THE HAM GRAM

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A Ham Gram is an American-style pun-anagram crossword puzzle. Each clue sentence (of nine words or less) contains a concealed answer, as well as its overt synonym. In the examples below, the synonym is underlined, and the letters of the covert answer are capitalized; the answer is then given in parenthesis. Several varieties of clues can be distinguished.

1. The letters of the answer are contained in proper order in two or more words of the clue sentence (ignoring spaces or punctuation):

   A nudist ran down the beach (strand)
   Jack loves to wear a warm jacket (vest)

2. The letters of the answer are scrambled to form a word in the clue sentence:

   Jake has a pill for each pain (ache)
   Joe's punch came within an inch of Tom's jaw (chin)

3. The letters of the answer are scrambled to form two or more consecutive words of the clue sentence:

   No ma! Be happy and do not grieve (bernoan)
   Donald thought he would deed me the property (deemed)

4. The letters in one word of the clue sentence are subtracted from the letters of another word, and the remaining ones rearranged to obtain the answer (the two words are separated by a negative word or phrase, such as: is not, dislike, get off, leave, hate, depart, lose)

   I regret that my name is not maureen (rue)
   Hal disliked Thelma the day he encountered her (met)

5. The letters in two words of the clue sentence are combined and rearranged to obtain the answer (the two words are separated by a positive word or phrase, such as: and, take, want, has, likes, get)

   Let wes and bert scatter the fertilizer (bestrue)
   Ed took vi to a booze house (dive)

With these hints, try your hand at solving the Ham Gram presented on the next two pages.
ACROSS

1. The puppeteer didn't attend the Mardi Gras on Tuesday
2. Al hates labels marked "Made by an Arabian nomad"
3. In India, a thick vegetable soup costs one rupee
4. After reading the newsy cables, David became wiser
5. The natives of Crete will construct a lighthouse
6. Capt. Nemo, terrified, had to act like a hero
7. Ed got the needle for blabbing "It's a consonant"
8. At Xmas time, this bird could be in danger
9. In India, a thick vegetable soup costs one rupee
10. Mter reading the newsy cables, David became wiser
11. Man! Who knows the word for "ancient Greek weight"?
12. The measurement around my waist is just right
13. Rae's wet jacket is hanging on the line
14. Get Les to buy Marge a fur neckpiece
15. Ed got the needle for blabbing "It's a consonant"
16. At Xmas time, this bird could be in danger
17. Don't take me into a temple that rioters stone
18. You never give a haircut to rheas
19. Don't fiddle a fairy with affection
20. Abe! Tell me more about the Asian pepper plant
21. Don't groan, Kevin! Just remember it's an element
22. I think London promenades are kinda small
23. Get Le to buy Marge a fur neckpiece
24. Lorde and masters like to fish in small brooks
25. Mike's speed on a sharp curve is too fast
26. Lord and masters like to fish in small brooks
27. Jacob's wife, Leah, was able to cure his ailment
28. This French holy city is located near a ness
29. The ref's sash carried the athletic gear for him
30. Don't groan, Kevin! Just remember it's an element
31. The bus stop is near a large coliseum
32. I think London promenades are kinda small
33. The ref's sash carried the athletic gear for him
34. Today, I'm more positive that rulers are sincere
35. The bus stop is near a large coliseum
36. The center of news has been Watergate

DOWN

1. Today, I'm more positive that rulers are sincere
2. The bus stop is near a large coliseum
3. Of late, the center of news has been Watergate
4. To her, not together with Tom means grab Tim
5. Rae's wet jacket is hanging on the line
6. Jill! I'm not happy how Jack will depict you
7. Either Dee or Fritz knows water will rust iron
8. Abe! Tell me more about the Asian pepper plant
9. Don't take me into a temple that rioters stone
10. The ref's sash carried the athletic gear for him
11. The measurement around my waist is just right
12. Yes sir! Tess visits the nuns frequently
13. Michael is serious, and doesn't like to be teased
14. Capt. James says "Food aboard naval ships is good"
15. The measurement around my waist is just right
16. Stir not, Christine! Look at the beautiful alcove
17. Nixon is eager to admit that Watergate's a mess
18. She's wet jacket is hanging on the line
19. Michael is serious, and doesn't like to be teased
20. Stir not, Christine! Look at the beautiful alcove
21. Don't groan, Kevin! Just remember it's an element
22. I think London promenades are kinda small
23. Jake! It seems to be a pintail duck
24. Jacob's wife, Leah, was able to cure his ailment
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For the answers, see Answers and Solutions at the end of this issue.