



GRAFFITI ON THE SPHINX

Nov 2013

September 17, 2003 was the first day of the rest of your life.

#263

HARD, REFERENCE, AND FAVORITE FLATS:

My last flat sols were 15, 54, and 40. Of those I have, I think 8, 12, and 55 are hard even with modest research. I'd add 10, 11, 18, 30, 45, 46, 50, 52, 53, 58, and 59 to the easy list. I used references (including MW) to get 2, 9, 15, 16, 17, 25, 27, 32, 39, 42, 49, 54, and 55, and think 2, 9, 14, 15, 17, 31, 38, 39, 42, 44, 49, and 54 are likely to call for it; maybe 13, 16, 34, and 48 too. Source-tagged flats that can be solved without refs: 10, 20, 23, 36, 41, and 50. My current favorites include 2, 9, 13, 24, 28, 35, 39, 51, 57, 59, X3!, and X6.

GotS SOLUTIONS:

SSB 22.10.3b: pirates hate ship repast rhi/noceros core, son. Here's how I would have solved it: 'Buccaneers' clearly clues 'pirates', which fits perfectly after 'hungry', and 'nose-horned' even more clearly clues 'rhinoceros'. If you guess that the R and I of the latter are from a PIRATES grouping, and why wouldn't you?, then 'noceros' is from the second one and is easy to turn into 'core, son', which are clued by 'innards' (not so clearly) and 'my boy' (quite clearly).

The rest is now easy. You are now sure that you have 24 letters left, which must include PIRATES and the H of rhi-. If you assume that it's 3x8 rather than 2x12, which you should be cause it's the easier starting point, you have the first 4 being H + three

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of PIRATE and the last 5 letters of the 6 being a transposal of AEPST. At this point ‘meals’ should be helpful. Even without that, an NPL dictionary search for `^[piratesh][aepst]{5}$` in 9C returns only 25 words, of which only ‘repast’ and ‘stapes’ have no repeats in the last 5 letters. (Alternatively, you could ask for 9C transposals of PAEPST, IAEPS, etc.) And once you have either word you’re assured you have the right division; the remaining words are also clued and probably not hard to work out from enumeration even without clueing.

Chat 22.10.5b ¶1: Leo Sayer, ‘More than I Can Say’.

THE SPHINX LOOKS BACK:

Each flat number marks a change of comment; if no new one’s given, it’s me.

September: **1** - Q/cucumber is easy, but what is that greenery? Cucumber salad? Vines? I’d never heard of *11, so I tried to find a big list of actors. Wikipedia has lots of actor lists, but somehow I missed ‘List of British actors and actresses’, which has him. So I looked for 11-letter `^cumber` words in the NPL Dictionary Search, and there he was. Or at least a lowercase version of him. **4** - sad, when Tunisia is where the Arab Spring started. **5** - I wrote Teki, ‘I still don’t have this but it still looks like a suber; it would be a perfect one if “you Erse, Dart” (trades: RE, U, OY) could account for that U. MANOEUVRE doesn’t help. “Yon Erse”, maybe? Bleah.’ He replied ‘You’re so close to being right,’ and I was enlightened. The first suber-in-disguise was Newrow’s ‘suer for real sous’ [or was it reus?] a couple of decades ago; there have been more since, but I still fell for it. **10** - I didn’t know they were an item at all, let alone a thirty-year one. **12** - submitted as an overloaded alloy; make it an overloaded false alloy and I prefer that to the published name. **15** - it’s been over 45 years since I sat shiva for my father, so I solved this by reffing ‘blended whiskey’. The third line was originally ‘Ten serve it at SEA’, which is clueful but distracted me with ‘minyan’. **16** - yes-men by attitude, yeomen by reference to ‘noble’. **17** - I Googled *Medusa's grandson* and *Sudeikis*. **19** - will two cans avail

September #19, continued

you? **24** - Luna, Cynthia. Dull, secular, mundane, ha! If I’d known anything about *House* it would have been trivial. **27** - Wrybosh: How do I make the letters do that? Each letter is in its own text box. Rotate the text boxes independently and align to taste. **28** - I Googled *flaming cheese* and *saganaki* was in almost every hit on the first page. But not in ‘Giant goat-cheese fire closes Norwegian roadway for six days’. R/EDS: fortunately I got to a second choice of country which led me (finally) to 8. Rather obscure. **29** - didn’t know C, but no matter; the last line suffices and A-D are just for confirmation. **30** - in FIRST WORD to who? **32** - line 4 is rather long to match with line 6. I Googled violinists, went past Misha Elman, and got it. **33** - antagonistic? Maybe PART TWO = ‘though’, so feed `[though]{6}$`, 12-letter words, 9C only, to Search in NPL Dictionary Search. Nope. Although? Nope. Albeit? That got 48 hits, and barring repeats (doing an Advanced Search and removing matches for `^.....*(.)*\1`) brought that down to eight. Since Obama doesn’t uncharitably raunch them away, he has to be siphoning them. (Actually, the 48 hits were few enough to do by eye, but I could have cut them down to eight if I’d needed to.) R/EDS: I found PART ONE to be a bit of a stretch in context. [But ‘flow’ does clue it.] **37** - I don’t know how I got this. My notes say Googling “played a ballet dancer” *tv* didn’t work but *millie ballet dancer tv* did. However, I just repeated the latter search and didn’t find any Suttons on the first seven pages, presumably because her Millie role in *Thoroughly Modern Millie* doesn’t come up much in connection with the show. Googling *ballet "tv show"* does work; *Bunheads* is the third hit and the link leads right to Sutton Foster on IMDb. **39** - R/EDS: aha! *That* Peter. **40** - English difference + Oxford gave it to me, since the 6 5 is also called the Oxford comma. **41** - another case of extra-generous Caoimh clueing; in addition to clearly clueing every word, he clues ‘year’ in the rubric and ‘turned’ in the reading. Twisted round and complex, perhaps, but not hard if you trust him. **43** - is ‘Moore University’ clueful? Wasn’t for me. Moore University of Hair Design? After ‘Moore University’ and ‘work

September #43, continued

study' failed me, I turned to 'school-related' and reffed 8. **44** - the copy for testers had the production note 'this flat must be #44', which made it rather easy once I dropped eXcLusIVe. **48** - these were kolachkies where I grew up. The verse could use a couple more line-end commas or periods. **50** - got ^3 ^4, that gave me 5, and 6 followed immediately—I have no idea why I knew it. **51** - Googled *pastry choux*. 'Part in cloud' is enigmatic, all right. **58** - sink, drop, rah, yes, har. 'Sergio' finally gave me ACK, and I just had to check that 'thole' was more than an oar holder. **60** - I reffed words of the form -yas-, b-ed, and co-t, and with that last one saw that I'd missed the 'kittenish' clue. **61** - I lazily got SPANNER and PAN from the Mohs scale; the rest from my head. **64** - holiday, winter, visit, travel, tour, recreat. 'Stop off' and 'Sapporo' didn't work well together, nor did going to a North Korea map and looking for nearby Chinese cities, so I reffed Asian ski sites for a while. No luck. Finally I asked e11C for '???? out' phrases (hang, step, wipe, work), and soon had Tonghua. Google-mapping from the China side of the border quickly showed it was indeed beside Korea. **65** - for some reason, 'Minnesota's' didn't work. **66** - line, word, foot. Pauciliteral, semidiambic, antepenultless. NPL DicSrch had nothing for -spondaic, -syllabic, -literal, -iambic, -phonemic, -phonetic, -verbal, -logical, -phonic. Baused terse, taciturn, brief. IOUs sententious. Tried ^(.)(.)(.)*1.*2.*3.*4 in Dictionary Search for all 24 permutations of the numbers; many hits from 'Mario Marois' to 'still-birthes', none seeming to fit even remotely. (Hmm, DicSrch has the word 'paucitypause'. Presumably two adjacent items run together. Also ZerlaZerlina and faecalfaeces.) In fact, 'ineliminable' showed up in my second search (with \1.*2.*4.*3) but it never occurred to me that it might be right. Incidentally, was the cueword meant to be a microclue for his #5? R/EDS: Our last hole. I finally hit on the poetry approach. **67** - given the topic, THESpian sufficed to break it. **68** - angry, whiny, pushy, ah. Pushiness is not begging or crawling. **73-6** - I had half of #74 and (thanks to July #1) of #75, but I reffed the rest in lists of 2013 movies and TV

September #73-6, continued

shows. #76 eluded me. *Drunk History*, *Power Rangers*, *Happy Endings*. I finally quoted it in npl-chat ('It's not *Radar Charity* with Dolly Rives, I know that much.' Vraal: 'I guess the question is, what is a Howard such that I might in some military phrasing agree to drive it?' Me: 'And is "ay sir" really military or just forced by leftover letters?') and asked if anyone knew whether it was TV or a movie. About half an hour later Gabby announced that he'd worked out the *5 *5 and was off to look for the ^5 ^7. And shortly thereafter, 'IMDb says "TV movie"' but I thought it had a theatrical release, if an in-just-long-enough-to-say-hi-and-leave one.' I hate getting hints except for the occasional elicited yes/no answer, but I was happy with this one; I proceeded to the proper Wikipedia list and got it. **77** - this one, on the other hand, I could get by brain without ever seeing the Disney Channel. **78** - there's the Weiner again. **79** - unable to push the letters around correctly, I went to the Internet Anagram Server. Rebate faultiness. Baneful treatises. Finally hit the answer.

C2 - guessed 'the', then 'but' after the comma, then 'about', and that nailed it. **C4** - another view of Pop-Tarts; see #38, and <http://popwatch.ew.com/2009/05/06/paula-poundston/> for why she eats the whole box. **C6** - now that it was ending, *Breaking Bad* was everywhere. **C7** - Mangia.

X3 - 1Ac - if "s" is 'is' then I think the rest should be a noun phrase, hence 'including'. 11Ac - neat. 13Ac - too busy. 14Ac - how can 'flutter' mean 'bat'? Flittermouse, yes. Oh, *eyelashes*! 16Ac - potty = snooty? That's one of those surprising 11C meanings that I expect from Andreas, but Elfman uses them too, as in 29Dn. 30Ac - 'dig' seems strange as an anagram indicator but 'to break up, turn, or loosen with an implement', so OK. 31Ac - all these years I've been pronouncing it 'criss'. 1Dn - I see a def that's by example. 4Dn - I was stuck on 'key' in the musical rather than the keyboard sense. 24Dn - I don't think 'remove line' defines 'seam' well. 29Dn - I didn't know 'paragon' could be a verb. Even after I had both names, it seemed so unlikely that one could replace the other that I looked for other interpretations of 'change to', but

September X3, continued

eventually I tried it. Wow. I was amused to discover, checking the Lone Star name, that the Yellow Rose of Texas started out 'high yaller' (beg pardon).

X4 - nice title, combining the poker terms 'river' (for the five cards common to all players) and 'boat' (full house). For some reason I thought the hands were TH CQ and HJ DA, which made the winner QTQTQ. Clearly QAQAQ was the nom but something was wrong. I had to put it aside for a bit to think of the proper symmetrical pairing. 14Ac - I generally prefer cryptic parts that function as noun phrases. 17Ac - neat. 20Ac - I like 'part of code'. 21Ac - well, of course. It's not even a planet. 25Ac - I like the seeming disconnectedness. 39Ac - 'at' doesn't seem to fit in the cryptic reading and the surface is weak; this needed rewriting. 40Ac - I can go with 'S' = 'curvy', but a hip is not a figure ('bodily shape or form'), it's part of one. 43Ac - nicely concealed transformation. 45Ac - I like interjections in clues like this and 1Ac. 5Dn - not bad as an anagram even in the NPL sense. 13Dn - this is the one clue in X3-4 that baffled me. 'Crack' = 'word' seemed weak and the final words didn't indicate squa(dron we)re. I finally wrote to Elfman and got the transposal reading.

X11 - 'and' looked good between two *'d words, presumably names (couldn't be 'von'). It made the third-row name --{aou}sb-, so 'Crosby'. The rest was easy. **X14** - tough. I tried 'every' and 'while' for the first 5 but they gave nonsense below. Then 'from' for the last 4, which gave {gp}{er}--- for the first 5. 'Great' worked nicely, giving 'ound' below it. But I mistakenly wrote I for E in the fourth column, which went nowhere, so finally I fed the middle-row letters, minus -ound and fr-, to the Internet Anagram Server to get 'violent opposition'. The attested version, per http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Albert_Einstein, is slightly different: 'encountered . . . mediocre minds.'

THE SPHINX STRIKES BACK:

AMBIGRAM (*6 ^7 ^6)

I.E., CARELESS OFFENDERS

=MILLIREM, Portland OR

Sent to Enigma but not used, not (I think) because of lack of (in)apposition, but because the *position is not a very strong pointer to the answer. Try it and let us know what you think.

A SURVEY OF CURRENT ENGLISH-LANGUAGE VERSE-PUZZLE MAGAZINES:

Good to see that Teki isn't going to abandon the editorship just yet. There's too much editorial turnover as it is.

Purely personal puzzle piobaireachd: **1** - R/EDS: Really nice just how apposite the two words are. **2** - R/EDS: Took me longer than it should have because I had the wrong pronunciation for *7. **6** - forsooth. **7** - sometimes I come up with a line and feel sure I'll never think of anything better. That was the case with the first lines of this and #44. I don't know if the last line was incongruous enough to be funny, though. R/EDS: I really liked how the two parts dovetailed nicely together. **8** - R/EDS: It's a neat reading even if it is next to impossible to parse the actual answer. **9** - R/EDS: Thank goodness I found the artist early on. You really almost need to locate the painting to solve this one. Admittedly 4 was not in my vocabulary. **13** - fine job of creating a four-part base that fits smoothly into an account of a puzzle hunt. **17** - R/EDS: Great golf flat. Then again, all golf flats are great. **21** - R/EDS: Very clever. **22** - R/EDS: Good chuckle. Loved this one. **23** - probably done before, but I don't recall. **24** - rather off-color for Enigma, but/and amusing. Made my kudos list. **27** - R/EDS: The puzzle aside, I was there for this event. For any lover of harness racing (which I was at the time) this was very exciting. **28** - for those who haven't met him: that's Hot in the picture. **34** - fortunately, you don't need to understand all the Anglo-Saxon esoterica to solve this. Nice if you can, though. **35** - a great twofer. **40** - you're giving him another chance? **44** - the heteronymy is strong in this one. R/EDS: Quite the find. **55** - the answer has less dictionary nature than usual but the anagram is superb. Singables: **25** - 'Moon River'. **44** - 'Davy Crockett'.

F3 - R/EDS: Neat little variant.

C5, C6 - R/EDS: Couple of nice puns.

X3 - probably the hardest in years for me, taking over three hours. But if I hadn't stuck with one wrong answer for over an hour, and then with the wrong random phrase for the left-right formations, it might have taken half that. R/EDS: First up, this was a masterpiece of construction with a number of great clues. For that I'll kude it. That said, when you have to spend ten times as long fitting the clues into the diagram as solving them it gets tedious and one stops having fun.

/dev/joe's Kudos Kount for August

There were 21 solutions lists representing 43 solvers, just over 2 per list. There were a total of 618 flat solutions, an average of 29.4 per list and 18.2 per puzzle, 86.6% of maximum. There was only one form, solved on 16 lists. Crypts: 119 / $((21-2) * 7) = 89.5\%$. Extras: 133 / $((21-1) * 8) = 83.1\%$.

The hardest flat by far, solved on only 9 lists, was #12, Wrybosh's first letter change on 'duality' and 'quality' with a verse borrowed from Led Zeppelin's 'Stairway to Heaven'. Seeing how I don't see how any of the senses of 'quality' are actually clued here, I can't say I'm surprised at this. The runner-up hardest flat was #17, Ucaimhu's enigmatic rebus on 'Matins, O son', on 14 lists. Five flats were tied for easiest, solved on all 21 lists. They were #3, Scarab's rebus on 'economist'; #10, Witz's beheadment on 'FLOTUS'; #11, Dischorran's charade on 'fur-lough'; #18, Te-Zir-Man's letter bank on 'hate' and 'The Heat'; and #26, Witz's transposal on 'hustling' and 'sunlight'.

There was only one form, a vowelless truncated inverted pyramid by Ai. As mentioned earlier, it was solved by 16. The hardest crypt was C6, solved by only 10: Qoz's travelogue of conventions last year, this year, and next. The easiest, solved on all 19 lists which submitted crypt solutions, were C1 by Cazique and C2 by LeXman. The hardest extras, with 15 solvers each, were X2, Andreas's Head-hunting cryptic, and X6, a vertical anaquote by LeXman. The easiest was X3, with 19 solvers, an anaquip by Beyond.

15 favelists gave 55 kude to 24 of 34 flats for an average of 1.6, 4 kude to the one form, 7 kude to 4

of 7 crypts for an average of 1, 12 kude to 3 of 8 extras for an average of 1.5, 20 kude to 14 of 34 convention flats, and one kudos to the Contex photo. 6 bangs were given to two flats and one extra.

The top flat, with 8 kude, was #4, Earl E. Byrd's phrase shift on 'dined and gone to heave', which warned us of the perils of food poisoning. Runners-up, with 5 kude each, were #16, Scarab's spoonergram on 'master plan' and 'Plaster-Man'; #20, Wrybosh's welded transposal on 'Rachmaninoff anharmonic'; and #24, Wrybosh's bigram palindrome curtailment on 'citrus fruit', 'C'. (My bang on #23 was because I agreed with the sentiment of the verse, that The Game has a poor name because it is also used for so many other things.) The only form received 4 kude. The top crypt with 4 kude was C7, Lirath's crypt about rhyming in Austin. The top extra by a wide margin, with 10 kude and 4 bangs, was X2, Andreas's cryptic.

ALT.ANAGRAMS:

These are anagrams from the alt.anagrams newsgroup, 30 Aug to 12 Oct 2004. @ = antigram, @@ = ambigram, ~ = not apposite but fit together well, T = topical at the time, ♥ = try this if you just want to do a few. Composer abbrs. from 22.3.4a. Answers next month.

Put it in torso (JF).

Mine? Obsolete. Help! (RR) (6 10).

TChancier near surf (RR) (^9 *7).

♥Ran a clinic I saw; went there, got thin (RR) (^6 ^8 ^13, ^3.).

See a beach, aptly (MT) (1 5 2 3 3).

♥Reagan: 'Pah! Ratty Communist!' (RM) (^5 ^8 [*3 *3-*4]).

T How uncool for the United States (RR) (3 3 8 4 9).

Heed thin sign (csaenemy) (3 3 2 4).

Can't mad resumé-openers hurt? (MT) ([5 9] 10).

♥@@Those foul hordes (PC) (3 [*5 2 *5]).

♥British. Temporarily eminent (MT) (3 [^5 ^8], [*4 *5]).

♥Hail Michelangelo's finest pictures! (MK) (7 6 2 3 *7 *6).

'I'm, like, hot in bed!' (MK) (3 6 5).

Lots in stomachs (MT) (*8 6).

Yen to learn BS? (MT) (*7 ^5) (findable).

♥Hey, immortal star on screen! (MK) (3 7 [*7 *6]).

Notice lava pour, no? (HPR) (1 7 8).

♥See a race's end pending (HPR) (2 10 7).

♥Nary a 'yes' (MT) [but an oldie, I imagine].

♥So, winter? (MK) ([4 4]).

'God! Beer at noon?!' (MK) (2 2 2 1 6).

♥His hunt dog (MK) ([5 5]).

♥@@@Dolts run the nation if we vote 'Bush' once more (MK) (3 9 2 *8, 3 8 4).

@@@On reflection, I'd still prefer the man to Bush! (MK) (*4 *7, 3 6 9 2 3 *1*1*1).

Worth a look, but too British, contrived, inapt, unfamiliar, unspecific, or otherwise unsuitable for solving: Naive voters pleased rich ~ Conservative leadership (MT). Mild like a hell picnic = chilli and lime pickle (PC). @@@A poor-man's Roller—rich decry it = DaimlerChrysler Corporation (MT). ♥It's sure all down to his toil that Eurostar trains ran me Britain to France = the late South African industrialist Sir Robert Alastair Newton Morton [chief executive of Eurotunnel] (DB). @@@Avon products ~ do crap on US TV (MT). I tell the non-rich: 'Have a seat!' = the National Health Service (MK). Even it is uncertain; it isn't a nicer venue = Intensive care unit (RR). The horrid hunt foxes (MT); fox-hounders thither (WB) = the Oxfordshire Hunt. I got cancer; I'm not upset. = cigarette consumption (RR). ('I'm not upset' is just filler, but I find it weirdly amusing.) Can stem halitosis? Triumph! It went! = Listermint antiseptic mouthwash (DB). (Discontinued; a pity.) It is another awful ride, lover = The World's Favourite Airline [Virgin Airlines slogan] (MT). ♥NASA re-designs this launch = Genesis crash-lands in Utah [parachute on a capsule returning data from a M\$264 mission failed to open] (Rowan Malin). Damn Germans hate her very stirring 'We'll Meet Again'! = the English wartime singer Dame Vera Margaret Lynn (DB). Oafish sods booted your genitals in a scrap (DG); guys' aid for the paranoid bosses' locations (MT) = the Professional Bodyguards Association. Trendy show has promoters—Mafia men! = *The Sopranos* wins the Emmy for drama (MK). Desire more curvy eroticism = movie director Russ Meyer (MK).

@@@Manifesto crying: 'Cheaper oil!' = the Americans' foreign policy (MT). Understanding women ~ daunts men wondering (RM). It's ticking? Roar 'Arrest them!' = Making terroristic threats (AS). Culling babes = seal clubbing (PC) [inspired by a story about the Norwegian tourist industry offering seal-clubbing holidays]. Let kid eat a Snickers bar 'n' leak = tiredness can kill—take a break (CS) [British motorway sign]. The Campaign for Plain English ~ helps in fight agin' lame crap, no? (AS). Cardiac arrest thieves the life of our superhero = US actor Christopher Reeve dies of heart failure (MK).

TALES FROM THE NPL CHAT ROOM:

Continuing the 16 Sep 2002 banter:

415 lb of snake: have either of you seen the show 'Lexx'?

Crax: What is it? Is he the guy who fights Clark Kent?

Treesong: It's based on the Scrabble variant where the rules change each turn. [Fluxx joke.]

415 lb of snake after nobody recognized it: dagnabbit... I'll abandon that string then

415 lb of snake: cheesy SciFi show, that's all...but it has a character named 'Zev' which would have given me an interlock of warn, Reno, Zev [Indeed, a progressive word deletion.]

415 lb of snake: hmm...maybe reversed NNW, over, Ezra

...

Kray, returning to chat: rehi. Getting an annoying call from a telemarketer seems to have crashed my machine.

Qaqaq: Whereas getting a charming, life-affirming call from a telemarketer would give your system automatic upgrades?

Jangler: That statement is mathematically true, Qaqaq.

Tahnan: French women have eyes like chocolate horses.

Tahnan: Sorry, it's from today's Jon Carroll column in the SF Chronicle.

Ucaoimhu: I can think of three different interpretations of T's sentence. Can anyone get 4?

Tahnan: 'You know the manner in which French women have eyes? Well, chocolate does its horsing

in just the same way!’

Ucaoimhu: Okay, that’s 4.

Qaqaq: I interpret it to mean ‘Tahnan has been playing Mad Libs’

Artistry: 3 steps toward a happy life: French women, have eyes, like chocolate horses

Ucaoimhu: If you’re passing around a plate of eyes, a French woman will have one, just as she would if you were passing around a plate of chocolate horses.

...

Zebraboy: (has there ever been a ‘Kraykaq’ combi-flat?)

Qaqaq: Kraykaq...that’s pretty good. And I’ve always thought ‘Uqaqu’ would be good too

Zebraboy: i’ve wanted to do one with d. ness and be ‘Stripedness’

Saxifrage: I liked ‘Sassiquadro,’ which was a combinom for me and G Natural for an Italian-style flat.

Zebraboy: how about QaQaxifrage?

Tahnan: I actually liked the Kray/Tyger combinom from this month. Bengal.

Saxifrage: Sue++ and I were ‘Suffrage’ once, which was nice.

Zebraboy: kray, you and I and DNess should do one and be Kray-Z-Ness

Saxifrage: Bartok and I were going to be ‘Barrage,’ but the flat never quite worked out.

Kray: The combi itself came from, I had ‘Black sheep baaing in the dead of night’ and asked idly, ‘Can anyone give me a sheep-related base?’

Artistry: Sax ... you and zb could be SaxiBoy

Tahnan: ‘Can anyone give me a sheep-related base’ is not a sentence you hear often.

Saxifrage: I gave G Nat a letter bank base that included ‘sheepshearer’ once.

Jangler: I versified ‘barbershop’ ‘barbary sheep’, but apparently my verse wasn’t good enough for my combiflatter...he got someone else. Hrmph.

Zebraboy: ‘Sleighbells’ = jangler + shaken

...

Ucaoimhu: Just saw someone on Usenet wishing folks a happy Yon Kippur. (‘Look—there’s some atonement off in the distance!’)

Kray: Oh, I thought it was a fish.

Ucaoimhu: You need to check your herring aid.

Treesong: Maybe Yon Kippur is on the yonder side of Yom Kippur, which is why you can be happy—you’re past the atonement.

Ucaoimhu: Yob Kippur is when football hooligans atone.

Ucaoimhu: Yog Kippur is the Sothoth of Sothoths.

Treesong: And what’s Yo Kippur?

Ucaoimhu: When you atone for breaking someone’s Duncan Butterfly in half.

On 18 Sep we played Pyramid, yay! As usual, I mark the last clue or other material before revelation with ‘❖’ at the end for easier play at home.

Treesong: I’m getting started on the description of Wednesday night Pyramid at Concouver. I have your ‘North Pole Monopoly’, which was sufficient to give someone ‘Reindeer games’. Remember any other good ones?

Jangler: Things that make you hmm ‘Go’. And, if I may toot my own horn, paintings by Georgia O’keeffenokee

Treesong: Someone got your O’keeffenokee one on the first clue, as I recall, a reference to a skull floating in the sky. But I don’t remember the details. There was also an Ucaoimhu category, ‘Things a city can be built on’, and I wonder if anyone said ‘rock and roll’.

Jangler: Things this city is built on, and one of the first clues was ‘a landfill’

[Minipearl joined and asked for rules.]

Treesong: Each person on the list of chatters at right gives a category to the person under tem in the list. (This can get a little messy if the list changes, but we can adapt.) That person then throws out examples of the category to the chat room at large, and everybody tries to figure out the category. Examples are usually prefaced by ‘****’ to make them stand out from guesses. There’s no turn taking; everyone guesses at once.

Treesong: For example:

Treesong: *** a landfill

Treesong: *** a rock

Treesong: *** a hill

Treesong: *** rock and roll

Treesong: And people would have to guess the

category, 'Things a city could be built on'. Those who know the song 'We Built This City on Rock and Roll' have an advantage, of course.

Treesong: I'm not sure, now that I think of it, that 'a rock' is a good clue. But 'city on a hill' for an ideal city is a known phrase, yes?

Satyr Eyes: Be warned that categories and clues are often punny. For example, 'Freudian slips' might be clued by 'your mother's nightgown.'

Jangler: *** pigs

Minipearl: things with prominent noses

Satyr Eyes: Things that snort

Jangler: *** babies

Loki-5: Lumps of iron

Minipearl: pink animals

Loki-5: sources of skin

Minipearl: types of skin

Loki-5: guys like me!

Jangler: *** sweet-tooths, when it's in pie form❖

Minipearl: all guys

Satyr Eyes: Things that like mud.

Jangler: *** earthworms

Satyr Eyes: :-) Here I am staring at HWEM's nom...
[For historical reasons, in those days I chatted under the pseudonom 'He Who Eats Mud'.]

Jangler: My next was going to be 'people who don't think water has enough nutrients'

Satyr Eyes: *** Constructing Hansel and Gretel's witch's house

Treesong: Major baking projects.

Ucaoimhu: Uses for gingerbread.

Treesong: Things I.M. Pie did.

Minipearl: holiday projects

Loki-5: Things that don't need blueprints

Satyr Eyes: *** Making sandwiches. Very tough sandwiches.

Minipearl: major kitchen constructions

Ucaoimhu: Uses for rye-beams.

Satyr Eyes: *** Feeding elephants with deformed snouts

Treesong: Uses for extremely stale bread.

Loki-5: Laminating

Treesong: That should be a very big clue but it's not getting me anywhere....❖

Ucaoimhu: Uses for peanut not very brittle at all.

Satyr Eyes: Good enough, Ucaoimhu!

Jangler: Sure, why not. Uses for peanut brittle.

Satyr Eyes: Except that I haven't eaten any in years, and may have forgotten how brittle it actually is.

Minipearl: *** Sergeant Cynic

Ucaoimhu: Unpopular leaders of lonely hearts' club bands.

Minipearl: *** Major Disappointment

Jangler: Army brats

Treesong: Suicidal officers.

Loki-5: Characters on 'Bilko'.

Minipearl: *** Lieutenant Whiner

Loki-5: Characters in 'Catch-22'?

Treesong: Ungentlemanly officers.

Loki-5: Is Admiral Television next?

Minipearl: *** Captain Chaos

Ucaoimhu: Troopers who aren't troopers.

Loki-5: Commander Cigarettes?

Treesong: Officers always on the losing side.

Treesong: Lousy superheroes.

Loki-5: 'F Troop'

Ucaoimhu: D- Troop.

Minipearl: *** Corporal Grumbler

Ucaoimhu: Disgrunts.

Loki-5: Corporal Punishment!

Treesong: Yes, I think we get the idea from these but we can't turn it into an answer.❖

Loki-5: This topic is a General Downer

Satyr Eyes: Loki-5, you're close... build!

Loki-5: Disaster?

Treesong: So it's 'Officers serving under General Disaster'?

Satyr Eyes: Close enough, Tree. Officers serving under General Discontent.

Treesong: Rocky and Bullwinkle once had a narration something like 'Meanwhile, at the army base, there was general consternation. And his staff.'

Satyr Eyes: You clued it very well. Maybe if it'd gone far enough that everyone had noticed there was no general in the bunch...

Treesong: I think the only way to narrow it further would be to vary the template a bit, like 'A colonel who's never satisfied'.

Jangler: If only there was an official title called 'Now is the winter'

Dart: Captain N. Winter?

Treesong: Good thought. Col. Nowisthe Winter.

Treesong: While Loki-5's working on his clues, here's a set of clues by Cramerica from Concouver.

Treesong: *** Requiem Mass

Treesong: *** 'Wait' Till the Sun Shines, Nellie

Treesong: *** You Are the Apple of My Eye❖

Treesong: Anyway, the category was 'Songs Isaac Newton might sing'. Note quotes around 'Wait' (weight).

Loki-5: Top Hits of the '70s (1770, 1870, 1970)

Loki-5: ***knife

Treesong: Famous Macs.

Satyr Eyes: Things used to murder the Pillsbury Dough Boy.

Ucaomihu: Things that are serrated.

Treesong: Abandoned models for the invention of the forklift.

Satyr Eyes: Things you put in drawers.

Loki-5: ***chain

Treesong: Things used by gang members.

Ucaomihu: weapons in the all-metal version of Clue.

Treesong: You're free to add clues whenever you like, even several in a row if you think one won't suffice.

Loki-5: ***button

Jangler: Possible spoonerism bases

Jangler: Things of fools

Jangler: Items on a proper executioner

Loki-5: ***slide

Treesong: Kinds of trombone, mostly esoteric.

Satyr Eyes: Parts of a trombone?

Jangler: Parts of a something sounds promising

Satyr Eyes: Nouns that are also verbs.

Treesong: Parts of a painful bicycle.

Loki-5: ***lanyard

Treesong: Parts of a Swiss Army cannon.

Dart: Odd parts of armour.

Dart: Two of 'em are rules.

Loki-5: ***lever

Treesong: 'Lanyard' should narrow it down nicely. I think I'll look it up to be sure I understand the word.

Jangler: Words that end in measurements?

Jangler: Things Archimedes is credited with?

Dart: Kinds of switches?

Satyr Eyes: Things pushed to destroy the world?

Loki-5: ***switch❖

Treesong: Things that start things?

Dart: Kinds of controls.

Jangler: Things that can be made of wood

Loki-5: Dart's really got it: Things that turn things on and off.

Jangler: Oh, now I get it. Except for knife and chain.

Minipearl: Loki - good job on keeping it clean.....

Treesong: Good category. You can pull a chain.

Dart: A knife switch, and a chain to turn on that light bulb on the ceiling.

Loki-5: My first hint was almost 'pornography'.

Treesong: But a knife switch isn't a knife, is it? Other than that, good clueing.

Loki-5: I heard that turns some people off.

Treesong: Permanently.

Loki-5: I meant porn.

Treesong: I like clues like 'pornography'. Why go straight to the answer?

Dart: *** Toddlers.

Treesong: Things that toddle.

Jangler: Things that emulate Chicago.

Minipearl: unsteady walkers

Satyr Eyes: Things that are annoying

Treesong: Things that drool.

Dart: *** Needy drill sergeants.❖

Treesong: Things that need attention.

Satyr Eyes: Things that make demands.

Jangler: Things that ask a lot of questions

Minipearl: things that need a hug

Dart: (Close enough?)

Loki-5: Yeah, Tree got it.

Treesong: Call for attention?

Dart: Thought so. Constant attention, he told me.

Treesong: *** Agoutis infested with ticks

Treesong: *** Every crater on Io

Treesong: *** Your grandmother's bicycle

Satyr Eyes: Lepids with Lyme.

Loki-5: Things with pits

Treesong: *** Ungnawed Cheesy Poofs

Satyr Eyes: Things that are dry.

Jangler: Things with air holes

Treesong: *** Hannibal and Scipio's right eyes.

Satyr Eyes: Things that are sunken.

Treesong: *** The last person to die in the Roanoke

Colony.

Treesong: *** squares

Loki-5: Things that are difficult to chew

Treesong: *** pentagons

Treesong: *** hexagons

Loki-5: Things that are convex.

Satyr Eyes: Things that are gone.

Treesong: *** Re-entrant heptagons.

Treesong: *** Existent octagons.

Satyr Eyes: Things that can be constructed using geometer's tools.

Mazy: just got a weird private message from someone saying they could not anagram a word from 'kids', and could I help?

Treesong: *** Anonymous people scaring mazy with anagram questions.

Satyr Eyes: Things that aren't square.

Jangler: Things that are indistinct

Satyr Eyes: Oops!

Satyr Eyes: Things which are imperfect circles.

Loki-5: Recipe for a half-space.

Treesong: *** Schubert's 'Trout' Quintet.

Treesong: *** Cubes.

Loki-5: Things you can't eat one of.

Treesong: *** Tesseract.

Jangler: Abstract things

Satyr Eyes: Things with dimensions.

Treesong: *** Amorphous blobs of earwax.

Treesong: *** Circles.

Jangler: Ethereal things

Treesong: *** Pentagrams.

Loki-5: Things that occupy space and/or time.

Satyr Eyes: (i.e. things, Loki?)

Loki-5: Symbols of our decadent civilization!

Jangler: This must be frustrating poor Tree to no end :(

Satyr Eyes: Things clued by Jangler in a recent game of Pyramid?

Treesong: Nah, I'm having fun. Don't know about you guys. I suggest rereading the clues to date.

Loki-5: Concepts.

Loki-5: Things that are not you or me.

Satyr Eyes: Things found in space?

Treesong: *** Menages a quatre.

Jangler: Things we have no record of

Loki-5: Things with an implied number.

Treesong: *** Pieces of pie after several bites are taken out of them.

Satyr Eyes: Wedges.

Loki-5: Things that mathematicians enjoy.

Treesong: *** A hippopotamus with its heart replaced by a broom.

Treesong: *** Unfolded diapers.

Satyr Eyes: Things that are not viable.

Jangler: Things that have not ever been used as pyramid clues before

Treesong: *** $AB + BC < AC$.

Jangler: Triangle inequalities

Treesong: *** 2, 4, 5, and 7. ♦

Satyr Eyes: Things not proven to exist?

Jangler: Things that aren't triangles

Treesong: Close enough. Triangular.

Satyr Eyes: Wow! That shouldn't have been so hard...

[Indeed, he almost got it 12 clues ago.]

Treesong: I was just messing around at first, but thought 'Squares. Pentagons. Hexagons' should eventually have given it.

Loki-5: Agoutis?

Dart: Well, they're not. Not even close.

Satyr Eyes: Oh, duh... it even crossed my mind, but it didn't seem to work with the earlier clues (too general). 'Unfolded diapers' was a good one.

Treesong: I finally decided to have mercy and try clueing things that were no longer triangular, or were like triangular things but not quite.

Treesong: And the triangle inequality is $AB + BC \geq AC$.

Satyr Eyes: Ah, and 2, 4, 5, and 7 are the first non-triangular natural numbers.

[This is an object lesson on why 'Things that aren't X' is a dangerous category type.]

Treesong: Mazy, you want to clue a Pyramid category?

Dart: One hopefully not nearly as evil as mine?

Treesong: Oh, I think my random nontriangularities at the start had as much confusing effect as the category.

Treesong: How about 'Every cast member in *H.M.S. Pinafore* except Deadeye Dick'? At one point he's grouching about how ugly he is and someone says 'You are rather...triangular.'

...

Shaken entered with profile 'Curse my new job!
But it will give me some extra mummy. Tut-tut...'

Mazy: are you an egyptologist? or am I still thinking much too literally?

Shaken: I may be working at the Museum of Science when they get their Egyptian artifacts exhibit.

...

Mazy [to 415 lb of snake]: we should submit a puzzle one day....that way our combinom could be make....or snazy I guess

Satyr Eyes: Well, 415 lbs of mazes might be a labyrinth...

Artistry: I think Al DeSuda and Tahnan should combinom as Alahnan

415 lb of snake: I'm trying to convince Tah that we should hook up just to use the combinom Fer de Lance

Satyr Eyes: I guess Krazy for two of our current chatters is way too obvious, huh?

Mazy: but crax has asked me to team up (when I get more confidence) and our name will be crazy!

415 lb of snake: Tahnan's first name is Lance..I'm gonna try to use snake names whenever I can

Jangler: You+me = rattler?

Dart: Who cares about obvious? I suggested combi-flattening with an older member to form 'Polly Darton'. She didn't go for it.

Artistry: Dartistry?

D. Ness: So Mazy, I should give you a base to versify: we'd be Daisy

Artistry: D.—I still love Randdness at NYNJA

Mazy: art....did you ever team up with minimus? you could be ministry

Satyr Eyes: If I ever combi with G-Nat, I'm thinking Stratyr G.

Artistry: I think Tree and I could be Treetry

D. Ness: or, SE, you could combi with me as Denies

CLIPPINGS:

Editing finished 17 Nov 2013. Praise **HERBIE!**