ANSWERS AND SOLUTIONS

Obama And McCain Cross Words

LE MUR
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. CARLO ad 21. BASILica
2. SERGE ant 22. ine BRIAN t
3. cALAMARi 23. li BRETT o
4. chALICE 24. FRANKly
5. char DONNA y 25. GERRY mander
6. MARIA chi 26. mAGNESium
7. con VINE C 27. MARIOnette
8. cELLISt 28. ETHANol
9. deCLARA tion 29. par SIMONY
10. disGRACE 30. pregNANCY
11. dis ROB IN g 31. MARTY rdom
12. BELLA donna 32. resCINDing
13. STEVEdore 33. sPEARLike
14. excELlence 34. sANITYary
15. freeLANCE r 35. VIOLate
16. gRANDiose 36. CHRISten
17. CLIFFhanger 37. univerSALLY
18. hemaTOMAS 38. vILENESS
19. he ARTIER 39. wHOLLY or wANTON
20. hystErical 40. SASHAyed
### Even More Consecutive Palindromic Triads

1. a n e M O M E T E r
2. a s T U T E N E s s
3. b a s I L I S K S
4. C I C A D A e
5. c n t e R P R I S I n g
6. e x E G E S I S
7. f r A C A S E S
8. E V E N I N g
9. g a t E K E E P E r
10. I M I T A T I o n
11. O V O V I V i p a r o u s
12. j a r d I N I E R E
13. l y r I C I S T S
14. m i c r O C O S M S
15. m i l I T I A M A n
16. N O N E X E m p t
17. n o N E N T I T y
18. p a r m I G I A N A
19. p o R T R A Y A l
20. P o r t U G U E S E
21. G I G O L O s
22. s e A F A R E R
23. t R I R E M E
24. t e r R O R I Z I n g
25. I R I S H S t e w

### Three Puzzle Games on Pelargoniums

**Jeremiah and Karen Farrell**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Puzzle 1:</th>
<th>Puzzle 2</th>
<th>Puzzle 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OUR LIP SAN GEM</td>
<td>OUR UMP NUL GUS</td>
<td>OUR UMP MOA RAP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PES MOA RIG NUL</td>
<td>IOS LIP NIM RIG</td>
<td>GUS NUL LAG SAN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIM GUS OLE RAP</td>
<td>OLE PES ERN GEM</td>
<td>RIG NIM GEM ERN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAG ERN UMP IOS</td>
<td>MOA RAP SAN LAG</td>
<td>IOS LIP OLE PES</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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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 “agreeer” 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 threeee, modelling on “agreed” rather than “agreedee”. 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!], -ar(ry) 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 disenables 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 (Cyprus), 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-Cote d’Ivoire [but not Ivory Coast]. However 10 more ill-lettered 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 neighbours 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
2. wishing well
3. dialectical materialism
4. daughter cells
5. free country
6. (a) curry flavor (b) favor
7. enlightenment
8. get it together
9. bar maids
10. baby
11. can do
12. pass the buck
13. protestation (Protest Station)
14. given the sack
15. endomorphic rock
16. blood shed
17. toilet toilette
18. privy
19. far-fetched
20. anti-aircraft
21. get down!
22. heterophony
23. heart of stone
24. play the fool
25. gutsy or gusty
26. symatics
27. middle of the road
28. bermuda shorts
29. light year
30. population bomb
31. have no beef with
32. keep the home fires burning.
33. Jerry-built
34. up in arms
35. wait and see.
36. inconceivable

Bonyms

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 Thumpbindle