

Cryptic Puzzle

TOM TOCE

Pyramid Scheme

FOUR LARGE TRIANGLES form the faces of a pyramid (the square base of the pyramid is irrelevant to this puzzle). Each large triangle comprises 16 small triangles. When completed, each face will anagram into a 16-letter word or, in one case, pair of words. It's possible to make more than one pair.

Large Triangle B contains the 16-letter pair. Rather than clue this pair in traditional cryptic fashion, I offer the following message, which you will have to decode. You may think of it as my personal philosophy and/or what has happened to my poor little brain as a result of inventing such a tight interlocking diagram:

Creation's dullness ruins adolescents and curdles sensation. Also, coarsened insults by nonsecular deists in ardent seclusions outclassed sinner. Moreover, insurance's oldest dissonant recluse classed neutrinos as "dissonant neutrons"! Raciness untold in driest consensual nonelastic duress.

Three medium-large triangles can be found within each large one, with apexes at small triangles 1, 2, and 4. Each medium-large triangle contains nine small ones, each of whose letters can be anagrammed into a nine-letter word.

Finally, there are six medium-small triangles made up of four small triangles. The apexes of these six triangles are 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, and 9. A four-letter word can be obtained through anagramming each of these medium-small triangles.

There are connections between the faces of the pyramids. Think of the triangles as the outer faces of the pyramid. Adjacent triangles share a letter. Thus, small triangles A1, B1, C1, and D1 will have the same letter. The letter in A4 will be the same as the letter in B2, A9 will be the same as B5, and so on all the way around the pyramid to the pair D16 and A10.

The clues are grouped by large triangle. Placing the letters into the diagram with no guidance would be extremely difficult, so I have thoughtfully provided the starting points for the nine-letter triangles. The four-letter clues are not ordered. The masochists among you may want to try to get the diagram without a guide to the four-letter clues. For the rest of you, the guide is printed below. Let me know whether you used the hint, and I will credit you appropriately.

There are four proper nouns, all four-letter ones. One of them (in Triangle B) refers to a fairly obscure athlete. The 16-letter words are too long to play in Scrabble, but all of them are legitimate words. Everything else can be played in Scrabble. There is one Yiddish word (*mishegas*) in a clue, because I like how it sounds. Look it up.

Ignore punctuation, which is designed to confuse.

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

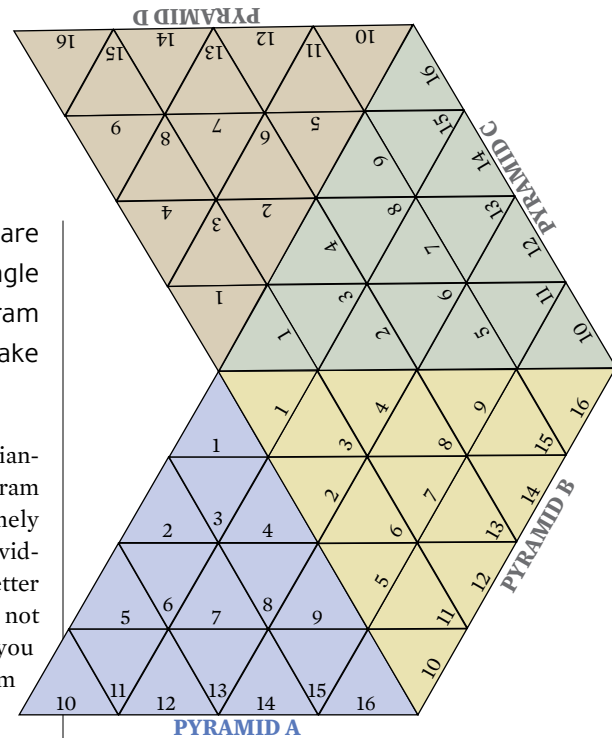
Clues—Triangle A

16-letter clue

Renovated mountainside mill having many distinct features

9-letter clues

1. It may be a stretch to use Milo in improvisation
2. A mind's not focusing on keys that are four steps up
4. I stalled, I recovered in aerobic maneuver



4-letter clues (in random order)

- Ex-communicants supporting local government issue
- *Godzilla*, for example, losing PR guy to Slate
- Very small portions in earliest of television commercials
- Michigan and North Dakota care
- Eli's weaving garlands
- One of Jupiter's moons starts to nymphomaniacally spew charged particles

Clues—Triangle B

16-letter clue

See sensual doctrines above

9-letter clues

1. Shared the risk for nickels and dimes on the Internet—you Commie
2. Conservative girl I estimated as most elegant
4. Most of Justice O'Connor and actress Sharon in sedimentary rock

4-letter clues (in random order):

- Permits for lengthy excursions to Shenandoah, primarily
- Former Oakland all-star running

- from first to second starts to dive in
- Says yes to Don's *mishegas*
- British Queen residing in Tuscan neighborhood
- Freezes prices after a fashion
- Assistant maintaining the last shall be first at Russian news agency

Clues—Triangle C

16-letter clue

State department subordinates to reorganize and see recruiters

9-letter clues

1. Starts up again with constraints around Mussolini
2. Weariness upset dissenter and residents as well
4. People detained by Arkansas remain and look around

4-letter clues (in random order)

- Copper Ed told the brass when to come in
- See Republican prognosticator
- Democratic office holders making loud noises
- Makes money talking to seabirds
- Result of crying spree!
- D'Urberville girl in straight sets

Clues—Triangle D

16-letter clue

Re: Unassertive men—questionable profitability

9-letter clues

1. One poem's parallel existences?
2. Worships and strangely never eats
4. Incorrectly puts in: "Mies-Stern developed"

4-letter clues (in random order)

- Others relax
- Retrograde *Time* issue
- Pruned gripping poem with mystical meaning
- Nights on the overhanging edge of a roof, listening
- Without signs of transgressions
- No musical ability at hand

Order for 4 letter triangles (by apex)

- Triangle A—1, 9, 7, 5, 4, 2
- Triangle B—5, 1, 4, 9, 2, 7
- Triangle C—1, 4, 2, 7, 5, 9
- Triangle D—7, 9, 1, 2, 4, 5

Solutions may be emailed to Thomas.Toce@ey.com. In order to make the solver list, your solutions must be received by March 31, 2012.

Previous Issue's Puzzle—Seeds

Across

- 1 MANGER—Anagram of engram
- 7 ADJUNCTS—ADJ ("adjective") + UN ("one informally") + CTS ("Connecticut's")
- 13 AMUSE—A ("an") + MUSE ("inspiration")
- 14 PILLORIES—PIL(LOR)IES
- 16 ROBS—R ("rare") + OBS ("obsolete")
- 17 ENOS—Anagram of nose
- 19 UNCLOG—UNC ("pop's bro") + LOG ("account")
- 20 ARIA—A + RIA ("little river")
- 21 AGHAS—AGHAS(T) ("mostly horrified")
- 22 EASE—Homophone of E's ("these come with effort")
- 24 SALEM—Anagram of meals
- 27 BOATED—BOA ("long, thin, fluffy scarf") + TED
- 29 NOS—Homophone of knows
- 30 CLEVER—C ("about") + LEVER ("mechanical device")
- 33 HEARD—Double definition (John Heard = "Home Alone star" and "on the radio")
- 34 FAT—FAT(E) ("fortune cut off")
- 36 AURAS—AU ("Gold") + RA'S ("sun god's")
- 38 ROOT—Double definition
- 41 IRA—"Mr. Gershwin" and ARI ("Mr. Gold") reversed
- 42 RIDGY—RID(icolous ener)GY
- 43 UNWISE—Pun ("about the United Nations" = UN-wise)
- 44 ARSON—Anagram of sonar
- 45 GELD—First letters of Germany, Estonia, Latvia and Djibouti
- 47 INBOX—IN + BOX ("case")

1	M	2	A	3	N	4	A	5	G	6	E	7	A	8	D	9	J	10	U	11	N	12	C	13	T	14	S		
13	A	M	U	S	E	14	P	I	L	15	L	O	R	I	E	S	A												
16	R	O	B	E	S	17	E	N	O	18	S	19	U	N	C	L	O	G											
20	A	R	I	A	T	21	A	G	H	A	S	22	L	E	A	23	S	E											
24	S	A	L	E	M	25	B	O	A	S	T	26	E	D	27	N	O	S											
30	C	L	E	V	E	R	31	B	U	32	H	E	A	R	D	L	T												
	34	F	35	E	A	T	36	A	U	R	A	37	38	R	O	39	B	O	40	T									
41	I	R	A	N	42	R	I	D	G	43	Y	44	U	N	45	W	I	46	S	E									
	44	A	R	S	O	N	45	G	E	46	L	47	D	I	N	B	O	X											
48	49	N	E	T	I	50	M	E	51	P	I	A	N	O	52	S	53	P	A										
54	A	U	T	O	M	A	57	T	E	M	N	58	G	59	A	P	E	S											
60	L	A	I	N	O	61	K	A	S	B	62	A	63	H	64	W	A	N	65	T									
66	I	N	M	67	A	T	E	C	T	O	68	Q	U	A	R	T	Z												
69	E	C	O	N	O	M	I	E	S	U	70	E	S	S	O	A													
71	N	E	R	D	72	R	E	T	R	E	A	D	73	H	E	A	R												

- 48 ONETIME—ENO ("Roxy Music star") + EMIT ("cast") reversed
- 51 PIANO—Double definition of sorts
- 52 SPA—Anagram of asp
- 54 AUTOMATE—Pun ("Second car" = auto mate)
- 58 GAPES—G ("1000") + APES ("bonobos")
- 60 LAIN—Anagram of nail
- 61 KASBAH—K ("Potassium") + ASB ("asbestos") + AH
- 64 WANT—W ("white") + ANT

- 66 INMATE—IN(TI)MATE (“very close” and “back it out”)
- 68 QUARTZ—Homophone of quarts (“thirty-two ounces”)
- 69 ECONOMIES—Every other letter in “ten-crown rooms I’m easy”
- 70 ESSO—ESS + O (“so spelled out”)
- 71 NERD—NE (New England) RD (“road”)
- 72 RETREAD—Anagram of rerated
- 73 HEAR—Homophone of here (“now”)

Down

- 1 MARASCHINO—Anagram of harmonicas
- 2 AMORAL—(AL)AMO RAL(ly)
- 3 NUBILE—Homophone of NEW BILE (“virginal irritability”)
- 4 ASEA—ASIA with E for I
- 5 GEST—(IN)GEST (“to eat after two”)
- 6 RING—Anagram of grin
- 7 ALOHA—A + LO (homophone of low from “deep”) + HA (“laugh”)
- 8 JOUST—J(O)UST (“just about love” i.e. 0)
- 9 URN—Homophone of earn (“net”)
- 10 NICE—Double definition & lit
- 11 TSO—Anagram of sot
- 12 SAGEST—SAGE’S (“Herb’s”) + T (“tenor”)
- 14 PEA-BRAIN—P (“power”) + E (“excellent”) + A BRA (“a supporter”) + I (“one”) + N (“new”)
- 15 ELAND—Pun on E-land (“cyberworld”)
- 18 SASHA—SASH (“Belt”) + A (“one”)
- 22 LEANING—LE(ANIN)G
- 23 SOLOS—SO + L (“50”) + OS (“so turned”)

- 25 EVANSTON—EVA (Ave = “boulevard turned”) + N-S (“north-south”) + TO + N (“Wisconsin ultimately”)
- 26 METRO—Anagram of Tormé
- 28 DROWN—DR (“doctor”) + OWN (“now” anagram)
- 31 BUDGE—Double definition
- 32 URGE—(P)URGE (“puke after debut”)
- 34 FRA—Anagram of far
- 35 EAR—anagram of era
- 37 SUDAN—SU(DA)N (“day mostly lying in sun”)
- 39 BIB—BIB(B) (“lettuce chopped”)
- 40 TEAS—Anagram of saté
- 46 LIMBO—LIM(B)O (“fancy car holding Bishop”)
- 49 NUANCE—Near homophone of GNU ANTS (“wildebeest and insects”)
- 50 MAKE ME—MEME (“element of culture”) around AK (“Alaska”)
- 51 PETER—PE(T)ER (PEER = “be just visible”) over T (“time”)
- 52 SPARSE—Anagram of Spears
- 53 PENT—PENTHOUSE—HOUSE (not “house loses top floor” but top floor loses house)
- 54 LIEN—Homophone of lean (“list”)
- 55 TIMOR—TIM (“Man of Faith” = Tim McGraw, Faith Hill’s husband) + OR (“otherwise”)
- 56 MOTOR—TOM reversed around OR (“Oregon”)
- 57 TACIT—Anagram of “tic at”
- 59 AWASH—A + WASH (northwestern state)
- 62 AQUA—AA (“battery”) around QU (“question”)
- 63 HUED—Homophone of hewed (“cut down”)
- 65 TZAR—TAR (“sailor”) holding Z (“last letter”)
- 67 AND—Anagram of Dan

Seed Answers

- BOA(S)TED—Anagram of “so a debt”
- MAN(A)GER—Anagram of “a German”
- LEA(R)NING—Anagram of “Rangel in”
- RO(B)OT—ROB (“take”) + OT (“overtime”)
- (A)LIEN—Anagram of “in ale”

- IRA(N)—Anagram of rain
- F(E)AT—FE (“Iron”) + AT (“with”)
- PE(S)TER—Anagram of Strep
- RING(O)—Anagram of “gin or” and Ringo Starr = (Pete) Best replacement
- TE(X)AS—Anagram of taxes
- (L)EASE—Anagram of easel
- ROB(E)S—Anagram of sober
- SASHA(Y)—SAY around ASH (“all that’s left after a fire”)

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