elements, and they're pretty mean. They've taken away the bars, which had 180-degree symmetry. They've removed the Across clues' word lengths, but left numbers in the grid to show where these entries begin. They've eliminated the grid numbering for the Down clues, listing them instead alphabetically by answer. Piece the grid together and read the shaded squares column by column and you'll see the cause of your surprise.

Across

- 1 A recovering criminal accomplice
- 2 Strongboxes initially found in vast quantities in recession
- 3 Cabaret hosts cancel kindergarten toy on a string (2 wds.)
- 4 Handy Scrabble piece
- 5 Once more coming across hurricane warning
- 6 A sinister series of locks protecting medium-sized reference work
- 7 Lebanon's leader enters a prosperous period, flourishing
- 8 Individually separating Argentina's two cheating athletes
- 9 Embraces ugly toads hanging around front of pond
- 10 Does Eli suspect source of fat?
- 11 Make improvements to henna mixed by chemical engineer
- 12 Brownish-red strand
- 13 Cancel rent collected by actress Sandra
- 14 No good turning hockey goal to right
- 15 Papa becomes tense in cat outfit at dance class
- 16 Resign rather abruptly?
- 17 Auditor's tied up certain fund
- 18 Swamp critter, shaking head, fed by pilot
- 19 Club record held by quiet, graceful woman
- 20 Work at covering debts in a reverent way

Down

- a Public notice about prohibition beyond desert (7)
- b Morning exam not concerned with ethics (6)
- c Superspy, ultimately lean in physique (4)
- d He recalled anger inside company later (7)
- e Flexible feel a stick possesses (7)
- f Catch spouse, nearly written up (6)
- g Companion climbed toward the top, embracing cold temperature (6)
- h Model prime minister accommodated by Alex back in emergency room (8)
- i Espoo natives vocalized bass parts (4)
- j Awful-smelling birds in the auditorium (4)



- k I and Meg Ryan almost butchered figurative language (7)
- l Guys making E.T. soda-fountain drinks (5)
- m Courtroom ritual originally old as the hills (4)
- n Pesto ingredients sent up in shifts (4 4)
- o Starting off naive, attempt return from space (7)
- p Put fresh cargo into train blocking path (6)
- q Recited ancient Rome’s six factions (5)
- r Amount to nothing, grappling with the big guys (4)
- s Drum: Timothy; Singing and songwriting: Jacques (7)
- t Instrument, initially irritating, dropped in volume (4)

EXTRAS

Apr X-4. REGULAR HOMOPHONES

Every clue in this puzzle leads to a one-word answer. Each answer in the left column is a homophone of an answer in the right column. Can you match them up? The clues in the left column are given in alphabetical order of the answers.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| 01. Revealed | a. Authored |
| 02. Droplet | b. Cognized |
| 03. Wait a while | c. Endured |
| 04. Give up | d. Existed |
| 05. Headed down the tubes | e. Fired |
| 06. Tenderfoot | f. Performed |
| 07. Profession | g. Possessed |
| 08. Spur | h. Purchased |
| 09. Bisected | i. Submerged |
| 10. Meeting point in a network | j. Succeeded |
| 11. Restored to rectitude | k. Swiped |
| 12. Like a raccoon's tail | l. Touched |
| 13. Filled with fortitude | m. Traveled |
| 14. Matched, like watches | n. Twisted |
| 15. Breeze | o. Visualized |

=CRAX, Mountain View CA

Jul X-9. ANAQUIP (4 2 5 5 6: *1 2 2 5, 3 *5. *4 2 3, *9 6 2 *5. 5 *6 *5 2 4 *6.)

AYD BAC BIZ CHA CHN DEL EAV ECH
 EOF ETL EWI FEN HAN HSO ICS LUN
 MAT MUS NBA NDO NLI NON OND ONE
 OOR OPI OTH RIF SIG SZT TON TOR
 WIA

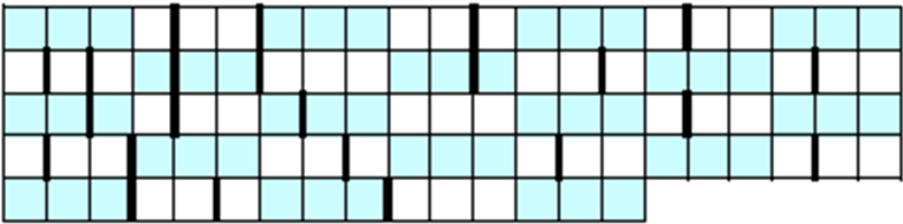
=raw, Ogdensburg NY

Apr RX-1. SOMETHING DIFFERENT SQUARE

- Enjoys being an attorney
- The declaration of a bartender who specializes in kamikazes and sidecars
- Korean auto on its last legs
- With additional cybernetic implants
- Sea trout on a portico
- Broadway musical about a crooner falling in love with his children's tutor
- Casting evil magical spells as a component of paintings and sculpture
- Psychic powers at the low point
- Lumbar region for a principal female opera singer
- Golden slobber
- Walt Disney Animation Studio movie about NPL's April issue

=RALF P. OLIO, Axle MN

Jul X-9. ANAQUIP



Apr RX-1. SOMETHING DIFFERENT SQUARE

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
2	2	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
3	3	13	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
4	4	14	23	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38
5	5	15	24	32	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
6	6	16	25	33	40	46	47	48	49	50	51
7	7	17	26	34	41	47	52	53	54	55	56
8	8	18	27	35	42	48	53	57	58	59	60
9	9	19	28	36	43	49	54	58	61	62	63
10	10	20	29	37	44	50	55	59	62	64	65
11	11	21	30	38	45	51	56	60	63	65	66

Nov E-2. GERMAN GEOSAUSAGE

All single words are 4-letter US cities or towns.

1. UT

2. OH

3. NY

4. AK

5. AZ
6. NV

7. NC

8. OK

9. NM

10. IN

- 1+2. Lincoln or Jefferson, for example (8)
- 2+3. Detroit suburb (*6 *1*1)
- 3+4. 1967 Sinatra title role (*4 *4) (Wikipedia)
- 4+5. Jennifer Lopez song, “Don’t Love Me” (Spanish, “^2 ^2 ^4”) (Wikipedia)
- 5+6. Pope’s jurisdiction (*5 ^3) (Wikipedia)
- 6+7. American cartoonist (Buz Sawyer) (*3 *5) (Wikipedia)
- 7+8. Extinct clam genus, now Corbicula (*8) (Wikipedia)
- 8+9. Pre-op procedure (8)
- 9+10. Wander off (2 6) (not MW)
- 10+1. Mexican singer-songwriter, b. 1966, “Let the Rain” (*5 *3) (Wikipedia)
- =NEWROW, Brookline MA

Note: Nov E-6 & Nov E-7 are considered as a single candidate.

Nov E-6. ANAQUOTE (3 4 5 4 4. *1 2 3 5 2 5 4 3 5 2 5. *5 *7)

ANS DON GOM HAT HIN ING INI KEE
KIT MEA NKI NSW ONT OTT OYA PUS
RDI THA THI TME TWO YOU YOU

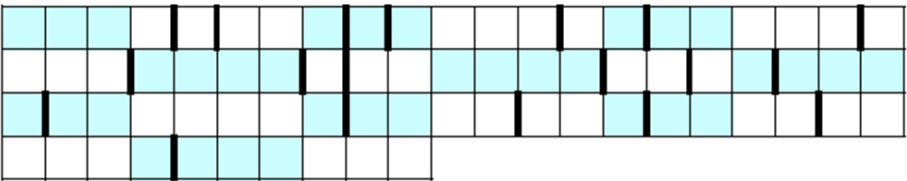
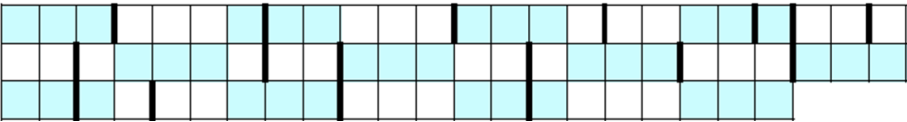
=, Bellevue WA

Nov E-7. ALTERNATING ANAQUOTE

(4 *1 3 1 4, 2 5 4 4 *1 6 2 2 4 — 7 4 3 4. *6 *6)

EAW ICH ITT MPT NNE PTY RLE RMO TME UST WHE
ANSJ ITHE NIUS OMEA OOSE ORDI RENO SSHU WHAT YDUM

=/dev/joe, Salem MA



PAST GOLDEN SPHINX WINNERS AND NOMINEES

2014

Most published flats during the year

Ucaoimhu (110), Next Lingo (85), Wrybosh (57), LeXman (47), R/EDS (35)

Most kudos per flat (minimum 5 flats)

ewolf (4.71), Wrybosh (3.63), Scarab (3.38), Newrow (3.15), Ucaoimhu (2.61)

Most published forms

Ai (20), LeXman (20)

Most kudos per form (minimum 3)

Jo the Loiterer (2.86), Wabbit (2.50)

Most published extras

Witz, Te-Zir-Man

Most kudos per extra (minimum 3)

raw (1), ♀ (0.875)

Most published crypts

Next Lingo (13), raw (13)

Most kudos per crypt (minimum 3)

Griddle (2.58), YoMama (1.33)

Editor's Special Commendation

Hale

2015

Flats

Ucaoimhu's February 18 (First); Lunch Boy's January 14 (Second)

Forms

LeXman's August F-2 (First); Jo the Loiterer's March F-2 (Second)

Extras

Tahnan's October X-5 (First); Te-Zir-Man's June X-7 (Second)

Cryptic Crosswords

Fraz's December X-14 (First); Fraz's January X-2 (Second)

Cryptograms

Wabbit's February C-3 (First); Witz's November C-6 (Second)

Editor's Special Commendation

Ucaoimhu

Nominees

Ai, Bartok, Black Rabbit, ewolf, Fraz, Griddle, Hale, Jabberwock, Jo the Loiterer, LeXman, Lunch Boy, Newrow, NJ Ninja, raw, Scarab, Tahnan, Te-Zir-Man, Ucaoimhu, Wabbit, Wheels, Witz, Wolff

2016

Flats

Scarab's May 23 (First); Ucaoimhu's October 16 (Second)

Forms

Firetruck's August F-1 (First); Jabberwock's January F-8 (Second)

Extras

Witz's September X-11 (First); Next Lingo's April X-1 (Second)

Cryptic Crosswords

Btirn's August X-6 (First); LeXman's October X-7 (Second)

Cryptograms

Witz's December C-6 (First); Next Lingo's April C-1 (Second)

Editor's Special Commendation

Firetruck

Nominees

N, Bartok, Btirn, Firetruck, Fraz, Griddle, Hale, Jabberwock, LeXman, Next Lingo, Qoz, raw, Rosebud, Scarab, Te-Zir-Man, Ucaoimhu, Vraal, Wheels, Witz

2017**Flats**

LeXman and Lirath's September 5 (First); Ucaoimhu's October 20 (Second)

Forms

al dente's November F-2 (First); Ai's June F-13 (Second)

Extras

Hale and Firetruck's March X-11 (First); Toonhead!'s April Road to BeaCon (Second)

Cryptic Crosswords

Hale's February X-5 (First); Bartok's October X-10 (Second)

Cryptograms

Next Lingo's September C-6 (First)

Editor's Special Commendation

Wrybosh

Nominees

530nm330Hz, \$8.90, ++Juh, Ai, al dente, Bartok, Firetruck, Hale, Jo the Loiterer, LeXman, Lirath, Mr E, Next Lingo, Toonhead!, Tortoise, Ucaoimhu, Witz

2018**Flats**

Marcus Asparagus's January 22 (First); Firetruck's July 20 (Second)

Forms

al dente's September F-1 (First); Jabberwock's January F-8 and Newrow's October F-9 (Second, tie)

Extras

Jo the Loiterer's March X-8 (First); Next Lingo's X-4 (Second)

Cryptic Crosswords

Hot's June X-7 (First); Mr E's December X-9 (Second)

Cryptograms

Witz's February C-6 (First)

Editor's Special Commendation

Philana, for her many years of service to the organization

GOLDEN SPHINX SOLUTIONS

Feb 24. Bruins; Devils; Rangers; Islanders

Feb 59. unascribed, bread and circuses

Apr 10. operas, Erasmus, musings, Ingmar, Maria Mastrangelo, *I Am a Strange Loop*

Jun 43. phonetic acrostical enigma: FOMent, NETwork, ICHthyology, ACClaim, ROStrum, Ticker tape, CULINary, Ignoble, MUmners

Nov 30. letter bank; bettor (or better), lank; sapmonger, spoonergram, nonprogrammers

Apr X-4. 1-c bared/beared, 2-d bead/beed, 3-h bide/buyed, 4-o cede/seed, 5-e chuted/shooted, 6-f dude/dood, 7-1 field/feeled, 8-m goad/goed, 9-g halved/haved, 10-b node/knowed, 11-a righted/writed, 12-n ringed/wringed, 13-k steeled/stealed, 14-i synced/sinked, 15-j wind/winned

Jul X-9. Sign on music store window: I am at lunch, not Haydn. Bach at one, Offenbach sooner if Bizet. Leave Chopin Liszt on door Handel.

Nov E-2. Orem, Lima, Troy, Nome, Mesa, Reno, Cary, Enid, Taos, Gary; memorial, Taylor MI, Tony Rome, "No Me Ames", Roman See, Roy Crane, Cyrenida, sedation, go astray, Margo Rey

Nov E-6. You keep using that word. I do not think it means what you think it means. Inigo Montoya
Nov E-7. When I use a word, it means just what I choose it to mean – neither more nor less. Humpty Dumpty

Feb X-1.

Across: ploy, sate, odor, oral.

Down: et al, ultra, bytes, scrod, iotas, host.

Sixes: abrade, belits, beside, big ape, dosage, ebbing, Eiffel, emigre, odists, R Crumb, red ale, string.

Sevens: admit it, agendas, best bet, deserts, due east, etagere, in utero, moisten, retrial, satisfy.

Twelves: baseball bats, accomplished, deliberating, suitability.

Across (in grid order): beside, R Crumb, etagere, ploy, sate, admit it, big ape, baseball bats, Eiffel, emigre, suitability, string, retrial, odor, oral, due east, dosage, odists.

Down (in grid order): best bet, et al, satisfy, deliberating, red ale, accomplished, ultra, moisten, bytes, belits, ebbing, in utero, agendas, deserts, abrade, scrod, iotas, host.

Apr X-5.

Across: hoarse, ceiling, glacier, emer, a lot, seadog, receipt, ghee, cero, railcar, bow tie, slew, disc, caress, presell, ache, meow,

Lorelie, unviel, girm, assai, siefels, stylets, merits.
Down: hearers, ogles, rated, sceinces, erase, leder, ieght, nemesis, griege, espial, wier, crepe, override, tier, laceist, creole, clients, commas, lousy, civie, heist, leger, first.
Explanation: Eighteen entries contain either "ei" or "ie". All except "heist" were spelled/misspelled with strict adherence to "i before e except after c". The eleven misspelled entries (which correctly spelled are glacier, Lorelei, unveil, seidel, sciences, eider, eight, greige, weir, laciest, and Eiger) are among the many exceptions to that rule.

Aug X-2.

Across: Democratic, Idaho, BB gun, al dente, editors, vacuum, Earth, ad lib, all set, bologna, lanolin, Eligar, gusto, boysenberry. *Down:* dice, Mail, Colombo, ages, tuners, into, doodad, Seth, realign, clingy, tenet, addle, halo, boas, geese, ahoy.

Successful solver: Boulder doubler.

Sep X-1.

Across: washers, sacks, rouge, Ejectra, whaling, milk, locust, beggar, pact, caption, Onasssis, ad-lib, theta, pinhole.
Down: werewolf, scuba, enemies, sleigh, steam, catalog, shag, Grenoble, charade, explain, acts up, Tesla, igloo, port.

Nov X-1.

Across: abetter, safes, box kite, uttle, anew, almanac, abloom, dopers, adopts, oilseed, enhance, maroon, delete, rotten, leotard, quit, trust, aviator, sylph, piously.
Down (in clue order): abandon, amorol, Bond, cheerio, elastic, entrap, escort, exemplar, fins, foul, imagery, malts, oath, pine nuts, reentry, reload, sects, sumo, timbrel, viol.
Down (in grid order): abandon, Bond, exemplar, timbrel, reload, sumo, fins, elastic, sects, amorol, escort, pine nuts, imagery, entrap, malts, oath, pine nuts, reentry, reload, sects, sumo, timbrel, viol.
Shaded squares: Nobody expects the Spanish Inquisition.

Mar C-2. I broke my hand in my rug-weaving class. I blame the teacher for not warning me there was danger looming.
 Feb C-3. What has four letters, sometimes has nine, and never has five. That is not a question but a statement.

May C-4. Scramble "one version no techs can decrypt" to get flat type making second nom on page into what other word? [reversed phonetic consonancy; numskull]

Mar C-7. Odd word choices skew glyph counts, making for gnarly puzzle. Author lacks sympathy. Kvetch only to shrink.

Jun C-7. In deli, Hindu mystic asked for pound of foie gras, but heavy-thumbed butcher weighed down upon the swami's liver.

Sep F-3.

KISSCAM
INTERNET
CARRENTAL
KNEEDEEPIN
EDEN
ROTA
TROT
SUMS
SOHO
EBON
TALC
PARK
SORT
MARASCHINO
NORTHASIA
CALORIES
BOOKERT

Jan F-3.

A.
DO
OD
B.
DORE
OREM
REMI
EMIR

C.
DO RE
RE NO

D.
DOREMI
OBERON
REBADE
ERASES
MODELS
INESSE

E.
DO RE MI
RE SU LT
MI LT ON

F.
DOR EMI
EMI GRE

Nov F-14.

HOTBUTTON
POWERSYMBOL
HAVENOCCLAIMON
CORETTA ENTERIC
OUTRO D R SANTA
PSIS FW HP TERM
YEATOADIES MOE
PTL PRYINTO ISM
ARC STJAMES CAB
SARA SOLAR AHME
TIEGS EON CLAIR
ENDEAR CADENT
SIGNATUREFILE
TAKEARECESS
PASTINESS

Aug F-15.

S
E L
N I E
S A R A
E M M E T
Apt word: SESTET

Jun F-6.

STAIN
TORSI
BUSTS
ASEAT
STATE
ESTER

Apr RX-1.

LIKES THE LAW
IMIX THE SOUR
KIATOEXPIRE
EXTRABIONIC
STOAFINNOCK
THEBINGANDI
HEXINGINART
ESPONANADIR
LOINONADIVA
AURICDRIVEL
WRECKITRALF

CRYPTOGRAMS

Mar C-2. Hazardous craft.

yodaughter, Houston TX

*X CBSIO YV WFDT XD YV BAZ-EOFMXDZ GRFNN.

*X CRFYO JWO JOFGWOB QSB DSJ EFBDXDZ YO
JWOBO EFN TFDZOB RSSYXDZ.

Feb C-3. Simple truths.

DRAUK, Midland MI

JFSC FST RKBZ MGCCGZT, TKDGCQDGT FST VQVG,
SVX VGNGZ FST RQNG. CFSC QT VKC S PBGTCQKV
OBC S TCSCGDGVC.

May C-4. Which he is not. 8 8 11; 9. See note. MR E, Portland OR

ABFIEGPJ "ZDJ KJFATZD DZ YJBNA BID UJBFLOY"
YZ QJY MPIY YLOJ EIHTDQ AJBZDU DZE ZD OIQJ
TDYZ SNIY ZYNJF SZFU?

Mar C-7. You were warned. Sort of.

NEXT LINGO, Lexington MA

ZKK GZVK SXZLSNY YWNG ITOMX SZJUQY,
DRWLUI CZV IURVTO MJEETN. RJQXZV TRSWY
YODMRQXO. WBNQSX ZUTO QZ YXVLUW.

Jun C-7. Your cheatin' art.

RIDDLE, Santa Rosa CA

JV FSKJ, *QJVFB LIHMJE PHOSF XCT RCBVF CX
XCJS ATPH, NBM QSPZI-MQBLNSF NBMEQST
GSJAQSF FCGV BRCV MQS HGPLJ'H KJZST.