



# THE ENIGMA

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June 2024 • The National PUZZLERS' League • Est. 1883 • Special Edition

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## GOLDEN SPHINX BITS

### From the Golden Sphinx Committee

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

It's time once again for this year's supplemental issue with all of last year's Golden Sphinx nominees. If you didn't solve them the first time around, now's your chance; if you did, enjoy a trip down memory lane.

*The Enigma* would be nothing without the puzzles contributed by all of you. Each month, you can help recognize the constructors by giving kudos (and one bang) to individual puzzles; we report these kudos, along with the solving statistics, a few months later. In 2015, we started a new tradition: we honor your favorite puzzles in each category at the "Golden Sphinx" awards at the Con banquet, presented by the Editor. The winners receive Golden Sphinx pins (see page 17 for the graphic) to commemorate the occasion.

Our starting point in most categories is to collect the puzzles that received the most kudos and bangs. (In 2023, we only published six cryptics, so all six are reprinted here.) Now, it's your turn: look over the nominees and vote for your favorites. This year, we'll be using ranked-choice voting; see the instructions below for more details. The winners will be announced first at Con, and then in *The Enigma*.

First and foremost, we'd like to thank all those who contributed puzzles in 2023: these submissions have been the heart of the NPL for over 140 years. Thank you also to yodaughter, who does the layout for this special issue; to Btnirn and the subeditors, who helped prepare these puzzles; to /dev/joe for compiling kudos counts; and to Qoz for facilitating online voting.

### From the Compositor

Puzzles types are presented in roughly 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

This year's Golden Sphinx voting will use ranked-choice voting. Instead of picking one favorite in each category, you can pick multiple favorites and rank them. If your first choice isn't sufficiently popular, your vote can be reassigned to your second-choice candidate, or your third, as appropriate. In elections with many candidates, RCV reduces the impact of many similar candidates taking votes from each other and increases the chance of a consensus choice being selected. Abstentions are possible and you do not need to vote in every category if you don't want to.

If voting online, you'll need to log in to the puzzlers.org website and go to [www.puzzlers.org/sphinxes](http://www.puzzlers.org/sphinxes).

If you don't want to vote online, please write a list of the nominee(s) you are voting for, along with the categories, 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, 2024, midnight Pacific time; for mail-in votes this means the ballot must be postmarked by then. Only members who joined prior to June 1, 2024, are eligible to vote.

## PUZZLE NOTES

Aug 7. Drawing by Newrow's granddaughter, Rae Bamberger.

Aug 21. Combinom: Mooncalf/Renfield/Bartok.

Jul 11. Combinom: Tyger/Cousin Joe.

Apr KU-2 (page 6). 530nm330Hz thanks Noam for reviewing and improving the verse.

Nov F-10. (From our game-themed November issue.) As part of their submission, solvers must include a three-part solution to a mystery that should become apparent when the forms are solved. Most of these are non-Guide forms.

Jul F-1. An octahedron is a 3D shape, like a cube, except that each layer is a diamond.

In the clues and grid, *m-n* refers to entry *n* in layer *m*.

Pages 21–25: These puzzles, published throughout 2023, all contributed to a final meta answer; they are nominated as a set, and listed on the ballot as an extra called "Dec KU-1". Furthermore:

Apr C-2. MQATAPAE = not MW.

Jun C-3. FMWGEEMOTNTDZMOEOEV = not MW.

Jul C-1. XULYTEY, \*SLNB = not MW

Oct C-2. \*SZFLHWWB = not MW.

Dec C-2. \*YZEMR \*JHXO = not MW.

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Feb X-1. Welcome, new composer Saint Vincent!

Aug X-1. This was one of the official Con cryptics.

Nov X-1. Combinom: Jangler/ZebraBoy. An unofficial handout from Mottréal.

Sep C-3. IN = non-MW usage.

Jun C-7. \*M-\*RTZOIC = not MW. Solvers must identify the cryptogram author as part of their solution.

## GOLDEN SPHINX AWARDS: 2022

**Flats.** 1st Place: January 16 by T McAy; 2nd (tie): May 21 by Spurious and October 37 by Bartok

**Forms.** 1st: November F-10 by al dente; 2nd (tie): April F-4 by Jo the Loiterer and September F-1 by al dente

**Extras.** 1st: August E-1 by Bartok; 2nd: December E-5 by Femur

**Cryptic Crosswords.** 1st: October X-1 by Q\*Bert (QED and Btnirn); 2nd: April X-2 by Negroni

**Cryptograms.** 1st: May C-4 by Qoz; 2nd: April C-7 by Scarab

**Special Commendation.** Newrow, for his many submissions, especially his invention of new puzzle types and revitalizations of older ones

## GOLDEN SPHINX NOMINEES: 2014–2022

++Juh (2017), 3P (2022), 530nm330Hz (2017), A. Chemem (2019), Ai (2014, 2015, 2017, 2018), al dente (2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022), s (2016, 2020, 2022), Andreas (2019, 2020, 2021), Around Eve (2020, 2021), Bartok (2015, 2016, 2017, 2020, 2021, 2022), Black Rabbit (2015), Btnirn (2016, 2020, 2021, 2022), Crax (2019), /dev/joe (2019, 2020, 2021, 2022), Donimo (2022), Drauk (2018, 2019, 2020), Eight Ninety (2017, 2018), ewolf (2014, 2015, 2019), Femur (2022), Firetruck (2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020), Fraz (2015, 2016, 2019, 2020, 2021), Griddle (2014, 2015, 2016), Hale (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017), Hassett (2022), Hot (2018), Jabberwock (2015, 2016, 2018, 2019), Jangler (2019), Jigsaw (2021), Jo the Loiterer (2014, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2022), LeXman (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022), Lirath (2017), Lunch Boy (2015), Marcus Asparagus (2018), McMongol (2020), Mr E (2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022), Negroni (2022), Newrow (2014, 2015, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022), Next Lingo (2014, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021), NJ Ninja (2015), Philana (2018), QED (2022), Qoz (2016, 2021, 2022), Quicksilver (2021), R/EDS (2014), raw (2014, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022), Riddle (2019, 2020), Rosebud (2016), Scarab (2014, 2015, 2016, 2020, 2021, 2022), Spurious (2022), T McAy (2022), Tahnan (2015), Te-Zir-Man (2014, 2015, 2016), Toonhead! (2017), Tortoise (2017), Trazom (2019), Ucaoimhu (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021), Vraal (2016), 𐍂 (2014, 2018, 2019, 2022), Wabbit (2014, 2015), Wheels (2015, 2016, 2018, 2020, 2021), Witz (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2020, 2021, 2022), Wolff (2015), Wrybosh (2014, 2017, 2018), yodaughter (2019, 2020), YoMama (2014)

# NOMINEES

Solution words and phrases not found at [www.merriam-webster.com](http://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 June to 30 June 2024, or mail your list to Sue++, Susan Glass, 12 Shady Ln, Framingham MA 01701. All mailed votes must be received by 30 June 2024.

## Jul 1. PROGRESSIVE BIGRAM BEHEADMENT (8)

Such pleasant hours I have spent  
Poring over crypt and flat,  
Brow TWOed over what "welded" means.  
(I still have no reply for that.)

My thanks to all who've given me  
So freely of your skill and time.  
My wonder, friends, has only ONEd  
At your clever words and rhyme.

Thanks to those who THREE the way,  
To the "word masters" I look up to,  
To those who've reached out a friendly  
hand,  
To all the Krewe—God bless you!  
=A. CHEMEM, Chesapeake VA

## Aug 18. REBUS (6 4 6 5)

He had an early bedtime, so the PHRASE  
before dessert:  
If his family wants veggies, well, it's up to  
him to grow 'em.  
He'll get up with the dawn and he'll make  
furrows in the dirt;  
It's a hard but honest living. (And with  
that, we end this poem.)  
=QAQAAQ, Woodland Hills CA  
P

## Dec 8. CONSONANTCY (9, 8)

"FIRST," I heard a T-Rex say,  
"My troubles seemed so far away.  
But since that SECOND hit the bay,  
I fear that I'm not here to stay."  
=ALF, Amherst MA

## Jul 31. FOURTH-LETTER CHANGE (9, 3 6) (SIX AFTER THREE = not MW)

I wondered as I limped around the gallery,  
If all this pain was worth it for my salary.  
I hurt in every ankle, hip, and knee.  
It's tough to be a NINE SIX AFTER  
THREE.  
=SCARAB, St. Paul MN

## Jan 30. REVERSED PHONETIC CONSONANTCY (10, \*10) (\*10 = CHER = not MW)

Clemens and Dodgson and Porter and  
Blair:  
All of these people used RUSSIA. Did  
CHER?  
"Look on my works," he supposedly  
stated;  
But I can find nothing at all he's created.  
=Mr E, Portland OR

S

**Oct 14. CONSONANTCY** (9, 3'2 2 4)  
(FROST = not MW)

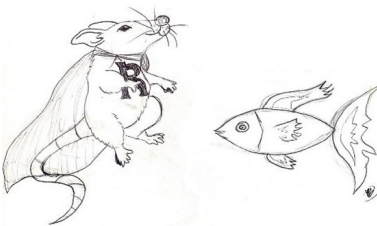
Frankenstein was getting ticked; he'd  
prepped this Zoom for days!  
His topic (how to FIRST dead bodies)  
should, he thought, amaze!  
But no one seemed impressed—they only  
stared at him, quite lost,  
Till someone solved the issue when they  
interrupted, "FROST."  
=QAQQAQ, Woodland Hills CA

**Feb 11. PHONIGMATIC REBUS** (3 9)  
(reading includes + usage)



Neither tyrants HAND  
Shall rule our cherished land!  
=NEWROW, Brookline MA

**Aug 7. ENIGMATIC REBUS †** (6 6)



He prides himself on being debonair.  
Self-image is a tricky business, though.  
He's kind of slow and clunky, to be fair.  
He's ALL, although he is the last to know.  
=NEWROW, Brookline MA

**Nov 45. TELESTICHAL ENIGMA**  
(8) (+)

**TELESTICHAL ENIGMA**  
(8) (A = \* = not MW)

- A. Actress Judi will not pardon  
Nervous branches in her garden.
- B. Give the arsonist a freebie:  
Olden strings of kefir E. B.
- C. White ate, writing Charlotte's Tuba.  
Thai bread makers learn to scuba.

This game-themed flat, per testers, stinks.  
I wrote it after several drinks.  
=AXIOM, Montreal QC

**Aug 21. HOMONYM †** (2 10 5, \*5 9 6)  
(clued in order)

The advancements in science and tools  
And our gizmos, at dizzying speeds,  
Left no interest in thinking or schools,  
Nor of learning, since nobody reads.  
Who remembered nine kings or their  
gods,  
Or the maize or the Nahuatl tongue?  
So in other words, MARES EAT OATS,  
mods  
Found their MAIRZY DOATS, wiped out  
when young.  
=MORE TALK, Sanbra CA

**Oct 33. TRANSPOSAL** (4 2 2, 3 2 3)  
(clued in order)

I've had two loves throughout my life:  
They are my coffee and my wife.  
Alas, she not does share my taste.  
She thinks that lattes are a waste,  
And, though I've tried, the gal can see no  
Reason for a cappuccino.  
It pains me how she hates espresso,  
But such is life. At least, I guess so.  
I must just HURT this awful truth:  
Coffee's simply not her RUTH.  
=SCARAB, St. Paul MN



**A.****Across**

- 1 Study or work surface
- 2 Be of use
- 3 Decked out with fronds
- 4 Kid's conveyance

**Down**

- 1 Nuts in Liverpool
- 2 Incessantly
- 3 Mumbai dress
- 4 Crimp in a hose
- 5 Soap ingredient

**B.****Across**

- 1 Library resources filed under 912 in the Dewey decimal system
- 2 Sea east of Sicily
- 3 California city named for ash trees
- 4 Christmas poem opener

**Down**

- 1 Uncertainty
- 2 *The McLaughlin Group* participant Zuckerman
- 3 Once more
- 4 Galileo's hometown
- 5 Typeface free from serifs
- 6 Refusal

**C.****Across**

- 1 Billiard room accessory
- 2 Rodeo gear
- 3 What you're reading
- 4 Disparages, slangily

**Down**

- 1 Extorted from
- 2 Wearer of A, 3 Down
- 3 It's pupil-centered
- 4 Sarcastic barbs
- 5 Down with the plan
- 6 Terminal predictions

**D.****Across**

- 1 Conservatory notation
- 2 Bringer of bad luck
- 3 East Alabama college town
- 4 Syrup used to treat poisonings
- 5 Overnight flight

**Down**

- 1 Narrow margin
- 2 Sporty car type
- 3 Like oak leaves
- 4 Reason out
- 5 Attempt something outside the comfort zone
- 6 In days gone by

**E.****Across**

- 1 Hall of Fame surfer Kelly Slater often did this to the wave (Urban Dictionary)
- 2 Occasionally phonimatic puzzles
- 3 Kraft chicken breeding brand (myfoodandfamily.com)
- 4 NBC bird
- 5 Blighted deciduous North American shade-giver (MW-inferable)

**Down**

- 1 1948 Stewart/Granger/Dall film
- 2 Frolic
- 3 Letter-shaped girder
- 4 Element in Whitehead's philosophy of nature analogous to a geometric point
- 5 Phrase found in 24 of the 25 Kinsey Millhone mystery titles (not MW)
- 6 Third of the canonical hours
- 7 Per NI3, a roundel barry-wavy of six argent and azure; per the Urban Dictionary, what a modern Lucy might have said while pulling the football away

*Clues continue on the next page.*

Nov F-10 (continued)

**F.**

**Across**

- 1 What you're reading
- 2 Criminal group
- 3 Proficient
- 4 Some drones
- 5 Teacher's handful
- 6 Word beside a harp on some euros
- 7 South African coin

**Down**

- 1 Seeker of decapod crustaceans
- 2 Sierra Leone neighbor
- 3 Discard the habit of
- 4 Discharged

**G.**

**Across**

- 1 Ballroom dance having a Texas variant
- 2 It expands for inhalation
- 3 As the representative for an entire state, say
- 4 Turntable feature
- 5 Nervous giggles
- 6 Egg containers

**Down**

- 1 Pamphlet
- 2 Enclosed by
- 3 Pumpkin-shaped
- 4 Provides an inadequate supply of
- 5 Minneapolis-based retailer
- 6 Dave who wrote *A Hologram for the King*
- 7 Jurors, one hopes

**H.**

**Across**

- 1 Lounge music giant Bacharach
- 2 Type of trail
- 3 Some dental work
- 4 Sudden attacks
- 5 Not up to the job
- 6 Fills to repletion

**Down**

- 1 Type of malware
- 2 Smoothie flavor
- 3 Fill with joy
- 4 Backstage handyman on tour
- 5 Secret rendezvous

**I.**

**Across**

- 1 Dining room employee
- 2 Create a cryptogram
- 3 Lacking pizzazz
- 4 Annul a judgment
- 5 Over the moon
- 6 Eponymous English ceramic ware

**Down**

- 1 Change lanes dangerously
- 2 Historic records
- 3 Vatnajökull is the second largest one in Europe
- 4 Gazpacho ingredient
- 5 Prepared for publication
- 6 Act like my hairline

**J.**

**Across**

- 1 Kitchen appliance
- 2 Knocks silly
- 3 Sometime pimiento harborer
- 4 Come back for more
- 5 Austere

**Down**

- 1 They mingle in locker rooms
  - 2 Hotel gofer
  - 3 Kindle material
  - 4 "A thousand times no!"
  - 5 Darned
- =FEMUR, New York NY



**Dec F-7. SQUARE**

- 1 Fine china, for example
  - 2 Laced together
  - 3 Using four-letter words
  - 4 Imaginary friend (Wiktionary)
  - 5 Genre of such bands as Archgoat and In Battle (Wikipedia)
  - 6 Municipality in Bergamo province in Italy (Wikipedia)
  - 7 Hertz vehicle
  - 8 Intentionally dark, shocking poster on an Internet forum
- =QAAQ, Woodland Hills CA

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								

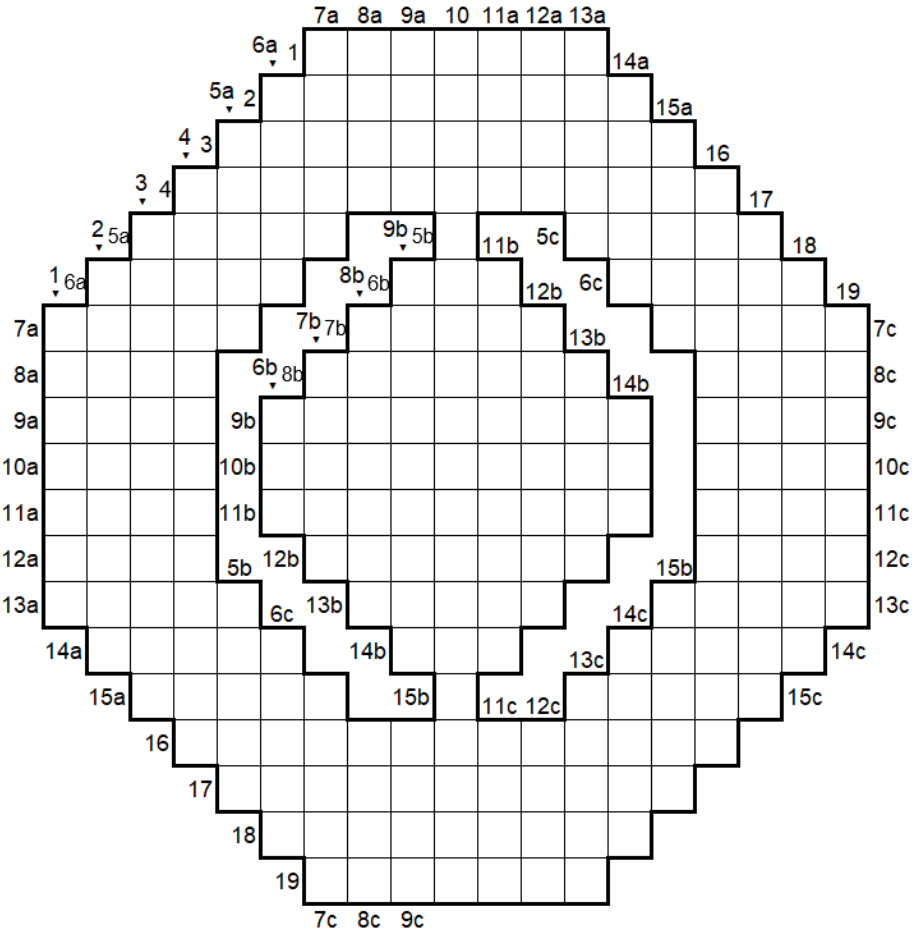
## Jan F-1. DOUBLE OCTAGON VARIANT SUSPENDED WITHIN A DOUBLE HOLLOW OCTAGON

### Across

- 1 Nick and Nora Charles whodunit, with *The* (Wikipedia)
- 2 "Hustle up!"
- 3 Emergency standard auto parts (Collins Dict)
- 4 Jazz standard covered by Bing Crosby (allmusic.com)
- 5 Footprint | 2.71828... | All tuckered out
- 6 Hothouse mixes | Pitch out on the street | Egyptian Nobelist
- 7 Jule of Broadway (Wikipedia) | Shows pluck | Kremlin coin: var.
- 8 Ear flap? | Square dance? | Witty Lebowitz (Wikipedia)
- 9 Beyoncé, to the Beyhive | Morrison and Dylan, e.g. | Weighty reference
- 10 Luxor Bridge waterway | Commune NW of Amiens | Attila's band
- 11 Spa service, for short | Mineral written as PbMoO<sub>4</sub> | Hellenic letters
- 12 Centre Court edge (Collins Dict) | Deli faves | Not one to talk?
- 13 Ronstadt album of 2014 | Drum kit part | Largish combo
- 14 Jimmies | Puts on MLB injured reserve | Support staffs?
- 15 Great Lakes fish | 50 | Private places
- 16 Jewelry piece donated to the Smithsonian by Janet Hooker (Wikipedia)
- 17 Movements influenced by the Coriolis effect (not MW)
- 18 Zeroes in on
- 19 Great Plains lodgings: var.

### Down

- 1 Piece of protective gear (Collins Dict)
  - 2 Hit the books for exams
  - 3 Little green men? (MW-findable)
  - 4 Madeleine L'Engle novel, with *A* (Wikipedia)
  - 5 Layered rock | Looks as if
  - 6 See-through wear? | Word following blue, blue-sky or lemon | Recharge, in a way
  - 7 What God might follow | Mogul dynasty of India founder | Freckles, e.g.
  - 8 Flinty | Monopoly roll that leads to another roll | Zit parade
  - 9 Chain hawking lingonberry jam (Fortune) | Return from a return | Rapper Fiasco
  - 10 Last minute affair? (not MW)
  - 11 Half a luau serving? | Up-front fees | Cocktail party spread
  - 12 Heady stuff | Fishing gear with multiple hooks | Cassin or Coty of France
  - 13 Budget priorities | Pummels, as with paintballs | Courier and the like
  - 14 Messy mess hall servings | "Told you so!" | Old geezers
  - 15 Move on the sly | Deal breakers?
  - 16 Common deadline for meeting sales quotas (not MW)
  - 17 Temple offerings? (MW-findable)
  - 18 Packers, Padres, Patriots, Penguins and Pirates (not MW)
  - 19 Diet from the Levant (Wikipedia)
- =al dente, San Jose CA



Jul F-1. OCTAHEDRON †

Layer 1

- 1 Same as 5-1

Layer 2

- 1 Same as 4-1
- 2 Same as 5-2
- 3 Same as 6-1

Layer 3

- 1 With 5, group 13 element
- 2 Same as 4-2
- 3 Same as 5-3
- 4 Same as 6-2
- 5 See 1

Layer 4

- 1 With 7, actinide element
- 2 Denizen of Mordor
- 3 Award won by Hammerstein
- 4 Same as 5-4
- 5 Authorized works
- 6 Jack-queen-king, say
- 7 See 1

Layer 5

- 1 With 9, group 17 element
- 2 Abstract artist Jean
- 3 Experimental
- 4 Elixir
- 5 This form's shape has eight of them
- 6 These clues, collectively (twice over)
- 7 Ethrog's partner
- 8 Nun's predecessor
- 9 See 1

Layer 6

- 1 With 7, lanthanide element
- 2 Modern engineering tool
- 3 Same as 4-5
- 4 Same as 5-6
- 5 Quirkily clueless
- 6 Nope
- 7 See 1

Layer 7

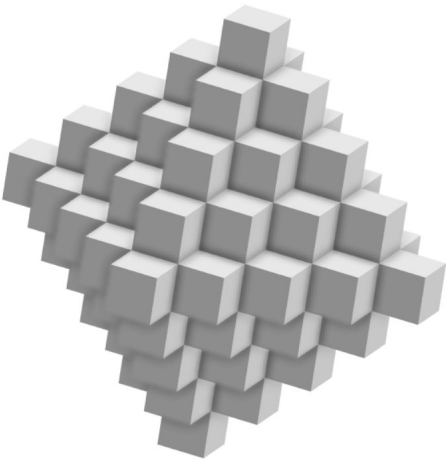
- 1 Same as 3-5
- 2 Same as 4-6
- 3 Same as 5-7
- 4 Same as 6-6
- 5 Group 13 element

Layer 8


- 1 Same as 4-7
- 2 Same as 5-8
- 3 Same as 6-7

Layer 9

- 1 Same as 5-9
- =BTNIRN, Princeton NJ



Layer 1  
5-1

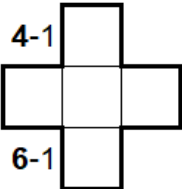


Layer 2

4-1

5-2

6-1



Layer 3

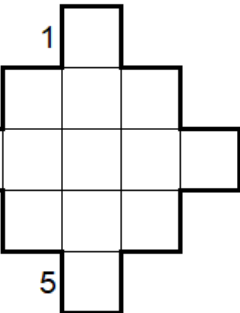
1

4-2

5-3

6-2

5



Layer 4

1

2

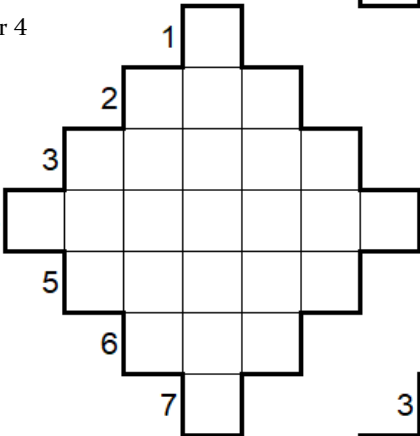
3

5-4

5

6

7



Layer 5

1

2

3

4

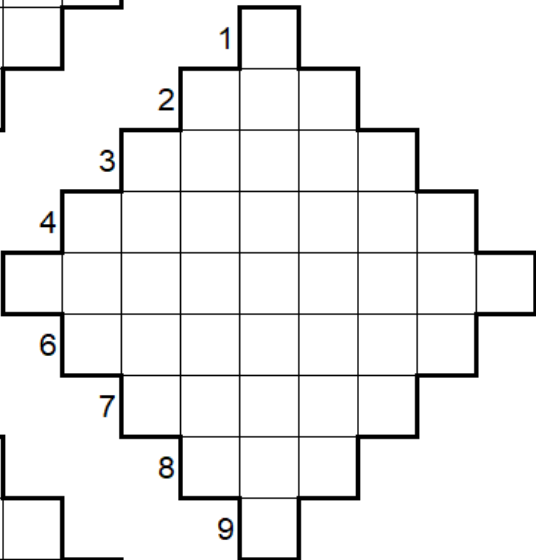
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6

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8

9



Layer 6

1

2

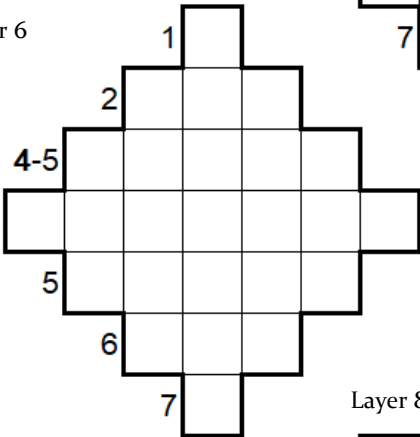
4-5

5-6

5

6

7



Layer 7

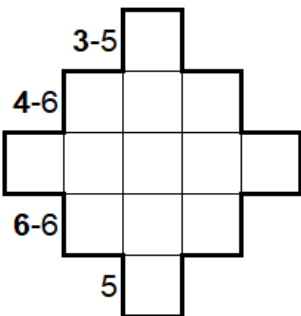
3-5

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5-7

6-6

5

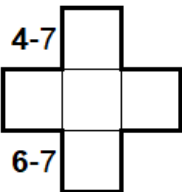


Layer 8

4-7


5-8

6-7



Layer 9

5-9

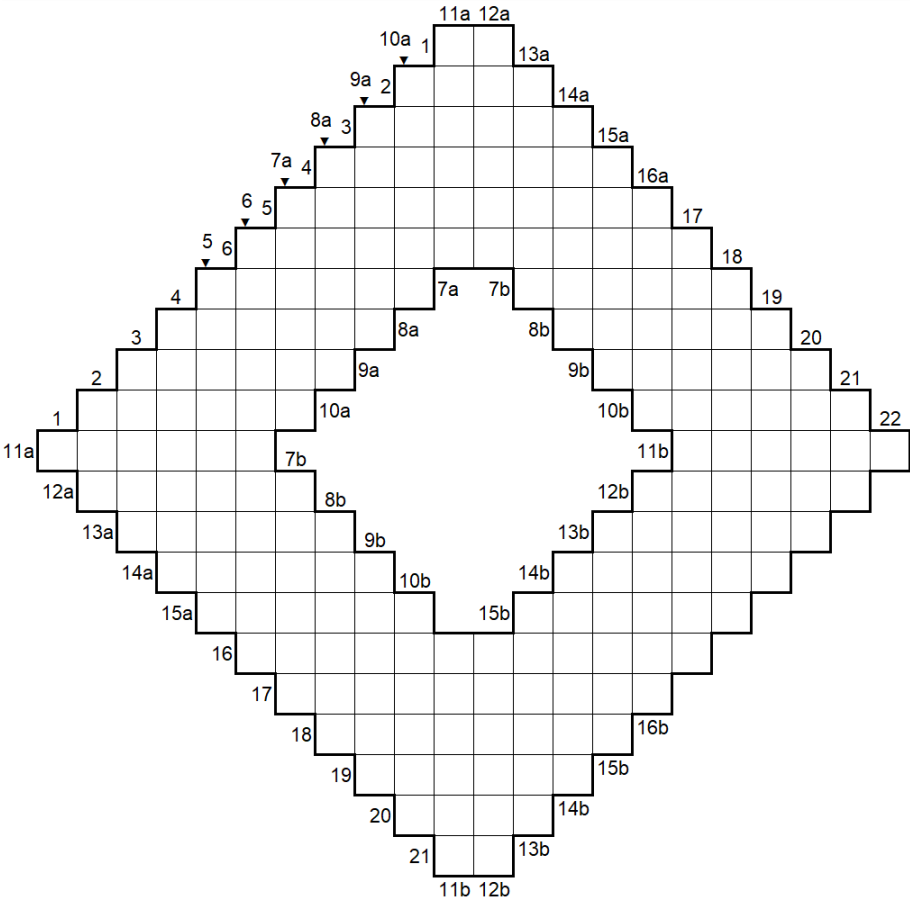


**Ju! F-2. SLIGHTLY WIDENED DOUBLE HOLLOW DIAMOND****Across**

- 1 10,000μ
- 2 Airline mentioned in "Back in the U.S.S.R." (Collins Dict)
- 3 Charlene of *Dallas* (IMDb)
- 4 Fervently opinionated
- 5 Break from the normal routine
- 6 Ford explorer? (IMDb)
- 7 \_\_\_\_ Mater | Los \_\_\_\_ National Laboratory
- 8 Toppers with plumes | Work chair cushion (not MW)
- 9 Went flat | Penned in
- 10 Ida portrayer on *Malcolm in the Middle* (IMDb) | Hair loss victim
- 11 One of the three Graces | Keeping in mind
- 12 Like Zambia and Zimbabwe | Like one of Hathor's representations
- 13 Came all together | Seeing eye to eye?
- 14 Fasten down with a hammer (not MW) | Atwell of *Agent Carter* (IMDb)
- 15 Dashes off | Cotillion charmers
- 16 Sandwiched between 6 Across and 19 Down, the latest in a film series (IMDb)
- 17 Early computer program loading device (Wikipedia-findable)
- 18 Popular Ford
- 19 Tower of London guards
- 20 Love child?
- 21 Philo Vance creator Van Dine

**Down**

- 1 Ford model
  - 2 X, on campus
  - 3 Urban Dictionary entries, on the whole
  - 4 German bakery selection
  - 5 Traditional Islamic religious code (Wikipedia-findable)
  - 6 Former tender of Rome (Wikipedia)
  - 7 Bugaboo for 6 Across | Use a roller on, perhaps
  - 8 Father figure? | Morse A (MW-inferable)
  - 9 Financial advice author Andrew | Pocketed amount from work (not MW)
  - 10 Heavy hitter, in baseball lingo (not MW) | Canadian author and literacy advocate Fitch (Wikipedia)
  - 11 Best Actress winner for *The Favourite* | Oopsies
  - 12 "Hakuna \_\_\_\_" (Wikipedia) | Companion of Phobos
  - 13 Mexican street corn topping | Civil rights concerns
  - 14 Anarchist Sacco | Often advised way to meet problems
  - 15 Tattler, in 3 Down | Like the walls of Jericho
  - 16 Auxiliary theorems | Alma mater of Brittney Griner
  - 17 Upper register sign
  - 18 Three-hanky pictures (not MW)
  - 19 What will be
  - 20 Living the adventure
  - 21 About-face from SSW
  - 22 \$1,000
- =al dente, San Jose CA



## EXTRAS

**Feb E-1. I CONFESS; IT WAS ME.**

by Mr E, Portland OR

Clues are given in alphabetical order by answer. Enter answers to numbered clues in the first column. The answer to the unnumbered clues must be entered somewhere in the second column. The letters of each word are a subset of the entry to its left; the remaining letters can be rearranged to form a new word, which you should enter in the third column. (The theme, when discovered, will resolve the placements of some unnumbered words.) Use the numbers in the N column as an index into the words in the third column to see why I responded "It was me."

**Clues**

- Implores (4)
- 6 Peter Pan's enemy (7 4)
- 8 They lead some committees (10)
- 12 Rime writer (9)  
Editor's instruction (4)
- 11 Sleep \_\_\_\_ (11)
- 5 Unpleasant; contrary (12)  
Madonna or Beyoncé, e.g. (4)
- 9 Unduly high, as prices (10)  
Reverse is one (4)  
Behind all the rest (4)  
Stable sound (5)  
Half a round, usually (4)  
Seaweed used in sushi (4)
- 10 Slots (3-5 7)  
1 (Physical) desktop item (11)  
2 Local church member (11)
- 15 Pittsburgh athlete (7)  
3 Classified; assigned to a category (11)  
Item of rainwear (6)
- 13 Describing FDR et al (12)  
Stay (6)
- 7 Sports fan's annual purchase (6 6)  
\_\_\_\_ charmer (5)  
Superior sort (4)
- 4 Walk while asleep (12)  
Got beet juice on, maybe (7)
- 16 Living on land (11)  
Weary (5)  
Atlas or Cronus, e.g. (5)
- 14 Like office jobs (5-6)  
A deadly sin (5)



Numbered answers	Unnumbered	Remainder	N
1. _____	_____	_____	[1] ____
2. _____	_____	_____	[2] ____
3. _____	_____	_____	[2] ____
4. _____	_____	_____	[3] ____
5. _____	_____	_____	[4] ____
6. _____	_____	_____	[4] ____
7. _____	_____	_____	[4] ____
8. _____	_____	_____	[2] ____
9. _____	_____	_____	[4] ____
10. _____	_____	_____	[1] ____
11. _____	_____	_____	[2] ____
12. _____	_____	_____	[4] ____
13. _____	_____	_____	[1] ____
14. _____	_____	_____	[2] ____
15. _____	_____	_____	[2] ____
16. _____	_____	_____	[1] ____

Final answer: \_\_\_\_\_

*Submissions should include the final answer and the words in the third column in order.*





[illegible]



*In 2023, Qoz constructed a suite of puzzles, starting with monthly cryptograms. While Dec KU-1 is the nominated puzzle for the 2023 Golden Sphinx Awards, the entire suite of puzzles is included on pages 21–25. Dec KU-1 is at the bottom of page 25.*

Jan C-2. The result is beats a minute.

QOZ, Redmond WA

J A N U A R Y   \* Y M Q P D U A D C R   \* E D U X ,   L A S Y C D R D  
D G   O Q O D J   A E J S D L A R N Y A D U ,   D U W Q   R N A Z ,  
“ Y M Q   J A N U D   N A U ' Y   F D Y   U D   I S D U F  
U D Y Q R . ”

Feb C-5. Try repeating it six times fast.

QOZ, Redmond WA

“ F E B R U A R Y   F Z S   F B Y I   F E W W E V Z S  
F P C R T Z N I ”   A I   W E B Y G P X   K Z S A B K   E R   N G Z  
N E R Y B Z   N V A I N Z W   S A O O A U B P N X   I U C P Z .

Mar C-2. Typical, rather irrational whims of scientists.

QOZ, Redmond WA

\* M A R C H   F B L   W B X V   O V V I   S V F H C V S   C H   B  
S T B N U   M A B I V C ,   O R C   Y C   E C Y A A   W B E   B  
N B S Y H B K C Y X V   V A V F V I C   I B F V S   B U C V N   Y C .

Apr C-2. Thank Ralf in so many words. †

QOZ, Redmond WA

\* A P R I L   I F R W A J   L Y S L   L Y R E   R E   L Y A  
M Q A T A P A E L   O I W L Y ,   X Q S R J R W Z   P R P S M E  
I C L   I G   A O X Q I R J A Q N ,   E A T R W Z   S   Q S R E A J  
M Y S R W .

May C-3. That's rather incredible and blatant favoritism. QOZ, Redmond WA

M A Y   K W U W V C   C D U X Y V   H L I   Q B V Q U Y   A H X Y  
L W   V A P N Y C ;   D M   I W Y C   L W M   R Y Y U   R H D V  
M A H M   W V H L J Y   J Y M C   H U U   M A Y   Q B E U D K D M P .

Jun C-3. This relationship's inherent secret: strong repartee. † QOZ, Redmond WA

J U N E   \* O   S G Z X   F W   J O R N   D H N L O T N Z W   U G J  
S G   D I S   F M W G   G E   S G M T S ,   T U N   M L L I T N X  
F N   G R   F M W G E E M O T N T D Z M O E O E V .

Jul C-1. Tech reveals imaginative visions of the... † QOZ, Redmond WA

" J U L Y   S E   Z E M   X L G G   L   X U L Y T E Y   J U E  
L N E F S R   Y U B   R M T A B X Y   J U B I   Z E M   L R Q   L  
P M B R Y F E I ? "   " \* F ' O   R E C C Z ,   \* S L N B ,   \* F ' O  
L K C L F S   \* F   X L I ' Y   S E   Y U L Y . "

Aug C-3. They restated interesting sentences needing changes. QOZ, Redmond WA

\* A U G U S T   R T J Z   Q U O M Z P E '   A Z G Z P - R P U R M Z J  
Z A R P H I Q N T A   V U E   U O F T E Q   T A Z   B X A J P Z J  
Q N F Z E   C U E Q Z P   Q B U A   I P Z G N T X E   F Z Q B T J E .

Sep C-5. There's riotous inanity popping up everywhere.

QOZ, Redmond WA

S E P T E M B E R            T G K B U Z            Z N G M M U S            E M  
T O P M B N P U F ;      Q O R S A U S Z      G V      Q U E A M X E A T -  
B R I ,    Q B Z M A B G R B J    Q B L B R Y Z    V G P P G X .

Oct C-2. Truth really is stranger in digital. †

QOZ, Redmond WA

^ O C T O B E R    ^ V O E F L    \* V O Z T    U Z V    E R E I E Z X X K  
Z      M W B L      W R      \* S Z F L H W W B ;      I U W      K L Z Q V  
X Z I L Q ,    E I    H L F Z T L    Z    Q L Z X    O Q W G C F I .

Nov C-5. The roar is one unique feeling.

QOZ, Redmond WA

N O V E M B E R      " ^ Q Y N I      ^ N O V W I ,      ^ C V P O V Z I ,  
\* \* I H "      O V U      T D D E      V      ^ H E B L D Q U B M P      Y A  
\* I V E U V U      M Q V K B M B Y E      V U      W Y E R      V U      M O D  
^ W D V R H D    O V U    D F B U M D K .

Dec C-2. Top rated ideas depend on athleticism. †

QOZ, Redmond WA

\* D E C E M B E R      \* H X K C F M E R      \* Y Z E M R      \* J H X O  
H R B A    Z E M T ,    " T H R ' O    O L M R G    E J H Y O    O L A  
Z O E P O    H Q    O L A    P E B A .    O L M R G    E J H Y O    O L A  
A R T M R I . "

**Dec F-11. RECTANGLE VARIANT**

**Across**

- 1 Equal, to a French speaker | 202.5° on a compass
- 2 Egg drink popular in December | Small sewing case once common in crosswords
- 3 Winemaking site in the Bible? | Prov. with a Stratford upon an Avon
- 4 Monogram of the author of “Self-Reliance” and “Nature” | Type of IRA
- 5 Expression of boredom that’s contagious—really! | Jenna played her on *The Office*
- 6 British novelist Barbara who wrote *Quartet in Autumn* | Sot
- 7 It’s frequently next to a speedometer | One with a habit?
- 8 Channel with a lot of reality TV, or an initialism for special treatment | Secy.
- 9 Laughfest | Word of surprise or delight
- 10 Place for critical treatment | Ice from the sky
- 11 German sister city of Fort Wayne | Use a lever, say
- 12 Worn path in a road | Act of brewing in a certain coffee pot: abbr.
- 13 Each | Poetic contraction meaning “always”
- 14 Sports league with the New England Revolution, the LA Galaxy, and the Seattle Sounders | Green feeling
- 15 Actress Clifford or Phillips (IMDb) | Brief swim
- 16 *Star Trek* follower? | Direction that starts a John Steinbeck novel title
- 17 Approved (inferable) | Travis Kelce and others: abbr.

**Down**

- 1 *Instructions: Part 1*
  - 2 Opposite of “Come in!” | Pulitzer Prize-winning author Walker | Data connection to a satellite
  - 3 Nixon’s first veep | Pulitzer Prize-winning author Frank (Wikipedia) | Type of “orange” that’s not actually an orange, or the English name of the Native American tribe it’s named after
  - 4 *Instructions: Part 2*
  - 5 Bend over | Fit | Wrap up by (not MW)
  - 6 Summer acquisition, sometimes with lines | Carrier founded in 1937 as All American Aviation, as it was known from 1979 to 1997 (Wikipedia) | Create a new edition of
  - 7 *Instructions: Part 3*
- =QOZ, Redmond WA

**Dec E-1. MOSAIC QUOTE (7 9 2 6.) [2 rows × 3 columns]**

*Instructions: Part 4.*

AM CS EX  
CR TL EA

IN OF TI  
OS ES TI

=QOZ, Redmond WA



Dec F-11.

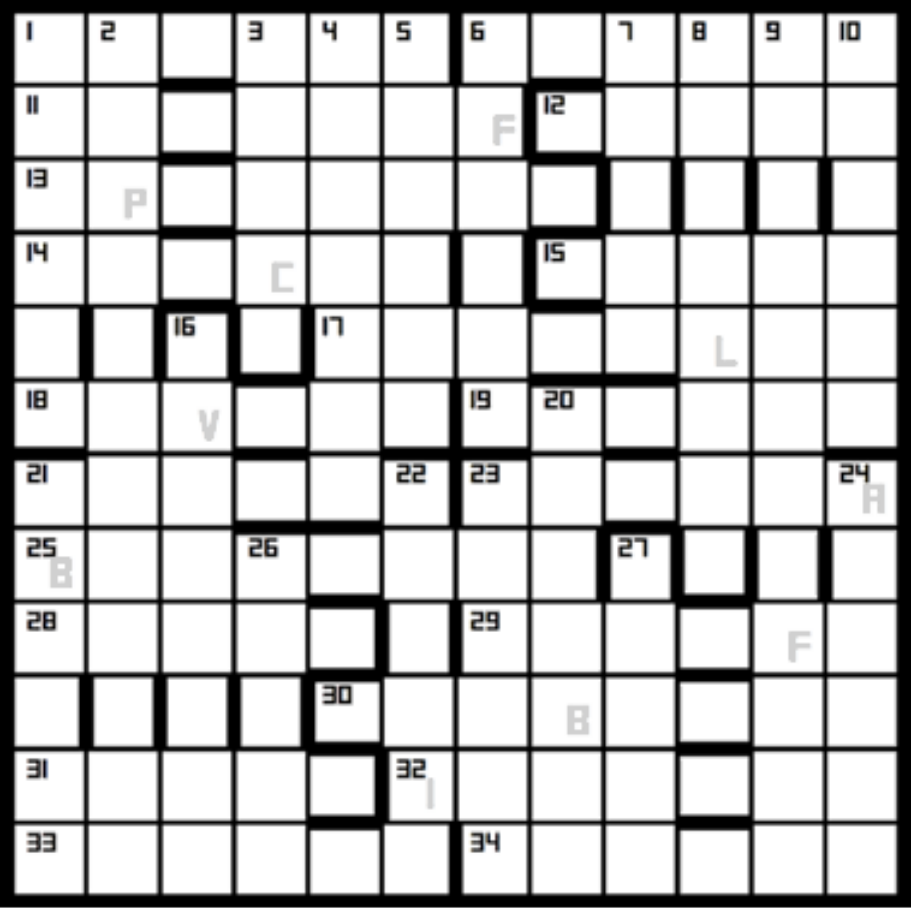
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Dec KU-1. ANAQUIP (4 4 4 2 3 4 4 3 3 5.)  
Tales from the crypt.

=QOZ, Redmond WA

**Feb X-1. HIDDEN FIGURES †**  
**BY SAINT VINCENT, ARVADA CO**

Phantoms faintly visible in the grid are remnants of ineffectual erasure and must be altered to produce accurate letters and associated entries. Half of the emendations will require one or more additional strokes, while the other half will require removal of one or more strokes. Corrected letters, read top to bottom, spell out a term that describes the “ghost letters” before changes.



**Across**

- 1 Briton periodically held a meeting over multiple regions' living things (6)
- 6 Reserve overcomes each dope (6)
- 11 Cover ceaseless resentment with staff in recess (7)
- 12 Indulge in spirits (5)
- 13 Is it possible for me to broadcast *The Commoners*? (8)
- 14 Annex managed at sea (6)
- 15 Rechargeable battery Chip almost kept failing to start (5)
- 17 Cuddling chick (8)
- 18 Call to mind missing note's component (6)
- 19 Spell, all over again, "short hydrocarbon" with fourteen Hs (6)
- 21 Band above elbow given by late Mr. Askew (6)
- 23 Hindu stupa concealing fracas (6, *hyph.*)
- 25 More heavily built camp beds used for energy healing one's forgotten about (8)
- 28 Spanish lord's not even from Steinbourg (5)
- 29 Turn back mock studio plot (6)
- 30 Sources of tales hidden; earliest stories are ultimately rewritten in reference works (8)
- 31 Descendant of male offspring has canceled Saint Vincent (5)
- 32 Minor hearing about one victory (7)
- 33 Wanting to take in first and second of edgiest American saloons (6)
- 34 Spring visitor possibly will succeed (6)

**Down**

- 1 Soothe with Malbec cocktail (6)
- 2 Dreadful dive entrance result of failing to pay attention (12)
- 3 Leaves of various sorts enthralling large marsh ducks (5)
- 4 A story originally called "Who Gets the Property?" (7)
- 5 Trooper pulling out front of ignition fuse (6)
- 6 Rock guitarist taking part in Hanks film (6)
- 7 Schoolboy mistake: not starting to get up (5)
- 8 To make very thin cream tea, I misguidedly neglect to include spot of rooibos (8)
- 9 Figure letter's from Jann: strange and savage, left unopened (12, 2 *wds.*)
- 10 Bond's new wife keeps going in front (6)
- 16 Extinct cephalopod shells certainly not intelligent design (8)
- 20 Eastern (USA) Air roaming continent (7)
- 21 Jenny's value (6)
- 22 Troy struggles, removing French leggings (6)
- 23 Sterilize horse on TV, circling, for example, building (6)
- 24 Using double entendre, drop name in weak fashion (6)
- 26 Brown, dried leaves containing stimulant alkaloids filled with duck egg (5)
- 27 Bonus Viagra vyomanaut's taken on board (5)

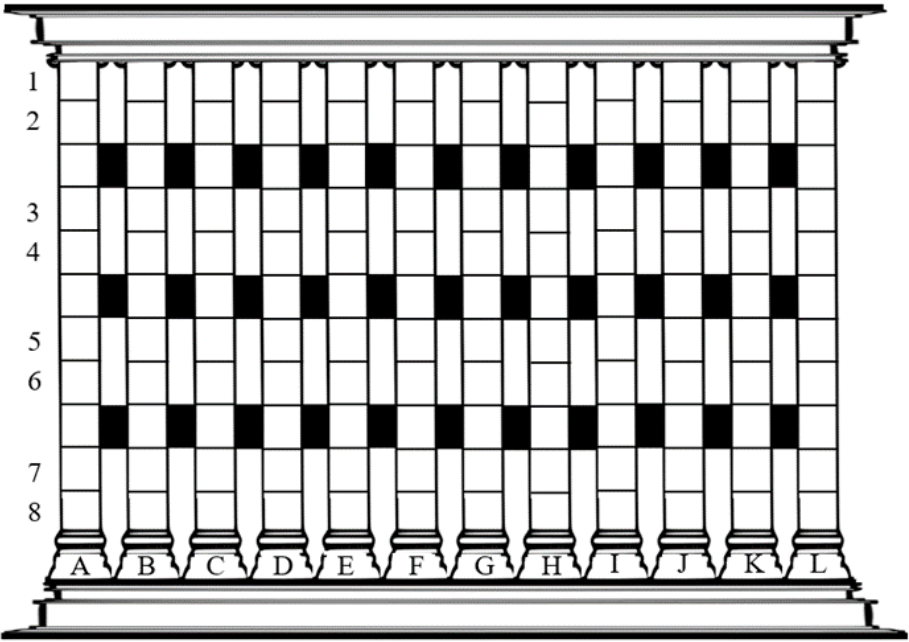
**Ju! X-1. CLASSICAL ORDERS – BY HASSETT, WAYNE PA**

Rows of this puzzle contain two entries, clued in order from left to right. Columns also contain two entries, and in addition, each is designed in one of the three classical orders of Ancient Greek architecture.

- Doric, the simplest of the orders: Entries are entered normally, and clued in order (from top to bottom).
- Ionic, noted for its spiraling volutes: Entries begin in a row to be determined, and upon reaching the bottom of the column, wrap around to the top.
- Corinthian, the most elaborate order: Entries are anagrammed into new valid words prior to entry, and are clued in order.

Architecture styles are divided evenly among the twelve columns.

Finally, each column contains a single letter which is not used by the corresponding crossing entry. These letters may appear anywhere within or between Across entries. From left to right, these letters reveal a location famous for its many columns.



**Rows**

- 1 Pea coat sometimes was a bit short?  
Concert leader's instrument produces musical note (*hyph.*)
- 2 Familiarize a new student with a recurring symbol in *Don Quixote*: one falling into crevice  
If not English, regularly read *Ulysses*
- 3 Mongrel, after splitting iron, becomes extremely lean (*hyph.*)  
Touch decapitated fish
- 4 Uncovered dictator's grated cheese  
Harrison of *My Fair Lady* recited—in a form of Latin—part of the phonetic alphabet
- 5 Where one may find a hairdresser covering back of perm in a pinkish hue  
Spin two 360's, breaking record
- 6 Lively cat I've disturbed  
Goddess resides in Sheraton
- 7 Contest's final isn't seen as fair  
Bend in river passing through Davenport
- 8 Measure of acidity taken by Scandinavian member of Mystery Incorporated  
Attempt to express in words after clearing out esophagus

**Columns**

- A Birds polluted sounds  
Walk with the two of us, my companion being a woman without husband
- B Neolithic depictions caution about what gets raptors going (2 wds.)  
A character going through several ups and downs is without goals
- C Trade school with entertaining principal from Canada  
Confused Oakland athlete eats bananas (2 wds.)
- D Mistake made by offensive lineman during rush  
Spooner's bit of wordplay guidance is outstanding
- E Beast lacking intelligence expressed a lack of interest  
Shaved painful part of the face
- F Nile flowing by eastern Egypt, becoming a bay on the coastline  
Direct run leaving Cleveland and ending in Akron
- G Skin mark caused by fine rash smooths out  
Eton's new architecture exhibits sound quality
- H Winter athlete retakes sixth, emerging from behind  
Last response on a questionnaire, often, or the alternative
- I Curse is broken by lady with one corkscrew  
Park car, being a bundle of nerves
- J Einstein denying existence of boron causes alarm  
Extraterrestrial leaves makeup from outer space
- K Liquid is used to break up solid spice  
Pines drop needles to start generations
- L Candy that's dispensed on the inside when lorazepam is all up  
Timid bears lightly pound my back, showing compassion



**Across**

- 5 Upraised broadcast TV: Adele on E! (8)
- 11 Reportedly critical common drug delivery, perhaps (4)
- 12 *See intro* (8)
- 14 Vote for messy place having a bread-dough smell (6)
- 15 Spielberg and the number of his children after taking testosterone (6)
- 17 Virginia State returned vessels (4)
- 18 Undiminished, country singer Reba shuns emcee (6)
- 19 Trudeau? Quai? Mostly rouge? (6)
- 20 Like male tennis player (4)
- 22 Notices ears of grain lacking potassium (5)
- 23 *See instructions* (12, 2 wds.)
- 26 Merge left entering curve (5)
- 27 Eyes as an alternative degree (4)
- 31 A secondary route out of the country (6)
- 33 Assault making King Henry join (6)
- 36 Duck carved out of white alabaster (4)
- 37 Contented cat more refined after eating rat's head (6)
- 39 Reverse vote against enthusiastic nameless American (6)
- 40 One needs to be this to perform animated lithe act (8)
- 41 Tree seen regularly in the park (4)
- 42 Awkward amateur taking time to grow up (8)

**Down**

- 1 Chatter online went fast around Southern state (6)
- 2 Contend with Freud surrendering first Austrian part (6)
- 3 More than one gist of book's beginning endures (6)
- 4 I sort out Swiss dish using cutter and potatoes (5)
- 5 It might start with pony disturbing steer (5)
- 6 Announced otherworldly body with a Canadian short (4)
- 7 Leave holding right disk application (7)
- 8 Being this in golf is undesirable, but otherwise it's better than Norman (8, 2 wds.)
- 9 It has oval loaves and toasted melt—essentially Greek (7, 2 wds.)
- 10 Headiest sets end differently (7)
- 13 Boast in the buff to anyone listening (4)
- 16 Curtailed Victory in Europe I spearheaded (6)
- 19 It's similar to wallow in heartlessly (6)
- 21 Inland capital's scale for model railroad no beaut (8)
- 23 Hear for example man beat badly (7, *abbr.*, 2 wds.)
- 24 Come to Edmonton—warning about lower-quality area (7)
- 25 One making something fat—church abandons affiliate following commercial (7)
- 28 Pastry chef brings in recipe for lover at times (6)
- 29 Small off-white hook (6)
- 30 Endlessly cheesy to acquire \$1000 boots (6)
- 32 Skip problem (foolhardy) (4)
- 34 Sprint following start of treasure hunt (5)
- 35 Extra inking "hospital" at rear of canopy (5)
- 38 Story of beauty in wonderful talk (4)

## Aug X-2. EVERYTHING BAGELS – BY BTNIRN, PRINCETON NJ

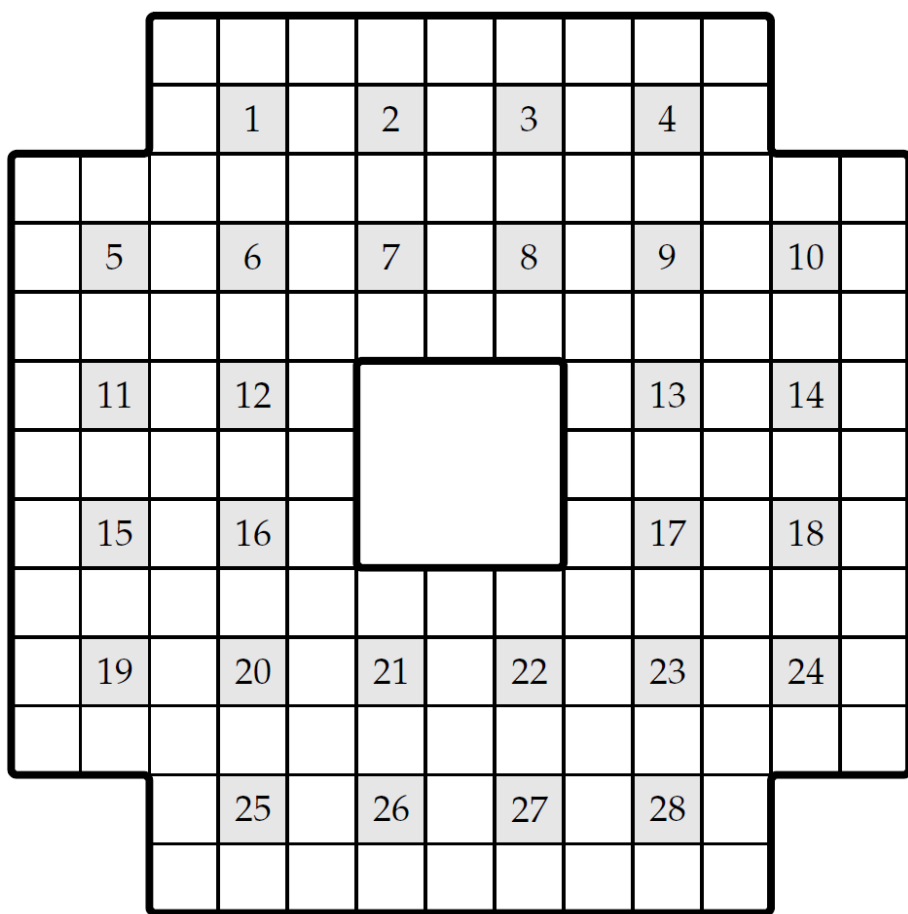
Montréal or New York? In honor of these two cities' shared cuisine, each answer must be entered as a bagel, occupying the eight squares surrounding the numbered square. (The starting square, and whether clockwise or counterclockwise, are for you to determine.)

New York bagels are larger: half of the clues yield 9-letter answers, and one letter is not entered in the grid. These extra letters, in clue order, describe some New Yorkers' attitude toward the bagel rivalry.

Montréal bagels are sweeter: the other half of the clues have an extra "sweetener" letter which must be removed before solving. These extra letters, in clue order, describe the two styles from the Montrealers' perspective. (This description includes non-MW material that may be unfamiliar to some solvers.)

- 1 Ha! Prisoner captured by medium naval force (2 wds.)
- 2 Award hero broken weapon tip
- 3 Wake up round spot in Ohio where you can drink and gamble
- 4 In an 11-way pile-up, toys explode, losing pressure
- 5 Odea display movie outside, mostly in dark
- 6 Gardeners' efforts surpass one sign of spring
- 7 Announcing SoCal city's brainstorm
- 8 Flirtatious air seen gripping real Sade
- 9 Heard (in Spanish) Dad give up small part of bagel? (2 wds.)
- 10 Drinks, swallowing wine beads
- 11 "Way to go! Broken at last! Jerk!"
- 12 Guarantees it's reused, recycled
- 13 Boss joins Rod for card game (2 wds.)
- 14 Skyward movement violently erupts, heating. OK?
- 15 New York, in part, sounds like hoarse group? (2 wds.)
- 16 Watchdog randomly curbs beer
- 17 Current scripture predating saints is fascinating
- 18 Immediately after Greyjoy captured, to enlist again
- 19 80ns film follows bagel injected into Psi particle
- 20 Discover rogue sectarian
- 21 Animal's home surrounded by a smell rising (var.)
- 22 Arrangement of teeth I intend to bust
- 23 "Brevity is the soul of wit" written in this pen's fluid
- 24 Noble caste soon overthrown
- 25 Tania overwhelms Piet by North Country
- 26 Luxury cars consume grain, esters
- 27 Vehicle's space: I hit another vehicle in reverse
- 28 Raced about rails, whirling!

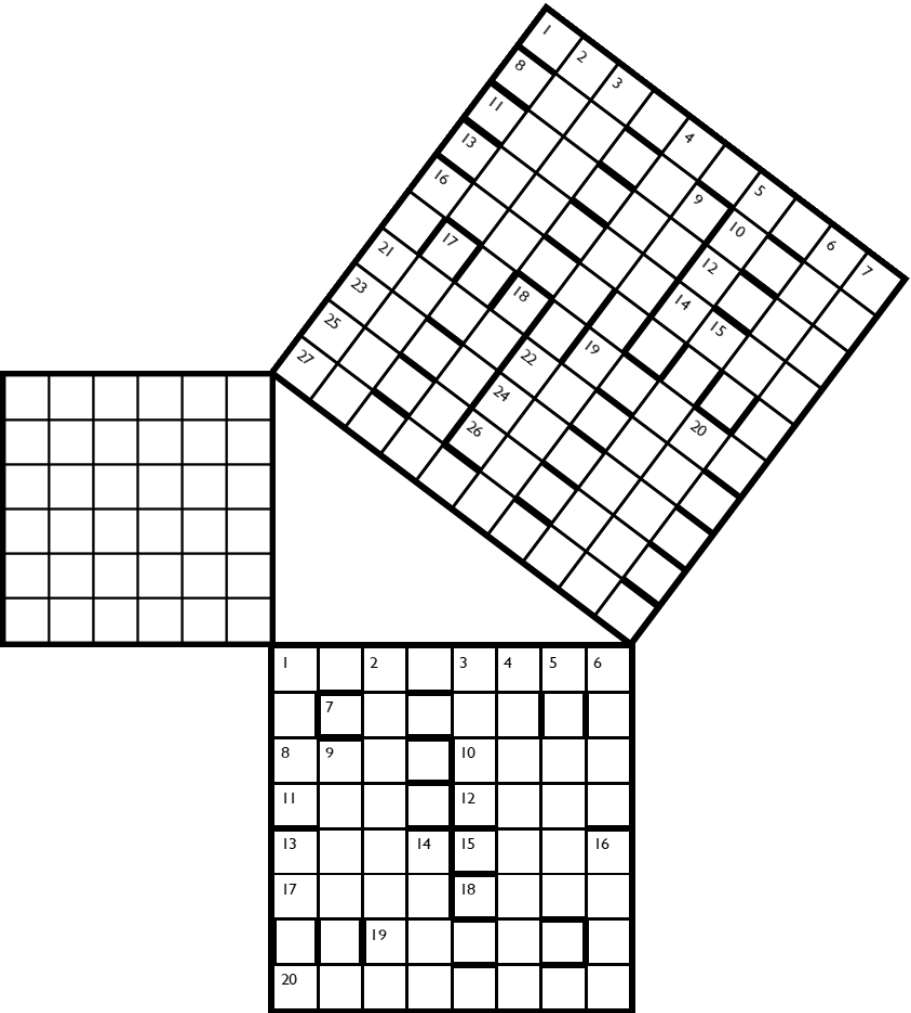




Oct X-1. 100 IN GEOMETRY – BY BARTOK, LA HABRA CA

For the edification of someone well-known who was caught on camera flubbing it, here’s an illustration of the Pythagorean Theorem, with the square of a hypotenuse (100) clearly equal to  $36 + 64$ . In one straight line in the filled diagram, you’ll see (in some order) who this is and what was sought at the time. The 10-Grid has three unclued entries at right angles. Two of them are individuals (one name contains a prominent right angle) sharing a connection. One of them was present when the error was made. Actually, so was someone among this grid’s clued entries, and the final unclued entry describes him and suggests why he didn’t speak up at the time.

The 6-Grid is a double word square with wordplay-only clues ordered alphabetically. The missing definitions appear instead, in correct order (with Acrosses preceding Downs), as extraneous words, one in each Across clue for the 8-Grid.



**6-Grid**

A certain percentage of sweeter nectar  
 Bob's boxing...a superlative finish  
 Bums finishing school  
 Diminishes in sound  
 Hook with an anchovy's head  
 Marketing takes customer up front  
 Old gas source of energy (hyph.)  
 Pronounced guts  
 Run out of hounds  
 Spread around  
 Time to grab source  
 Western name is getting crude

**8-Grid Across**

- 1 Eats away from bar, wearing base's IDs (8)
- 7 Mistakes a lake for a nest if high (5)
- 8 Balance certain measures' constituents (4)
- 10 Small bovine animals refuse transport across water (4)
- 11 Going into work, eleven (?) need a joint (4)
- 12 Annexes holding areas past leader destroys (4)
- 13 Turns in new order for gift cards, having the day off (4)
- 15 Stop resisting elixirs (mine) (4)
- 17 Hangs around marsh with ample space (4)
- 18 Ship back-ordered novel about rook and songbird (4)
- 19 Prior to love, more moving, everlasting lover (5)
- 20 Rejoins — the way fences implement, for the lawn, a line of shrubs (8)

**8-Grid Down**

- 1 Pipe cleaner initially put in a request (4)
- 2 Right before, string tape over (8)
- 3 River's source not in state capital (4)
- 4 Contender's clear red wound (8)
- 5 Following commencement, turn mature (6)
- 6 On the farm, animals and plants (4)
- 9 Strip club's beginning to leave bouncer out of joint (6)
- 13 Cunning car chase participant (4)

- 14 Leave Mississippi crawfishes in pollution (4)
- 16 Lift a weight that's sufficient in the old days (4)

**10-Grid Across**

- 1 See instructions.
- 8 God Almighty! Cut the grass back... (6)
- 10 Problem for some teens: no sports tops (4)
- 11 Capital city dock worker's right to strike in the end (6)
- 12 Does Architectural Digest slip? (4)
- 13 At a nearby range somewhere in Ontario (with the VW) (6)
- 14 Reed almost booed off (4)
- 16 Unless sun edge was bright (5)
- 19 Santa's left children slides (5)
- 21 Girl nearly at the end of balance beam (4)
- 22 In the east, The Shire and others (6, 2 wds.)
- 23 See millionth house cat (4)
- 24 Light metal boomerangs, say, taken outside...makes sense (6)
- 25 Lift name so it's seen better (4)
- 26 Pen caps around five dollars...petty (6)
- 27 See instructions.

**10-Grid Down**

- 2 What if stranger severs with religion? (5)
- 3 Speakers playing shorter (7)
- 4 See instructions.
- 5 Philosopher's earnings (5)
- 6 North Umbria's capital with heartless, tricky president (5)
- 7 Beats male steer senseless (6)
- 9 Death's dealt unexpectedly, and in an inverted position (9)
- 15 Bunch of paper provided at hearing for someone in court (7)
- 16 At Music Center, Grant is a sickly color (6)
- 17 Not even Hyacinthia makes you land by a large sea (5)
- 18 Stupid organization hardly means: stupid organization (5)
- 20 Just so helpful to establish credit today (5)

## Nov X-1. STAR CHART † BY THE JENGABOYS, NASH SPRING TY

The star chart will show you where you need to go, but it's got a few problems. The wordplay portions of eleven clues indicate an incorrect letter. Circle the correct letters in the grid and connect them from left to right. In that order, the correct letters (and, separately, the incorrect letters) will tell you what you've just drawn. This might remind you of a work of fiction (if not, Google should help) whose title includes two words of the same length. The first word will indicate a particular letter in the first clue, with the second doing the same for the second clue. Continue this way with the rest of the clues, alternating back and forth. This will spell out one final instruction; following it will give another description of what you're looking at.

### Across

- 1 Mastermind's relative got annoying, maintaining deceptive exterior (6)
- 5 Preposterous ass provokes parodies (7)
- 10 Get up and lie down around back of Winston-Salem campus (4,6)
- 12 Tupelo-born singer is recording standard as follow-up to "Hopeless Heart" (5)
- 13 Medical examiner's dilemma is about bit of plasma (7)
- 16 Nicest unwrapped frozen desserts (4)
- 17 Behold what's most outwardly shown by valentine! (4)
- 18 Notice poetry that's hostile (7)
- 19 Amphibians' nest surprisingly found around middle of Jacuzzi (5)
- 20 Lots of odd characters to reawaken, including infamous vampire (4,6)
- 21 Buffaloes heading west seem to be eating — endlessly dull (7)
- 22 The Edge beginning to dive into drills (6)

### Down

- 2 Slippery operator's opening sandwich shop that's retro (5)
- 3 Fifty coming late note means of paying for Groban's Sweeney Todd, say (7)
- 4 Used intense light to cut and reseal plastic surface of disc (7)
- 5 Curtailed mandate on poet Eliot's confidential matters (7)
- 6 Goofy or Mickey going across, right to city in Ontario (7)
- 7 Russo of film and both of us would like some wedding vows (7)
- 8 Middle piece in crossbolt lock subject to strains (6)
- 9 Raw material included in communist's compensation (6)
- 11 Strikeout is overlying second part of XOXO (4)
- 14 Strange goal for Three Sisters sister (4)
- 15 Cosmetician Lauder embraced by cutest deckhand (5)

1	2	3		4		5		6		7		8
9			10		11							
12						13	14				15	
		16					17					
18								19				
20												
21							22					

GOLDEN SPHINX SOLUTIONS

Nov C-5. Chanting "Rock Chalk, Jayhawk, KU" has been a University of Kansas tradition as long as the League has existed.

Dec C-2. Jamaican Olympian Usain Bolt once said, "Don't think about the start of the race. Think about the ending."

Dec E-1. Examine acrostics of titles. (See Dec KU-1.)

Dec KU-1. The instructions gleaned from F-11 and E-1 read, "Encrypt trigrams to learn what happened with monthly crypts. Examine acrostics of titles." In 2023, Qoz wrote twelve "monthly" cryptograms (in each case the first word of the ciphertext was the current month's name). Each title yields a six-letter acrostic starting with "TRL". For each crypt, take the three remaining letters of the acrostic and encrypt them (as if they were part of that crypt) to obtain a trigram. These are the twelve trigrams for the anaquip, which reveals what happened to the monthly crypts: "They have gone in one year then out the other."

Feb C-3. Do real mice face some lazy tired dogs? Realistically, militant factions soldier languidly, timorously.

Sep C-3. ... but those people who know that would not fill two stadia, and those who actually care would not fill two bi.

Dec C-6. Atlas (of ancient myth) was not Greek but Dutch! Just saw his truck go by with his whole name on it: Atlas Van Lines.

Mar C-7. Exalt old idol in African town market. Salaam to Canaan god Baal, naan offering at Transvaal kraal bazaar.

Jun C-7. Semiole emoticons can offer novel dynamic language enhancements. Trusty T-Mobile equipment runs Shawnee. (The first word of the ciphertext is "acrostic"; The plaintext is an acrostic, spelling "second letters". The second letters of the ciphertext read "crypt by Shrdlu".)

Nov C-7. Wobbly skiing Shiite zagged. LummoX rammed cuddly rabbit. Fallen bloody mullah cussed, sinned.

Jan E-8.  
MYARMENTREE  
YMCAREVEREST  
ACTINGSINPC  
RAINSATPOOL  
MENSAGOOO  
EVGAGORDERS  
NESTORESQUE  
TRIPODSMUSE  
RENOTEQUITY  
ESPOORUSTLE  
ETCLOSSEYES

Mar E-4.  
HAVANATAPING  
ABIDONAMOLAR  
VIVABOBOSE  
ADAVENUNERATE  
NOBELPLASTIC  
ANONPEARTREE  
TABULARPRISM  
AMFEARPRESTO  
POORSTRREETRN  
ILSATRISTEAK  
NASTIESTRAGE  
GREECEMONKEY

Dec F-7.  
DISHWARE  
INWEAVED  
SWEARING  
HEADMATE  
WARMETAL  
AVIATICO  
RENTACAR  
EDGELORD

GOLDEN SPHINX SOLUTIONS

Jan 30. pseudonyms, Ozymandias Feb 11. nor dictators [Nordic tasters] Apr KU-2. kudos [KU dos (2)] Jul 1. increase Jul 11. blue whale, blowhole Jul 31. art(h/c)ritic Aug 7. rather oafish [rat hero; a fish] Aug 18. plower left supper right [P lower left, S upper right] Aug 21. as technology raced, Aztec knowledge erased Oct 14. reanimate, you're on mute Oct 33. face up to, cup of tea Nov 45. draughts (game) [den|dra (nervous branches), fire|bug (arsonist), ba|hts (Thai bread)]; checkers (game) [Den|ch (actress Judi), reb|ec (olden strings), ba|kers (bread makers)] Dec 8. yesterday, asteroid

Feb E-1. Who let the dogs out?

- 1. paperweight; gear, whippet
- 2. partshioner; nori, Shar-Pei
- 3. pigeonhole; neigh, poodle
- 4. somnambulate; snob, malamute
- 5. disagreeable; begs, Airedale
- 6. Captain Hook; poncho, Akita
- 7. season ticket; snake, Scottie
- 8. chairwomen; remain, chow
- 9. exorbitant; Titan, boxer
- 10. one-armed bandit; stained, Doberman
- 11. deprivation; diva, pointer
- 12. Colridge; dele, corgi
- 13. presidential; tired, spaniel
- 14. white-collar; wrath, collie
- 15. penguin; nine, pug
- 16. terrestrial; last, terrier

Dec F-11. (See Dec KU-1.)  
EGALSSW  
NOGETUI  
CANANOT  
RWEROH  
YAWNPAW  
PYMWINO  
TACHNUN  
TLCAST  
RIOTHAH  
ICUHAIT  
GERAPRY  
RUTPERC  
APOPEER  
MISENVY  
SIANDIP  
TNGEAST  
OKEDTES

Jan C-2. Pianist Thelonious Monk, virtuoso of bebop improvisation, once said, "The piano ain't got no wrong notes."  
Feb C-5. "Bouncing bed bugs borrowed blankets" is roughly medium on the tongue twister difficulty scale.  
Mar C-2. Pluto may have been demoted to a dwarf planet, but it still has a radioactive element named after it.  
Apr C-2. Eliot opined that this is the crewelest month, braiding lilacs out of embroidery, sewing a raised chain.  
May C-3. The colors silver and purple have no rhymes; it does not feel fair that orange gets all the publicity.  
Jun C-3. When I told my wife precisely how to put mayo on toast, she accused me of mayonnaisesplaining.  
Jul C-1. "What do you call a chatbot who avoids the subject when you ask a question?" "I'm sorry, Dave, I'm afraid I can't do that."  
Aug C-3. Navajo code talkers' never-cracked encryption was almost one hundred times faster than previous methods.  
Sep C-5. Dalmatian movies spotted at multiplex; hundreds of heartwarming, historic humpkins follow.  
Oct C-2. Pumpkin Spice Spam was initially a joke on Facebook; two years later, it

Apr E-9. SOMETHINGD something d(ifferent sq.)  
ONOREOFORO On Ore of Oro  
MORALSFREE morals free  
ERASESERBS erase Serbs  
TELEXGREEN Telex green  
HOSSGOESAT Hoss goes at  
IFFERENTSQ (see I)  
NORRESTYOU nor rest you  
GREBEASOBI "Grebe, Asobi"  
DOESNTQUIT doesn't quit  
Jul F-1. T A ARP P  
ARCANUM OSCAR A  
CANON RUN ARP  
CANON T  
ARCANUM OSCAR  
PANGRAM TRIAL  
PANGRAM LULAB  
CAD MEM  
CANON S  
PANGRAM  
DORKY M  
NAY M  
LULAB  
RUN  
L

Jun E-10. BELIEVEITORNOT Believe it or not!  
ELASTICRELEASE elastic release  
LADIAGOEDITION Iad Iago edition  
ISITDONEXYTART "Is it done yet, Art?"  
ETADEBONEDODAH eta deboned odah  
VIGOBAMASANONO Vig: Obama's a no-no  
ECONOMICALTUTU economical tutu  
IREENACTBOOTES I reenact Boötes  
TEDYESABZUGSDA Ted: yes, Abzug's DA  
OLIEDALOUDEFIRN O lied: a loud firm  
RETTONTOGFADED Retton tog faded  
NAIADOUTSIDEPONAiad outside Po  
OSORANTREDREPUN oso ranted re pun  
TENTHOUSANDONE ten thousand one

Jan F-1. THINMAN  
SHAKEALEG  
SPAREWHEELS  
WHENDAYISDONE  
TRACK E SPENT  
SOILS TAR SADAT  
STYNE DARES KOPEK  
HUSK BOXSTEP FRAN  
IDOL LAUREATES TOME  
NILE ABBEVILLE HUNS  
PEDI WULFENITE ETAS  
ADIN REUBENS MIME  
DUEETS SNARE NONET  
PRIES DLS CANES  
SMELT L FORTS  
EMERALDDBROOCH  
SEACURRENTS  
PINPOINTS  
TEEPFEES



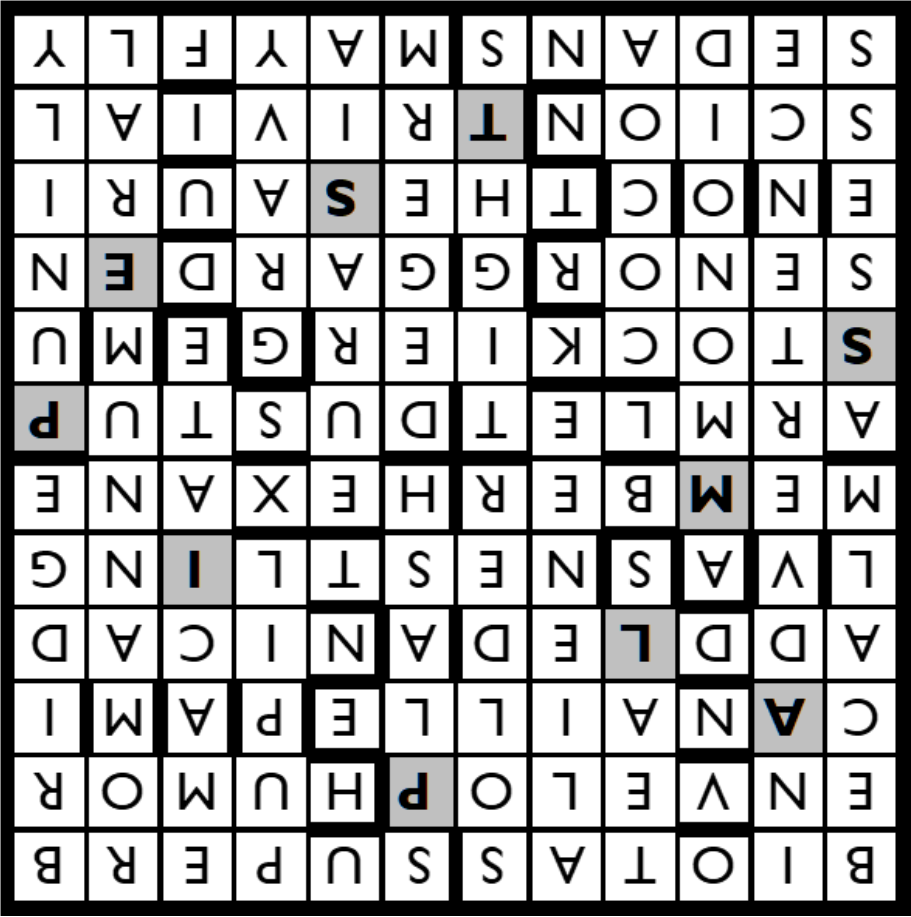
The grids are arranged in the shape of a Clue board; the first word of the first clue in each grid (aside from the center) identifies the room.

It was Mrs. Peacock, in the hall, with the rope.

Nov F-10. DESK RIPIT BURST  
 AVAIL REBUSES VAPOR  
 FERNY OVENFRY INLAY  
 TRIKE **PEACOCK** RAIDS  
 ELMTREE UNFIT  
 MAPS SATES  
 IONIAN **CLUE**  
 FRESNO RING WAITER  
 TWAS ABLE ENCODE  
 BEES ANEMIC  
 BRIDGE BRAT VACATE  
 LARIAT EIRE ELATED  
 ENIGMA RAND SPODE  
 DISSES  
 TWOSTEP  
 CLEF RIBCAGE OVEN  
 HOODOO ATILARGE DAZES  
 AUBURN CHANGER OLIVE  
 IPECAC TITTERS RENEW  
 REDEYE NESTS STERN

CM  
 BOAC  
 TILTON  
 DOGMATIC  
 SABBATICAL  
 INDIANAJONES  
 STABAT ALAMOS  
 SHAKOS  
 ARMAD  
 YARDED  
 SAMSON  
 NOTING  
 BOVINE  
 FACING  
 HAYLEY  
 WRITES BELLES  
 ANDTHEDIALOF  
 TAPERREADER  
 HARRISON  
 YEOMEN  
 EROS  
 SS

Jul F-2.



Feb X-1. Corrected letters (in bold type on gray in the grid) spell **PALIMPSEST**.  
**Across:** b[r]i[t]o[n]+tas(R), su(per)b, env[y]+elop(R), humor(2), "canaille", add+led, NiC[k]+[h]ad, nestling(2), [re]member, hex+ane[w], armlet\*, dust-up(H), stoc+e[i]kier(R), st[e]i[n]b[o]u[r]g], gar(R)+den, thesauri {initial letters}, s(c+i)on, tr(i+v)ial, s(ed)ans, may+fly  
**Down:** becalm\*, inadvertence\*, teal(s), a+lie+nee, sold[i]er, S(p)lash, puppi[s](R), emaciate[r], [f]rom+[j]ann+[r]um+[f]eral, brid[g]e, ammo+no+id, E+urasia\*, assess {false feminine of "ass"}, t+[f]igh[ts], d(eg)erm(R), pun[n]ily, coc(o)a, gravy(H)

Corinthian	A	W	O	L	F	R	I	A	M	S	T	A	I	M	S	C	V	A	E	D	8
Ionic	B	A	R	T	A	A	R	A	M	S	C	V	E	V	E	A	V	E	E	7	
Doric	C	S	W	I	T	T	C	H	A	V	T	S	E	A	S	E	A	P	A	6	
Ionic	D	A	I	D	D	F	O	L	L	L	Y	U	N	I	N	C	R	H	N	5	
Corinthian	E	B	E	D	R	R	O	O	M	I	V	E	N	C	H	E	A	P	A	4	
Doric	F	I	N	L	E	E	T	G	O	T	V	E	R	N	R	E	N	I	N	3	
Ionic	G	C	K	L	E	E	T	O	N	E	E	F	E	E	R	O	E	R	H	2	
Corinthian	H	S	T	R	E	E	A	K	T	T	H	R	O	E	X	U	S	E	E	1	
Doric	I	H	E	L	I	X	P	L	E	E	E	M	I	C	S	A	V	E	D		
Corinthian	J	A	L	T	E	R	C	O	O	M	R	Y	E	A	H	S	A	T	Y		
Ionic	K	R	S	F	L	L	A	V	O	R	R	E	E	R	O	P	A	T	H		
Doric	L	P	E	E	Z	S	Y	M	P	A	V	A	Y	M	P	A	T	H	Y		

Jul X-1.

**Rows:** was+a+b[le], C+s+harp; o+ri(ient, e+U[i]l[y]s[s]e[s]; ffat-fre\*)e, [f]eel; [d]n[ic]otta\*, Xray [pig Latin for "Rex"]; sal(m)on, l(oo)p; active\*, Hera(H); even[t], c(r)ouch; Da(ph)ne, es+say

**Columns:** "fowl", me+and+[h]er; cave a(r)t, a+ti(m)s; s+wit(c)h, a+tt sea\*; f(o)i[ly], unpaid {*Spoonerized* "dun aid"; "boredom", [a]c[h]in[g]; inle\*+t, g[r]i[over+n; f+reckle[ss], tone\*, s[e]l[kate(r), other\*; he(1+i)x, p+lexus; al[b]er, cosm[ET]ic; f(i)avor, year[n]s; Pez(HR), s(y)m+pat(R))y

**Location:** New York Times

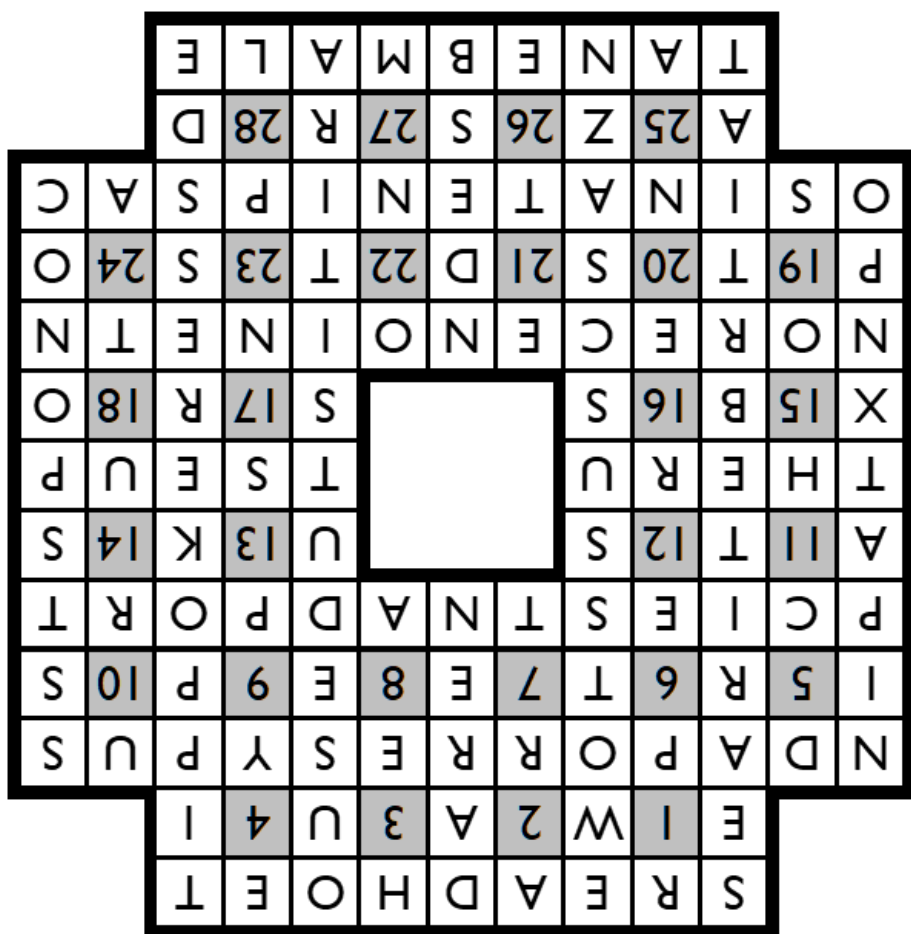
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A	T	H	L	E	T	I	C	T	E	A	K
E	R	S	U	T	L	Q	U	E	B	E	C
T	E	A	L	P	U	R	R	E	R	R	E
A	B	R	O	A	D	A	T	T	A	C	H
B	L	E	N	D	E	L	O	R	B	S	C
N	A	T	O	A	L	P	H	A	B	E	T
D	A	S	H	E	I	O	S	P	I	E	S
E	N	T	I	R	E	P	I	E	R	R	E
P	N	S	T	E	V	E	N	V	A	T	S
Y	E	A	S	T	Y	I	R	O	E	M	N
K	I	L	O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

Aug X-1.

The corrected letters in the down clues spell “double eleven is thirty-nine.” In the final grid, 39A must be changed from YANKKEE to QUBBEC (Y and Q in the NATO alphabet) to make the Scrabble value twice that of 11A (KILQ=K). This makes the message mathematically correct, since the Scrabble values of K and Q are 5 and 10, respectively.

**Across:** e+elevated\*, “kilo” {“key low”, yea+sty, S(t)even, va+ts(R), [Mc]entire, Pier+re[r]d[, As+he, spi[K]es, b(l)end, or+bs, attac(k→h), teal(H), pur(r)er, Yan(R)+kee[n], athletic\*, [h]e[p]a[r]k, matura(t)e\*

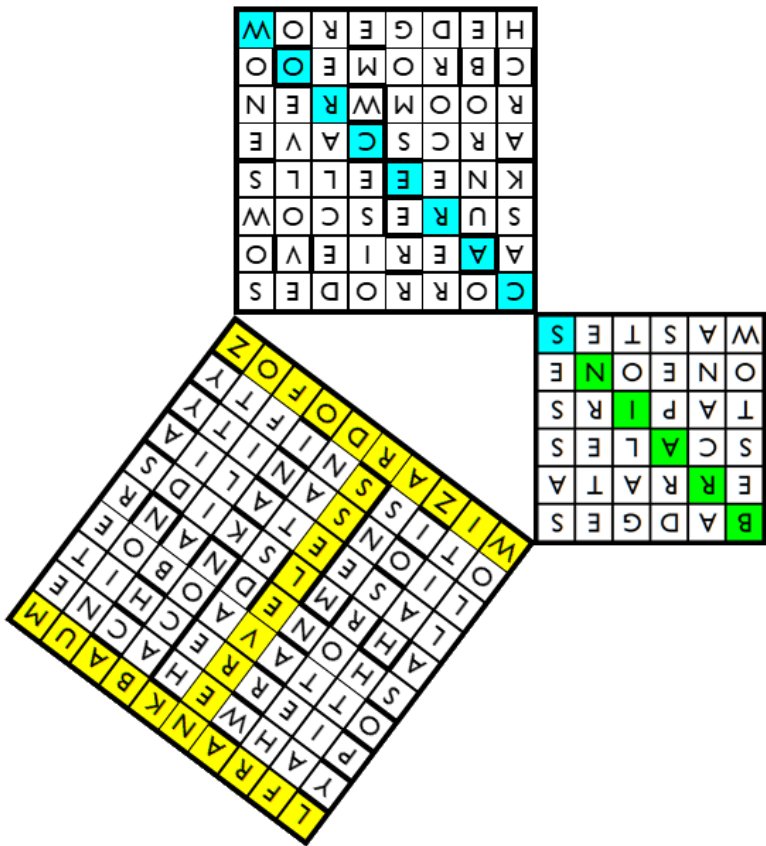
**Down** (showing corrected words in *definitions*): S(ky)ped {chatted[, Vie+[A]na {port, b+lasts {gust[, rosti\* {butter[, ester\* {poly[, “Erie” {shore[, va(r)nish {desk[, above part(2) {normal[, elm t\*+[G]ree[k] {leaves[, densest\* {heaviest[, “bear” {beast[, ve+ited {curtained[, pop[u]lar {willow[, Ho+no+ulu {island[, NBA team\* {Heat[, Al(b)ert+ {home[, ad+ [ch]apter {fit[, ba[r]ker {rover[, s+cream {hoot[, cheek(s) {booty[, rash(2) {skin[, t+race {hint[, tent+h {inning[, U(l)ta(H) {store}



Aug X-2.

The New Yorker's attitude is "holier than thou", the Montrealers' description is "Habs and Hab nots". ("Habs", short for "habitants", is a nickname for the Montréal Canadiens.)

**Clue answers:** se(a+ pow)er {Ha}, arrowHead\*, r(O(ad)(h)ouse, piteousLy[p]\*, P(indar[k])ic {Odea}, top+I+aries, "torrents" {"Torrance"}, {brainstorms}, se(r)en+ade {Sade}, "poppy seed" {"papi cede"}, sup(port)s {beads}, path+e+tic {&lit;}, {Broken}, sureties\* {reused}, stud+ pokeR, upstr(ok)e\* {heating}, "The Bronx" {"the brons"}, {hoarse}, Cerberus\* {curbs}, in+nT+ere+sts, the(reup)on, p(o)si+tron {8ons}, ascertAin\*, a+scen(de)nt, denTition\*, pitH(i)ness\*, contessa\* {soon}, Tan(za+n)ia {Piet}, benz(Oat)es, sUb+mar+i+ne(R), sp(iral\*)ed {&lit;}, {trails}



any two sides of an isosceles triangle is equal to the square root of the remaining side.

Scarecrow, after receiving a diploma from the Wizard (in lieu of a brain), recites a totally botched version of the Pythagorean theorem: The sum of the square roots of

There's a scene near the end of the classic 1939 film *The Wizard of Oz* where the

*Down:* faith[w]\*, rhetors\*, nerveless {why the lion didn't speak up}, Bacon(2), U+ni[x]on, m+eters\*, headst\*+and, "bailiff" {bale if}, s+allow, H[y]a[c]i[n]t[h]i[a], Mensa\*, ditto(H)

was made}, sa(nit(R))y, Otis\*, s(nit(R))ty, Wizard of Oz

oboe[d]\*, s[un]+hone, s+kids, las[s]+e, e+t alia, lion(H) {also present when the error

*10 Grid Across:* L. Frank Baum, Yah+weh(R), ac(n)e, Pier+re+e, chit(H), ottav[W]a, sm+og(R), eno(R)+w

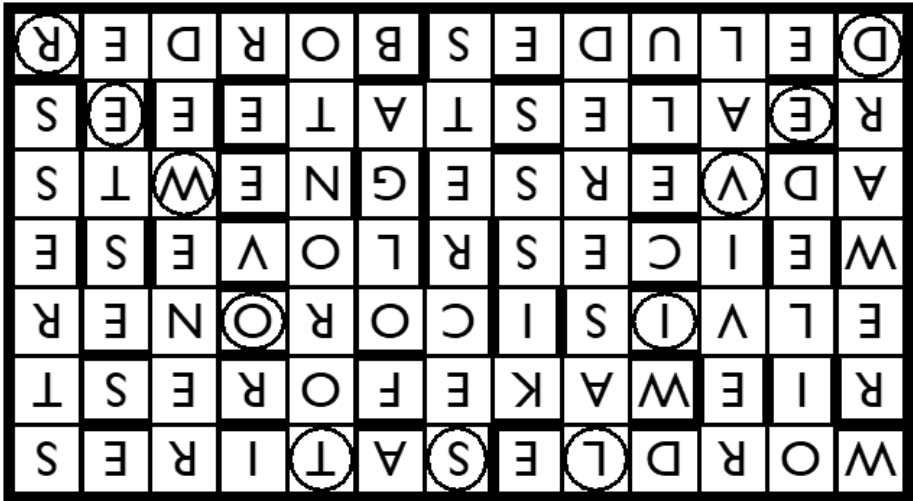
*Down:* c+ask, r+ere+cord, [B]Oise, declarer\*, [r]evolve, sows[2], unrobe[c]\*, arch(H), room(R), (w)en(R), Rome\*+o, h(edger)ow

*8 Grid Across:* cor(rod)es, a+erie, sure(H), s+cow, knee(H), [c]ells, arcs[d]\*, cave(2), {mistakes}, ga(llo)t(R) {ship}

{eleven (?)}, "wastes" {destroy}s}, badge[r]s {IDs}, drapes\* {hangs}, er(rat)a s+asses {rejoins}, "tapirs" {animals}, arc+ana+{elixirs}, s(c)ales {balance}, o+ne-on+e

*6 Grid definition from 8 Grid Across clues:* eterne(H) {everlasting}, (best)ow {gift},

Oct X-1.



Nov X-1.

The circled letters spell, left to right **DEVIL'S TOWER**. The incorrect letters in the clues spell **MASHED SPUDS**. (This alludes to the famous scene in the film *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* where Richard Dreyfuss's character sculpts a model of the Devil's Tower butte in Wyoming out of mashed potatoes.)

Taking alternately the final (**close**) and **third** letters of all clues spells the message **respace title of crossword**, which leads to this alternate description of what we are looking at: **STARCH ART**.

**Across:** Wor(de/l)e, sas/t\*+ires, Wake+ Fo(R)+rest, El+vh/is, cor(p/o)ner, [n]ices[t], lo+ve {&lit.}, ad+verse, ne(u/w)ts, r[e]a/e[w]a[k](l estat)e[n], m/de([l])ud(es)(R), bor(d)es/r

**Down:** o+iled(R), re+vis/va+l, lasere\*+d, d/secret[e]+ts, To(r)on+to, rene+we'd, s+tress, re(war\*)d, k+is+s, Oiga\*, Estd/ee(H)

## CRYPTOGRAMS

Feb C-3. Scales.

NEWROW, Brookline MA

RE MITU DOXI ZTXI JEDI UTAN POMIR  
 REQJ? MITUOJPOXTUUN, DOUOPTBP ZTXPOEBJ  
 JEUROIM UTBQKORUN, PODEMEKJUN.

Sep C-3. "Sphinges" is a plural of "sphinx"... †

NEXT LINGO, Lexington MA

...IPX XRYKS HSYHVS URY AMYU XRTX UYPVL  
 MYX ENVV XUY KXTLNT, TML XRYKS URY  
 TJXPTVVD JTBS UYPVL MYX ENVV XUY IN.

Dec C-6. I learned something today!

MR E, Portland OR

\*ZQGZX (BT ZJMWKJQ DHQV) CZX JBQ \*YUKKL  
 NFQ \*PFQMV! RFXQ XZC VWX QUFML YB NH CWQV  
 VWX CVBGK JZDK BJ WQ: \*ZQGZX ^SZJ ^GWJKX.

Mar C-7. Cultural exchange.

raw, Ogdensburg, NY

AGPVM RVF DFRV DO \*PZCDLPO MRUO IPCEAM.  
 HPVPPI MR \*LPOPPPO XRF \*YPPV, OPPO  
 RZZACDOX PM \*MCPHQPPV ECPPV YPKPPC.

Jun C-7. Beyond smoke signals. †

????

\*ACROSTIC CRTMOXTSA XYS TPPCH STKCI  
 GBSYROX IYSELYEC CSUYSXCRC SMA. MHLAMB  
 \*M-\*RTZOIC CDLOWRC SM HLSA \*AU YFSCC.

Nov C-7. Double trouble.

/dev/joe, Salem MA

XKGGAM FWDDIL \*FPDDNC YELLCB. AJHHKZ  
 QEHHC B OJBBAM QEGGDN. VEAACI GAKKBM  
 HJAAEP OJFFCB, FDIICB.