

CRYPTOGRAMS

May C-4. HOMOCONCOMINYM (3, 3, 3, 3) QOZ, Redmond WA

CJ *M^C^K^D^H^J^B ACJ RXDA CXA UXYD, ACXZYC
*Z^S^A^K^T^X^G^R VPAJ *W^K^Q^A^X^G WKQAXGB.
AKRJ GPS XZA PSU CKD XFFXSJSA *A^P^S^Y^X.

Jun C-4. Zero help. WITZ, Vancouver BC

JKMGKMFL OJIJ CFWMYL CSF OJJWJVOYHM
FSQYLWYE QG KWJ VKWFVP-JMBMY JKMMG.
CFWMYL FMJGSYLJ AWWK "CSFVP".

Dec C-4. It's the details that count. ☞, Bellevue WA

MWGVO-XQT KWYXWYDYVX, VBZYVO-YQYZ
SWBZHX, ZHZSZY XJDKZX, MQSZ KWRRDX,
VBW FOJFZYX, WYZ JZGQWL.

Sep C-5. HOMONYM (3, 5) (clued in order) MR E, Portland OR

CKZP SUYRKfZV UNLZS TB NKZ XJYDS KUQZ
NJGZ MVJCPTZN, BUFKZV NUTS, "HJY GUH
FULZ KUDB U NWYUVZ," NJ NKZ *W ^X^Y^Z.

Feb C-7. Cock-a-doodle-do. raw, Ogdensburg NY

HTET, JQGQ UHGFLG EJ RJ, JEJE, UBRNY
EN EK UK EXHEGK: ZEZE HUHI, TETE YLYL,
LXLY GEGL UEUK AHNH... EBEI, YR FRFR.

Apr C-7. April Fools! SCARAB, St Paul MN

WZ W UVXX? FV AVZ BKQ. POLTA TZ. WBBODZ
YQ RTAZ MTKXZ: POOMVK BOTAAVDKZQ, ORZ
OOUKXZZ TA WBOR FVKC OOKC WWPFOORTUDZI.

Jul C-7. Service call. /dev/joe, Salem MA

GXS VHUO KXWR CMYJHYQS. GWZOVT LYQEWZV
YZYMJIVT. KXWNS PUXZT. PNUIVZ RUZVYNL
XZDRXQS, PWOWZF YXTWU.



THE ENIGMA

May 2023 • The National PUZZLERS' League • Est. 1883 • Special Edition

GOLDEN SPHINX BITS

From the Golden Sphinx Committee

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

We're very excited to present this year's *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.

Solvers' kudos counts are used to select the candidates you'll find in this special issue. However, because some puzzle types have very shallow kudos profiles, with many puzzles sharing the same kudos count, and because there is variability in the number of Krewe who sent kudos between months, we're giving you the chance to decide among these candidates. The winners in this final vote will be recognized at this year's Con.

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.

Most of all, our deepest appreciation for all of the 2022 puzzle contributors—your talent and generosity of spirit are what keeps *The Enigma* going. A special thanks to yodaughter, who, even after previous years, still gets excited about all the extra work she has to do. Also thanks to Btnirn for editing all the 2022 puzzles, /dev/joe for compiling the kudos, and Qoz for putting the online voting onto the website.

From the Composer

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, sorted by estimated difficulty, and they are presented that way here.

VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

Each member can vote for their favorite puzzle in each category; limit one vote per category and abstentions are possible.

If voting online, please vote 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 and mail 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, 2023, midnight Pacific time; for mail-in votes this means the ballot must be postmarked by then.

PUZZLE NOTES

Jul 25. To the tune of "I Am the Very Model of a Modern Major-General", by Gilbert and Sullivan, by way of Tom Lehrer.

Aug 10. Art by Newrow's granddaughter, Rae Bamberger.

Oct 37. Solvers should provide whatever else is required.

Mar E-3. This was originally published without a title.

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

Sep F-2. Thanks, with a cherry on top, to Scarab's July F-12 for the inspiration. Like that one, this is not a Guide form. The chevron hexagon is a chevron on top of an inverted chevron to form a hexagon, with the single letters overlapping. The embedded diamond form fits entirely in the middle of the chevron hexagon; its clues and entries are completely separate from, the thematically related to, the larger form around it. To keep the grids clear, only the chevron hexagon is numbered.

Nov F-10. This is not a Guide form.

Oct X-1. Combinom: Btnirn/QED.

Dec X-1. Welcome, new composer 3P! (Who acknowledges considerable help from a Krewe member who wishes to remain anonymous.)

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E A S P
ISLASAYMASSBYRON
EARTHDELTALAMO
MEMSAREAFALTTERM
MRJAMESMORIARTY
DANTEAN BENANT
RUNBY OCTAL
EXEC MARIA
MAGI ENYA
EATAT CATS
COAST TNUIS
ACHACS ELEGAC
NESTINGMATERIAL
REMINDMEARABREBA
HULASANWARNEVER
THEFTDASHOUTARUG
A L O N
Nov F-10

DOUBLEFORM
ADOREPETER
YOYOGESTO
CHORALREEF
ASLOBSLOPE
RIBBERBAGEL
SHAPEORORB
ISPABLOYOU
HASHISHODO
THISRACYAD
MARINELIFE
Aug E-10

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

Oct X-1.

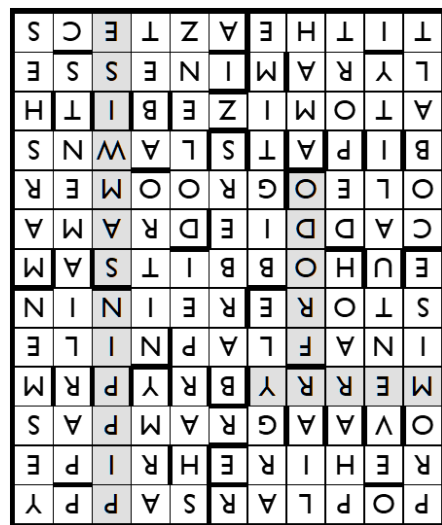
P
EUR
STRAY
PLAYERS
MILKSHAKE
EROSASING
ITTRLSDOA
DSMELTSHR
EVANITLUA
PDDINERLO
RESDAMSIT
ARNOVOMAN
CHOCOLATE
SIZABLE
LUCAS
CAP
C
Sep F-2.

LESSONS
STUOWORTH
REALMARENAS
REIMSBRADECAL
NECKSDODGETLTHE
INNSRELENTSMOAN
SNAKEEGGASKSIDO
WILLYWONKACANDY
OWLELATAUTOMALT
HERRFEELTFOORTHAN
SHIEDSICOMMAGOO
TWEENTITTHATER
SHROOMATEAM
CHOCOLATE
SNOCAPS
Sep F-1.

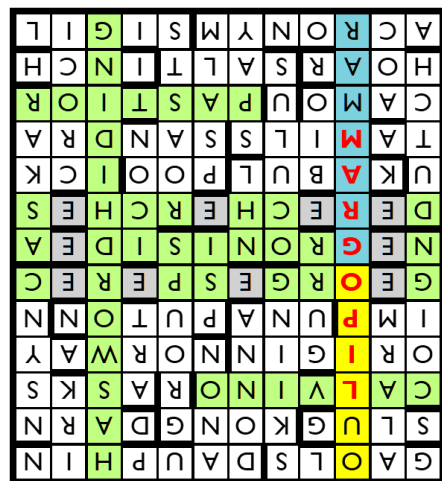
W OOL I Y
E LF I N
P APR I K A
Apr F-4.

SEALANE
LEFTALONE
PLEASELEAVE
KEEPOPEALIVE
SCENE
BARN
WEIRS
SKULK
MEADS
AVOW
BANANA
MEAN
ALMA
HART
AMO I
AKRON
WEENY
THANT
RILED
SWOOP
LOFAT
ITSALTOVERNOM
SECRETARIES
BEARCLAWS
REBOOTS
Jan F-2.

N
 YOS
 MAINS
 RESTORE
 NARRATION
 BOASTER
 RENEW
 HER
 S
 Apr E-8.
 Oct 37.

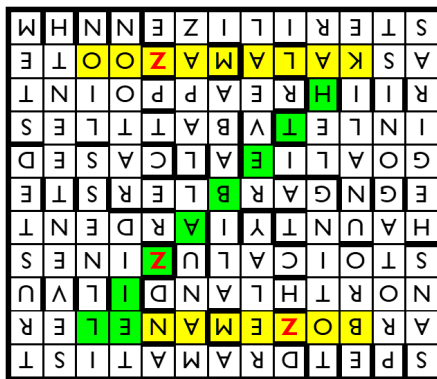


Dec X-1.

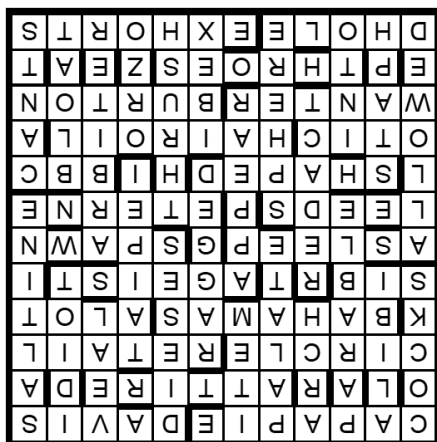


Apr X-2.

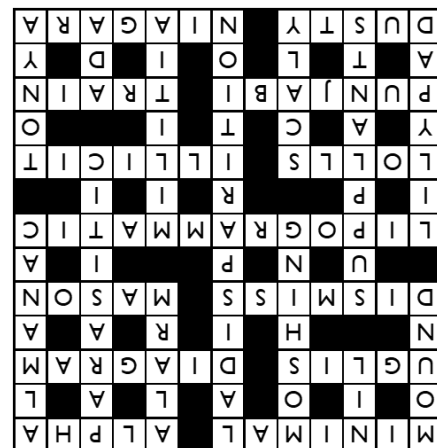
IHGANDHI
 ARIARALPH
 MISSACOLD
 ASCATCAN
 AMISHTARA
 MIMOSASAG
 ADAMICISIN
 MYDIMISIRI
 AMAMAMAH



Nov X-1.



May X-1.



Apr X-1.

GOLDEN SPHINX AWARDS: 2021

Flats

1st place: February 7 (and 12), by Bartok

2nd place: August 40, by Ucaoimhu

Forms

1st: November F-1, by al dente

2nd: March F-11, by Mr E

Extras

1st: Aug E-1, by Mr E

2nd: February E-9, by Bartok

Cryptic Crosswords

1st (tie): February X-1, by Antz
(Andreas and Witz)

1st (tie): August X-1, by Btnirn

Cryptograms

1st: November C-6, by Newrow.

2nd: April C-3, by Qoz.

Special Commendation

Quicks?lver (for his work as solutions editor 2013–2020).

The 2021 nominees were al dente, Andreas, Around Eve, Bartok, Btnirn, /dev/joe, Fraz, Jigsaw, LeXman, Mr E, Newrow, Next Lingo, Qoz, raw, Scarab, Ucaoimhu, Wheels, and Witz.

Congratulations to all the winners and nominees!



GOLDEN SPHINX WINNERS AND NOMINEES: 2014–2020

Eight Ninety (2017, 2018), /dev/joe (2019, 2020), ++Juh (2017), 530nm330Hz (2017), A. Chemem (2019), Ai (2014, 2015, 2017, 2018), al dente (2017, 2018, 2019, 2020), x (2016, 2020), Andreas (2019, 2020), Around Eve (2020), Bartok (2015, 2016, 2017, 2020), Black Rabbit (2015), Btnirn (2016, 2020), Crax (2019), Drauk (2018, 2019, 2020), ewolf (2014, 2015, 2019), Firetruck (2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020), Fraz (2015, 2016, 2019, 2020), Griddle (2014, 2015, 2016), Hale (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017), Hot (2018), Jabberwock (2015, 2016, 2018, 2019), Jangler (2019), Jo the Loiterer (2014, 2015, 2017, 2018), LeXman (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019, 2020), Lirath (2017), Lunch Boy (2015), Marcus Asparagus (2018), McMongol (2020), Mr E (2017, 2018, 2019, 2020), Newrow (2014, 2015, 2018, 2019, 2020), Next Lingo (2014, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019), NJ Ninja (2015), Philana (2018), Qoz (2016), R/EDS (2014), raw (2014, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019), Riddle (2019, 2020), Rosebud (2016), Scarab (2014, 2015, 2016, 2020), Tahnan (2015), Te-Zir-Man (2014, 2015, 2016), Toonhead! (2017), Tortoise (2017), Trazom (2019), Ucaoimhu (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020), Vraal (2016), ʘ (2014, 2018, 2019), Wabbit (2014, 2015), Wheels (2015, 2016, 2018, 2020), Witz (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2020), Wolff (2015), Wrybosh (2014, 2017, 2018), yodaughter (2019, 2020), YoMama (2014)

Solution words and phrases not found at www.merriam-webster.com (“online MW”) are labeled by the Merriam-Webster dictionary in which they appear in print: 11C (11th Collegiate), NI3, 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 uncapitalized 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 May to 30 June 2023, or mail your list to Sue++, Susan Glass, 12 Shady Ln, Framingham MA 01701. All mailed votes must be postmarked by 30 June 2023.

May 21. OVERLOADED

TRANSDELETION (7) (four parts)

Adhere these two papers? Of course
there’s a way!
I’ll STICK them together and bonded
they’ll stay.
=SPURIOUS, Colorado Springs CO

Jul 19. SUCCESSIVE CONSONANTCY

(4, 4, **2, 4, 4, 4, 4, 3, 5)
(THREE = abbr.)

The rules are NINE at Kona’s SEVEN match.
Whole ONEs are needed. Use a
fresh-ground batch!
But it is FOUR if you do add some fruit
Like EIGHTs, or eggs (from your own
TWO) to boot.
But tea is banned and sure to get you
THREEd;
A cup of joe is what you really need.
Add water and some SIX to make your
brew.
And for a fee you all can try a few.
I liked the coffees most from Ralph and Ben.
Those FIVE made brews that certainly did
TEN.
=/dev/joe, Salem MA

Oct 37. CYCLEGRAM

(*6, 4, 5, 5, *4, 4, 7, 7, 2-2, 4, 5, 7)
(IONIC = *6;
ROSE = non-MW usage) †

DOUBLE VISION

A point / Possessive pronoun for
ROSE Brockovich / Extend a mag’s
Subscription / This is one who brags:
A TORO of vain things, a bore /
It drives a fictive DERMA’s prose,
But not an ONTO—that’s non-fic. /
To BALLAD tasks to fix or stick
Things back / Some pipes whence
water flows /
Informal words of greeting / Nope /
Point / LADDER spot for beers and buzz /
Composer Ned whose father was
Co-VERBAL of Blue Cross / The dope
Or gossip when the SEVER’s wrong /
A news or TV MAVIS hype /
Olympic Mary Lou’s clan / Type
(er... types) of dams that go along
A river / She defeated Wade
(IONIC, January twen-
Ty-two) the year of Skylab / En
(for “nays”, not “ICON”) gets displayed.
=BARTOK, La Habra CA

May 21. plaster, staple, paste, tape
Jul 19. bean, coop, DQ, fair, guys, heat, java, lax, amaze
Oct 37. Mond[ay]es[say|er|in|fo|under|go|to|me|dia|mond (see also page 30)
Jul 25. inert gas, angriest
Aug 10. Bach’s four orchestral suites [box for oar; kestrel; sweets]
Jan 16. Sophocles; slops, echo
Feb 5. emcee, square dance [mc² (e), ants (workers)]
Nov 27. we bandits ten, Antilles [web and its tenant; ill Es]
Dec 11. from growing old [F; R; OMG row in gold]
Extras. Solutions of something different squares on pages 30–31.
Mar E-3. I like going to sleep at night. It’s like a time machine to breakfast.
Jul E-9. Nobody in football should be called a genius. A genius is a guy like Norman
Einstein. Joe Theisman
Dec E-5. Sci-fi is when Wonder Woman fights villains from outer space, fantasy is
thinking she will go on a date with you. Lynda Carter
Cryptograms
May C-4. He WHISKEY the most hot dogs, though UNIFORM late VICTOR victory.
Time ran out and his opponent TANGO. (won, too, for, ate)
Jun C-4. Shepherd asks friend for assistance rounding up his thirty-seven sheep.
Friend responds with “forty”.
Dec C-4. Forty-six consonants, twenty-nine vowels, eleven spaces, five commas,
two hyphens, one period.
Sep C-5. When daughter asked if she could have some brownies, father said, “You
may take half a square”, so she Q CUE. (ate, eight)
Feb C-7. Imam, guru bird, agog, gaga, blown away by aviary: papa ibis, mama nene,
even rare baby kiwi... alas, no dodo.
Apr C-7. At a loss? Do not cry. Begin it. Accept my hint first: Befor ceinnoptry, eht
eelstt in aceh dorw eerw aabdeehlpz. [Before encryption, the letters in each
word were alphabetized.]
Jul C-7. Jukebox quit playback. Jinxed machine analyzed. Quirk found. Frozen
tonearm unstuck, fixing audio.
Cryptic Crosswords. Solution grids on pages 30–31; some explanations below.
Apr X-1, X-2. Both of these are lipograms: the titles, instructions, clues, and
answers omit the letter “e” (in Apr X-2, “e” should be inserted into the unchecked
squares in the three center rows). Both reference *La Disparation*, a famous
lipogrammatic novel by Georges Perec. Apr X-2 (by Negroni) also mentions Italo
Calvino and Oskar Pastior, fellow members of Perec’s writing group “Oulipo”; the
omissions from the down clues spell “a common symbol is missing.”
May X-1.
Across: cap(a + Pl)e, Dav(o→i)s, a(TT+I)re, circ(i)e, retail*, Ba(H)amas*, a [l]l[ot,
si[R]+b, agest*, as+leep[R], spa(W)n, “Leeds”, E+tern+E, s(H)aped*, B+B+C,
otic[H], [c]hai[n]+[f]r[o]m+[k]i[l]l[n], wa(n)ter, (Bur+ton)[R], “throes”, d+hole,
e(x)horts*
Down: co(a)x(ears), a(l)b(eyes), s(e+par)able (nose), marc[R] (mouth), pal+let
(ears), [i]s[s]o[t]h[e]r[m] (head), dies+(e+I)[R] (toes), vi[t]al (shoulders), do[n]t

GOLDEN SPHINX SOLUTIONS

(eyes), sal[ute]+tire (knees), rigged {digger swapping first and last letters (shoulders) tap+E (eyes), re((d+a)[R])nt (knees), ap(peas(er nose), a+l+oud[R] (ears), O+r+bit(er head), s(p)hene* (knees), thru*+m+s (mouth), st+amp* (mouth), floa*+t (head), Se+can(t)S (nose), [pa]inti[ng] (toes), [T]I bet (toes), o(n)zo* (shoulders)

Oct X-1. The honoree is Ogden Nash. Five entries (preproceros, ea-gull, anther, sellyfish, sobra) are rhyming words from Nash's poems; in each case, the definition is normal (preposteros, eagle, answer, selfish, soberer) but the wordplay yields Nash's spelling. The corresponding animals (rhinoceros, seagull, panther, jellyfish, cobra) are clued obliquely by the longer extra words (lonesco, jonathana, Carolina, coward, insurance). The shorter extra words are "game backs where lions relax", a wordplay-only clue for "Ogden": Og(R)+den. *Extra letters shown in boldface.*

Across: pre+poc(R)eros*, th[o](rue)r, Pipe+pen, tur(n)key, ate+net, E+SPY, e(ag)u+ll, revert, alone*, plaid+*, liar(R), [t]ome+[t]oga, Tfy+er(R), air+is+h, ibisens(H), i[n] Toto, nitrom*, sno(w a)ob(R), [c]lassist, tries(LB), poinsettias*

Down: p+hater, eryl(H), pnu(R)+ny, crea(t)ures*, riat(u)a+l, dOpe+l {Insignia is a model from carmaker Opel}, w(eekn*)eigh, anther(2), Ke[V]in+*, s(ell)yrf[y]+t+s+h, gradients*, losest*, "Valli", atonalv*, art+osi(R), or seo(H), sob+ra, br+io, twist(2), jete(2)

The extra letters spell "heard of animals" and "he made it verse".

Nov X-1. The category (spelled by the third letters of extra words in Across clues) is "US cities". The subcategory is those with a "Z" in their name. The third letters of extra words in Down clues spell "Azusa" and "Santa Cruz", two of the five largest items in the subcategory. Changing three letters in the grid to "Z" yields the other three, "Bozeman", "Elizabet", and "Kalamazoo", in the shape of a Z (see diagram).

Across (with extra words): dramatist*, em+bar+go, lea[r]ner, no+rt+h(l)and, stoical* {tout(s), sines(H)} {hospitally}, h+aunt, ar(den)t {tacked}, garbler (gambler with R for M) {slightly}, go+a+lie {late}, case d {drinks}, in+te+t {present}, battles* {assistant}, reappoint*, A(la)sk+a, tea r+oom(R), s(terri)ze

Down (with extra words): s+ans, pro+tago(nist) {graduations}, Ebro(H) {dozen}, totting(2) {four}, relay* {Australian}, manual* {Swarthmore}, t[h]e+i+id, illness* (seven)teen+th[e] {must}, t+rusted {players}, A+l(i) Baba, {sense}, he+g+iras {retired}, unalike* {leams}, reve(a)l, ra(too)n {much}, Le(h)ar {murderous}, [l]La Paz(R) {paupers}, "lion" {wizard}, stem(R)

Dec X-1. The unclued friends are the four hobbits from the Fellowship of the Ring.

4 Letters: a+bet, a+mah(R), army(H), liar(R), Ly+ra, Nil+*, ole+o, [t]ripe

5 Letters: d[l]o[ra]ma, law+n+s, nitro[age]*, sa(p)py, s[h]ar[t+ore, ti(R)+the

6 Letters: argyle(H), Az)tecs*, cad+die, co(ba)lt, d+e+port, Dole+nz, in esse*, pop[u]lar, reh(R)+ire re+i+n in, ye(s)-men

7 Letters: a(to)mize*, bar+be[a]rs, big+tim+e, g(ramp)as, g+roomer, i+n a f+lap (R), mars+he's, "pharaoh", pro+m(is)e, shar-p+e+i

11 Letters: even+t+[q]uality, par(liam(R))ents

Jul 25. TRANSPOSAL (5 3, 8) (clued in order) (must be sung!) †

In nineteen hundred fifty-nine Tom Lehrer wrote a chronicle,
And at that time "The Elements" was accurate, canonical.
But in the periodic table sixteen more now qualify;
I wrote this update with the hope that critics it will mollify.

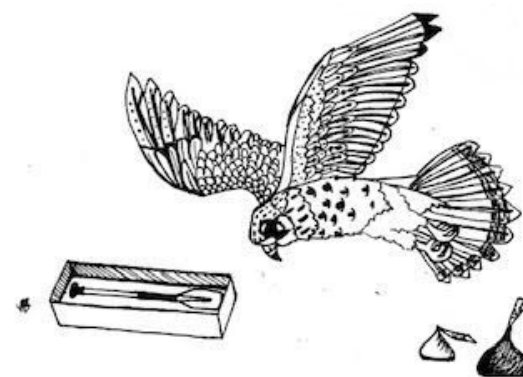
There's dubnium, darmstadtium, meitnerium, moscovium,
Lawrencium, seaborgium, nihonium, flerovium,
There's hassium and copernicium and livermorium,
And also rutherfordium, roentgenium, and bohrium.

For tennessine and oganesson, nomenclature curious:
They don't end with an i-u-m since that would be quite spurious.
Might chemists find more elements? Well, that remains a mystery.
Whoever does will certainly make scientific history.

The SUMO HOURS scan so well and they all have rhymes numerous.
The metal named for Rutherford is tough and makes me HUMOROUS.
I had less indignation with the ones whose names have brevity,
And those with names more whimsical who add to this song's levity.

I hope this song will one day be a part of the vernacular;
To sing the words from memory is now a feat spectacular.
=WITZ, Vancouver BC

Aug 10. PHONIGMATIC REBUS (*4'1 4 10 6) †



ANSWER were written in C,
B minor, D and then D.
Baroque at his finest, was he.
=NEWROW, Brookline MA

Jan 16. REVERSED ALTERNADE (*9)

Dec 11. ENIGMATIC REBUS (4 7 3)

(reading contains abbr.)

The farm adapts a play by ALL
And mounts it in a farmyard stall.
Spectators watch the king and queen
Begin the play's climactic scene:
Sowcasta sees the truth too late
And trots offstage to seal her fate.
King Oedipigs goes blind and cries;
His sad squeals TWO through empty
sties.
An unseen farmhand ONE the trough.
The chorus eats, then wanders off.
The local drama critic thinks,
"The play's a boar! What hams! It stinks!"
=T MCAY, Aurora CO

Feb 5. PHONIGMATIC REBUS (5, 6 5)

e workers

He introduces all the acts, and runs the
hoedown just for fun,
And then he is a solo singer: praise for
him I've just begun.
Yes, Wonder Willie is SOL-caller, crooner
wrapped up all in one.
=NEWROW, Brookline MA

Nov 27. ENIGMATIC REBUS

(2 7 3, *8)



E E

Thirteen thieves were in my crew
But, chased by cops, I've lost a few.
Now ANSWER-bound, will get away
To fair Barbados. Time to play.
=NEWROW, Brookline MA

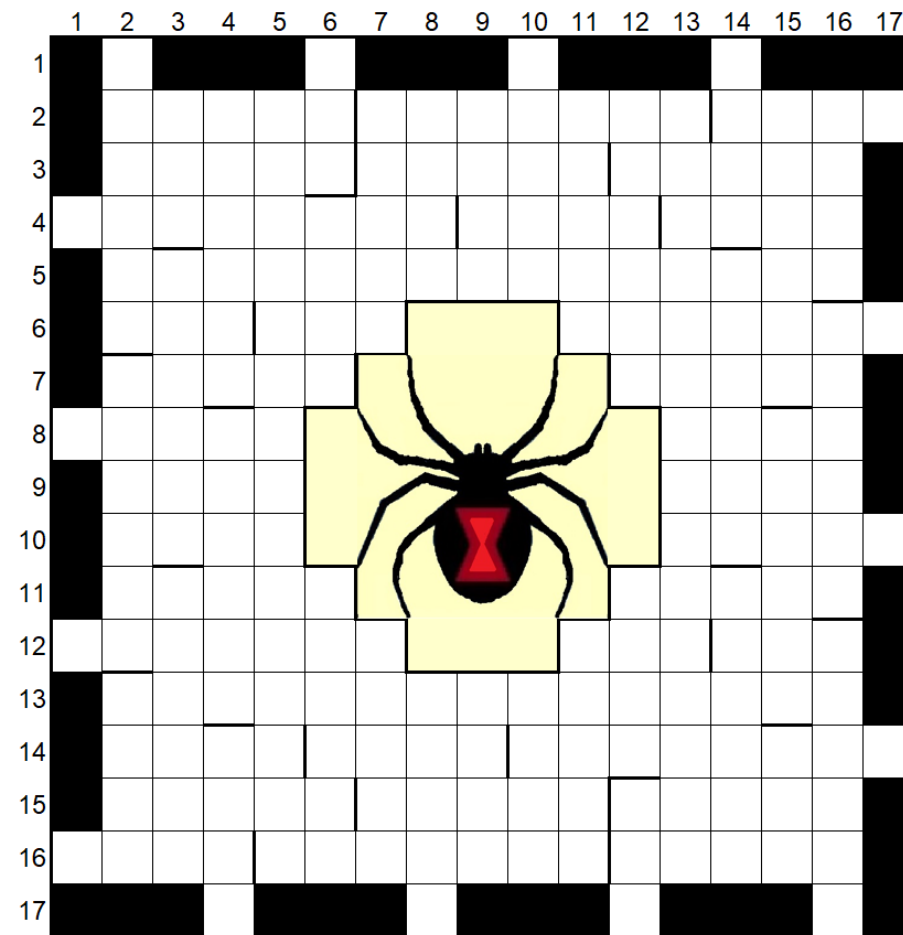
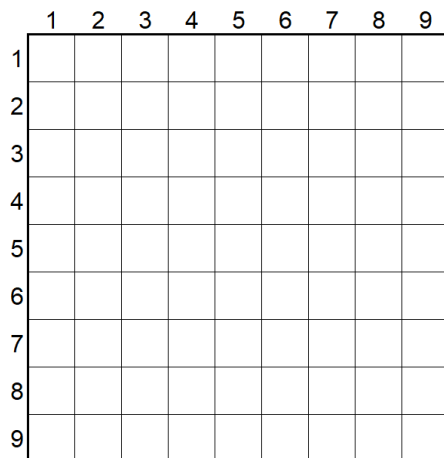
FRA⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿u

Your Frau can't save you STURM UND
DRANG.
At best she'll keep you feeling young.
=R, Cambridge MA

EXTRAS

Apr E-8. SOMETHING DIFFERENT
SQUARE

- 1 Beijing mother's nurse
- 2 That slow-witted digital assistant of mine
- 3 The Fall of Man
- 4 That exhausted feeling you get after overindulging at a Sunday brunch
- 5 A Southern plantation in Pennsylvania Dutch country
- 6 Dogs can perform an MRI the same ____.
- 7 Avoid getting sick
- 8 "We're out of here, Norton. This opera is boring."
"Can't we hear just one more ____?"
- 9 20th-century statesman's silent letter
=LEXMAN, Davenport IA



Aug E-10. SOMETHING DIFFERENT SQUARE

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------|---|
| 1 Experience at Camp Pendleton | |
| 2 Typical 24 hours | |
| 3 Poem praising retribution | |
| 4 "Did some major work on my house." | |
| 5 Divided into a billion tiny sequences | |
| 6 Protection at the henhouse | 1 |
| 7 Iacocca-like hominid of the Pleistocene era | 2 |
| 8 A golden calf buries something | 3 |
| 9 Dissipate, with regard to desire | 4 |
| 10 Gave notice to renter | 5 |
| =BARTOK, La Habra CA | |

[illegible]

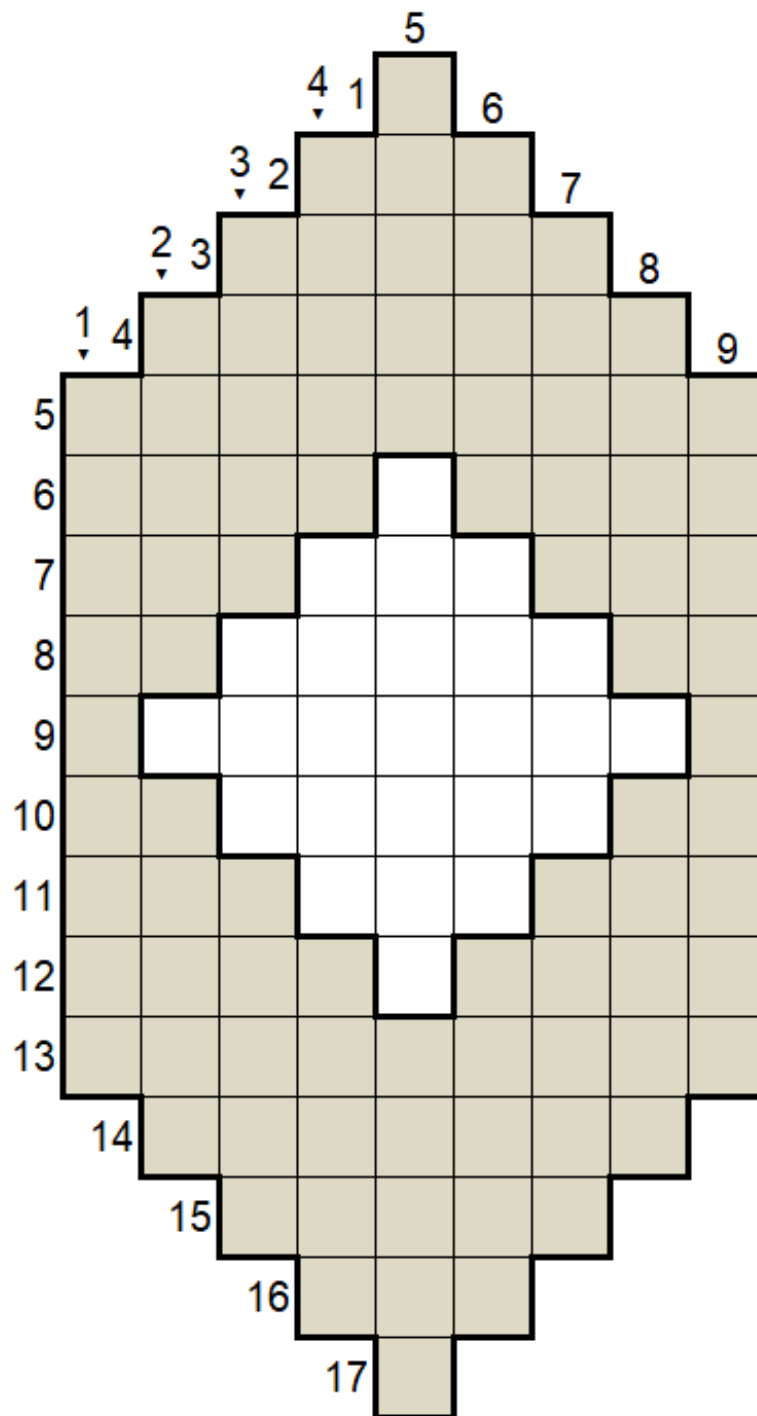
Dec E-5. ALTERNATING ANAQUOTE

(3-2 2 4 *6 *5 6 8 4 5 5, 7 2 8 3 4 2 2 1 4 4 3. *5 *6)

Amazon: currently unavailable.

DER	EFA	ITH	KIN	NAD	NFI	SCI	SFR
TER	TER	VIL	WHE	WIL	YIS	YND	
ACAR	ATEW	FIIS	GHTS	GSHE	LAIN	LGOO	NTAS
NWON	OMOU	SPAC	THIN	WOMA	YOUL		

=FEMUR, New York NY



Sep F-2. CHEVRON HEXAGON WITH AN EMBEDDED DIAMOND †

CHEVRON HEXAGON

Across:

- 1 Copyright
- 2 Spending limit
- 3 Yoda he created
- 4 Nothing to sneeze at
- 5 With 13 Across, the cold sweet treat honored annually on September 12
- 6 River from Florence to Pisa | Muscatite's home
- 7 Abbrev. after lo or hi | Participate in a photo shoot
- 8 Rcpt notation | Quaint interjection
- 9 Inapt compass point | Element 92
- 10 From the sign, in music | Long ball
- 11 Hirsute cousin of TV (IMDb) | Doomed, as legislation
- 12 Son of Aphrodite | Warble
- 13 See 5 Across
- 14 Four are needed for bridge
- 15 Veer off course
- 16 Fr. or Sp. but not Am.
- 17 D- or better, usually

Down:

- 1 "Take this opportunity!"
- 2 Get rid of paper | Get rid of paint
- 3 Prominent people in a field | Traveling costs
- 4 Historic Andean capital | Glide (by)
- 5 With 5 Down b, addition to a 5 Across/13 Across to dial back the sweetness | See 5 Down a
- 6 Epistle writer in Caracas | Cut with something sharp
- 7 Gives zero stars on Yelp | Anaïs Nin output
- 8 Online sales | Interstate soundtrack
- 9 It may include personal security guards

EMBEDDED DIAMOND

- 1 With 7, operator of the largest hospital network in the US by staff
 - 2 Reservoir need
 - 3 Eatery often known for serving a Chevron Hexagon 5 Across/13 Across
 - 4 Flavor of the gooey mass often at the center of a Chevron Hexagon 5 Across/13 Across to dial back sweetness
 - 5 Entrée choices at a 3, or what a Chevron Hexagon 5 Across/13 Across does over time
 - 6 Restless leg syndrome
 - 7 See 1
- =FEMUR, New City NY

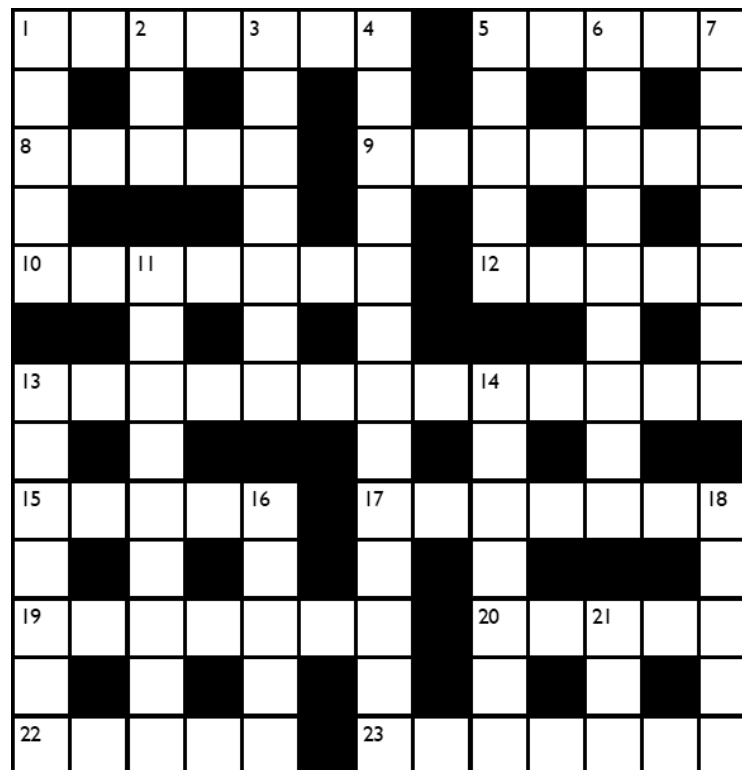
Apr X-1. CONSTRAINT – BY DONIMO, CHICAGO IL

Across

- 1 Most small Michigan zoo occupants without skin (7)
- 5 Apollo's first word of insight about disc (5)
- 8 Monstrous Lugosi, dripping blood fruits (5)
- 9 Chart most of ring by mass (7)
- 10 A lady's lady can (7)
- 12 A boy follows third of Hamilton and Burr on TV (5)
- 13 [This crossword is 13A] (*lights without crossings form* I AM RIO) (13)
- 15 Broadcast of guffaws in chat flops (5)
- 17 Loudly call for criminal (7)
- 19 Indian/Pakistani gag hit India (7)
- 20 Untidy art in study (5)
- 22 Artful study is untidy (5)
- 23 Looking back again, god falls (7)

Down

- 1 A bit of machismo undid bank (5)
- 2 Nix vanilla filling (3)
- 3 Fanciful, gnomish dancing (7)
- 4 [A famous 13A work] (*lights without crossings form* PORTIA) (2,11)
- 5 Panic room aft of a British washroom, mostly (5)
- 6 Patricia's corrupt and bloodsucking (9)
- 7 A balmy calm, an annual manual (7)
- 11 Chow down on such things as sprouts in subs (9)
- 13 Wag lap idly and frogs may sit on it (4,3)
- 14 I did land amidst missing-in-action warriors (7)
- 16 About to slink in, crafty as a lizard (5)
- 18 Harding's award: top rating (5)
- 21 Plug a group that orthodontists join (3, abbr.)



Apr X-2. OMISSIONS – BY ???, SAN FRANCISCO CA

All Downs contain an omission that you must add back in prior to solving. Joining up, all omissions will inform you of an additional omission, at which point you should fill all vacant gray partitions with that omission. Rows including said partitions will show (A) this cryptic's inspiration, (B) this cryptic's attribution, and (C) what A's work calls for a lot of (as A might say it).

In addition, two Across solutions contain an omission, which you must also add back in prior to putting both in your grid, giving two individuals in a writing group (along with A) championing constraints. Column D will contain this writing group along with a word outlining a broad constraint for all writing. Column X will highlight a final fact about Column D, illuminating a narrow constraint for which A is known, and of which this cryptic is an illustration.

1	2	D		3	4	5			X	6	
7				8			9	10			11
12								13			
14			15			16					
17			18			19					
A											
B				20	21			22			23
24 C							25				
	26		27			28			29	30	
31					32	33					
34	35				36						
37				38				39			
40							41				

Sep F-1.

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

Apr F-4. VARIOGRAM RECTANGLE

Across:

- 1 Spice rack label word
- 2 Small, mischievous, and charming
- 3 Descriptor for bear, mammoth or spider monkey

Down:

- 1 Basilica bench
 - 2 "This is the only Down entry with single letters" follow-up
 - 3 The cell of an Irish monk, seen at the start of some Irish place names
 - 4 One or another taken at random
- =JO THE LOITERER, Basking Ridge NJ

Sep F-1. EVERLASTING GOBSTOPPER †

Across:

- 1 Nestlé brand popular with moviegoers (Wikipedia)
- 2 *Charlie and the ____ Factory*
- 3 “Magic” fungus | All-star squad (Amer. Her. Dict.)
- 4 Twixt partner | Palindromic warbler | Hardly a fan
- 5 Backed (away from) | Urge to attack | Myopic Mr. (IMDb)
- 6 Mr., to Augustus Gloop | Got taken in by | > part?
- 7 Parliament member? | JFK-to-TLV option (Wikipedia) | Car shopping mecca
- 8 Nestlé division from 1993 to 2015 (Wikipedia)
- 9 Garter or boa container, perhaps (not MW) | Pumps for info | Swear words? (not MW)
- 10 Roomy places to retire? | Eases up | Kvetch
- 11 Muffler sites | Sidestep | Split for church?
- 12 French champagne city | Grille cover | Laptop application, perhaps
- 13 Loompaland, e.g. | Match points?
- 14 Everlasting Gobstopper-seeking antagonist (Wikipedia)
- 15 Offerings in the Oompa-Loompas’ ditties

Down:

- 1 Escorts through the factory front door, say
 - 2 Charlie, at factory tour’s end (not MW)
 - 3 Frosting effect | Cavalry soldier
 - 4 “____ Up, Charlie”: song from the thematic 1971 film | Majestic grazer | Heavens above
 - 5 Bit | Circular | “The lucky person was a ____ girl called Veruca Salt...”
 - 6 One preceder | Hijiki, e.g. | Skid
 - 7 Thorny red-flowering desert shrub | Lump of goo | Sporty Brit. cars (Wikipedia)
 - 8 Like Gene Wilder | Jessica of *Tootsie* | Most tic-tac-toe outcomes
 - 9 ____ king | Blocks of Asian markets | Pocket Books logo
 - 10 Way to go | Flaw for a recipe (not MW) | Laura of *Jurassic Park*
 - 11 Hot pot production | Is totally awesome | Mobile homes?
 - 12 Bug to no end | Mrs. Bucket and Mrs. Teavee, for two | Book following Jonah
 - 13 Prince Harry’s bride (Wikipedia) | Itty bits
 - 14 Charlie Bucket’s creator born September 13, 1916
 - 15 Everlasting Gobstopper sufficiency, per child (not MW)
- =al dente, San Jose CA

Across

- 1 Girls kidnapping boy without clothing in British prisons
- 4 Firstborn son of Gallic king is lawman north of Michigan and mid-China
- 7 Punch lazy individual
- 8 Skull Island inhabitant from Atari’s first *Product Park* is \$1000
- 10 Fix clothing in promo about doc’s assistant
- 12 Kid in old comic strip is 56 in May
- 13 Grills butts without lid
- 14 Ring doctor in birth
- 16 Country with no right approach
- 17 Urchin starts to inhibit my play
- 18 In Bolivia, a uniform (half navy)
- 19 Don, still napping, turns (2 wds.)
- 26 A chunk of flak, a bulwark in Afghani city
- 28 Dung photo, oddly
- 29 Bloodsucking arachnid with no mouth—that’s gross
- 31 Month in, follows group including Kamala Harris’s mom
- 33 Bullock with quartz grains bounds off in Iran
- 34 Military colors rotating part (ring)
- 36 Rubbish drain flows back to church orator
- 37 Hot boating tool’s icy coating
- 38 Last curious sailor
- 39 Small part of foot in church
- 40 Construction using primary parts of chum in morning
- 41 Magical symbol within Pirsig illustration

Down

- 2 Shock troops mostly following Scot’s First Lady
- 3 Oat granola initially has author going downhill in January?
- 4 Disc royalty (informally) in party with rock musician Wilson Flip
- 5 Scratching top part of ass shortly
- 6 Sapling of fir kills bug
- 9 Avid focus of adults in factions
- 11 Boy, bad start in Gotham, North Carolina
- 12 Add a joint inscription (“missing son”) on tony protrusion?
- 13 Rat tips craft
- 15 In Scotland, snarl thru piano is grand [N13]
- 19 Abnormal rain activity starts to pound Solomon Islands
- 20 Hikaru of sci-fi company turns to Val Window
- 21 Org. that pays sport with icing, and no half, oddly (*abbr.*)
- 22 I trick PC to click?
- 23 Mall filling (also known as crown) from rioting infantryman in Morocco [N13]
- 24 You in Munich or in Paris abandoning pal from Holland
- 25 Insults (kiddingly) hop-drying kiln during last par in majors
- 27 H.S. class football star Jackson towing yours truly
- 28 Al cutting noon-to-midnight hymn
- 30 Loudly show off man’s spring plants
- 32 Fix spur right in mist
- 35 Dustin, finish off rising NY politician (*abbr.*)

Apr F-4.

	1	2	3	4
1				
2				
3				

May X-1. HEAD, SHOULDERS, KNEES, AND TOES BY HASSETT, WAYNE PA

Each of the 24 Down answers must be modified before entry into the grid according to the title song. Modifications are divided evenly among the following:

- **Head:** The first letter is changed.
- **Shoulders:** The second letter is changed.
- **Knees:** The second-to-last letter is changed.
- **Toes:** The last letter is changed.
- **Eyes:** Two I's are added.
- **Ears:** The entry is a homophone of the answer.
- **Mouth:** Read as "M out H": an M is dropped, and an H is added to the end.
- **Nose:** Read as "No SE": the bigram SE is deleted.

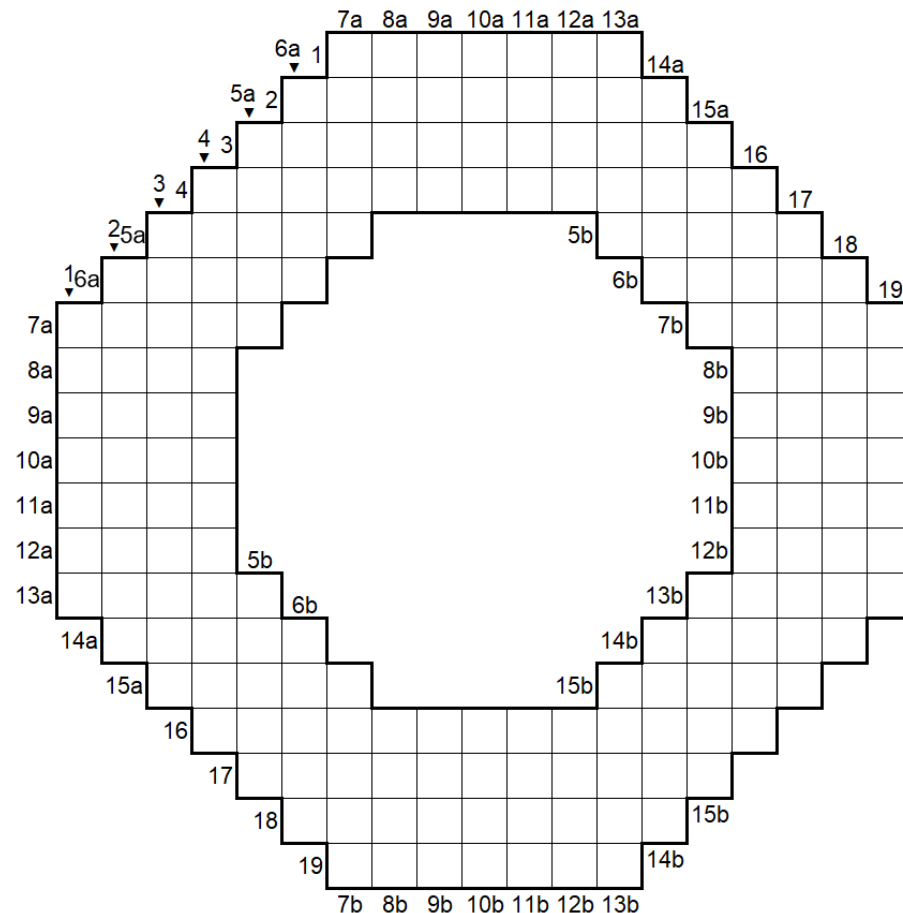
Modified entries are all 11C and include one proper noun. Tagging refers to pre-modification answers.

Across

- 1 A detective is wrapped in cloak from head to toe (7, *hyph.*)
- 7 Bette found in Swiss resort following knee replacement? (5)
- 11 Are collars, a couple undershirts, and Ian's cap "costumery"? (6)
- 12 Sorceress nabs model's toe ring (6)
- 13 Sell in small quantities: a liter, perhaps (6)
- 15 Henry breaks into a samba at sea somewhere off of Florida (7)
- 16 Dispense with one-fifty tons (4, 2 *wds.*)
- 17 Member of the fam is taken aback by book (3)
- 19 As I get dotty, I discriminate against seniors (6)
- 20 Like skin left anesthetized (6)
- 21 Create bridge crossing two valleys (5)
- 23 Guides lectured for English city (5)
- 25 Poe's timeless bird shrouded in echoes (6)
- 27 Cast spade in error, drawing heart (6)
- 28 U.K. network initially canceled after second-rate premier of *Bridgerton* (3, *abbr.*)
- 31 Notice inside of the ear (4)
- 33 Lubricant for a lock and chain from kiln with no walls (7, 2 *wds.*)
- 36 He craves a drink around mid-morning (6)
- 37 Director of *Batman's Return*, not *Hitch* (6)
- 38 State launches violent struggles (6)
- 39 Wild dog by entrance of dark cave (5)
- 40 Encourages others with problems getting by (7)

Down

- 1 Manipulate with perseverance without a crew leader
- 2 Lady wearing a black and white robe
- 3 Black houses, close to the expected amount, can be taken apart
- 4 Crowd knocked back some brandy
- 5 Buddy rented out temporary bed



FORMS

Jan F-2. DOUBLE HOLLOW OCTAGON

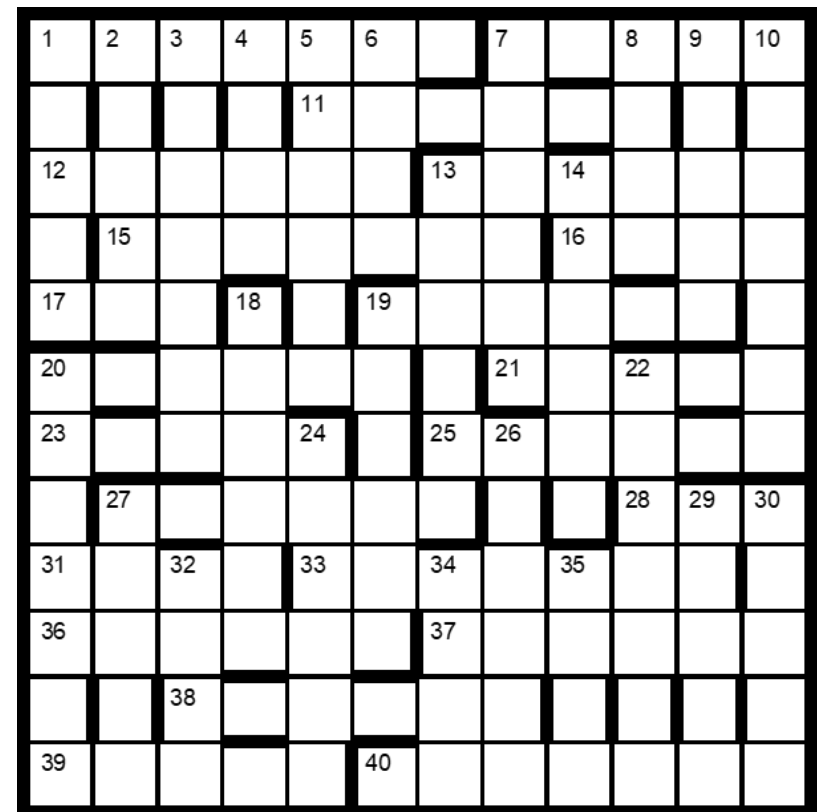
Across:

- 1 Starts afresh
- 2 Sweet finger foods?
- 3 Writing desks
- 4 Early Rolling Stones song – fitting after a tough year? (Wikipedia)
- 5 Plunge like a petrel | Diet-worthy, in ads (not MW)
- 6 *View from the UN* memoirist | Ticked off
- 7 Itty-bitty | City center of “Polymer Valley”
- 8 Bambi, when grown | Mine, in Le Mans (Cassell)
- 9 ____ mater | Sources of plywood
- 10 Grinch-ish | Seals the deal with a sig
- 11 Holmes, to Moriarty | Babushka
- 12 Openly voice | Short black jacket name
- 13 Ren Faire quaffs | Garbage collectors?
- 14 Stay in the shadows | Fish corrals
- 15 It’s part of the act | Lofty locales?
- 16 The Crystal Method song – fitting for the times ahead? (Wikipedia)
- 17 “You may go” (not MW)
- 18 Has nothing to do with
- 19 Main route?

Down:

- 1 “Just like that!” (not MW)
 - 2 Future reading material
 - 3 California setting of *Black-ish* (Wikipedia)
 - 4 Weird Al song – fitting for choosing another comfort animal? (Wikipedia)
 - 5 Poker-faced | Power-saving mode
 - 6 Muddle with drunkenness | Sound heard in passing?
 - 7 Postgame segment | Tools for duels
 - 8 *Downton Abbey* title | Not fancy a bit
 - 9 “Seasons in the Sun” songwriter (Wikipedia) | Peak of Thessaly
 - 10 Tetra- doubled | Burst of laughter
 - 11 Norwegian royal name (Wikipedia) | First name of the First Lady of Jazz
 - 12 Weight allowance | Long stretch of time
 - 13 Frozen yogurt effect | “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas” co-writer (Wikipedia)
 - 14 Man of La Mancha | Dispense with
 - 15 Bulgaria’s capital | Commence court proceedings?
 - 16 Paul Anka song – fitting for upcoming restrictions? (Wikipedia)
 - 17 Cyberdyne Systems production units
 - 18 Turning points?
 - 19 Stanza, Titan, and Kicks (Motor Trend)
- =al dente, San Jose CA

- 6 Check isotherm at regular intervals
- 7 Engine fuel fades with rise of *Center for Solar Energy*
- 8 Small vessel that’s red-blooded, but not the heart
- 9 Don’t forget end of Victorian period
- 10 Only half salute flag, being cross
- 13 Equipped earthmover top-to-bottom and bottom-to-top
- 14 Record rap battle’s finale
- 18 Colorful kitchen pest leads to apartment dweller backtracking and breaking lease (2 wds.)
- 19 Pacifist and mimic eating vegetables
- 20 A long couplet is written up for all to hear
- 22 Craft that goes round and round red snapper
- 24 Mineral with curious sheen containing phosphorus
- 26 Humming sounds produced by bats hurt my senses, initially
- 27 Label street on map incorrectly
- 29 Suggest, as an idea, baking loaf with hint of thyme
- 30 Chief of engineers is unable to divide curves of trig functions
- 32 Scrape off two layers of painting for money in Peru
- 34 Leader to step down from Asian nation? Yeah, right! (2 wds.)
- 35 Zoo in crisis! Bears beginning to uncork Greek liqueur

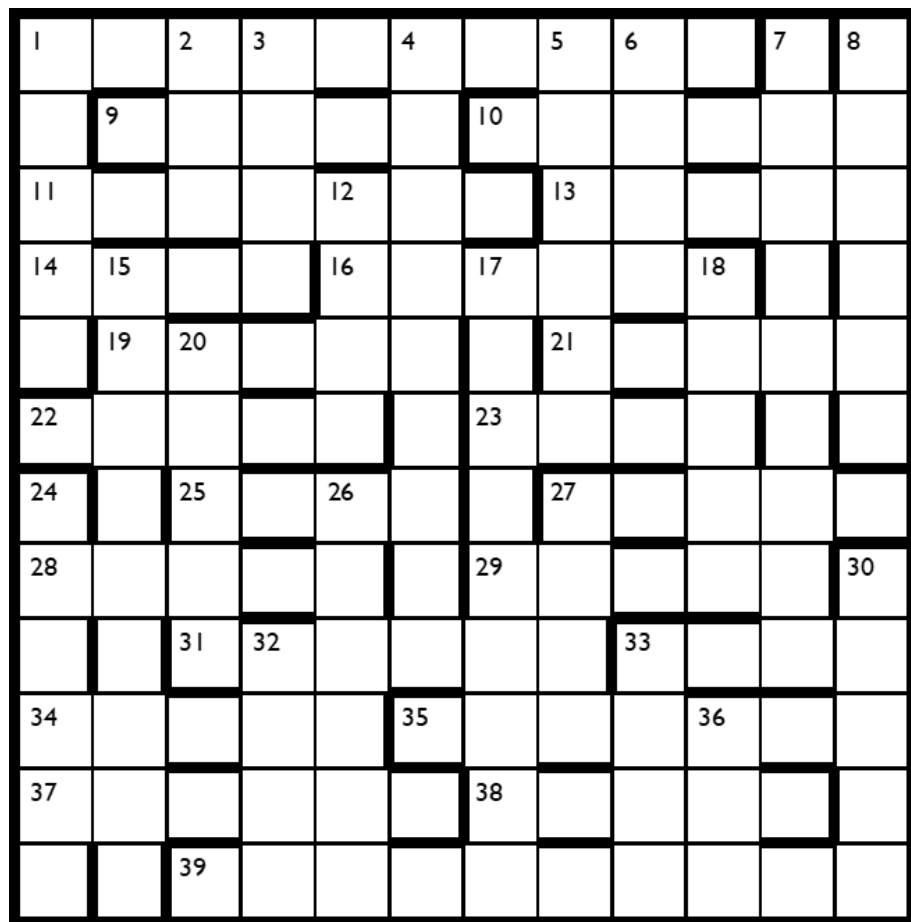


Oct X-1. NASHVILLE — BY Q*BERT, COMBITON MJ †

Welcome to Nashville. Population: 5.

1. Five clues are each having trouble with a local, so we took some license. (Entries are not MW or non-MW usage but can be confirmed online.)
2. Ten clues contain an extra word which must be removed before solving. The five longer words are oblique clues to the residents who can help spell out the local trouble. The five shorter words form a (wordplay only) cryptic clue for this puzzle's honoree.
3. In each remaining clue, the wordplay yields an extra letter. The extra across letters describe the residents; the extra down letters explain what the honoree did about the local trouble.

Solvers should submit the two messages spelled by the extra letters and the name of the honoree along with their grids.

**4 Letters**

Encourage a gamble
 Servant put meat back after end of fiesta
 Farmyard houses private employer?
 Storyteller's rant taken back
 Group of stars? Yes, right in L.A.
 Squat beside East River
 Spread cheer online at first
 Smelly bit of trash removed from garbage

5 Letters

Tense situation when a Zeus lover is removed from museum scene
 Greens rule north and south
 Destroyed ageless granite with zero explosive
 Like some romance novels, say, full of pages
 Keep rocks from mine after shaft is emptied
 Take it back by the tenth

6 Letters

Pattern in lethargy lessened
 Nahuatl speakers include chief of Zenu in mixed caste
 Bastard, exit cart
 Metal pistol model contains two bits of Bakelite
 Send away low grade English sweet wine
 Parcel beside New Zealand musician Micky
 Wiggly Nessie actually existing (2 wds.)
 Cut out core of common tree
 Ex-employee who's back again rejected that woman with fury
 Limit concerning author Anaïs (2 wds.)
 Minions settle at first in Asian country (*hyph.*)

7 Letters

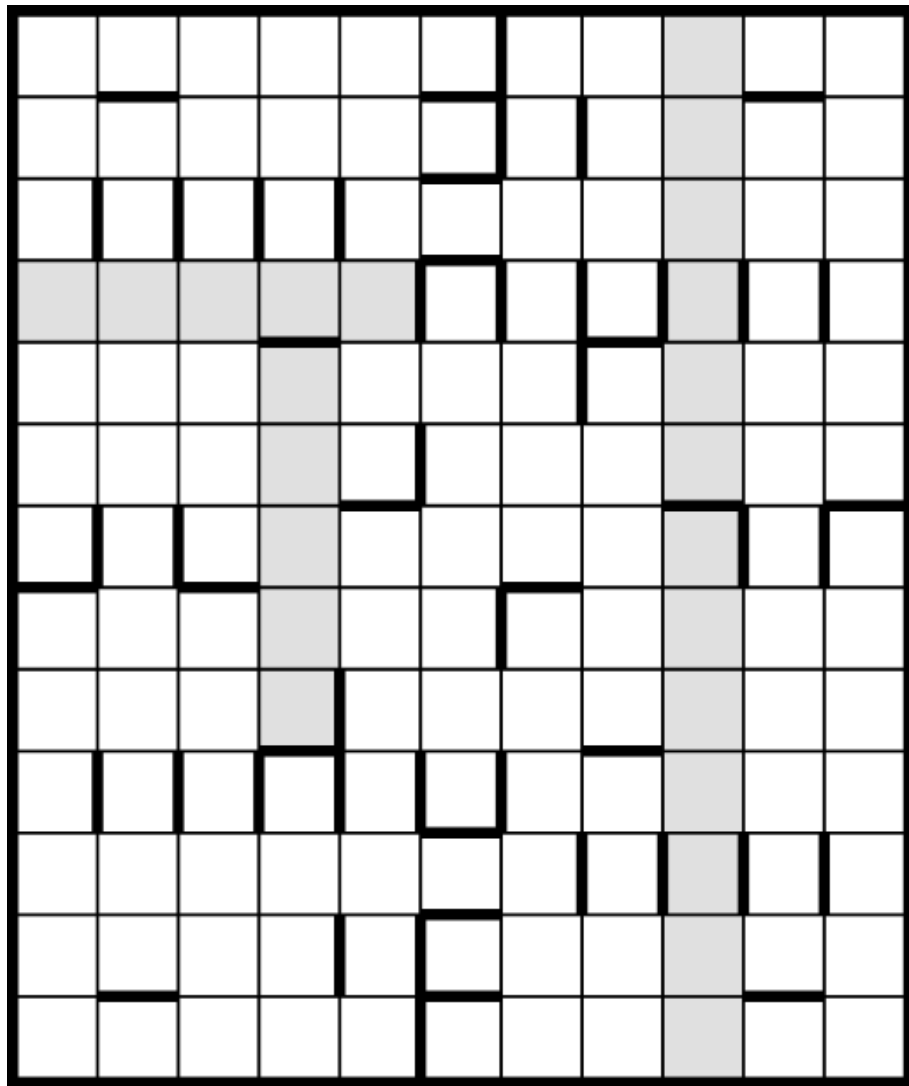
Fragment to put into ground maize
 Hair cutters prohibit Chicago sports team getting center cut
 To a high degree, Tom Hanks movie before director Burton error (*hyph.*)
 Old-timers talk idly about wheelchair access
 Kennel employee finally petting lodger
 Friend, admirer, and I turned upset (3 wds.)
 He's following planet ecosystems
 Actress Mia in audition for Cleopatra, for example
 Word whiz is detained in Maine
 Dog biting tails of beagle and corgi (*hyph.*)

11 Letters

Possibility of regular tango class starting late
 Previous generation acquires retrograde armor assemblies

Dec X-1. SMALL BUT MIGHTY – BY 3P, TORONTO ON †

Unclued friends are hiding in the shaded areas, and the unclued Across entry in the middle of the diagram identifies those hidden friends. Other entries are grouped by answer length, with each group ordered alphabetically by answer.

**Across**

- 1 Nonsensical prose edited to include note about policeman (10)
- 9 More consistent regret fills loveless Thor (5)
- 10 Bull of renown put duct next to enclosure (6)
- 11 Bust captures the heart of randy game warden (7)
- 13 Belief consumed online community (5)
- 14 Electronic agent backs giving award (4)
- 16 American icon investing silver in EU ally's interior (6)
- 19 Do relieve oneself again? (5)
- 21 Exclusively a Noël Coward production (5)
- 22 Weave shirt following striped pattern (5)
- 23 "Woe is me", according to Jonathan Swift intro (4)
- 25 Rant about insurance fraud (4)
- 27 Finish timeless treatise on timeless, classic wrap (5)
- 28 President flip-flopped on ridesharing service (5)
- 29 Gaelic melody is high (5)
- 31 Quibi sensationally describing some hieroglyphic symbols (6)
- 33 Entirely without normal brand of toilet (4)
- 34 Explosive norm, it! (5)
- 35 Recalled chat involved in benefits for Con (7, 2 wds.)
- 37 Help rich snob to lose \$100 (6)
- 38 Attempts Ionesco characters in *tristesse* (5)
- 39 Christmas flower pot: is it sane? Insane? (10)

Down

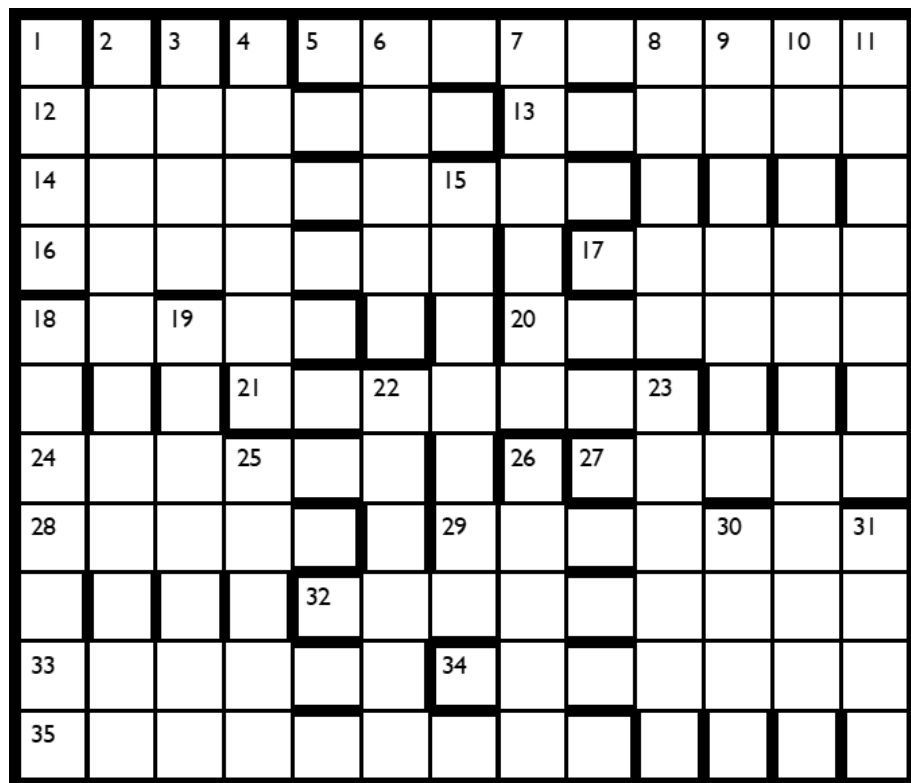
- 1 Pressure on enemy to read the Lord's Prayer (5)
- 2 Rubber eraser covers up blunder (3)
- 3 Weak official returns to New York (4)
- 4 *Where the Wild Things Are* curse spread around central casting (9)
- 5 Practice with rope, earning unsatisfactory grade with bull's tail (6)
- 6 Insignia for one skinny lady (4)
- 7 Put weight on bad knee many an evening (9)
- 8 Part of a perennial retort (6)
- 12 Minion unloading five Teslas in British county (4)
- 15 Greedy cable station not quite accepting extension to one's home, at first (9)
- 17 Lions and tigers' savage inclinations (9)
- 18 Less, to misguided cashiers (5)
- 20 Frankie says "Relax, Glen" (5)
- 24 Not keyed to naval engineering (6)
- 26 Wandering North Carolina in search of revolutionary group's movements (6)
- 27 Buried in remorse, order around (4, 2 wds.)
- 30 More serious cry to God (5)
- 32 It's too cold on moon for life (4)
- 33 Bug is something added to a martini (4)
- 36 Extremely dark action for a ballerina (3)

Nov X-1. LAST BUT NOT LEAST – BY MR E, PORTLAND OR

Eight across and fourteen down clues have single extra words (of at least four letters) which must be ignored when solving. The third letters of these extra words in Across clues spell a category. Third letters of extra words in Down clues spell two of the five largest items in a subcategory which is the theme.

Answers to four across clues without extra words must be entered jumbled (not forming valid words). Change two unchecked letters to reveal two more of the largest five; this resolves any ambiguities in the entries. Finally, a third unchecked letter elsewhere can be changed to reveal the largest. Shade in these three items to show the key element of the theme.

Solvers should include all five items with their solution.



Across

- 5 Possibly mad artist who writes plays? (9)
- 12 Lawyers go after them in order to block trade (7)
- 13 Student having no right to be less productive (6)
- 14 No route to pass around lake in Canada, maybe (9)
- 16 A colt is running; tout's showing no interest (7)
- 17 Hospitality business involves some functions (5)
- 18 Husband and another relative appear as ghosts (5)
- 20 Tacked hot paintings around room (6)
- 21 One decoding incorrectly—M for R would make it slightly better (7)
- 24 Player needing a rest after late game (6)
- 27 The fourth argument for drinks in a box? (5)
- 28 Perhaps a sound in the French present tense (5)
- 29 Assistant struggles, botching lab test (7)
- 32 Order a nipper to choose again (9)
- 33 State to seek information about the Spanish author (6)
- 34 Run of unusual success, then low backing for small restaurant (7)
- 35 Maybe purify amount—about liter, roughly (9)

Down

- 1 Is answer grotesque? (4)
- 2 Leading performer, one paid outrageously to sing at graduations (11)
- 3 River shown in some dozen brochures (4)
- 4 Adding — carrying four (6)
- 6 Wandering early Australian race (5)
- 7 Reference publication confused Swarthmore alumna (6)
- 8 Racerunner? Losing horse, the one I had (5)
- 9 Complaint: lines with first and last letter repeated mistakenly (7)
- 10 Must read about occurrence on the shortened next-to-last hole, say (11)
- 11 Players believed team's leader deteriorated with time (7)
- 15 In a little cake, I sense sesame, he said (7; 2 wds.)
- 18 Retired man with good accounts making journeys to get away (7)
- 19 Luke, Ian playing for different teams (7)
- 22 Display article found in wild party (6)
- 23 Sprout ran around too much (6)
- 25 He wrote operas about Henry, Shakespeare's murderous king (5)
- 26 Rising paupers destroy almost every part of capital city (5; 2 wds.)
- 30 Visitor to Emerald City heard wizard bein' untruthful? (4)
- 31 Root for team coming up (4)