

South of the Equator

YOU ALL REALLY LIKED the puzzle, “Spiral Galaxy,” from the September/October issue of *Contingencies*. There must be something appealing to actuaries about being able to read the same letters backward or forward and having them make sense. It’s either dyslexia or some deeper truth about the actuarial personality. Many of you were impressed by my skill in putting 100 letters together that could be read either way, although, in truth, it was one of the easiest constructions I’d ever done.

My dilemma was how to give you the same thrill and yet not repeat myself. (See “I Never Do Anything Twice,” from the May/June 2009 issue of the magazine.) Then I hit on this brilliant idea.

The diagram below is completely different from that in “Spiral Galaxy.” The earlier diagram was a counterclockwise (or widdershins, if you will) spiral. This one is clockwise (deiseil). It reminds me of a cyclone in the Southern Hemisphere.

When completed, the grid will form two sets of words, one reading inward from one to 100 and another reading outward from 100 to one. Every space will be used exactly twice.

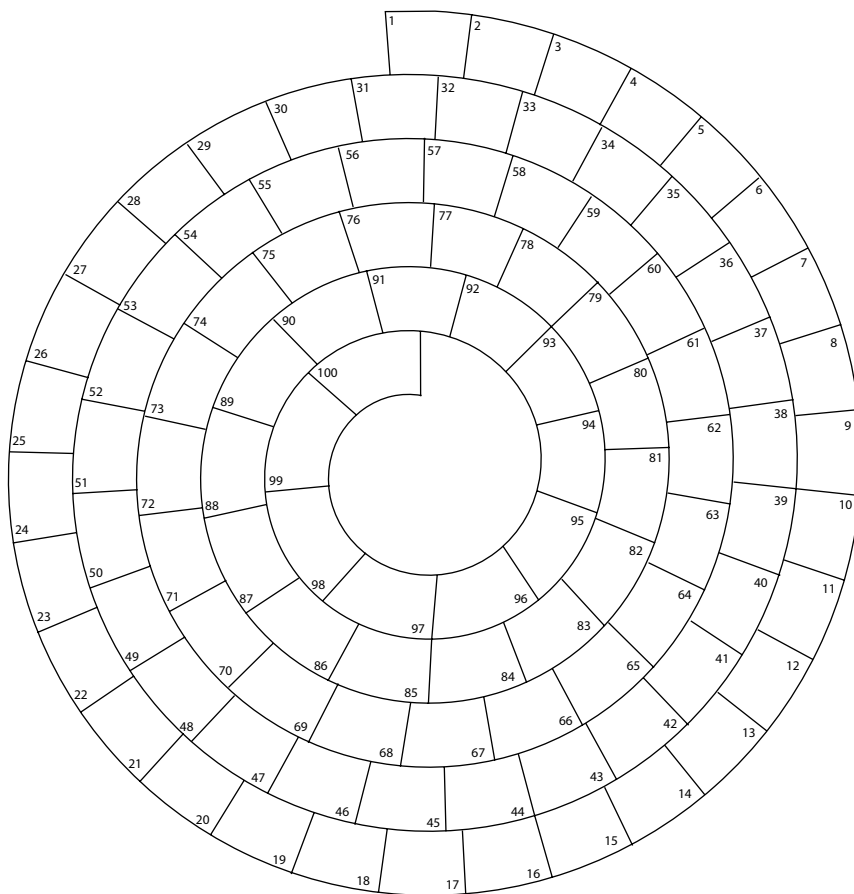
There are four proper nouns, one foreign word, and one two-word answer. Everything else is playable in Scrabble.

Ignore punctuation, which is designed to confuse.

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

Inward Clues

- Big deals for LA in hoops (1-7)
- See river flowing in dreams (8-15)
- Greek adviser fit inside another operating room (16-21)
- Splendid garments I treat indiscriminately (22-27)
- Drug regimen cut short by Florence’s influential family (28-33)
- Prominent star, before a bit of nudity, is one who eats no animal products (34-38)

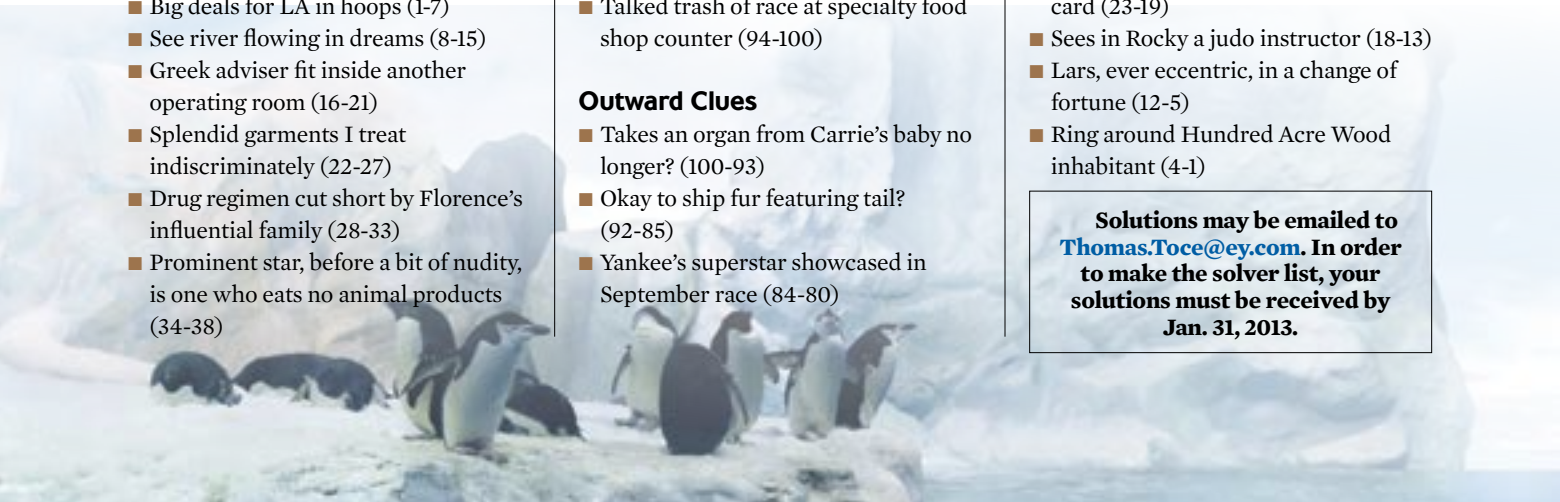


- Mario Andretti drove this vehicle both ways around Europe (two words) (39-45)
- Go back to slipshod rote creed (46-54)
- Dubious Democrat is installed editor (55-62)
- Colorless redactor and interpreter (63-67)
- Organizes balls on Mars, in a manner of speaking (68-72)
- Out of the ordinary but irrefutably rectangular around the edges (73-81)
- Firebrand shelled here below (82-86)
- Naughty behavior of Dotty and Bess (87-93)
- Talked trash of race at specialty food shop counter (94-100)
- Gruel stirred with pistol (79-75)
- Active after the opening hazard (74-71)
- Root of body shop’s concern? (70-65)
- West Pointer acted crazy (64-60)
- Ground transporter I’d eliminate from the start for benefits (59-54)
- Last month or furnishings (53-49)
- Terrance, no—no balcony (48-42)
- Destruction of horse entering stupid race (41-35)
- According to Caesar, I conquered five here in France (34-31)
- Those in the street get tedious returning in black, Mark (30-24)
- To squeal while turning over playing card (23-19)
- Sees in Rocky a judo instructor (18-13)
- Lars, ever eccentric, in a change of fortune (12-5)
- Ring around Hundred Acre Wood inhabitant (4-1)

Outward Clues

- Takes an organ from Carrie’s baby no longer? (100-93)
- Okay to ship fur featuring tail? (92-85)
- Yankee’s superstar showcased in September race (84-80)

Solutions may be emailed to Thomas.Toce@ey.com. In order to make the solver list, your solutions must be received by Jan. 31, 2013.

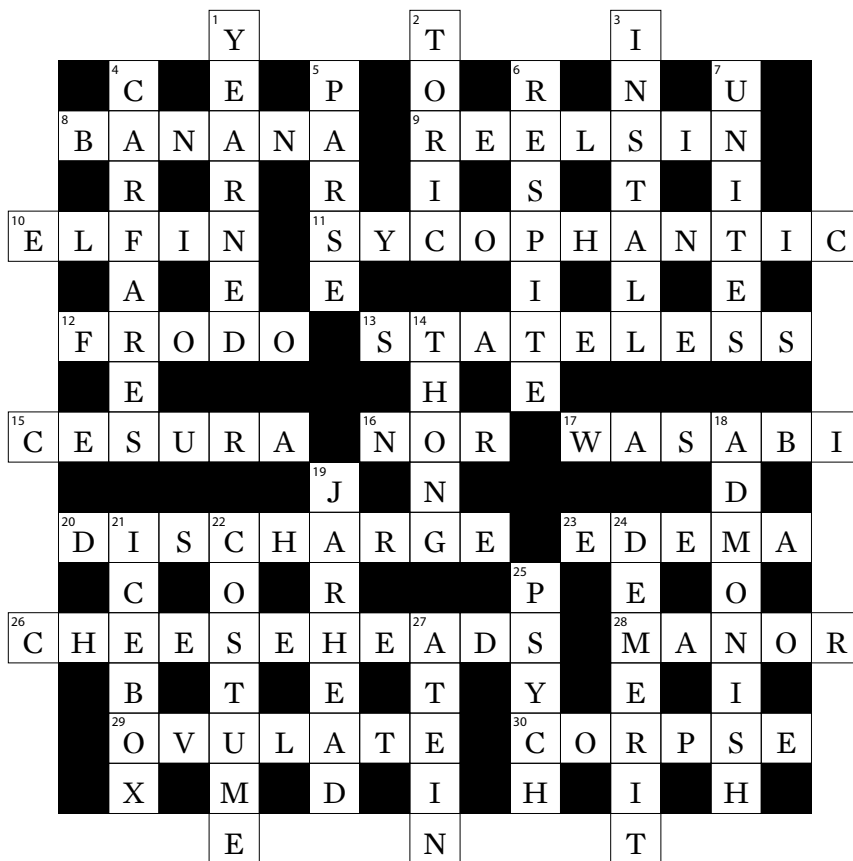


Previous Issue's Puzzle— Widdershins

About half of the respondents put BRIDE instead of FRODO for 12A. A bride isn't really a ring bearer, in my opinion. If I encountered "Ring bearer" by itself as a crossword clue for BRIDE, I would think it was a pretty weak clue. But I accepted BRIDE, because a bride does bear a ring, in a way, and because "back" = B and "ride" apparently is a slang term for party. I don't know how many of you got the cryptic logic to 14D. I made the clue a gimmie with "skimpy underwear," because I didn't really think many people would get "what one things" = "thong," as in "thing a thong of thixpenth."

Across Clues

8. BANANA—BAN ("Prohibit") + AN ("one") + A ("acre")
9. REELS IN—REEL (homophone of REAL = "true-sounding") + SIN ("immoral act")
10. ELFIN—EL ("the Spanish") + FIN ("end in French or Spanish")
11. SYCOPHANTIC—Anagram of "phony cat [sic]"
12. FRODO—FRO ("back") + DO ("shindig")
13. STATELESS—Pun on STATE LESS ("Say comparatively little")
15. CESURA—Anagram of "saucer"
16. NOR—Reversal of "Ron"
17. WASABI—Pun on WAS A BI ("Used to go both ways")
20. DISCHARGE—Anagram of "cigar shed"
23. EDEMA—Hidden in "anticipated emancipation"
26. CHEESEHEAD—Anagram of "See, she ached"
28. MANOR—Homophone of MANNER ("fashion")
29. OVULATE—O ("love") + V ("five") + U ("up") + LATE ("not first thing in the morning")
30. CORPSE—Beginning letters of "cool off rapidly, particularly some extremities"



Down Clues

1. YEARNED—Anagram of "yearend"
2. TORIC—TOR ("Rocky Mountain") + IC ("insurance company")
3. INSTALL—INS ("current leaders") + TALL ("high")
4. CARFARES—CARES ("Worries") around FAR ("remote")
5. PARSE—Anagram of any of "spear pares spare pears"
6. RESPITE - Anagram of "pestier"
7. UNITES—Anagram of "unties"
14. THONG—SONG with a lisp ("What one thing's")
18. ADMONISH—Anagram of "Simon had"
19. JARHEAD—HEAD ("foam") after JAR ("vessel")
21. ICEBOX—ICE ("to settle") + BOX ("strike")
22. COSTUME—COME around STU
24. DEMERIT - Anagram of "retimed"
25. PSYCHE—Hidden in "Topsy character"
27. ATE IN—Every other letter in "Parthenians"

Solvers

Michael Accardo, Mark Ackerman, Dean Apps, Karl Baker, Mike Blakeney, John Boorack, Jack Brauner, Andrew Buckley, Lois Cappellano, Chris Carlson, Todd Dashoff, Mick Diede, Michael Dolan, Greg Dreher, Deb Edwards, Bob Fink, Joan and Gil Fitzhugh, Paul Haley, Walter Haner, Jason Head, Jason Helbraun, Pete Hepokoski, John Herder, Ruth Howald, Ruth Johnson, Brian Klimek, Eric Klis, Paul Kolell, Ken Kudrak, Louis Lana, Charlie Linn, Denis Loring, Dan Lowen, Bob Maguire, Dave McGarry, Jon Michelson, Lee Michelson, Becky Moody, Jim Muza, John Palmer, David and Corinne Promislow, Francis de Regnacourt, Craig Schmid, Bill Scott, Martin Simons, Ethan Stroh, Doug Szper, Jon Turnes, Betsy and Jim Uzzell, Josh Wallace, Dave Wallman, Jim Wickwire, Frank Zaret

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