

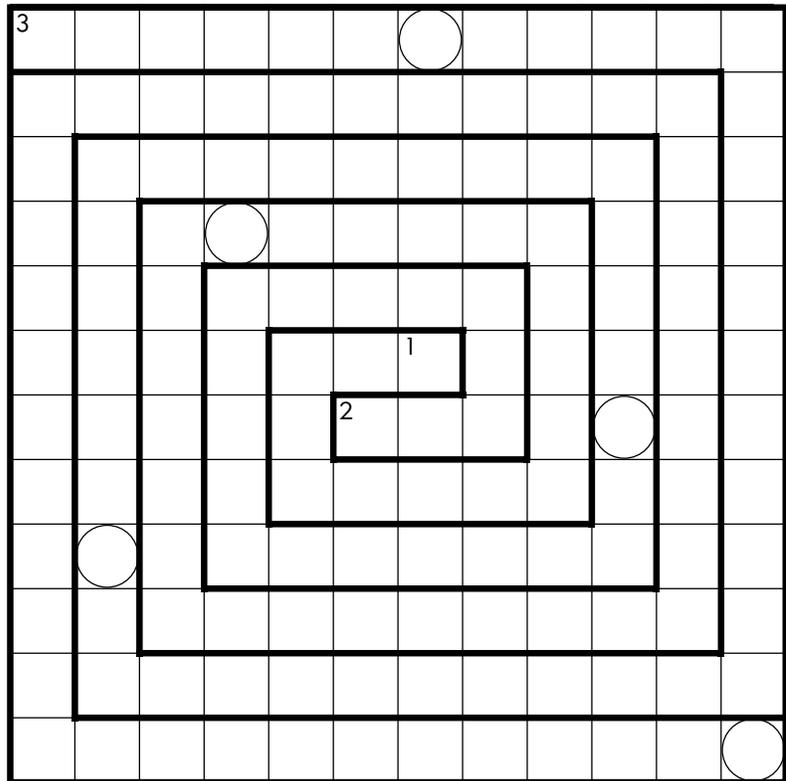
# THE PUZZLER

BY EMILY COX AND HENRY RATHVON

## Three Trains Running

A train of words leaves from the square marked 1 and follows a track terminating in the diagram's southeast corner. Another train leaves from square 2 and terminates in the northwest corner. From that corner, marked 3, a third train departs on an inward journey that ends in the square marked 2; but unlike the others, this train happily switches tracks by shifting across a heavy line left, right, up, or down (never diagonally), thereby cross-checking some of the letters in tracks 1 and 2. When all three trains have run their tracks, letters in the circles, reading from top to bottom, will show what a puzzle like this offers. Answers include five capitalized words.

*Note: The instructions above are for this month's puzzle only. An introduction to clue-solving may be found online at [www.theatlantic.com/issues/puzzclue.htm](http://www.theatlantic.com/issues/puzzclue.htm).*



### TRACK ONE

1. Costs covering performance for trains (9)
2. Lewd situation with a crowd lacking a leader (7)
3. Doubly salt skinned eel served raw (7)
4. Case no longer big enough? (7)
5. Motto of *Harvard Lampoon*: "Victory in hindsight" (7)
6. Ordinary flyer overheard (5)
7. Candy lozenge put back in round shape (8)
8. Young lady blocks train in a city (6)
9. Tragic figure's Old Testament salutation (7)
10. SAT giver takes lip for part of the school year (9)

### TRACK TWO

1. Feed a steam engine's furnace, maintaining right touch (6)

2. Dispatcher taken aback by small inflammation (7)
3. Wander into pastry capital of the U.S. (6)
4. Hindu god and general dressed for effect (2,4)
5. Fluid alters in army cans (8)
6. Advocate's phat finisher (8)
7. He spots shade marker with dates on it (9)
8. Dwarf town in Alaska by the sound (5)
9. Out of sorts, like Samson when betrayed? (10)
10. Got hot rod including convertible seat (7)

### TRACK THREE

1. Train station free of grass? (5)
2. Deckhand of short sort with a cargo of trouble (6)
3. Democrat cheers for rations (5)
4. Some TV shows boxed foods for orators (7)
5. On a diet, I altered a thought process (8)
6. Feel sorry about red and white bird (6)
7. Sign for peace in Yuletide's books (6)
8. Movie company's medley about hero of a Hindu epic (7)
9. In conniptions, he rolled and cried (8)
10. Matching items are great deal, back in stands (9)
11. Italian wheels utilizing a blend of air and steam (8)
12. Eccentric ran cartels with hired vehicles (6,4)
13. O'Brien novel comparatively lacking heft (6)
14. Ticket stubs for ushers elsewhere in the audience (8)
15. Pitchblende: a rock displaying charm (6)
16. Rumors about some dessert wines (7)