



THE ENIGMA

February 2025 • The National PUZZLERS' League • Est. 1883 • N° 1444

BOARD BITS

From the Editor

Happy February. This issue should come with the latest edition of the NPL Directory—thank you, Eight Ninety and Qoz. The Directory can help you contact people, and it's also a useful solving tool; you never know when a puzzle might require you to be familiar with some NPL noms.

April is coming up sooner than you think; it's a time when we bend some rules and break others. (See Aprils past to get an idea.) If you have an idea for a submission that's a bit outside the box, please get started now; the sooner you get it to the subeditor, the more time there will be to get it ready. Of course, feel free to be different and follow all the rules instead. It's all good, as long as you send more puzzles.

From the Treasurer

If you received this issue in the mail, you should have also received the newest edition of the NPL Directory. If you did not receive this issue in the mail and you would like a paper copy of the Directory (at no additional charge), just send a request to me at treasurer@puzzlers.org.

CALENDAR

JULY 2025

17–20: SPAMCon,
St. Paul and
Minneapolis, MN

WEEKLY

Tuesday: Games &
Puzzles Night, Zoom

Wednesday: *Enigma*
Cosolve, Zoom

CONSISTANCE REMINDER — JEFFURRY

As a reminder, the Board and the Consistance Committee expect to be able to make multiple awards to facilitate attendance at the 2025 convention in Minneapolis/St. Paul. A committee of members will anonymously review the applications and select members to receive a stipend—for an amount that will vary based on geography and other factors—toward convention expenses. Only the Treasurer (Eight Ninety) and the Consistance Coordinator (Jeffurry) will know who has applied or is selected. To apply for Consistance funding, please email Jeffurry (jeffurry@puzzlers.org) before the end of February with both an explanation of your need and a description of what this assistance would mean for you. If you have any additional questions regarding Consistance, please contact Jeffurry or Eight Ninety and we will try to respond promptly.

NEW MEMBERS

Paul Boers, 1167 Ruge St NW, Salem OR 97304, has been given a gift membership by his spouse, Jennifer Gingerich.

Matthias Chen, 4216 NE 20th St, Renton WA 98059, has been given a gift membership by his father, Shuai Zhao.

EJuliet: Margaret Bavasi, ejuliet@puzzlers.org, has been given a gift membership by her husband, Bob Bavasi.

Elapses Pale: Nathan Stringer, 730 S Clark St Apt 2605, Chicago IL 60605, elapsespale@puzzlers.org, has been given a gift membership by Phil Reinken.

William Engeler, Avenue Felix Marchal 136, 1030 Bruxelles, Belgium

Flore Pleno: Shoshanah Calland, florepleno@puzzlers.org

Kanga: Andrew Scott Zimmer, 10903 Newport Mill Rd, Kensington MD 20895, kanga@puzzlers.org

Meemomeep: Morgan Wittenberg, 1360 Pond Creek Rd, Ashland City TN 37015-5517, meemomeep@puzzlers.org

Aodán O Ruairc, 19 Maiden Hill, Kells Road, Kilkenny R95 P2F8, Ireland, has been given a gift membership by his family, Orla, Jamie, and Ciara.

Rachel Ostrow, 20 Stone Rd, Arlington MA 02474, has been given a gift membership by her friend, 42itous.

Chris Ponder, 1307 S Elliott St, Sanford FL 32771

Jeremy Redburn, 308 Clark Rd, Brookline MA 02445

Alex Rodriguez, 42-22 Crescent St Apt 9A, Long Island City NY 11101, has been given a gift membership by her partner, Chris Eckdahl.

Terence Simon, 1 Concord St, Clifton NJ 07013

Toetor: Anthony Pisacano, 173 Shiloh Dr, Brooklet GA 30415, toetor@puzzlers.org, has been given a gift membership by his sister, Nimbus.

Sarah Towle, 1825 Ronald Ave, Missoula MT 59801, has been given a gift membership by her husband, Bill Towle.

Hayley Ward, 3048 W Lyndale St Apt 2, Chicago IL 60647, has been given a gift membership by her fiancé, Colin Davy.

Allison Wise, 311 Liggett St Apt 604, Durham NC 27701, has been given a gift membership by her friend, Cole Sansom.

Withani: Andria Lewis, 1447 Kirkrow Crescent, Mississauga ON L5M 3Y6, Canada, withani@puzzlers.org, has been given a gift membership by her husband, John Lewis.

National Puzzlers' League Board of Directors

yodaughter, President | B-Side, First Vice-President | WXYZ, Second Vice-President
Lady Mondegreen, Secretary | Eight Ninety, Treasurer | Btirn, Editor | WILLz, Historian

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CHANGES

Farmer Brown: Colin Brown, 589 E Francis Dr, Palm Springs CA 92262, farmerbrown1959@gmail.com

GymNovice: James Greene, 1 Blendon Woods Dr, Southborough MA 01772, gymnovice@puzzlers.org

Mx Metaflower: Jessica Iris, 406 Ave S North, Saskatoon SK S7L 3A1, Canada, mxmetaflower@puzzlers.org

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Savoir: Reuben Ward, 6238 Casgrain Ave, Montreal QC H2S 2Z1, Canada, savoir@puzzlers.org

Tabascq is the nom chosen by Kenny Young: tabascq@puzzlers.org

Trickme: Patrick Merrell, 426 Robin Reed Ct, Pineville NC 28134, trickme@puzzlers.org

REJOINING MEMBER

Foggy: Greg Brume, 851 E 6th Pl, Mesa AZ 85203, foggy@puzzlers.org

RESIGNED / REMOVED

Eliza Cleveland (Za), Deb Duquaine (Tonka), Marie Gier (Buttorkup), Mellina Huitema, Hadley Kornacki, Justin Melvin (Firetruck), Greg Ochsen Schlager, Mark Thurber (Thruway), Christopher Valdivia (SalsaPhile), Brian Wyman (porkMan), Claire Young (Eunoia), David Young (Kidngnu), Felicia Yue

HAPPY KREWEVERSARY!

45 Years: Bambam

40 Years: Hypatia

35 Years: Pebbles, Witz

25 Years: Midas

15 Years: arcbat, Beyond

5 Years: Paramis

DECEMBER AFTERNOTES

4. The verse is based on the lyrics to “What Child Is This?” by William Chatterton Dix, which was set to the tune of “Greensleeves”.

E-1. Variations of “Jingle Bells” involving Batman characters have been traced back to 1967, when the live action TV show aired. Lyrics vary, but this became the best known version after Bart Simpson sang it in the very first episode of *The Simpsons* in 1989.

JANUARY ERRATA

25. This is an ENIGMATIC REBUS.

54. It’s not quite findable. (Online MW has the words in a different order.)

FEBRUARY PUZZLES

9. A. *The Merry Wives of Windsor* IV.4; B. *Henry VI Part 2* III.2; C. *Macbeth* II.2;
D. *Richard III* II.4; E. *Titus Andronicus* I.1; F. *Henry IV Part 1* III.2
- 11, 26, 32. Combinom: ManyPinkHats/Regards.
11. To the tune of “The Gambler” by Kenny Rogers.
- 17, 33. Combinom: Jangler/T McAy.
26. To the tune of “Frozen in Frobisher Bay” by James Gordon.
35. Art by Newrow’s granddaughter, Rae Bamberger.
41. To the tune of “The Night They Invented Champagne” from the film musical *Gigi*.
45. Grit refers to the answer’s original use, per Wikipedia.
- F-7. This is not a Guide form. The shape fits in a 7 × 9 grid, and has left-to-right symmetry.
- E-1. Vienna Sausage: A variation on the German sausage. Clues to a first list of answers are given. As in a German sausage, each pair of consecutive answers can be combined and transposed to form a second list of answers. Additionally, each triplet of consecutive answers can be combined and transposed to form a third list of answers. Enumerations are given for the third list.
- E-10. Belgian Waffle: Clues are given in alphabetical order by answer. The upper left corner gives enumerations for two answers. Enter one of these in the remaining cells in the first row, with the letters distributed across the row, at least one letter per cell. Enter the other similarly in the first column. Enter all other answers in the remaining cells, one answer per cell, so that each of these answers is a transposal of the letters in the corresponding cells in the first row and first column. Answers may include capitalized words; capitalization is not indicated.
- C-5. *OGOTFTV = not MW.

JANUARY HINTS AND FEBRUARY EASY LIST

January Hints:
8. As noted in line 7, there’s a vowel that requires care: one MW pronunciation of the Russian place name matches up with a (Southern US) pronunciation in the reading.
26. This requires a device which is common in extravaganzas and hunts, but less so in rebi. There’s a hint in line 1 (in addition to the rubric explanation in line 10).
34. “gramma” is Greek for “character”. Which letters in the rubric can be parsed as Greek?
February Easy List: 1, 3, 13, 21, 25, 34, 38.

PENETRALIA

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”.

Send your solution lists after March 1, 2025, to /dev/joe, Joseph DeVincentis, 12 Saunders St., Salem MA 01970, solutions@puzzlers.org. All lists must be postmarked by March 31, 2025.

1. REBUS ([6 2 5])

EARTH

I used to think our planet Earth
Was doomed to rot.
I’ve had a SOL, for what it’s worth,
And now think not.
=PEN GWYN, New York NY

2. LETTER BANK (7, 3 3’1 4)

If, for Washington’s Birthday, a theater
presents
Not, say, *Hamilton* (where the guy’s GAL
quite a lot)
But, say, 1776 (where he’s not),
That might GALL (in the irking, not
kidnapping, sense).
=UCAOIMHU, Somerville MA

3. LAST-LETTER CHANGE (*5, 5)

An element of home decor
In where the CHARMs lived was rare gauds.
When choosing which CHARTs they’d
display,
The spouses truly were at odds.
No gewgaws that Marie liked most
Would earn Pierre’s affirming nods.
=WITZ, Vancouver BC

4. FREEWHEELING REPEATED- LETTER DELETION (*4 *6, 3 *5) (*4 *6 = findable, NI2)

In ancient days, supplies TWO came
By river: Tigris was its name.
Erik Larson’s latest tome
Tells of ONE—how it was home
To Union soldiers. No supplies
Arrived in time—near-starving guys.
=NEWROW, Brookline MA

5. PALINDROME DELETION (7)

The client paid. The psychic TWOed.
She bobbed and swayed to set the mood.
“A change of ONE would serve you well.”
“To where?” “I’m done. Pay more, I’ll tell.”
=BROBBERTY, Chicago IL

6. SUCCESSIVE CONSONANTCY (6, 6, *10) (BOX = NI2)

A queen who made Poseidon sore
Must chain her daughter by the shore,
A COZY landscape: rock, no more.
Much later, the Quran would tell
Of BOX, a tree with roots in hell:
Such bitter fruit to DEB now fell.
=Nemo DeSluyp, White Plains NY

7. LETTER BANK

(*6, *5 4, 10, *10 **3) (EINS, ZWEI, DREI, VIER) (ZWEI, VIER = not MW)

If a will, say, left threepence each year to two DREI

What would that be worth now? Sixpence multiplied by

One-plus-i to the Y, minus 1, over i, Where the interest rate's i and Y's years.

If the guy

Leaving money was Nicholas, Bishop of My-

Ra (each stand-in for whom wears a red-and-white ZWEI),

Y's sixteen eighty-one; for Pope VIER, it's the tie-

Like eleven-eleven; for Padua's high-Minded Anthony (namesake of one city nigh

To EINS, Texas) eight hundred less seven is Y.

=UCAOIMHU, Somerville MA

8. PHONIGMATIC REBUS

(4 4 2) (non-MW material in rubric)



The Oval Office—it's the WAY
The entire White House, some would say.
=NEWROW, Brookline MA

9. ACROSTICAL ENIGMA † (12)

- A. Appoint a meeting with this old fat fellow,
Where we may take him and disgrace him for it,
- B. As one that surfeits thinking on a want.
I will repeal thee, or, be well assured,
- C. And thither bear your treasure and your goods.
For my part, I'll resign unto your Grace:
- D. I to the world am like a drop of water
That in the ocean seeks another drop.
- E. O monstrous! what reproachful words are these?
But go thy ways; go, give that changing piece:
- F. Percy is but my factor, good my lord,
To engross up glorious deeds on my behalf.
=530nm330Hz, Newton MA

10. TRANSPOSAL

(9) (TAMERS = non-MW usage)

Arrakis is a desert world,
No blade of grass; the climate's cruel.
On land, the Fremen live and breathe,
While underground the TAMERS rule.

Duke Leto named a diplomat
To Fremen: Duncan Idaho.
A MASTER of untarnished fame,
He used sharp blades to beat each foe.
=WITZ, Vancouver BC

11. ISOMORPH † (10) (can be sung)

So said the FIRST when he sold 'em,
"Learn how to fold 'em.
These origami sheets
(My hand-crafted wares)
May form platonic solids
Like four-faced whatchamacallits
If you're trying to build SECOND
Out of little squares."
=MANYPINKREGARDS, Hamil2n ON

12. ENIGMATIC REBUS WNFR

(3 *5) (*5 = not MW)

Mr Beckett's waiting...
=NEWROW, Brookline MA

13. HOMONYM

(8; 3, 4) (clued in order)

"Hey, dude, here's a glossy BOUQUET.
This camp looks like fun. Should we
stay?"
"BOO 'KAY. Sign us up right away."
=BROBBERTY, Chicago IL

14. SUCCESSIVE CONSONANTCY

(7, *9, 7)

It's OKAY to paint LOUIE with lines that
don't blend,
But I think MAYO's better, if slower: a
smear
Makes it hard to discern where the
terriers end
And the mists of the shadowy
background appear.
=Nemo DeSluymph, White Plains NY

15. SPOONERGRAM ([4 4], 4 4)

Burdens on those at the top can be like
Drinking straight out of a high pressure
FIRST.
Those who douse flames know this
simile's apt;
What's fine for a FIRST might make
humans just burst.

Keep your friends close, so the adage
begins;
Closer, however, should enemies be.
Bosses could LAST to augment workforce
rolls;
That might ease stress to at least some
degree.
=WITZ, Vancouver BC

16. PHONETIC CONSONANTCY

(10, 7) (PURVIEW = 10)

The PURVIEW of science rejects it when
you've
Proposed a hypothesis that you can't
PROVE.
Epistemologically, doctors of PURVIEW
Ask "How could you show it's untrue?"—
then observe you.
=530nm330Hz, Newton MA

17. LETTER BANK † (6, 9)

A synonym for "quiet" we have found
Is "SIX", when adjectival; "NINE", when
noured.
=TANQUERAY, Nashora TO

18. HETERONYM (4 4 *6, 2 *10 2)

(I'LL, ILL)

When dichromatic underwear
Was running out just north of there
The Sunflower State addressed the need;
Their neighbors all were pleased indeed
They get those swell two-I'LL sent ILL
A garb-based gesture of good will.
=UCAOIMHU, Somerville MA

19. INITIAL WORD CHANGE

(*7, 4, 6, 9) (SEVEN = non-MW usage)

"The SEVEN is the coolest car.
It beats that Tesla thing by far.
My engine purrs, my tailpipes roar.
Your car just hums. You know you FOUR
Admit I'm right, as on most stuff.
I give you my advice enough,
But you just send it (like a NINE)
Flying back to me. That's fine,
But when you're down, just let me know,
So I can say 'I told you so,'
And lecture you about the fix
You youngsters are in." "OK, SIX."
=SCARAB, St. Paul MN

20. PHONETIC DELETION

(6, 6) (CLAY = part of + phrase)

On St. Valentine's Day
 She flirtatiously KAY
 Just one eyelid to say,
 Without words, "*Amor CLAY*
 (Conquers) *omnia, bae!*"
 =UCAOIMHU, Somerville MA

21. PALINDROME DELETION (7)

Let's hope our pols are EMPTY: skilled
 Enough that they reduce the FILLED.
 =BROBBERTY, Chicago IL

22. ENIGMATIC REBUS (*4 7)POI⁻

Soccer fans speaking so fondly of MOLES
 His speed, and they celebrate 1200 goals.
 =NEWROW, Brookline MA

23. FIRST-LETTER CHANGE WNFR

(6) (five parts)

Everyone meet by the showers,
 Except for Dad—into the tub...
 =COUSIN JOE, Cleveland OH

24. REVERSED ALTERNADE

(6 4) (not MW)

The driver spots some ice and slows.
 The TWO lose traction on the curve.
 The driver is prepared and knows
 The way one counteracts the swerve.
 The driver, quickly, at the ONE
 Of trouble, ALL the slide: The wheel
 Is, with the swerve's direction, spun.
 And once the sliding threat's undone,
 The driver dreams about the fun
 Of purchasing a snowmobile.
 =T MCAY, Aurora CO

25. BIGRAM CURTAILMENT (7, *5)

Whose operas are widely adjudged as the
 best?
 The HYMNAL of many lists HIM o'er the
 rest.
 =530nm330Hz, Newton MA

26. FALSE OPPOSITE †

(3, 6) (can be sung)

Choirs tour the Arctic Sea
 In gowns too long for me.
 Loose edging catches wee
 Toes then in Frobisher Bay.
 "Woe!" sung in Frobisher Bay.

"Oh, don't just wail," our cantor sighed,
 "Sing a SIX; hymns will clear your mind."
 But as we arose, my feet entwined.
 The stitches ripped; the fabric rived.

Now torn is my vestiaary.
 Won't someone mend the THREE?
 My will's that somebody
 Sews, when in Frobisher Bay,
 Clothes rent in Frobisher Bay.
 =MANYPINKREGARDS, Hamil2n ON

27. TRANSPOSAL (9)

We have a collection of Inuit craft,
 Some made of bone, but most is carved
 ARTS.
 The figures are humans and animal types
 That live in the Arctic and play vital parts.

A few are crude implements, scrapers and
 spears,
 Plus spades, picks, and knives, and long
 forks with two prongs.
 But no STAR for eating or stirring hot
 drinks;
 In silverware drawers is where that tool
 belongs.
 =WITZ, Vancouver BC

28. ENIGMATIC REBUS (1 7 4 *6) (var., non-MW usage in reading)

American forces required NUMBER ONE,
And Jackson complied at New Orleans. War done.
=NEWROW, Brookline MA

29. LETTER BANK

(*9, 11-4) (neither MW)

I have a little house
I never need to clean.
I'll never paint or plumb
Or patch a window screen.
It's virtually HUGE,
And "virtual" is key.
I won't be moving in:
I built the house in WEE.
=T MCAY, Aurora CO

30. ENIGMATIC REBUS (6, 7)

Die Sekunde von February

Back then, *der Zweite Februar* (which has
An article that's masculine, and as
Its "second" word an ordinal and not
A time, and leaves out "of", and hasn't got
A "y"—that's all correct) was when a beast
Of species *Meles meles* told (at least,
Implied) when winter'd stop; now
nature's laws,

Which once assigned that role to Europe's
FLAWS

That only our *Marmota monax* knows
The timing of the end of winter's snows.
=UCAOIMHU, Somerville MA

31. PASTEOVER (5)

DOUBLE-CROSS (5, 6, 7, 4)

PALINDROME-TO-LETTER

CHANGE (6)

Old Paul Bunyan was giant, amazingly
strong,
And could cut forests down like the most
hellish KNIFE,
Yet he sawed with a neat, narrow kerf all
day long.
Still it ONEs me, the memory of that
long-lost life:
Never THREE, never vain, just a man of
the earth,
He did not own a FOUR or a bank. He
showed worth
Downing spruce, pine and SKY, always
sharing his mirth.
All our comrades adored him and praised
him in song
As a TWO NIKE SAWWAY, unless I
heard wrong.
=Nemo DeSluyp, White Plains NY

32. REVERSED METATHESIS † (6)

An aphorism's drawing near.
That FIRST statement's SECOND here.
=MANYPINKREGARDS, Hamil2n ON

33. THIRD-SOUND CHANGE †

(6 4, 5 3) (clued in order)

As tagged, the firm we flew with isn't in
A reference sanctioned by the NPL,
But our Air France experience has been
Imbued with style and service nonpareil!
The airport staff was friendly and genteel.
The outdoor FLEET adroitly prepped our
plane.

The flight attendants served a fancy meal
Of haute cuisine and flutes of FLAT
champagne!

We noted every pain the airline took
And, dictionary status set aside,
We can attest that Air France wrote the
book

On keeping travelers safe and satisfied.

(The "As tagged" part is just a reference to
November 65, by Ucaimhu.)

=TANQUERAY, Nashora TO

34. REBUS (*6) (non-MW usage)

6K

Six thousand fans (and more) will yell
When Minnesota's SOLs do well.

=BROBBERTY, Chicago IL

36. OVERLOADED LETTER BANK

(9, 15)

For Lincoln's Birthday I had planned
To take its old name ("Lindum") and
Transpose it for a flat on how
Unmild the weather's getting now
Or double-cross it for a flat
On oil in *Linda's gum*, say, that
Releases aromatic *gas*

That gives it flavor—but alas,
It's Abe's, and not the city's, B-day;
Thus, you'll see no flat on IDÉE.
=UCAOIMHU, Somerville MA

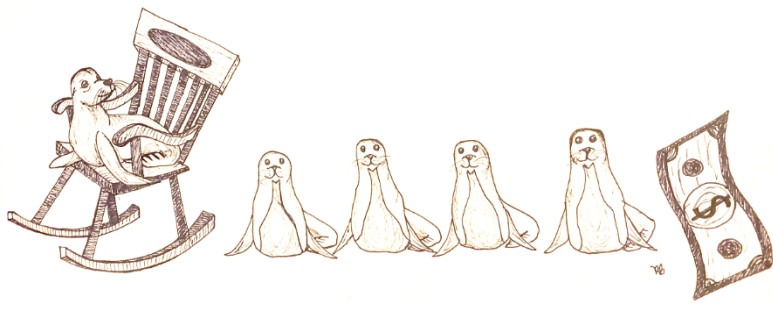
37. ACROSTICAL ENIGMA

(*6) (not MW)

- A. A cherished home remains the same
Regardless of who takes the game.
- B. Dome, terrazzo, staircase step,
Counter space for kitchen prep:
- C. A stylish home! I'll bring you stuff
Like bread and spreads. You'd have
enough

Fine tapenade to sate each hearty
Olive lover at your party.

=SCARAB, St. Paul MN

35. PHONIGMATIC REBUS † (3 *6 *4! 3 *6)

Trek each West South Central state.

ALL! Lovely cities. Don't you wait.

=NEWROW, Brookline MA

38. FALSE PLURAL

(4, *6) (*6 = not MW)

In the PBS listings, the new Climate Show:
 “Like a thief, today’s heat takes away all
 we know.

An Australian ONE’s coral might well
 disappear.”

Keanu TWO narrates with flair, so I hear.
 =COUSIN JOE, Cleveland OH

39. FIRST-SOUND CHANGE

(6, 5) (clued in order)

My spirits improved thanks to
 rose-coloured specs.

The tint on my lenses is quite a nice gift,
 Responsible for a clear attitude TRAIT.
 This neat GREAT device gave my mood a
 real lift.

=WITZ, Vancouver BC

40. ALTERED STATE (6)

An archaeologist found out
 Just why a standing stone was raised,
 And wrote an ARGOT all about
 This INGOT and its use, well phrased.
 =Nemo DeSluympt, White Plains NY

41. HEART TRANSPLANT †

(9, 3, *5, 7) (GAIN = *5 = not MW)
 (can be lip-synched by Leslie GAIN as
 Gigi)

The night they invented champagne
 They didn’t form from all its ethyl alcohol,
 Say, many an ethanide GRAIN
 (Which carries, on a larger atom, minus
 charge);

They left it intact, in the main,
 To bring to people (or—a MITE
 Less often—MITRES, when those
 horseflies once again

Have landed in your champagne glasses)
 great delight!
 =UCAOIMHU, Somerville MA

42. SECOND-TO-LAST**CHANGEVER WNFR** (*1₁*1, 3)

One tap in the chem lab spouts water
 that’s cold,

The one to its left...
 =530nm330Hz, Newton MA

43. PALINDROME BEHEADMENT

(10, *1-4)

Some SHORT celebs buy yachts, and
 such,

As proof of their success.

But some are LONG. They don’t need
 much;

They’re happier with less.
 =BROBBERTY, Chicago IL

44. ENIGMATIC REBUS (9)

(inferable material in reading)

pedge

Is rhythm CLUE?

Well, not to Krewe.

=LADY MONDEGREEN, Somerville MA

ANAGRAMS**45. † NOTED U.S. (G/W)RIT**

(^2 *3 ^2 ^5)

=JET, Stafford Heights QLD

46. DENSER SKY M = LOSER (*7 ^8)

=raw, Rochester NY

47. GENT? NAY. LADIES! ([*9’1 *3])

=TYGER, Hoboken NJ

ANTIGRAM**48. I = NEAR UK (*7)**

=raw, Rochester NY

FORMS

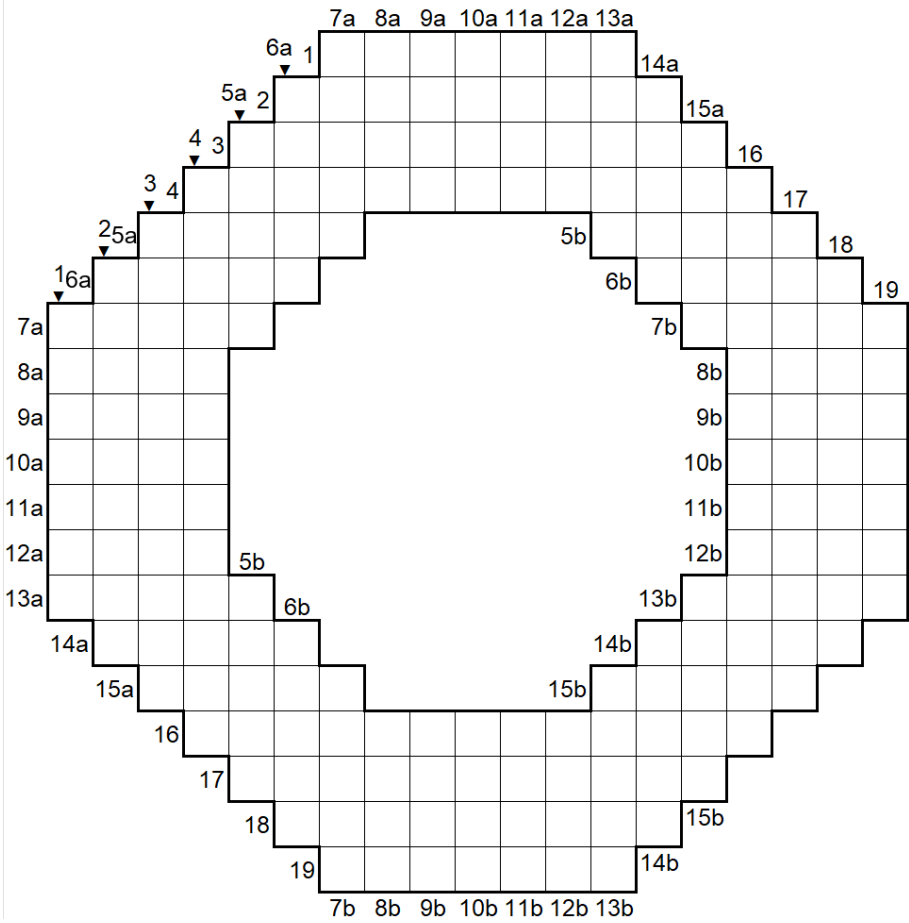
F-1. DOUBLE HOLLOW OCTAGON

Across

- 1 Accesses by rotary phone (not MW)
- 2 Big name in trench coats, reminiscent of *Bleak House* (WP)
- 3 Incarnate, like Scrooge for skinflint
- 4 Little Nell's grandfather gambled it away (findable)
- 5 Things for one to do? | Urgent care pro (not MW)
- 6 Largo, lento, et cetera | Letter sign-off
- 7 Learns fast | Sam with clubs
- 8 ____ but known (WP) | Substation?
- 9 Alamo rival | Writers might write on it
- 10 Demolish, in Devon | Bit of a to-do?
- 11 Uriah Heep or Seth Pecksniff | Art deco master (WP)
- 12 Lanchester in *David Copperfield* (1935) | Stable color?
- 13 Assail | Sounds of jugs pouring
- 14 One type of believer | Downpours "of autumn" in *A Tale of Two Cities*
- 15 Old newspaper sections | Tracked down
- 16 He didn't get off on the **right** foot, famously
- 17 One of Fagin's trainees
- 18 Screenwriter
- 19 Biome (WP)

Down

- 1 With 19 Down, novelist born February 7, 1812
 - 2 Worked hard, like Bob Cratchit
 - 3 *The Wreck of the Golden Mary* depiction (not MW)
 - 4 The act of empathizing
 - 5 Penny dreadfuls | Bone head?: var.
 - 6 The king, in France (findable) | Works hard
 - 7 A Day to remember | Piece of cake?
 - 8 ____ many words | ____ plaisir
 - 9 Foofaraws | City that rhymes with "casino"
 - 10 Love of TV's *The Real* (IMDb) | *Mystical Magical Rhythmical Radical Ride* singer Jason (WP)
 - 11 Miffed mood | Houston MLBer, to fans
 - 12 Up in the air | Either of the Cheeryble brothers in *Nicholas Nickleby*
 - 13 Uproar from the mob, perhaps | Bichon ____
 - 14 Guggenheim Museum Bilbao architect | Stick in a cage
 - 15 They were endemic to the island of Mauritius | Thin, like Mr. Sowerberry
 - 16 *Great Expectations* currency
 - 17 Skulk, as Bill Sykes might do (not MW)
 - 18 Clothes hangers? (not MW)
 - 19 See 1 Down
- =al dente, San Jose CA



F-2. DOUBLE DIAMOND

Across

- 1 With 11 Across, bill of sale, or nonsense
- 2 Management information systems
- 3 Pens, with “up”
- 4 Soft wet tracts of land
- 5 Two-wheeled vehicles drawn by pairs of horses, named for the rocky headland in South Africa
- 6 Chocolate taffy candy named for creator Leo Hirschfield’s daughter, and first sold on February 23, 1896 (WP)
- 7 Height: arch.
- 8 Incongruities between actual and expected results of events
- 9 Religious denominations
- 10 Seat of a bishop’s office
- 11 See 1 Across

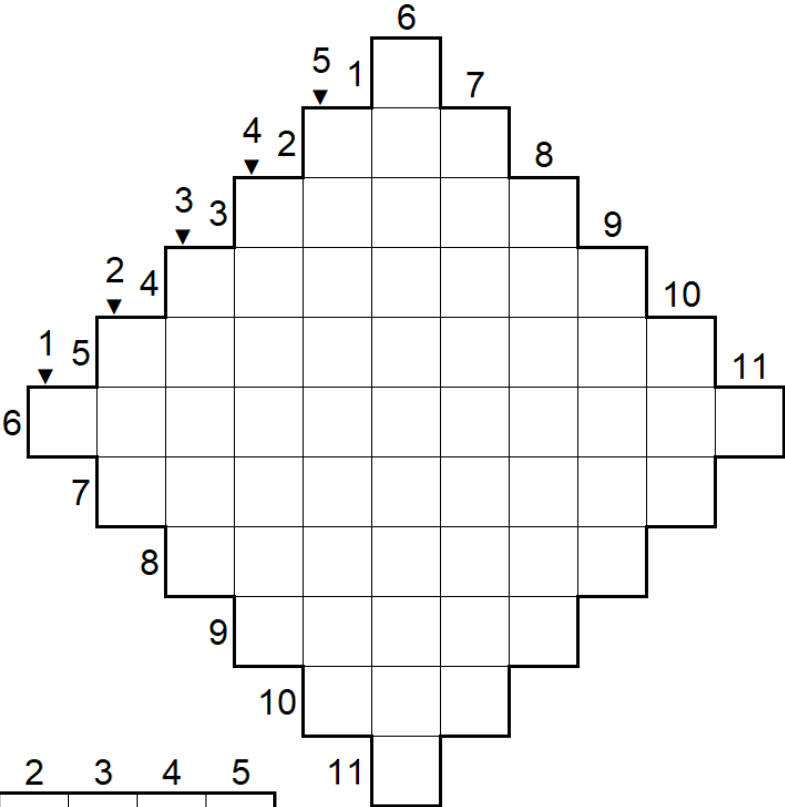
Down

- 1 ____-bone or ____ cell
- 2 Adopt, as an attitude
- 3 Indigenous people of New Zealand
- 4 Kidnappers
- 5 Arab or Berber residents of Spain: arch.
- 6 Studies of living organisms and vital processes
- 7 Mineral consisting of globular concretions of hydrous aluminum phosphate
- 8 Crowds together
- 9 Bounds with a stiff-legged gait
- 10 Furtive
- 11 The Roman numeral of the only Super Bowl number not rendered as a Roman numeral!
=WITZ, Vancouver BC

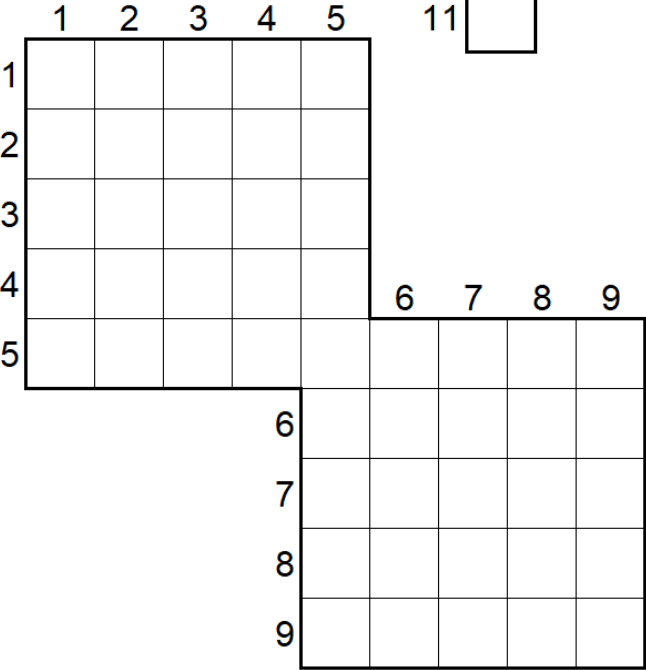
F-3. LEFT WINDMILL

- 1 Inventor of a shorthand system
 - 2 Come up again
 - 3 Grande ____, elite French school
 - 4 Soviet network of labour camps
 - 5 Relating to the system for arranging days declared by a pope on February 24, 1582, adopted immediately by Catholic countries, but much later by other countries
 - 6 Musical form for a sonata or concerto movement
 - 7 Members of the Quechuan peoples of Peru
 - 8 Metaphorical saying, often
 - 9 Advances into a slight lead
- =WITZ, Vancouver BC

F-2.



F-3.



F-4. INVERTED TRUNCATED PYRAMID**Across**

- 1 Nickname for the US victory over the USSR to win Olympic gold in men's hockey, February 22, 1980 (WP)
- 2 Covering spread underneath plates and silverware
- 3 Automobile hazard lights
- 4 Excuse not to appear in English law court as scheduled
- 5 Discovered
- 6 Op-_____ or phys _____

Down

- 1 Noon or thousand, in Latin abbreviations
 - 2 Hide-and-seek principal player
 - 3 British flying military
 - 4 Having sufficient skill
 - 5 Elegance
 - 6 Property renter
 - 7 Made sound repetitions
 - 8 Liquid portion of a fat
 - 9 One of three Norse goddesses of fate
 - 10 Relating to the object of an action
 - 11 Two visible letters in the logo of the Montreal Canadiens
 - 12 Base of a log?
- =WITZ, Vancouver BC

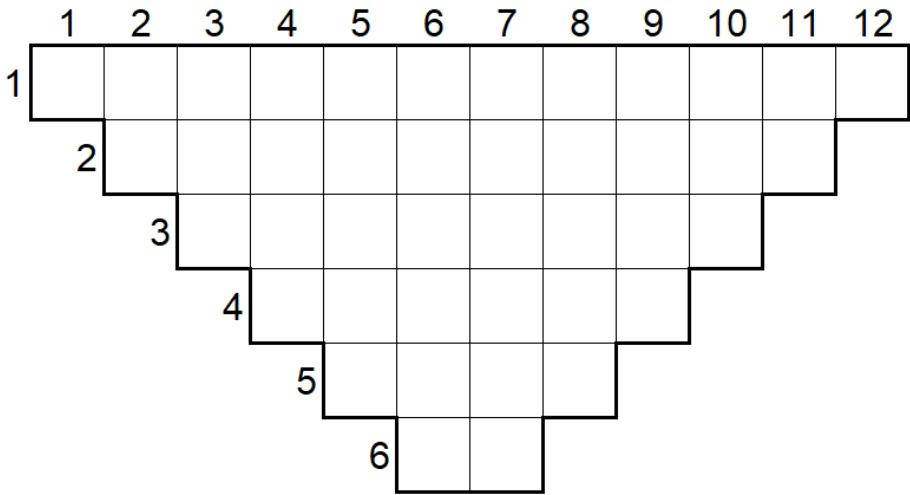
F-5. DOUBLE OCTAGON**Across**

- 1 Hole in one
- 2 Palm leaf
- 3 Go back in
- 4 Pacific island location for flag-raising on February 23, 1945, captured in Joe Rosenthal's photo
- 5 Main group of cyclists in a race
- 6 Tracks or birds
- 7 Compass point, or suffix for an unsaturated carbon compound

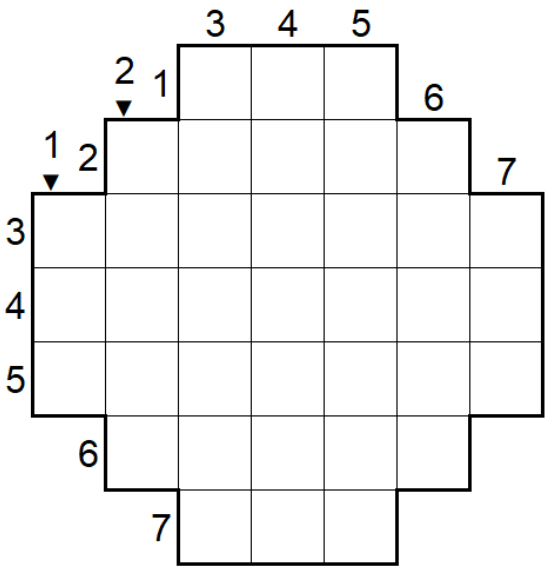
Down

- 1 Tear
 - 2 Less, for countable items
 - 3 Coloured rings, especially around the nipple
 - 4 Stick together for a common purpose
 - 5 Designate
 - 6 Recordings made to promote a song or performer
 - 7 Fled
- =WITZ, Vancouver BC

F-4.



F-5.



F-6. TRUNCATED PYRAMID**Across**

- 1 Letters in the chemical formula for benzene
- 2 Abandon aloofness
- 3 Companies of lions
- 4 Having greater selfish desire
- 5 Once again stated positively
- 6 Likely the most prolific inventor in American history, born on February 11, 1847

Down

- 1 With 12 Down, abbreviation for the Volunteer State
 - 2 Amount of water vapor present in the air divided by the greatest amount possible, for short
 - 3 Earth: comb. form, or a discontinued Chevrolet brand
 - 4 Baby carriage in Britain and Canada
 - 5 Food that is ritually impure according to Jewish law: var.
 - 6 NFL team that Taylor Swift cheers for
 - 7 Finnan ____, smoked fish
 - 8 Caused by witchcraft
 - 9 Game before the final
 - 10 Legal matter
 - 11 Bring about
 - 12 See 1 Down
- =WITZ, Vancouver BC

F-7. CRYPTIC FORM †**Across**

- 1 Cupid primarily marketing a way to fix a broken heart? (*abbr.*) | Lipped 7 Down animal
- 2 Hold exclusively for love, ultimately intimate
- 3 Turned lips to kiss romantic partner a bit too much
- 4 Same mushy color of love spread around
- 5 Bone structure of vain lady
- 6 Drink aroused desire only halfway
- 7 Smooth kiss at last (*abbr.*)

Down

- 1 Fresh after taking her out a very short time (*abbr.*)
 - 2 Police fraternity releases Romeo
 - 3 Start to pucker lip? A first
 - 4 Let up about empty love nest being vacant
 - 5 Sticks around and loves adult for nothing
 - 6 A girl aflutter with love song
 - 7 New, new, new love
 - 8 Manipulated and lusted after long time going out
 - 9 Hesitation of couple into eroticism
- =WHEELS, Dunnville ON

F-8. RECTANGLE**Across**

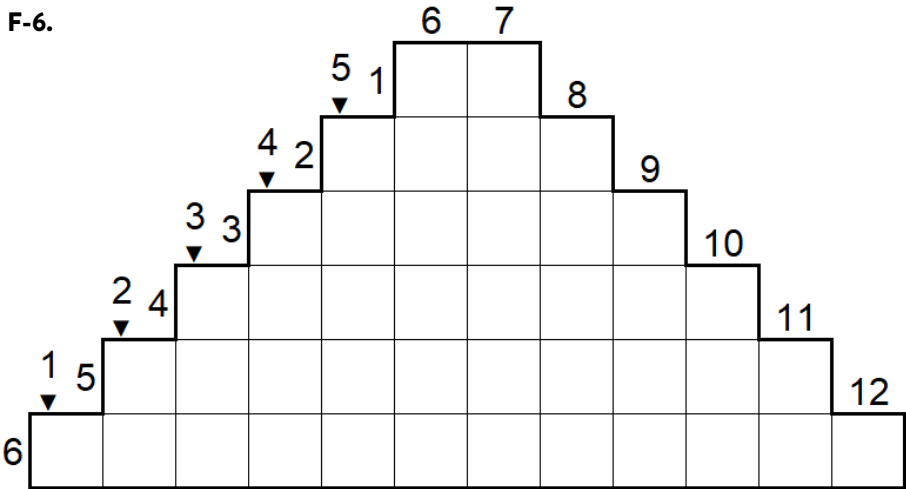
- 1 Exotic dancer arrested on February 13, 1917, on suspicion of being a German spy, and later convicted and executed (WP)
- 2 ____ year or ____ freedom
- 3 Key component of table salt and other compounds
- 4 Offensive things to view

Down

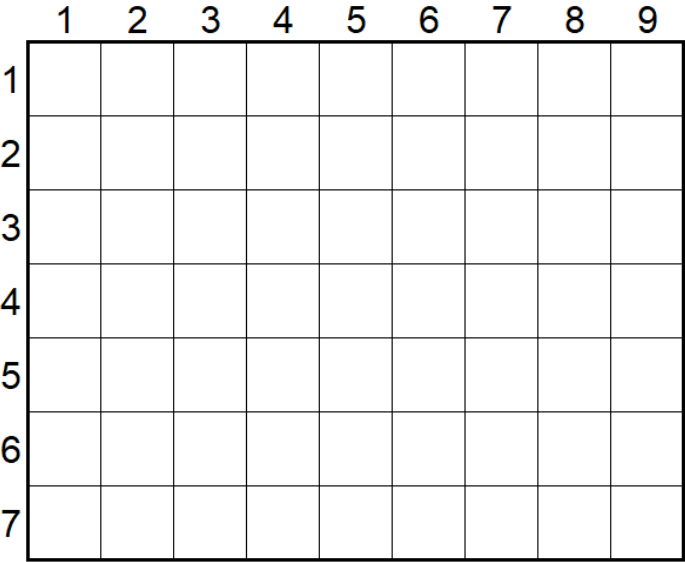
- 1 Spice made of dried nutmeg covering
 - 2 In pain
 - 3 Account
 - 4 Heightened fusses
 - 5 Leander's love interest
 - 6 Islamic ruler: var.
 - 7 Be borne
 - 8 Frozen fruit juice desserts
- =WITZ, Vancouver BC



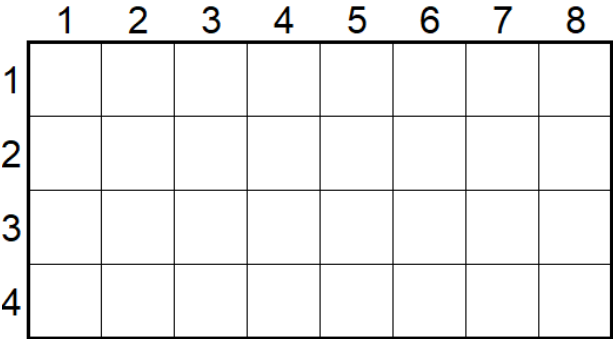
F-6.



F-7.



F-8.



X-1. OLD-TIMERS' DAY — by MR E, Portland OR

All but four clues contain single extra words which must be removed before solving. The third letters of these words spell out an instruction for entering the answers to the four normal clues, because if entered normally they would clash with every crossing entry. Follow this instruction in such a way that the four resulting entries have something in common.

Across

- 1 Having used *this* to fill tires, I sped up ramp wildly (7; 2 wds.)
- 6 British idiots left money in beds (5)
- 10 Soldier's regret: attack's been bungled (10; 2 wds.)
- 12 Modify the structure of a piece in set of false teeth (8)
- 13 Occupational therapist surmises it's an ear infection (6)
- 14 Leaders of France always keep rejecting everything phony (4)
- 15 American author without a match (4)
- 17 Uruguay not alert when Pele shot (6)
- 19 OR doc grabs piece of troublesome bony fish (8)
- 21 Cameras etc. aren't repositioned in intermission (8)
- 23 Native Americans hiding in grass have more than rabble-rousers (6)
- 24 Pollution spoils a world (4)
- 26 Stereo boom box (4)
- 28 Somehow drowned but not dead? It's a miracle (6)
- 30 Resident rode northward into Canada in October (8)
- 31 Son, he could change natural laws (10)
- 32 Lyric poem opened strangely without normal idioms (5)
- 33 Solvent interpenetrating motor to some extent (7)

Down

- 1 Russian woman coming up with bright scheme (5)
- 2 Defiant troublemaker crashed Internet (8)
- 3 Jenny's lively for a toddler (4)
- 4 Where lingerie comes back to life? (6)
- 5 Colonists supporting colony's founder hold flags (8)
- 6 Amount of land returned in earlier case (4)
- 7 Whenever little lefty bats, throw anything (6; 2 wds)
- 8 Dance performance cut short after important offense brought up (10; 2 wds.)
- 9 Like some stairways within the French church tower (7)
- 11 Prepared a drink to rouse Romeo to a higher level, and Charlie likewise (10; 2 wds.)
- 16 To make one's fortune from one is a business arrangement (8)
- 18 Rick Green leaves casserole sadly — not satisfactory (8)
- 19 Couple's big book about plant Mohicans raised (7)
- 20 It could be France beating Germany — and in Berlin (6)
- 22 Republican candidate ruffled other speaker (6)
- 25 Maybe Bjorn Borg's son married Ingrid's eldest (5)
- 27 Part of church program's heard Tuesdays (4)
- 29 We hope to get rid of every English smack addict (4)

1		2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9
10											
	11			12							
13								14			
15					16	17			18		
19											
			20	21			22				
23								24			25
26				27		28		29			
30											
		31									
32					33						

EXTRAS

E-1. VIENNA SAUSAGE † (12)

1. Give credit to
2. Specialty material from Ipswich, MA
3. Salt and pepper-like
- 1+2. Crampon (2 words) (not MW)
- 2+3. Swedish soldier in the Great Northern War
- 3+1. It might be equal and opposite
- 1+2+3. Element of the law preceding the one just mentioned
- =JET, Stafford Heights QLD

E-2. ANAQUOTE (2 4 2 3 5 4, 2 9. 3 4 2 6. *6 *5)

Lasting impression.

ATT CEI DON DTH EGL ERE HEW HOO
 ILD MOR NCH OOK ORL SME STI UCK
 UIS WEL YLO
 =~~78~~, Bellevue WA

E-3. MOSAIC QUOTE (6 7 1 5 2 5 4 5 7 3 3 5 5. *1. *5) [4 rows × 4 columns]

Just joking.

BE EO FH GF
 NY WI LL SM

GI IN LE NS
 OR RO TA OR

OP OR PE RF
 OU UF TH YO

UM UN VE WI
 NE AN VE SE
 =WITZ, Vancouver BC

E-4. ANAQUIP (5 4 *7 (3-2-4 ^5 7 2 3-2 7) 2 *7, *8, 3 2 2 8 4 *7, *5.)**

On the road.

AGG ANN AST CON DAT DRI EDW EGU
 EOF EXA FUS GNE GOU IDE ING IST
 ITH MPL MUS MUS MWT NON OBE OTT
 OUR PAK PAL TAN TAN TOF TOM UNG
 VEY
 =CRAX, Mountain View CA

E-5. ANAFACT (*5 3 *8 *6 4 7 6 4 3 5 12 6.)

77 years.

ARR COU ENT GER HER IAL IED JIM
 LON LYN MYA NAN NCA NDR OSA PLE
 PRE REM RTE RWE SID THA YOT

=WITZ, Bellevue WA

E-6. VERTIQUOTE (*1 4 2 2 3 3 3 3 2 3 5, 3 2 3 4 4 2 4 3 4 2 5. *5)

Two things.

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

=WITZ, Vancouver BC

E-7. ANAQUOTE (2 2 3 6 2 7 3 3 7 9 3 4 7 7 3 4 11. *1. *9)

Does not compute.

ANC ATI CAL CHU CUL DES DOU DWI
 EOR EST ILL ITI LCH NTE ONW OOM
 OOT PLA PSA RCH RDF REB RWA SAL
 STE THO TIN UCH UTT YAN YWA

=WITZ, Vancouver BC

E-8. MOSAIC QUOTE (2 3 2 3 4 2 8 2 6 2 5. *3 *10) [1 row × 13 columns]

Make nice.

DE ER HE IS KI ND NE NT OF RO SI SS TO
 RL LD ER ER AR MB RU AN IZ OM RO ST SE

=WITZ, Vancouver BC

E-9. ALTERNATING ANAQUOTE

(...2 2 3 6 2 3 4 4, 3 5 2 3 5 2 2 7 5 2 7 2 2 3 4 10. *7 *8)

Our government exists...

AWR DDO EAL ECA ELI HEM HER NIT
 ONA OON OTH THI TOD TST TWH
 EISN ENCE EWAN FORT ICHN INGI LLYM LNEE
 NDAL NEBU NGSW ODOB OTHE PERS USET

=WITZ, Bellevue WA

E-10. BELGIAN WAFFLE †

9↓ →10			

These two clues are in alphabetical order by answer:



These twelve clues are in alphabetical order by answer:

- Enya's full first name
- Actor Cary who said "As you wish"
- The river of forgetfulness
- Striker starring in a Disney musical
- Salamanders that, conveniently, can regenerate their eyes
- Understand and have sympathy
- British comedian Jim with a Harry Potter cameo
- Decimal division
- Federal dept. supporting ex-armed forces personnel (2 words)
- One starting work on the railroad?
- D&D's name for an ent, to avoid trademark infringement (not MW)
- Sea changes
- =JET, Stafford Heights QLD

TREASURER’S REPORT
FOURTH QUARTER 2024 (OCTOBER 1 TO DECEMBER 31)

BALANCE 09/30/2024 **\$ 30,187.63**

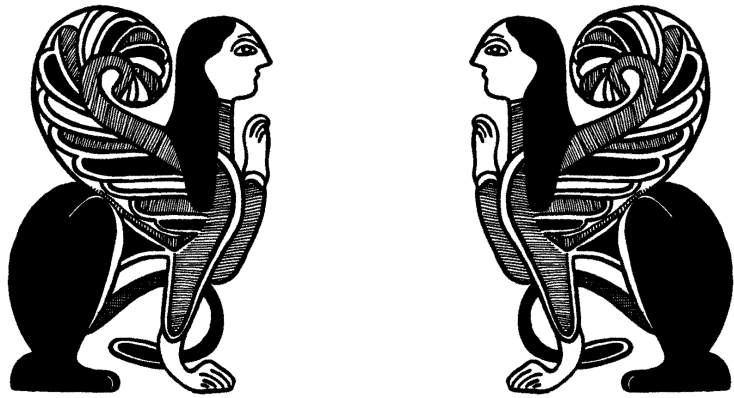
Income and Expenses: 10/01/2024 – 12/31/2024

Income	
New Members	\$ 995.00
Renewals and Rejoins	\$ 3,570.00
Regular Gifts	\$ 4,706.44
Income - TOTAL	\$ 9,271.44

Expenses	
Ballots	\$ 89.60
Directory printing	\$ 30.72
Electronic Payment Fees	\$ 160.71
Enigma printing	\$ 3,829.20
Envelopes	\$ 620.90
Guide printing	\$ 74.56
Large print printing	\$ 238.32
Postage	\$ 2,321.23
Professional Services - Accountant	\$ 1,225.00
Refund	\$ 29.40
Web host	\$ 163.93
Expenses - TOTAL	\$ 8,783.57

TOTAL INCOME – EXPENSES **\$ 487.87**

BALANCE 12/31/2024 **\$ 30,675.50**



NOVEMBER SOLVERS

The November 2024 *Enigma* had 71 flats, 13 forms, 7 crypts, 17 extras, and 3 cryptics. 45 solution lists, representing 77 solvers, were received.

Art Brut/DtheW, BlueStorminator, Cathrach, Craig, Deansk, DelphiRune/Papayagi/RUgame?, /dev/joe/Vraal/Tinhorn/Om Nom, Dragonfly/Paragon, Ewer, Jo the Loiterer/Manx/Pen Gwyn/Stewball, Lyric/Munro, ManyPinkHats/Regards, Philana/Mercury, Qaqaq, Tril, Violette, and Witz/Andreas had completes. Badir, David Bael/Rosebud/Scarab/Wild Rice/Yarom, Cache, Is, T McAy, and Widdy/Bambam had flat completes.

Welcome, returning solver George Groth!

Accepted: 6-SPARCITY for SCARCITY (3); 16-FLIP-FLOP) POOP: LAMB, DA (25); 28-RECKLING for WEAKLING (with RECALL for DUCAL); 61-WASH, PASH and WICK, PICK for WHIZ, PHIZ; F-8-TRIALATE for TERNATE. Not accepted: 4-CHARM (2) and CHART (1) for SHARP; 7-REVI(EW) for DESK(EW); 16-FLIP-FLOP) LOUT: LAMB, DA; 21-RANGY for ROGUE; 25-NOVICE, CONNIVENCE; 51-NEMO DESLUYMP; 61-WORK, PORK for WHIZ, PHIZ (4); F-11-MORNING GLORY for CROWNING GLORY.

—/dev/joe, Solutions Editor

FLATS/FORMS/CRYPTS/EXTRAS/CRYPTICS SOLVED (* = complete): Ajde 15/0/*/7/0. Alice/A-Plus/Hot/Ming 69/0/0/0/0. Badir */*/4/2. David Bael/Rosebud/Scarab/Wild Rice/Yarom */0/0/0/0. Cache */12/0/0/2. Chogori/Clio 67/*/*/*/0. Dischorran 69/*/*/1*. Donsie 0/0/*/5/0. Drauk 68/*/*/*/2. Endgame 42/10/*/0/0. Foobar 69/*/*/*/2. George Groth 68/0/0/1/0. Glee/LaDiDa 70/*/0/3/*. GrandBairn/Melifer/Serendipity 69/12/*/13/2. Is */0/0/0/0. Kwyjibo 38/*/0/15/0. Linko 53/*/0/7/*. Loki-5 65/*/*/4/0. Nemo DeSluym 68/*/*/*/*/. Newrow/Footfly 67/*/*/13/2. NJ Ninja 29/*/*/12/1. Pebbles 36/10/2/7/0. PiRomantic 63/0/*/5/0. Tabellion/Verdant 43/11/0/10/1. T McAy */0/0/0/0. Toototabon/QT-Oh/Noodle Noggin 70/*/*/*/*/. Tiger/weefoot/Wolverine 67/*/*/16/1. Widdy/Bambam *//*/*/12/2.

SOLVING FREQUENCY/NUMBER OF KUDOS/TOP KUDOS: FLATS: 1-39/13, 2-42/4, 3-41/2, 4-38/1, 5-36/9, 6-41/1, 7-40/3, 8-42/5, 9-42/5, 10-44/2, 11-39, 12-43/7, 13-43/3, 14-41/3, 15-42/12, 16-35/10/1, 17-42/1, 18-40/1, 19-40/4, 20-41/1, 21-39/10, 22-43/2, 23-43/1, 24-37/5, 25-34/2, 26-42/4, 27-44/5, 28-38/18/5, 29-44, 30-44, 31-36/10/1, 32-39/7, 33-39/8, 34-38/1, 35-44/11, 36-43/3, 37-41/10, 38-37, 39-37/7, 40-40/13/2, 41-41/4, 42-43/1, 43-38/1, 44-42/5/1, 45-42/2, 46-39/4/1, 47-44/2, 48-44/3, 49-41/6, 50-38/9, 51-39/3, 52-41/6, 53-32/9/1, 54-41/1, 55-43/1, 56-41/8, 57-33/3, 58-37/3, 59-42/3, 60-43/1, 61-31, 62-37/7, 63-41/1, 64-39/8, 65-37/2, 66-39/1, 67-37/1, 68-39/1, 69-42/1, 70-41/2, 71-38/5/1. FORMS: 1-35/12, 2-37/3, 3-37/1, 4-37/1, 5-37, 6-37/2, 7-37, 8-33/5, 9-37, 10-37, 11-34/6, 12-36/3, 13-37/1. CRYPTS: 1-34/2, 2-35/1, 3-34/1, 4-35/4, 5-34/1, 6-34/1, 7-34. EXTRAS: 1-36, 2-38/4, 3-33/3, 4-24, 5-34/1, 6-26/1, 7-32, 8-31, 9-24/1, 10-32, 11-28/1, 12-29/5, 13-31/15, 14-25,

15-26/1, 16-29, 17-31. CRYPTICS: 1-30/15, 2-30/20/4, 3-23/19/4. MISCELLANEA (* = not tabulated): KU-1-22/1, bird flats-*/1.

KUDOS (! = top kudos): Alice 49, 50, X-2, X-3. Anomaly 28!, 31, 40, 64, F-1, C-4, E-6, X-1, X-2, X-3. Badir 1, 5, 15, 18, 28, 31, 33, 35, 41, 46, 52, 53, 71, F-1, E-13, X-1, X-2, X-3!. BlueStorminator 16, 37, 64. Cache 1, 5, 6, 15, 16!, 24, 28, 31, 32, 34, 37, 39, 40, 49, 50, 56, 66, 71, F-1, X-1, X-2, X-3, KU-1. Cathrach 21, 32, 47, 62, 71!, C-5, E-11, X-3. Deansk 1, 5, 28, 35, 37, 45, 51, 52, 53!, 62, 64, 65, F-8. DelphiRune 16, 19, 27, 28!, 32, 33, 37, 39, 46, 56, 62, F-1, F-2, C-3, E-13, X-1, X-2, X-3. /dev/joe 10, 28!, 33, 56, F-2. Dischorran 8, 16, 35, 36, 53, 64. Dragonfly 2, 12, 15, 24, 26, 28, 31!, 32, 36, 37, 43, 49, 50, 56, 62, C-1. Drauk 1, 50, C-2, E-2, E-13. George Groth 40, 53. Glee 1, 15, 21, 56, F-1, E-2, E-12, E-13, X-1, X-2. Hot 2, 9, 15, 27, 28, 31, 35, 64. Is 5, 8, 16, 21, 24, 28, 31, 37, 40, 41, 44, 52, 53, 56, 69, 70. Jo the Loiterer 1, 12, 15, 19, 24, 25, 28, 32, 35, 37, 39, 40, 49, 53, 57, F-1, F-2, F-3, F-4, F-11, F-12, F-13, E-3, E-13, X-2, X-3. LaDiDa 5, 9, 13, 15, 19, 21, 28, 31, 48, 49, F-8, X-2, X-3. Linko 3, 8, 9, 12, 14, 27, 28!, 33, 40, 50, 52, F-1, F-8, F-11, E-5, E-9, E-13, X-1, X-2, X-3. Lyric 14, 26, 28, 52, 63, C-4, E-12, E-13, X-1, X-2!, X-3. ManyPinkHats 7, 12, 21, 28, 58, 59. Mercury 3, 5, 7, 8, 13, 26, 33, 35, 36, 37, 39, 40, 44, 48, 68, 70, X-2. Ming 32, 67, 71. Munro E-13, X-1, X-2!. Nemo DeSluym 21, 39, 57, C-6, X-1, X-3. Newrow 31, 33, 40!, 50, 57, F-6, F-12, X-1. NJ Ninja 8, 9, 12, 13, 15, 20, 22, 23, 27, 35, 40, 42, 44, 46, 47, 48, 54, 55, 59, X-2!. Noodle Noggin C-4. Pebbles 7, 10, 12, 14, 22, 32, 35, 45, 46!, 56, 60. Pen Gwyn 1, X-3. Qaqaq 5, 16, 35, 37, 51, F-12, E-13, X-1, X-3. QT-Oh 1, 4, 9, 15, 16, 17, 33, 35, 37, F-1, F-8, F-11, E-12, E-13, X-1, X-2, X-3. Tabellion 51, 64, F-1, E-13, X-2. T McAy 12, 19, 21, 25, 28, 39, 40!, 58, 64, 71. Toototabon 1, 15, 21, 56, 58, 62, E-2, E-12, E-13, X-1, X-2, X-3. Tril 1, 2, 16, 21, 28, 40, 49, 50, 52, 53, 62, F-1, F-8, F-11, E-12, E-13, X-1, X-2, X-3!. Tyger 28!, 33, 35, 44, 59, F-1, F-6, E-13. Verdant 44!. Violette 1, 2, 5, 15, 24, 26, 27, 28, 31, 40, 41, 50, 53, 62, 64, 65, F-11, C-1, E-3, E-15, X-2, X-3!. Wild Rice 16, 31, 40, 41. Witz 1, 15, 16, 21, 39, 50, F-1, F-11, C-4, E-3, E-13, X-2, X-3!. Yarom 1, 5, 53, E-2, X-1, X-2!, X-3.

DECEMBER SOLUTIONS

1. chic Anna, deer-os [she-canid, Eros] 2. underrates, unserrated 3. tours, torturous 4. heaven-sent, four-o'clock 5. Latinesque, sequential 6. go(blini)sh 7. pigsney, espying 8. OK apish, odd otter [okapi, shod; dotter] 9. cyan, ca' canny 10. saunter, restaurant 11. Nobels, bonelessness 12. c(a/o)ldera 13. octopus, occiput 14. misordered [mi]shap (what could go wrong), sor|did (mean), der|ive (infer), ed|it (ready for printing) 15. dearth, hard-hearted, death threat, The Red-Headed 16. legerdemain, greenmailed 17. conifer, reinforce, coffin corner 18. C(alga)ry 19. gashed, dagesh 20. dresser, dessert 21. no longer, reg 22. g(astro)nome 23. at last, in Oregon [Atlas; tin ore, G on] 24. hendiadys team iller, hen dye a dusty miller 25. question, in quotes 26. steam, seatmate 27. Bargatze, Zagreb 28. daw, ditch, doll [yaw, pitch, roll (tumbling, turning through all 3D)] 29. ma|infra|me 30. Artotryte, trattoria 31. swayed, suede 32. kinglier, ringlike 33. carol, local color 34. D(alla/odo)s; n(ippi)est; C(ana/opepo)da; br(illi)ant 35. co(de)|(de)n|cat(s|t)en|(st)ate 36. Ba(lines/throb)e 37. (p)enchant 38. pail|lard 39. spotlit, spoilt 40. freesia, free [à la Malaysia, Malay] 41. fried, free ride 42. Howard Phillips Lovecraft 43. Christmas twenty twenty-four

- C-1. I don't get it; an animal famous for its slowness was a bad choice for the idiom "faster than the blink of an ai".
- C-2. My form's unusual diagram is no typo: One Across and One Down are clued to make their first letter optional. [*See December F-10.*]
- C-3. The following opinion does not necessarily reflect the views of the Scrooge Network: Happy Holidays!
- C-4. The post-punk poser: when the band The The is placed in the index, should they be listed as "The The" or "The, The"?
- C-5. We never do find out what the airspeed velocity of an unladen swallow is (African nor European).
- C-6. Many claim doing same thing again expecting another outcome defines lunacy. Sounds more like chaos theory.
- C-7. Popular parson prints political pamphlets providing plentiful points, pleading, "please peruse."
-
- E-1. Jingle bells, Batman smells, Robin laid an egg. The Batmobile broke its wheel, and the Joker got away!
- E-2. My point is, life is about balance. The good and the bad. The highs and the lows. The piña and the colada. E[llen] DeGeneres
- E-3. Despite all you may have heard to the contrary, the rain in Spain stays almost invariably in the hills. Michael Flanders
- E-4. Wheat is wheat, even if it looks like grass at first to townsfolk—and the other way round too. van Gogh
- E-5. A wise man, therefore, proportions his belief to the evidence. Reason is, and ought only to be, the slave of the passions. David Hume
- E-6. eon, erg, rats; engore, graters, treason; generators
- E-7. I used to compete in sports a lot. And then I realized that you can buy trophies. Now I'm good at everything. Demetri Martin
- E-8. Look at me. You are beautiful. You are special and you matter. As for cats, you don't need my validation and you know it. John Oliver
- E-10. The English language is the accretion and growth of every dialect, race, and range of time, and is the culling and composition of all. W[alt] Whitman
- E-11. I can't complain but sometimes I still do. Joe Walsh
- E-12. I never played Wonder Woman. I was always just Diana. You can't play a superhero. Lynda Carter
- E-13. My grandmother started walking five miles a day when she was sixty. She's ninety-seven now, and we don't know where the heck she is. [Ellen] DeGeneres



F-1.

HOISTER
DINNERSET
SOMETHINBAD
THEODORGEISEL
CHASM DECOR
THEFT DOSAS
SHIFT YENTL
IERI ODEA
BGON NOTS
ERMA EMIT
RIAL SHEL
INNS SONE
ACCTS CHUNG
HEROS BOISE
RAPCD BLARE
WHOROASTBEAST
SLIPPERIEST
DEEPROOTS
DRSEUSS

F-2.

S
ROD
MEIER
SERLING
HUGGY
MAN
S

F-3.

AND WORM
DIETED E
INTO OAT
E ANARCH
USING HO
PLEADED
BE ASHBY
OCTUPLE

F-5.

RADAR
AMIGO
DINOS
AGORA
ROSAPARKS
ARENA
REDOS
KNOBS
SASSY

F-4.

AL | DA
PA | TI | NA
CA | NG

F-6.

DESSERTS
IDEATION
MAGNUMPI
SMOKIEST

F-7.

H
SAE
NERDS
FORMULA
RADIOCITY
NEONATE
SUITS
SEE
S

F-8.

C
SAP
METER
SEVERAL
HERON
NET
D

F-10.

CRAM
HUGO
AMIR
NITA
UNAS
KATS
ATEE
HESS

F-9.

BORMAN
UNEASE
STASIS
TOPHAT

LOVELL
AVENUE
MINORS
ADDLES

ANDERS
ROADIE
CODDLE
OKAYED

F-11.

V
TIN
BESOM
SUBUNIT
GORBACHEV
POSTALORDER
UNSOD MAIRE
BIEN BUSH
LOS MOE
IN SA
C R

F-12.

J
TOE
FRISK
FAINTER
CREATURES
PEARLHARBOR
ESOTERIES
SERCIAL
SILES
PUS
B

E-9.

RAFTFAR
ARIAIRA
FISCSIF
TACOCAT
FISCSIF
ARIAIRA
RAFTFAR

X-1.

Scenes (in presentation order, with start ... end words of their clues)

“cedar” *Christmas* ... planter; saw(R)+s was ... tools; de+corate* to ... trim; [t]re(pea+l)e+d timeless ... abandoned; G+r(is)wold* *Christmas* ... *Skipping*; No(R)+el *Christmas* ... train; “rode” travelled ... reportedly; s+on[e]+g lay ... green; nav(R)+i+dad vehicle ... Spain; Catalans[us]* Santa ...area; e+land ending ... Relative; [c]rack fail ... antlers; [K]ris[s]+k stripped. ... hazard; dan(c)e Move ... *Christmas*; s(now)ing *Carol* ... perhaps; bing+e Crosby ... party; an[d]+ew(R) again ... echoed; caro[l]+b carol ... chocolate; ca[k→ram]e+l cake ... candy; to+[a]ddle+r to ... child; aw[ay] in[a man]g[er] *Away* ... amazing; Magi {*initial letters*} Wise ... incense

Down

grace {*initial letters*}, [n]icer, war+m+[d]er(R), La(plan)d, d(r)eam*, o+bli(gi)ng, even(2), ledge(H), az+a+leas, la+nai(R), a+d(v)anced, ingress*, Santa+na(R), w+in+ds, bo+dega(R), od+der(R), serac(R), treks(HR), “aero”, “Leia”

X-2.

The word removed from nine clues is **emotion**. Each time, it represents a different character from *Inside Out 2*.

Across

o(cc+ip(R))ut, [s]end[a]s(R) {**emotion** = sadness}, Eros(R), “shirr”, o-o+psy, {O-O is chess notation for castling kingside}, anyhoo*, f[e]a[s]i[b]l[e], Tejano(R), env(o)y {**emotion** = envy}, d(u)h, H(mon)g, Archie(H), e+mus[e], A+WOL(R), naes(R), r(a)r(e)r, end+anger {**emotion** = anger}, g+en[n]ui(n)+e {**emotion** = ennui}, tapio*+ca, a[n]x[i]e[ty] {**emotion** = anxiety}, stup(R)+a, dan+g, em*+bar(r+ass)men+t {**emotion** = embarrassment}

Down

[con]CERN, CEO(H), [o]ils, unh+o(o)k, TGIF*, Sc(rant)on[e], a+r(rival +d)ates, [d]epo[t]+xy. disgu(i)s[t→e] {**emotion** = disgust}, sc+yt+he’d, fea(the)r {**emotion** = fear}, YOLO {final letters}, TPed(R), son+gw+rite+r, H(an)s, E+mma, jo(urn+e)y {**emotion** = joy}, Sweet+p+ea, Can+i+dae[r](R), he-(go)at, [c]annul[a], na+palm, ga+me, e+xam(R), U+SDA(R), tats(R), CNET {“cent” with middle letters reversed}, [di]Agra[m]

X-3.

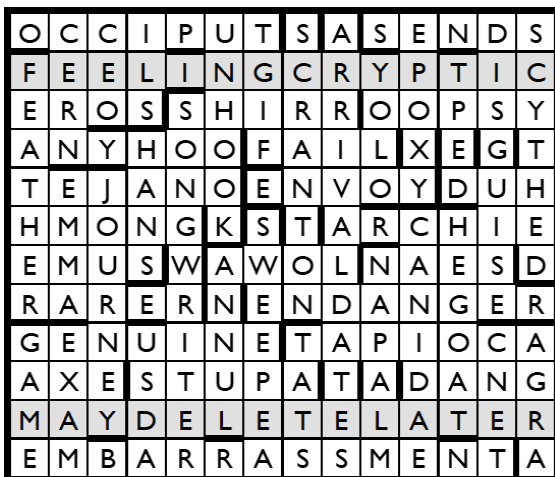
Across: a+b+sent, eider(R), over(nigh)t+bag(R), D[a]y+nasty, be(g)at, basemen+t, elect[r→i]on, a(ba[ss])lone, p(a)lace, wor(s)e, unr*+[h]oller, “shone”, parodies*, [f→w]ineries, de(d)uce

Down: a+bodes, ace+tone, ahi(H), a+vo+w, Baby+l+on, “ball”, “breech”, “caches”, di(n)g, [d]elude, “envy”, gen(r)e, Irene[d]*, Lal*+o, leg(R), netting(2), *Never on*(H), nice(2), sad+ist*, strider*, tiers(2), ups(2)

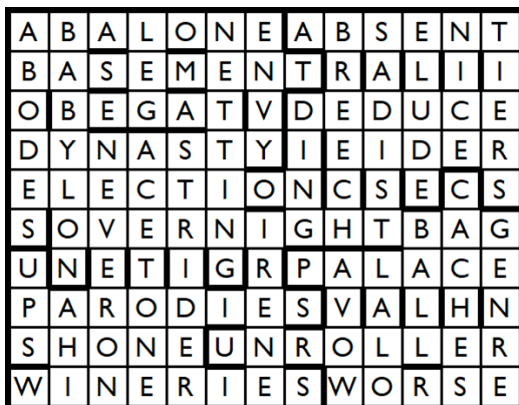
X-1.



X-2.



X-3.



CRYPTOGRAMS

C-1. Authority figure.

BROBBERTY, Chicago IL

XKAJCM, YVMKAD, YTQQCM, IM HUFF: UFF
GCUM FIAD KA OUYPCJOUFF UAL HIIJOUFF
U MCHCMCC XKFF QUPC U NUFF.

C-2. Skeptical.

DRAUK, Midland MI

AYK ZHWU EYWOTGFHEU IAJYFGOIO XYJO
GI IHRJ IY EAHWSJ H PGS AI VQPV? XY
UYQF YKW FJOJHF EA, OAJJTPJ!

C-3. Political animal.

GROUCHO, Cliffside Park NJ

RFCQGWBQP MZBPQHQQJV ZFJVWBBJ
VQJJQGWQ ZF IKK XWAQ. "MKM!" VCQU
JWZP. "VUOZXWB AFR WFP VZBQG VKK!"

C-4. Smooth!

WITZ, Vancouver BC

NIRCH RWQ, ZXHLVHHXQE QO LQHGIPXL
HVCWICN ARH PRJQQ. PQZRN, GIEPXQE
*JQPQS REZ EQ QEI CRXHIH RE INIJCQA.

C-5. Across a crowded room. †

LEXMAN, Davenport IA

IOJEDWY ETTNCTROW ZIO EJJFGED NB *YEU
*OGOTFTV ETW HFBO *AETOZ, RCOTV
FUMJNUMZC EJFEY BJNU MEJZPVNOJY.

C-6. Ooh, I know this one!

FEMUR, New York NY

MBUAUX NHRM NJLHMNYRUR: LPXJYB
NXKQCBUMUKW NYUWNM AXBUYR UKAYBRYPJ
CUMN XKRCYB XMMXUKDYKM MUDY.

C-7. The legacy.

COUSIN JOE, Cleveland OH

*HXKZMTEU *XTMWKH ETADGIGKH
SZTV DADTNH KQDAWIH GXZTNAX WKGXTVH
XIQVKV VTFQ RDI WOZDIV EXZTQDEMKH.