

FACTIONS

by Mark Halpin

[Solution not available.]

Solvers must determine the location of answers to sixteen "Factions" clues, which consist of wordplay only. Half read across, and are all part of the same faction; the rest read down, and make up a second faction. When these groups meet, they inevitably clash: in squares where faction members intersect, two different letters will be entered.

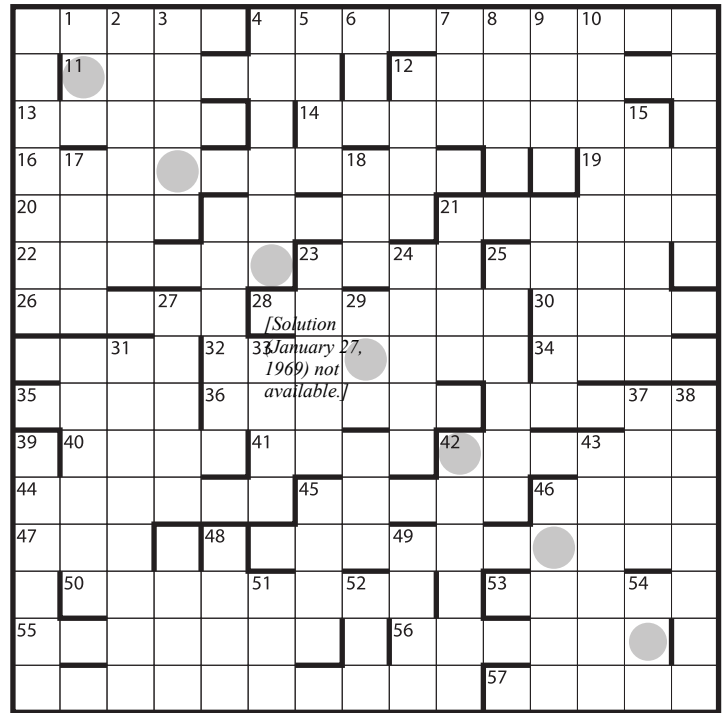
Reading the letters in these squares from the top of the grid down (the order of the letters within each pair to be determined by the solver) will reveal the location of one confrontation between the factions. Letters in the shaded squares will indicate when this may occur.

ACROSS

4. Bum trusts a mismanaged foundation (10)
11. Eliot describing Moabite woman in Gospels (6)
13. Yells "Right!" at coxswain's crew (5)
14. Street on torn up site is most full of rocks (8)
16. Sharp blades almost demolish herald's gold pot (5 5)
19. West of Hollywood, leaderless crew turns back (3)
20. Lies around Corsica, Normandy, etc. (4)
21. Group of top academics reviewed musical from the beginning (2 4)
22. I see an eccentric enter gradually (4 2)
25. The finest quality abounded, oddly (1-3)
26. Rod from the construction site to stop over? (5)
28. Covertly build navy in coastal capital (6)
30. Slow down pair of descending notes (4)
32. It's inherent in Sonny and Cher: they're fishy (7)
34. Sumptuous meal not begun where it's sunrise (4)
35. Physicist is one who's monotonous in lecture (4)
36. Army sergeant and Republican in Britain open some bubbly (6)
40. Wrecked mast in tangles (4)
41. Torpor in western and eastern states (4)
42. Auto insurance mascot and kin check in Metros and Prizms (6)
44. Reckless capers leading to big trouble (6)
45. Texan president in bedroom with Hell's Angel (5)
46. More than one cross at us, unfortunately (4)
47. Contrived to touch amiably (3)
50. One thug's violent tempers (8)
53. Native of Italy or Spain, informally (5)
55. Stimulated kittens finally showed pleasure (7)
56. Sailor to attain objective (6)
57. Trey and Henry eminently featured in genealogical chart (5)

DOWN

1. Jurist with solicitorship at heart(3)
2. Best part of Viagra: zesty kisses (6)
3. No-good rogue's spurious currency (5)
4. Warrior with rifle ignoring trigger at first (6)
5. Discuss replacing bridge in defunct nation (4)
6. Club's bar fee being raised (3)
7. Catch up with a flawless woman, maybe (3)
8. Disturb Queen Elizabeth, for one, during audience (4)
9. Take off cross and crown (4)
10. "I am Satan!!!" snarled in devil's home? (8)
12. Finish, but not first! (4)
15. Sources of candlelight for those sticking together? (6)
17. Ballgame alternates Orioles' and Blue Jays' parts (4)
18. Silent communication has lovely components (3, abbr.)



23. Swindle bread company (5)
24. Extreme division of deceitful traitors (5)
25. Are complicated directions included for what you're pondering? (6)
27. Large vessel's a bit awkward originally (5)
29. Most prominent characters in book illustrate one's life story (3)
31. Desert city reportedly where vehicle is excavated? (8)
33. Sort of cone, formerly (4)
37. Cad left, no longer popular (4)
38. Perfume from German city: mediocre, quality-wise? Excellent? (7)
39. Venomous, like an expression of contempt (6)
42. Taking time, Madge ordered stew (3 3)
43. Reformed rake is German leader (6)
45. Race brought up (endlessly brought up) (4)
46. Dark meat is not, ultimately, full of drugs (5)
48. Monster hence rearing up (4)
49. Hollywood mutt is a celebrity, almost (4)
51. That lady helped eleven regal maidens (3)
52. Originally called five, forsaking Miss Campbell (3)
54. Ingested a small cube orally (3)

FACTIONS

Articulate, containing richer food for thought
 Cook hanging around university
 Crow's last sound
 Frame for Escher is exactly right
 Go south for the winter, no charge
 I gather wet bananas
 Leader introduced by MC
 Much more fuzzy on the radio
 Not bad for kids in class
 Old lady a knockout?
 Penny wears tights, no shirt
 Played a trombone fortissimo
 Poorly transcribed runes
 Recall element of heroic drama
 Regain consciousness without oxygen
 Yours truly captured by famous photographer

COMPOSITION

by Mark Halpin

When completing a composition, clutter should be eliminated, and well-chosen details used instead.

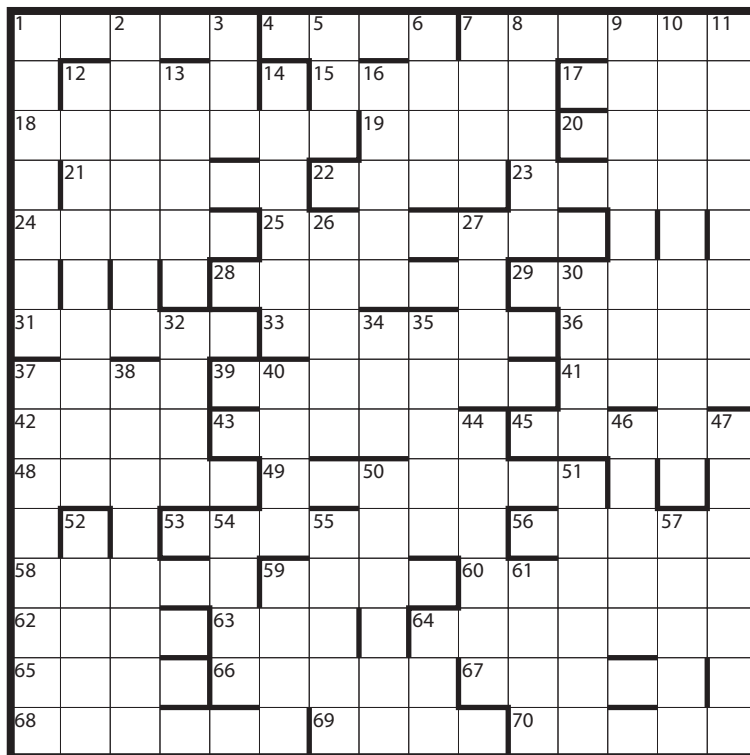
Some Across entries will be one letter too long for the grid squares allotted, and will extend one space into the entry either before or after. Letters thus overlapping will not match. This is clutter, so in each case both letters should be eliminated, and a different letter (a "well-chosen detail") should be used in that space instead. These details will complete certain elements of your composition.

To help determine what those details should be, the initial letters of the clues for the over-long entries will describe, read in clue order, the nature of the composition.

When properly entered, the new letters, read from the top of the grid down, will form an appropriate exclamation, the final answer to this puzzle.

ACROSS

1. Macaroni shapes (those ultimately used with mixing bowls)
4. Scheherazade, essentially, is divine queen
7. Screenwriter Paul's *Highlander* concoction
12. Out of harm's way in outskirts of New Mexico capital
15. Inflexible heads of state too readily invoke "Communist Threat"
17. Noisily net seabird
18. States adopting Republican slogans
19. Marine killer retiring, beginning to get high?
20. Fat Irish writer losing pound
21. Lyric I clean describing eavesdropper?
22. First-rate revolutionary in pain
23. Baseball team getting no second chances
24. Ostentatiously display mutation
25. Lavishly declaiming, cast describes dessert
28. Improperly schedule mime - it's careless
29. Analyst reworked segment for broadcast
31. Be quiet, Brownie's on ledge
33. No longer green, on reflection, Irani leaves doc
36. Misplaced shoe and stocking
37. Empty talk about country
39. Like some step-siblings, oddly up to ears in need
41. Oklahoma spot for Western feast
42. Orange peel ingredient with a tang
43. Rowdy fracas engulfing fleet's innermost vessels
45. Deep pink, lilac, or alabaster swatch
48. Some European residents (but Slavs, primarily)!
49. Young people moving Ecstasy after all? Humbug!
53. Worries for Caesar revolved around routine nonsense
56. Nation having one, two central states
58. Lady's minor shortcoming: checking into support group
59. Extremely damp, empty
60. Organize rental involving new lighting element
62. A terrible review: "Good grief!"
63. Rejected paramour embracing quatrain composer
64. *The Last of the Mohicans* edition taken out for display
65. No prison!
66. Notable actress losing energy from sore throat
67. Egyptian locale almost never up front showing burial marker
68. Driest mobilized march
69. Gaelic poem once begun
70. "Karen" on *Will & Grace* is pedestrian



DOWN

1. Bribery brought up in past lovers' tell-alls (7)
2. Tailor brocade with pattern of stripes (3 4)
3. "Craven"? Darn! Take that back! (3)
5. Curve in several directions (3)
6. Showing deliberate impudence for principal (4)
7. English county annulling earliest charter (4)
8. A scam taking in real nut (5)
9. Beginning to garner free press in a certain field (8)
10. Transcribing is done in an Asian language (10)
11. Seaweeds tangled, swayed back and forth (8)
12. Orderly in hip spa: he's relaxed (9)
13. Utter transport for ethereal girl (5)
14. Drowning imp saved by snorkel piece (6)
16. Shhhhhh! Hole in one looms between tees (5)
26. Teri's swimming in the Danube (5)
27. One male model (4)
30. Cosby's TV son used in teen drama, almost (4)
32. Behold Mr. White's notorious partner in crime (4)
34. Call Ireland for a while (3)
35. Commoner and spouse, losing face, boarding train (5)
37. Rogue goes past brutal police forces (8)
38. Tim gets lost at edge of forest, right after German fellow (8)
40. Salt's stains (4)
44. Excellent basketball teams showing no charge in full court (2 4)
46. Hounds endlessly wanting water the most (5)
47. Hero-worshiper's name used by one being followed (7)
50. Bantu's kerchief detail: bull elephant (6)
51. Necessarily involve getting in late, unfortunately (6)
52. Unsuitable paint mixed (5)
54. Robin shows no desire for some pet chow (4)
55. The Yankees' Joe recently ran quickly, scoring run (5)
57. Papas nearly wind up in rage (5)
59. Completely check companion (4)
61. Doctor can answer a bunch of jocks (4)
64. Prosperous periods for delivery company (3)

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COMPOSITION - SOLUTION

When completing a composition, clutter should be eliminated, and well-chosen details used instead.

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When properly entered, the new letters, read from the top of the grid down, will form an appropriate exclamation, the final answer to this puzzle.

SOLUTION

Unaltered grid entries are shown in the top diagram, with double letters showing in squares to be emptied.

The initial letters of the overlong clues spell out MILLINERY WORK. This phrase, plus the context of the puzzle, suggests that new letters should be chosen in order to "finish the hat" in each line. Hats are shown in red in the lower diagram. The letters added to the empty boxes spell, in order, LOOK, I MADE A HAT.

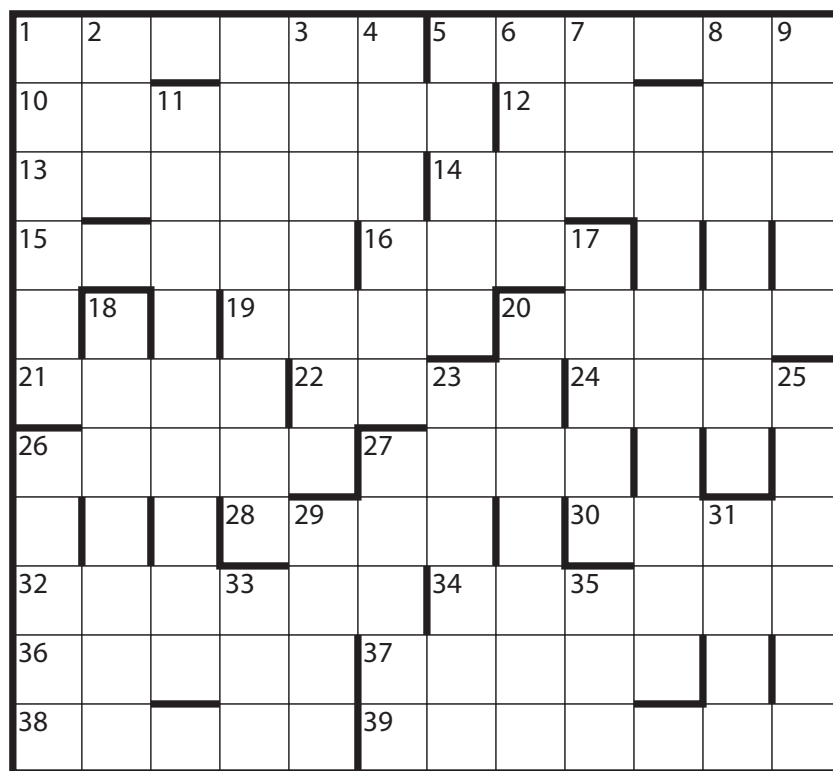
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	X	12	S	A	13	F	E	14	K	15	S	16	T	R	I	C	17	T	E	R	N	E		
18	P	H	R	A	S	E	S	19	A	C	R	O	20	W	I	D	E							
	O	21	C	I	C	L	22	E	A	C	H	E	23	R	E	D	O	S						
24	S	P	O	R	T	S	25	P	I	E	L	27	I	N	G	I	N	A						
	E	S	D	Y	28	M	I	S	T	I	M	29	E	S	30	T	R	E	W					
31	S	H	E	L	32	F	V	33	E	T	34	E	35	R	A	N	36	H	O	S	E			
37	G	A	38	B	O	39	N	40	T	E	R	I	N	E	41	E	N	I	D					
42	E	P	E	E	43	C	A	R	A	F	44	E	45	S	C	O	46	R	A	47	L			
48	S	E	R	B	S	P	49	R	E	50	T	E	N	S	51	E	I	N	E					
	T	52	I	L	53	D	54	I	S	55	T	U	R	B	56	S	I	N	D	57	I	A		
58	A	N	I	T	A	59	M	O	S	T	L	60	A	61	N	T	E	R	N					
62	P	A	N	G	O	63	M	A	R	K	64	U	N	C	A	S	E	D						
65	O	P	E	N	66	S	T	R	E	P	67	C	A	I	R	N	E							
68	S	T	R	I	D	E	69	E	R	S	E	W	70	A	L	K	E	R						

1	E	L	2	B	O	3	W	4	L	5	E	R	6	A	7	H	8	A	9	G	10	I	11	S
	X	12	S	A	13	F	E	14	K	15	S	16	T	R	I	C	17	O	R	N	E			
18	P	H	R	A	S	E	S	19	A	C	R	O	20	W	I	D	E							
	O	21	C	I	C	L	22	O	C	H	E	23	R	E	D	O	S							
24	S	P	O	R	K	25	P	I	E	L	27	I	N	G	I	N	A							
	E	S	D	Y	28	M	I	S	T	I	M	29	I	T	R	E	W							
31	S	H	E	L	32	M	33	E	T	34	E	35	R	A	N	36	H	O	S	E				
37	G	A	38	B	O	39	A	40	T	E	R	I	N	E	41	E	N	I	D					
42	E	P	E	E	43	C	A	R	A	F	44	E	45	D	O	46	R	A	47	L				
48	S	E	R	B	E	49	R	E	50	T	E	N	S	51	E	I	N	E						
	T	52	I	L	53	D	54	I	S	55	T	U	R	B	56	A	N	D	57	I	A			
58	A	N	I	T	A	59	M	O	S	60	H	61	A	N	T	E	R	N						
62	P	A	N	A	63	M	A	R	K	64	U	N	C	A	S	E	D							
65	O	P	E	N	66	S	T	R	E	P	67	C	A	I	R	N	E							
68	S	T	R	I	D	E	69	E	R	S	T	70	A	L	K	E	R							

DO I HEAR A WALTZ?

by Mark Halpin

The melodic strains of a waltz may be discerned in this puzzle, in which certain passages spanning the grid should be entered in waltz tempo. To complete the puzzle, the two unclued Down entries may be filled with a fitting arrangement of A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC.



ACROSS

- 1 Experts overlooking earliest blooms
- 5 Roll and baloney gobbled up
- 10 *Seal*: "I'm swimming east a ways in the ocean" (2 wds)
- 12 Sticky issue concerning moral failing
- 13 Trying to disable terrible actors that start phoning
- 14 Person suspected at first has criminal charge
- 15 Return milking equipment in sacks
- 16 Officeholder being booted out commences pleas
- 19 Inclination to attack mounted
- 20 First off, mummy is different
- 21 Italian eats extra violin string
- 22 Used a number nine finally in cul-de-sac
- 24 Ryan left holding retrograde genetic material from everybody (3 wds)
- 26 Minions escape on secret bridge
- 27 Coarse fiber is more modest, one hears
- 28 "Goldfinger", to insiders!
- 30 Sport beginning in introduction of "Golden Snitch"
- 32 Menacing character sneers, sits in wreckage
- 34 Iran/USA atlas distributed from a region in the Pacific
- 36 Treasury chief questions charges...
- 37 ...standing proudly before New England state
- 38 Advantage for hunting dog following leader
- 39 Heartless spy made off with pump component

DOWN

- 1 Pattern in stone residue (note radius)
- 2 Joined edges appear sound
- 3 In grand style, leader rides around vantage points close to fighting
- 4 Single bald loony in Thornton movie (2 wds)
- 5 Band with *Monster Alien* encountered afresh
- 6 Indonesian native's fruit running short
- 7 Inventor partial to state's laboratories
- 8 Some jocks cinch barely passing grades (2 wds)
- 9 One incoming teen shook up adults-only TV drama
- 11 Stellar scientific team reformulated its robot's gas & oil
- 17 Sit-down + bedrest evens out drug users
- 18 Spear, like wild hogs
- 20 Model I use posed for some with complex personalities?
- 23 Betray rising club official
- 25 Redraft a nice legal partnership
- 26 Famous dog going after passing elbows and such
- 27 A bit of arugula leaves lightly touches salad greens
- 29 Dadaist painter is sort of stern
- 31 Space agency line lacking resonance
- 33 Barely get through middle of weekend
- 35 Reading aloud, followed along with pamphlet

If you're new to cryptic crosswords and would like tips for solving clues, contact the author at markhalpin3@gmail.com

DO I HEAR A WALTZ? - SOLUTION TO LAST ISSUE'S PUZZLE

As seen in the filled diagram below, three passages must be entered with 1, 2, or 3 letters per box, the cycle repeating 1-2-3, 1-2-3, 1-2-3, 1-2-3; thus, "waltz time". The unclued down entries are shown shaded, with the appropriate arrangement of A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC reading EMITTING SUCH A LILT.

Clue Notes

Across 1. (-m)asters 5. rot + ate 10. "seal I'm" anagram + E(ast) 12. re + sin 13. hams + t(hat) + ringing 14. man + s(uspected) + laughter ("has") 15. "stool" reversed 16. beg(-in)s 19. double definition 20. (-m)other 21. extRA VIOLInstring 22. dead en([nin]e) d 24. O'Ne (DNA reversed) al + L 26. escaPE ON Secret 27. "coyer" homophone 28. goldfinGER To 30. s(port) + in + g(olde)n 32. "sneer sits in" anag. 34. "Iran/USA atlas" anag. 36. T(reasury) + asks 37. ere + CT 38. (-b)asset 39. s(-p)y + stole

Down 1. ash + la + R 2. "seem" homo. 3. r (in + G + s[tyl]e) ides 4. "single bald" anag. 5. R.E.M. + ET 6. orang(-e) 7. staTE'S LABoratories 8. tighten + D's 9. "teen" anag. + R + E.R. 11. "its robot's gas oil" anag. 17. SiTdOwNbEdReSt 18. javelin + as 20. "I use posed" anag. 23. "rat on" reversed + Y 25. "a nice legal" anag. 26. P + Asta 27. c (-a[rugula]) resses 29. "stern" anag. 31. NASA + L 33. weEKEnd 35. "tracked" homo.

A	S	T	E	R	S	R	O	T	A	T	E
S	E	A	M	I	L	E	R	E	S	I	N
H	AM	STR	I	NG	ING	M	AN	SLA	U	GH	TER
L	O	O	T	S	B	E	G	S	C	T	E
A	J	B	T	I	L	T	O	T	H	E	R
R	AV	IOL	I	DE	ADE	N	ED	ONE	A	ND	ALL
P	E	O	N	S	C	O	I	R	L	S	E
A	L	G	G	E	R	T	P	S	I	N	G
S	IN	IST	E	RN	ESS	A	US	TRA	L	AS	IAN
T	A	S	K	S	E	R	E	C	T	A	C
A	S	S	E	T	S	Y	S	T	O	L	E

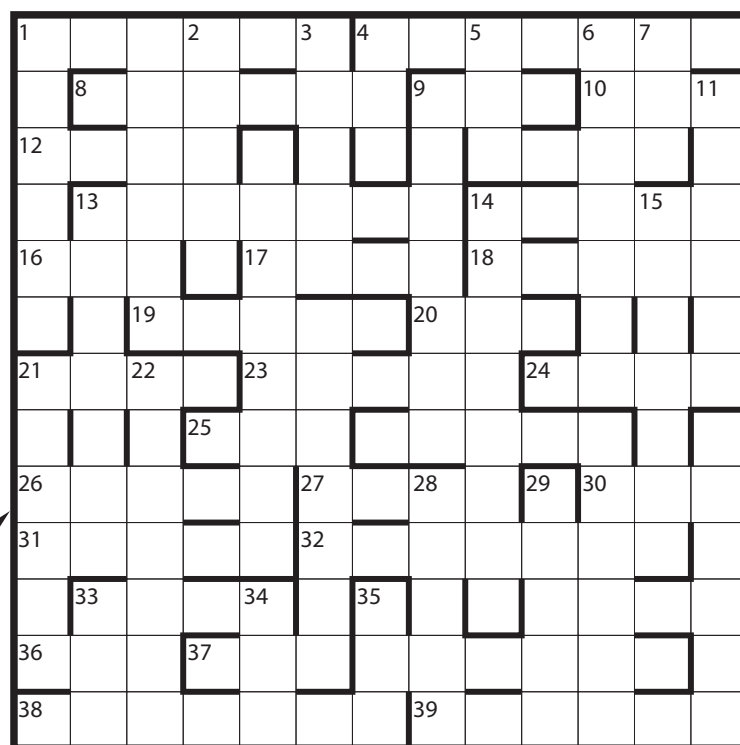
ON THE REBOUND

by Mark Halpin

In *Bounce*, Wilson and Addison Mizner are a resilient pair of rogues who constantly reinvent themselves to find a place in the world. Similarly, the answers to the "Pairs" clues must be reinvented as new words before finding their place in the grid. Each pair is transformed in a different way inspired by the Mizners; in no particular order:

- Looking for gold up north (successfully)
- Gambling (unsuccessfully)
- Stealing the hearts of rich women
- Penning Broadway shows
- Designing grand homes
- Moving pieces of real estate

A rubber ball entering the completed grid in the direction indicated by the arrow would travel a straight line, caroming at right angles off the outer wall of the grid until completing a circuit. Its path spells out the role of get-rich-quick schemes in the lives of the Mizners.



ACROSS

- 1 An increase in pay announced for marshals (6)
- 8 Part upon choosing rain gear (6)
- 9 Close in on second half of rousing song (3)
- 10 Knock over Carl's boy (3)
- 12 Waif initially housed by immoral madam (4)
- 13 Gamer is tangled in meaningless fantasies (7)
- 14 Sort green bananas (5)
- 16 Akira Kurosawa project scuttled (3)
- 17 Young Spanish girl and dog spinning endlessly (4)
- 18 *Cabaret* performer at last gave them erotic cage dance (5)
- 19 Tailor using brand of extra-sharp cutters (5)
- 20 Athletic organization signing the tallest centers (3, *abbr*)
- 21 Cheney pursues Republicans on the fringes: "Are you coming?" (4, *abbr*)
- 23 Actress/singer Graff in scene likely reviewed (5)
- 24 Key passage in oration (4)
- 25 Head off little varmint in pasture (3)
- 26 Encouraging suggestions for big oafs? (5)
- 27 "Number One" replaced "Number Ten" on table (4)
- 30 Columbus college to supply material (3, *abbr*)
- 31 Chain letter essentially is a means of entrée (5)
- 32 Automatic selection finally played: a flute composition (7)
- 33 Good-natured doctor taking in almost all of unwell (4)
- 36 Entertainer Orlando's singing maidens: "Dawn" (3)
- 37 Oeuvre oddly shared by you and I (3)
- 38 Eastern European picks up bill for beverage (7)
- 39 Greek youth who drowned ignoring a shark, perhaps (6)

DOWN

- 2 Notorious British spy is too rude on the surface (5)
- 3 Gosh, I screwed up a strategy game (5)
- 4 Add up allowance of liquor (3)
- 5 Alternately develop affirmative action policy (3, *abbr*)

- 6 Befuddled, states hints about Newton (7)
- 7 Too hot to hold (gasp!) (3)
- 9 At sea, Noah's raising a shout of praise (7)
- 11 Duck soup and fancy cheeses being discussed (6)
- 14 Get incomplete hair dyes showing really awful spots (8)
- 15 One with no illusions concerning the social elite (7)
- 21 Émigré disturbed those in power (6)
- 22 Six incline to pursue love in bower of a sort (7)
- 28 Rubbish! That's horrible sounding! (5)
- 29 Copper mine short on Tex-Mex flavor (5)
- 33 Low Mediterranean character in the audience (3)
- 34 Taking up pal's nickname (3)
- 35 Scandinavian coins can be valuable metal (3)

PAIRS

Comic Adam snarled nastily
 "No lard!" ordered McDonald's spokesperson

From Antony's region!
 Old Cretans' complaints about officeholder

Get too much sun attending European capital
 Weather god manipulating hot rain

Hostess returning harp and piano, finally
 Potter's generator rumbling ominously after starting

The Scottish play mostly at cabers (but especially the highest chiefs)
 Tiny barge might be selling down the river

Ultimately put on a lot of weight
 Wintertime in Chicago is depicted in comic strip (*abbr*)

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ON THE REBOUND - SOLUTION TO LAST ISSUE'S PUZZLE

Certain pairs of clue answers were to be reinvented as new words according to various of the Mizner brothers' get-rich-quick schemes.

"Looking for gold up north (successfully)": BURN/THOR --> AUBURN/AUTHOR, "Au", the chemical symbol for gold, being found at the top of each of those words in the grid.

"Gambling (unsuccessfully)": MACBETH/ BETRAYING --> MACH/RAYING, losing "bet"s.

"Stealing the hearts of rich women": OPRAH/ROWLING --> OPAH/ROWING, stealing their "hearts" (center letter)

"Penning Broadway shows": TON/CST --> TRENTON/CANNIEST; the original words "pen" B'way show titles.

"Designing grand homes": ROMAN/MINOANS are each rearranged into the grand homes MANOR/MANSION.

"Moving pieces of real estate": In SANDLER/RONALD, the letters L, A, N, D are moved, for SLANDER/ROLAND.

The path bouncing through the completed grid describes the role of these schemes in the lives of the ever-resilient Mizners: GIVING THEM A REASON FOR BOING.

Clue Notes

Across 1. "a raise" homophone 8. uPON CHOosing 9. (-ant)hem 10. double definition 12. ba (w[aif]) d 13. "gamer is" anagram 14. "green" anag. 16. double def. 17. (-e)nina(-c) 18. last letters of "gave...dance" 19. "using" anag. 20. centers of "sigNing tHe talLest" 21. R(-epublican)s + V.P. 23. scENE Likely 24. "aisle" homo. 25. (-f)lea 26. "go on"s 27. N(umber) + "one" anag. 30. tO SUPply 31. chaIN LETter 32. (playe)D + "a flute" anag. 33. M(+il[-l])D 36. initial ("maiden") letters 37. OeUvRe 38. Po(+tab)le 39. Le(-a)nder

Down 2. and + r(ud)e 3. "gosh I" anag. 4. double def. 5. dEvEIOP 6. tra(+N[ewton])ces 7. toO HOt 9. "noah's" anag. + "an" reversed 11. "bries" homo. 14. ge(-t) + hennas 15. re + a-list 21, "emigre" anag. 22. VI+O+list 28. "awful" homo. 29. Cu + min(-e) 33. "mu" homo. 34. "bud" reversed 35. double def.

Pairs "snarled" anag.; "no lard" anag.; fROM ANtony's; mo(+in)ans; "Bern" homo.; "hot" anag.+ R(ain); "harp + (pian)o" reversed; (-g)rowling; "mostly...highest" initial letters ("chiefs"); "tiny barge" anag.; (pu)t + on; comiC STRip

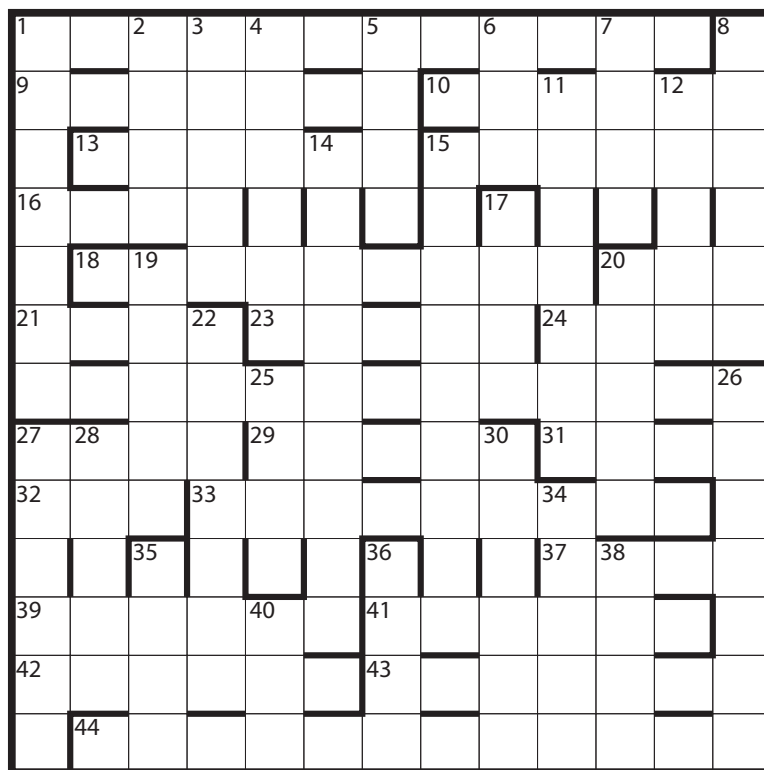
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	U	8	P	O	N	C	H	O	9	H	E	M	10	R	O	11	B		
12	B	A	W	D	C	O	T	O	O	P	A	H	R						
	U	13	M	I	R	A	G	E	S	14	G	E	N	15	R	E			
16	R	A	N	E	17	N	I	N	A	18	E	M	C	E	E				
	N	N	19	G	I	N	S	U	20	N	H	L	E	A	Z				
21	R	S	22	V	P	23	I	L	E	N	E	24	I	S	L	E			
	E	I	I	25	L	E	A	M	A	N	O	R	I	A					
26	G	O	O	N	S	27	N	E	28	O	N	29	C	O	S	U			
31	I	N	L	E	T	32	D	E	F	A	U	L	T	T					
	M	33	M	I	L	34	D	E	35	O	F	S	M	A	C	H			
36	E	O	S	37	O	U	R	R	A	Y	I	N	G	O					
38	P	O	T	A	B	L	E	39	L	E	N	D	E	R					

ROLLING ALONG

by Mark Halpin

Like the characters in *Merrily We Roll Along*, half a dozen figures in this puzzle are seen at increasingly early points in their lives. Each of these figures appears in the answer to both an Across and Down clue, and the two appearances intersect in the grid. When entered Across, a figure moves backward in time; when entered Down, it moves even further back.

The unclued row spanning the grid features a bit of advice which is repeated throughout the *Merrily* score, but which solvers of this puzzle would be wise to ignore.



ACROSS

- 1 Having again catalogued egrets, I erred foolishly
- 9 One small, washed-out African dam
- 10 Noted dramatist close to Ezra Pound and Cummings
- 13 Stallone showing maturity as a "wise guy"
- 15 One rising with more discomfort in the audience
- 16 Xena's making a comeback ... topless! Crazy? Not in the least
- 18 Load overwhelming poor Ken ... time to get to bed early, maybe
- 20 Ape mashed up a veggie
- 21 Extreme torpor can overtake many athletes initially
- 23 Absolutely good inside? Swell!
- 24 Tip over and roll
- 27 Appraisal, in hindsight, covers a lot of ground
- 29 Ineptly raise someone born in the spring
- 31 Ma to vacillate dramatically (*hyph*)
- 32 Dolphins, etc. from north Florida (*abbr*)
- 33 18th century engraver depicting predatory fish in tropical habitat, primarily
- 37 OK spot for western grub
- 39 Serpent-like spirits *Dragons of Eden* author recalled
- 41 Ask superficially about novelist Ephron's jacket
- 42 *Number 49* in the style of Jamaican music
- 43 Distant boundary in "H" or "I" region almost complete
- 44 Disguising *The Frogs* chorus (switching right to left)?

DOWN

- 1 Car sank in mire; scour thoroughly
- 2 O'Neal raced around club
- 3 Bad news about A&E's Jolson showcase
- 4 Pleasant-sounding rock
- 5 Underground river is filthy spot at times
- 6 Cheer up some British musicians (*abbr*)
- 7 Heartless rogue adulterated currency
- 8 Root for triumph at the top of your lungs
- 11 *Pirates of the Caribbean* actress left after suspicious thing in coral island
- 12 More than one little dog looks noisy
- 14 Measure of brainpower suffusing our soul in a muddle, as if intoxicated (*obsolete*)
- 15 Warrior's rifle ejecting bullet at last
- 17 For Deep Southern relative, it's cold all around East
- 19 Retro, I suffer from modern correspondence (*hyph*)
- 20 Spin returning to big wheel
- 22 Sheba, as "Lunatic", is embarrassing
- 25 Inmate called for Mayor Cora Hoover Hooper once
- 26 Getting drowzy, at last shun strange gin mixture
- 27 Creature's thin scale standing erect
- 28 Performers' union allowing no sudden difficulty
- 30 Thus, a thousand is steep
- 34 Again string up wire, right in the middle
- 35 First off, fable's lesson is given aloud
- 36 Brutally lash Mort
- 38 Coming up, Liza nailed feature role in *Cabaret*
- 40 Hackman alternating in *Alias* (*abbr*)

If you're new to cryptic crosswords and would like tips for solving clues, please contact the constructor at markhalpin3@gmail.com.

ROLLING ALONG - SOLUTION TO LAST ISSUE'S PUZZLE

Like the characters in *Merrily We Roll Along*, half a dozen figures in this puzzle were to be seen at increasingly early points in their lives. Each of these figures appeared in the answer to both an Across and Down clue intersecting in the grid. The figure SWAN, for example, seen in ASWAN and SWANEE, was entered as CYGNET going Across, and EGG reading Down. The other figures:

BEE --> PUPA --> LARVA
 KNIGHT --> SQUIRE --> PAGE
 HOG --> SHOAT --> PIGLET
 NAG --> MARE --> FOAL
 OAK --> SAPLING --> ACORN

The unclued row spanning the grid features advice recurring in the *Merrily* score, but which solvers were cautioned to ignore: NEVER LOOK BACK (entered backwards, naturally).

Clue Notes

Across 1. "egrets I erred: anagram 9. a + s + wan 10. (ezr)a + lb. + e.e. 13. s(+age)ly 15. "soror" homophone 16. (-X)enas reversed 18. we(+ekn ["ken" anag.])ight 20. "ape" anag. 21. can...athletes initials 23. sur(+G)e 24. double definition 27. appRAISAl rev. 31. double def. 32. N + FL 33. ho(+gar)t + h(abitat) 37. "dine" rev. 39. "Sagan" rev. 41. a(-s)(+Nora)k 42. à la + ska 43. "H or I" + zon(-e) 44. "croaking" changing R to L

1	R	E	2	R	3	E	4	G	I	5	S	T	6	E	R	7	E	D	8	L
9	A	C	Y	G	N	E	T	10	A	L	11	P	U	12	P	A				
	N	13	A	G	E	14	Y	15	S	O	A	R	E	R						
16	S	A	N	E	I	I	X	P	17	B	G	O	K	V						
	A	18	W	19	E	E	S	Q	U	I	R	E	20	P	E	A				
21	C	O	M	22	A	23	S	U	R	G	E	24	L	I	S	T				
	K	C	A	B	25	K	O	O	L	R	E	V	E	26	N					
27	A	28	S	I	A	29	A	R	I	E	30	S	31	Y	O	Y	O			
32	N	F	L	33	S	H	O	A	T	A	34	R	T	H	D					
	I	O	35	H	N	U	36	S	U	C	37	E	38	N	I	D				
39	M	A	R	E	40	A	S	41	A	N	O	R	A	K	I					
42	A	L	A	S	K	A	43	H	O	R	I	Z	O	N						
	L	44	C	L	S	A	P	L	I	N	G	I	N	G						

Down 1. "car sank" anag. 2. r(+Y)an 3. sw(+A)ne + E 4. "nice" homo. 5. sty + X 6. "ole" rev. 7. "ro(-g)ue" anag. 8. "beat" homo. 11. k[("thing" anag.) + L]ey 12. "peeks" homo. 14. "our soul" anag. around "IQ" 15. sho[-(bulle)t]gun 17. br(+E)r 19. "me" rev. + ail 20. to + V.I.P. rev. 22. "has base" anag. (past tense in clue is erratum) 25. "con" homo. 26. (shu)n + odd + "gin" anag. 27. "lamina" rev. 28. S(+N)AG 30. so + a + K 34. wiRE RIGht 35. (-m)oral 36. "lash" anag. 38. IIZA Nailed rev. 40. hAcKmAAn

YOU GOTTA GET A GIMMICK

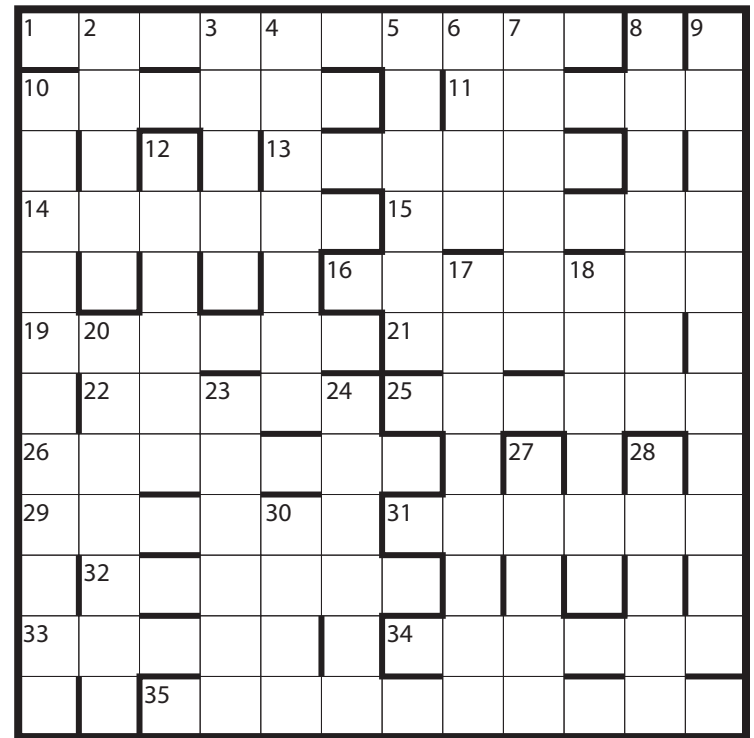
by Mark Halpin

The three ecdysiasts starring in this puzzle have each found a novel way to strip.

Mazeppa, for example, strips a single letter from each of twelve **answer words** before they are entered in the grid. The answer STRUMPET might thus be entered as TRUMPET, the S being stripped. Enumerations given with these clues refer to the new entries, which are all legitimate words.

Electra strips a single letter from the **definition** portion of another twelve clues. The answer BUMP, which might otherwise be defined with "Jolt," would in this case be clued with "Jot," the L being stripped.

Finally, Tessie Tura strips a single letter from those accounted for in the **wordplay** portion of the remaining twelve clues. For example, "Ring out" provides all of the letters needed to anagram the answer word GRIND except for the stripped D.



Reading Tessie's stripped letters in clue order, followed by Electra's and then Mazeppa's, will answer this question: Why have the three ladies been so concerned about bringing novelty to their routines?

ACROSS

- 1 Applications of primer haphazardly used on car (10)
- 10 Remix of R.E.M. LP is not so overwrought (6)
- 11 Art Nouveau designer's most unusual composition: *Angelic Maidens* (5)
- 13 Remote, scattered streaks, primarily! (6)
- 14 Again cover alternate going in for running back (6)
- 15 Smoke obscured Native American (6)
- 16 Taking in a mediocre party, date's wit surfaces (7)
- 19 Perverted smut I saw (6)
- 21 Large, sort of weary person in the bar (5)
- 22 A lens distorted dams in photography (5)
- 25 "La" not a regression in *Noël*, harmonically (6)
- 26 Bungling heist, duo retreats (7)
- 29 Alas, nun destroyed short-lived plants (6)
- 31 Attention: it sounds a little fast for a rabbit (6)
- 32 Giving up lithium, free to act like a Virgo (6)
- 33 Glazier's chief going in advance somewhere to get panes in MA (5)
- 34 It's less healthy having little wet-weather gear (6)
- 35 Reptiles that few wild roars upset (10)

DOWN

- 2 Some water sprites (nine, that is) in extremes of nakedness (5)
- 3 Poet polished *Pavilions in the South* (5)
- 4 Rueful acceptance of lame parent essentially more about saving face (7)
- 5 Bony horse disappearing from inn (6)
- 6 Sit in Iowa discussing goals (4)
- 7 Jailer put into place ready to go (6)
- 8 Just a dram, one taking a toll on alcoholic leader? (7)
- 9 Doctor avoids a lot: high blood pressure treatment, for example (11)
- 10 Yielding, tarts belch drunkenly (11)
- 12 Silver disk on the shore (6)
- 17 Company at last restructured, showing one popular person's influence (8)
- 18 Hold ewe's last, smallest offspring skyward (6)
- 20 Fuchsia in bower providing colorful array (7)
- 23 Pair of Europeans sing Sondheim lead role (6)
- 24 Disquiet and disease disturbed rest (6)
- 27 Park animal, oddly, used for a tow in Africa (5)
- 28 River lily, for example (5)
- 30 Printer's division in L.A. newspapers cut by 80% (4)

If you're new to cryptic crosswords and would like tips for solving clues, please contact the constructor at markhalpin3@gmail.com.

YOU GOTTA GET A GIMMICK - SOLUTION TO LAST ISSUE'S PUZZLE

For each clue, letters were to be stripped from either the wordplay portion of the clue, the definition portion or the answer. Taken by set in clue order, these letters (in **boldface** below) answered the question "Why have the three ladies been so concerned about bringing novelty to their routines?": THEIR CAREERS HAVE ALL BEEN SLOW TAKING OFF.

Clue Notes

Across 1. "used on car" anagram; wordplay missing **T** 10. "R.E.M. LP is" anag.; simp**Ler** 11. "most...angelic" initials; wp - **H** 13. "remote" anag. + s(treaks); mete**Ors** 14. fo(or)r reversed; wp - **E** 15. "smoke" anag.; wp - **I** 16. f(a, C)ete + d(ate); definition: "wit**H** surfaces" 19. ""smut l" anag; wp - **R** 21. L + "weary" anag.; la**W**yer 22. "A lens" anag.; def: "Adams in photography" 25. "la not a" rev.; def: "no**Vel** harmonically" 26. "heist duo" anag.; hideou**Ts** 29. "alas nun" anag.; annu**Als** 31. "care + it" homophone.; def: "a little **fE**ast for a rabbit" 32. (-li)berate; def: "to act like a vir**Ag**o" 33. lo(g[lazier])an; def: "somewhere to get p**L**anes in MA" 34. s(l[ittle])icker; slic**Ker**; "roars upset" anag.; def: "reptiles that **fL**ew"

Down 2. n(-akednes)s containing IX + i.e.; nix**les** 3. "poet" anag.; wp - **C** 4. (pa)re(nt) + mor(s[aving])e; def: "rueful acceptance of **B**lame" 5. (-H[orse])ostel; wp - **A** 6. "aims" homo.; def: "sit**E** in Iowa" 7. double definition; tur**N**key 8. chimer + a(lcoholic); def: "just a dr**E**am" 9. "avoids a lot" anag.; wp - **R** 10. "tarts belch" anag.; wp - **E** 12. Ag + round; a**G**round 17. Co. + at + "last" anag. containing l; c**O**attails 18. (ew)e + runt rev.; wp - **E** 20. fuchsi**A** IN B**O**Wer; wp - **R** 23. eu(ropeans) + rat; wp - **S** 24. flu + "rest" anag.; **F**luster 27. PaRkAnIm**A**l; def: "a tow**N** in Africa" 28. double def; **F**lower 30. LA + ne(-wspapers); def: "**S**printer's division"

¹ U	² N	D	³ E	⁴ R	C	⁵ O	⁶ A	⁷ T	S	⁸ C	⁹ V
¹⁰ S	I	M	P	E	R	S	¹¹ M	U	C	H	A
T	X	¹² A	C	¹³ M	E	T	E	R	S	I	S
¹⁴ R	E	R	O	O	F	¹⁵ E	S	K	I	M	O
E	S	O	T	R	¹⁶ F	A	¹⁷ C	E	¹⁸ T	E	D
¹⁹ T	²⁰ R	U	I	S	M	²¹ L	A	Y	E	R	I
C	²² A	N	²³ S	E	²⁴ L	²⁵ A	T	O	N	A	L
²⁶ H	I	D	E	O	U	S	T	²⁷ P	U	²⁸ L	A
²⁹ A	N	N	U	³⁰ L	S	³¹ C	A	R	R	O	T
B	³² B	E	R	A	T	E	I	A	E	W	O
³³ L	O	G	A	N	E	³⁴ S	L	I	C	E	R
E	W	³⁵ P	T	E	R	O	S	A	U	R	S

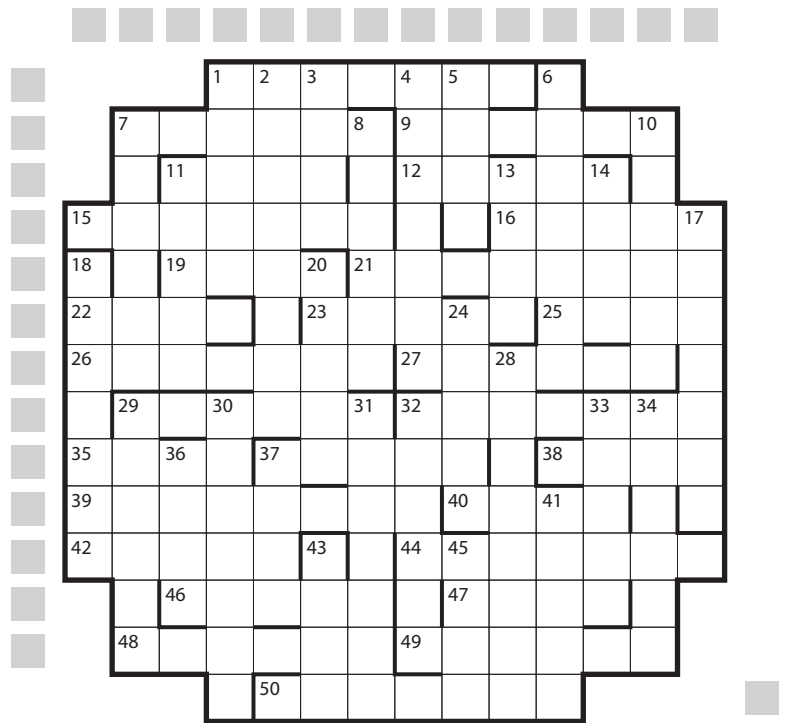
LOVE LETTERS

by Mark Halpin

Who will send letters? Impassioned lovers (6)

In *Passion*, lovers send many letters. Anyone wishing to complete this puzzle will need to do the same.

Fosca's feelings for Giorgio might fairly be described as "unchecked." In crosswordese, "unchecked" describes any letter in an answer word that is not also used in a crossing answer. Once the grid is filled, send one unchecked letter from each row and column horizontally or vertically into a shaded square. No individual letter is used more than once. When finished, the phrases formed will also prove apt descriptions of Fosca's feelings, as well as descriptions of the letters being sent.



ACROSS

- 1 It's a man's crumbling? Just the opposite (7)
- 7 Noted architect taking on Ron to draft (6, 2 wds)
- 9 Try again with more heart, essentially (6)
- 11 Surround grid with relocated letters (4)
- 12 Willow is more optimistic almost from the start (5)
- 15 Bats are flying side by side (7)
- 16 Masters party; send a buggy (5)
- 19 Travel between field and river (4)
- 21 Plateau borders hardly fit for cultivation (8)
- 22 Both men and women dealt with problems, avoiding pressure (4)
- 23 Government security restricted unruly teen (5)
- 25 Early critics tore into actress playing Elizabeth (4)
- 26 Ignored? Not in nude resort (7)
- 27 Plucky oil magnate trading in energy for small state (6)
- 29 Total credit charge (6)
- 32 Whine about hotel leaflet (7)
- 35 Mug during grand opera (4)
- 37 Recall of components to cause suffering from scarcity (5)
- 38 Very dark hue, ultimately oddly brown (4)
- 39 Portentous-sounding pair of orphans burying decapitated vampire (8)
- 40 Dessert's dreamy; agree to seconds, therefore (4)
- 42 Queen oversaw empire's borders (5)
- 44 Virtuoso, left tense inside, set off (7)
- 46 Giant anti-tank division (5)
- 47 Land smothered in polluted air (4)
- 48 Resist faceless lawman and heartless deputies (6)
- 49 E.g., a veterinarian an obedient dog attended (6)
- 50 Don't start meandering freely -- that's a real annoyance (7)

DOWN

- 1 Song and dance that is featured in retro records (5)
- 2 A lot of info spread about battery ... excellent! (8)
- 3 Means of support articulated first to last (4)
- 4 Rum or gin in evening routine? (7)
- 5 We cleared out of most recent home (4)
- 6 Introducing a cast center stage (7)
- 7 Tease toff twirling hair decoration (6)
- 8 Fringe elements done away with, vendetta criminal is cleared (6)
- 10 Lots not using intelligence, in fact (6)
- 11 Novel genre: "Juvenile" (5)
- 13 Key passage in speech (4)
- 14 Bear mauled onetime Broadway "Annie" (4)
- 17 Sow leaping around sty becomes harder to grasp (7)
- 18 Mötley Crüe admitting trouble in country (7)
- 20 Crete's besieged, not flattened (5)
- 24 Band leader nixed worthless material (5)
- 28 Like resistance toward change in retail organization (8)
- 29 Mahi-mahi almost ran into hammerhead (6)
- 30 In recession, shirt mender's sales slip (7)
- 31 I enter arrangement involving a novice worker (7)
- 32 Dad playing harp with signature flourish (6)
- 33 It's sailing about! (5, *hyph*)
- 34 Thief to adjust gear while climbing (6)
- 36 Harshly criticize bigot's last gasp (4)
- 37 Use reconstituted tapioca primarily as ingredient in some puddings (4)
- 41 Gorge like a seabird? (5)
- 43 Save torpedoed vessel (4)
- 45 Staff sign contract, somewhat divided (4)

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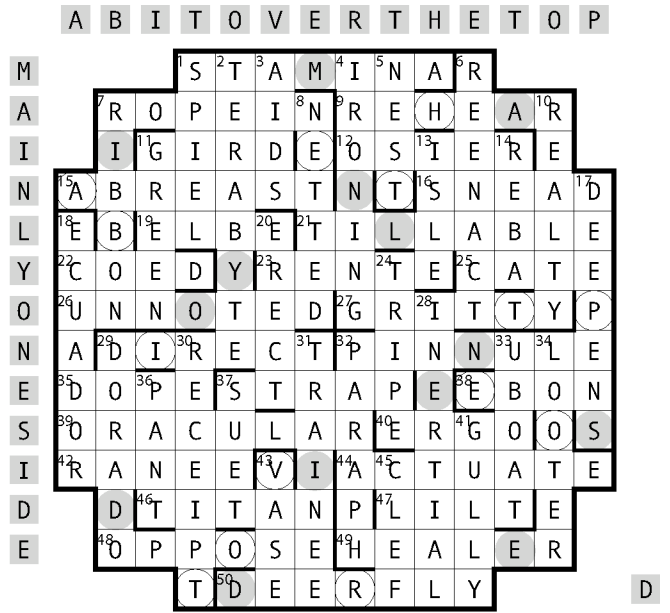
LOVE LETTERS - SOLUTION TO LAST ISSUE'S PUZZLE

In last issue's puzzle, solvers were asked to send unchecked letters from the grid (shown circled) into the shaded spaces surrounding it. The two phrases formed describe both the letters themselves and Fosca's feelings for Giorgio.

Clue Notes

Across 1. "it's a man" anagram; 7. Ro(Pei)n 9. moRE HEARt 11. "grid" anag.
12. (-)osier 15. "bats are" anag. 16. "send a" anag. 19. travEL BEtween 21.
t(ill)able 22. co(-p)ed 23. R + "teen" anag. 25. c(ritics) + ate 26. "not in
nude" anag. 27. G(-e/+Rl)tty 29. "credit" anag. 32. p(inn)ule 35. grand
OPeRa 37. "parts" reversal 38. (hu)e + BrOWN 39. or(phans) surrounding (-
d)racula 40. "dessert's...to" second letters 42. ran + e(mpir)e 44.
ac("taut"reversal)e 46. anTI-TANK 47. li(l)t 48. (-c)op + po(-s)se 49. double
definition 50. d(on't) + "freely" anag.

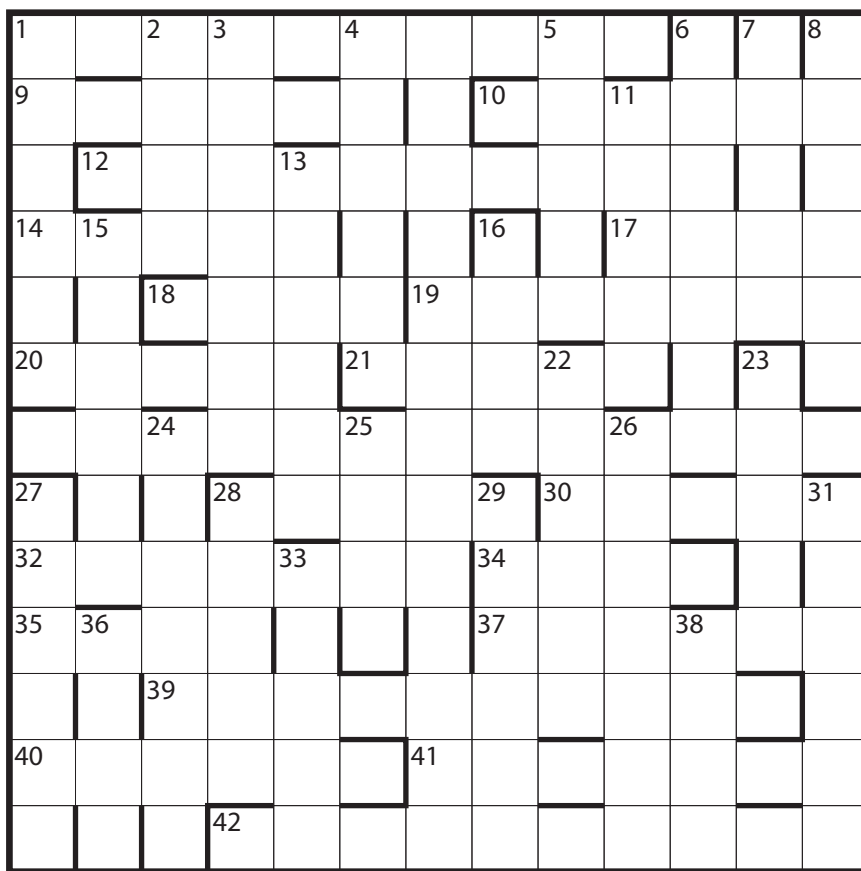
Down 1. LPS rev. holding I.E. 2. "battery" anag. + E 3. "said" moving S to end 4. "or gin in" anag. 5. ne(-we)st 6. A in "center" anag. 7. rib + nob rev. 8. "(-v)endett(-a)" anag. 10. real(-i)ty 11. "genre" anag. 13. "aisle" homophone 14. "bear" anag. 17. "seed" rev. around "pen" 18. "crue" anag. containing "ado" 20. "crete" anag. 24 (-s)tripe 28. "in retail" anag. 29. do[ra(-n)]do 30. T + "piecer" rev. 31 "I enter" + A anag. 32. pa + "harp" anag. 33. "about" anag./definition 34. "retool" rev. 36. pan + (bigo)t 37.



TRAGEDY TOMORROW...

by Mark Halpin

For now, laughter fills the air. And with good reason: there's a lot of funny business going on here. Two different apt modifications may affect answers being inscribed in the grid at right. The first and last letters of the clues for a certain set of answers, taken in an order to be determined, will spell out what has them rolling in the aisles tonight at the Forum.



ACROSS

- 1 Cleaning pans, maybe twisting rag in edges
- 9 Not oddly, we feel mice are more repulsively wriggly
- 10 Poke at ground somewhere in the Midwest
- 12 Idiosyncratic governor initially just sues veteran ... pathetic (2 wds)
- 14 Radical camp in Korean subdivision
- 17 Tim doesn't begin to cut down large picture format
- 18 Designer discarding a faulty radio
- 19 Bacon et al. embody most prominent of literary degrees
- 20 Like academic barriers I contested?
- 21 Writer of odes takes interpretation
- 28 Leaders of various outings like gathering along a river
- 30 Understanding for teens in country
- 32 One little snack for poet: fruit, rum (2 wds)
- 34 Nearest earn hugs, kiss
- 35 Arab cash left in spider hole maybe
- 37 Sophisticated sort of statue
- 39 Complete panic about last of plane's excessive cargo
- 40 Count Dracula & Frankenstein monster haunt adolescents' hearts
- 41 Start going ape: first, eat cut bananas
- 42 Easy-to-ride vehicle traveling here (we let her) (hyph)

DOWN

- 1 Noted Sandra, cross, has Greek character cast out (hyph)
- 2 Jungle natives bridge wooded valley
- 3 Ocean State athlete, in the winter, is on thinner ice
- 4 In large wooden ship, tradesmen primarily fight about carvings, etc.
- 5 Modern work of fiction
- 6 Live with Mennonites, radiant with optimism
- 7 Snake flayed with double-edged dagger
- 8 Monkeyshines somewhat lessen in a zoo? Just the reverse
- 11 Press investigated earliest American hybrid car
- 13 In Paris you party loudly ... it's charming
- 15 Cite western state fine that is going around
- 16 Certainly grass is getting high around end of June
- 22 Eve, if task is arduous, perhaps has a siesta (2 wds)
- 23 A boy, ten, mishandled weapon
- 24 Oils, not unusually!
- 25 Set down quality material
- 26 Disposed to remember even trite medley
- 27 Put together coriander or cumin with last of basil thrown in
- 28 A couple of villains hasten near-total computer catastrophe
- 29 Insurrectionist bombed a ranch
- 31 Author botched verse, like always (2 wds)
- 33 Start off detour up in Italian town
- 36 Maintain pub that's losing its exterior
- 38 Sickening, called for medicine bottle

If you're new to cryptic crosswords and would like tips for solving clues, please contact the constructor at markhalpin3@gmail.com.

TRAGEDY TOMORROW - SOLUTION TO LAST ISSUE'S PUZZLE

To properly enter answers in last month's puzzle, any "U" had to be treated as a "V," as seen in many ancient Roman inscriptions. Also, there were ten answers that contained the names of the numbers one through ten. The numbers needed to be converted to their Roman numeral equivalents; for example, **ARTWORK** would be entered as **ARIIRK**, and **JESSE VENTURA** as **JESVIITVRA**. The first and last letters of those clues, ordered by the numbers in their answers, revealed the genre being performed: "A NICE ROME ANTIC COMEDY."

Clue Notes

Across 1. "rag in edges" anagram 9. wE fEeL mIcE aRe 10. "poke at" anag. 12. j + "sues veteran" anag. 14. camP IN KOrean 17. (-T)im + ax 18. "r(-a)dio" anag. 19. Ke(l)vinS 20. I + vied 21. "takes" anag. 28. "various ... along" initials 30. ken + YA 32. "poet fruit" anag. 34. ne(x)t 35. "rial" reversed 37. "statue" anag. 39. over + fr(e)ight 40. "Dracula ... adolescents" center letters 41. a + "eat cut" anag. 42. "here we let her" anag.

Down 1. Dee (psi) x 2. junGLE Natives 3. RI + skier 4. ar(t + "row" rev.)k 5. double definition 6. be + Amish 7. "snake" anag. 8. leSSEN IN A Zoo rev. 11. PR + i + US 13. "vous" + "do" homophone 15. NV + OK inside "i.e." rev. 16. "ha(e)y" rev. 22. "eve if task" anag. 23. "a boy ten" anag. 24. "oils not" anag. 25. quALITy 26. "even trite" anag. 27. sp(l)ice 28. vi + rus(-h) 29. "a ranch" anag. 31. A + "verse" anag. 33. "(-d)ivert" rev. 36. (-t)aver(-n) 38. "vile" homo.

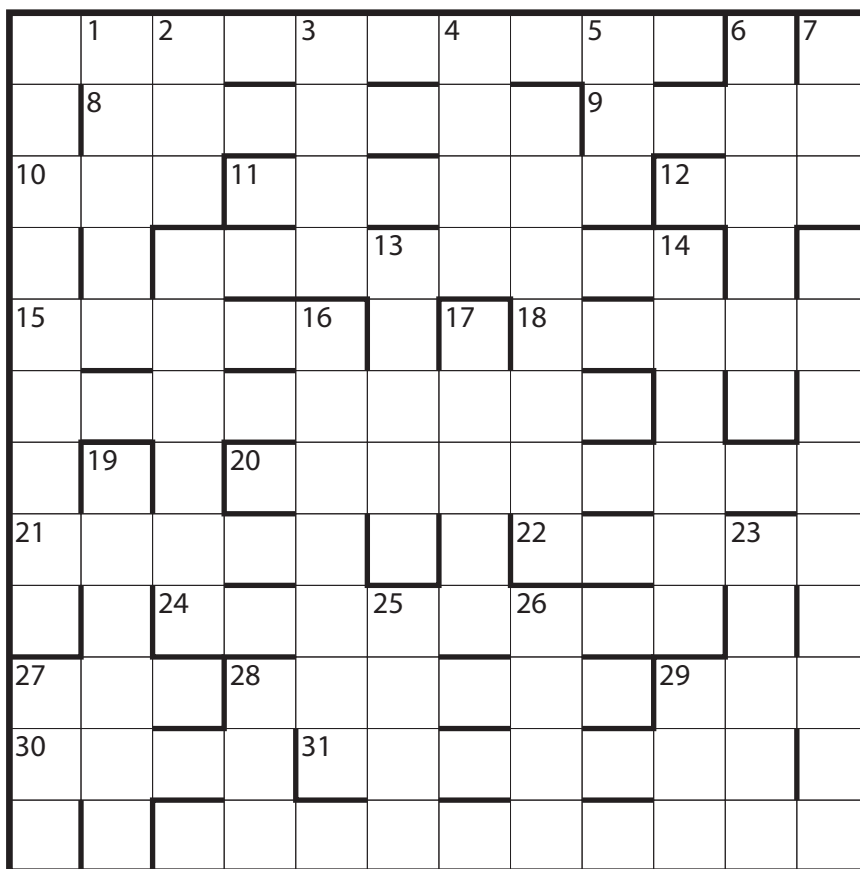
1	D	E	2	G	3	R	E	4	A	S	I	5	N	G	6	B	7	S	8	Z
9	E	E	L	I	E	R	N	10	T	O	11	P	E	K	A					
	E	12	J	E	S	13	V	I	I	T	V	R	A	E	I					
14	P	15	I	N	K	O	I	C	16	Y	E	17	I	M	A	X				
	V	N	18	D	I	O	R	19	K	E	L	V	I	N	S					
20	I	V	I	E	D	21	K	E	A	22	T	S	S	23	B	S				
	L	O	24	L	R	O	25	A	R	H	A	26	R	H	A	R				
27	S	K	O	28	V	O	L	G	29	A	30	K	E	N	Y	31	A			
32	P	E	T	I	33	T	I	V	34	N	E	X	T	I	S					
35	L	36	A	I	R	R	T	F	37	A	S	T	38	V	T	E				
	I	V	39	O	V	E	R	F	R	V	I	I	I	V						
40	C	E	N	S	V	S	41	A	C	T	V	A	T	E						
	E	R	S	42	I	I	I	W	H	E	E	L	E	R						

WITH THE PRICE OF MEAT WHAT IT IS ...

by Mark Halpin

These are desperate times, and desperate measures are called for! To that end, all of the Victims answers (clued out of order) must be ground up and served in an appropriate manner in positions in the grid to be determined.

All modified entries are valid words. A message spanning the completed grid will, I hope, reflect the solver's reaction to this puzzling fare.



VICTIMS

A little Priest intruding, concerned with punishing letter-writer (6, 2 wds)

Royal Marine, for one, tattled about romancing maidens (3)

Tinker putting out for sign, one that's promotional (6)

Tailor rises at cutting pieces (7)

Clerk with distress showing in a bit of a twist (7)

General at the front with one of his Privates retreating from engagement (3)

Shepherd's kid taking lamb's face to be smugly superior (5)

Politician initially bound by senior officeholder not, in the end, to run (6)

Actor given largest part and most artistic material (4)

ACROSS

- 8 Joins retro cat, imbibing gin liberally (7, 2 wds)
- 9 Cairo native evincing great strength and determination (4)
- 10 Rest of bad review taken back (3)
- 11 Commanding officer almost exploiting counterpart (6)
- 12 Shoals essentially surrounding river mouths (3)
- 15 Sore horse missed getting a perfect score (5)
- 18 Ascetic Hindu appeared to float before India's leader (5)
- 20 Traveling L.A. sisters missing flights? (9)
- 21 Fifty at church getting close, in a way (5)

22 Chuck, etc., I've brought around almost (5)

24 Centaurs stupefied ancient man (8)

27 Make a request twice a day (3)

29 Profit unevenly supplying tropical provender (3)

30 Don't open sauce, it's gunky (4)

31 Little in *Ice Age* involved mourning the past (7)

DOWN

- 1 Stern, Lisa accepted parcel (5)
- 2 Steal a wee drink maybe (3)
- 3 Isolated northern compound (4)
- 4 "Tulsa" dancing without a sense of passion (4)
- 5 Family is endlessly good-hearted (3)
- 6 Couple of dimwits eating more shredded cabbage (6, *hyph*)
- 7 What's blamed for some behavior is too elevated (3)
- 13 Canoe lost in big body of water (5)
- 14 I see an eccentric enter slowly (6, 2 wds)
- 16 Criminally hire thug, taking hit out on father or son who sang (7)
- 17 Clinks coming from inside knight's suit, ultimately (5)
- 19 I enjoy hanging around hero (6)
- 23 Flowers die? Indeed, so we hear (5)
- 25 Grotesque-sounding citrus fruit (4)
- 26 Those that begin cycling inevitably get sexy butts (4)
- 27 Online journal left out mushy stuff (3)
- 28 Gym class article is kind of green (3)
- 29 Outspoken *Tonight Show* host is mean (3)

WITH THE PRICE OF MEAT WHAT IT IS... - SOLUTION TO LAST ISSUE'S PUZZLE

Victims answers were to be "ground up" (i.e. jumbled) and "served appropriately" (i.e. put into a PIE), the results of these changes all being legitimate words. Thus GIG became PIGGIE, CRINKLE became PINCERLIKE, etc. When completed, one diagonal in the grid spelled the hoped-for solver's reaction: "GOD THAT'S GOOD!"

Clue Notes

Victims (in clue order) PENPAL(-->PINEAPPLE) pen[p(riest)]al; TAR(-->PIRATE) initial letters; TOUTER(-->PIROUETTE) t(-ink +out)er; SATIRES(-->PATISSERIE) "rises at" anagram; GIG(-->PIGGIE) G(eneral) + GI reversed; GLOAT(-->PILOTAGE) g(l) oat; SPRINT(-->PINSTRIPE) s(p)r. + in + (no)t; STAR (-->PIASTRE) moST ARTistic

Across 8. "puss" reversed holding "gin" anag. 9. caIRO Native 10. "pan" rev. 11. C.O. + usin(-g) 12. o(r[iver])a 15. ac(-h)ed 18. swam + l(ndia) 20. "L.A. sisters" anag. 21. L + at + ch. "I've" rev. + c(-olumnis)t 24. "centaurs" anag. 25. BID abbrev. (bis in die) 29. PrOfIt 30. (-b)ooze 31. L. in "ice age" anag.

Down 1. IISA ACcepted 2. double definition 3. "lone" rev. 4. "tuls(-a)" anag. 5. kin(-d) 6. di(mwits) + "more" anag. 7. "and" rev. 13. "canoe" anag. 14. "I see an" anag. 16. "hire thug" anag. - "hit" 17. s([sui]t)ir's 19. sav(l)or 23. "croak + aye" homophone 25. "ungly" homo. 26. "cycling...sexy" initials 27. b(-L)og 28. PE + a 29. "Paar" homo.

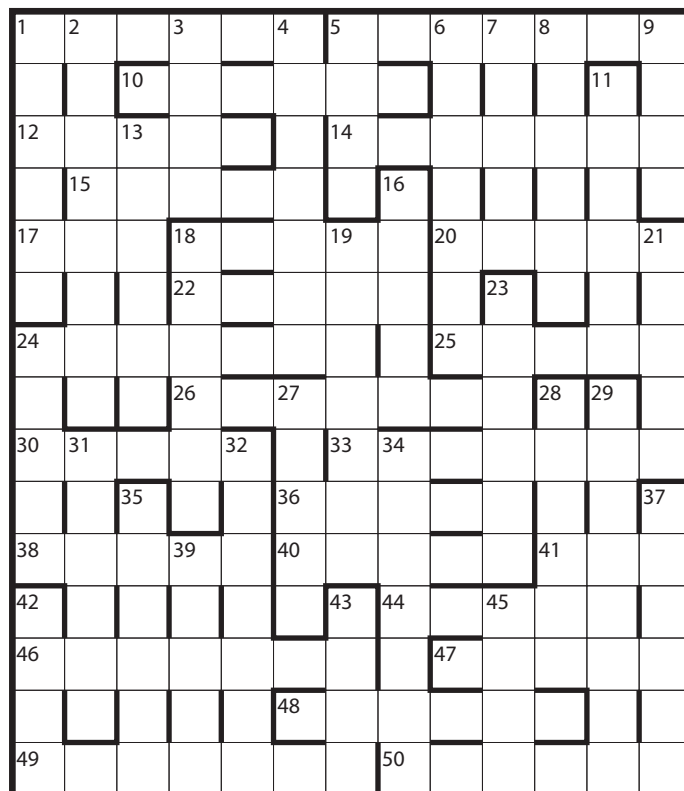
P	¹ I	² N	C	³ E	R	⁴ L	I	⁵ K	E	⁶ D	⁷ D
I	⁸ S	I	G	N	S	U	P	⁹ I	R	O	N
¹⁰ N	A	P	¹¹ C	O	U	S	I	N	¹² O	R	A
E	A	P	I	L	¹³ O	T	A	G	¹⁴ E	E	P
¹⁵ A	C	I	N	¹⁶ G	C	¹⁷ S	¹⁸ S	W	A	M	I
P	I	R	O	U	E	T	T	E	S	I	N
P	¹⁹ S	A	²⁰ S	T	A	I	R	L	E	S	S
²¹ L	A	T	C	H	N	R	²² E	V	I	²³ C	T
E	V	²⁴ E	T	R	²⁵ U	S	²⁶ C	A	N	R	R
²⁷ B	I	D	²⁸ P	I	G	G	I	E	²⁹ P	O	I
³⁰ O	O	Z	E	³¹ E	L	E	G	I	A	C	P
G	R	P	A	T	I	S	S	E	R	I	E

IN COMES COMPANY

by Mark Halpin

Phone rings, door chimes, and suddenly your place is filled with company telling you to blow out your candles and make a wish. In this puzzle, seventeen clues have been invaded by company, which must be overlooked to correctly solve those clues.

The good news is that in each case the company is bearing the gift of a single extra letter. Reading these letters in clue order will tell where to look in the completed grid for a card to accompany the gifts.



ACROSS

- 1 Get drinks all over second-rate drive-in waiter losing face (6)
- 5 Those engaged in antics notice scamp playing about (7)
- 10 Face other way around, pruning first fruit (6)
- 12 State overrun by soldiers matters (5)
- 14 Much trumpeting at an art organization (7)
- 15 Bungle identical notes and note two steps below (5)
- 17 Express disapproval for young monarch (3)
- 18 One racing is clearly happy person, though not in the lead (5)
- 20 He set apart items indicated (5)
- 22 Those heading up any regional elections nearly allways (sic) vote for sports programs (5)
- 24 You and I and Henry captivated by that lady's silences (7)
- 25 One attendant left goddess (5)
- 26 Flying ace owns Fokker (only the back half is more finely appointed) (7)
- 30 Lush spots bit of ouzo across alehouse, at last absorbed (5)
- 33 Plant used for dyeing kerchiefs primarily (in a lacy one, twist at either end) (7)
- 36 Wild horse bucking at first trampled corn (5)
- 38 Finger empty seat at leaderless D.C. forum (5)
- 40 Pryor learned retro part: youngster in space-age cartoon (5)
- 41 Typically sharp staff neglects cooking dessert (3)
- 44 Hang around medic and monkey (5)
- 46 Green formation at center of vacuole is not uncommon (7)
- 47 Controversial publisher sounds like incendiary element (5)
- 48 Squash big crab scuttling right and left (6)
- 49 Note La Crosse's almost infiltrated by four from way back (7)
- 50 Old guy acting like complete klutz beside nuclear reactors (6)

DOWN

- 1 Shoreline features things to eat, we hear (6)
- 2 School's positions may be partly determined by these extreme characters; thus I'm upset (8)
- 3 Troy has written about *Topper*, etc. (4)
- 4 Former prisoner's cheer cut short on the outside (7)
- 5 Fabulous yarn used to make dreamy clothing (4)
- 6 Not dead, with treatment given (7)
- 7 Arrest one hundred by church (5)
- 8 Eat bad stew reduced by a few degrees (6)
- 9 Butcher's vehicle discussed (4)
- 11 Stir, initially putting spice on? Absolutely not (6)
- 13 Outwardly obstinate, I decline to participate (6, 2 wds)
- 16 Bellyacher bent handle (5)
- 18 Gathers together some octopuses (6)
- 19 Criminal learns about new snag in a tangled situation (7)
- 21 Levy on the money (5)
- 23 A pricy novel is a rip-off (6)
- 24 Stage managers go back inside noxious vapors (5)
- 27 Chambermaid smuggling fossil (5)
- 28 Dashing secret agent getting forty winks (6)
- 29 Sweeney portrayer ordered niece's indulgence (8)
- 31 The man composed inspirational music (6)
- 32 Maui actors cast as Japanese military class (7)
- 34 Don mixed up with girl putting on airs (7)
- 35 Circles behind black bears (6)
- 37 Mice once bred to figure with red ink (6)
- 39 Those employing microscopy sure near the vanguard of science (5)
- 42 Ancient writing featured in video game (4, *variant*)
- 43 A library opening Housman wings (4)
- 45 Eagle-eye, not oddly, facing away from the wind (4)

IN COMES COMPANY - SOLUTION TO LAST ISSUE'S PUZZLE

Some clues in last issue's puzzle were invaded by company bearing the gift of an extra letter; that is, an extra letter string of the form "cXo", with X being various letters. Those strings needed to be overlooked to properly parse the clues. Reading the extra letters in clue order gave the location in the grid of a card to go with the gifts: "EVERY FOURTH LETTER". Those letters, highlighted at right, spell "HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MR. SONDEHEIM. WE CELEBRATE YOUR BEING ALIVE."

Clue Notes

Across 1. B + (-c)arhop 5. AD within "scamp" anagram 10. [cEo]; papa + (-w)ay reversal 12. Gl(st)s 14. "at an art" anag. 15. mis + do 18. (-s)miler 20. "he set" anag. 22. [cVo] any...always initials 24. sh(us + H)e's 25. "an aid" rev. 26. [cEo] "awns" anag. + (-fok)ker 30. [cRo] o + as(+e)s 33. [cYo] a + l(+k)ane + t 36. b + "corn" anag. 38. [cFo] s(-ea)t + (-d)rum 40. prYOR LEarned rev. 41. [cOo] pi(-k)e 44. Dr. + ape 46. [cUo] "green" anag. + al 47. "flint" hoophone 48. cance(-r) + L 49. [cRo] miss(+ IV)e(-s) 50. [cTo] acting...nuclear final letters

Down 1. "bites" homo 2. [cHo] A + Z + "thus I'm" anag. 3. ha(T)s 4. par(ole)e 5. [cLo] dreaMYTHing 6. "not dead" anag. 7. C + at + ch 8. "eat bad" anag. 9. "sleigh" anag. 11. [cEo] p + "no sir" rev. 13. s(l)tout 16. double definition 18. [cTo] double def. 19. "learns" anag. holding N 21. double def. 23. "a pricy" anag. 24. SM("go" rev.)s 27. chAMBERmaid 28. s(nap)py 29. Len + "niece" anag. 31. "the man" anag. 32. [cTo] "maui ars" anag. 34. "don + girl" annie 35. b + rings 37. [cEo] "bred to" anag. 39. [cRo] "sure" anag. + s 42. videO GAME 43. A + L + A.E. eAgLeEyE

1	B	2	A	R	3	H	O	4	P	5	M	A	6	D	7	C	8	A	9	S
	I	Z	10	P	A	P	A	Y	A	O	A	B	11	P	L					
12	G	I	13	S	T	S	R	14	T	A	N	T	A	R	A					
	H	15	M	I	S	D	O	H	16	C	A	C	T	I	Y					
17	T	U	T	18	M	I	L	19	E	R	20	T	H	E	S	21	E			
	S	T	O	22	A	R	E	N	A	E	23	P	D	O	X					
24	S	H	U	S	H	E	S	N	25	D	I	A	N	A						
	M	S	T	26	S	W	27	A	N	K	E	R	28	S	29	L	C			
30	O	31	A	S	E	32	S	B	33	A	34	L	K	A	N	E	T			
	G	N	35	B	S	A	36	B	R	O	N	C	A	N	37	D				
38	S	T	R	39	U	M	40	E	L	R	O	Y	41	P	I	E				
42	O	H	I	S	U	Y	43	A	44	D	R	45	A	P	E	B				
46	G	E	N	E	R	A	L	I	47	F	L	Y	N	T						
	A	M	G	R	A	48	C	A	N	C	E	L	C	O						
49	M	I	S	S	I	V	E	50	G	E	E	Z	E	R						

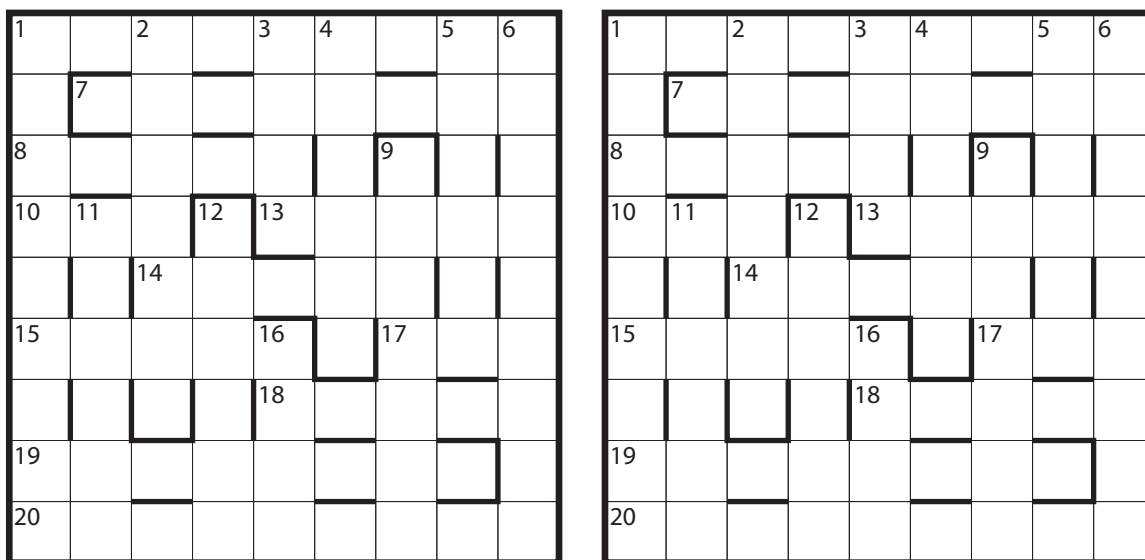
SIDE BY SIDE

by Mark Halpin

The recent opening of *Sondheim on Sondheim* calls to mind the first compilation of Sondheim material, *Side by Side by Sondheim*, a show celebrated by this puzzle.

Each clue consists of two complete and distinct cryptic clues presented side by side. Each of these contains the usual "definition" part and "wordplay" part in some order. Divisions between the clues are to be determined by the solver (punctuation is not indicative of breaks, and may in fact be deceptive). Answers to the two clues are to be entered one each in the side-by-side grids; the first such placement is arbitrary, and subsequent answers might go in either grid.

When the puzzle is complete, solvers may note which squares contain the same letter in both grids. Reading these letters left-to-right, top-to-bottom, will reveal what solvers have earned, something sounding remarkably like the show in question.



ACROSS

- 1 John's dates sometimes chewed garlic (about 50-50); he's at last gone gay & is giddily unconcerned (9; *one is 2 wds*)
- 7 For no charge, maybe, uncannily foretell Joey residing in MA town where merchandise might be found (8; *one hyphenated*)
- 8 Public official, grasping alternatives, backs companies acquiring twelve gutted, pigeon-infested buildings (5)
- 10 Pot having been crafted, select varnish base used in blackening (3)
- 13 Created a mosaic even showing large piece of bread in Arabia! (5)
- 14 Stern make-over artist returned Anne Heche's initial hair color (5)
- 15 Working stiff's function: going after last of cheap, somewhat worrisome perfume ingredient (5)
- 17 A few partial to destructive keying scrape up western college jock's sporty truck (3)
- 18 Pied Piper chiefly entertained by octet dancing the jig without bit of justification (5)
- 19 Needle dropper recreated entire EP by acts of theft, some that are beyond belief (8; *one is 2 wds*)
- 20 Author who ran the surprisingly informative reports on antelopes' social division's getting outspoken (9)

DOWN

- 1 College reconsidered play, once massive fellow prone to expansiveness trashed dorm phone (9)
- 2 Some separating Nazi bodyguard holding up backward-looking child in talon snarled "Hold tight" ... (7; *one is 2 wds*)
- 3 ... the telling of kid's adventure gratified German boy (4)
- 4 Distant from perch, perhaps, bird endlessly sitting atop monarch, becoming an annoyance (6)
- 5 Sadly, we lost worst battle within reckoning, setting back port city (6)
- 6 Excitedly sings demo snippets (material go-getter remixed with energy) (9)
- 9 After festival's commencement, sultan ordered parades; Indian regent marshaled a number (7)
- 11 Speaking of costly vehicle gives eloquent Shakespearean character cause to sparkle a long time, teasing duo (6)
- 12 Is refitted vessel trite novel describes the foremost in victorious stand? (6)
- 16 Sweeping in scope, piece very nearly shattered silence about alien being depicted in Genesis (4)

SIDE BY SIDE

- SOLUTION TO LAST ISSUE'S PUZZLE

Clues to last issue's puzzle were to be divided in half, each yielding two separate answers. Those answers could be entered in the side-by-side grids as shown. Letters falling into the same places in each grid (shaded at right) revealed what solvers earned for completing the puzzle: A GLOWING REVIEW.

Clue Notes

(Clues are explained in order of answers within each clue, not divided per grid)

Across 1. "garlic" anagram holding LL + (he)'s // "gone gay is" anag. 7. "foretell" anag. // sale(roo)m 8. D(ors)A // co(t[-

welv]e)s 10. "pot" anag. // bLACKening 13. ti(L)ed // breaD IN ARabia 14. "stern" anag. // anne + H(eche's) reversed 15. (chea)p + role // wORRISome 17. destructivE KEying // double definition 18. p(iper) + into // "the jig" anag. - j(ustification) 19. "entire EP" anag. // at + heists 20. "who ran the" anag. // "gnus castes" homophone

Down 1. C + "play once" anag. // "dorm phone" anag. 2. S("retro" rev.)S // "talon" anag. holding ch 3. "jest" homo. // G + lad 4. of + fish // (-b)ir(-d) + king 5. "we lost" anag. // "war" inside "ken" rev. 6. "sings demo" anag. // "go-getter" anag. + e 9. f(estival) + "sultan" anag. // l + "regent" anag. 11. "porsche" homo. // a + era + te(asing) 12. [definition is "Is", i.e. more than one "I"] "vessel" anag. // v(ictorious) in "trite" anag. 16. "piec(-e)" anag. // s(e.t.)h

¹ C	A	² L	L	³ G	⁴ I	R	⁵ L	⁶ S
Y	⁷ S	A	L	E	R	O	O	M
⁸ C	O	T	E	S	K	⁹ F	W	I
¹⁰ L	¹¹ A	C	¹² S	¹³ T	I	L	E	D
O	E	¹⁴ H	E	N	N	A	S	G
¹⁵ P	R	O	L	¹⁶ E	G	¹⁷ U	T	E
E	A	N	V	¹⁸ P	I	N	T	O
¹⁹ A	T	H	E	I	S	T	S	N
²⁰ N	E	W	S	C	A	S	T	S

¹ E	A	² S	Y	³ G	⁴ O	I	⁵ N	⁶ G
N	⁷ T	O	L	L	F	R	E	E
⁸ D	O	R	S	A	F	⁹ I	W	O
¹⁰ O	¹¹ P	T	¹² T	¹³ D	I	N	A	R
M	O	¹⁴ E	R	N	S	T	R	G
¹⁵ O	R	R	I	¹⁶ S	H	¹⁷ E	K	E
R	T	S	V	¹⁸ E	I	G	H	T
¹⁹ P	I	N	E	T	R	E	E	T
²⁰ H	A	W	T	H	O	R	N	E

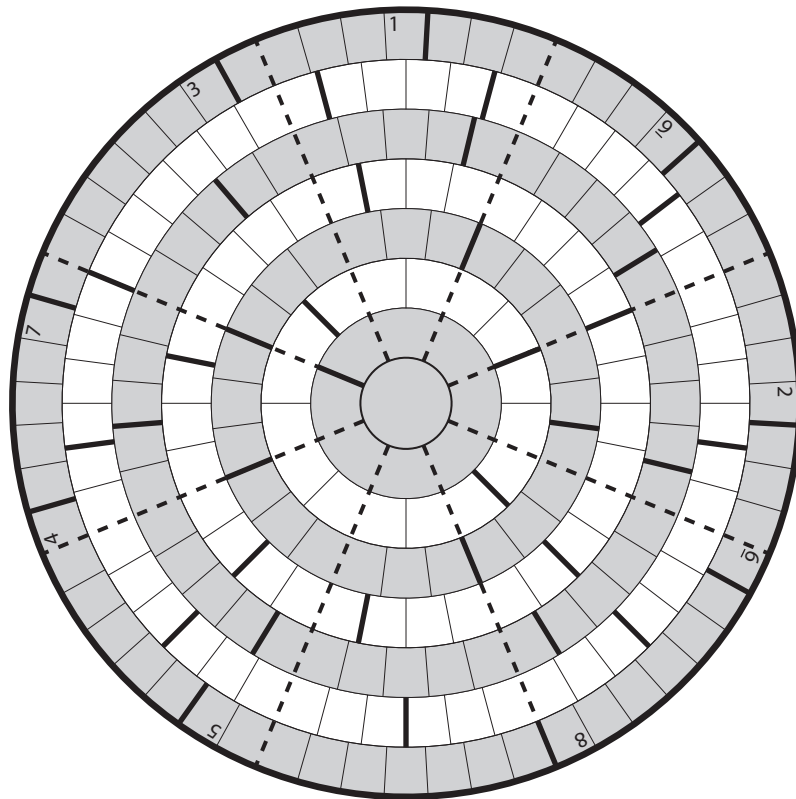
BANG!

by Mark Halpin

As the misfits and miscreants of *Assassins* could attest, sometimes when you take your shot, you end up shooting blanks. Fifteen of this puzzle's clues similarly miss the mark, containing missing elements which must be filled into the blanks in order to read the clues correctly.

Answers are to be entered in the concentric rings of the target, in an order to be determined by the solver. All answers in a given ring will run in the same direction, which may be either clockwise or counterclockwise. The clues for each ring are given in alphabetical order of that ring's answers. The positions of the outermost answers, which run counterclockwise, are given. As an aid in placing the answers, within any of the eight sectors delineated in the target by dashed lines, the letters of a given ring segment will contain all but one of the letters from the next segment outward, in some order.

Sometimes one achieves one's aim. Part of a Sondheim lyric celebrating this fact can be found along one axis of the filled grid. The lyric may be completed along the perpendicular axis by accurately firing a single well-chosen letter into the bull's-eye.



Ring One (Outermost)

- 1 Opening passages in operatic song about Troy (5)
- 2 Triumphs in maneuvering at sea inside gutted boat (7; 2 wds)
- 3 E.g. economi__ line of work preceded by head for business (7)
- 4 Youth opting for flight, one car and __aving first taken off (6)
- 5 Most fine or most sore after gym class? (9)
- 6 TV doctor's stuff that's listened to (4)
- 7 Some are guilty of unforgiveable lapse (5)
- 8 in hindsight, empty gallery is old-fashioned and dull (6)
- 9 Squat, backward troll is like an *Into The Woods* character (7)

Ring Two

Keen Colorado native on the heels of means to keep cool (5)
 Noted mountains not quite completely as an afterthought (4)
 Nude featured in outré act in nightclub (7)
 Some cattle yours truly supplied to those w__ saw Venice (6)
 Christmas comedy featuring life story is, in retrospect, failing (6)
 __e up front in seat for rock musical (4)
 Quick: is good man briefly pursuing duo last seen in Oma__! (5)
 He__t by slurs, primarily those full of loathing (6)
 Somewhat missing home, son knocks (5)

Ring Three

A bat is flying in Corsican port town (6)
 "\$1000 in body damage?! [oath]!!!!" (5; 2 wds)
 Handles pole, moving front to back (5)
 Comrade to serve perfectly in posh abode (6)
 S__ribly showing *E.T.* with a whole new set of actors (6)
 Short hiatus in which two swap therapeutic massage (7)
 Foremost of wildlife getting Leah __e marine mammal (5)

Ring Four

Grab a case full of hemp plants (6)
 Five hundred treated ebola, within the realm of possibility (6)
 Identify 62.5% of sugar pills (5)
 Was i__d tequila initially husband joined at a table? (7; 2 wds)
 Affected a__g leader described in pen (5)
 Expose lurid psychic Geller (3)

Ring Five

Finally qui__er lab's devastated in explosion (5)
 Res__ustic moniker for a fellow (6)
 New York town with a cantilevered bridge (6)
 Where you might position a PC circuit (3)
 In every other instance, cybor__raining from the East (4)

Ring Six

Jolson and I cry at sad dispatch (8)
 Strange, tacit story that's elevated above all others? (5)
 Yak starting to graze __ay in just a little bit (3)

Ring Seven (Innermost)

Admiration expressed for __el muddled trial about label (8)

BANG!

- SOLUTION TO LAST ISSUE'S PUZZLE

Last issue's puzzle required solvers to fill in blanks being shot in some clues in order to parse them correctly. Aptly, the blanks could all be filled with the last names of US presidents, given with the clue explanations below. Filling in the grid and reading along the axes as shown at left (after adding the final P to the bull's-eye) revealed an appropriate lyric from *Merrily We Roll Along*: IT'S A HIT, IT'S A HIT, IT'S A PALPABLE HIT!

Clue Notes

(* indicates an anagram)

Ring One 1. aria + T 2. "at sea"* inside b(-oa)t 3.

[...economyC LEVEL AND line...] b(usiness) + racket 4.

[..and BUS Having...] I + car + (-b)us 5. PE + achiest 6.

"fill" homophone 7. "lapse"* 8. "dots" reversal + g(-aller)y

9. "low" rev. + fish *Ring Two* 1. AC + Ute 2. al(-l) + PS 3.

bare inside "act"* 4. [...those who OVERSaw...] "doges"

holding I 5. el(bio)f rev. 6. [NIX ONE...] (-c)hair 7.

[...OmaHA? YES] (-oma)ha + st. + Y 8. [HeART HURt...]

"heart"* + s(-lurs) 9. s(-ome)w(-h)at + s(on)

Ring Three 1. "a bat it"* 2. "body"* holding G 3. "shaft"

moving S to end 4. pal + ace 5. [sCARTERribbly...] "scar"*

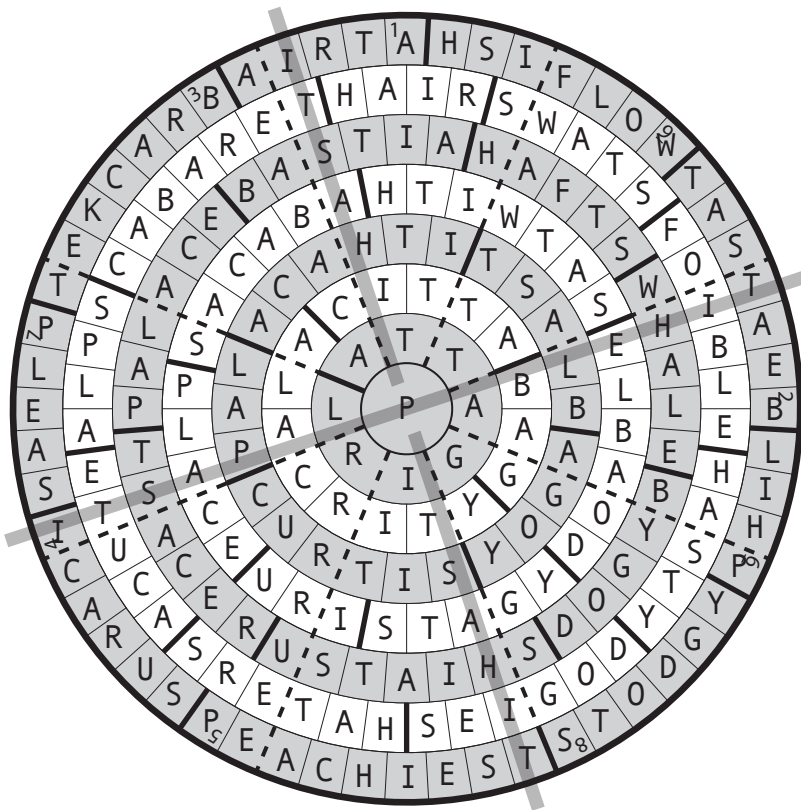
holding ET 6. s(hort) + hiatus switching last two letters

7. [Leah MAD IS ONE...] w(ildlife) + "Leah"*

Ring Four 1. grAB A CAsE 2. D + "ebola"* 3. place(-bos) 4. [was iT RUM AND tequila...] "was it"* + t(equila) + h(usband) 5. [affected

aREA GANg leader...] a(rea) + g(ang) inside sty 6. IURId *Ring Five* 1. [quiT AFTEr...] "lab's"* + (qui)t 2. [resTYLE Rustic...] "rustic"* 3.

WITH A CAnTilEVered 4. double definition 5. [cyborG RAN Training...] cYbOrG rAn *Ring Six* 1. Al + "I cry at"* 2. "tacit"* 3. [graze FOR Day...] "dab" switching g(raz) for d(ay) *Ring Seven* 1. [...for A DAMSel...] "trial"* containing "tag"

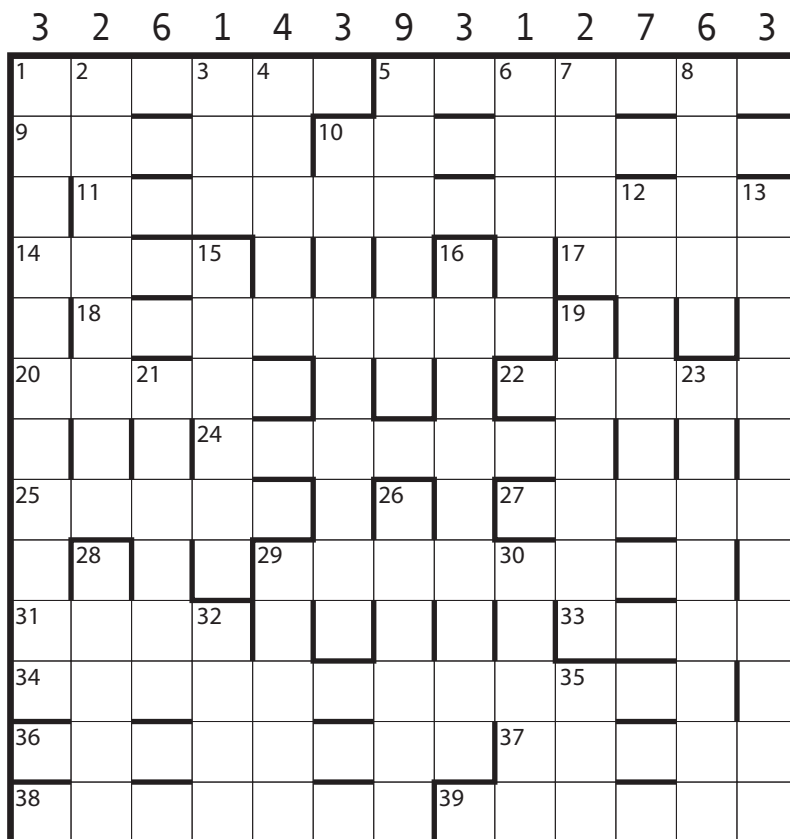


AFTER HOURS

by Mark Halpin

When the department store depicted in *Evening Primrose* closes for the night, its secret inhabitants emerge to live their confined, nocturnal lives. Evidence of their presence can be seen in this puzzle's grid, in which a number of store fixtures and furnishings have been disturbed from their original positions.

This disorder might suggest that at least one character is unhappily searching for something. From the initial letter of each of the store items seen in the grid, look upward the number of spaces indicated above it (not all numbers will be used). Reading the letters in those spaces left to right will reveal what's being sought.



ACROSS

- 1 Hopelessly belly-up after debuting low-tech invention
- 5 Most adroit G-man returned before trial
- 9 Visitor to Siam meeting new Peace Prize recipient
- 10 TV doc depicting judiciary almost entirely as excellent, yes? (2 wds)
- 11 Charming nuts fight duel about lady
- 14 Sculpted figure's elbow missing bit of glaze
- 17 Eroded soil is common rural sight
- 18 Rats John recalled infesting filthy abodes
- 20 Outspoken eccentric made appreciative noises
- 22 Overheard exclamation of surprise at the home of actor Milo
- 24 Monsoon is heading toward the interior in the near future
- 25 Fast time? No, ultimately rather slow
- 27 Humorous Milton passage written in amber letters
- 29 Soldier using sneak tactics is out of control, I'll argue (*variant spelling*)
- 31 Biblical scribe is last character seen in a long time
- 33 Pet name is fiancé's earliest expression of love
- 34 Superb detail becoming degraded and shabby-seeming
- 36 Drool, taking in nearly naked scene of writhing bodies?
- 37 Like a zombie or vampire or siren flying around
- 38 Mechanical engineers sketch some apparatus for a GI (2 wds)
- 39 Turn quite a bore about party for renowned French director
- 2 Louisiana town's first engulfed by disproportionate wave
- 3 Resinous substance Ripken turned up
- 4 Take no chances describing Methuselah's dad
- 5 Tony-winner Sandy did some awful things on the way to the top
- 6 Worries about guitar pieces
- 7 Star transposed pitches
- 8 Fifty percent of skunks ("Fifty?" "Fifty") head inside?
- 10 Well-known Texan fell apart displaying unsatisfactory quantity of produce
- 12 One trolling deep crevice in sound
- 13 Fond old aunts tidied room full of stray objects (3 wds)
- 15 Discards waste; for example, poorly-designed sets
- 16 Philosopher touting improvement to the world, or elitism, strangely
- 19 Getting grill cleaned out up front makes summer more jolly
- 21 Horse, not finishing, garnering no accolades
- 23 Come upon arrangement of tune in endless repeat performance
- 26 Brother's joke about university attended by yours truly
- 28 Breeziness permeating online publication? Just the opposite
- 29 Frat boy's grades initially really stink
- 30 Popular threesome forgetting one piece of music played early on
- 32 Big boats' curved details discussed
- 35 Support opera before it closes

DOWN

- 1 Drink apace, wretched and in anguish (*hyph*)

AFTER HOURS - SOLUTION TO LAST ISSUE'S PUZZLE

In last issue's puzzle, store fixtures and furnishings found as parts of various entries had to swap positions, as shown at right. Reading the letters found by looking upward from the starting letters of these elements the given number of spaces identified something being sought: A DAY OF SKY.

Clue Notes

(* indicates an anagram; " " indicates a homophone)

Across 1. (-B)ELLYUP* 5. FED reversed + TEST 9. ANNA + N 10. [ben CASEy] BENC(-H) + AS + E + Y 11.

[deLIGHTful] FIGHTDUEL* with L 14. NUD(-G)E 17. SOIL*

18. [STOOLies] ST(LOO rev.)IES 20. "odd" 22. "oh + chez"

24. monSOON IS Heading 25. LENT + O 27. anBER LEtters

29. ILLARGUE* 31. E(Z)RA 33. F + I DO 34. [disrepuTABLE]

SUPERBDETAIL* 36. S(NAKE[-D])PIT 37. SIREN* 38. MES +

SKIT 39. DRA(DO)G rev.

Down 1. [pain-RACKed] DRINKAPACE* 2. UNDU(LA + T)E

3. CAL rev. 4. takE NO CHances 5. SINNED rev. 6. double

definition 7. STAR* 8. SKU + L + L 10. [buSHELFul] BUSH

+ FELL* holding U 12. "fissure" 13. FONDOLDAUNTS*

15. E.G. + SETS* 16. ORELITISM* 19. [gLADDER] G(-RIL)L +

ADDER 21. HO(NO)RS(-E) 23. [enCOUNTER] ENCO(TUNE*)R(-E) 26. JES(U + I)T 29. G + REEK 30. IN + TR(-I)O 32. "arcs" 35. AID(-A)

3	2	6	1	4	3	9	3	1	2	7	6	3
¹ P	² U	L	³ L	⁴ E	(Y)	⁵ D	E	⁶ F	⁷ T	E	⁸ S	T
(9A)	N	N	(A)	N	¹⁰ B	E	N	R	A	C	(K)	(Y)
I	(¹¹ D)	E	C	O	U	N	T	E	R	¹² F	U	¹³ L
¹⁴ N	U	D	¹⁵ E	C	S	N	¹⁶ M	T	(¹⁷ S)	I	L	O
T	¹⁸ L	I	G	H	T	I	E	S	¹⁹ G	S	L	C
²⁰ A	A	²¹ H	E	D	O	S	L	²² O	S	H	²³ E	A
B	T	O	²⁴ S	O	O	N	I	S	H	E	N	S
²⁵ L	E	N	T	O	L	²⁶ J	(O)	²⁷ B	E	R	L	E
E	²⁸ E	O	S	²⁹ G	U	E	R	³⁰ I	L	L	A	F
³¹ E	Z	R	³² A	R	L	S	I	N	³³ F	I	D	O
³⁴ D	I	S	R	E	P	U	S	T	³⁵ A	N	D	U
³⁶ S	N	A	K	E	P	I	T	³⁷ R	I	S	E	N
³⁸ M	E	S	S	K	I	T	³⁹ G	O	D	A	R	D

CUPS OF TEA, AND HISTORY

by Mark Halpin

The historic events taking place in the treaty house in *Pacific Overtures* are commemorated in this issue's puzzle, but with an eye toward smaller details; namely, the "many cups of tea" reportedly consumed.

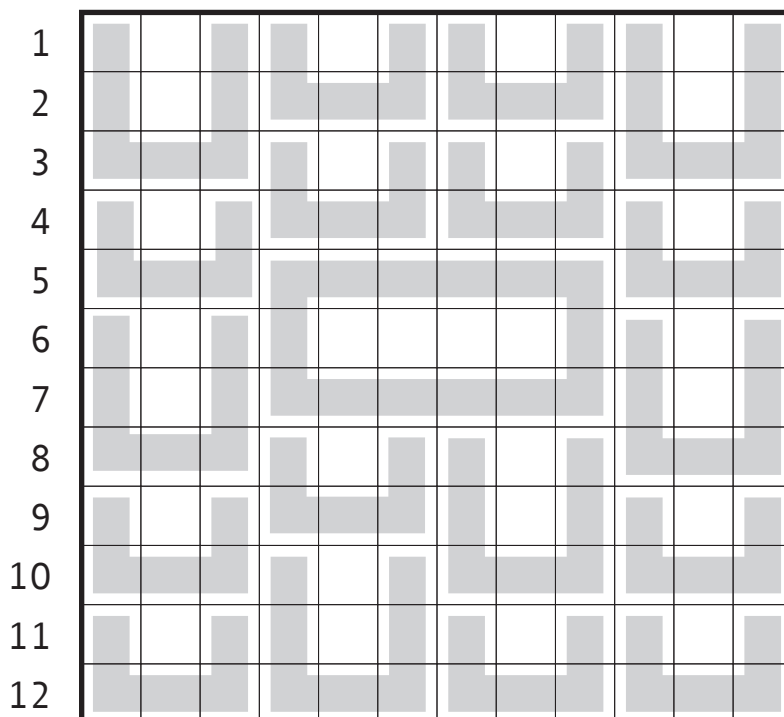
Answers to Across clues are to be entered in order in the indicated rows; word lengths must be determined. In lieu of Down clues, Cup clues are given, ordered alphabetically by answer. Each Cup answer will be entered in a large or small cup shape as shown in the examples below. Note that the answer may run in either direction. When a cup has been located in the grid, assign its contents the bracketed number given with the clue (in a large cup, assign numbers from the top down. In the examples, the contents are T and EA). When finished, copy the numbered letters into the appropriate spaces below the grid for a description of the tea cups.

And there's someone in a tree, or the grid is incomplete; without someone in a tree, nothing happened here....

S	T	P
T	E	E

Examples

E	E	J
N	A	A
I	M	S



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24

ACROSS

- Optometrist's aid is yet worried about summers in Paris (2 wds)
Encountered "fa-la-do-mi-re," possibly
- Knotted cords came undone, enveloping arm in a tangle
Small fork covered in muck
- Most audacious lunatic stabs her
Bavarian, with no sign of hesitation, becomes agent (*hyph*)
- President recognized Yemen's leader
One gnarled tree is feature of rugged mountainscape
- Bloom with unusual zeal in rehab group
Valets falling all over chaste maiden
- Tossed salads lacking bit of dressing or sauce
Russian aristocrats initially buying old houses' attached property (*variant*)
- North African is unbearable, to some extent
Lend recklessly, captivated by young lady's amiable nature
- Ringtone bothered a certain element
Shrek, for example, is so retro
- Leapt frantically, catching round jai alai ball
Gradually reduces wicked group?
- Unending hatred corrupted planet
Be afraid to upset a rodent (2 wds)
- Chronicle building's division
Oaf traveling west among strange fens and swamps
- Entrée made of fancy cheeses, ignoring every other ingredient
Wild boar inhabiting spot in a foreign land

CUPS

- Quit eating snacks, primarily sweet stuff [2, 24]
Vital legion recalled by yours truly in nation's capital [3, 12]
Resort needs to get pristine, naturally beautiful areas [20]
Raise some spirits in the wee hours after end of séance [1]
Carve edges in back of retooled amber clasp [4, 23]
Loud spat with athlete in Florida [17]
Some Civil War reenactors live off the land, reportedly [15]
Controversial director kept acting zany at numerous premieres [7]
Is "Anita" likely part to be rotated, or the Sharks' girlfriends en masse? [5, 9]
A great number of lanes switching right to left [8]
Epoch depicted in outré poet's work [14, 10]
Bluish gray fruit left behind [21]
Go back, for example, in railroad at double curve [22, 16]
Losing time, accost deranged anarchist from the '20s [19]
Quick to cause pain [13]
Introduction of subtle color in diamond, perhaps [6]
Scientist partial to institute's laboratory [18]
Any of eight Roman Catholic leaders situated in a city [11]

CUPS OF TEA, AND HISTORY
- SOLUTION TO LAST ISSUE'S PUZZLE

In last issue's puzzle, answers were to be entered both in rows and in the "cups" that comprised the grid. The contents of the cups, ordered by clues, describe the cups: THEY ARE FRAGMENTS OF THE DAY. Hiding in the middle of the grid, there is someone in a tree: A BOY can be seen surrounded by the phrase LEAVES AND LIMBS.

Clue Notes

(* indicates an anagram; " " indicates a homophone)
Across 1a. YET* containing ETES 1b. notes transcribed as F-A-C-E-D 2a. CAME* around ARM* 2b. SLIM + Y 3a. STABSHER* 3b. G(-er)MAN 4a. KENNED + Y 4b. A + TREE* 5a. A(ZEAL*)A 5b. VALETS* 6a. SALA(-d)S* 6b. B + O + YARDS 7a. unbeARABLE 7b. MI(LEND*)SS 8a. RINGTONE* 8b. ERGO reversed 9a. LEAPT* holding O 9b. double definition ("wicked" as in "having wicks") 10a. HATRE(-d)* 10b. ARODENT* 11a. double def. 11b. LUG rev. inside FENS* 12a. fAnCyChEeSeS 12b. A(BOAR*)D
Cups (in clue order) 1. DES(S)ERT 2. D(MANY rev. + I)C 3. NEEDS* 4. E + LATE 5. AMBER* + C(-arv)E 6. "gaiter" 7. "graze" 8. "kept...numerous" initial letters 9. iS ANITA Likely rev. 10. (R/L)OADS 11. POET* holding ERA 12. PEAR + L 13. R(E.G.)R + ESS 14. ACCOS(-t)* 15. double def. 16. double def 17. instituTE'S LABoratory 18. double def.

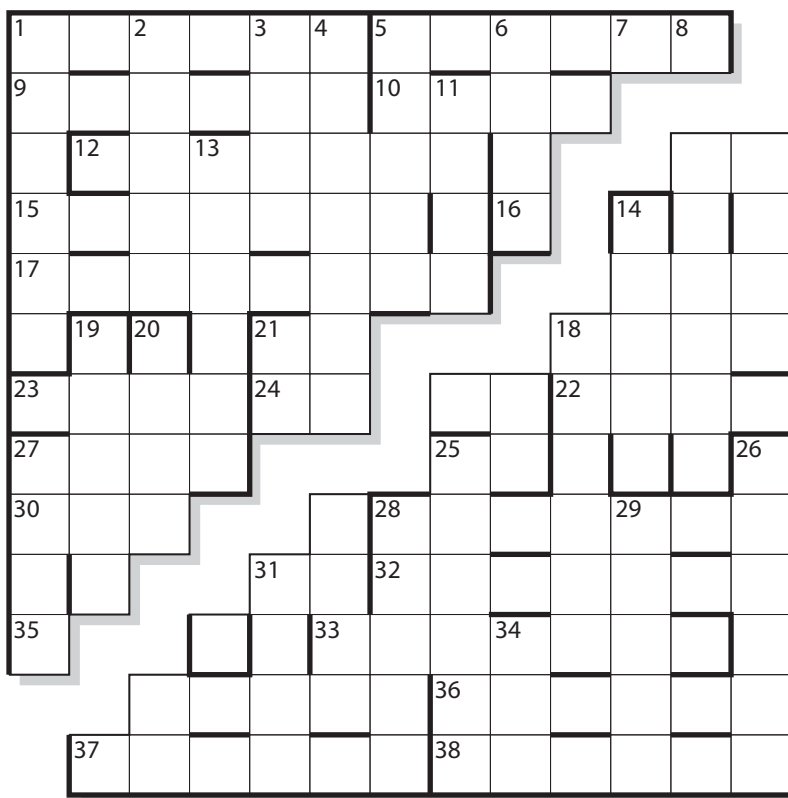
1	E	Y	E	T	E	S	T	F	A	C	E	D
2	M	A	C	R	A	M	E	S	L	I	M	Y
3	B	R	A	S	H	E	S	T	G	M	A	N
4	K	E	N	N	E	D	Y	A	R	E	T	E
5	A	Z	A	L	E	A	V	E	S	T	A	L
6	S	A	L	S	A	B	O	Y	A	R	D	S
7	A	R	A	B	M	I	L	D	N	E	S	S
8	N	I	T	R	O	G	E	N	O	G	R	E
9	P	E	L	O	T	A	T	A	P	E	R	S
10	E	A	R	T	H	D	A	R	E	N	O	T
11	S	T	O	R	Y	E	N	G	U	L	F	S
12	A	C	C	E	S	S	A	B	R	O	A	D

T	H	E	Y	A	R	E	F	R	A	G	M
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
E	N	T	S	O	F	T	H	E	D	A	Y
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24

BEAUTIFUL GIRLS

by Mark Halpin

Shades of the younger selves of nine "Weismann Girls" (Sally, Phyllis, Stella, Solange, Hattie, Vanessa, Heidi, Emily, and Carlotta) still haunt the crumbling theater depicted at right, where they performed in the *Weismann Follies* many years ago. In ghostly fashion, they appear in any horizontal, vertical, or diagonal direction, sometimes passing through walls. And, like ghosts, they're never entirely visible. If they were, though, the solver might realize what these spectral figures are echoes of.



ACROSS

- 1 Constant complaints (6)
- 5 Ring in the holidays with glee, finally interrupting anger (6)
- 9 Scour a cast for someone who can really sing (6)
- 10 Not oddly, saucy trio is in the middle of a Shakespearean comedy (6; 2 wds)
- 12 Look at that horse enter briskly (7; 2 wds)
- 15 Man sees bananas in a bunch (7; 2 wds)
- 16 Warily stripping edges off seed covering (4)
- 17 Yours truly set a trap to catch returning owl, with grub used for bait (8)
- 18 Game's appeal being discussed (4)
- 21 A library's opening Housman wings (4)
- 22 Switch part of a lid (4)
- 23 Quietly exaggerate dance movement (4)
- 24 Viewed number of ancient wonders, overlooking five (4)
- 27 Jimmy Stewart's occupied by computer game (4)
- 28 Bachelor mends some sorted laundry (7)
- 30 Oaks transplanted around a Japanese city (5)
- 32 Cockroach on a keyboard pens start of essay, right after it takes a bow (7)
- 33 Terrible garnish: extremely salty nuts (7)
- 35 Jezebel is lady found in Hebrew text (read right to left) (6)
- 36 Begin to study strange pet auk (6; 2 wds)
- 37 Any son potentially becomes irritating (6)
- 38 First-rate professor is handsome fellow (6)

DOWN

- 1 Seem worried about church intrigue (6)
- 2 Senorita's love turned up with a bouquet (5)
- 3 Goddess exists in a recurring way (4)
- 4 Lift home entertainment furniture (7)
- 5 A wet fluid, rain! (5)
- 6 Hot spot that's identifiable in Vietnam (4)
- 7 Least filthy name given to a despot in trial (7)
- 8 Like San Francisco: kind of cold, first off (5)
- 11 Heartlessly condemn eccentric characters like the Mizner brothers (6)
- 13 Buddy rented a temporary bed (6)
- 14 *Variety* article first to recognize actor Walston (5)
- 18 Jam initially peddled at fair (6)
- 19 Say line as if delirious or blissful (7)
- 20 Girl raised eating one kind of fiber (5)
- 21 It's cheesy, like a theatrical villain (6)
- 25 Mistakes are recalled involving singer (6)
- 26 Observation post caught in wicked spy's morale-breaking tactics (6)
- 27 Brown bird no longer seen circling couple of children (5)
- 28 Clubs accepting bit of hard cash from Asia (5)
- 29 The lens reveals great beauty (5)
- 31 Nearly commit murder over quantity of drugs (4)
- 34 The German uprising is tragic (3)

BEAUTIFUL GIRLS - SOLUTION TO LAST ISSUE'S PUZZLE

Last issue's fractured puzzle, shown completed at right, concealed nine ghosts, seen shaded. Letters in the names appearing only in the gap indicated that they were echoes of CAST LIVES.

Clue Notes

(* indicates an anagram; " " indicates a homophone)

Across 1. double definition 5. WR(E)ATH 9. SCOUR A* 10. sAuCyTrlolsIn 12. HO+PINTO 15. MAN SEES* 16.

(w)ARIL(y) 17. ME+A(OWL reversed)RM 18. "pray" 21.

A+L+A.E. 22. double def. 23. P+LIE 24. SE(v)EN 27.

jimMY Stewart 28. B+RIGHTS 30. OAKS* around A 32.

ARCH(E+R)Y 33. G(arnis)H+SALTY* 35. TO(L)RAH rev. 36.

PET AUK* 37. ANY SON* 38. A+DON+IS

Down 1. SEEM* about CH 2. AMOR+A rev. 3. IS+IS 4.

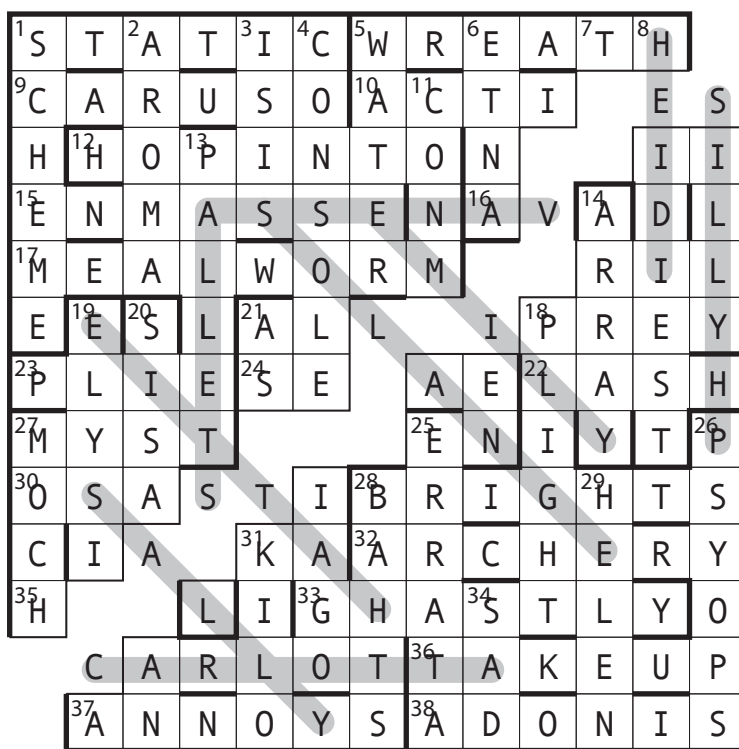
double def. 5. A WET*+R 6. viETNA m 7. T(IDI)EST 8.

(c)HILLY 11. CON(d)EMN* 13. PAL+LET 14. A+R+RAY 18.

P+LIGHT 19. SAY LINE* 20. LAS(I)S rev. 21. AS+IAGO 25.

ER(RAT)A 26. OP in SPYS* 27. MO(CH)A 28. BA(H)TS 29.

tHE LENs 31. KIL(l)+O 34. DAS rev.

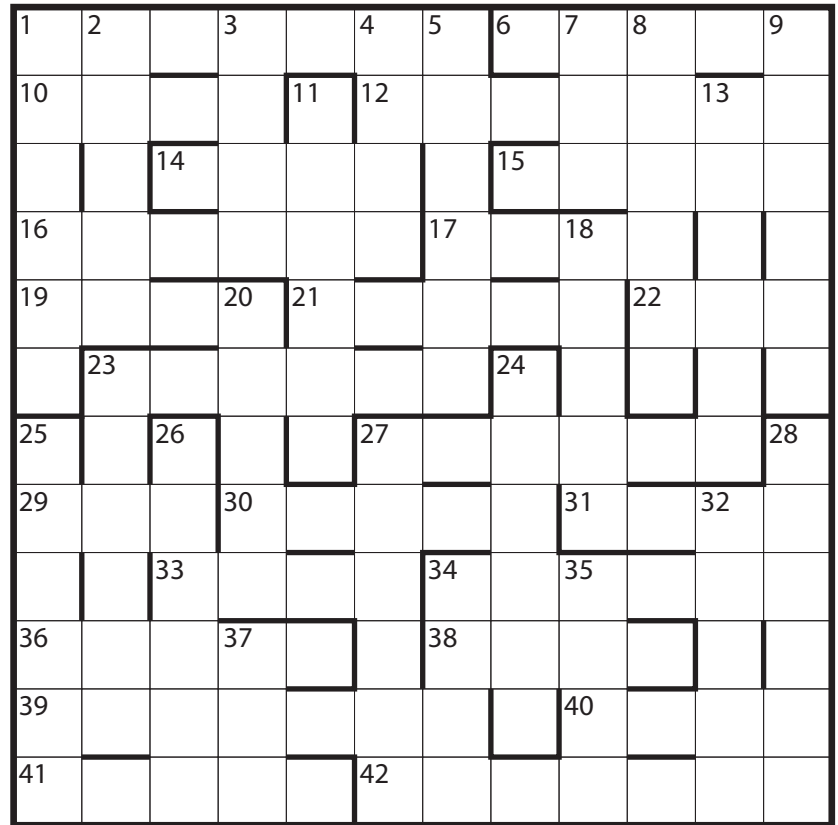


BREK-KEK-KEK-KEK!

Winter 2011

by Mark Halpin

The chorus of warm-hearted, cold-blooded amphibians from the musical adaptation of Aristophanes' *The Frogs* may attempt to dissuade you from traversing their muddy marsh (seen at right). However, some squares in the grid are swamped with extra letters; interpreting these correctly will reveal a route through the bog. Following this route will allow you to understand the Frogs' song, which explains why they prefer their indolent batrachian lifestyle to the troublesome world of Dionysos and Xanthias.



ACROSS

- 1 Fanfare preceding a less-than-cheerful Elvis feature
- 6 Badger seen around German mountain range
- 10 Sewing case is, without question, quite disarranged
- 12 Buddies trashed dorm space
- 14 Contrary, like the White Rabbit and others (*abbr*; 2 wds)
- 15 Oddly nasty, knock a group of singers
- 16 Extravagantly praise source of fine rugs
- 17 Returned charts showing unwanted letters
- 19 Many a North African held back by Mubarak
- 21 Doctor and poet getting tablet
- 22 Cheer for designer Cassini endlessly
- 23 Customs surrounding large, edible fungi
- 27 Twice counterfeit coin worth \$6,000,000 perhaps?
- 29 Free lunch including pickled delicacy
- 30 Dense novel's most essential elements
- 31 Nana went quickly after last of eggnog
- 33 Reserve spot for a speaker or calculator component
- 34 "The most important performer," Miss Piggy initially maintained, "is one with many lines." (2 wds)
- 36 Like bitterns, essentially!
- 38 Heartless rogue converted cash abroad
- 39 Making the most of intelligence received by civil rights leader
- 40 More than one Freud subject goes crazy
- 41 Eccentric dictator's final notes (pure driv) recalled (2 wds)
- 42 E.g. *Poseidon* having turned over, passengers at first make confused attempt to stay above water (*hyph*)

DOWN

- 1 Distant friend's ring worn by notary public (2 wds)
- 2 Squirrel Nutkin's creator forgetting her earliest cute critter
- 3 Mention being made of 88 small islands
- 4 Group from Calcutta erected a celebrated school (*abbr*)
- 5 Assort rotten cuts of meat
- 7 Names from "Star Wars" characters on the rise
- 8 Clumsily drop my duster (2 wds)
- 9 Bit of mischief shattered peace ... sad
- 11 Ravine getting rocky and more empty-seeming
- 13 Noble organization convening primarily as a group (2 wds)
- 18 Showing nervousness after first doing well on a test
- 20 Criminal ran dope for crime boss, perhaps
- 23 Mule is thrown some grain for breakfast
- 24 Pretentious fellow rose up flamboyantly
- 25 Road worker flipped finding a thou in change
- 26 Talk a little, covering basic material
- 27 Show flexibility about greeting bum
- 28 Steep fine unfortunately overwhelms you and me
- 32 Go all out for a certain star
- 34 "Brick" counted among durable goods
- 35 Brady kid finally heeding rule, briefly
- 37 Truculent koala bears end in a fight sometimes (*abbr*)

BREK-KEK-KEK-KEK! - SOLUTION TO LAST ISSUE'S PUZZLE

A route through the bog represented by last issue's puzzle could be found by noting that nine answers contained the word PAD, which was to be entered into the grid in a single square (indicated by the circles at right). Crossing letters were unique from A-I, and tracing the path from PAD A to PAD B to PAD C etc. revealed the Frogs' song: IT'S NOT EASY BEING GREEK.

Clue Notes

(* indicates an anagram; " " indicates a homophone)

Across 1. POMP+A+DOUR 6. RID(G)E 10. (-q)UITE* 12. DORM SPACE* 14. LATE reversed 15. NaStYkNoCk 16. PRAISE* 17. MAPS rev. 19. muBARAK rev. 21. AND POET* 22. OLE(-g) 23. MORE(L)S 27. BI+COIN* 29. frEE Lunch 30. DENSE* 31. G+RAN 33. "keep + ad" 34. LE(GAL+P)AD 36. ALA+TE 38. RO(-g)UE* 39. M.(I)L.KING 40. GOES* 41. CODA+PAP rev. 42. GOD rev.+P+ADDLE
Down 1. PE(NP)AL 2. (-p)OTTER 3. "eights" 4. cALCUtta rev. 5. ASSORT* 7. SDI rev. 8. DROP MY* 9. PEACE SAD* 11. RAVINE* 13. NOBLE*+C 18. (-p)ACING 20. RAN DOPE* 23. MULE IS* 24. ROSE UP* 25. P(M)AVER rev. 26. tALK A LIttle 27. BE(HI)ND 28. FINE* containing US 32. GO ALL* 34. duraLE GOods 35. G + REG 37. truculenT KOalas

1	P	2	O	M	3	A	O	4	U	5	R	6	R	7	I	8	D	G	9	E
10	E	T	U	I	11	V	12	C	O	M	D	R	13	E	S					
	N	T	14	E	T	A	L	A	15	N	S	Y	N	C						
16	P	E	R	S	I	A	17	S	P	18	A	M	B	A						
19	A	R	A	20	B	21	N	O	T	E	C	22	O	L	E					
	L	23	M	O	R	E	L	S	24	P	I	P	O	E						
25	R	U	26	A	O	R	27	B	I	O	N	I	C	28	I					
29	E	E	L	30	N	E	E	D	S	31	G	R	32	A	N					
	V	S	33	K	E	Y	H	34	L	E	35	G	A	L	F					
36	A	L	A	37	T	E	I	38	E	U	R	O	G	U						
39	M	I	L	K	I	N	G	R	40	E	G	O	S							
41	P	A	I	O	C	42	D	O	G	G	D	L	E							

WHAT CAN YOU DO ON A SATURDAY NIGHT ALONE?

Spring 2012

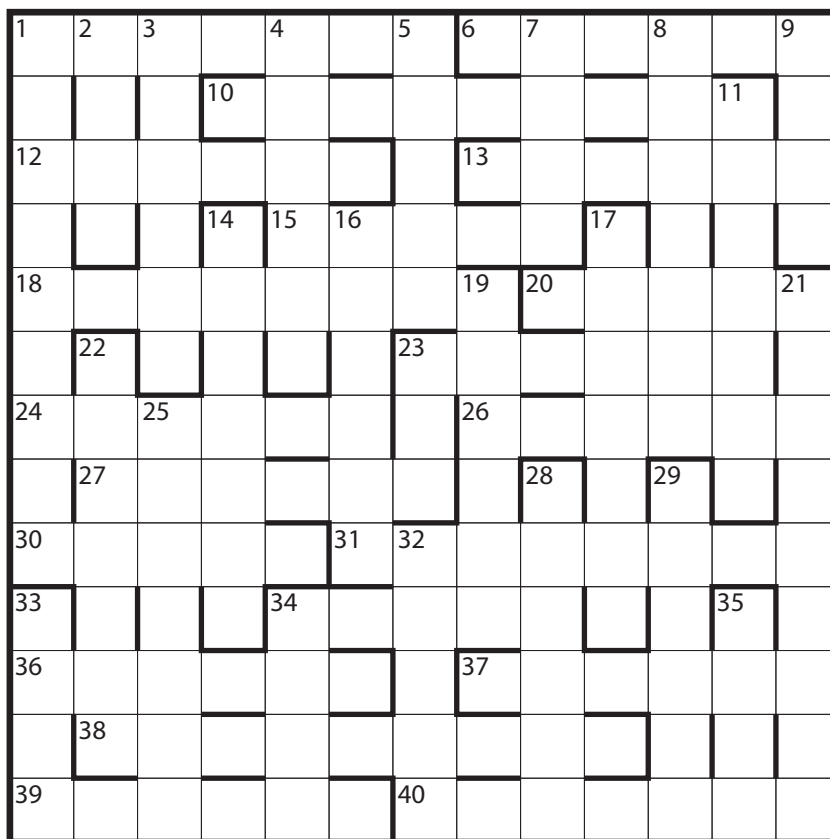
by Mark Halpin

This dilemma routinely vexes the Brooklynites of *Saturday Night*. What to do, what to do?

While Ted scrambles to find a girl and Ray suggests taking in a movie, Gene decides to attend a swell party. Fifteen clue answers each adopt one of these three strategies (five apiece) before being entered in the grid.

All grid entries are legitimate words or phrases. As a solving aid, the unchecked letters in the fifteen altered entries may be arranged to make the (otherwise meaningless) sentence TEACH HOUSEFUL OF UNAWARE BOYS A CRAZIER AIR.

The initial letters of the clues for answers that emulate Ted, followed by those for Ray's answers, and finally Gene's (taken in clue order in each case), will yield an apt description of the desperate housemates.



ACROSS

- 1 Wandering a crooked mile, south then south again
- 6 Sadistic type concocted a rebus
- 10 Nippy chihuahua at first getting tiresome
- 12 Rudely eat & run, revealing inherent character
- 13 Lass meeting overly backward, clumsy fellow
- 15 Sends out items needing repair
- 18 E.g. first and second exams interrupted by ruckus
- 20 Armed lunatic's aspiration
- 23 Red wine, in brief, with good, lively flavor
- 24 It's one place to get fresh fish or ripe bananas
- 26 Judo instructors disregarding yours truly's rationality...
- 27 " " likened it to stupidity, to some extent
- 30 America's Cup racer is last to enjoy inane chat
- 31 Converted grain to most eminent of Italian pasta
- 34 Learn all about "Over the Rainbow" composer
- 36 Vermin's lair surrounded by rubbish
- 37 Depressed one limped pathetically
- 38 Door friend's holding a bit for the dog, perhaps
- 39 Egyptian god replaced rice with more abundant spice?
- 40 Eaux de cologne, after debut, getting small change

DOWN

- 1 Way more than one guy at health club
- 2 Almost completely delete periods
- 3 The French prove to be most avant-garde
- 4 Really, really, really losing heart
- 5 Chipmunk spotted among tropical vines
- 7 People who swing both ways without a preference
- 8 Some who are not usually neat arranged novels by subject
- 9 *Kiss of the Spider Woman* star was excruciating
- 11 Risk is war game that's empty on the inside
- 14 Everyday routine at home
- 16 Space station initially rejected alternative optical device
- 17 Notion of God's one minor shortcoming described by essay
- 19 Smart ingredient to use making stuffing
- 21 Oddly ignored impulses cause a disturbance
- 22 Dad stirs up drink for the kids (2 wds)
- 23 Put down forged IDs
- 25 I'd carp nastily about ring and fighter in the ring
- 28 Crank adjusted main cooling unit
- 29 Ringtail is not in favor of eating nothing
- 32 The author laid out an epic saga
- 33 "Swamp monster" is a bunch of baloney (almost...)
- 34 One who's no fan of *Mame*, e.g. in the audience
- 35 Overstuff stomach with little inside

WHAT CAN YOU DO ON A SATURDAY NIGHT ALONE? - SOLUTION TO LAST ISSUE'S PUZZLE

Answers inspired by three of the housemates from *Saturday Night* were to be modified in three different ways before being entered in the grid. Ted's answers scrambled to find a girl; i.e. anagrammed into girls' names. Ray's took in a movie; i.e. had a movie title added to the interior. Gene's answers attended a swell party; i.e. were entered with DO up front. Initial letters of the affected clues spelled a description of the boys: WEEKEND WORRIERS.

Clue Notes

(* indicates an anagram; " " indicates a homophone)

Across 1. A+MILE*+S+S = AIMLESS -> MELISSA 6. A REBUS* 10. C+O[ALFIE]LD 12. EAT RUN* 13. GAL+TOO reversed 14. ITEMS* 18. OR(DIN)ALS -> ROSALIND 20. ARMED* 23. [DO]ZIN+G 24. [DO]RIPE* 26. SENSE(-i)S 27. likened IT TO Stupidity 30. Y+CHAT* 31. GRAIN TO*+I 34. LEARN* 36. RO(DEN)T 37. LIMPED* 38. P(ORT)[RAY]AL 39. RA+RICE* = RACIER -> CARRIE 40. [DO](-s)CENTS

Down 1. MAN[FRIDA]+Y 2. ERAS(-e) 3. LA+TEST 4. SO+RE(-al)LY 5. tropicAL VInes 7. BI(A)S 8. NOVELS*+S 9. double definition of HURT -> RUTH 11. [DO]WA(G[-am]E)R 14. HABIT+AT -> TABITHA 16. MIR+R+OR 17. TR(I+NIT)Y 19. [DO]SAGE doouble def. 21. iMpUISeS 22. POP+ADOS reversed 23. IDS* 25. ID CARP* containing O 28. MAIN*+AC 29. CO[UP](O)N 32. I+LAID* 33. CROC(-k) 34. "auntie" 35. G(L)UT

1	M	2	E	3	L	I	4	S	S	5	A	6	A	7	B	U	8	S	E	9	R
	A	R	A	10	C	O	A	L	F	I	E	L	11	D	U						
12	N	A	T	U	R	E	V	13	G	A	L	O	O	T							
	F	S	E	14	T	15	E	16	M	I	T	S	17	T	V	W	H				
18	R	O	S	A	L	I	N	19	D	20	D	R	E	A	21	M					
	I	22	S	T	B	Y	R	23	D	O	Z	I	N	G	U						
24	D	O	25	P	I	E	R	I	26	S	E	N	S	E	S						
	A	27	D	I	T	T	O	S	A	28	M	I	29	C	R	H					
30	Y	A	C	H	T	31	R	32	I	G	A	T	O	N	I						
33	C	P	A	A	34	A	R	L	E	N	Y	U	35	G	N						
36	R	O	D	E	N	T	I	37	D	I	M	P	L	E							
	O	38	P	O	R	T	R	A	Y	A	L	O	U	S							
39	C	A	R	R	I	E	40	D	O	C	E	N	T	S							

COOKIES

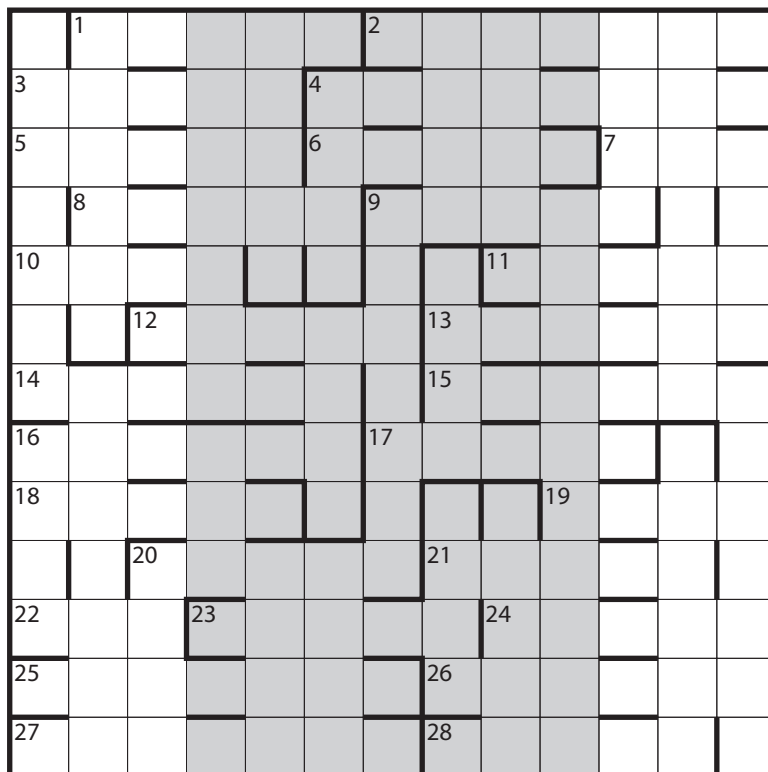
by Mark Halpin

In *Anyone Can Whistle*, it's difficult to tell who's sane and who's a cookie.

In this puzzle, answers to Across clues are to be entered normally in the grid. The wordplay in a number of irrational clues, however, yields an extra letter in addition to the answer word. Those extra letters, in clue order, spell out a clearly fallacious bit of logic, proof of a disordered mind.

Down clues are arranged alphabetically by their answers, which must be located in the grid. Sadly, a number of grid entries (though legitimate words or phrases) are affected by the illogical belief mentioned above. All of those answers should be confined, for their own good, in the Cookie Jar, the shaded central region of the grid.

Some of my favorite cookies may additionally be found traversing the completed puzzle.



COOKIE JAR

ACROSS

- 1 Artist's final piece of work : *Broken Halo* (5)
- 2 What cats might be uplifted by: rats chiefly getting into scrapes (7)
- 3 Japanese-American child that is wrong to head west (5)
- 4 Laborer is ordered to get some stove components (8)
- 5 A thousand degenerates left a bunch of trouble (5)
- 6 Mobile, perhaps lacking energy, is neither here nor there (5)
- 7 Demotions putting out odd characters for a good while (3)
- 8 Eastern capital Susana's avoiding to some extent (5)
- 9 Pompous remarks: they're not uncommon in breweries (5)
- 10 Part of a play that's crucial to practice (4, 2 wds)
- 11 Bankroll at first kept in cash register for security (5, *hyph*)
- 12 Cathy broke very pricey vessel (5)
- 13 Conventions held by sausage-sellers (6)
- 14 Artiste becoming demented and melancholy (6)
- 15 Theater district is sort of on trial (6)
- 16 One of those who pay dues and at heart grimace and glower? (6)
- 17 Simba snarled "Indeed I'll make a mighty Lion King", e.g. (5)
- 18 Actor Davis's old sides hurt (5)
- 19 Check out taxi's foremost reduced fare (4)
- 20 Oddball, writing backward, finally finishes essays (5)
- 21 The author (Byron) toyed with some subtle humor (5)
- 22 Essentially add to problematic pesticide (3, *abbr*)
- 23 Directors en masse grouse, maybe, about a couple of oafs (5)
- 24 Entertain Seamus riotously (5)
- 25 Like Marie Antoinette, say: not entirely eccentric, just losing head (7)
- 26 Discuss key for a small hole (6)
- 27 Ann reworked nifty cotton fabric (7)
- 28 Grant really improved arenas (5)

DOWN

- Morality tale, after the beginning, is quite effective
 Small island swallowed up in the sound
 Jessica's angry primarily after gaining a pound up front
 Nearby shopping includes a fast-food restaurant
 Outlaw casing part of the Capitol; not a good sign (2 wds)
 Wait patiently for the VP, but only up to a point
 Shade of white is "ebon"? That's preposterous
 Bedroom community's publicity notice lacking little
 University hotshot picked up hair product
 Certain parties losing time making payments
 Golfer misplaced tee, a little green one
 Back half of huge European river is a lot of rushing water
 That woman's a goddess
 ... shrine tumbling over but originally an important woman (2 wds)
 Isn't "exotic insect" just a tick?
 Silly shtick is hardly fine art
 Large investors may buy something initially for an arm and a leg
 Prototype's evidence of being outdated
 Goose eggs used in rearing goslings
 Gets in boats at sea
 Playing lute, sot exits
 Surprisingly sad, I rue remnants of the past
 Give Rhode Island high marks for coastal features
 WWII-era submachine gun catches when aimed incorrectly
 What's paid at a bar for some diet soda

COOKIES - SOLUTION TO LAST ISSUE'S PUZZLE

The wordplay for certain Across clues yielded extra letters (indicated in <> below), which in clue order read A IS B AND B IS A. Fifteen Down answers were to be modified thusly before being entered in the grid, changing any A to a B and vice versa (clue explanations are for the unmodified words). One diagonal in the grid spells a particularly deranged-seeming type of cookie: NUTTER BUTTERS.

Clue Notes

(* indicates an anagram; " " indicates a homophone)

Across 1. K+HALO* 2. SC(R)UFFS 3. I.E. +SIN reversed

L<A>BORER IS* 5. M+ROTS rev. 6. MOBIL(-e)* 7.

dEmOt<l>oNs 8. suSANA<'S> Avoiding 9. OASTS 10.

prACT Ice 11. T(B)ILL 12. CATHY* 13. saUSAGE-Sellers 14.

<A>RTISTE* 15. O<N>TRIAL* 16. M+EMBER 17. SIMBA*

18. O+SI<D>ES 19. DIE+T 20. BATS rev.+S 21. I+YRON*

22. aDD To 23. B<I>(OA)RD 24. <S>EAMUSE 25. QUEE(-

r)+(-o)NLY 26. "islet" 27. ANN*+KEEN 28. <A>RENAS*

Down (in clue order) (-f)ABLE; AIT= "ate"; A+LB.+A; neARBY

Shopping; BA(D OME)N; BIDE(-n); BONE=EBON*; B(-l)URB;

BMOC reversed; FE(-t)ES; GOLFER*+T; GE+YSER; HER+A;

HER NIBS = SHRINE* containing B; ISNT*+ANT; SHTICK*;

LIMBS = "large ... something" initials; MOLD= double definition; goSLINgS reversed; OBTAINS = IN BOATS*; LUTE SOT*; SAD I RUE*; RI+AS; NETS reversed; TAB = double definition

I	¹ K	A	H	L	O	² S	C	R	U	F	F	S
³ N	I	S	E	I	⁴ B	R	O	I	L	E	R	S
⁵ S	T	O	R	M	⁶ L	I	M	B	O	⁷ E	O	N
T	⁸ S	A	N	A	A	⁹ O	A	S	T	S	G	I
¹⁰ A	C	T	I	S	B	A	A	¹¹ T	B	I	L	L
N	H	¹² Y	A	C	H	T	¹³ U	S	A	G	E	S
¹⁴ T	R	I	S	T	E	B	¹⁵ R	I	A	L	T	O
¹⁶ M	E	M	B	E	R	¹⁷ I	A	M	B	S	G	U
¹⁸ O	S	S	I	E	B	N	A	B	¹⁹ D	I	E	T
L	I	²⁰ S	T	A	B	S	²¹ I	R	O	N	Y	L
²² D	D	T	²³ B	O	A	R	D	²⁴ A	M	U	S	E
²⁵ Q	U	E	E	N	L	Y	²⁶ E	Y	E	L	E	T
²⁷ N	A	N	K	E	E	N	²⁸ A	S	N	E	R	S

27 Sleepy and Happy at first put away tie (2 wds)
 28 Females in charge (Cinderella, et al) displaying intelligence
 29 See this: woodland critter circling lady
 30 Dwarf initially taking after yours truly admitting failure (*hyph*)
 31 Giants discombobulated loopy character (2 wds)
 32 Placed an evil spell on empty mind
 33 Note extraordinary fern by western Lowlands town
 34 Transmogrified walleyes swarming old body of water (2 wds)
 35 Ogre demolishing a thousand donuts and cookies
 36 Maiden in colorful Spanish ship brought back a treat for
 Puss in Boots
 37 Pied Piper's in less unstable state
 38 Rightful leader of gnomes depicted in tile arrangement
 39 Shrieking fanged creature tailing that lass for a month
 40 Jack replacing bit of loot in designated shed
 41 Wandering hobbit, gaining weight, ultimately ate quail
 42 Granny maybe stuffing Hansel's rear end inside oven ...
 43 ... Gretel's face turned pale (nibble, nibble)
 44 ... (storyteller describing kids lost in the wilderness and
 baked lodging)
 45 Released from bondage, deer lived freely
 46 Decorative artist always poetically capturing an elm loosely
 47 Wicked one to gradually lose stature
 48 I sent Dopey to get a mug of beer
 49 "All is well." **The End**

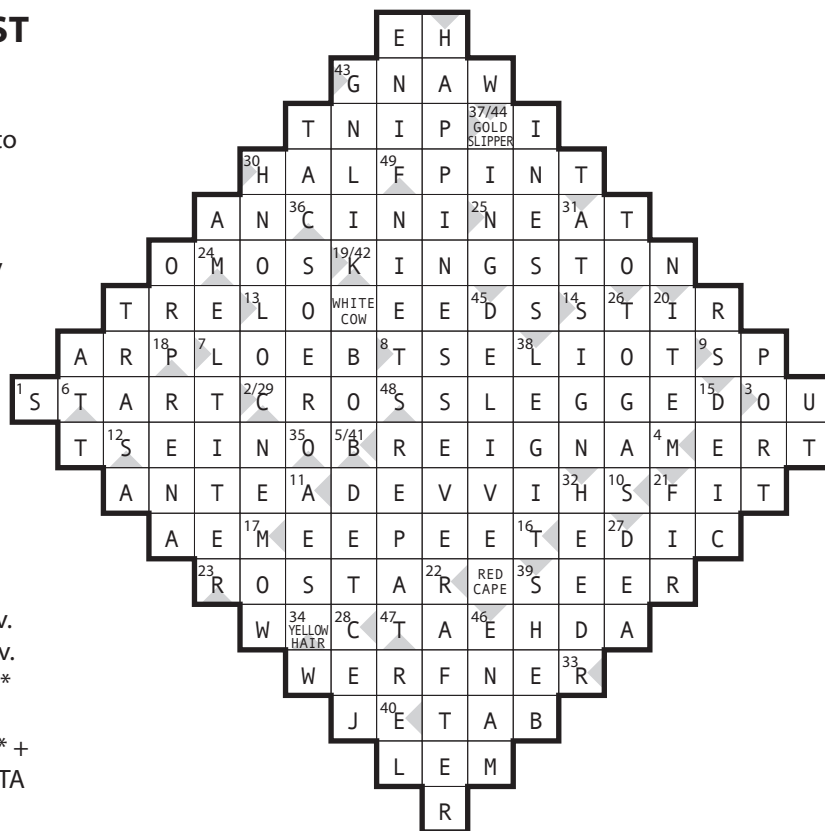
SPELL WEAVING – SOLUTION TO LAST ISSUE'S PUZZLE

Solvers of last issue's puzzle had to follow a windy path into the woods and out again. Along the way, several squares held multiple letters from certain answers, yielding treasures: in path order WHITE/COW, RED/CAPE, YELLOW/HAIR and GOLD/SLIPPER. The final unclued entry spelled my wish for solvers: HAPPINESS EVER AFTER.

Clue Notes

(* indicates an anagram; " " indicates a homophone)

1. "Some ... travelers" initials 2. CROSS + L + EGGED
3. ROUTE* 4. MAN + GI(E)R(-I) 5. BON(-n)IEST 6. PRAT reversed
7. LO(E)B(-o) 8. LIESTO* + T 9. S(P)ORT + IF
10. SHI(V+V)ED 11. AdEpTiNwAr 12. STRA(-ng)ER* 13. WE LOSE DOC*
14. S(T)IR + S 15. DE(I)CIDE 16. T(-re)E + EPEE
17. double definition 18. P + ROOMS* 19. KINGS + NOT rev.
20. TIME* 21. IF RECAPS* holding EE 22. ghOST ARrived rev.
23. LETTER I* 24. IN MANIC* 25. croNE AT Once 26. GOATS*
27. DEAD + H + EAT 28. CHA(I)RWOMEN 29. CO(L)ON
30. HAL(F)PIN + T 31. GIANTS* 32. HE(-x)ED 33. RE + FERN* + W
34. WALLEYES* holding O 35. O(-g)RE + O'S 36. C + PINTA rev.
37. PIPERS IN LESS* 38. TILE* holding G 39. SHE + BAT
40. E(-I/+J)ECTED 41. HOBBIT* holding W + E 42. KI(L)N
43. G + WAN rev. 44. LODGING* 45. DEER LIVED* 46. E(AN ELM*)ER
47. double def. 48. I SENT* 49. double def.



MYSTERY SONG

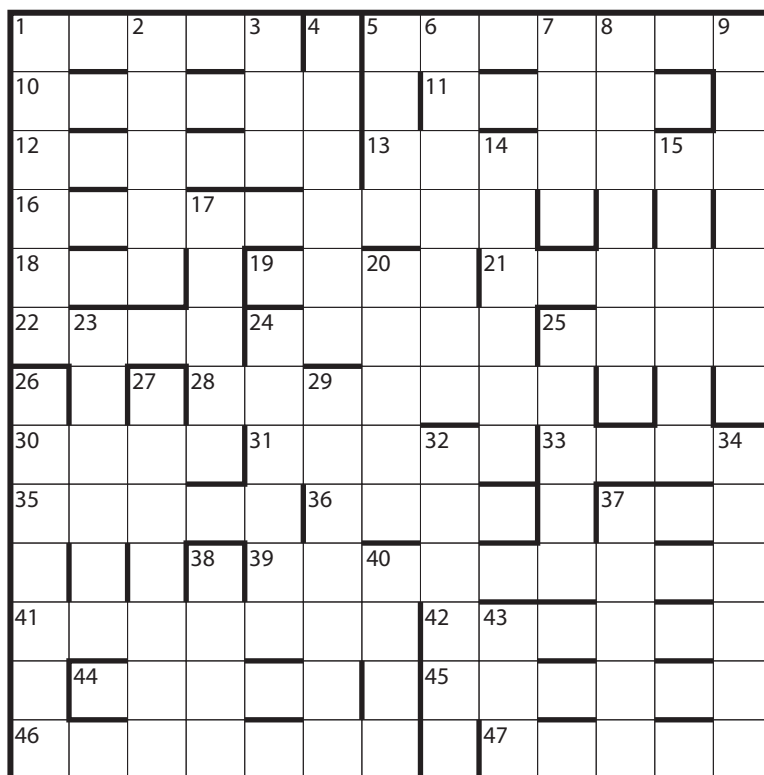
by Mark Halpin

Having completed a series of puzzles in which each paid tribute to a particular show in the Sondheim canon, we turn now to puzzles inspired by individual songs. The first song is ... well, that's for solvers to determine. Fortunately there are some clues scattered about:

1) Two performers associated with the song may be identified in the unclued entry at 28 Across; ambiguity in some crossing answers will accommodate this.

2) Each occurrence of a particular character in the grid will conflict with the answer crossing it. The crossing letter should be removed and replaced with a letter string (the same string each time); a new crossing word or phrase will be formed in each case. All of this is suggestive of a recurring lyric in the song.

3) Each removed letter is unique. Note the first letters of the clues for the affected entries and arrange them alphabetically by their associated removed letters. This will spell out something evidenced in the song (one performer's full name notwithstanding).



ACROSS

- 1 Took a picture depicting an African animal (5)
- 5 Slang for firearms confused Theresa (7)
- 10 Advise Budapest resorts with no BS (6)
- 11 Managed winter, after outset, like a hibernating critter (5)
- 12 Overturned contract snagging lawyers' group; it might be in hot water (6, 2 wds)
- 13 Stefano's playing a crafty trick (7, 2 wds)
- 16 Lady sporting thin, cool garment that covers just enough (9)
- 18 Inspect boxer's health care provider (3)
- 19 Perverse hero and king give the public a song and dance? (4)
- 21 Studies the sound of some musical instruments (5)
- 22 Oil company not originating chalk or gypsum preparation (4)
- 24 Transplant wino to the West (5)
- 25 Fight roughly, facing off (4)
- 28 See *Instructions*
- 30 News agency finally stole Times's crown (4)
- 31 Seal's bad luck: swallowing bit of algae (5)
- 33 Five excluded from party dance (4)
- 35 Stomach that's reminiscent of Big Ben? (5)
- 36 Place in the U.S. without a historic bridge (4)
- 37 Overturned mother ... that's awesome! (3)
- 39 Insinuating character sensed sin all over the place (9)
- 41 Atrocity almost: curdled cheese (7)
- 42 Alien first gobbling energy that's most abundant (6)
- 44 Eat up mush that's brownish gray (5)
- 45 Bean soup ingredient, often (6)
- 46 At outset of trip, space traveler mounted electronic device (7)
- 47 Fabric-coloring device doesn't start (5)

DOWN

- 1 Louie rudely taking bit of trouble to be remote (6)
- 2 Rewrite commercial essentially elevating *Barium* (5)
- 3 Yet again concealing letter from abroad (3)
- 4 Try to fix inane rule, e.g. (6)
- 5 Data that may be gleaned from rain forest (4)
- 6 Incredible joy, I note deliriously, surrounds *City of Angels* (7)
- 7 French head of state texting insiders (4)
- 8 Decay, noise, or confusion (7)
- 9 Joint with mixture of elements gets loud? Apparently it does (7, 2 wds)
- 14 Be quiet and brave changing directions, or act like a coward (6)
- 15 Pitching duel on a small mound (6)
- 17 I complain about Ruth's mother-in-law (5)
- 20 Frown after initially seeing evidence of a whale (5)
- 23 Eastern European catching up? Fantastic! (6)
- 24 Bigot is absorbed by political pamphlets endlessly (6)
- 25 One of several clubs in Britain leading on English lord (5)
- 26 Dancing bear act's performance spot (7)
- 27 Call the novel *Fury* (7)
- 29 "Em," for example, follows alphabet's fourth letter; editor is perturbed (7)
- 32 Surrealist Dali no good taking on burdens (6)
- 34 Pay attention to distribution of tinsel (6)
- 37 Bush, eyed anew, is in need of a gardener's care (5)
- 38 Jaunt's beginning with our day in Marseilles (4)
- 40 XXX ("mature") venue for a go-go dancer (4)
- 43 Acoustic quartet's side of an argument (3)

MYSTERY SONG - SOLUTION TO LAST ISSUE'S PUZZLE

The "mystery song" providing the inspiration for last issue's puzzle was "Sooner or Later" from the detective film *Dick Tracy*. Two performers' names could be found in 28 Across: MADONNA or (Breathless) MAHONEY, depending on how the crossing clues were interpreted (see notes below). In every instance of the letter "I" in the grid, the crossing letter needed to be replaced with the string "man" to form a new crossing entry, as suggested by the lyric "I always get my man". Finally, using those crossing letters to order the first letters of the affected clues reveals that the song evidences (despite Breathless's moniker) SEXY ASPIRATIONS.

Clue Notes

(* indicates an anagram; " " indicates a homophone)

Across 1. toOK A Picture 5. THERESA* 10. (-b)UDAPE(-s)T* 11. (-w)INTER* 12. G(ABA)ET reversed 13. STEFANO* 16. L+THIN COOL* 18. double definition 19. SUB rev. +K 21. "reads" 22. (-g)ESSO 24. TOPER rev. 25. (-a)BOU 30. AP+E+X 31. LUCK* holding A 33. RE(-v)EL 35. double def. 36. withoUT A Historic 37. MOM turned upside down 39. SENSED SIN* 41. ATROCIT(-y)* 42. FIRST* holding E 44. EAT UP* 45. double def. 46. T+ET+RODE 47. (-c)RAYON

Down 1. LOUIE* with T 2. AD+A+PT 3. yET Again 4. RULE, E.G.* 5.

raIn FOrest 6. I NOTE* with LA 7. staTE TExtIng 8. NOISE OR* 9. "seam stew" 14. SH + RISK, changing the S to either N or E (directions all) 15. DUEL ON* 17. I MOAN rev. 20. S+POUT 23. S(UP)ERB 24. (-t)RAC(IS)T(-s) 25. BR containing Y(mca) or A(ce) (two kinds of "clubs")+ON 26. BEAR ACT* 27. CALL THE* 29. D or H(the alphabet or "alphabet"'s fourth letter)+AUNT+ED 32. DALI*+NG 34. TINSEL* 37. W+EYED* 38. J+OUR 40. C (X times X in Roman numerals)+AGE 43. "four"

1	O	K	2	A	P	3	I	4	R	5	I	6	E	A	7	T	8	E	R	9	S
10	U	P	D	A	T	E	N	11	N	E	R	T	E								
12	T	E	A	B	A	G	13	F	A	14	S	T	O	15	N	E					
16	L	O	17	N	C	L	O	T	H	E	S	O	M								
18	I	E	T	A	19	B	U	20	S	I	21	R	E	I	D	S					
22	E	23	S	S	O	24	R	E	P	O	I	25	B	O	U	T					
26	C	U	27	H	28	M	A	29	D	O	N	E	N	A	N	L	O				
30	A	P	E	I	31	C	A	U	32	L	K	33	R	E	E	34	L				
35	B	E	L	L	36	I	U	T	A	H	O	37	W	O	I						
	A	R	L	38	J	39	S	N	40	I	D	E	N	E	S	S					
41	R	I	C	O	T	T	A	42	I	43	F	E	S	T							
	E	44	T	A	U	P	E	G	45	N	O	O	D	L	E						
46	T	E	T	R	O	D	E	G	47	R	A	Y	O	N							

I NEVER DO ANYTHING TWICE

by Mark Halpin

So sings the madam of a Viennese brothel in the Sherlock Holmes pastiche *The Seven-Per-Cent Solution*. Would-be sleuths should adopt a similar philosophy when entering answers into the grid; this will result in modifications to many answers, all yielding alternate words.

Across and Down grid entries comprise a total of 200 letters. Of these, 14 letters make up a final "seven-per-cent" solution. Transferring the initial letters of the indicated grid entries into the blanks below the grid will reveal what's required to solve this puzzle.

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

17A 23D 7D 37D 22A 35A 28A 12D 24D 11A 41A 30D 5D 34D

ACROSS

- 3 Physical appearances seem ultimately warped into fantasies
- 9 Outspoken Asian's no-win situation
- 10 Ridiculous acronym includes "H" for "bHutan," e.g.
- 11 Our tutors contrived to be painfully exacting
- 13 Doctor sees papa making attempts to be conciliatory
- 15 British nobleman embracing very quiet season
- 17 Freak finally creating a tattoo is twisting awkwardly
- 19 Codger snared in Social Security hustles
- 20 Ribs I mixed with beer; they might get palms greasy?
- 22 Five hundred and four competed, separated into groups
- 25 A quick assessment of ethics tells me all about "saint" (2 wds)
- 26 Find a nice part for a guy in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*
- 27 Superman's nemesis is badly hurt; Lois is missing
- 28 Offensive ad needed to be blunted
- 29 Thus, Department of Defense rebuffed numbskulls
- 33 Oddly modest health care providers (abbr)
- 35 *Hairspray* character entering at first and heading stage right
- 36 Works to make perfect, almost like Abe Lincoln
- 39 Epic prices; unfortunately they can be quite steep
- 40 Alternating members of theatre cast led the intimate discussion (hyph)
- 41 Ineptly narrate hodgepodge describing some space travel

DOWN

- 1 Chiefly semiarid, treeless ecoregions (plains, prairies, even shrublands)!
- 2 More than one batch of puppies makes a mess
- 3 Cry "food!" and pass out
- 4 Radio broadcasting scheme: just fine, or totally out of control?
- 5 Bring up nutrient found in spinach and seaweed
- 6 Three quarters of rapid notes played in a scale
- 7 Rubber tires are returned without it
- 8 Article essentially about a Van Gogh
- 12 Like a black market drug run done suspiciously
- 14 Lightly color inside of belt, perhaps being frugal
- 16 Repaired first breakdowns in relationships
- 18 Brighten up a *Saturday Night Live* comedienne
- 20 Actress initially pursues dance; does singer?
- 21 Tom's hero may become less rugged
- 23 Cook made me a Japanese dish
- 24 "Some political campaigns derailed? Nice!" said cad
- 30 God of war at the center of bloodiness
- 31 Sweeney Todd's one biting line, followed by hesitation
- 32 Topological feature that's "same, only different"
- 34 Begins sex early on with floozies
- 37 Penniless; having nothing
- 38 Eyesore!

I NEVER DO ANYTHING TWICE - SOLUTION TO LAST ISSUE'S PUZZLE

In last issue's puzzle, solvers were cautioned not to do anything twice. When it came to entering clue answers into the grid, not repeating any letters already written yielded new words. The "seven-per-cent solution" below the grid revealed what was required to solve the puzzle in Holmesian fashion: KEEN DEDUCTIONS.

Clue Notes

(* indicates an anagram; " " indicates a homophone; unaltered answers are given)

Across 4. (MANIFESTATIONS) M+INTO FANTASIES* 9. "Thai"

10. ACRONYM* holding H 11. (TORTUROUS) OUR TUTORS*

13. (APPEASES) SEES PAPA* 15. (PEPPER) PE(PP)ER 17. (KINKING) K+

INKING 19. (SCOOT)S S(COOT)S 20. (BRIBERIES) RIBS I BEER*

22. (DIVVIED) DIV+VIED 25. (SMELL TEST) TELLS ME*+ST 26. finD A Nice

27. HURT LO(-is)* 28. (DEADENED) AD NEEDED* 29. SO DOD reversed

33. MoDeSt 35. E+AND rev. 36. HONES(-t) 39. (PRECIPICES) EPIC PRICES*

40. (TETE-A-TETE) ThEaTrE cAsT IEd ThE 41. (INTERPLANETARY) INEPTLY NARRATE*

Down 1. (STEPPE)S "semiarid ... shrublands" initial letters 2. (LITTERS)

double definition 3. (METE) "meat" 4. A.M. + OK 5. IRON rev. 6. FAS(-t)

7. (ERASER) (-ti)RES ARE rev. 8. THE+O 12. (UNDERGROUND) DRUG RUN

DONE* 14. (STINTING) S(TINT)ING 16. FIRST* 18. GILD+A

20. (BALLADEER) BALL+A+DEER (does) 21. (SMOOTHER) TOM'S HERO* 23. (EDAMAME) MADE ME A* 24. (CANDIDACIES) NICE SAID CAD*

30. bloODINess 31. (BARBER) BARB+ER 32. SAME* 34. (STARTS) S+TARTS 37. penNILess 38. double definition

1	S	2	L	3	M	4	A	5	N	I	6	F	7	E	S	8	T	O
9	T	I	E	10	M	O	N	A	R	C	H	Y						
	E	T	11	T	O	R	12	U	S	13	A	P	E	14	S			
15	P	E	16	R	17	K	I	N	18	G	19	S	C	O	T			
20	B	R	I	E	21	S	22	D	I	V	23	E	24	C	I			
	A	S	F	25	S	M	E	L	T	26	D	A	N					
27	L	U	T	H	O	R	28	D	E	A	N	G						
29	D	30	S	31	B	T	G	A	32	M	33	M	D	34	S			
35	E	D	N	A	36	H	O	37	N	E	38	S	I	T				
	R	I	39	P	R	E	C	I	S	40	T	E	A					
41	I	N	T	E	R	P	L	A	Y	S	R							

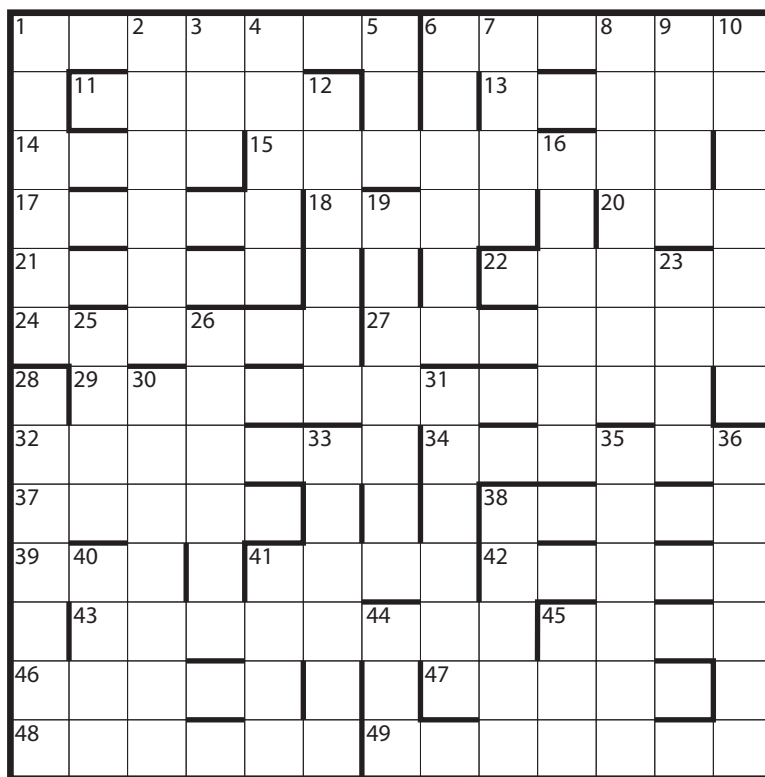
K E E N D E D U C T I O N S
17A 23D 7D 37D 22A 35A 28A 12D 24D 11A 41A 30D 5D 34D

MAKING CONNECTIONS

by Mark Halpin

Fifteen unclued entries span this puzzle's grid. These are divided into five sets of three entries each, labeled for reference only with otherwise meaningless letters. Within each set, two members are connected in a certain way (a similar way in all five sets); the third member in each set is unrelated.

The song inspiring this puzzle is identified by two normal crossing grid entries. A notable performer of the song crosses one of these words, though is not clued as such. This song provides an ordering for the five sets (though a certain liberty has been taken with Group D). The unconnected members of each set, taken in this order, form a final cryptic clue for an apt two-word phrase, enumerated (7, 8).



ACROSS

- 1 Camel, if mistreated, is really nasty (7)
- 6 Group A
- 11 Helping of broccoli caused toddler's distress (5)
- 13 Spot possibly retro earring inset with piece of coral (5)
- 14 Out of maidens in ...*Forum*? Rely on Marcus! (4)
- 15 Group B
- 17 Liza's premier dismissed by "airheads and phonies" (5)
- 18 Peeled banana spread all over Indian bread (4)
- 20 Certain digits among Susan's odd features (3; *abbr*)
- 21 Group A
- 22 An ape composed song of triumph (5)
- 24 Starting late, ran into jumbled thematic link in this puzzle (6)
- 27 Group C
- 29 Group D
- 32 Misspelled words in royal family's name (7)
- 34 Peons labored at earliest of chores with no guarantee of being paid (6; 2 *ws*)
- 37 Foundering café that's closing one side (5)
- 38 Shakespearean character ignoring forward duo's greeting (5)
- 39 Mortal denuded Venus in a Terry Gilliam film (3)
- 41 Group E
- 42 Polish guys adopted by Ed (5)
- 43 Group B
- 45 Shark running amok (4)
- 46 Ultra-frolicsome species of otter (5)
- 47 Build up or tear down noisily (5)
- 48 Tall tales about earliest of erotic desires (6)
- 49 Group B

DOWN

- 1 Group D
- 2 In the sticks, behold bathroom equipment (6)
- 3 Group C
- 4 Group C
- 5 Computer's brain required for esoteric puzzle (3; *abbr*)
- 6 Gloat obnoxiously eating last of delectable dessert (6)
- 7 Group E
- 8 Upset those at an interrogation site (7, 2 *ws*)
- 9 Vice squad unit cools things down considerably (4)
- 10 Group D
- 12 Putting a tapered edge on redesigned coin? No good (6)
- 16 Well-organized tsarina losing no regal headgear (6)
- 19 Group E
- 23 Pulitzer-winning writer's endless pages covering "end of innocence" (4)
- 25 *West Side Story* character missing opening song (4)
- 26 Blind entertainer to some extent is set back (6)
- 28 Group A
- 30 Hopelessly trace an obsolete online encyclopedia (7)
- 31 Barber of old decapitated consort, quite insane (6)
- 33 Disgusting surfeit of drugs (they replace chips, sometimes) (6)
- 35 Penny, get an apartment, I'm begging you (6)
- 36 Woodland critters injected with 500 units of DNA (6)
- 38 Six people perhaps give the evil eye to Assistant Director (5)
- 40 Wear an unhappy expression leaving interior of morgue (4)
- 41 Vocal in opposition to Asian ruler (4)
- 44 Outstanding two-person song abruptly terminated (3)
- 45 A tiny distance space station shifts right to left (3)

MAKING CONNECTIONS - SOLUTION TO LAST ISSUE'S PUZZLE

In last issue's puzzle, fifteen unclued entries had to be identified by crossing letters and their relation to a particular theme. These entries were divided into five groups of three. Within each group, two words could follow a particular nationality to make a familiar phrase; these nationalities correspond to those of the ambassadors in the song "Please, Hello" (identified in the grid at 35D and 38A, and crossed by performer MAKO at 45A). The extra word in each set, in ambassadorial order, made the final clue AWFULLY RENEGOTIATE FIRST ENDLESS ACCORDS, the answer to which is FOREIGN TREATIES (renegotiate firs[-t]*).

Groups are (American) GOTHIC, IDIOT + AWFULLY; (English) MUFFIN, CHANNEL + RENEGOTIATE; (Dutch) COURAGE, ELM + FIRST; (Russian) ROULETTE, ORTHODOX + ENDLESS; (French) KISS, OPEN + ACCORDS

Clue Notes

(* indicates an anagram; " " indicates a homophone)

Across 1. CAMEL IF* 11. brocCOLI Caused 13. H(+C)OOP reversed

14. "Forum ... Marcus" initials 17. F(-l)AKES 18. (-b)ANAN(-a)* 22. AN APE*

24. (-r)AN INTO* 32. WORDS IN* 34. PEONS*+C 37. CAFE*+T

38. (-ot)HELLO 39. (-h)UMA(-n) 42. E(MEN)D 45. AMOK* 46. ULTRA*

47. "raze" 48. Y(+E)ARNS

Down 2. LOO+KIT 5. esoteriC PUzzle 6. GLOAT* holding E 8. THOSE AT* 9. vICE Squad 12. COIN*+NG 16. TSARI(-n)A* 23. (-p)AGE(-s)+E

25. (-m)ARIA 26. blIND ENTertainer 30. TRACE AN* 31. (-c)ONSort* 33. OD+IOUS 35. P+LEASE 36. CO(+D)ONS 38. HEX+A.D.

40. MO(-rg)UE 41. "con" 44. DUE(-t) 45. MIR changing R to L

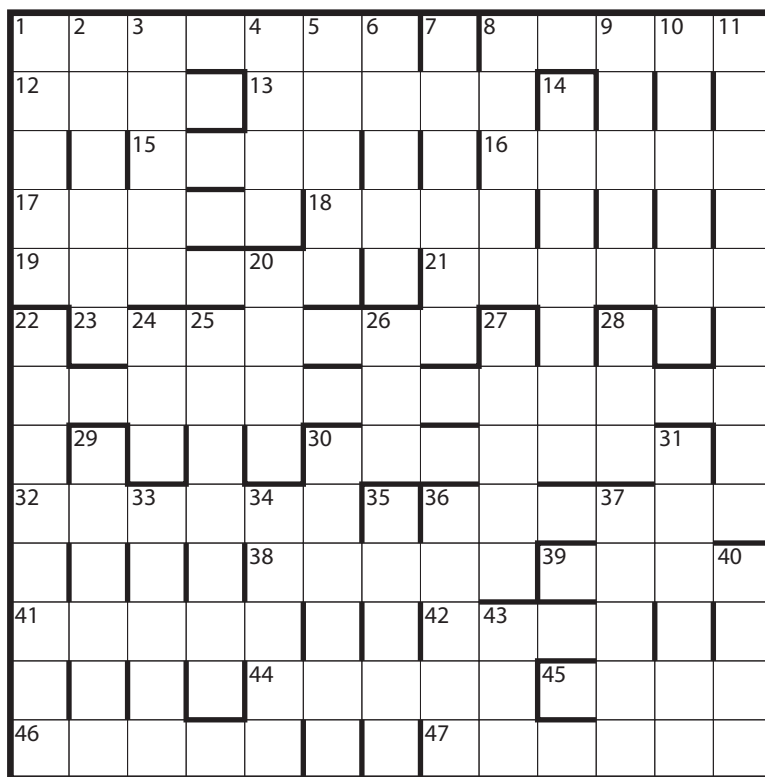
1	M	A	2	L	3	E	4	F	I	5	C	6	G	7	O	8	T	9	H	10	I	C
	U	11	C	O	L	I	12	C	P	E	13	P	O	O	C	H						
14	F	R	O	M	15	R	O	U	L	E	16	T	T	E	A							
17	F	A	K	E	S	18	N	19	A	A	N	I	20	S	N							
21	I	D	I	O	T	I	C	T	22	P	A	E	23	A	N							
24	N	25	A	T	26	I	O	N	27	C	O	U	R	A	G	E						
28	A	29	R	30	E	N	E	G	O	31	T	I	A	T	E	L						
32	W	I	N	D	S	33	O	R	34	N	S	35	P	E	36	C						
37	F	A	C	E	T	D	D	N	38	H	E	L	L	O								
39	U	40	M	A	N	41	K	I	S	S	42	E	M	E	N	D						
	L	43	O	R	T	H	O	44	D	O	X	45	M	A	K	O						
46	L	U	T	R	A	U	U	47	R	A	I	S	E	N								
48	Y	E	A	R	N	S	49	E	N	D	L	E	S	S								

HERE'S TO THE LADIES WHO LUNCH

by Mark Halpin

A trip to the gym, classes in optical art, a matinee, planning a brunch, perhaps a piece of Mahler's ... how can you fit it all in?

In this puzzle, you can't. Some entries are too long for their spaces, and so some elements will need to be removed. These can be repositioned elsewhere, with guidance from the unclued entry spanning the grid. All adjustments result in legitimate entries.



ACROSS

- 1 Beginning to spread paté ingredients (very small slices)
- 8 "The First Noël" arranged as solo
- 12 E.g. if chemists die we barium with potassium and some rock
- 13 Lincoln and others transformative to USA
- 15 "X" mark is smudged, partially
- 16 Mongol invader's farewell at end of war
- 17 Jobs involved in technology; see "TV modification"
- 18 Cooked meat is not very flavorful
- 19 Reverend Spooner's run away from my destructive bug
- 21 It's heard of to make beer in the vicinity of a sultanate
- 23 Reset a target for Harvard-Yale competition
- 30 *Odessa's* at sea, carrying good, experienced sailors
- 32 Rudely stop just about every kind of service
- 36 Swamp creatures eating up spring flower
- 38 Quartet bent over backwards displaying aquarium fish
- 39 Swedish band with one member cutting ahead for rum-soaked dessert
- 41 Ultimately, spirits' dismal hole!
- 42 Roman road is quite rutted toward the middle
- 44 Harmonize with a person like Maria Callas almost
- 45 Charges iron mesh except for edges
- 46 Verdi finally abandoning terrible dirge's least desirable parts
- 47 Scary: a senior, oddly, heeds Nancy Reagan's advice (2 wds.)

DOWN

- 1 Relaxing baths start to mitigate nervous tic
- 2 Result after polishing!

- 3 Unsavory kind, taking Ecstasy, covered with tattoos
- 4 Lessen the difficulty of $\pm 16\%$ of this grid's fill, per conversation
- 5 Pair of runts by pigpen likely to squeak, perhaps
- 6 Reportedly, Carnegie's industry is to act like a pirate
- 7 Mechanical sweeper replaced a broom
- 8 Daisy's cousin tears madly about
- 9 A lot like a minyan?
- 10 "Tidy teen"? An abomination!
- 11 Stripes separating ears is an attribute of a fabled bird
- 14 Quaver pathetically meeting old southwest cowboy
- 20 Puts down maker of potato chips
- 22 Truly loathed feat: taking drinks upside down
- 24 Cockney cad is a slippery character
- 25 Lush, rocky peak with grand, vaulting caverns
- 26 Low digit shown as two minus one plus irrational number
- 27 Unusually hardy monster
- 28 Mentioned certain politician's means of disguise
- 29 Chicory or kale? Both, per assortment
- 30 Magician's subterfuge is barely noticeable to the audience
- 31 Secondary list of options (stupid, muscle-bound clod having been removed)
- 33 New store displaying latest in expensive sound equipment
- 34 Finally, finally, America got Al Jazeera news broadcast (2 wds.)
- 35 Befuddled stoner is burning stuff
- 36 Stressful situations not featuring singular shrieks
- 37 Mongrel scares pet
- 40 Columnist Joseph beleaguered pals about nothing
- 43 Squad members run all over the place loudly

HERE'S TO THE LADIES WHO LUNCH - SOLUTION TO LAST ISSUE'S PUZZLE

In last issue's puzzle, a number of entries were too big to fit into the grid. Specifically, their bottom letters protruded from the grid, but they could be moved to the top of the grid to form new words in all cases (as suggested by EVERYBODY RISE spanning the grid). The rising letters spelled, aptly, BOTTOMS UP.

Clue Notes

(* indicates an anagram; " " indicates a homophone)

Across 1. S+LIVERS 8. A+NOEL* 12. PUN (by example)+K 13. TO USA* 15. mark IS Smudged 16. TATA+R 17. SEE TV* 18. MEAT* 19. "fled my" spoonerism 21. "brew nigh" 23. A TARGET* 30. ODESSA* holding G 32. STOP*+AL(-I) 36. CROC(+U)S 38. quARTET reversed 39. ABBA* 41. S+HOLE* 42. quITE Rutted 44. A+GREE(-k) 45. FE+(-m)ES(-h) 46. D(-i)RGES* 47. ScArY a SeNiOr

Down 1. SPAS+M 2. RESULT* 3. KIND* holding E 4. "E's" 5. RU+STY 6. "steel" 7. A BROOM* 8. TEARS* 9. OF TEN 10. TEEN AN* 11. EAR(LINES)S 14. QUAVER*+O 20. double definition 22. DE(SIPS)ED rev. 24. (-h)EEL 25. SOT+TOR+G rev. 26. T(-w)O+E 27. HARDY* 28. "whig" 29. BOTH PER* 30. "slight" 31. MUS(-cl)EB(-o)UN(-d)* 33. STORE* holding E 34. final letters of "America ... broadcast" 35. STONER* 36. CRI(-s)ES 37. SCARES* 40. PALS* holding O 43. "teem"

	B	O		T	T	O		M		S	U	P	
1	S	L	I	V	E	R	S	R	A	L	O	N	E
12	P	U	N	K	A	U	T	O	S	V	F	E	A
	A	S	K	I	S	S	E	O	T	A	T	A	R
17	S	T	E	V	E	T	A	M	E	Q	E	T	L
19	M	E	D	F	L	Y	L	B	R	U	N	E	I
22	D	R	E	G	A	T	T	A	H	E	W	N	N
	E	V	E	R	Y	B	O	D	Y	R	I	S	E
	S	P	L	O	S	S	E	A	D	O	G	S	S
32	P	O	S	T	A	L	S	C	R	O	C	U	S
	I	T	T	T	T	E	T	R	A	B	A	B	A
41	S	H	E	O	L	I	E	I	T	E	R	M	L
	E	E	R	S	A	G	R	E	E	F	E	E	S
46	D	R	E	G	S	H	N	S	A	Y	S	N	O
	B	O		T	T	O		M		S	U	P	

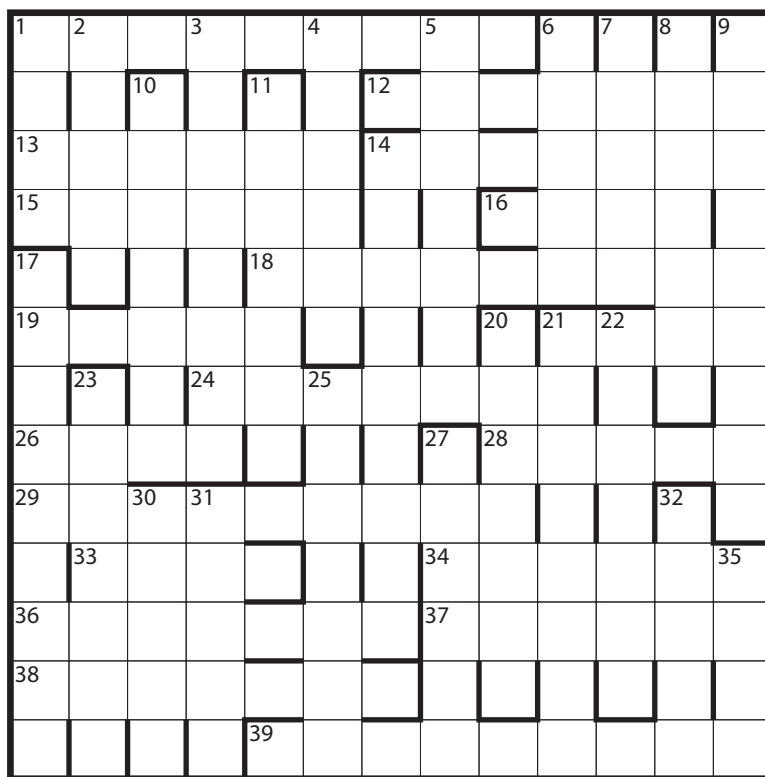
SIX BY SONDHEIM

by Mark Halpin

The recent HBO documentary *Six by Sondheim* draws special attention to six songs essential to understanding Sondheim's oeuvre:

1. Something's Coming
2. Opening Doors
3. Send in the Clowns
4. I'm Still Here
5. Being Alive
6. Sunday

Twelve clue answers are altered in ways suggested by these titles, two per title, all resulting in legitimate grid entries. Note the first character of the clues for the answers affected by Song One, followed by the second character of those affected by Song Two, etc. Taken together, these will explain why those particular songs were chosen as representative.



ACROSS

- 1 Where you might catch coaches moving dope during breaks (2 wds.)
- 12 Newborn's gas was corrosive
- 13 Cold-natured figure is now manipulating tenants
- 14 What's bad in France – hugging a certain meter maid – is a kind of bliss
- 15 Hilarious situations involving last of liquor in mugs
- 16 Clan's reformulated table salt
- 18 A little dog to stroke, one that's easily controlled
- 19 Seize control of half of upsurge in revolt
- 21 Fleece raincoats getting recalled
- 24 Set VCR's core by digital display, with object inside to be maintained
- 26 Topless nannies ... they might be wild
- 28 Latest in fashion: being privy to sheer fabric
- 29 Lunatic, too drunk to swallow Ecstasy, made an attempt
- 33 Acquirer of stolen goods to handle epees or foils
- 34 Yes I'm mercilessly hoarding stew
- 36 Consequence of too much lying sobered criminal
- 37 Irrational mania at heart of violent brute
- 38 Embracing all dancing? Then dip (*hyph.*)
- 39 Escaped felon originally was in the van

DOWN

- 1 Polish aficionado
- 2 Alternately, subvert any element relevant to some alterations in this puzzle (2 wds.)
- 3 Slight bit of drama is satisfactory
- 4 Cure ham initially in spicy mixture
- 5 A place where much water is boiled and tossed at Romeo
- 6 Groundbreaking computer actor Michael brought up
- 7 Shabby bum is near hero to some
- 8 Like Julius Caesar in a Latin I novel
- 9 a-Ha's doing just fine
- 10 Spoiled cat's beginning to purr deliriously
- 11 More than one plain piece of choreography's seen around gym
- 14 Missouri River ending in confluence, in addition
- 17 Try to acquire everything from tubby duo I made over (2 wds.)
- 20 Aunts and uncles, perhaps at onset of game, stacked checkers
- 21 Cast, describing *2001*, being flattering in a way
- 22 Denounce shifty con men taking in widow, essentially
- 23 Man Tolkien creature's pursuing (catching, ultimately)
- 25 Indulge autoerotic frolicking, canceling out IOU (2 wds.)
- 27 One from an African land; indeed, a West African land
- 30 Old man finally recalled D-Day deployment
- 31 Question dogging cummings about Eliot's footnote abbreviation (2 wds.)
- 32 Fashion crate for a relic
- 35 Those leading soap labels: Ivory, Dial, and Dove

SIX BY SONDHEIM- SOLUTION TO LAST ISSUE'S PUZZLE

In last issue's puzzle, some answers were modified in ways inspired by the six songs featured in the HBO documentary. To wit:

1. Something's Coming – a letter in each answer is changed to COMING. FLED --> COMINGLED; WELL --> WELCOMING
2. Opening Doors – Each entry is replaced by a sort of door associated with it. SUBMARINE --> HATCH; FENCE --> GATE
3. Send in the Clowns – a synonym for "clown" is inserted into each answer. DISS --> DISCARDS; MORE --> MANTICORE
4. I'm Still Here – Answers are anagrammed with only letters IM remaining still. CLAIMED --> DECIMAL; SIMMER --> MIMERS
5. Being Alive – Answers are replaced with a "living" exemplar. SNOWMAN --> FROSTY; PUPPET --> PINOCCHIO
6. Sunday – Answers get a tan. KING --> TANKING; GENT --> TANGENT

Deriving characters from clues per instructions indicates the reason these songs were chosen: "Each is VI-tal".

Clue Notes

(* indicates an anagram; " " indicates a homophone)

Across 1. DOPE* in BUSTS 12. NEON+ATE 13. IS NOW MANipulating

14. MA(RITA)L 15. FA(R)CES 16. CLAN* 18. PUP+PET 19. UPSUR*(-gence)

24. C+L(AIM)ED 26. (-g)OATS 28. N+IN ON 29. TOO DRUNK* holding E 33. double definition 34. yeS I'M MERcilessly 36. SOBERED*

37. MANIA*+L 38. THEN DIP* 39. F+LED

Down 1. double def. 2. sUbVeRt AnY 3. D+IS+S 4. H in SPICY* 6. CAINE reversed 7. BUM IS NEAR* 8. A LATIN I* 9. double def.

10. C+TO PURR* 11. STEP(PE)S 14. MO+R+E 17. TUBBY DUO I* 20. KIN+G 21. SLI(MMI)NG 22. D in CON MEN* 23. G+ENT

25. A(-u)T(-o)EROT(-i)C* 27. SO+MALI 30. D+DDAY* 31. e(TS)e+Q 32. CRATE* 35. initial letters

1	B	2	U	S	3	D	E	4	P	O	5	T	S	6	E	7	H	8	I	9	W
	U	V	10	C	I	11	S	H	12	N	E	O	N	A	T	E					
13	F	R	O	S	T	Y	14	M	A	R	I	T	A	L							
15	F	A	R	C	E	S	A	R	16	N	A	C	L	C							
17	B	Y	R	A	18	P	I	N	O	C	C	H	I	O							
19	U	S	U	R	P	C	T	O	20	T	S	C	A	M							
	Y	23	T	P	24	D	E	25	C	I	M	A	L	O	N	I					
26	O	A	T	S	S	A	C	27	S	N	I	N	O	N							
29	U	N	30	D	31	E	R	T	O	O	K	M	D	32	T	G					
	T	33	G	A	T	E	E	R	34	M	I	M	E	R	35	S					
36	B	E	D	S	O	R	E	37	A	N	I	M	A	L							
38	I	N	D	E	P	T	H	L	G	N	N	C	I								
	D	T	Y	Q	39	C	O	M	I	N	G	L	E	D							

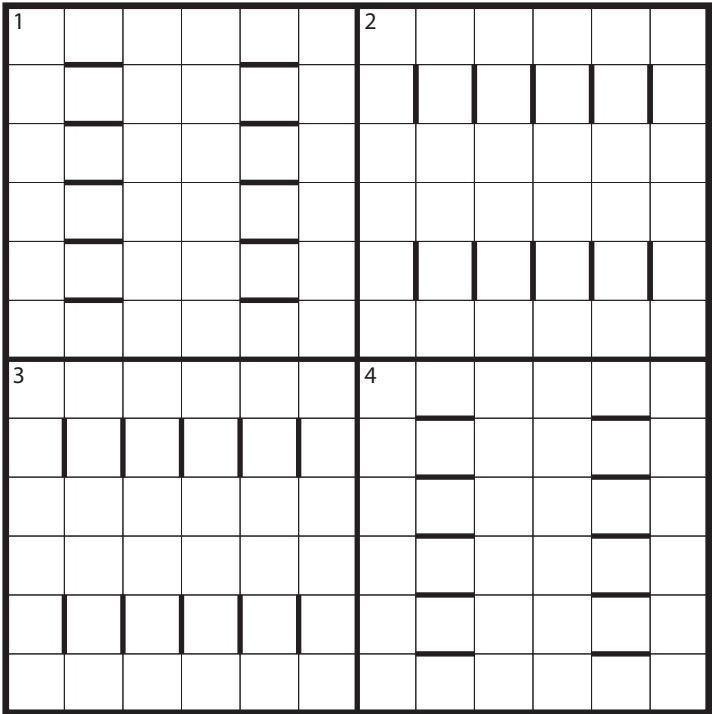
THERE’S ALWAYS A WOMAN

by Mark Halpin

As this issue celebrates women in Sondheim’s works, so this puzzle is inspired by four women with particularly striking personalities.

The puzzle comprises four mini-puzzles, each inspired by a different character. One Across and Down clue are provided for each grid, each of which has a unique gimmick. The remaining clues are ordered alphabetically by answer. All clue answers are six letters long, and must be placed in the appropriate grid in jigsaw fashion.

When the puzzle is completed, try to locate four additional thematically-apt, symmetrically-positioned words in the grid.



The Witch

Beware her spells.

- 1A Cretan king mentioned in the Old Testament
- 1D Mints aren’t including trace of chocolately sweet stuff

Rose

Rose’s Turn; that is, the letter string yielded by the wordplay in each of Rose’s clues must be reversed to match the clue’s definition.

- 2A Thin Estonian duo performs “U Can’t Touch This”
- 2D Heavy hitter’s attitude finally solidifies about defense

Fosca

Fosca is clinging and suffers from many disorders. The wordplay for each of her clues consists of a definition for a word that must be rearranged, with an additional letter added, to match the grid entry’s definition.

- 3A Difficult to climb grouping like the hills of Rome
- 3D Members of the peerage behaved peevishly

Mrs. Lovett

The wordplay indicated by Mrs. Lovett’s clues must shed a little blood to match the definition portion.

- 4A Blood poisoning listed in disclaimer (but printed backward)
- 4D Gives voice to those in adjacent properties

Those groan at taking in most of boring sermon, initially
Having a bone to pick, Sweeney’s going after a group in the legal profession (2 wds.)
Debatable topic incompletely described by each Victorian, say

Totally cover top of pastry in carrot
Dislike of French and Czech
Orange vegetables I would make blue
More than one perfume gets weaker and weaker
Sent like ill-timed birthday wishes
Appear on the scene, for example, with Stipe’s band? Excellent!
Catalyst beginning to emend my disturbed zen
Like a hoarse, loud scream followed by a whimper
Some characters from Avatar are misdirected goofs
Imitation pizza essentially rates poorly
Tax cheat went angrily on and on
Place to watch performers balance (2 wds.)
One singing of a constant craving: liver, for one (2 wds.)
Coarse or mushy members of a congregation
Praying figure’s chant ultimately adopted by some Mideasterners
Roomer’s hoisted Bacardi more than once
A baklava recipe includes this parrot, traditionally
Stickler’s fixation: odd parts of messier dump, oddly
Most read Sartre in translation
Newly fastened a parcel from Mr. Harte that is delivered at last
Waive right to drink booze topless
Vagabond’s concerning New Zealander pretty much
Annoying insects surrounding a bit of dough in Thailand
Lack of movement in extremely stagnant desert spring
Dread some sequences on “Dancing with the Stars”
Very incomplete icon scrubbed for house of worship
Popular soup’s slogan
Cruelly taunt, or seek assistance from (2 wds.)
Despot’s miniature tirade

THERE'S ALWAYS A WOMAN- SOLUTION TO LAST ISSUE'S PUZZLE

In last issue's puzzle, mini-puzzles were related to the Witch, Rose, Fosca, and Mrs. Lovett. All answers were six letters long, including the hidden names of the actresses who originally created those roles.

A different gimmick was in effect for each grid. In the Witch's clues, one word was misspelled phonetically. In Rose's clues, the wordplay yielded the answer in reverse. Fosca's clues gave definitions for two words: the answer, and an anagram of the answer minus one letter. Mrs. Lovett's wordplay yielded "blood" in the form of A, B, AB, or O, in addition to the answer word.

Clue notes are given for numbered clues in order, followed by the remainder of clues alphabetically by clue answer.

Clue Notes

(* indicates an anagram; " " indicates a homophone)

Across 1. [cretin] double definition 2. ES+RAPS 3. SEPTET/STEEP
4. disclAIMER [B]Ut reversed Down 1. [mince] ARENT* holding C
2. E+G(D)ELS 3. SULKED/DUKES 4. [AB]UTTERS double def.

[groan] A(DUL)T+S; [AB]A+TODDS; E(ISSU)A; [caret] CAR(P)ET; [check] DE+TEST; YAMS+I'D; DROOPS/ODORS; [B]ELATED double def.; E.G.+R.E.M.+E; E+MY+ZEN*; [horse] "eek"+"whine"; avATAR [A]RE rev.; Z+RATES*; EVADER/RAVED; EVEN UP/VENUE; KD LANG/GLAND; LAYMEN/MEALY; [O]MAN(T)IS; [rumor] RUM+RUM rev.; PHYLLLO/POLLY; MeSsleR dUmP; [red] SARTRE*; [B]RET+I.E.+D; [wave] R+(-t)IPPLE; RE+MAOR(-i); GNAT(A)S; S(-tagnan)T+[O]ASIS; TANGOS/ANGST; [vary] INCOMPLETE*-ICON; TOMATO/MOTTO; T[A]UNT OR*; T[O]Y+RANT

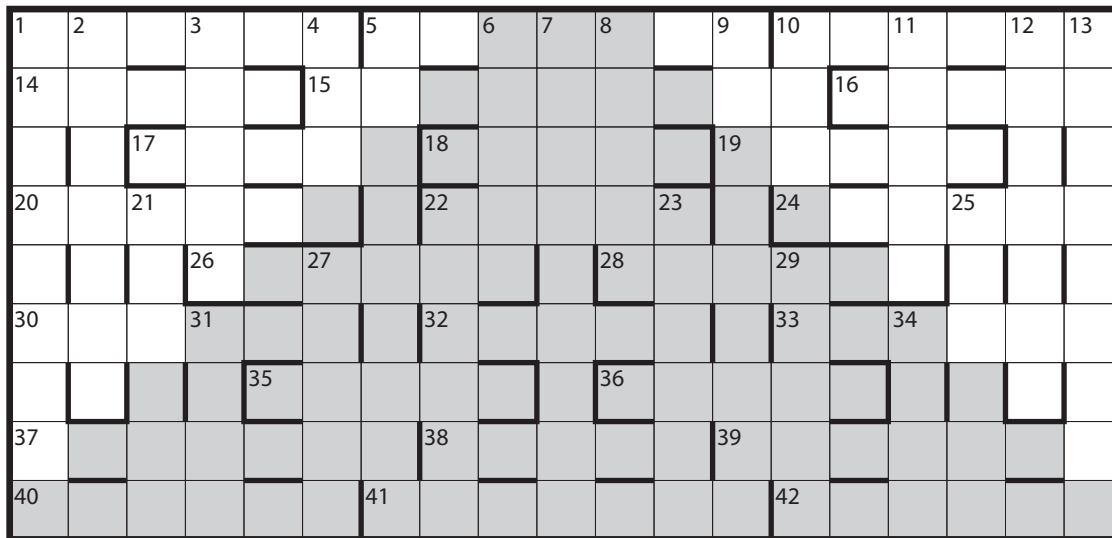
¹ N	I	M	R	O	D	² S	P	A	R	S	E
E	Q	U	I	N	E	L	U	U	O	A	N
C	A	R	P	E	T	E	R	S	A	T	Z
T	E	M	P	L	E	D	I	S	M	A	Y
A	D	U	L	T	S	G	S	I	E	N	M
R	A	R	E	S	T	E	M	E	R	G	E
³ S	E	P	T	E	T	⁴ U	R	E	M	I	A
U	V	H	O	V	A	T	Y	R	A	N	T
L	A	Y	M	E	N	T	U	R	N	T	O
K	D	L	A	N	G	E	L	A	T	E	D
E	E	L	T	U	O	R	E	T	I	E	D
D	R	O	O	P	S	S	T	A	S	I	S

ON THE STEPS OF THE PALACE

by Mark Halpin

Cinderella's Prince, in an attempt to slow down his fleeing inamorata, has spread pitch on the palace steps, depicted in gray below. Somewhere on each of the nine horizontal steps, a single "shoe" (that is to say, a single letter) has become stuck. Rather than advancing to the next square as in a normally entered answer, the letter will remain in the same square as the previously written letter. Stuck letters may occur in Across or Down entries, but always in squares in which two entries cross, and the crossing entry will become a new word.

The stuck letters, read from the top down, will reveal the object of the Prince's subsequent quest.



ACROSS

- 1 Demented hag sat open-mouthed
- 5 Split peas, after cooking, are worthy
- 10 Inundate retrograde iron lung that's corroded on the inside
- 14 Some tides go over/around bit of estuary when receding
- 15 Lustrous ring with very faint aroma
- 16 Perversely debate against potato or yam
- 17 Five hundred occupying part of a hospital's restaurant
- 18 Second-rate lawyer, in short, is nuts
- 19 Stage some *A Midsummer Night's Dream* characters in audience
- 20 Is more than one off-ramp blocked by overpass's closing?
- 22 Without a trace of irony, writes all about litter
- 24 Don't start preparing eggs for consumption
- 26 Bind by making knots through twine evenly
- 28 Letters written after doctor's shifts perhaps
- 30 Someone imagining dentist's first drill
- 32 Actress Kelly is playing Maori
- 33 It may be part of a prescription pad
- 35 Solitary type left Nevada town, heading west
- 36 Desolate, extremely silent refuge
- 37 Securing cap to one's ears
- 38 Practice in the Caribbean to be a Haitian, to some extent
- 39 Famous diarist (an alien born in France) recalled 20th century leader?
- 40 Triage's head nurse treated some key workers?
- 41 Dissent, carefully composed, is supremely sarcastic
- 42 Legendary hero's peers: surprisingly, you and I

DOWN

- 1 Criminal dealt guns and PCP (2 wds.)
- 2 Novel genre's engrossing ten baby boomers' kids (2 wds.)
- 3 One ship at sea is grotesquely silly
- 4 Noisily pulls along little piggies
- 5 Germinations in the open in periods of flowering
- 6 Penny and others brought up dish
- 7 Prepared to get a new job and retire after work
- 8 Undisciplined cadet did not remain motionless
- 9 How Magnus Carlsen might capture peasants wandering around north (2 wds.)
- 10 Excellent, the lady who first played Mama Rose
- 11 Stomach's absorbing first of six blows
- 12 Hero worshipper learned better
- 13 Correct: entering swamps is scary
- 21 O'Neill character that's unusually anemic
- 22 Cast some in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* role
- 23 Heartless phantom's enraged states
- 25 Discussed, e.g., Sicily and the Mediterranean maybe (2 wds.)
- 27 Organ's weird, plaintive noises
- 29 Get naked in Las Vegas venue
- 31 On the radio, *The Third Man* is effective
- 34 Some that buzz about social events

ON THE STEPS OF THE PALACE – SOLUTION TO LAST ISSUE'S PUZZLE

In last issue's puzzle, certain letters became "stuck" on the pitch-covered palace steps. Read from the top down, these identified the eventual object of the Prince's quest: A SOLE MATE.

1	A	2	G	H	3	A	S	4	T	5	S	E	6	PA	7	R	8	A	T	9	E	10	E	N	11	G	U	12	L	13	F
14	N	E	A	P	S	15	O	P	A	L	ES	C	E	N	T	16	T	U	B	E	R										
	G	N	17	D	I	N	E	RO	18	B	A	T	T	Y	19	P	H	A	S	E	A	I									
20	E	X	21	I	S	T	S	U	22	S	T	R	E	23	W	A	24	EL	A	T	25	I	N	G							
	L	E	C	26	H	O	27	G	T	I	E	A	28	D	RE	S	29	S	E	S	L	D	H								
30	D	R	E	31	AM	E	R	I	32	M	O	I	R	A	S	33	T	A	34	B	L	E	T								
	U	S	M	B	35	L	OA	N	E	R	N	36	S	T	A	R	K	E	S	R	E										
37	S	E	A	L	I	N	G	38	O	B	E	A	H	39	N	I	N	ET	E	E	N										
40	T	U	N	E	R	S	41	S	N	I	D	E	S	T	42	PE	R	S	E	U	S										

Clue Notes

(* indicates an anagram; " " indicates a homophone)

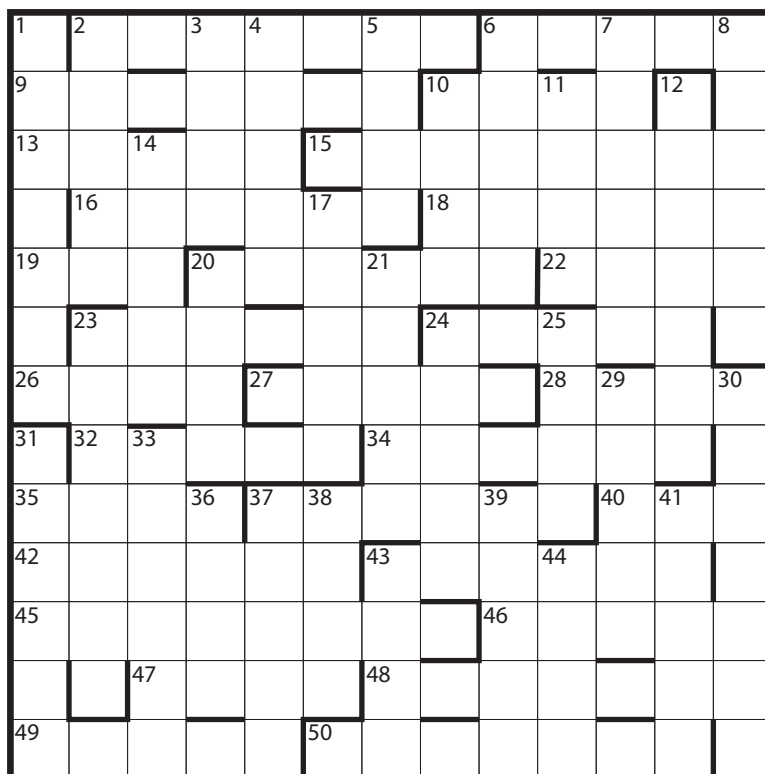
Across 1. HAG SAT* 5. PEAS*+RATE 10. F(LUNG*)E reversed 14. SPA(E)N rev. 15. O+PALE+SCENT 16. REBUT rev. 17. D+IN+ER
 18. B+ATTY 19. "feys" 20. EXI(S)TS 22. WR(-i)TES* 24. (-b)EATING 26. tHrOuGh TwInW 28. DR.+ESSES 30. D+REAMER 32. MAORI*
 33. double definition 35. L+RENO (rev.) 36. ST+ARK 37. "ceiling" 38. tO BE A Haitian 39. NIN+ET+NEE (rev.) 40. T+NURSE* 41. DISSENT*
 42. PEERS*+US
 Down 1. DEALT GUNS* 2. GENRES* holding X 3. A+SHIP* 4. "tows" 5. SPR(OUT)INGS 6. P+ET AL (rev.) 7. AND RETIRE* 8. CADET*
 9. PEASANTS* holding N 10. E+THE+L 11. GU(S)TS 12. LEARNED* 13. F(RIGHT)ENS 21. ANEMIC* 22. IN SOME* 23. WRA(-i)THS
 25. "isle"+ "sea" 27. ORGANS* 29. double def. 31. "Abel" 34. double def.

THE WORST PIES IN LONDON

by Mark Halpin

With the price of meat what it is – when you get it – *if* you get it – some of the ingredients in this grid must be a little adulterated. Certain letter strings that would normally appear in the grid spanning words that abut end-to-end must be replaced with other, more affordable letter strings. The new strings are not necessarily the same lengths as those they replace. New, legitimate grid entries (one a proper name) will result in all cases. Grid lengths and crossing words reflect the new entries.

Properly interpreted, the new strings will each be seen to be missing a single letter. These letters can be rearranged to form an apt description of the new strings, which may not make this unsavory dish more palatable, but it couldn't hurt.



ACROSS

- 2 Lawyer's brief getting into source of oil and source of revenue (2 wds.)
- 6 Pundit Bill's an aggressive womanizer lacking bit of scruples
- 9 I color a flamboyant fan, perhaps (*hyph.*)
- 10 Help Oakland ballplayer, one with over 3000 hits
- 13 Republican phoned left to growl fustily
- 15 Drone going around state with daughter worked very hard
- 16 They support pet food brand adopting pair of beagles (*hyph.*)
- 18 Returns for deli foolishly invested in forks
- 19 Troupe that included Hope and even characters from *Bus Stop*
- 20 Pick cheese trio infused with hints of olive, onion, and spices
- 22 Pout when what's down in fashion is up
- 23 Diary misrepresented hot Asian city
- 24 Classifies more than one bombing run that is overlooked
- 26 Ward's seen among Chinese lanterns
- 27 Capriciously abuse gentlemen callers
- 28 Jazz player's setting out a handwritten part
- 32 Defunct travel company's western map taking one in (2 wds.)
- 34 Band's shot in retro kind of detective film
- 35 South American dog exhibited in special collection
- 37 Pope's work: eliminating vice primarily in wretched poverty
- 40 Starting off, ugly duckling really is sickly-looking
- 42 Outspoken NY athlete will change, but not much
- 43 Like some ornate dresses a young socialite recalled when imbibing fruit drink
- 45 Doctor let fever take a turn (2 wds.)
- 46 Marilyn, at first, is not quite ordinary
- 47 Fondly touches Nixon and others
- 48 Run gala poorly, not at all like a ball?
- 49 Loudly expressed views and positions
- 50 Awkwardly, he ruins welcome (2 wds.)

DOWN

- 1 Smug man distributed big bottles of wine
- 2 "V", if interpreted by late character from Rome!
- 3 One in pain cried out a lot, perhaps
- 4 Venerable scroll I see beneath rocky peak
- 5 Playwright's corrupt "Beadle Bamford" finally done away with
- 6 Usual way of doing contest for *Sweeney Todd*, but not *The Frogs*
- 7 Four heading down returned clutching large tart
- 8 Biblical locale erased after upheaval (2 wds.)
- 10 Offensive rap's about nothing in good taste
- 11 Impure material that's partially transmuted
- 12 Like jellyfish and emus when migrating
- 14 The rhyming scheme / from "Waterloo's" / and "Voulez-Vous's" / composing team
- 17 Exemplary paean written in 1050
- 20 Cy Coleman's last pair of pieces is kind of blue
- 21 Cost of traveling from dictator's exposition
- 23 Perry's secretary rising to hug yours truly on one side
- 24 Set of tools coming with excellent flying contraption
- 25 "Chichi" is role in *West Side Story*
- 29 Rapunzel's keep pulling one
- 30 Keen to take in top-rated European nation
- 31 Finished painting duct after fire
- 33 Cup, formerly platinum, is artist's inspiration
- 36 Cook ravioli stuffed with a veggie
- 37 Hides rifles
- 38 Melba's meandering strolls in the park, say
- 39 An asset when singing "...where the deer and the antelope play"
- 41 One promoting elements of Vietnam Day to the west
- 43 Some design school grads, second-rate, nearly go hungry
- 44 Ultimately, tired of us being in a gloomy mood

THE WORST PIES IN LONDON – SOLUTION TO LAST ISSUE'S PUZZLE

In last issue's puzzle, letter strings representing types of meat (in order by column: five/allies, abba/concept, model/ambles, albee/fare, sapor/kite, smut/tony) were replaced with the letter strings shown in the shaded areas at right. These, accounting for a missing letter in each, may be read vertically as PERSIAN, CALICO, TOM, HOUSE, PUSSY, and BURMESE, all types of cat. The missing letters may be anagrammed to form a description of the new strings, and also something that might improve these compromised ingredients: CATS UP.

Clue Notes

(* indicates an anagram; " " indicates a homophone)

Across 2. FL(ATT)AX 6. MA(-s)HER 9. I COLOR A* 10. SOS+A

13. R+RANG reversed 15. BE(AVER)E+D 16. I(BE)AMS

18. Y(DELI*)S 19. bUs StOp 20. CH(+O+O+S)E

22. MODE changing D to U 23. DIARY*+H 24. SORT(-ie)S

26. chineSE LAnterns 27. ABUSE* 28. oUT A Handwritten

32. MAP rev. holding AN 34. NO(BB)IR rev.

35. speciAL Collection 37. PO(-v)ERTY* 40. (-s)WAN

42. "Knick'll" 43. DEB rev. holding ADE 45. LET FEVER*

46. NORMA(-l) 47. double definition 48. RUN GALA*

49. "sights" 50. HE RUINS*

Down 1. SMUG MAN* 2. V IF*+E 3. "acher" 4. TOR+AH 5. BEA(-d)LE* 6. M.O.+VIE 7. TO(L)RAH rev. 8. ERASED* 10. RAPS* around O

11. tranSMUTe 12. AND EMUS* 14. double def. 17. M(ODE)L 20. CY+AN 21. "fair" 23. DE(l)LLA rev. 24. KIT+E 25. double def.

29. double def. 30. HUNG(A)RY 31. CAN+VAS 33. C+ONCE+PT 36. coOK RAvioli 37. double def. 38. MELBA'S* 39. double def.

41. vietNAM DAY rev. 43. B+FAS(-t) 44. D+OUR

1	M	2	F	L	3	A	4	T	T	5	A	X	6	M	A	7	H	E	8	R
9	A	I	R	C	O	O	L	10	S	O	11	S	A	12	M	E				
13	G	N	14	A	R	R	15	B	E	A	V	E	R	E	D					
	N	16	B	E	A	17	M	S	18	Y	I	E	L	D	S					
19	U	S	O	20	C	H	O	21	S	E	22	M	O	U	E					
	M	23	R	I	Y	A	D	H	24	S	O	25	R	T	S	A				
26	S	E	L	A	27	B	E	A	U	S	28	U	29	T	A	30	H			
31	C	32	P	33	A	N	A	M	34	R	I	B	B	O	N	U				
35	A	L	C	36	O	37	P	38	O	E	T	39	R	Y	40	W	41	A	N	
42	N	I	C	K	E	L	43	B	E	A	44	D	E	D	G					
45	V	E	E	R	L	E	F	T	46	N	O	R	M	A						
	A	D	47	P	A	T	S	48	A	N	G	U	L	A	R					
49	S	I	T	E	S	50	U	S	H	E	R	I	N	Y						

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A DEADLY GAME

by Mark Halpin

Just as in *The Last of Sheila*, the six guests attending this puzzle are embroiled in a dangerous game of skullduggery. Each guest has been presented with one of the secrets shown below, but one holds an even darker secret: they're a cold-blooded killer!

Six clue answers have been replaced in the grid with other words, which we'll call "Evidence." Enumerations refer to the grid entries, which may be of different lengths than the missing answers (as a solving aid, the enumerations of the missing answers, in clue order, are 7, 9 (2 wds.), 8, 7, 7, and 8). Each piece of Evidence is linked to one of the guests via wordplay, in two ways the solver might deduce, and five of the guests may also be found linked to their evidence in the completed grid.

Identify the killer by determining which guest has fled the scene. Enter the missing words replaced by the Evidence associated with the five (relatively) innocent guests in the lower grid, left to right, one letter per space, in order of those guests' secrets, to reveal the fate of the killer.

You are a BULLY and a COWARD.

You are a FLANEUR.

You are a MAILBOMBER.

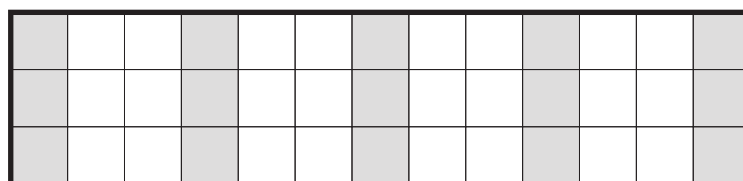
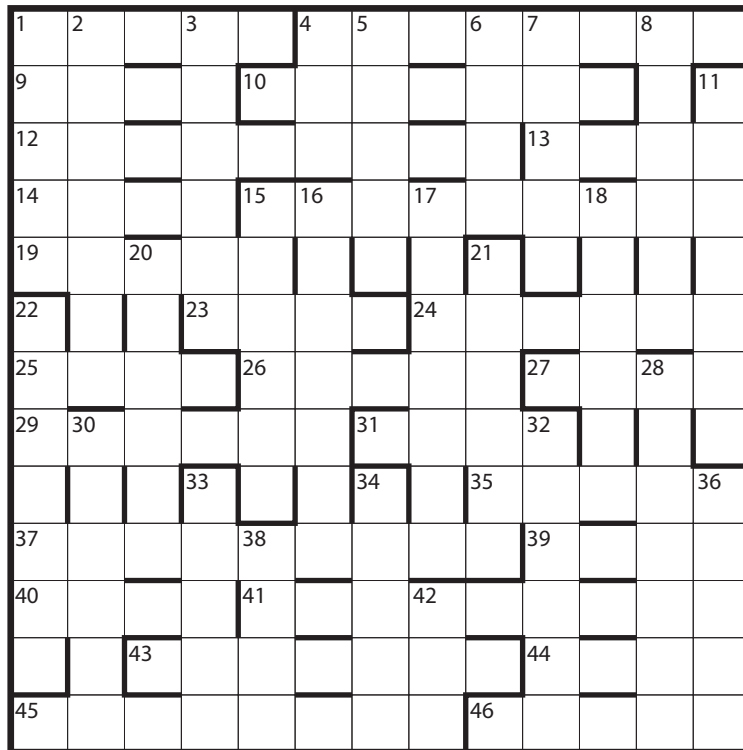
You are a NEO-NAZI.

You are a NUTSO.

You are a POTTY MOUTH.

ACROSS

- 1 Eleven omelets laced with poison (5)
- 4 Not at all like Molly Brown's rumpled blankies? (8)
- 9 Holly and myself pursued by Superman's nemesis (4)
- 10 Grass used to feed stupor declared to be "best times ever" (7)
- 12 Kid from a large family exults pet extravagantly (9)
- 13 Adds moisture to beef dish that's sent back (4)
- 14 Taj Mahal site is somewhat fragrant (4)
- 15 Drug pooch unwisely with sore throat remedy (9)
- 19 Not quite finding a place for peaceful protest (5, *hyph.*)
- 23 Endure winning the booby prize? (4)
- 24 Willow twigs and roses arranged around daisy in the center (6)
- 25 Someone in pain cried out a lot, maybe (4)
- 26 Newly tenured, I got some alumni back together (5)
- 27 Polish words written in capitalized italics (4)
- 29 Gutless soldier sloppily does some gun maintenance again (6)
- 31 Eager to wail like a banshee (4)
- 35 To "speak endlessly" or "utter" (5)
- 37 Clever wheeler-dealers investing gold in renovated seaport (9)
- 39 Talking bird shocking many (4)
- 40 Vegetable that's misspelled "leak" (4)
- 41 Gay gopher tidied up study of all places? (9)
- 43 Expressionless, students' supervisor accepts messy pad (7)
- 44 Soothing lotion is all gone, oddly (4)
- 45 Harsh words to a group of furry little hoarders (8, 2 wds.)
- 46 Earth-colored boards shaved off at the front (5)



DOWN

- 1 Six almost give smart answers for travel documents (5)
- 2 *Glee* reimagined by yours truly: cooler, and wistful in tone (7)
- 3 Strange tax included in Texas tea and soup variety (6)
- 4 "How's it goin', bro? Grab some dinner?" (3)
- 5 Lazybones "Mama Rose" portrayer blowing off opening (5)
- 6 Drum set and horns, primarily, are old familiar friends (4)
- 7 Pair of antagonists battle Menachem's partner in peace (5)
- 8 Make hash of a diner's canned fish (6)
- 11 Helps Paul McCartney and others starting off (7)
- 15 Allow "The Spanish Curse" to be brought up (6)
- 16 Sot lies drunkenly and flies off the handle (7, 2 wds.)
- 17 Traveling, I open excellent route initially! (7)
- 18 Oxen stampede time and again, but ultimately don't have to (6)
- 20 Unnaturally tan dude filled with dismay (6)
- 21 Western hostess always displaying property and cash, etc. (6)
- 22 Bear with migrant worker loudly singing in a bar (7)
- 28 Storied Saxon is foolishly naive, suppressing laughter (7)
- 30 A slope's collapsed in border town (6, 2 wds.)
- 32 Formulate ammonia but not iodine? I politely decline (6, 2 wds.)
- 33 Canadian Indian chief to denounce religious statement (5)
- 34 Appropriate home for hens and bantams, essentially (5)
- 36 Part of a cake cooked early (5)
- 38 Top-rated needlefish-and-seaweed-derived gel (4)
- 42 Levitating science fiction vehicle flying over arch (3)

A DEADLY GAME - SOLUTION TO LAST ISSUE'S PUZZLE

The first part of each "secret" given in last month's puzzle obliquely clued one of the Evidence words seen circled in the grid. Five guests could be found hiding in the grid (seen shaded at right); these are the suspects from the game Clue. These are also linked to the Evidence words, both by literally crossing them and in phrase usage. Thus, BULL/COW = (White) ELEPHANTS, FLAN = (Plum) Pudding, MAIL = (Scarlett) LETTER, NEON = (Mustard) GAS, NUTS = (Green) BEANS, and POTTY = (Peacock) THRONE. Miss Scarlett does not appear in the grid, and is thus the killer. Five clue answers replaced by Evidence entered in the lower grid indicate that she was CAUGHT RED-HANDED. The clue answer replaced by her evidence, SARDINE, is not used at all and is merely a ... red herring.

Clue Notes

(* indicates an anagram; " " indicates a homophone)

Across 1. eleVEN OMelets 4. BLANKIES* 9. I+LEX 10. (HEYDAYS) "hay+daze" 12. EXULTS PET* 13. STEW reversed 14. frAGRAnt 15. (COUGH DROP) DRUG POOCH* 19. SITIN(-g) 23. double definition 24. ROSES* around I 25. "acher" 26. (REUNITED) TENURED I* 27. capitalizED ITalics 29. SOL(-d)IER* 31. double def. 35. TO+TAL(-k) 37. SEAPORT* with OR 39. MANY* 40. LEAK* 41. GAY GOPHER* 49. DEA(PAD*)N 44. AIL gOnE 45. WORDS TO A* 46. (-I)UMBER
Down 1. VI+SAS(-s) 2. GLEE*+I+AC 3. O(TAX*)IL 4. double def. 5. (-m)IDLER 6. KIT+H 7. AN+WAR 8. (SARDINE) A DINER'S* 11. (-b)ASSISTS 16. SOT LIES* 17. I OPEN*+E+R 18. OXEN...BUT final letters 20. (DAUNTED) TAN DUDE* 21. hoSTESS Always rev. 22. "carry+Okie" 28. NAIVE* with HO 30. A SLOPE* 32. AMMON(-i)A* 33. CREE+D 34. COOP+T 36. EARLY* 38. A+GAR 42. (HOVER CAR) OVER ARCH*

1	V	2	E	N	3	O	M	4	S	5	I	N	6	K	7	A	B	8	L	E
9	I	L	E	X	10	P	U	D	D	I	N	G	E	11	A					
12	S	E	X	T	U	P	L	E	T	13	W	E	T	S						
14	A	G	R	A	15	E	16	L	E	17	P	H	A	18	N	T	S			
19	S	I	20	T	I	N	O	R	I	21	A	R	E	E	I					
22	K	A	H	23	L	A	S	T	24	O	S	I	E	R	S					
25	A	C	R	E	26	B	E	A	N	S	27	E	D	28	I	T				
29	R	30	E	O	I	L	S	31	K	E	E	32	N	N	V	S				
	A	L	N	33	C	E	I	34	C	E	35	T	O	T	A	36	L			
37	O	P	E	R	38	A	T	O	R	S	39	M	Y	N	A					
40	K	A	L	E	41	G	E	O	42	G	R	A	P	H	Y					
	E	S	43	D	E	A	D	P	A	N	44	A	L	O	E					
45	W	O	O	D	R	A	T	S	46	U	M	B	E	R						

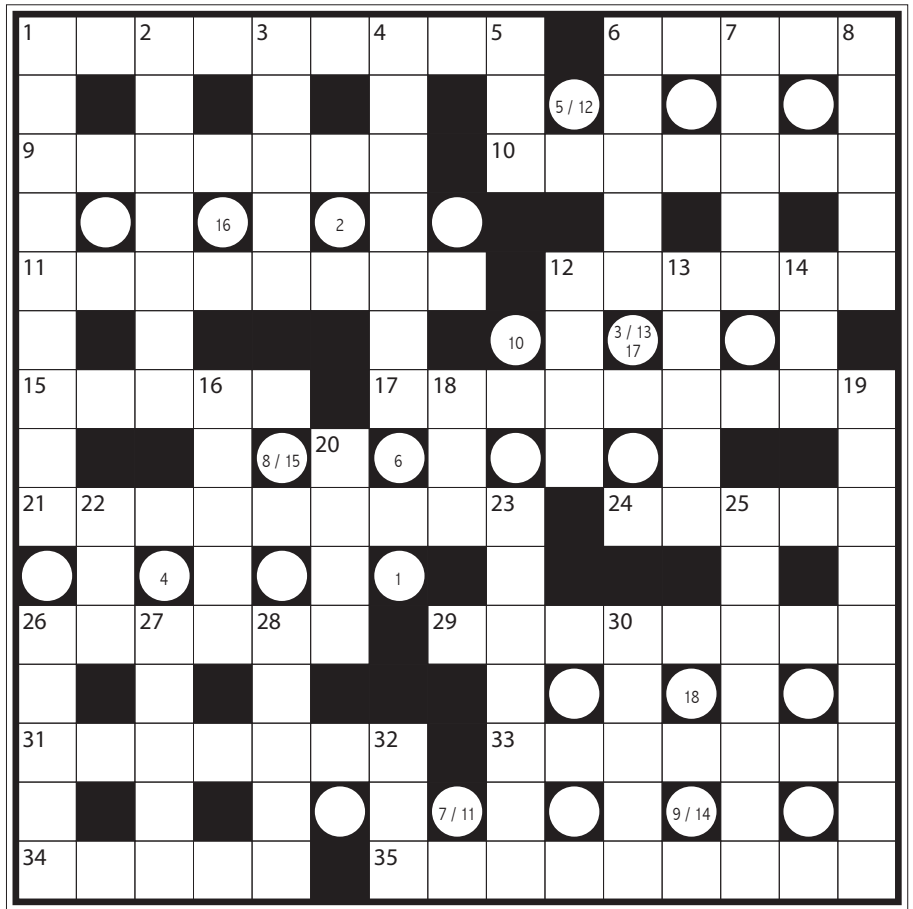
C	O	U	G	H	D	R	O	P	H	E	Y	D
A	Y	S	H	O	V	E	R	C	A	R	R	E
U	N	I	T	E	D	D	A	U	N	T	E	D

STORIES AND ART

by Mark Halpin

After solving the Across and Down clues in the cryptic crossword at right, solvers should enter certain letters into all of the circled spaces. Transferring letters from the numbered circles into the appropriate blanks below will reveal a message to Mr. Sondheim on the subject of storytelling.

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



ACROSS

- 1 White poodle is running around stacks of logs (9)
- 6 Nation's somewhat unkind, I admit (5)
- 9 Gushing, one sings inanely about youth's heart (9)
- 10 Affliction displayed by mailmen, typically (7)
- 11 Like Russia or US in area, surprisingly (8)
- 12 Scoundrel initially plunders retro bar furniture (6)
- 15 Perfect self-description from a Vegas professional? (9)
- 17 Sadly, I simpered for some tissue (9)
- 21 Say "Hi, Lama!" when traveling Tibetan mountaintops (9)
- 24 Indiana athlete's reviewed in postgame discussion (5)
- 26 By no means should Greek characters near explosive stuff (6)
- 29 Check about beer container and wine bottle (8)
- 31 Candy made from gourd mixed with bit of milk and pepper (7)
- 33 Author Isabel's leaden novel describing love, primarily (7)
- 34 Cruel criminal's ill-gotten gains (5)
- 35 Might Sue panic hysterically about snakes at first? (9)

DOWN

- 1 Reverend Spooner's desire to wrestle cod or haddock (9)
- 2 Witness is verbose when confused (7)
- 3 Duos *Bartlett's* perhaps quoted (5)
- 4 Winter Olympics sport involving trick suitcases (7)
- 5 60% of Spain is a great place to relax (3)
- 6 Small part of a chain damaged tiles (5)
- 7 Artist Rivera mirroring "id" and "ego" (5)
- 8 Ace-ten's shuffled as poker hand starts (5)
- 12 Pop's kerfuffles brought up (4)
- 13 One way to get ham to ruin fewer comedy scene finales (5, 2 wds.)
- 14 Loudly put down souvenir from Hawaii (3)
- 16 Rework bald carpet, cutting out odd pieces (5)
- 18 Pat slightly restructured academic organization (3, abbr.)
- 19 Replace each piece of shoe covered in soft leather (9)
- 20 Jargon word used by one giving up (4)
- 22 Promise of payment is not entirely serious (3)
- 23 Singer Gwen's fan site hacked (7)
- 25 Interrupt obnoxious coin nut (7, 3 wds.)
- 26 Hollywood bigshot obscured by smog, ultimately (5)
- 27 Part of a college, without trace of precaution, raising poisonous plant (5)
- 28 Doctor's assistant translated runes (5)
- 30 McBeal and others without exception sitting on forks (5)
- 32 Heads of Pixar expect pristine animation (3)

*This puzzle was commissioned by
Arden Theatre Company,
honoring Mr. Stephen Sondheim
as the inaugural recipient of the
Master Storyteller Award
on June 1st, 2015
in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

STORIES AND ART – SOLUTION TO LAST ISSUE'S PUZZLE

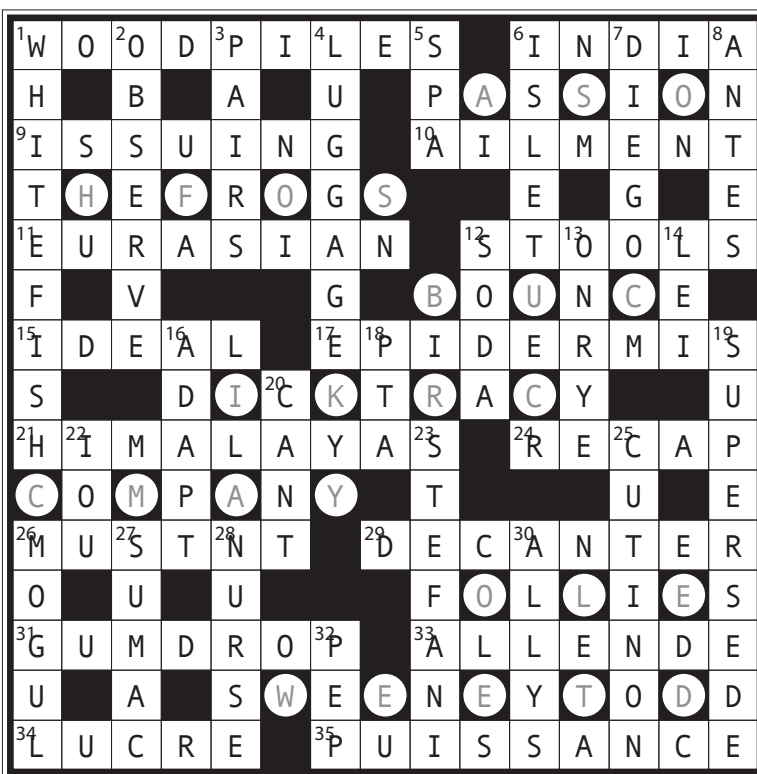
After filling the grid normally, solvers were to enter apt letters into numbered circles, then transferring those to extra spaces provided. These letters in the grid completed the titles of various Sondheim works, and when transferred spelled a message to Sondheim on the subject of storytelling: YOU MAKE IT BEAUTIFUL.

Clue Notes

(* indicates an anagram; " " indicates a homophone

Across 1. W + POODLE IS* 6. unkIND I Admit 9. I + SINGS* around U 10. mAILMEN Typically 11. US IN AREA* 12. S + LOOTS reversed 15. double definition 17. I SIMPERED* 21. SAY HI LAMA* 24. PACERS rev. 26. MUS+ TNT 29. DE(CAN)TER 31. GOURD* holding M + P 33. LEADEN* holding L 34. CRUEL* 35. SUE PANIC* holding S

Down 1. FIGHT WITH spoonerism 2. VERBOSE* 3. "pears" 4. LUG(GAG)E 5. SPA(-in) 6. TILES* 7. ID rev. + EGO 8. A + TENS* 12. ADOS rev. 13. TO ... SCENE final letters 14. "lay" 16. bAID cArPeT 18. PAT* 19. SU(PER + S)EDE 20. double def. 22. serIOUS 23. FAN SITE* 25. COIN NUT* 26. sMOG ULtimately 27. CAM(-P)US rev. 28. RUNES* 30. ALL + YS 32. PIXAR EXPECT PRISTINE initial letters



WHAT DO WE DO? WE FLY

by Mark Halpin

We may fly, but we really, really hate it, for myriad reasons:

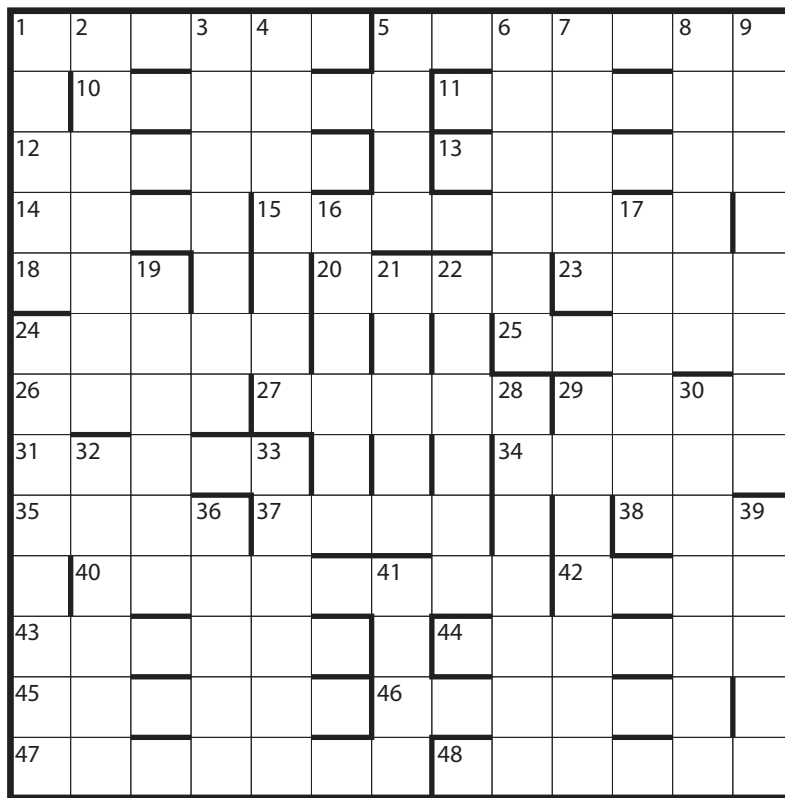
Thirteen unlucky clues are experiencing turbulence; that is, one word in the definition portion of each of those clues has been jumbled into a new word.

Another thirteen clues have been given food (in either the definition or wordplay portion of the clue) that you would be wise to completely ignore.

The definition portions of another thirteen clues have been bumped from their respective clues and are instead having to board the next clue to come along in this group (assume that the Down clues follow the Across clues, looping back to the beginning). ALL readjusted clues may lack surface sense.

Answers to the remaining thirteen clues have each had a piece of luggage sent to the wrong place; that is, one letter from each entry has been relocated within the word to form a new entry. Circle these thirteen letters.

Read left to right, the circled letters will spell yet another complaint one might utter (1 4, 4 4). Read top to bottom, they'll spell one possible target for the complaint (5 8).



ACROSS

- 1 Bachelor getting impatiently eager and antsy (6)
- 5 Spruce up audition finally and perform German numbers (7)
- 10 Couple of everymen and ailing club are in a bad way (6)
- 11 Head going crazy with Beethoven's Fifth (6)
- 12 Not of the cloth, Oliver's left church party (6)
- 13 Hug and kiss and be fond of a California beach (6)
- 14 The author published praise today (4)
- 15 Model prisoners support adopting neckwear (8)
- 18 A bunch of spies canoodle, embracing yours truly (3; *abbr.*)
- 20 A group of people are not guilty, perhaps (4)
- 23 Fight appears regressive, right? (4)
- 24 A fish or bird's torso (5)
- 25 Bovine's rump, stout in the middle (5; *abbr.*)
- 26 Sadly miss defunct anti-Communist alliance (4)
- 27 Spanish "yes", say, chiefly elicits attack on a dialect (5)
- 29 Poor beggar with no nutritious food (4)
- 31 Clara raved, evincing various philosophies (5)
- 34 Originally, winner in contests has a garden (5)
- 35 To employ upstater perhaps ends badly (4)
- 37 Touch piece of fresh, slippery fish (4)
- 38 Finger-paint "lambda" and "beta" (3)
- 40 Embroiderer moved just so, leaving bee appeased (8)
- 42 Brazilian parrot is fine housed in gym (4)
- 43 Loudly use an oar with wrestling move and jab (6; 2 wds)
- 44 Someone making money is someone wanting a lot starting off (6)
- 45 Slyly recruit alien with drunken utterances (6)
- 46 Incompletely finance nurse taking on university's non-intensive care (6; 2 wds)
- 47 Governing bodies see about returning khaki uniforms finally (7)
- 48 Overlooking debut of most lucrative wares (6)

DOWN

- 1 Impels suspicious cabs to pick up first of immigrants (5)
- 2 A set of moral rules (the first) is over when corrupted (6)
- 3 Film excerpt unfinished, actor Cage and others claimed offices (7)
- 4 Sites for fires mandate trash to be cleaned up (7)
- 5 Some beards go up to the ears (4)
- 6 Praiseful poems describing eleven chemical compounds (6)
- 7 Makes a journal entry about excellent theater seats (5)
- 8 Harsh decree from princess on outskirts of Kent – blimey! (6)
- 9 Nine or so perverted implements used to flog (8; 2 wds)
- 16 Odd characters from UCLA hugging TV doctor; they might be tickled (6)
- 17 Padres reorganization is a concern for bookies (6)
- 19 Author Rombauer is into almost any pilot (6)
- 21 Disrupted Beefeater's stony formation (5)
- 22 Infamous stream's bile-green bridge (6)
- 24 Old man's samples: sweet baked goods (8)
- 28 Unmistakable cameramen finally invading retro dive, not heartlessly (7)
- 29 Split after something boring, heading toward a more elevated place (7; 2 wds)
- 30 Ken saw a refashioned cameo, maybe (7)
- 32 Meteor upset person prone to histrionics (6)
- 33 Where you'd find regalia and arcane artifact, but no crosses (6)
- 36 Regains consciousness and dries out (5)
- 39 *Jeopardy!* host endlessly brought up film critic (5)
- 41 Firecrackers exploded all over the place (4)

If you're new to cryptic crosswords and would like tips for solving clues, please contact the constructor at markhalpin3@gmail.com

WHAT DO WE DO? WE FLY- SOLUTION TO LAST ISSUE'S PUZZLE

In last issue's puzzle, clues were affected in numerous inconvenient ways. Explanations below give (restored anagrams*), [-food to be deleted from the clues], or {appropriate definition} as applicable. "Misplaced luggage" circled in the grid can be read left to right to get I RISE, LAND LATE or top to bottom to get DELTA AIRLINES.

Clue Notes

(* indicates an anagram; " " indicates a homophone)

Across 1. B + ITCHY (nasty*) 5. REDO + N + DO {California beach}
 10. EV + ILL + Y 11. GOING* + N [-beet] 12. LAIC + OS reversed [-liver]
 13. O + X + LIKE {bovine} 14. I + RAN (Persia*) 15. TRUS(TIE)S
 18. C(I)A [-noodle] 20. peoPLE Are 23. APS rev. + R [-pear] 24. double definition (roost*) 25. SEAT + O {defunct anti-Communist alliance}
 26. MISS* {various philosophies} 27. SI + E.G. + E (citadel*) 29. BAR* + N [-egg] 31. clARA RAved {Brazilian parrot} 34. VIE(W)S (gander*)
 35. ENDS* [-tater] 37. F + EEL 38. DA + B [-lamb]
 40. EM(-b)ROID(-e)R(-e)R* [-peas] 42. P(OK)E {jab} 43. "row pin" {slyly recruit}
 44. (-y)EARNER 45. E.T. + HICS {a set of moral rules}
 46. FUN(-d) + R(U)N (race*) 47. SE(TAN rev.)E + S 48. (-f)ATTEST (wares*)

Down 1. CABS* holding I (simple*) 2. I + IS OVER* {they might be tickled} 3. CLI(-p) + NICS (medical*) 4. HE + TRASH* [-date] 5. "rise" (breads*) 6. O(XI)DES 7. LOG(E)S 8. DI + KT + AT [-lime] 9. NINE OR SO* (golf*) 16. U(PHIL)L {heading...place} 17. PADRES*
 19. A(IRMA)N(-y) 21. EATER* [-beef] 22. biLE-GREEn (master*) 24. PA'S + TRIES 28. DIVE rev. + (-cam)E + N(-o)T [-ramen] 26. BIT + PART {cameo, maybe} 30. KEN SAW A* {regains consciousness} 32. METEOR* 33. AR(-t)IFAC(-t)* (Algeria*) 36. DRIES* {German numbers}
 39. TREBE(-k) rev. 41. FIRE* [-crackers]

1	B	2	I	T	3	C	4	H	Y	5	R	E	6	D	7	O	N	8	D	9	O
	A	10	V	I	L	E	L	Y	11	N	O	G	G	I	N						
12	S	O	C	I	A	L	E	13	O	X	L	I	K	E							
14	I	R	A	N	15	R	U	S	T	I	E	17	S	T	I						
18	C	I	19	A	I	T	20	P	21	A	22	L	E	23	S	P	A	R			
24	P	E	R	C	H	H	R	E	25	S	E	A	T	O							
26	I	S	M	S	27	S	I	E	G	28	E	29	B	R	30	A	N				
31	A	32	R	A	R	33	A	L	T	R	34	V	I	E	W	S					
35	S	E	N	36	T	37	L	E	E	I	T	38	D	A	39	B					
	T	40	M	I	R	R	O	41	R	E	D	42	P	O	K	E					
43	R	O	P	E	I	N	I	44	N	E	A	R	E	R							
45	E	T	H	I	C	S	46	F	U	N	R	U	N	E							
47	S	E	N	S	A	T	E	48	A	T	T	E	S	T							