

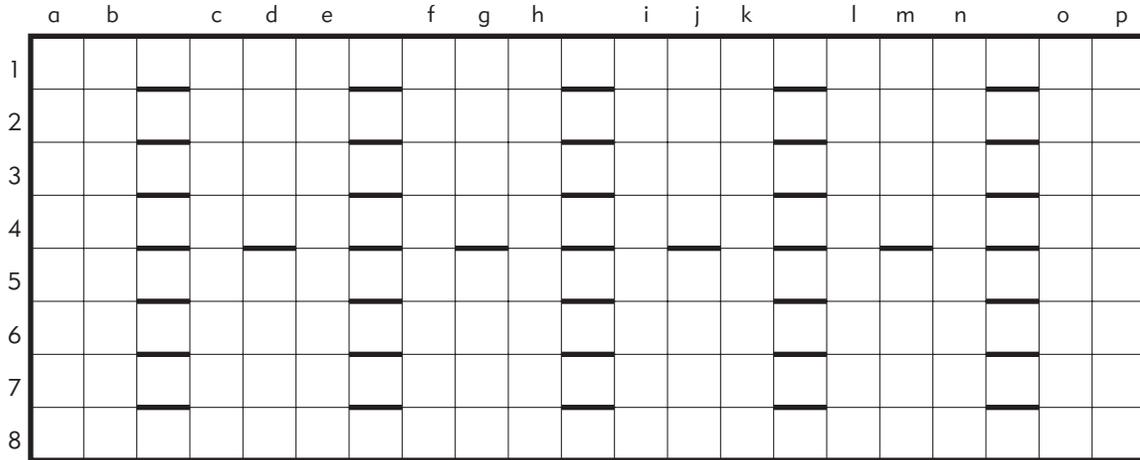
# THE PUZZLER

BY EMILY COX AND HENRY RATHVON

## Pool Puzzle

This puzzle's grid represents a swimming pool with eight horizontal lanes. Each lane is filled from left to right by two or three Across answers along with one unclued swimmer going first, last, or between two clued entries. The eight swimmers are competing in a race whose winner is the one touching the left end of the pool. Across entries' positions in the pool can be found with the help of the Down entries, clued column by column. Down answers have four, seven, or eight letters; those with seven letters must each share a column with an extra letter belonging to a swimmer. The extra letter may occur anywhere in the column. The eight extra letters, reading from top to bottom, describe the swimmers literally and show something they have in common. Eleven clue answers are capitalized; one swimmer consists of two 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).



### ACROSS

1. Swimming lap to race historically powerful woman  
Some students get wet before high school
2. Time a big splash next to one Pacific island  
Murmur lovingly and low, "I love rapper"
3. Stranger eating Moroccan stew  
Changed wet plaster covering London gallery
4. Release tension in a way, dancing *Cabaret*  
Put on a new course, our tree adapted
5. Vehicle carrying northern Nebraska maker of preserves  
Chagall's stuff rejected  
Rotate second skewer
6. Distant after the initial gush  
Historic trip to Nam arranged

7. King of the blues in a first-rate pop quartet of the '70s  
Stirred coals were small  
Scatter contents of cellar
8. Fastens article with external zips  
500 entering with small compasses  
Record empty box

### DOWN

- a. Captain and, to Cousteau, expert with an aquatic beast
- b. Movie about a singer born in Alabama, after the premiere (*two words*)
- c. Poor relation from the East
- d. Scrambled up an Andean plateau  
Some swimmers in back of Ernie Els
- e. Gumshoe involved in a fight was forced to admit a mistake (*two words*)
- f. Broken denture I put back together
- g. Wine-making city in Castile  
Broadway lyricist's compassion for the audience
- h. Faithful one in shock before church
- i. Chicken egg collected by Prime Minister's talented kids
- j. Cover up skin  
Name invoked at Notre Dame University after pass
- k. M&M stuck in drive mechanism for processing grapes
- l. Barbados cherry, well inside a Coke or Pepsi
- m. Secure expanse of wilderness in Britain  
Cold, uncooked part of a chicken's gullet
- n. Blow up target outside of station (*two words*)
- o. Disorderly element in carnival city pursued by general
- p. Like some sandals one poet misplaced (*hyphenated*)