ANSWERS AND SOLUTIONS

Obama And McCain Cross Words

LEMUR
UNCLE
PACES
OBAMA
ILIAL
DENSE

Simon Says

Happy Christmas and peace on earth to you all Simon and Bridget Nightingale.

What’s In? – A Name – Part III

1. CARLOa d
2. SERGEa nt
3. cALAMa ri
4. chALICE
5. charDONNAy
6. MARIAchi
7. conVINCE
8. cELLISt
9. deCLARa tion
10. disGRAce
11. disROBIn g
12. BELLAdonna
13. STEVEDore
14. excELLEn ce
15. freeLANCer
16. gRANDlose
17. CLIFFhanger
18. hemaTOMaS
19. heARTier
20. hysterICAL

21. BASILica
22. ineBRIANt
23. liBRETTo
24. FRANKly
25. GERRYmander
26. mAGNESium
27. MARIOnette
28. ETHANol
29. parSIMONY
30. pregNANCY
31. MARTYrdom
32. rescINDing
33. sPEARlike
34. sANITArY
35. VIOLa te
36. CHRIS ten
37. univerSALLY
38. vILENESS
39. wHO LLY or wANTON
40. SASHAy ed
Even More Consecutive Palindromic Triads

Steve Kahan

1. aneMOMETeR
2. astTUTENESS
3. basILISKs
4. CICADAE
5. cnteRPRISING
6. exEGESIS
7. frACASES
8. EVENING
9. gatEKEEPER
10. lIMITATIoN
11. OvQvivarious
12. jardINIERE
13. lyrICISTS
14. micrOCOSMS
15. miliTIAMan
16. NONEXempt
17. noNENTITY
18. parmIGIANA
19. poRTRAYAL
20. PortUGUESE
21. GIgoloRs
22. seAFARER
23. tRIEME
24. terORIZING
25. IRISHStew

Three Puzzle Games on Pelargoniums

Jeremiah and Karen Farrell

Puzzle 1:  

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Puzzle 2

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Puzzle 3

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Puzzlements

1. nerve (nerves)  2. six (IX)  3. seven (even)  4. 21 (It’s a list of those integers spelled with an odd number of letters.)  5. a frequent and insincere promise giver  6. the UN-building  7. condor

8. No, according to most dictionaries, and Scrabble, even “ageree” isn’t a word. These august authorities are, shall we say, dis-agreeers. But I’m a dis-agreeee. H. W. Fowler in the equally august Modern English Usage (Oxford 1926) states that “the agent termination -er can be added to any English verb.” Sadly, -ee is not listed there at all. Shucks, the whole point of the question was an excuse to use four e’s in a row. But even there I should perhaps settle for threee, modelling on “agreed” rather than “agreede”. Agreee?

9. Rhyme endings, with approximate word counts: -ation 1100, -ate 975, -ism 845* (Who said Ismism is dead?), -ize (including -ys/-ies) 775, -ay (long a) 615, -ility 440, -on (as in con) 415, -ow (as in low) 400, -ee 390 [but not -er!], -ary 385. */ For almost every -ism I’d expect an -ist, yet surprisingly -ist didn’t come close to making the list, at a mere 52 rhymes. M-W obviously has no truck with communists or Methodists, thus indicating the arbitrariness of these answers. Another example that M-W failed to list is the large numbers of -ess endings whose ultimate syllables have primary or secondary accents, both -less and -ness. They list 120 -ess rhymes but include no -ness and only 3 -less (un-, none- and nevertheless). Add this carelessness to the deficiency of -ist endings and the Merriam-Webster Essential Rhyming Dictionary’s definitiveness is looking shaky. Can you think of other major suffixes that have been slighted? There are only 23 listings for -able, for example, but most of the -ables I could think of have antepenultimate accents, which dis enables them.

10. The 6 (with a common-letter A-neighbor each): Burundi (Tanzania), Republic of the Congo (Dem. Rep. of the Congo), Lesotho (South Africa), Niger (Mali), Seychelles (Madagascar), Turkey (Iraq). The other 25: Belgium (France), Belize [Brit. Honduras] (Guatemala), Benin [Dahomey] (Nigeria), Brunei (Malaysia), Chile (Argentina), Comoros (Madagascar), Côte D’Ivoire [Ivory Coast] (Liberia), Cyprus (Syria), Czech Rep. (Slovak Rep.), Djibouti (Ethiopia), Egypt (Libya), Fiji (Solomon Is.), Greece (Bulgaria), Hong Kong (China), Liechtenstein (Austria), Luxembourg (Germany), Mexico (USA), Morocco (Algeria), Peru (Brazil), Philippines (Taiwan), Puerto Rico (Dominican Rep.), Sweden (Norway), Togo (Ghana), United Kingdom (Ireland), Yemen (Oman).

11. Surprisingly, only 4-7 pairs of truly contiguous nations lack a common letter in their map names: Chad-Niger, Egypt-Sudan, Peru-Colombia, Yemen-Saudi Arabia, ± Togo-Benin [but not Dahomey], Albania-Greece [but not Hellas/Ellas/Hellenic Rep.] and Ghana-Côte d’Ivoire [but not Ivory Coast]. However 10 more ill-letterate pairs are neighbors directly across an expanse of water: Cyprus-Lebanon, Djibouti-Yemen, Latvia-Sweden, Morocco-Spain, 2 for Tanzania—with Comoros and Seychelles, and a whopping 5 for Fiji—with Vanuatu, Tuvalu, Samoa, Nauru and Tonga. Combining the two lists, Yemen also has two. But not a single pair of neighboring countries anywhere lack a common letter in their official names, largely because so many are named Republic of.

12. This was a trick question. There are 19 states sharing one or more letters with all the others, 20 if you count Washington DC. Fifteen (AZ, CA, IN, LA, ME, MI, MN, NH, NC, PA, RI, SC, VA, WA, WV) contain the letters A, N and I (occurring in 36, 33, and 28 states respectively), at least one of which letters occurs in every state. Three of the other four (GA, MT, SD) contain an O, occurring in 27 states, plus A. MA needs six letters to connect to all: A, S (in 21 states), E (20), T (15), H (14) or M (13).

13. The most out of touch state is OH, which nonetheless misses only twelve. Ten others miss more than three: AL, KY and UT miss 9, MS 8, TN 7, AK and OR 6, NJ 5, HI and ID 4.

14. Yes. The unconnected neighbors are: AL-TN, KY-OH and UT-WY. Add UT-NM if they be taken as contiguous at a mathematical point. One might arguably count OR-AK and OR-HI, although both Alaska and Hawaii are nearer to another state that to Oregon.

All the Perfumes of Arabia

Leonard R. N. Ashley


Punk Whiz 5

1. clockwise 19. far-fetched
2. wishing well 20. anti-aircraft
3. dialectical materialism 21. get down!
4. daughter cells 22. heterophony
5. free country 23. heart of stone
6. (a) curry flavor (b) favor 24. play the fool
7. enlightenment 25. gutsy or gusty
8. get it together 26. symatics
9. bar maids 27. middle of the road
10. baby 28. bermuda shorts
11. can do 29. light year
12. pass the buck 30. population bomb
13. protestation (Protest Station) 31. have no beef with
14. given the sack 32. keep the home fires burning.
15. endomorphic rock 33. Jerry-built
16. blood shed 34. up in arms
17. toilet toilette 35. wait and see.
18. privy 36. inconceivable

Bionyms

John Holgate

APPLE SAUCE – Michael Wilding (a wilding is either a wild apple or an outrageous rampage usually involving sexual attacks)
THE BURIED DAY – Cecil Day Lewis
COURTING TRIUMPH – Virginia Wade
THE GOOD THE BAD AND THE BUBBLY – George Best
JACK OF ALL TRADES – Jack Warner
LIFE IS TOO SHORT – Mickey Rooney
MORE OR LESS – Kenneth More
ODD MAN OUT – Ronald Biggs
ON THE OTHER HAND – Fay Wray
STRAIGHT SHOOTING – Robert Stack
TAKE IT LIKE A MAN – Boy George
TALL DARK AND GRUESOME – Christopher Lee
A YOUNG MAN’S PASSAGE – Julian Clary

Back Cover

Oscar Thumbprintle