abstract art?

Can you spot the mistakes in this abstract art painting? Only a clever Dada will spot all wagonwheel.
Welcome to a special Phil Niekro 71st Birthday issue of P&A Magazine! Phil is 71 today, and we have a special greeting just for him. Join us for Phil Niekro puzzles! And other puzzles.

Actually, to tell the truth, we couldn’t care less about Phil Niekro. You see, it’s difficult to keep coming up with clever and original themes year after year. Want a clever meta involving couples? Did it. Want a clever meta involving subways? Did it. Want an episode involving Merl Reagle and Will Shortz? Simpsons did it. I digress.

Enjoy the puzzles enclosed. After this issue, I’m letting Epsilon Publications take over the magazine. They’ve assured me that this magazine will continue to uphold the same traditions that I’ve always upheld. And collage covers. Lots of them.

Sincerely,

Foggy Brume
Editor-in-Chief
Why Getting Good Grades Comes First

In the grid below, answers start in the numbered square and read in any of the eight standard directions.

1N. An indefinite article, other than, you know, “an”
1NE. Grade that’s better than a B
1E. It’s at the end of life and beginning of eternity, if you spell them LIFA and ATERNITY.
1SE. Type of blood, but not B or O
1SW. ____-1 Steak Sauce
1W. Common vitamin
1NW. Musical note between G and B

Read the starred squares to spell your answer.

Wait a Second! No One Said There’d Be Numbers!

Enumeration for the clues on the left would be pointless. (That is, you’d need to add a decimal point to the enumeration to get something meaningful.)

Buy 3 toys
Use 1 coin
Get 4 guns
See 1 film
Win 5 cups
Pet 9 cats
Fix 2 rigs
Cut 6 hems
Eat 5 nuts
Ask 3 nuns
Fly 5 jets

A dolly (X)
A token (X)
A rifle (I)
A movie (I)
A stein (O)
A tabby (V)
A truck (E)
A skirt (R)
A pecan (V)
A habit (I)
A plane (I)

It’s like Edward the III said...Sharing is Caring?!

In the grid below, a space that spans multiple row is a letter shared by each across answer.

The answer to this puzzle (3)

_____ X or ____ Loyalty (5)
Common origami bird (5)
Clog eliminator (5)
Assassinated Ferdinand (5)
Plural of granum (5)
One from Teheran (5)
Punk rocker Adam, if you use a formal salutation (2, 3)
Caper or practical joke (5)
Dart containing a sedative, for short (5)
Twisted a towel dry (5)
Sally Fourth...Into Another Puzzle!?

To complete the connect-the-dots below, first answer the numerical trivia questions below. Then replace each letter with its numerical answer, and then connect the dots.

1. In the movie *Yentl*, number of times Barbra Streisand corrects someone about the spelling of her first name
2. In the movie *On the Waterfront*, number of times Marlon Brando flexes his jowls
3. In the movie *UHF*, number of times Michael Richards touches a broomstick
4. In the movie *Return of the Living Dead Part 3*, number of zombies with intact duodenums
5. In the movie *Airplane!*, number of times Stephen Tucker makes a movie reference
6. In the movie *Newsies*, number of times an extra is clearly annoyed with the saccharine lyrics
7. In the movie *Sextette*, number of times viewers go “Oh my God, that’s Magnum!”
8. In the movie *War of the Worlds*, number of times Tom Cruise gets the bugeyes
9. In the movie *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*, the number of Garbage Pail Kids stickers on Gertie’s notebook
10. In the movie *Real Genius*, number of times Val Kilmer makes a lewd comment
11. In the movie *In/Out*, number of whiskers in Kevin Kline’s mustache, minus the number of whiskers in Tom Selleck’s mustache
12. In the movie *Stop! Or My Mom Will Shoot*, amount of the first traffic fine given out by Estelle Getty
13. In the movie *I Heart Huckabees*, number of times Lily Tomlin threw something at Dustin Hoffman offscreen
14. In the movie *North by Northwest*, number of chlorine atoms per molecule in the chemical pesticide aboard the plane that flies over Jimmy Stewart’s character
15. In the movie *Tomorrow Never Dies*, number of times Pierce Brosnan’s stunt double’s face was clearly visible
16. In the movie *O*, number of lines that actually come from the original Shakespeare play *Othello*
I Plead The Fifth On All This Gilmore Girls Stuff!?!?

Now for a real head-scratcher! Tougher-than-tough Gilmore Girls trivia! Get out your Amy Heckerling cardboard cutout and Rory and Lorelei hand puppets. It’s time for questions harder than the grandmother’s hard exterior!

1. In the first episode, Rory and Lorelei Gilmore argue about a sweater Rory shouldn’t wear. Who made the sweater?
   - A. Donna Versace (COFFEE)
   - B. K-Mart (BREAKFAST)
   - C. A 6-year-old Chinese girl (EATING)
   - D. Alexis Bledel, because there was a lot of waiting between takes (LUNCH)

2. In the second season of Gilmore Girls, the actor who plays Kurt released an MP3 of himself in the shower singing what song?
   - A. The theme song to Eureka (SHOP)
   - B. “The Liberty Bell” by Sousa (PLACE)
   - C. “Cliffs of Dover” (LOCALE)
   - D. “Für Elise” (VENUE)

3. In unseen footage for the third season of Gilmore Girls, Paris accidentally gets trapped in...?
   - A. The drive-thru. (NAMED)
   - B. The closet. (TITLED)
   - C. Love. (CAPTIONED)
   - D. The fifth dimension. (LABELLED)

4. In the fourth season of Gilmore Girls, Edward Herrmann had limited screen time because...?
   - A. He was in jail for downloading MP3s after Sean Gunn turned him in. (FOR)
   - B. He was filming a pilot called Monkey & The Lion for the CW. (AFTER)
   - C. A real-life dispute between himself and his stunt double. (SIMILARLY TO)
   - D. The character had nothing interesting to do. (A LA)

5. In an interview taken during the fifth season, how did Stephen Hawking describe his guest appearance?
   - A. He didn’t appear. (ITS)
   - B. He refused to appear. (THE)
   - C. He appeared, but the footage was cut. (A)
   - D. The footage appears on a TV screen in Rory’s dorm room. (ONE)

6. In the sixth season, who did Amy Heckerling hand off writing duties to?
   - A. Lauren Graham (GROUCHY)
   - B. Joss Whedon (CANTANKEROUS)
   - C. Stephen King (CRABBY)
   - D. e.e. cummings (CHURLISH)

7. In the seventh and final season, a pilot for a spin-off was produced but never aired. What was its name?
   - A. Lane & The Rockers (OWNER)
   - B. Kurt’s Shelter For Unwanted Animals (DUDE)
   - C. Paris & Rory’s High School Reunion (PROPRIETOR)
   - D. Miss Patty’s Steppin’ Dance Showdown (GUY)
I’m Using My Sixth Sense To Figure Out the Answer....

Your Word List

- Word #1
- Word #2
- Word #3
- Word #4
- Word #5
- Word #6
- Word #7
- Word #8
- Word #9
- Word #10
- Word #11
- Word #12
- Word #13
- Word #14
- Word #15
- Word #16
- Word #17
- Word #18
- Word #19
- Word #20
- Word #21
- Word #22
- Word #23
- Word #24
- Word #25
- Word #26
- Word #27
- Word #28
- Word #29
- Word #30
- Word #31
- Word #32
- Word #33
What Does Henry VIII Want Now?

Use the clues below to determine which deity demands which sacrifice.

1. Metzalitl, who is not worshipped by the villagers in Cranstonopolis, demands rubber tires, which do not prevent osteoporosis.
2. Custopelli, who is not a rain god, demands losing lottery scratch tickets, which cannot be found in the capital of Kuzbekhistan.
3. Aardvarque, whose day of feast is exactly one day after another deity’s day of feast, demands toupées, which have not been sacrificed an even number of times this year.
4. Manacles, whose avatar does not have six limbs, demands chocolate, which is not the item provided by the priests who have a minimum age of 30.
5. Stra, whose name does not translate into “weed” in its native language, demands wooden puzzles, but not exactly 5 at a time.
6. Peyr, who has given birth to fewer than eight children, demands alpaca skins, which are not considered illegal in the village adjacent to the Brunou Sea.
7. Yomakoto, who does not dress in silver, demands lemonade, which could not have been produced in 12th century BC.
8. Magdaracha, who does not appear on a stamp, demands cigarettes, which are bad for you.
I’m On My Ninth Nervous Breakdown!?!!

In this Sudoku variant, first solve the clues below the grid. The first letter goes in the numbered square and the answer will read in the direction given for the clue. The rest of the grid can then be completed using the normal rules for Sudoku (no letter is repeated in any row, column, or 3x3 square). Because of the difficulty of this puzzle, some givens have been provided.

Clues
1. The answer to this puzzle, which a lamebrain would probably not be able to get (SE)
2. You Can Call Me ___ (NW)
3. Nathan Fillion character on Firefly (NW)
4. Author White (SE)
5. Woman’s undergarment (SE)
6. Act like cats and dogs? (SE)
7. Spielberg movie about a robot (SE)
8. Elected (SE)
9. Actress Long or Peeples (NE)
Hey Everybody, It’s The Tenth Puzzle??? !!! ??! ???? ?! !
The 39 Steps
As implied by the title, this is the meta puzzle. The answer to each of other 39 puzzles is a phrase indicating a step to be followed. When placed in the correct order, one gets the message I SAID THANK YOU.

Torn Curtain
Identify the Rip Torn movies from the close-ups of Rip Torn’s eyelids. In each scene, something is being ripped. Use the number of whiskers Rip Torn has in the scene to extract a letter. The resulting phrase is PUT YOUR LEFT FOOT IN.

Dial M For Murder
Each picture shows a pay phone somewhere in the continental United States. Traveling to each location reveals a number that has been etched below the pay phone. In state order, the phrase is TAKE YOUR LEFT FOOT OUT.

North by Northwest
After solving the clues, arrange each answer in a 32-letter circular array. Each compass position can be anagrammed to form the name of a work by a particular author. Treating each as WORK by AUTHOR and graphing the results on a toroidal graph, a phrase can be clearly seen. The answer is ADD LINE A TO LINE B.

The Birds
You can’t make an omelet without scrambling a few eggs! Use the critic’s description of the omelet to ascertain what bird’s egg was used. Then index into the name of that bird by the number of times that critic, while sitting at the judge’s table on Iron Chef, said “I would have gone a different direction.” The resulting phrase is PUT YOUR EGGS IN ONE BASKET.

Rope
Follow the letters along each rope to read out a simple message. Each frayed piece of rope contains some of the letters of this message, plus one letter. The extra letters spell TIE A YELLOW RIBBON ROUND THE OLD OAK TREE.

To Catch a Thief
For this puzzle, solve the dropquote, which gives the instruction: LET FOODY BREAK INTO YOUR HOME. Doing so, you’ll find that I left a brick with the phrase LOCK THE BARN NOW THAT THE HORSES HAVE BEEN STOLEN. Thanks for the loot!

Notorious
In each scene from Beverly Hills 90210, Tori Spelling has been Photoshopped out. The letters she formed can be read (starting with the earliest picture series-wise) as CHECK YOUR SPELLING.

Sabotage
Each Sudoku grid had been sabotaged with five false givens. The givens can be added to form numbers modulo 27 that become letters spelling FIGHT FOR YOUR RIGHT TO PARTY.

The Lady Vanishes
Once every letter of the alphabet has been entered in the center column, 26 women’s first and last names appear. When paired correctly, they form the names of Tiger Woods’ mistresses. Phoning Elin and asking about Tiger will result in the answer phrase LEAVE ME ALONE YOU MEDIA JACKALS.

Topaz
Solve each cryptogram to reveal a dedication to a different novelist or author (like TO PAZ). Novelists can then be paired by first name. Encoding that first name in one code then the other (going from shorter to taller) reveals a series of words that can have TO replace a single letter to form a new word. In alphabetical order, the single letters that are replaced spell MOVE THE ISLAND.

Rebecca
Use the close-ups of Sunnybrook Farm to identify where each animal was when it defecated. From this, the puzzle can solved as a Nurikabe. Crops that as a result are blackened spell WATCH WHERE YOU STEP.

Family Plot
Test each possible pair of genetic sequences for the five listed hereditary diseases. For each family, this results in a binary sequence, which can then be re-translated using a shotgun sequencer. The resulting sequence, when cloned and grown to adulthood, will have a very small birthmark that spells KILL ME.

Frenzy
Each picture is of a videogame being played by pimply teenagers from the videogame’s point of view. From the backgrounds, it is possible to reconstruct the entire arcade. The teenagers form letters that spell GIVE THE EIGHTIES THEIR PUZZLE BACK.

Psycho
Call each constructing team member’s mom. Only if it is not really their mom, because they’ve been dead for years. Nonetheless, they still will give you the correct message, which is GO TAKE A SHOWER.

Vertigo
This puzzle consists of aerial views taken from a Goodyear blimp of people in various places around the United States. Each person is holding up a panel from a Boondocks comic strip. Connect the panels from specific comic strips to get letters forming the message STAND UP TO THE MAN.

Lifeboat
Each clue resolves to an eight-letter word that, like the title, contains an abbreviation for an eight-letter word (February). Compare the five letters that are not used in the abbreviation. These form the basis of a Vigenere-cipher sequence. When properly decoded using the key “FIVE AND FIVE FROM EIGHT AND EIGHT COMPARE AND CONTRAST TO MAKE FAIR AND MAKE LAST.” (hinted at by the prime words in the flavor-novel), the resulting phrase is revealed: GO!

Strangers on a Train
The solution grids for the 16 Rows Garden puzzles (following page), should be laid on top of another to form a master Train Map. Using crayon, begin plotting a route that goes from Kansas City to New York. Halfway through, find someone else to finish solving this puzzle for you in exchange for you solving one of their puzzles. Your conspirator will provide you with the phrase EXCHANGE GLANCES. Act appreciative.

Dial M for Murder (remake)
Solve the 3-dimensional Hitori. On each level or side of a panel from a comic strip. Connect the letters of the name of a work that critic, while sitting at the judge’s table on Iron Chef, said “I would have gone a different direction.” The resulting phrase is STAND UP TO THE MAN.

The Man Who Knew Too Much
The questions are from Jeopardy’s standard application, in jumbled form. Rearrange them and sort them according to how often the question is asked correctly. Using whether or not Ken Jennings knows the answer to that question as a Boolean value, you get the answer ASK ME NO QUESTIONS. (answers continued next page)
As you may have guessed this is an April Fools issue. The real issue 25 will be available later this April.

The answer is each clue is A. The starred letter is “A”.

Each item on the right pairs with an item on the left, and fortunately, they are both in the correct order. The numbers on the left are PI, and the letters in parentheses spell XXII OVER VII which also defines PI. Enumeration of each row is 31415, thus making PI again.

RAN, BRAND, CRANE, DRANO, FRANZ, GRANA, IRANI, MR. ANT (sorry), PRANK, TRANQ, WRANG. The answer is “RAN.”

The movie trivia is all fictional. First letters of the movies spell YOUR ANSWER IS INTO. In addition, connecting the dots in order makes INTO. The answer is “INTO”.

Regardless of the choices made, the clue phrase can be answered with “LUKE’S”.

Highlight each occurrence of WORD to reveal FORMER.

“The answer to this puzzle is a seven letter word that can be formed from a letter from clues fifteen six six nine three five and nineteen. Which letter should you take? I guess that is just part of the puzzle. Any questions?” The answer is OFFICES.

The answer is OFFERING. For a fully-detailed solution, please send a SASE to “HENRY VIII”.

SUSPICIONS can be entered into each row.

The answers can be arranged a) by length b) by the ordinal number in each title or c) in the order they appear in the magazine. No matter what, the answers form the sentence “A PI RAN INTO LUKE’S FORMER OFFICES OFFERING LAMEBRAIN SUSPICIONS.” The answer is the acrostic, APRIL FOOLS.

Hope you enjoyed this April Fools issue!