



# Regular Season

## Safe!

Eric Berlin

Each picture clues a six-letter word. Each combination is a simple numeric cryptogram for one of these words, using the alphabetic positions of the letters. For example, in BANANA, A is the first letter alphabetically, B is the second, and N is the third, so its combination would be 21-31-31.

But in each combination, one of the numbers has been replaced by a zero. This letter is the one you need to take to arrive at the nine-letter answer to this puzzle.

The nine pictures and their combinations are:

- BANANA (01-31-31) (B)
- NEEDLE (42-21-01) (L)
- RECORD (53-10-52) (O)
- COWBOY (23-01-35) (W)
- STEREO (40-13-12) (T)
- LAPTOP (21-45-04) (O)
- GRILLE (20-34-41) (R)
- PONCHO (54-30-24) (C)
- CHEESE (10-22-42) (H)

The answer to this puzzle is **BLOWTORCH**.

## A Word from Our Sponsor

Eric Berlin

Each company whose logo is shown can be paired with one of the wordplay instructions to make the name of a city. In order of the wordplay instructions, these are:

- MITSUBISHI: Delete last four letters; reverse what remains; change the first and last letters to get AUSTIN.
- DOVE: Add an R at the end to get DOVER.
- MOBIL: Add an E at the end to get MOBILE.
- ATARI: Drop the R; add C and H; transpose to get ITHACA.
- SUBARU: The first syllable sounds like the first word of SIOUX FALLS.
- SOBE: Divide into a pair of bigrams; each bigram begins a word of SOUTH BEND.
- SPALDING: Change the last letter to O to get a letter bank of INDIANAPOLIS.
- YAMAHA: Change the first two letters to a single, different letter to get OMAHA.
- DEL MONTE: Delete the third letter and read NOME backwards in what remains.
- MASTERCARD: Change the last two letters to NO; transpose to get SACRAMENTO.

The first letters of the cities, in this order, spell out **ADMISSIONS**.

## Sabermetrics

Foggy Brume

Left-hand puzzle: SPYONACHUG

Middle puzzle: SRALITEPON

Right-hand puzzle: KARPINOLEC

Each solution can be matched up to one of the multiplication puzzles to get a baseball player:

- \*Cy Young (Total Wins, 511)
- \*Cal Ripken (Consecutive Games, 2,632)
- \*Pete Rose (Hits, 4,256)

Translate each record to the same code to get

**APP+ROPR+IATE.**

## Strikeouts

Mark Halpin

(with acknowledgements to the folks at Puzzability)

Each set of clues leads to the title of a movie if one letter is stricken from each of the answer words and the remainders are respaced. In addition, the stricken letters for each set themselves constitute a movie title if one letter is stricken. That last group of stricken letters, in clue order, spell the answer

## REPRESENTATION.

Th[ ]Jef / [R]ift / He[ ]I / [R]em / [S]jent =

The Fifth Element + Iri[R]s

[H]un / De[A]rth / Ev[E] / O[ ]I[ ]can / O[R] =

Under The Volcano + Ha[E]ir

Blad[D]er / [P]un / Ne[A]r =

Bladerunner + D[P]a

D[R]aw / N[U] / [S]oft / He[R]d / [H]ead =

Dawn Of The Dead + Rus[R]h

[F]ont / He[R] / Wa[ ]t / [D]er / [A]fro / [E]nt =

On The Waterfront + Frida[E]

[T]ame / Ric[O] / An[Y] / Gig[S] / [S]olo =

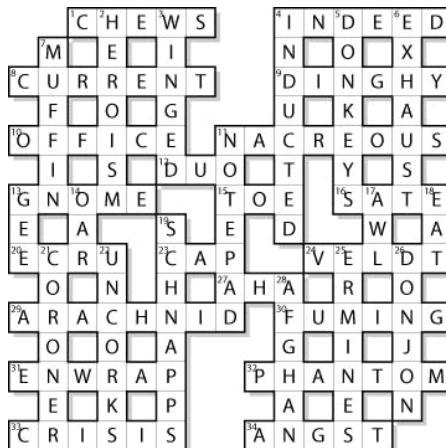
American Gigolo + Toys[S]

S[H]e / N[O]se / [L]and / Sens[E]i / Bil[E] / It[S]y =

Sense And Sensibility + Hole[E]s

[E]re / [D]arwin / Dow[N] =

Rear Window + E[N]d



Fin[S] / Ding[O] / Ne[T] / Mop[B] =

Finding Nemo + S.O.[T]B.

The[N] / Tru[E] / Ma[L] / N[A]sh / Ow[L] =

The Truman Show + Nel[A]I

S[H]in / Gin[O] / [T]in / [O]ther / A[K]in =

Singin' In The Rain + Ho[T]Jok

Re[F] / Po[I] / Man[X] =

Repo Man + F[I]X

Ti[E] / Me[L]ba / N[O]d / [F]its =

Time Bandits + El[O]f

Ca[R]s / Ta[N] / Wa[V]y =

Castaway + R[N]J

## Double Header

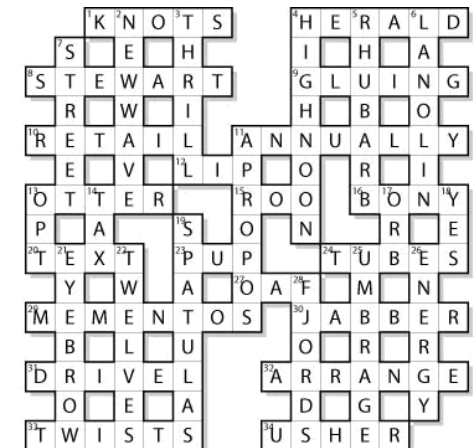
Mark Halpin

The grids may be filled as shown below, using one answer from each pair of clues in each grid:

Some clues are doubled, however, and in those cases each clue is missing its head. These can be restored by determining the grid answers from crossing words.

Each pair of added heads constitutes the first and last letter of a three-letter word clued by one of the "Double Play" clues. Reading the middle letter of these words in the original clue order spells the answer **DRUMSTICKS**.

Amen/Omen	ADO	Kerfuffle
Pearly/Yearly	PRY	Nose
A little cover/A little rover	CUR	Rotter
Irate/Prate	IMP	Rascal
Swaddle/Twaddle	SST	Plane
Alate/Elate	ATE	Put away
It might be buttered/ It might be guttered	BIG	Great
Paddle/Saddle	PCS	Dells, etc.
Sup/Yup	SKY	Yonder
Tower of a sort/ Power of a sort	TSP	Recipe spec.



## Mascots

Mark Halpin

As shown in Tallow's example, each line of text contains a clue for a word to be entered into the dashes below the image: in some order the first word, second word, and "bookends" word; the word fragments not used in the bookends form a guy's name. That name and the name of the character shown have exactly one letter in common. The animals all represent figures from the Chinese zodiac (note Tallow's "Wait 'til next year!" remark). Arranging the common letters in calendar order spells POLK, TAFT, ET AL. for the answer

### PRESIDENTS.

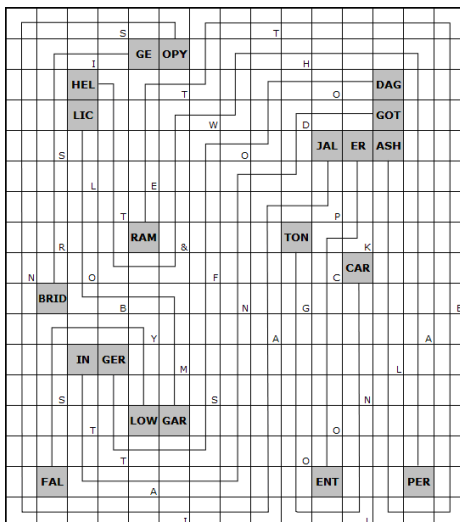
P	Splats (rat)	LEA[PED/RO]GUE
O	Stroppy (ox)	STAL[LION/EL]KS
L	McFluff (tiger)	CHAN[NELS/ON]CE
K	Pranks (rabbit)	CO[MIC/KEY]ED
T	Tallow (dragon)	TEA[CHES/TER]SE
A	Fangboy (snake)	MAN[TRA/VIS]AGE
F	Fandango (horse)	LEA[FLET/CHER]RY
T	Butch (sheep)	SA[TYR/ONE]LINE
E	Tinkles (monkey)	SPI[ED/GAR]NET
T	Stumpy (rooster)	CHIC[KEN/NETH]ER
A	Waggington (dog)	GRAM[MAR/CUS]PS
L	Mr. Piddly (pig)	PA[L/ANCE]STORS

## Line Drives

Nathan Fung

The pairs of associated shaded squares form the words ASHRAM, BRIDGE, CARTON, DAGGER, ENTER, FALLOW, GARLIC, HELPER, INGOT, and JALOPY.

Taking the letters along each path in alphabetical order of the words gives the message LETTERS IN LOGO OF STOCK SYMBOL T & WHAT AND PAINS. These clue ATT and ACHES, which can be joined to form the answer **ATTACHES**.



## Benchwarmers

Foggy Brume

Each game actually describes a landmark Supreme Court case.

- Ducks vs. Lambs: Marbury (R) v. Madison (N), notable for being the first time that the Supreme Court declared a law unconstitutional
- Bulldogs vs. Pitbulls: Dred Scott (O) v. Sandford (S), notable for the Supreme Court establishing that slaves were property.
- Cheetahs vs. Kittens: Plessy (L) v. Ferguson (U). This case upheld the notion of "separate but equal"
- Grouses vs. Macaws: Korematsu (O) v. United States (T). The Supreme Court sided with the government that, if national security were at stake, Japanese Americans could be interned without cause
- Helpers vs. Interns: Brown (N) v. Board of Education (C). Overturned Plessy vs. Ferguson, and helped paved the way for integration.
- Frogs vs. Jumpers: Miranda (I) v. Arizona (O). The case that established the Miranda Rights.
- Apples vs. Oranges: Bush (S) v. Gore (R). The 2000 election, in which the Supreme Court decided the outcome.
- Exterminators vs. Nukes: Citizens United (T) v. Federal Election Commission (E). The Supreme Court decided that corporations had free speech rights and should be treated like individuals. Mitt Romney tried to support the decision saying "Corporations are people."

The first teams listed begin with the letters A through H, and the second teams I through P. Using the score to index into the plaintiff or defendant gets SOLUTION **COUNTERS**.

## Regular Season Metapuzzle

MLB Crew

Each solution is synonymous with one of the team names. In addition, the name of the city of each team, including the spaces, is the same length as the answer word. In the order the teams were presented on the Roster:

blowtorch

NEW HAVEN Jets

presidents

BOCA RATON Chiefs

admissions

NOTRE DAME Confessors

representaTion

SALT LAKE CITY Icons

attaches

CAPE COD Clippers

appropriate

LITTLE ROCK Fitness

counters

SANTE FE Blocks

drumsticks

LONG BEACH Rhythm

To find a space to play, take the letters corresponding with spaces in the city names (2 for Salt Lake City), and you'll get **WISEACRES**.



# Playoffs

## Shagging Flies

Foggy Brume

Each of the clue answers is a phrase that contains an insect. However, in the grid, the insect shown in the grid is the one in parenthesis:

- ab(hor net) scape (roach)
- actin(g nat)ural (tick)
- cl(ear wig)gum (weevil)
- cryp(tic k)ittens (red ant)
- cu(spid er)osion (locust)
- explo(re Dant)le (midge)
- hal(f lea)gue (termite)
- lo(wa sp)oonerism (hornet)
- Jel(lo cust)omer (wasp)
- Je(ter mite)r (earwig)
- NA(SCAR ab)use (flea)
- Pee(wee vil)lain (spider)
- Pyra(mid ge)ms (mantis)
- see(m antis)ocial (scarab)
- Ze(ro ach)ievements (gnat)

It is possible, starting where the wasp should be, to trace out a path from insect to insect. This forms the letters MAM, which along with the otherwise unused MOTH form the answer **MAMMOTH**.

## Athletic Cups

Mark Halpin

The grid can be filled as shown (clue explanations below):

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

Filling the blanks below the grid with the appropriate cup contents yields the message IRON INTEGRATED INTO THICK SHIELD, a final cryptic clue giving the answer **DEFENSE** (de FE nse).

Clue explanations (\* indicates an anagram; “ indicates a homophone):

- Across 1A. eight...six initials 1B. PO(MAD)E 2A. CA(ROLE)R 2B. scoundREL I Caught 3A. DONNE\* 3B. GOB(LET)S 4A. U+N(C)ANNY 4B. double def. 5A. NI+HI+LIST 5B. (-o)N A PE(-t) 6A. (-v)ITO 6B. SINCE+REST 7A. BIL(-lion)AIRE\* 7B. H+NAME reversed 8A. BO(GOT)A 8B. BEN\* around (-m)OVI(-e) 9A. rEd GuArD 9B. EL+D(R)ITCH 10A. GRAPE\* 10B. “free + holy” 11A. ENDOR+S.E. 11B. double def. 12A. (-p)ARTAKE\* 12B. TI(PP+L)E

- Cups (in clue order) 1. AGAPE = A+G+APE 2. AL-FREDO = FLA(-v)ORED\* 3. (-m)ALICE 4. AN(T+S)Y 5. CABDRIVER = CARVE BIRD\* 6. DRAKE = DARE\* holding K 7. EMINENT = TEN MEN I\* 8. GRACE = GRA(d/C)E 9. HELOT = H(E[-ar]L)OT 10. HOB-GOBLIN = HOB(GO)BLIN(-g) 11. wHOLESome 12. JUPITER = JU(-st)+TRIP\* holding E 13. N+AILING 14. O(-r)ATES 15. OUNCE = ON CUE\* 16. PROB(L)E+M 17. SEE+PAGE 18. SERIN = SIREN\* 19. YE(LP)S

## Charging the Mound

Nathan Fung

For each price list, the prices follow a certain rule. Using this rule, it is possible to match it to one of the values for the Mounds bar. Each list also has an item whose value is to be identified using that rule.

From left to right, top to bottom:

- \$1 per enclosed area in letters matches with Week 4
- The sum of the value of the letters that are Roman numerals (taken in cents) matches Week 1
- \$.03 per letter in the first half of the alphabet and \$3 per letter in the second half of the alphabet matches with Week 9
- \$1 per syllable matches with week 8
- The sum of the letters taken alphanumerically (in cents) matches Week 5
- \$.03 per letter with ascender and \$3 per letter with descender matches Week 7
- Alphanumeric value of the last letter alphabetically (in dollars) matches Week 3
- Atomic number (taken in dollars) of the chemical symbol that matches the first two letters matches Week 6
- \$.02 per consonant and \$3 per vowel matches Week 2

When ordered by the week list at top, the values to be identified are \$16, \$15.14, \$26, \$9, \$1.14, \$4, \$3.15, \$12, \$15.18. Taken alphanumerically this spells out PONZI AND COLOR cluing the answer **SCHEMES**.

## Game Day Tickets

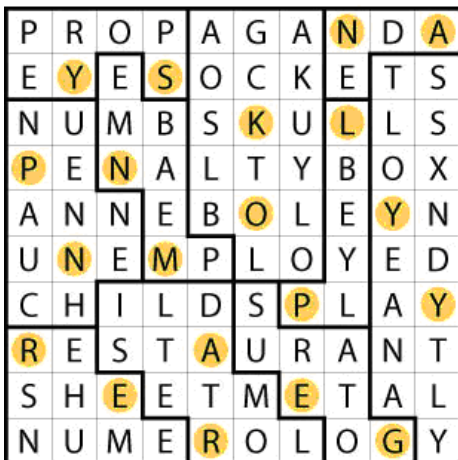
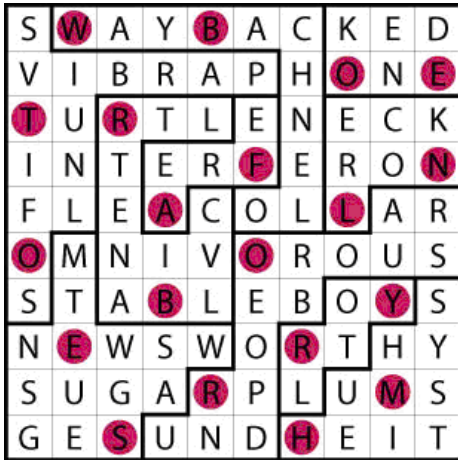
Nathan Fung

When assembled, the pieces will form a cube with standard numbered faces (1 and 6 on opposite sides, 2 and 5 etc). Following the math for the symbols, one will get the numbers 3-12-21-20-3-8. This translates to **CLUTCH**.

## Farm Teams

Mark Halpin

Completed puzzles appear below. Reading spaces with farms column by column in each grid yields three sets of clues:



TOWERS / ABBR. FOR HOLY MEN (AAA / STS.)  
 PRYNNE'S MARK / OPENLY GAY (A / OUT)  
 SOBER GROUP / A TELETUBBY (AA / PO)

The first answer in each pair indicates a Minor League division; placing the other answers in division order spells the answer **OUTPOSTS**.

## Superstitions

Mark Halpin & Nathan Fung

Each line of text is a clue transformed following a rule. This rule can then be applied to the clued word or phrase to transform it into a string that is two words each with its own associated phobia name (cross grids disambiguate where more than one plausible phobia name exists).

A. Loose irregular poetry with name possibly derived from an animal: DOGGEREL. Insert S between double letters, change last two letters of each word to MS. DOGS GERMS. CYNOPHO[B]IA / MY(S)OPHOBIA.

B. Playwright who wrote The Tempest: SHAKE-SPEARE. Change H to N and P to F and delete the last letter. SNAKES FEAR. OPH[I]DIOPHOBIA / (P) HOBOPHOBIA.

C. Sanguinary word for somebody who likes violence: BLOODTHIRSTY. Delete L and S, add an N to the end of every word, change Y to EE and D to KS. BOOKS THIRTEEN. B(I)BLIOPHOBIA / T[R] ISKAIDEKAPHOBIA

D. Word meaning company, rigid too: FIRM. Replace first three letters of each word with a word that sounds phonetically equivalent and add a phonetic letter to the end of each word that is one after the last letter. FUR MEN. (D)ORAPHOBIA / AN[D]ROPHOBIA

E. Dolenz, Nesmith, Tork, and Jones were members of the: MONKEES. Take the third letter of any word and add it after the fourth letter (if it exists) and repeat the second letter immediately after itself. MOON KNEES. [S]ELENOPHOBIA / G(E) NUPHOBIA

F. In America, the chips in fish and chips: FRENCH FRIES. Change the letter before each I to an L. FRENCH FLIES. [F]RANCOPHOBIA / PTERONA(R) COPHOBIA

G. The Lost Dutchman supposedly had one in Superstition Mountains: GOLD MINE. Delete any L and move the last letter of every other word (starting with the second word) back one letter in the alphabet. GOD MIND. THEOPHOB[I]A / P(S) YCHOPHOBIA

H. Biological term for the thinnest fiber type in cytoskeleton made of actin: MICROFILAMENT. Change L to N, A to E, R to EC and add an N before any sixth letter. MICE CONFINEMENT. MU[S]OPHOBIA / (C)LAUSTROPHOBIA

I. The place that is rocked in the song by The Clash: CASBAH. Change both H and T to TS. CATS BATS. AI(L)UROPHOBIA / C[H]IROPTOPHOBIA

J. Colloquial name for Australia or Men At Work hit song: DOWN UNDER. Change the first letter of every other word starting with the first word to CL and add STH before every U. CLOWNS THUNDER. C(O)ULROPHOBIA / BRON[T]OPHOBIA

K. Chris Sarandon and Colin Ferrell play the same vampire in movies with this name: FRIGHT NIGHT. Add an S to the end of each word; change the first two letters of every other word starting with the first word to HE and change the first letter of every other word starting with the second word to E. HEIGHTS EIGHTS. AC[R]OPHOBIA / OC(T)OPHOBIA

L. Things that are desired: WANTS. Insert an SI prefix (in increasing size) after the second letter of each word. WATER ANTS. (H)YDROPHOBIA / MYRM[E]COPHOBIA

M. Principle in Ultima along with Truth and Love. COURAGE. Change first letter to F and E to ING. FOUR AGING. T(E)TRAPHOBIA / G[E]RONTOPHOBIA

N. Internet tools, for example Google, utilized to find information online. SEARCH ENGINES. For every other word starting with the second word, delete the second and third letters and move the first letter to the end. Then, delete any R. SEA CHINESE. THALA(S)SOPHOBIA / [S]JINOPHOBIA

The phobia names of each pair can be entered into the corresponding lettered cross so that the first word's phobia is entered horizontally (and goes over the first number in the clue) and the second is entered vertically (and goes over the second number in the clue).

The 1s in clue order spell out SPIDERS CLOTHES and the 2s in clue order spell out BIRDS FISH TREES. These words clue the fears arachnophobia, vestiphobia, ornithophobia, ichthyophobia, dendrophobia whose initial letters spell out the answer **AVOID**.

## Team Management

Nathan Fung

The matchboxes can be filled with three entries in each of the ten team categories. The flowchart shows which category the first and last entry are in and also shows arrows to indicate which categories are able to follow each other in the chain. Each arrow is used once.

The entries are as follows:

- Christopher Columbus
- Pabst
- Discus
- Captain Hook
- Luke Skywalker
- Cuban
- Four Thousand
- Goliath
- Delaware
- Leif Erikson
- Marathon
- Crimson
- Seventy
- Molson Coors
- Nepalese
- Castor
- Chippewa
- Jack Sparrow
- Paul Bunyan
- Romulus
- Long Jump
- Sioux
- Yuengling
- Stay Puft Marshmallow Man
- Scarlet
- Long John Silver
- Thirteen
- Henry Hudson
- Libyan
- Burgundy

The letters in the shaded boxes can be placed in the three blanks (in order as they are in the chain) to spell out WORD AND EXCEL ARE IN MICROSOFT THIS cluing the answer **OFFICE**

## Adjustments to the Lineup

Eric Berlin

The two halves of each grid can be pushed together ("lined up") in two different ways, to make different sets of words. In each half of the grid, however, is a letter that won't "go the distance"—it is not used in the longer word. These letters, read in order, spell the word **DIVIDING**.

			O	C	U	L	A	R	
J			G	E	I	L	S		
E	N			A	M	E	L		
C	A	R			E	S	S		
D	U	N	L				O	P	
P	H	O	T	O					N
P	A	T	T	E	R				

			O	O	D	L	E	S	
D			R	O	N	E	D		
V	I			K	I	N	G		
C	O	O			P	E	R		
P	R	O	S				I	T	
C	O	R	N	E					A
C	H	I	M	E	R				

			E	A	S	I	N	G	
L			A	N	C	E	S		
S	E			R	I	A	L		
C	O	R			K	E	R		
S	T	A	L			I	N		
I	N	V	A	D				E	
H	I	T	H	E	R				

			A	R	T	I	E	R	
C			R	I	S	E	S		
I	N			D	I	U	M		
S	T	A			G	E	S		
F	A	R	C				R	Y	
F	O	R	G	E					T
S	A	N	D	R	A				

## Best of Five

MLB Crew

Each answer in the playoffs has five distinct letters. These letters will be used for the sample poker grids.

Game 1

AL East: Full House (Qs over 3s) in the SW-NE diagonal

AL West: Three of a kind (4s, J and 7 kicker) in middle column.

AL East wins 1542-930

Game 2

AL Central: Straight (A-5), middle row

AL Wild: Two pair (Q/Js, 10 kicker), second column

AL Central wins 1115-356

Game 3

NL East: Three of a kind (Aces, J/K kicker), second row

NL West: Straight (5-9), top row

NL West wins, 1135-925

Game 4

NL Central: Full House (5s over As), fourth column

NL Wild: Straight Flush (8-QS), left column

NL Wild wins, 3050-1517

In each case, two cards are not used:

- AL East (9S-A, 8H-O)
- AL West (3D-D, 4D-S)
- AL Central (7H-E, QD-M)
- AL Wild (2H-C, 3S-H)
- NL East (2S-T, 10C-S)
- NL West (8D-A, AC-O)
- NL Central (10H-F, 7S-E)
- NL Wild (6C-D, 5D-I)

If the leftover cards are arranged in suit order, lowest to highest, one gets THEA/CEOF/DIAM/ONDS. **THE ACE OF DIAMONDS** is the answer.

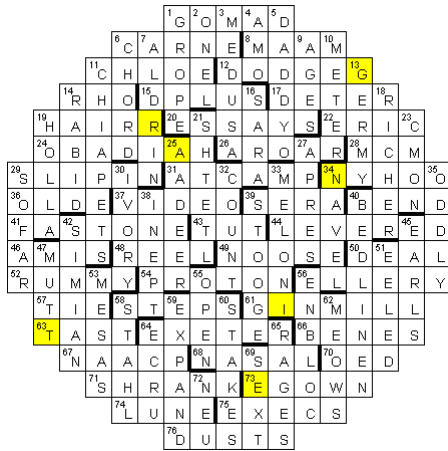


# Divisionals

## Hardball

Eric Berlin

In this ball-shaped grid, answers conflict in seven places—one direction provides the rebus BALL, and the other direction provides a letter. If you write both of these into the seven spaces, you will have seven circled letters at the end, which spell **GRANITE**.



## Seventh Inning Stretch

Foggy Brume

Each set of clues gives six answers that overlap to form a string. The ends of the string provide the 7th item in a series. In each set, there is one instance of (not seven) given in a clue. A specific number can be substituted to make it work.

(4-legged) LIB-YA-ZOO-M-ANTEL-OPE-RA = LIBRA

(7th sign of the Zodiac, 4th is Cancer)

(2 consecutive) JACK-STRAW-MAN-TRA-CY-AN-SON = JACKSON (7th president, 2nd was Adams)

(6 letter) CHAR-MIN-IM-O-ORCH-ID-IOT = CHARIOT

(7th card of the Major Arcana, 6th is Lovers)

(8 ball) NIT-PICK-LE-GROOM-ING-EST-ROGEN = NITROGEN (7th element of the Periodic Table, 8th is Oxygen)

(2 or more) T-ALL-OYS-TER-RAIN-COAT-I = TI (7th note in the Solfege scale, 2nd is Re)

(6th season) CA-NA-TALENT-ICED-TEA-RS = CARS (7th Pixar film, 6th was the Incredibles)

(2nd leader) JU-STIN-KING-DAVID-HUME-RI-DGES = JUDGES (7th book of the Bible, 2nd is Exodus)

Taking the first letters of the items corresponding with the correct numbers give **CALORIE**.

## Road Trip

Foggy Brume

Each cryptogram can be solved using standard solving techniques:

- Kind of box that stereotypically provides refuge for the urban homeless (Cardboard)
- The name of this European capital literally means "Rivermouth of the sandbars" (Not a speedy set of chimes) (Belfast)
- Major party currently controlling the House of Representatives but not the Senate (Republican)
- Along with the King and Joker, it's often the only other male character in a deck of card (Jack)
- Greek symbol that represents standard deviation in probability statistic (Sigma)
- Military personnel are sometimes awoken at sunrise to this bugle call (Reveille)
- The magazines *Soldier of Fortune*, *Gung Ho!*, and *Eagle* are ostensibly written for this type of professional. (Mercenary)

Resolving each answer in the code for that cryptogram gives what appears to be a series of placenames with a letter added:

- Hong (R) Kong
- Utop(R)ia
- Singapor(C)e
- (T)Rio
- B(E)ali
- Moro(A)cco
- (H)Zanzibar

These are the seven destinations Hope and Crosby went to in the Road to... movies. In film order, the extra letters spell **CHARTER**.

## Tools of the Trade

Eric Berlin

Normal clues, normal answers:

- Drawer part: KNOB
- Faraway friend, perhaps: PENPAL
- Poor part of town: GHETTO
- Huffy products: BIKES
- Washington's veep: ADAMS
- Many a Nielsen movie: SPOOF

Clues with one letter changed:

- Hive's counterpart: SEEK (hide)
- \_\_\_ tune: BOOB (tube)
- Having a lot of trains: SMART (brains)
- Player follower: AMEN (prayer)

- Count's activity: TRIAL (court's)
- Flying toe: JETLAG (woe)

Answers which must be scrambled before entry:

- Double-checked the duration of: RETIMED/DEMERTIT
- Crunchy Mexican entrees: TACOS/ASCOT
- Long-term food containers: TINS/ISN'T
- More macho: MANLIER/MINERAL
- Ironworker's place: FORGE/GOFER
- Took a nap: RESTED/DESERT

Answers where the first and last letter must be changed before entry:

- Take a nap: SLEEP/BLEED
- Go in: ENTER/ANTES
- Open-back shoes: MULES/JULEP
- Judo teacher: SENSEI/LENSES
- Open a bottle of wine: UNCORK/ENCORE
- Radiate light: SHINE/CHINA

Answers that must be transformed in a manner you must determine (deleting two letters, then reversing):

- Comic's repertoir: ROUTINES/SENIOR (deleting UT)
- Cover with plastic: LAMINATE/ANIMAL (deleting TE)
- Back, as a political candidate: ENDORSE/ERODE (deleting NS)
- Mom and dad: PARENTS/STRAP (deleting EN)
- Created anew: REBUILT/TUBER (deleting IN)
- Nautical passage: STRAIT/TART (deleting SI)

The six pairs of letters you delete in the final category are: UT/TE/EN/NS/SI/IL. The answer to this puzzle is **UTENSIL**.



## Best of Seven

MLB Crew

Each seven-letter answer word can be played as a bingo on the Scrabble board as shown below:

The scores for each word are given, and determine the outcome of their respective games. Additionally, the letters from each play that fall into circles on the board spell out, in diminishing score order, the identity of the Least Valuable Player in this case: THE ORGANIST



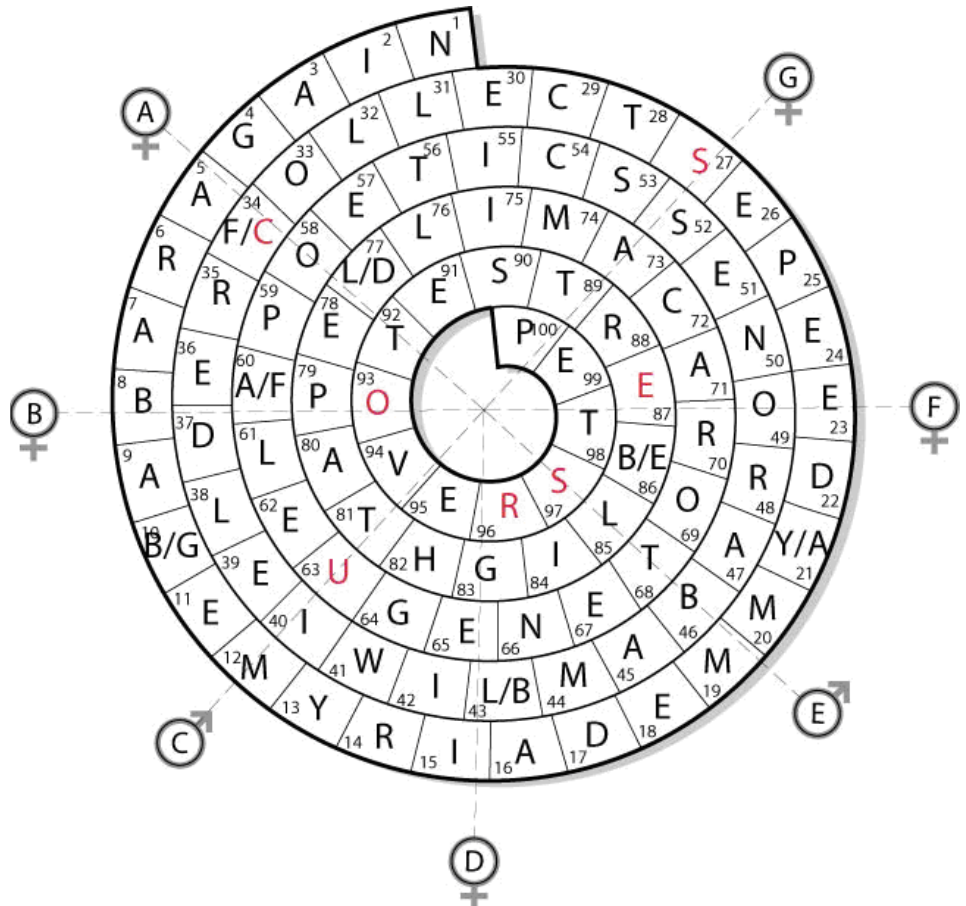
CHARTER	TERPSICHOREAN / HASPS	96 pts	TH
CALORIE	ALLEGORICAL	95 pts	EOR
GRANITE	REINTEGRATION / TA / AI	90 pts	GAN
UTENSIL	BIOLUMINESCENT / LEDGE / LIEU	87 pts	IST



## It's the Wind Up...

Mark Halpin

The grid may be filled as shown to the right. In seven cases, Inward and Outward letters conflict. All of the Inward entries in which this occurs are proper names, and each of the conflicting Outward letters are unique, A-G. Thus, a proper name can be assigned to each of the letters spokes going into the grid; in order: Emmy, Wilma, Fred, Camille, Gilbert, Opal, Babe (the sex symbols with the letters confirm this). Each of these is the name of a hurricane (as hinted by various references in the intro, "wind up" instead of "wind-up", and the grid itself). Counting into the grid by the 1-5 category of each hurricane spells the answer **COURSES**.



## ...and the Pitch

Eric Berlin

Each "pitch" describes two television shows. If you take the start of the first show and the end of the other, you will get a common word, which is clued by one of the Executive Responses. Taking the proper letter of this word and reading down, you get the message ANSWER IS **PROGRAM**.

- ED/JERICO = ECHO
- CHARMED/ALICE = CHALICE
- FAME/ELLEN = FALLEN
- CRASH/TREME = CREME
- COACH/ENTOURAGE = COURAGE
- CHEERS/SCRUBS = CHERUBS
- GLEE/ZOOM = GLOOM
- ROME/FRASIER = ROSIER
- GREED/LINGO = GRINGO
- HUNG/CASTLE = HUSTLE
- PROVIDENCE/LOST = PROVOST
- EXTRAS/FRIENDS = EXTENDS
- MONK/HOTEL = MONTEL
- WEEDS/REAPER = WEEPER
- SOAP/HOUSE = SOUSE

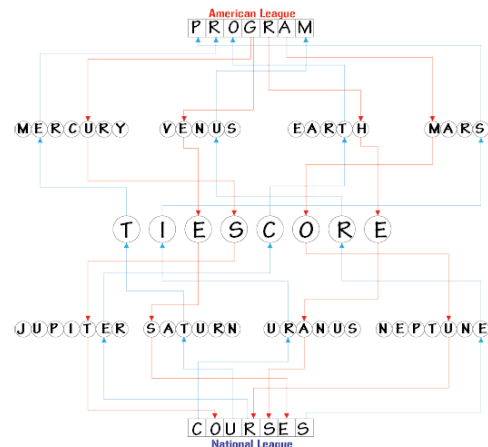
### Executive Responses

- fallen (a)
- gringo (n)
- souse (s)
- weeper (w)
- extends (e)
- cherubs (r)
- rosier (i)
- hustle (s)
- provost (p)
- courage (r)
- echo (o)
- gloom (g)
- creme (r)
- chalice (a)
- Montel (m)

## World Series Meta

MLB Crew

Entering the two answers, PROGRAM and COURSES in the top and bottom respectively is part of the puzzle. One must enter a series of worlds (the planets in our solar system) to complete the puzzle. It is then possible to derive eight 5-letter words reading in the directions of the arrows.



The words are formed (in order of the large circles they pass through) UTTER, CRISP, GEESE, GUSTO, RECTO, AMOUR, SERUM, and RHEAS. The result? A **TIE SCORE**. Entering this gave solvers the Extra Innings puzzle.





# Extra Innings

This puzzle is an acrostic where most of the important words in various clues are replaced with numbers. The answers for each puzzle for a particular team can be used to create the first eight clues:

- Blocks: Courses Calorie Counters Avoid
- Confessors: Charter School Admission Schemes
- Rhythm: Utensil for Dividing Drumsticks
- Chiefs: Mammoth Granite Presidents
- Icons: A member of the Representation for the Defense.
- Clippers: Outposts for Attaches
- Fitness: Appropriate from the Office
- Jets: Team for Blowtorch and Clutch

The answers to these clues are (in order), Desserts, Lotteries, Carving Knife, Rushmore, Attorney, Embassies, Embezzle, G.I. Joe

These letters should be enough to ascertain several words of the acrostic text. Notably, each contributes one letter to MUDVILLE, suggesting that the text is either *Casey at the Bat* or a pastiche of it. Working from just these letters, and starting to fill in the remaining words, one gets the pastiche text:

*Oh, somewhere in this favored land the sun is shining bright;  
 Your team is solving something, and the answers fit just right,  
 And somewhere men are riddling, and somewhere puzzlers shout;  
 But there's no a-ha in Mudville — Casey's answer was struck out*

Working backwards, it's possible to determine what the words in the other 22 clues are supposed to be. (The clues are conveniently ordered alphabetically by missing word.) In addition, each word that has been replaced with a 1 can be matched up with one of the 22 teams that did not make the playoffs. In order:

Early	Advance	Leapfrogs
Humans	Anthropologists	Primates
Down Under	Australians	Wallabies
The White Shadow	Basketball	Nets
Twenty One	Blackjacks	Saps
Aguilera	Burlesque	Strips
Russe	Charlotte	Spiders
Draughts	Checkerboard	Squares
Highlights	Children	Spawn
Housewives	Desperate	Rash
Justice	Frankfurter	Dogs
Heat	Incandescence	Glow
On the Move	Mannequin	Dummies
Samsa	Metamorphosis	Commuters
Rene Descartes	Philosopher	Deep
Wallace	Prevaricate	Fibbers
Payton Manning	Quarterback	Eagles
Chambord	Raspberries	Cheers
Alone	Shakedown	Squeeze
Yorktown	Surrender	Uncles
David Ruffin	Temptations	Sirens
Harold Hutchins	Underpants	Boxers

We now have synonyms for each team, not just the eight that made the playoffs. Using the same technique we used in Round 1, we can get 1 to 2 letters per team by lining up the synonym and city. (e.g. Hilton Head/Temptations)

temptations	attaches
Hilton Head Sirens	Cape Cod Clippers
metamorphosis	raspberries
Atlantic City Commuters	Chapel Hill Cheers
checkerboard	incandescence
Mount Vernon Squares	New York City Glow
blowtorch	frankfurter
New Haven Jets	Nova Scotia Dogs
presidents	basketball
Boca Raton Chiefs	Fort Myers Nets
mannequin	appropriate
La Crosse Dummies	Little Rock Fitness
surrender	blackjacks
Moose Jaw Uncles	Sioux City Saps
underpants	prevaricate
Des Moines Boxers	Fond Du Lac Fibbers
quarterback	shakedown
Kansas City Eagles	Ann Arbor Squeeze
admissions	philosopher
Notre Dame Confessors	Baton Rouge Deep
australians	anthropologists
walla walla wallabies	Mount St Helens Primates
desperate	advance
Santa Ana Rash	El Paso Leapfrogs
representation	counters
Salt Lake City Icons	Santa Fe Blocks
burlesque	charlotte
Las Vegas Strips	San Diego Spiders
children	drumsticks
San Jose Spawn	Long Beach Rhythm

Reading the letters from all 30 teams this way gives you the answer  
**THE WINNERS ARE ALL CRACKERJACK SOLVERS.**