



THE ENIGMA

JUNE 2022 • THE NATIONAL PUZZLERS' LEAGUE • EST. 1883 • SPECIAL EDITION

GOLDEN SPHINX BITS

From the Golden Sphinx Committee

/dev/joe, Btnirn, LeXman, Sue++, and ☞

We are delighted to bring you this year's supplemental issue of *The Enigma*, containing the nominees for the 2021 Golden Sphinx awards. If you didn't solve them the first time around, now's your chance. (Solutions are included, on pages 34 through 39.)

There is a dedicated team behind each month's *Enigma*, but the most important role is that of the constructors: the people who find the time to produce puzzles and then share them with us all. Solvers have long acknowledged their favorite puzzles by giving them "kudos", tabulated in the monthly reports. In 2015, we began the tradition of an annual awards ceremony at Con: The Golden Sphinx Awards. Our former Editor Teki set the tone for the "black tie" event, and, after the past two years (one online, one with reduced attendance), we're hoping to get back to that feeling this year in Nashville.

A word about methodology: the committee began with the kudos counts, but statistics vary month to month, so we wanted to give you all the chance to weigh in again. And, of course, we wanted to showcase the nominees one more time in this special issue. **Please vote!** You will decide the winners, who (along with the Editor's special commendation) will be announced on Saturday night at Con.

Thank you to those who made this possible: Dart created a beautiful design for the pins given to the award recipients. yodaughter brings efficiency and enthusiasm to the layout of this issue, as she does every month in *The Enigma*. And Qoz sets up and maintains the online voting system. Thank you all. And most of all, thank you again to the many, many contributors who make *The Enigma* happen month after month.

From the Compositor

Puzzle 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.

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, 2022, midnight Pacific time; for mail-in votes this means the ballot must be postmarked by then.



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PUZZLE NOTES

Oct 13. Artwork by Newrow's granddaughter, Rae Bamberger.

Oct E-4. Next Lingo writes: "If originality is the art of concealing your sources, I shouldn't mention that this puzzle is the same format as Mr E's [August] E-1, Film Restoration."

Dec E-9. Solvers should include the answer to the flat with their submission.

Mar F-11. Clues are given in alphabetical order of their answers, two of which specify the type of form this is. This form does not have a grid.

Oct F-1. This is not a Guide form.

Nov F-1. This is not a Guide form.

Feb X-1. Combinom: Andreas/Witz.

Jan C-3. *LXCW *SJLBR = not MW.

Apr C-3. SI, *AIOLIS = not MW.

Feb C-5. First 3 words = not MW; IMNEZKQPSHI = inferable.

GOLDEN SPHINX WINNERS AND NOMINEES

2014

Most published flats during the year

Ucaimhu (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), Ucaimhu (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

Btnirn'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

8, Bartok, Btnirn, 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 (Second, tie)

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

Nominees

\$8.90, AI, al dente, Drauk, Firetruck, Hot, Jabberwock, Jo the Loiterer, Marcus Asparagus, Mr E, Newrow, Next Lingo, raw, Ucaoimhu, Ƶ, Wheels, Witz, Wrybosh

2019**Flats**

ewolf's April 10 (First)
ewolf's February 24 (Second, tie)
raw's June 43 (Second, tie)

Forms

Firetrick's June F-6 (First)
al dente's November F-14 (Second)

Extras

Crax's April X-4 (First)
LeXman's April RX-1 (Second)

Cryptic Crosswords

Jangler's August X-2 (First)
Crax and Trazom's September X-1 (Second, tie)
Fraz's November X-1 (Second, tie)

Cryptograms

yodaughter's March C-2 (First)
Mr E's May C-4 (Second)

Editor's Special Commendation

A. Chemem

Nominees

al dente, Andreas, Crax, /dev/joe, Drauk, ewolf, Firetruck, Fraz, Jabberwock, Jangler, LeXman, Mr E, Newrow, Next Lingo, raw, Riddle, Trazom, Ucaoimhu, ☿, yodaughter

2020**Flats**

Bartok's April 30 (First)
Bartok's March 11 (Second, tie)
LeXman's May 4 (Second, tie)

Forms

Fraz's July F-3 (First)
al dente's November F-7 (Second)

Extras

Firetruck's December E-7 (First)
LeXman's March E-1 (Second)

Cryptic Crosswords

McMongol's July X-2 (First)
LeXman's August X-1 (Second, tie)
Wheels' November X-1 (Second, tie)

Cryptograms

Drauk's March C-6 (First, tie)
yodaughter's July C-3 (First, tie)

Editor's Special Commendation

Witz

Nominees

al dente, Aleph, Andreas, Around Eve, Bartok, Btnirn, /dev/joe, Drauk, Firetruck, Fraz, LeXman, McMongol, Mr E, Newrow, Riddle, Scarab, Ucaoimhu, Wheels, Witz, yodaughter

NOMINEES

Solution words and phrases not found in 11C (11th Collegiate) are labeled by the Merriam-Webster dictionary in which they appear: NI3 (in print), 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 in all-caps get “**”. Words that are capitalized (as in names or titles) but normally uncanceled with the same usage get a “^” or “^^”. Puzzles with a puzzle note 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 1-30 June 2022, or mail your list to Sue++, Susan Glass, 12 Shady Ln, Framingham MA 01701. All mailed votes must be postmarked by 30 June 2022.

Oct 71. HETERONYM

(6 4 *1'1, 4 [5 3])

At the SIX FOUR ONE ONE mingle
with the elite.
Meeting knitters and smack users—oh,
what a treat!
Add tattooists also, and phonograph
makers,
A pine-tree-themed ballroom that must
cover acres,
And you'd have a totally perfect event
Where every last minute was
wonderfully spent,
But no invite came—a decision they'll
rue,
For it made me consult an attorney
and sue
Them for damages done stopping me at
the door.
When my sharp lawyers finish, they'll
all be dirt poor.
If they try to sue back, they'll FOUR
BRACKET FIVE THREE
'Cause they won't have the money to
pay any fee.
=SCARAB, St. Paul MN

Jun 20. FALSE EYELASHES (3 4 3)

TRANSPOSAL (6)

LETTER BANK (7, 10)

ASHLEY's not my cup of tea,
So when my kids get gifts for me
They stick to Bible tales and such.
I like those stories very much.
They got me *Bible Dreams* this year.
A true delight! This evening, we're
Enjoying Jacob's ladder—I'm
Excited to see angels climb.
(Or maybe FLEASes—I forget,
And haven't read the story yet.)
Tomorrow Pharaoh's tale is seen
Of cattle plump and cattle lean.
The Pharaoh hears the ANSWER,
“moo!”
And thinks that his good times are
due.
Those well-fed cows look fit and strong,
But then some lean ones come along.
When carefully one did examine
The dream, it clearly foretold famine.
=SCARAB, St. Paul MN



Dec 13. HETERONYM

(5 ([*2 *4]), 3 5, 4; 4, 4 1 *6 3. 5)

At a rest stop, southwest, a nice chap
 from a neighboring state
 Needed instructions to find San
 Antonio (late
 For a meeting.) I told him that at the
 next toll UNO easy,
 Is "10 all the way", and the road should
 be sunny and breezy.
 My word may aid traffic flow. Also, to
 DOS citizen
 Should aid other people in need, and
 I'd do it again.
 =NEWROW, Brookline MA

Dec 51. PHONETIC FINAL-WORD
SUBSTITUTION (8, 4, 4, 4)

The girl sat eating Bs and C,
 When something A to scare her D.
 =Mr E, Portland OR

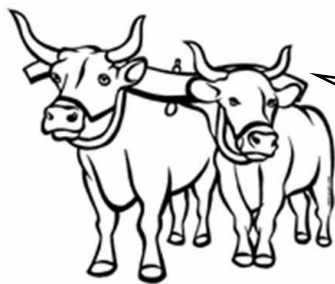
Mar 50. PASTEOVER (9)

"Sommelier! This isn't pretty!"
 "I'm right here, sir. Don't raise your
 voice."
 "A fly is crawling up my CITY!"
 "It's ICY, sir. It has no choice."
 =SCARAB, St. Paul MN

Aug 40. ACROSTICAL ENIGMA (*6)
ACROSTICAL ENIGMA (*7)

A. A melding of paint in the form of
 some long
 B. Demicircular arcs that float by
 shows a local
 C. An' typical Quebecois scene from a
 song
 That is something Canadians spout
 when they're vocal.
 =UCAOIMHU, Somerville MA

Feb 7. ENIGMATIC REBADE (5, 4, *4, 4, 4) (THREE = not MW)



We're about as relevant
 to this flat as THREE:
 Warrior Princess.

Firstly, Russell, let me state how much I treasure
 Corresponding. TWO, man! Gorry, such a pleasure,
 As opposed to all your snorting screeds in person
 As your chronic post-ONE drip proceeds to worsen.

FOUR, I must protest your brashly shoving snippets
 Of our words in mags for puzzle-loving whippets.
 Thus, for prudence, I've derived this poor gratuity:
 Russ, the road to hell is FIVED with your fatuity.
 =BARTOK, La Habra CA

May 66. PHONETIC
SEXTUPLICATION

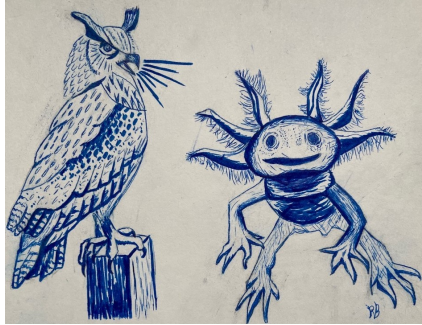
(4) 2 *4 4 4 *3, *1. 5 2)

(*3 = not MW) (*1. = abbr., not MW)

The wife of F. Fitzgerald looks
Through Roxy Music's fiscal books,
As she is one who's prone to pry
And wants to learn exactly why
Their synth-man Brian claims to've
paid

A mag (about a Greek who made
A paradox in which Achil-
Les never wins) that botched its bill-
Ing, overcharging sundry fees
That need redress, and when she sees
(By virtue of her being MUSED
Is either fibbing or confused.
=AROUND EVE, Chicago IL

Oct 13. PHONIGMATIC REBUS
(3 3 1 3'2) †



Pols RESURRECTED
Not get reelected.
=NEWROW, Brookline MA

Feb 12. ENIGMATIC REBADE (*3, 3, 3, 3, 3) (ONE = part of phrase)

L

I'm from ONE
Vegas, and don't
belong here.

Apologies, dear Mortimer, your fragile state of mind
(Psychology's my bailiwick) has cause, which I've divined:
Your shame, when critics FIVEd your book, has left you in distress
(FOUR same, when some moons TWO, you took a loss to me in chess).
As fallow as your THREE life is (compare with chaste Ravel),
I'm shallow to compile our post, and share in haste. Oh, well!
=BARTOK, La Habra CA



Apr E-9. MOSAIC QUIP (*7 2 5. 2 3 2 10 6 7 5, 8 7.) [4 rows × 4 columns]

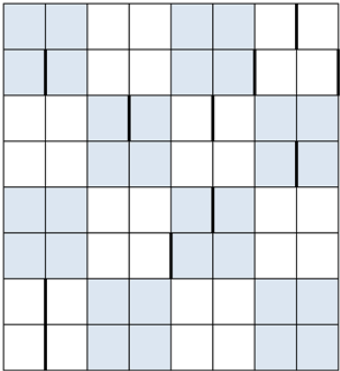
CA EN EU GL
ER SW OO EI

HI HO HO HR
IT HO OU UG

HT HT IS NB
HT TO RD ST

ND RO UG UG
DT UG GH HT

=raw, Ogdensburg NY



Aug E-1. FILM RESTORATION BY MR E

Fifteen old films need to be restored. They are English language films from 1939 through 1987. All were nominated for at least one Academy Award, and all but four received at least one.

Each title is 10 or 15 letters. These titles have broken into 5-letter pieces (some words, some not), and then one letter in each piece has changed. The resulting pieces, all words, are listed below in three columns. Each 10-letter title uses one entry from the first and second columns, in that order, and each 15-letter title uses one entry from each column, in order.

Your task is to restore the original titles. If you are submitting solutions, please list the answers in alphabetical order.

BACKS	ANODE	EASES
BRING	DUNCE	LITER
CLASH	FOLLY	OSAGE
CELLO	GNOME	UNDER
COMIC	OLIVE	UTURN
CROCK	OTHER	
MANTA	RICER	
MOODS	RILED	
NONET	ROACH	
PILLS	ROUND	
PLACE	STALK	
SPELT	STICK	
STALE	THEME	
STANK	TRICK	
TAXED	TOOTH	

Oct E-4. URBAN RENEWAL BY NEXT LINGO †

Eleven of the 100 most populous cities in the US are in need of some reconstruction.

Each city name has been split into two 5-letter groups, some words, some not. One letter in each piece was changed. The resulting pieces, all 11C entries, are given below. Each name uses one entry from each column, in order.

For example, if St. Lawrence (South Dakota) met the population criterion, it would break into STLAW and RENCE and might appear in the first column as STRAW and the second as PENCE. Each column is sorted alphabetically.

Your job is to repair our broken cities and find all eleven names. If you submit solutions, please alphabetize the names.

BACON BURG
CHESS GENES
LORAN JEANS
LOUTS MESTO
NEWER NITON
PINTS PEACE
SABRA RILLE
SANSI ROUGH
SARAN SCALE
SCOUT SEITY
WASHY TONIC

Feb E-9. VERSED WURST (GERMAN SAUSAGE)

Slashes indicate clue boundaries. Stanza one answers are 11C single words. Enumerations for stanza two answers are given at the bottom. They combine stanza one answers in standard German Sausage style. Four stanza two answers are found in Wikipedia.

Here's something shared for Valentine's! /
Destroy the luster of /
Some goop for hair / From here to there,
Cars drive it. / Burg above
The Aare in Switzerland / Police
Surveillance / Hoodwink / Bob
That sheathes your lace's end / Misplace's
Antonym / Pine / Job

Alaskans, Nebraskans, perhaps Nova Scotians /
And, well, all who dwell on the globe and the oceans /
Buñuel film (with Dali) / He's Richthofen / Holly-
Wood silent star / First prince of Eckmühl / And, golly...
Garcia's band / Draining, depressing / Caressing /
Least pious / Some fact films with points they're expressing.

*5 *9 / 10 / ^1^3 1'^2 / ^3 ^5 / *6 *6 / ^4 2 *9 / ^8 ^4 / 9 / 8 / 10 / 13
=BARTOK, La Habra CA

FORMS

Feb F-6. CRYPTIC 7-SQUARE

(clues listed alphabetically)

Can insult young lady

Goof brought in stuff like a bread knife

In time, an itinerary that's not a joke (3 wds., not MW)

Makes notes on 1000 parks developed outside Uganda's capital (2 wds.)

Put tense one back in outer space

Quickly criticizes an author backtracking (3 wds.)

Reportedly measures treeless plains

=FRAZ, Toronto ON

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

Mar F-11. CRYPTIC FORM †

Recent bit of corruption in New York: it's not yet obvious (7)

Pound on fellow at Oxford—which is near this place (6)

Cloudy or stormy around Northern Territory, where immigrants came from
(10; 2 wds.)

Figure received with a snarl (9)

A long time in street makes you wise beyond all others (6)

Curiously, it is a role which only one person can play (9)

Description of cut concealed by drunk in Destry (9)

Green flesh cut by nurse (6)

Promises to take in magazine section that describes TVs and VCRs (9)

Of exceptional quality—could this describe a candle? (6)

=Mr E, Portland OR

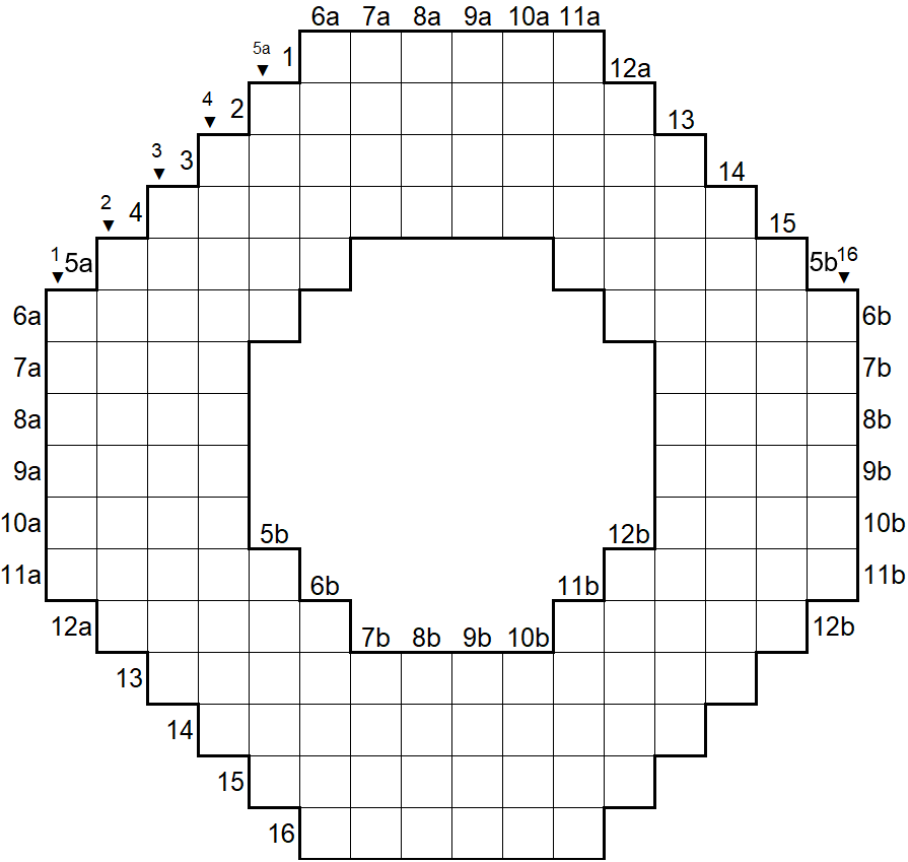
Feb F-1. HOLLOW DOUBLE OCTAGON

Across:

- 1 Wayne title role of 1973 (IMDb)
- 2 Character with a co-opted bed (online MW-findable)
- 3 Lithe one carrying a torch? (NI2-inferable)
- 4 Temporary home for a February celeb (Wikipedia)
- 5 Fenway souvenirs, at times; Oyl producer (Wikipedia)
- 6 Whip up a double?; *Chinese Restaurant* artist
- 7 Say great things about; It's so irritating!
- 8 "____ girl!"; Points of interest
- 9 Co. having a blue logo with a red smile (Forbes); Mayo's place
- 10 Glass designer Lalique; Bedrock beast
- 11 Torment; Canasta combos
- 12 One who gets it?; Targets for salves
- 13 Setting for 4 Across
- 14 Heineken México product (Wikipedia)
- 15 Striped tabby
- 16 Man the suction at the dental office

Down:

- 1 *Modern Family* mom
 - 2 Catfish variety
 - 3 Retire undefeated (not MW)
 - 4 Campfire song to the tune of "Oh My Darling, Clementine" (Wikipedia)
 - 5 Numbers can be found here; Party line position
 - 6 Bread stuff; Like Bruce Willis's character in *RED* and *RED2* (IMDb)
 - 7 First family member; Gives in to gravity
 - 8 Fictional alter ego; Numic speakers
 - 9 Shaped construction piece; Hatcher on a set (IMDb)
 - 10 Loupe part; The nuts and bolts
 - 11 Can't boast of; Worry beads?
 - 12 Stay with the NPL; *La Grenouillère* artist Claude
 - 13 Court legend with two sets of twins (Wikipedia)
 - 14 Rock classic that opens the *Who's Next* album (Wikipedia)
 - 15 Takes back
 - 16 Crash parties?
- =al dente, San Jose CA



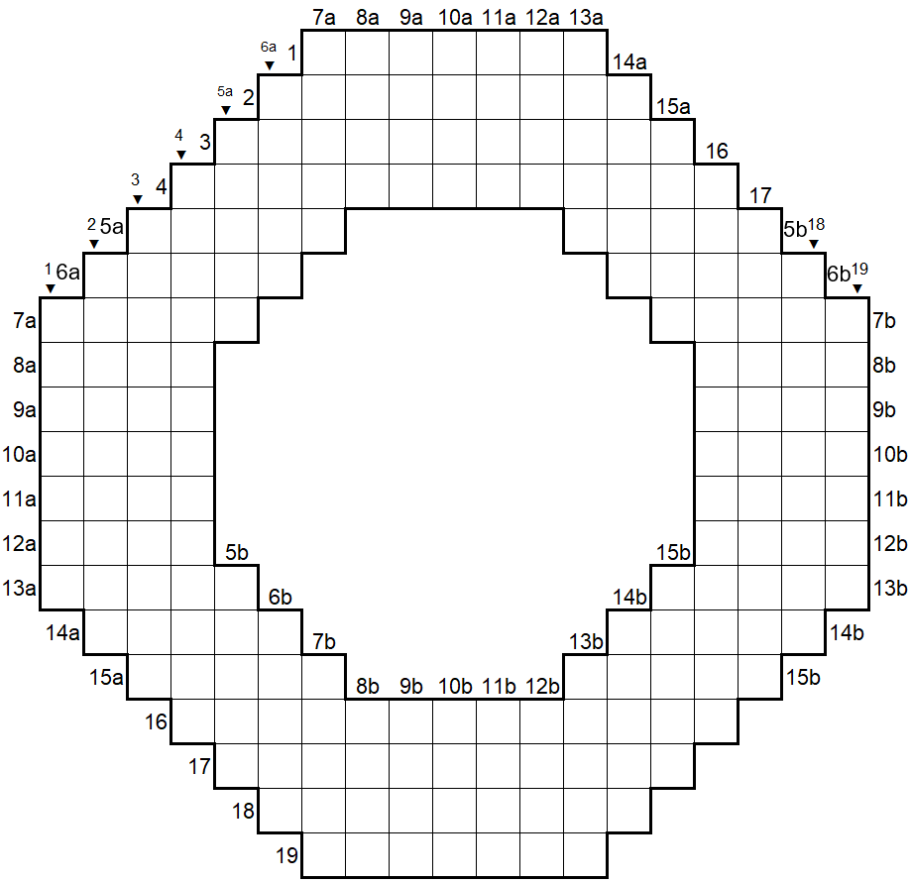
Sep F-1. HOLLOW DOUBLE OCTAGON

Across:

- 1 Maneuvers on a piste
- 2 One hanging out in the forest (Wikipedia-findable)
- 3 Showing some guile (not MW)
- 4 September savings events (not MW)
- 5 Criticized insisently; Mynah's talking point?
- 6 TV show whose character can change sex, in short (IMDb); Wuhan "What's up?" (not MW)
- 7 Harry & David staple; Michaels of *Saturday Night Live* (IMDb)
- 8 Barack's Education Secretary; Papa John's fixture
- 9 Autumn hues; Quitting time?
- 10 T-Bonz brand (Wikipedia); Winter Palace royal
- 11 Laid back?; Classic words of disbelief (11C-findable)
- 12 Buff relative; *One Fat Englishman* author Kingsley
- 13 Calls off a strike?; "Go on and git!"
- 14 Miffed moods; Port city of Minorca Island
- 15 Midrash subject; Like a wicker basket
- 16 Possible fall class supply purchase (not MW)
- 17 *RoboCop* portrayer (IMDb)
- 18 "City Watch" or "Witches," within Terry Pratchett's *Discworld*
- 19 Living symbols of prosperity in Chinese culture

Down:

- 1 Moving events
 - 2 Abandoned ships
 - 3 Honoree of September 12
 - 4 Like most Sasquatch footage (not MW)
 - 5 They may get plastered; *Sweeney Todd* prop
 - 6 Game of "unspeakable fun"; Packs to the max
 - 7 Check out a bikini, say; More than miffed
 - 8 He's going to get it; *Chicago* Tony winner Neuwirth (Wikipedia)
 - 9 Reduce to rags; Qualifying tag
 - 10 Org. with many links on its website; Mobius portrayer in "Loki" on Disney+
 - 11 Knock the socks off of; Russell of "The Americans" (IMDb)
 - 12 Crib sheet users; French dip?
 - 13 Messenger bag feature; Its flag sports a red dragon
 - 14 Van ____ of rock (Wikipedia); Needs some cheering up
 - 15 Jeopardy category?; One showing interest
 - 16 Worker who may return in September
 - 17 Event this year on September 20
 - 18 Pledge of Allegiance phrase (not MW)
 - 19 Hand over for safekeeping
- =al dente, San Jose CA



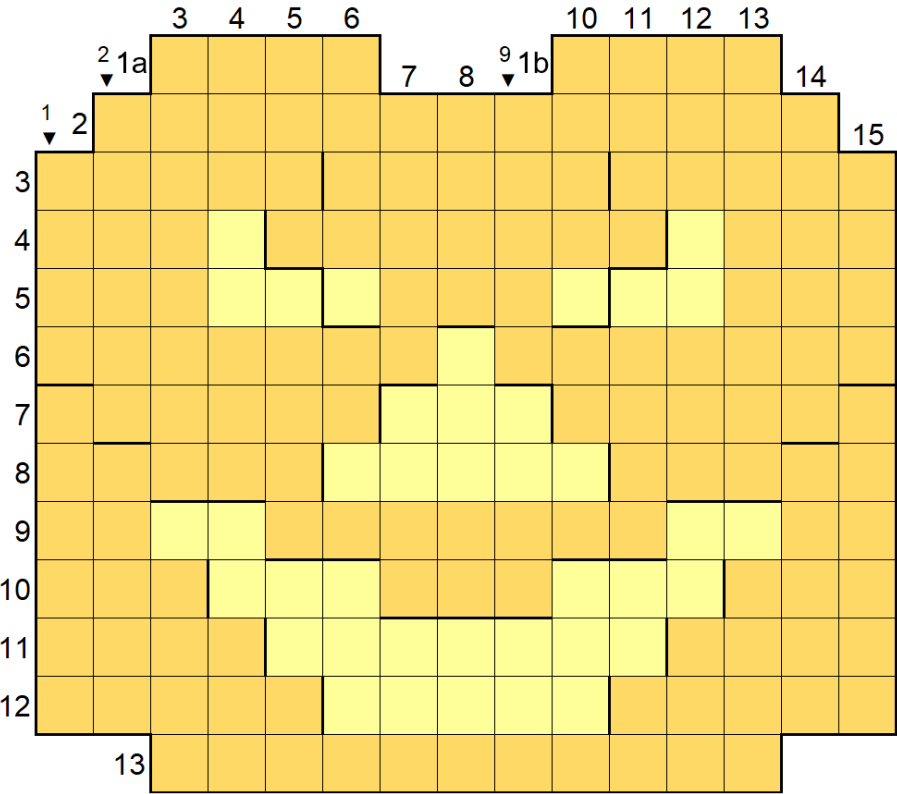
Oct F-1. PUMPKINFEST †

Across:

- 1 WSJ figure | *Zombie Revenge* game maker (Wired)
- 2 Yeah Yeah Yeahs song remixed in *Goosebumps*
- 3 Where to watch Freeform's "31 Nights of Halloween" | Pitcher Nomo (Wikipedia) | Docking site
- 4 A *Nightmare on Elm Street* setting | Global warming? | Bonn-y one? (Cassell's)
- 5 Kept late hours | Loads and loads | Stephen King's ____ *Macabre*
- 6 Danny Elfman song in *The Nightmare Before Christmas* (IMDb)
- 7 It's pressed for lunch | *Black-ish* dad (IMDb) | Agitated state
- 8 Alternative teacher | Kidman's *Dead Calm* costar (IMDb) | Beast slain by Hercules
- 9 Bette Midler cover in *Hocus Pocus* (IMDb)
- 10 Bobbsey sister | "Td love seconds, thanks!" (not MW) | "Scram!"
- 11 Box in | Get quite enough candy | Like King Kong
- 12 PC Pen VK target | Donkey Kong opponent (Wikipedia) | Fanta size?
- 13 Bobby Pickett song in *Hotel Transylvania 2* (IMDb)

Down:

- 1 Tag line? | Runs off
 - 2 *The Merry Old Land of Oz* intro words (lyricsmode.com) | Bridget Riley genre
 - 3 Making a bookkeeping entry | Take a piece from?
 - 4 Slatted window dressing | Group on a vampire's tasting menu?
 - 5 Recognized, even if disguised | Renowned caravel | Letters in athletics? (Wikipedia)
 - 6 Urned savings? | Big-time lapses | Wholesale club (Forbes)
 - 7 Spelling champ? | *Sleepy Hollow* actor (IMDb) | Work on your pecs?
 - 8 Skull session bit | Spirit in *The Tempest* | The Hulk's trigger
 - 9 "The Terminator" of 80's tennis (Wikipedia) | Fanning of *The Beguiled* (IMDb) | Melody
 - 10 Vegas lineup | Dead spell | Highest part of an Emmy
 - 11 Unearthly-sounding locale | *Aloha, Scooby-Doo!* theme performer (IMDb) | Ward in *The Haunting of Sarah Hardy* (IMDb)
 - 12 Veered off track (not MW) | Classic pops (Wikipedia)
 - 13 Motown hit for The Temptations (Wikipedia) | Typical trick-or-treater
 - 14 They come in shades | Makeup item
 - 15 Not so typical trick-or-treater | Overdrawn?
- =al dente, San Jose CA



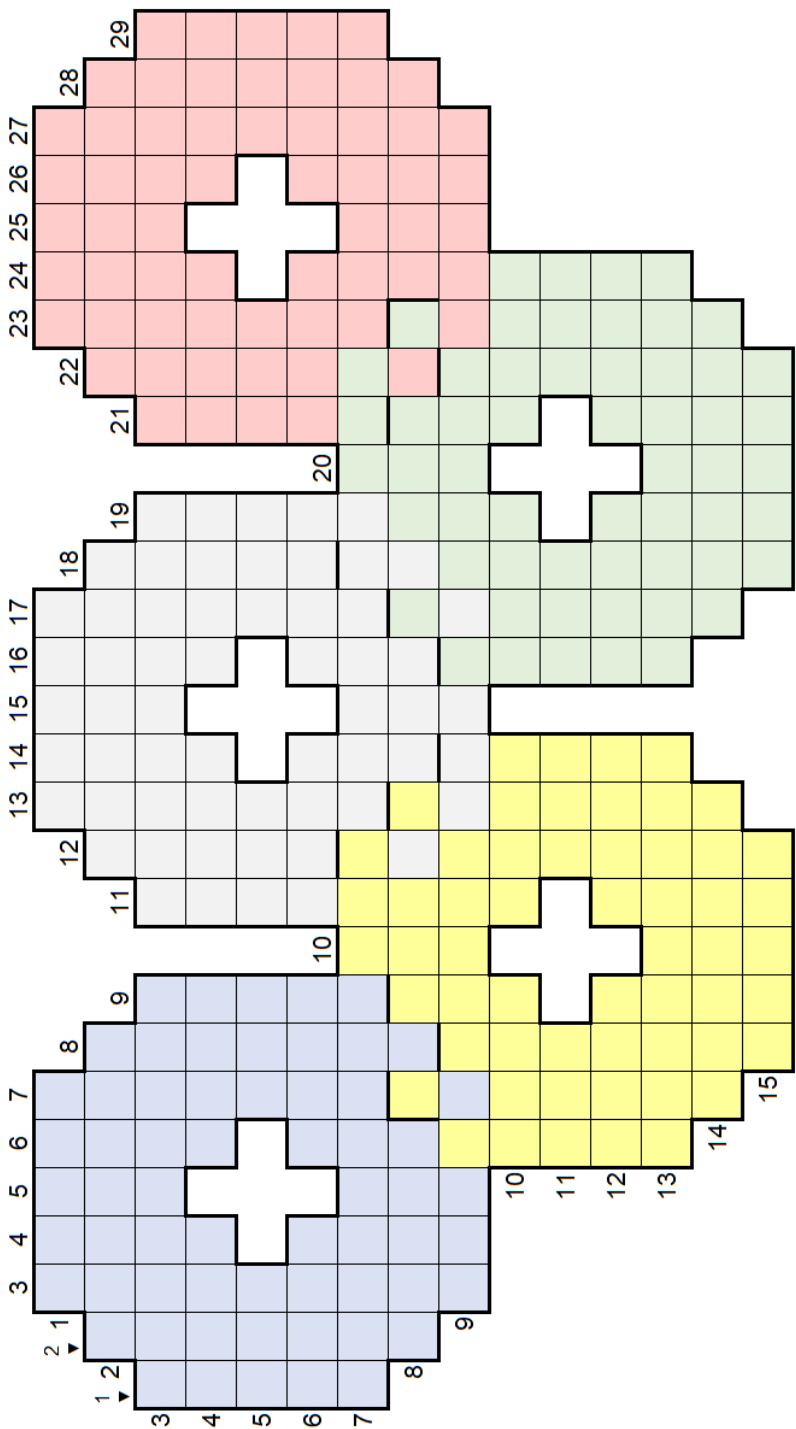
Nov F-1. OLYMPIC RINGS †

Across:

- 1 Drops in a box; Closely trail the lead cyclist; Go downhill
- 2 Olympic results report, often (not MW); Olympic skiff entrants; Stove work surface
- 3 Running shoes, starting blocks, etc. (not MW); Olympic pool wear; Gold medalist Nelly Korda equipment
- 4 Schneider of films (IMDb); Olympic champ Wescott; Boxing targets?; Future atty.'s exam (MW Legal Dict); Hebrew prophet; Algerian port
- 5 Operating under the influence; US Elect. Day; ID card abbr.; Get even with?; Record speed?; Compass pt.
- 6 Cries of disgust; BMX Freestyle surface; Layer; Over-50 org.; Streisand, to fans; Give up
- 7 Short-lived Fox TV series that lent its theme to NBC Olympics spots (IMDb)
- 8 Extremely shocked? | Time is of the essence (not MW) | Customs
- 9 Disney film starring Kurt Russell as a weight lifting phenom (IMDb)
- 10 In the past; Nearly; "Off the Wall" sneakers and clothing brand; Place of rest
- 11 *Hustle* channel (IMDb); Rising star?; ~~=:-O!~~; Campus at Troy, NY (Wikipedia)
- 12 First-time gamer; SNL alum Kristen (IMDb); Tiny bit of Greek?; Nabokov title (Wikipedia)
- 13 Wrestling weight classes, e.g.; Basketball skill
- 14 Throwing off, in ice hockey; Throwing off
- 15 Twin of myth; *Millennium* trilogy author Larsson (Wikipedia)

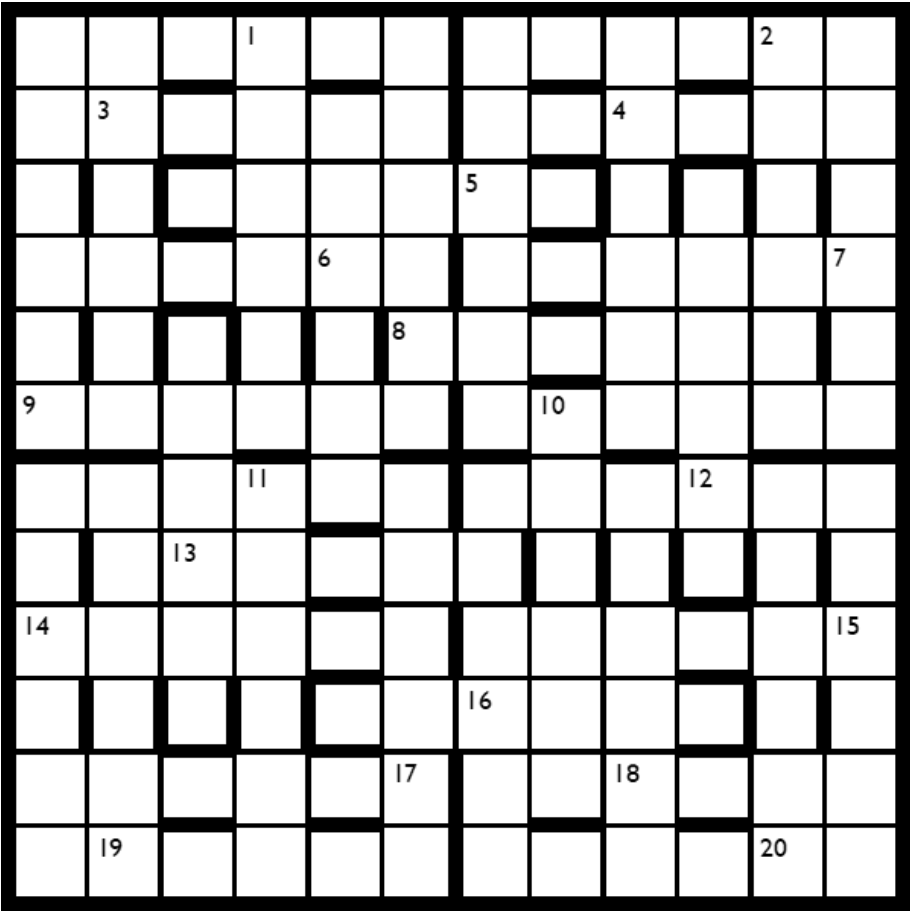
Down:

- 1 One in the water at Olympic National Park
 - 2 Carried along
 - 3 Former team of gold medalists Dwyane Wade and LeBron James (Wikipedia)
 - 4 CIA part; It's a cinch!
 - 5 The Olympics rings as tattoos, say; Decathlon starter?
 - 6 Olympic 4x100m relay parts; Holder of *Chariots of Fire* and *I, Tonya* discs (not MW)
 - 7 Honeybunch | Unpaired bone of the skull
 - 8 Apollo 11 launch rocket (Wikipedia) | Rest after a grueling Olympic event
 - 9 He had Scarlett fever (Wikipedia) | Time span; Velodrome event equipment
 - 10 Café dispenser; Grad sch. class format
 - 11 A call for the changing of the guard; 2012 Nintendo platform (Wikipedia)
 - 12 Hindu mystic | Surfacing
 - 13 Whole milk sources | Giving out, as a red card in soccer
 - 14 Parts for hoopsters and cyclists; Irish gold medalist Delany | Hammer partner
 - 15 Gold medalists Oerter and Kraenzlein; "Jack and the Beanstalk" syllable
 - 16 Long jump attempt that isn't valid; NYC dance gp. (Wikipedia) | Fend off, as an épée touch
 - 17 *The Running Man* studio (IMDb) | Bewitches
 - 18 Olympic torchbearer's final incline | Cake decorating aids (not MW)
 - 19 William and Harry, to Camilla; Look out for?
 - 20 Drop from the team; DCA alternative
 - 21 Greta who portrayed Karenina, Grusinskaya and Ninotchka | Org. returning to the Winter Olympics in 2022; French dip?
 - 22 Prep a ski run for use | Raking in
 - 23 Capital of Sri Lanka | Hockey stick motion
 - 24 Gut punch reactions; Circular event space called a dohyō (not MW)
 - 25 Best in Show org.; 1952 and 1994 Olympics loc.
 - 26 Town near Caen; Corner PC key
 - 27 Competed in round-robin fashion
 - 28 Often crustless sammies
 - 29 Defiant competitive look
- =al dente, San Jose CA



JAN X-1. THE SIX — BY FRAZ, TORONTO ON

Toronto’s pre-eminent rapper Drake has nicknamed his city The Six, and in the spirit of Toronto, the grid entries in this puzzle are all six-letter words. Each clue pair yields two answers that intersect in the correspondingly numbered square of the diagram, and either the Across clue or the Down clue may be listed first. Most of you aren’t from The Six, so none of the clue answers is six letters long. Half of the Acrosses and half of the Downs are one letter too short, so you’ll need to add a letter to create the diagram entry. The other half of the Acrosses and Downs are one letter too long, so you’ll need to drop a letter from each before entering them.



- 1 Nintendo handheld behind 10 watches
Sleuth evaluates baseball team
- 2 Mormon settlement steered astray
Dream about the fifth Great Lake
- 3 Leo's family claims vacant Eames chair
Last of mice follow around red bird
- 4 Rascal ultimately ruins summer program
Start to imagine falling from one of the two heavens
- 5 Animation artwork: bees flying around Indonesian island
Heard forest animals, beloved ones
- 6 Elegantly attired, Gino dances in picture
Uniform worn by lady of a Tolkien race
- 7 Sits too long after the endless fencing moves
Ram one into Mars
- 8 Second pair of trousers for each rodeo contestant
Measures small dogs and cats from tail to head
- 9 Accounted for gift
Fancy estate's afternoon services (2 wds.)
- 10 Father swallows a rat bone
Catches sight of satisfactory bakery display
- 11 A fall beverage includes bit of root having a comparatively bitter taste
Actor Alda entertains second literary lion
- 12 Wrap bundle placed in loaded sled
Chances upon five hundred, in five-dollar bills
- 13 Analyze trim around rear of doors
Examine by touching buddy near crown of head
- 14 Invalidate name adopted by withdrawn moon goddess
Off in both directions (2 wds.)
- 15 \$1000 invested in simple traffic sign
Partly reveal inelegant style of dress (*hyph.*)
- 16 Restless elf owl outside airport's terminal was sad (2 wds.)
Burned final shed by mobile guy in South Dakota
- 17 Professor's rigid camping shelters
Sodium smell beginning to grow
- 18 Cheering up, for example, about language course
Banishes departments surrounding operating room
- 19 Boozehound coins expression in the van
First off, tidies up lists
- 20 Tying in bit of nuttiness in taste
Long time starting to sort silver collected by Venetian ruler
[NI3] (2 wds.)

FEB X-1. WHAT THE DICKENS BY ANTZ, VANCOUVER BC †

Eight thematic clues are wordplay-only, and their wordplay omits part of the answer. These answers could all be defined by the same word. The omitted part of the answer should be entered as a common symbol (the same one in all of them), which represents the missing part phonetically (though the set of *letters* represented may differ among the entries, and some pronunciations don't exactly match 11C.) Enter this same symbol in the central square.

When all answers have been entered correctly, a five-word alternative title for the puzzle will appear; this must be submitted as part of the solution.

Across

- 1 Something you might pitch, to a certain degree
- 6 Very normal
- 11 Tell, in a particular case, capricious woman to pursue bachelor
- 12 Tax collector missing one
- 13 Reverse direction in key to the interior
- 14 Unfinished creperie ordered tool that's boring
- 15 Increases head off crunch times
- 17 Uninitiated trace a side dish in India [later NI3s]
- 18 Deeply felt thanks for part of Doric design
- 20 Sadly we fail with English lady in bar
- 22 Tot somersaults following end of the epic poetry [findable; NI2]
- 24 Female foursomes may have one and get her to leave nude
- 26 Breadwinner moving north to the front to be less distant
- 28 Failed badly away from home
- 31 This month in state (*abbr.*)
- 34 Odd parts of leafier hiding place

- 35 Wacko engineer cut nail
- 36 In audition you and I have sway
- 38 Grunts love signs
- 40 Sticky sound by 1 Down
- 42 Confused Arkansas relative comes forward
- 43 Stabs informer from behind empty senate
- 44 Drunk heads of state overlooking treaty
- 45 Iron law in school discipline
- 46 Skillful G-man returned ahead of time
- 47 You almost kill rare mountain warbler

Down

- 1 Place to store genie that is invisible
- 2 Will not use
- 3 Little bird fouled towel
- 4 Origin of my eccentric Asian crazes
- 5 Fundraising campaign shake up absorbs energy
- 6 Crime on the rise
- 7 Music producer reset punk band
- 8 Approve pair of rabbis making thick soup

- 9 Wild truffle in a stew

10 Is king overthrown in part of Mideast?

16 Almost open with leading role

19 Salt

21 Indian drug handlers' suggestion

23 Soviet approval to British ships making repair

25 Bias halved article for French humor

27 Steer tailless horse before start of fall

28 Half of the alphabet. You still can't see it?
- 29 Bureau director's limits modified—sees red

30 Thelma's road trip friend loses interest

31 Possibly stifle way to emphasize

32 Beetle around small dog, topping off attempt

33 Meandered through claret wine *département*

37 Tip off legal offensive

39 Last of roe deer upset Swiss artist

40 Switch off spacecraft's computer over temperature

41 Slippery fish, head to tail

1	2	3		4		5	6	7	8		9	10
11										12		
13						14						
			15		16			17				
18			19			20				21		
22		23			24				25			
26	27						28					29
30				31		32		33	34			
35								36		37		
38			39		40						41	
42							43					
44							45					
		46				47						

APR X-1. BASEBALL SCENES BY WHEELS, DUNNVILLE ON

The clues for the Across answers are strung together in the “Baseball Scenes” in random order.

Baseball Scenes

Baseball Team

Spread out playing field

Nabbing Toronto’s first stolen base (finally running after tip from Bud Black)

Young Blue Jay, perhaps new, hit single scoring twice in the opener,
a key according to the commentator

In Pain

Ace and staff’s closer disabled

Burning one...two catchers, terribly inept and green, receiving
screwball a lot

High voice whimper — masculine me breaking, recoiling

Ray Knight’s Title

Retiring, sitting behind baseball hat and pants, New York ballplayer
takes in title at last

Encounter on the Mound

Where the pitcher starts to regret allowing walk and run

Same crooked pitcher’s back with sticky substance — damages
outside curve

Act like a Dodger pitching

Stats are coming around — pitches finally sink left to right

Men in Black

Calls a bunt on the left side spinning to infielder: “out”

Bickering versus admitting referee’s right wears out infielder

Hitting Sport

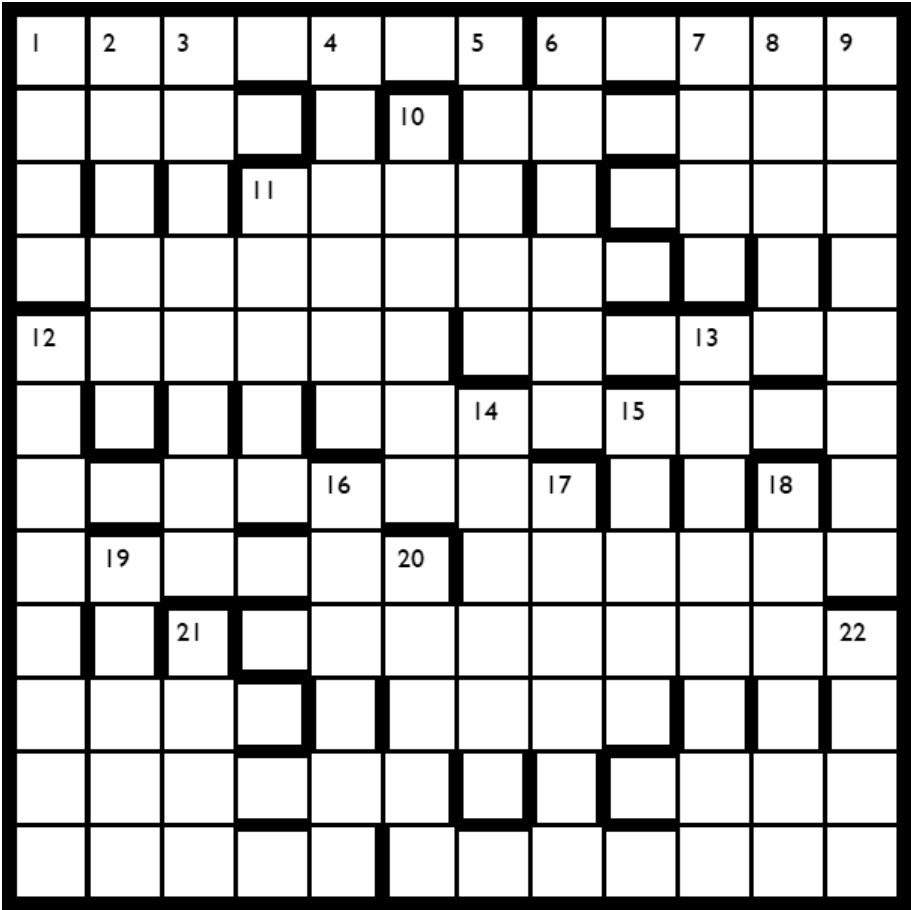
Shot a double in the fifth

Mariner’s spot to sacrifice

Down

- 1 Hits shot toward the sky (4)
- 2 American League stage is a bit too much for As (6)
- 3 Sharpened pitch inside behaves, rising (8)
- 4 Yankees manager can send batter up first (6)
- 5 Awful nervous in the start — stay loose (5)
- 6 Fatal shot has offense buoyed (6)
- 7 Drive down western half of MLB city (4)
- 8 More than enough maple bats (5)
- 9 Reds possibly having to solicit Rose again (8)
- 10 Obsess about holding back guys with a low pitch (6)

- 11 Lead off, a cause of anxiety, resulting in a defensive misplay (5)
- 12 High bouncing baseballs caught at the top by those who leap (8)
- 13 Swings late, perhaps a failure to hit outside, spinning item (8)
- 14 Cult pens train like all-stars (6)
- 15 Southpaw felt wrong on club (5)
- 16 Mr. Baseball's game played with Cards for the audience (6)
- 17 Draw off no-hit pitcher is over (6)
- 18 Sluggers swing for these wages, perhaps having no contract at first (6)
- 19 Record a loss not deserved (5)
- 20 Stole Mark Fidrych's van (5)
- 21 Mantle to steal home at last (4)
- 22 Tag up on sacrifice in the ninth and exit (4)



MAY X-1. ALPHABET SOUP
BY FRAZ, TORONTO ON

We've located one entire alphabet in our soup bowl. Use these 26 letters to determine the positions of the others. Clues are grouped by answer length but otherwise ordered randomly. Not every grid entry crosses one of the given letters. The missing bars, when added, exhibit 180-degree symmetry.

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

Clues

Eats bit of salad — good times (4)
Catch about ten on deck (4)
Starts to sow seeds of doubt after turning Brit's bed (4)
Dry run with swimming aid (4)
Poems on desk after cancellation of finals (4)
Masculine, angry-looking horse on TV (2 2)
The old guards sanctioned farm team unifier (4)
Influence opinion about work (4)
Didn't move around large piece of wood (4)
Good gravy for one commercial (4)
Puzzle solver docked the adolescent (5)
Twisted step on a ladder, by the sound of it (5)
Shudder as kindergarten awoke at last (5)
Heard Turner's annoying buzzers (5)
Current tenants aren't able to shut up (3 2)
Unsatisfactory musical brought back Dickensian clerk (5)
Adjust head of realistic G.I. Joe, returning without oxygen (5)
Speaker's snacks storage units (5)
Actor Spinner beginning to budget monthly payments (5)
Suddenly gives crosses back (5)
Bug brat scratching head (5)
Tantalize part-time worker with piece of toffee (5)
Kind of master it, then hit peak (6)
Joe held back by a complete lack of language in Arizona (6)
Down by lake embracing a sweetheart (6)
And others back in The Shire (2 4)
Unparalleled United Nations clique skipping class (6)
Approached a Republican in need (6)
Listing an ingredient of carob liqueur (7)
Falls atop Bonanza actor clutching pole (5 2)
Straightens out Fredericton campus with goals (7)
Fish swallowing Greek cheese all returned fine, sort of (4 3)
Greek restaurant worker reflected about claim (7)
Fight type of chromosome that separates 1002 sheep (3 2 2)
Faction embraces day for an Israeli state (7)
Gamete appears excellent on the inside (3 4)
Comic strip about fuss surrounding past Haitian leader's moniker (4 3)
Cartoon feline hugs red horse on TV (7)
Rise late after switching workshops (8)
Devil worshiper mad at saints (8)
Working the rigs outside west end of city earns lots of money (4 4)
Fickle slob holds back shade of green flowers (8)
Setting aside date to hold search with criminal group (12)
Is furious about sound of relief before end of concert tour (3 3 6)

JUL X-1. WATCH WHAT YOU'RE DOING BY WHEELS, DUNNVILLE ON

Yes, please be careful:

Several clues contain an extra word that must be removed before solving. Half of these extra words appear as the first or last word in the clue. These words describe how the unclued entries are connected. The remaining extra words are definitions for the unclued entries.

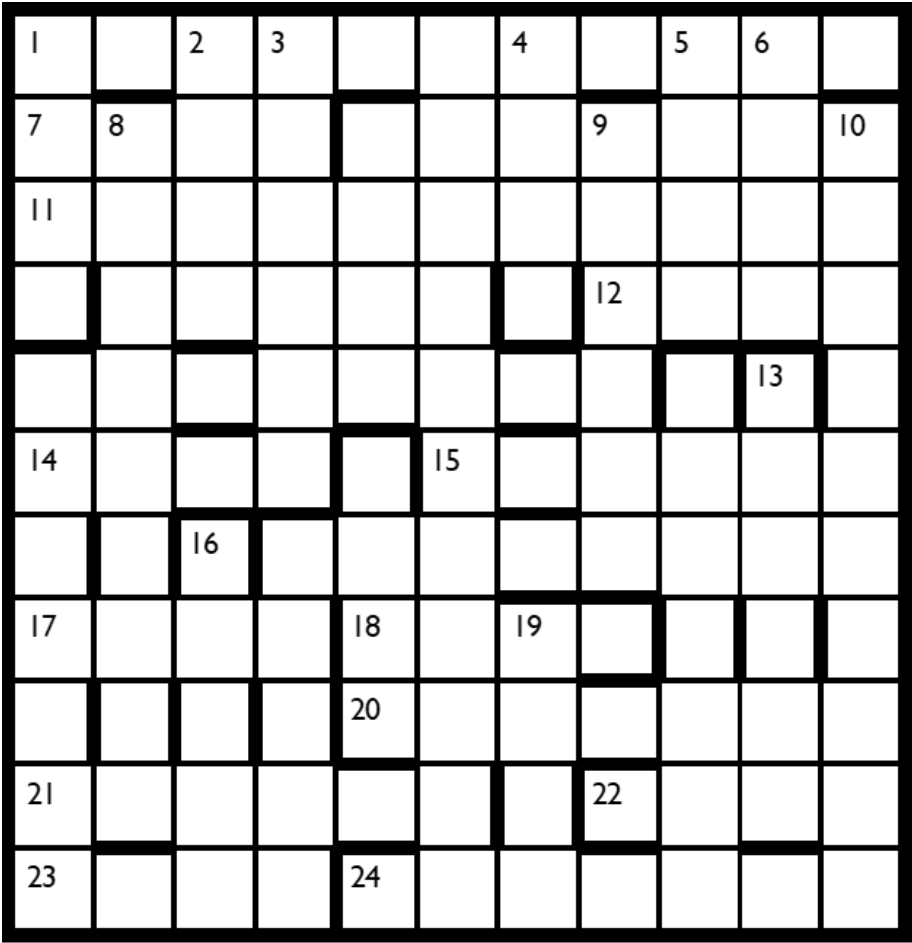
The remaining clues have an extra letter which must be removed before solving (always leaving a legitimate word after the removal). These letters, read in clue order, are good advice to solvers.

Across

- 1 Five novel chapters with the first three chapters used repeatedly and an expression that is used repeatedly (11)
- 7 Island surrounded by mere (lake) (4)
- 11 Terrible drunk drinking Peroni is capable of being rescued (11)
- 12 Large collection of money: float (4)
- 14 Rinse salt off egg (4)
- 15 Journalist: croupier half-tossing pair of dice (6)
- 17 Slice of fried pickle in crackers, out with bean curd (4)
- 18 I'm estimating with a meter ruler (4)
- 20 Doctor, deny this yields hot temperature (7)
- 21 It makes you feel regret about coming after Lennon's finale with Ono (6)
- 22 Initially guaranteeing to contain risk (4)
- 23 Covered in our shame, reportedly (4)
- 24 Ingest brew, red beer perhaps (7)

Down

- 1 Arrested Development actor immersed in dancer part (4)
- 2 Yugoslavian leader to sit up first (4)
- 3 Make sure chemist in Spain includes white lead (6)
- 4 Remain suspended endlessly in heaven in the past (4)
- 5 Dark Angel actor oddly ad-libs, then done (4)
- 6 Individual brought up kindred, for the most part related (4)
- 8 Playing rogue, perps put to use in a new way (9)
- 9 Lumbar issue (numbness) constrains showman (6)
- 10 Word encountered on a computer primarily to key in important point about a vessel's buoyancy (10)
- 13 Most extreme rides—getting seasick on vessel—tense (6)
- 16 Shearing a bird getting tangled (5) [part of phrase, NI3]
- 19 Ace turned up in winning pot ultimately against pairs (4)



AUG X-1. WELCOME BACK! BY BTNIRN, PRINCETON NJ

Welcome back! It was so great to see everyone after our long seclusion. Here's a puzzle to celebrate:

1. Twelve clues are normal, but the answers are ready to begin the next stage of their lives: one letter must be changed before entry. One modified word is not MW.
2. Twelve clues are done social distancing: they've invited in an extra word, which must be removed before solving. These extra words define the modified entries from (1).
3. The remaining clues are coming out of their shells: the wordplay yields an extra letter.

The original letters (top-to-bottom) and the altered letters (left-to-right) from (1) describe us all; the letters from (3) (in clue order) yield a song about one of our past summer gatherings. Please submit these two descriptions and the song title with your solution grid.

Across

- 1 Started up again about weird DC Con meme (11)
- 8 Interest build-up: one mean dance recital (7)
- 10 Indeed pop! (4)
- 12 Lose restraint mixing gin additive (4)
- 13 Louis and Charles, retired, recalled revel (7)
- 14 Mock wage-earning path (6)
- 15 Decline the logician's conclusion at that time (4)
- 17 Fermented juice has nitrogen ash (6)
- 19 Agree to accepting one award (4)
- 21 Diminish online cowboys' performance? (5)
- 24 Mate assortment?! (4)
- 26 Flub word count in speech passage (6)
- 27 Open-air gallery? Wild oats? Dandy! (4)
- 29 Fly around through destiny (6)
- 32 University of Wyoming's homespun material (7)
- 33 Food coming up exhibits real filth (4)
- 34 Yikes — half of eggs eaten (4)
- 35 Asian people, wrapped in blubber, depart Beringia (7) [NI3]
- 36 Remark describes standard time slot (11)

Down

- 1 Parse horrible grating sound (4)
- 2 Lacier ground meat pastry (6)
- 3 Tradition with chocolate, center! (4)
- 4 Kill rumored to be messy (6)
- 5 Empty, low-calorie cream (5)

- 6 Shed outer layer for the audience (4)
7 Irredentist struggle revealed utopia (4)
9 One arc formed eyepiece? (6)
11 1970s presidential vessel? (6)
16 One cultivating base behavior hit heartlessly (4)
17 Feline will sound lower and lower? (6)
18 Trial payable by month (4)
20 Watch out for conflict in niche gathering (6)
22 Detour goes under route (6)
23 Corn god placed atop vase (6)
25 Bass eaten by mother snake (5)
27 Men only order palm starch (4)
28 Retro bodega suggested wagon (4)
30 Cold war weapon network I'm guarding (4, *abbr.*)
31 My job: turn tide (4)

[illegible]

ct C-7. Dacca deb acceded, fed deaf abbe caffè decaf, added bacca, bedded bae, effaced bad deed, faced Caaba.

NOV F-1.

MAILS
 BIGNEWS
 SAILORS
 COOKTOP
 TRACKGEAR
 SWIMSUITS
 GOLFCUBS
 ROMY SETH
 EARS TSAT
 AMOS ORAN
 OUT TUE
 NMT TIE
 RPM BABS
 CDEDE
 UGHS DIRT
 TIER AARP
 THEADVENTURES
 OFBIRSCOUNTYJR
 TASEDEVRYMINUTE
 COUNTSMORES
 THESTRONGESTMAN
 INTHEWORLD
 THEN ORSO
 VANS LAIR
 AMC SUN
 OMG RPI
 NOOB WIG
 IOTA PINN
 DIVISIONS
 DRIBBLING
 SPEWING
 REMUS
 STIEG

Mar F-11.

vwtlss
 rectngl
 nknrst
 ldcntr
 old country
 Down: vernal, wicked, latency,
 London, sages, solitary

1-4 999

CABILL
 BABYBEAR
 FIREDANCER
 GOBBLERSKNOB
 FOULS
 SEGAR
 WEBBER
 LAUND
 RASH
 ATTA
 HOPI
 RENE
 EATAT
 MELTS
 DONEE
 PUNXSUTANNEY
 TECTATEEBER
 TIGERCAT
 ASSIST

Apr E-6.

ACCOVERPAIN
POLITENEARLY
EVITTAACIDOT
AREALITPLATO
LUNCITIMEREN
ABETAPMAKEG
BRAITLEKANDG
ARADVAREKANDG
MILOTAEEDDIE
ANYTHONGGOES

Feb 6.

DISMISSIVE
INVENTIVE
SERIAL
MARKS
INVASIVE
SITUATE
STEPS

Jan X-1.

- 1. [r]ends, p[ti]rates
- 4. scamp[i], et[c]her
- 7. t(h)rusters, Ar[m]ies
- 10. pa(t)ella, spi[n]es
- 13. parse[c], pal(p)ate
- 16. fel(t) low, scal(d)ed
- 19. s[p]ouse, lea[r]ns

- 2. Deser(e)t, rever(i)e
- 5. Celeb(e)s, de[b]ars
- 8. [p]roper, ste[c]ps
- 11. a(c)rid(er, Aslan[t]
- 14. annu[a]l, not [i]on
- 17. ten[e]ts, (n)ascent
- 20. ln(k)ing, do(g)s age

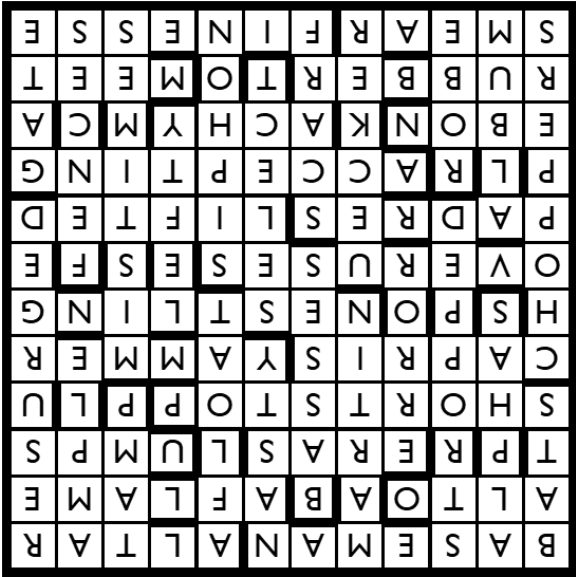
- 3. (p)reside, [r]egret
- 6. s(o)ignee, el[c]ven
- 9. prese(n)t, tea se(t)s
- 12. s(w)addle, fi[c]nds
- 15. [e]merge, A-l[p]ine
- 18. el(i)ating, depo(r)ts

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

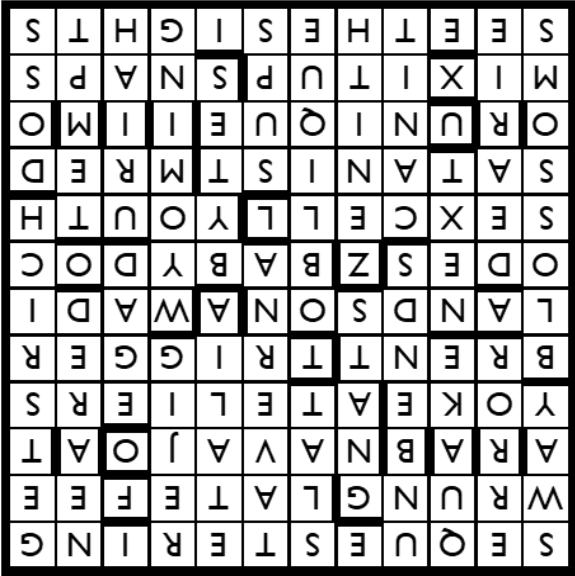
Sep F-1.

THRUSTS
TREESLOTH
LAYINGATRAP
LABORDAYSALES
PERCH
NINHAO
LORNE
OVEN
LENT
TSAR
ETTU
AMIS
SCOOT
MAHON
WOVEN
NOTBOOKPAPER
PETERWELLER
SUBSERIES
PEONIES

Oct F-1.
DJIA
SEGA
HEADSWILLTROLL
CABLEHIIDEINTE
OHIODETENTEINE
SATUPSCADSDANSE
THISISHALLOWEEN
PANINIDREUNREST
ROGETNEILTHYDRA
IFUTASPELLONYOU
NANYESPLEASOUT
TRAPSAITATEHUGE
STREPMARILITER
MONSTERMASH



Apr X-1.



May X-1.



Aug X-1. (*grid on page 39*)
Extra words: 8A dance (mambo), 12A restraint (binder), 15A Decline (dote), 26A word (term), 27A Dandy (rooster), 35A depart (exit), 2D meat (crux), 7D struggle (battle), 16D behavior (compartment), 20D niche (corner), 23D Corn (elote), 28D suggested (recommended).
The original letters spell “cicada”; the modified letters spell “Brood X”. The extra letters spell “Day of the Locusts”.

E	X	D	E	F	T	Y	O	D	E	L	E	R
S	O	T	E	L	L	R	F	E	R	U	L	E
U	N	C	L	E	A	R	K	N	I	F	E	S
O	I	N	K	S	H	U	M	I	D	W	2	S
L	U	N	A	T	I	C	O	W	E	A	V	E
2	Q	R	2	I	N	S	T	T	L	A	I	R
N	E	A	R	E	R	2	A	F	I	E	L	D
E	D	D	A	S	A	L	T	O	B	D	U	L
G	E	T	T	A	T	A	L	E	W	I	F	E
N	T	E	R	I	S	E	S	R	A	I	T	A
I	N	L	A	N	D	P	I	E	R	C	E	R
B	O	W	M	A	N	P	N	T	K	2	R	S
2	W	O	O	M	B	A	2	S	O	N	F	I

Feb X-1.
The thematic answers are all names of cities. In clue order: Toowoomba, Tucson, Tours, Tübingen, Tunis, Tartu, Toulouse, Tooele. The alternative title, highlighted in the grid, is “A Tale of Two Cities”.

Jul X-1.
Extra words at the starts and ends of clues: Five initially related word pairs. Remaining extra words: money → pound/quid, pickle → predicament/quagmire, estimating → pricing/quoting, issue → problem/question, vessel → pint/quart. Advice (extra letters): Mind your Ps and Qs

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

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

Aug X-1.

CRYPTOGRAMS

Jan C-3. Nom Swiftie. †

Nom Withheld

*LXCW *SJLBR ISTWSK QXIMHXN WR TUUXTQ JL
UML/URXF UMGGSX. "AMW TH IRQ HRFX RWDXQ
WKUX...", DX TNNXN EQKUWJETSSK.

Apr C-3. Sock! Pow! Zok! †

QOZ, Redmond WA

SI SI, SI SI, SI SI, SI SI, SI SI, SI SI, SI SI, SI SI,
*AIOLIS! SI SI, SI SI, SI SI, SI SI, SI SI, SI SI, SI SI, SI
SI, SI SI, *AIOLIS! *AIOLIS! *AIOLIS!

Oct C-4. Eta pizza.

NEXT LINGO, Lexington MA

MY CTR WYJX RVJ YV HXVD YOTY XJYW, XVPM,
TXI YOS RTC OTAS MPVX. RSTPW TBV, TXR
OSTFYO DVXH WYPSWWSI VXFR "XV ISWWSPYW".

Feb C-5. Rural Americana. †

NEWROW, Brookline MA

*WHICK, *BURNA, *SLEMP: QUEII *AIMQLNAZ
QJBMW BRQU QUI JOO KEJKIEQZ JX SIRMF
CLQLPHHZ IMNEZKQPSHI.

Feb C-6. Sins and nonsense.

JIGSAW, North Hollywood CA

XJXXPVCZ HQVFKP, HQVFKQ GQJFKPL JPBCZ
ZQJFKP QBJH XW BQJCZK ZQBFKL JCH ZQJFKL GB
ZQBFKP XKNBQK ZQJFKC VDJZK.

Nov C-6. Eating out.

NEWROW, Brookline MA

THE INANY-ONEENS HSZYENS'I JNAZOSX HCPPON
(ZYWOCJN TYIQNS QZEF IROCEZRY): "RU NONANY
*HRSEOTYJ JZYNSI, ER *BTZYN."

Oct C-7. Only six.

/dev/joe, Salem MA

*XJZZJ XQV JZZQXQX, KQX XQJK JVVQ ZJKKQ
XQZJK, JXXQX VJZZJ, VQXXQX VJQ, QKKJZQX VJX
XQQX, KJZQX *ZJJVJ.