

Hexagons

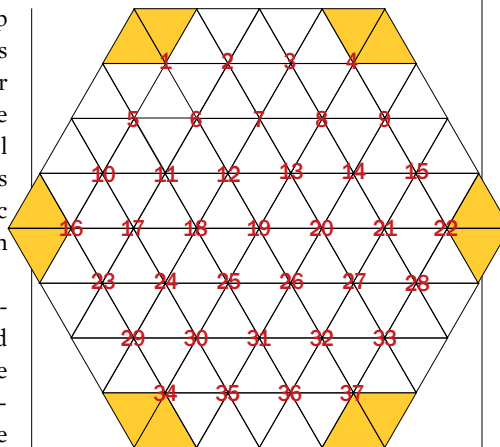
PRINTED PUBLICATIONS are undergoing hard times, and as a result, puzzles—particularly esoteric ones like cryptic puzzles—are an endangered species. Regular readers will be delighted to learn that *Contingencies* has found a creative way around the problem.

The large hexagon at right is made up of 37 smaller hexagons. Each clue yields a six-letter word, to be entered either clockwise (CW) or counterclockwise (CCW) from a starting point you will have to determine, using adjacent clues as a guide. In a burst of uncharacteristic benevolence, I decided to provide each answer's direction for you.

The 12 letters you enter at the vertices of the large hexagon (in the shaded triangles), reading clockwise from the upper left corner, spell out *Contingencies'* clever tactic for ensuring the survival of these cryptic puzzles.

All but nine of the entries can be played in Scrabble. Seven are proper nouns, and two are two-word solutions. (The four components of these two-word solutions, however, are perfectly acceptable in Scrabble.) One or two of the proper nouns require somewhat arcane knowledge, more commonly called for in crosswords than in cryptics. Five of the 27 Scrabble-valid words (1, 7, 20, 36, and 37) are somewhat unusual and won't ordinarily occur anywhere other than in a game of Scrabble, although one is just a variant spelling of a common word and another is a double-definition clue in which one of the definitions leads to a fairly common proper noun. The other 22 answers are common words.

The clues are cryptic clues. This means that one end is a fairly straightforward definition of the answer, while the other is an alternative, often mechanical, way of getting to the same



How *Contingencies* ensures its cryptic puzzles will continue:

word. In this puzzle, the mechanical means I use include puns, homophones, anagrams, constructions, and double definitions. (For a further explanation of cryptic clues, e-mail me at Thomas.Toce@ey.com.) Ignore punctuation, which is intended to mislead.

A correct solution will include a properly completed diagram (or the 96 letters in the order they occur in the diagram) and the 12-letter explanation as to why *Contingencies* cryptic puzzles will endure!

Thanks to Eric Klis, for test-solving and editorial suggestions.

Solutions may be e-mailed to Thomas.Toce@ey.com. In order to make the solver list, your solutions must be received by Nov. 30, 2009.

The Clues

1. Bambi's mom after flipping lid with sex toy (CCW)
2. People's Syria, sans Plessy, is the playful place of Nixon and his cronies (CCW)
3. Did phone—accomplished consuming beer (CW)
4. French Nobelist operating as Bible distributor (CW)
5. Go off track with Liar Ed from the East (CW)
6. Lectured instead of a Kennedy (CW)
7. One commuter is drier (CW)
8. Twice Eisenhower runs with one who raises the stakes (CCW)
9. Organ meat carried by retro Hotel Bigelow (CCW)
10. Wild gal ran in loose overcoat (CCW)
11. Sometime hero of Wilde, said to be sincere (CCW)
12. Bohemian with unorthodox traits (CW)
13. Lease again and again torn apart (CW)
14. Reversible red alb on in-line skater (CW)
15. Kind of insurance hazard recounted within Maine (CW)
16. Sardi's malady? Show's horrible (CCW)
17. Sam, ten Impressionistic paintings of still lifes, nudes, and a picnic (CW)



- 18. Aware of oral explanations as well (two words) (CCW)
- 19. Sunni twitter: Between the East and West, imbecile (CW)
- 20. Please rewind: Cine de Paradisiacal (CCW)
- 21. Darted out and switched places (CCW)
- 22. Rut got nuts—awful lot of whisky (CW)
- 23. Break from school is first of May (CW)
- 24. Taxis bearing sudden death for elite Bostonians (CCW)



- 25. Major Tom sporting ascot finally as alternative to a cravat (two words) (CW)
- 26. Seeing, shouting, and subpoenaing (CCW)
- 27. Stimulating growth by phone and reinsuring (CW)
- 28. Impure bird dropping involves bodily injury (CW)
- 29. In that woman's pouch, upside-down kind of cake? (CCW)
- 30. Put down, "Seabed in upheaval" (CCW)
- 31. Anteed, I'd open loose (CCW)
- 32. Meddling chorale director calling for "Silence!" in broken English? (CCW)
- 33. Hart's Waterloo—short skirt that goes both ways? (CW)
- 34. Puerto Rico devouring the English, behind one who reduces sentences (CW)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
a	S	D	M	H	E	N	O	I	█
b	E	O	H	I	S	█	N	M	D
c	I	N	█	D	M	O	S	H	E
d	N	H	O	E	D	I	█	S	M
e	D	I	E	M	█	S	H	N	O
f	█	M	S	O	N	H	E	D	I
g	M	S	I	N	O	E	D	█	H
h	H	E	N	█	I	D	M	O	S
i	O	█	D	S	H	M	I	E	N

Author of the verse:
S O N D H E I M

- 35. Madman Draper, as expected, shot three, four, or five (CW)
- 36. A Yankee inn (CW)
- 37. Third note: stuff got stuffed (CCW)

**Previous Issue's Puzzle—
"I Never Do Anything Twice"**

- a3..a1 MODES—"domes" anagram
- a6..b7 NON—starters (i.e., first letters) of "no one negotiates"
- b3..c4 HID—"Horrid" – ORR ("hockey star")
- b5..a5 SHE—"he's" anagram and literally
- b9..c9 DIME—"Demi" anagram
- c1..e3 INDIE—Hidden in "thin dielectric"
- c5..c8 MOSH—MO ("Missouri") + SH ("shut your mouth")
- d2..c2 HON—homophone of Hun ("Attila")
- d5..f5 DEMON—"No med" reversal
- d9..d8 MONS—double definition
- e7..e6 HIS—THIS – T ("tee off")
- f6..f2 HEDONISM—Hidden in "The don is multifarious"
- g9..f7 HIDE—homophone of "Hyde"

- i1..g2 OHMS—"Shmo" anagram
 - i3..h3 DEN—"Ned" anagram
 - i4..h9 SHIMMIES—SHIM ("mish" anagram) + MIES
 - i9..g7 NOD—double definition
 - █ Nine characters: D, E, H, I, M, N, O, S, and blackout
 - █ Five consonants, not four as erroneously stated in the instructions
 - █ Author of the quote: SONDHEIM
- The Broadway composer-lyricist Stephen Sondheim was among the first to publish cryptic puzzles in the U.S., in a series of puzzles he created for *New York* magazine starting in 1968.

Solvers

Jason Adamson, Steve Alpert, Dean Apps, Guy Avagliano, Karl Baker, Glenn Bier, Damian Birnstihl, Jan Brown, Andrew Buckley, Bob Camp, Bob Campbell, Lois Abel Cappellano, Steve Cohen, Christian Coleianne, Timothy Connor, Michael Dekker, Mick Diede, Gregory Dreher, Patrick Flanagan, Robert Fink, Steve Finn, Tim Fitzgibbons, Sean Forbes, Nick Franceschine, Jason Gladden, Elliott Goldstick, George Green, Jason Head, Jason Helbraun, Pete Hepokoski, Robert Himmelstein, Ruth Howald, Paul Ivanovskis, David Kendall, Brian Klimek, Eric Klis, Paul Kolell, Douglas Kraft, Louis Lana, Philip Lew, Cale Maynard, Jeffrey McLane, Lee Michelson, Jon Michelson, Brett Miller, Jim Muza, Anil Narale, Deb Poppel, Alan Putney, Jeffrey Reynolds, Susan Reynolds, Debbie Rosenberg, Steve Ruiter, Stewart Sawyer, Lou Scarim, Mark Schulte, Bill Scott, Warren Silberstein, Jonah Smith, Sally Jane Smith, Glen Stark, Tim Swankey, Tony Torelli, Betsy Uzzell, Josh Wallace, Steve West, N. H. State Rep. Joel Winters, Arlene Woodruff, Arthur Zarembo, Frank Zaret

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