

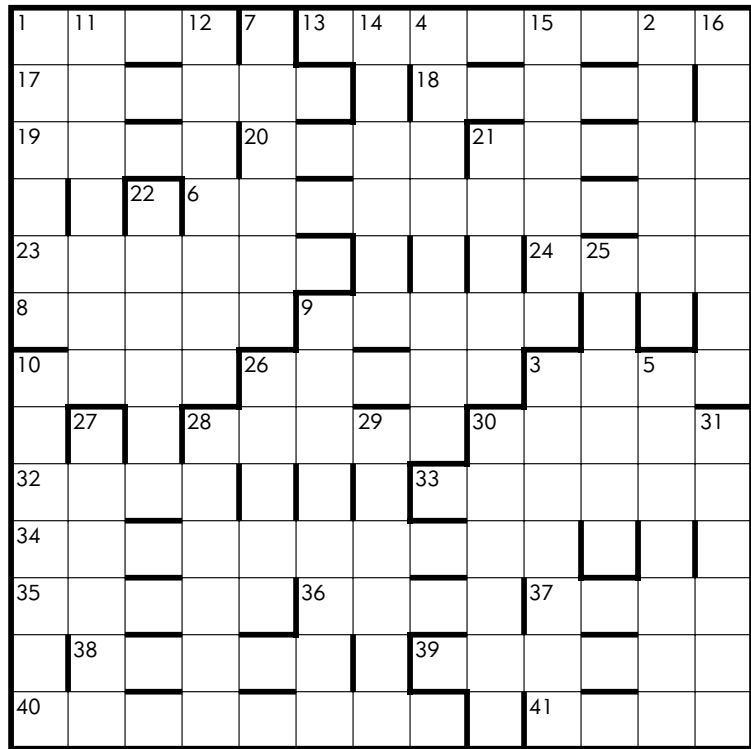
THE PUZZLER

BY EMILY COX AND HENRY RATHVON

A Hard Act to Follow

If the diagram appears a little odd, it's because we have first numbered a set of unclued items from 1 to 10, and then continued the numbering from the upper left for all remaining entries. As the reason for this may be hard to understand, we advise you to consult the letters falling in squares 34, 6, 26, 33, 23, 3, 31, 22, and 41 for a key two-word phrase. Six clue answers are capitalized.

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.



ACROSS

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| <p>13. Out of sight of men only ironclad? (8)</p> <p>17. Complete parcel packed with uranium (3-3)</p> <p>18. The Babe's teammate's club is no good (5)</p> <p>19. Secure space, in retrospect (4)</p> <p>20. Island that's near you if you're Italian (4)</p> <p>21. What pigs eat by error or inclination (5)</p> <p>23. Society isn't satisfactory for good people (6)</p> <p>24. Special case of a tree, to Mr. Fudd (4)</p> <p>9. Stalls for cattle and ponies (5)</p> <p>10. Lead off and pass out (4)</p> <p>26. Emcee the opening of aluminum plant (5)</p> <p>3. Bunk about a layer of oil? (4)</p> <p>28. Get rid of yen after parking (5)</p> <p>30. Pack a southern U.S. city (5)</p> <p>32. Live next to a sphere (4)</p> | <p>33. Obeisant gesture the old lady sadly returned (6)</p> <p>34. Minor comet moved with a regular fluctuation (10)</p> <p>35. Mom going topless, or else (5)</p> <p>36. Toy for a little more than half a buck (4)</p> <p>37. Flower is located outside of the Ocean State (4)</p> <p>38. Back and front of unpainted Indian (5)</p> <p>39. Decay eroded wheel (6)</p> <p>40. Occasions for light, strangely dim as yet (8)</p> <p>41. You might say I had taken a look (4)</p> | <p>14. One who brings you up the inside way? (6)</p> <p>15. Sound implements for man-made nets (6)</p> <p>16. Stray pet I see jabber? (7)</p> <p>21. A team in the NFL returned aquatic gear (5)</p> <p>22. Enzyme is pale fluid (6)</p> <p>25. Supreme Court justice resorted to sham (6)</p> <p>26. Sing without words or wit (5)</p> <p>27. R & B recording artist covered by Margaret Hamilton (6)</p> <p>28. Source of pop musical with a rock score (6)</p> <p>29. Track made by wheel in orchard (6)</p> <p>30. Follow closely or adapt (6)</p> <p>31. Commercial about inspiration was entertaining (6)</p> |
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DOWN

1. Trial about a male meeker than any other (6)
11. Lily's cousin embracing love, laughter, and song (5,2)
12. Pink girdles attached to wreath (7)