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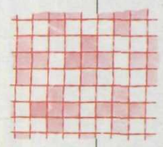
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PYRGIC PUZZLES
CHRIS MASLANKA

When the wolfbane blooms...

1 A vampire's retainer, being image-conscious, wants to install a mirror in the long hallway of the castle. He wants to see himself full-length, so that when he opens the door to strangers, he can at least look his best. The only not so vital statistic we have concerning him is that he is 5ft tall. He doesn't wish to ruffle the count's vampiric sensibilities, and so on reflection wants the least length of mirror that will enable him to inspect himself top to toe. How can he minimise the length of the mirror required? How long should it be approximately? And where on the wall should he position it?

2 Igor sets out to drive Count Dracula the 9 miles back to the castle in his old Trabant. They set out 2 hours before sunrise. They go half the distance at 4mph and the rest at 5mph. Do they get back in time?



3 In the estate office of Dr Yogami is this chart of cross-shaped houses and their surrounding land (left). If this pattern is to continue across a large enough plane expanse, what fraction of the area is covered by crosses?

4 Under a full moon the werewolf runs. Across the stream it goes, negotiating the stones in a sequence of hops and jumps. The banks are parallel lines and the stones run in a straight line at right angles to the banks (see illustration below). The separation from the bank to the nearest stone is the same as the



separation between one stone and the next. A hop travels one foot and a jump is 2ft. There are 5 stepping stones (so the bank is 6ft apart). In how many distinct ways (including all hops and all jumps) can the werewolf cross the stream? Is there a formula for the number of ways of crossing such a stream with n stepping stones?

5 Here is a way to make 666 by inserting + signs into the string of digits 1-9 inclusive: 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 567 + 89 = 666. Without altering the order of the digits, do the same but with fewer + signs.

Comments: guardian@puzzlemaster.co.uk
See also: Ghosts of Albion: bbc.co.uk/ghosts



ILLUSTRATIONS BY SALLY KINDBERG

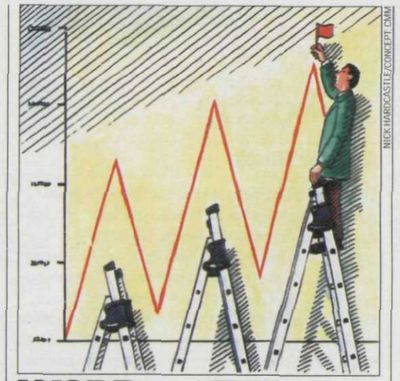
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QUIZ
THOMAS EATON

1 The Mission of San Antonio de Valero is better known as what?
2 What is tasseography?
3 Who had 'This Machine Kills Fascists' written on his guitar?
4 What is the first rule of Fight Club?
5 Who died from a nosebleed on his wedding night?

What links:

6 A sleeve; open sweater; knitted helmet?
7 Oliver and Jenny tearjerker; Arthur Lee; no score in a sport?
8 1973 (1st); 1974 (1st); 1975 (2nd); 1976 (2nd); 1977 (1st)?
9 Burt Reynolds' car race; Julian Adderley; Thomas Derbyshire and Robert Harper?
10 Mike Hammer and nuclear materials; the end of Nelson; musical shrew?



NICK HARDCASTLE/CONKEPT.COM

WORD PLAY
By Chris Maslanka

Wordpool
In each case, identify the correct definition:

CELT
a) prehistoric chisel
b) low hill
c) residue after making cheese
d) boot or shoe buckle

MAROODI
a) South American bird
b) Yemeni house servant
c) sherbet flavoured with passion fruit
d) moody sort

WISENT
a) true saying
b) wiseacre
c) European bison
d) withered old person

Same difference
Identify the following two words that differ only in the letters shown:
****** (cell)
T (particle)

E pluribus unum
Rearrange the letters of the following phrase to make a single word:
PRIVATE CARE

Bran tub
Spell out 'lessen the seriousness of the guilt' in just five characters.

Au contraire
Which word means speedy or stuck?

Cryptic
Man of letters but not maps, oddly! (7)

Cracker barrel
What is a witch's favourite Forster novel?

Missing links
Find a word that follows the first word in the clue and precedes the second, in each case making a fresh word or phrase. For example, the answer to *fish mix* might be *cake* (fish*cake* and *cake* mix) and to *bat man* it might be *he* (bat*he* and *he*-man). See illustration above.

a) step sales
b) Oxford butterfly
c) radio master
d) church chase
e) word engine
f) holy audience

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All solutions appear on page 109