



THANKSGIVING DAY

VETERANS DAY



Settings, Keys, Hats, and Head Scratching: The HEADLINE PUZZLE

JAXIKX UKIU JSEAZOW YOUWRU ATXN

?ERTER ?ETS ?LYMPIC ?????? MARK

ZQSAJQN JCN ZVAHUX LY OZZL

???????? AND ESHKOL TO ????

ZNADRVNK NTFMJKZTMPD ZMJVNPSA RFMPNPS

HISTORIC ????????????? HEARI?GS OPE?ED

RCWVPML BPWRLFM VEK BFJJCJQ

CATF?SH ??TCH?S FOR ????????



NEWSLETTER

Volume XLVIII, No. 10

October 2000



NSA Newsletter Through the Years

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SETTINGS, KEYS, HATS, and HEAD SCRATCHING: THE HEADLINE PUZZLE

Reading the November 1964 *NSA NEWSLETTER*, employees learned of a company Christmas party planned for December 6, training opportunities just announced, new train service on the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad to Laurel, Maryland, and events scheduled by the Art and Garden Clubs.

This sixteen-page *NEWSLETTER* was a new and improved edition, expanded from a four-page handout. In addition to more news of interest to the workforce, it had new features, including a “Puzzle of the Month,” starting with the **“Headline Puzzle — An NSA Original.”**

For the first few months, the “Headline Puzzle — An NSA Original” alternated issues with an interesting but exceptionally short crossword puzzle. By April of 1965, however, the Headliner Puzzle had become a monthly feature. In 1971 puzzle solvers were challenged not only to decipher the headlines, but to recover the setting word, keyword, and “hat” for the puzzle as a whole.

Perhaps not known to most readers, Paul Derthick worked on the Venona Project. This was a program--on-going from the mid-1940s to 1980-- whose purpose was to examine, and possibly exploit, encrypted Soviet diplomatic communications. Analysts, including Mr. Derthick, discovered that these Soviet communications dealt not only with diplomatic subjects but with espionage matters as well. In the photo at right, Mr. Derthick (back row, right) is seen with several other Arlington Hall (and later NSA) analysts. Left to right are Cecil Phillips, Bill Lutwiniak, and Mr. Derthick; in front are Frank Lewis and Louise Derthick (his wife--the only one in the photo who didn't work on Venona). The photo was taken in 1947 when Mr. Derthick and his colleagues were members of the Arlington Hall bowling team.

The puzzlemaster was Paul Derthick, a long-time research analyst in NSA's Operations Organization. He continued to compose the monthly puzzle after his retirement from NSA in 1970. Paul Derthick passed away in August 1998 at age 82.

In March 1992, Paul Derthick became too ill to continue composing the feature, and another individual took over as puzzle-master for the rest of the run of the hardcopy *NEWSLETTER*. At that time, the title was changed to “Paul Derthick's HEADLINE PUZZLE.”

In honor of NSA's fiftieth anniversary, the Center for Cryptologic History has compiled a sampling of Headline Puzzles from each year since they began appearing.

Mr. Derthick took his headlines from *The New York Times* as well as newspapers in the Baltimore and Washington area. His successor, by the way, notes that he selected his headlines “from any old rag I can find.”



Mr. Derthick had a definite knack for selecting ones that had unusual letter combinations for personal or geographic names, and finding colorful terminology. He noted that using headlines as the basis for his puzzle was “a happily malicious thought.” It permitted “inclusion of outrageous proper names and has a tendency to exclude the commonest terms.”

It would be frustrating for most puzzle solvers if we were to print a complete run of the Headline Puzzle. Many of the headlines in the almost forty-odd years of its existence refer to now-forgotten personages and events at the national or international level (as will be seen even in the first puzzle), and many also refer to individuals famous only in the Baltimore-Washington region where NSA headquarters is located.

We have therefore selected a sampling of puzzles that contain more familiar topical references — but it might still be a wise idea to have an old *World Almanac* at hand or bone up on former famous politicians, forgotten diplomats, and once-well-known sports stars.¹

In a few cases, the **NEWSLETTER** ran special cryptograms — one for the bicentennial of the United States in 1976 with bogus headlines from American history, and one in 1977, on the occasion of NSA’s 25th anniversary, with headlines from 1952. Also, a special puzzle consisting of invented joke headlines was published for April Fools’ Day in 1992 and for several Aprils thereafter.

In October 2000, NSA readers found articles in their **NEWSLETTER** about changes in health benefits and a look back at previous issues. The decades-long run of **NEWSLETTERS** stopped with that issue, as well as hardcopy publication of “Paul Derthick’s HEADLINE PUZZLE.” This last puzzle is reprinted on page 15.

Mr. Derthick wrote a guide to solving the puzzle in response to frustrated readers of the NSA **NEWSLETTER**. It is reprinted, beginning on page 28, for those who may be frustrated by the puzzles in this compilation.

The original puzzle-solvers had the advantage of being close to the events in the headlines. However, you, dear reader, have your own advantage — unlike them, you don’t have to wait a month to get the answers. They appear starting on page 16.

Good luck.

You’ll need it.

DAVID A. HATCH
NSA Historian

¹Yes, there are some obscure references in these selected puzzles, but you should see the ones that we didn’t select!

THE FIRST HEADLINE PUZZLE — November 1964

The following are all headlines from a recent daily paper. Each of the six is a different letter-for-letter substitution. All six are derived from the same mixed alphabet at different settings against itself.

1. JKXIKX UKIU JSEAZOW YOUWRU ATXN
2. SEKKQUVOT QYCTDD DVYSTY JVDX CTVUS
3. URYVF, URTXBM RTC IMIVXGTM LGTTMLX
4. ZQSAJQN JCN ZVAHUX LU OZZL
5. VGNQBJ YKQUIN OBJH XBJE JFWIY LNBSI

SPECIAL PUZZLES

JUNE 1976 — BICENTENNIAL HEADLINE PUZZLE

The following are all “might-be” headlines from the 200 years of American history, the year being given. Each of the five is a different letter-for-letter substitution. All five are from the same mixed alphabet at different settings against itself.

1. BFECOKOYOKFESJ BFEUTEOKFE FGTEC SO GRKJSHTJGRKS (1787)
2. HTCNEH OVQETZ YMINA OGHAE WHMSEGS MQ AENMYCTME EHGW (1807)
3. LQDIK BJLQK IMMEJBIO XJE IRRQDILSJL LJ WRSLOZ KLILQK (1845)
4. MBOO HLYYTVI JCPFJO PZW MTFJ MPKCOPC LC WHBCWN-OLAWK VPZCI (1915)
5. YIRKAOQKNVG VU RXHGCRM UCHK LF YIJIFR JHARMNXR (1898)

NOVEMBER 1977

The following are all headlines from the 1952 **NEWSLETTER**.

1. QYVL KRQOVJ LJ EVYYOLC ADVKMOTLWTP QOSYD YOKI
2. HSDVJKHEP DD YTBLSDJUH M ZOHX BC OXDEHM RDXNMBU JXM LJXJMJ
3. DGWOA QVNWC PJY NJHGMJ JIZUCNJO KAJYGBJACS
4. RKMDWG UKITKL LTYQMKT UX LRTTC DYCCLRU HKTZTGR LRKYBT
5. YZLMS BWSZHWL JOMMWHEWLMWLTZI W, DXHVXH SX BXAHHWFMNLE.

APRIL 1992

The following are NOT headlines from a recent daily paper.

1. QAADO PHGIT PNZIHOW NM IYH-XTL YTO YNIK ADHAGDW' ODAQFGNZ HR ZKNMT
2. SKEK MVX IUALJNIZX ZMAXY KHKMCXY IJ XUZX KAXH VXCNMVY MJ YBTXH RKLC
3. JLSOHL ORRIKSHJ JLXLQH QIWKHLL IS QIWWKHHKSU JLXLQHLG JLSOHITJ
4. FJGJIA O RVHTIK KAXEW YTIHK PAOYJAJ'K BRRAAR VYPTE VRYWJKAJF KRGHK
5. OUVQRA VNDQODT; BUNZRA ORQURV NCDLIRV GY 'NCROODLIDXR' UQJGTJRBRQX

[answers to the special puzzles given in the chronological listing]

THE 1960s

MAY 1965

The following are all headlines from a recent daily paper. Each of the five is a different letter-for-letter substitution. All five are derived from the same mixed alphabet at different settings against itself.

1. EPXOSZ QCWYEQMZ VMCW DYX MYCXV
2. TWHXOAWBY ZJHAVX SWTG SP P WAGVVY
3. MI-NMYVPZXY PDQM PYQ MI-Z.D. LMRQ PU WMQ UNDMU
4. QOATJSAGR NIIAOT IDOP QONBODP FVRRJGB TVCTJSJAT
5. NTUVR VRACB MN LUMVLURVVTO

JULY 1966

The following are all headlines from a recent daily paper. Each of the five is a different letter-for-letter substitution. All five are derived from the same mixed alphabet at different settings against itself.

1. CLTYELHLPK MJU OSNSBSK KSBPAJ ESKAPB PNPBASJ
2. AVFGCJ EXPVAK QBLCGBGR OVFOBGR VE GVAMY PBCMGXF
3. AV NWUFBYSV MNEMTSR YULB YQ RTQFS YNSAR
4. BJTWBYP GERO HBPBYJET QBBWNPH CNWS VEGYNOSW
5. PXIPKD SDXITP NPXIW PXIPD NDRPXS RKPWPW

OCTOBER 1967

The following are all headlines from a recent daily paper. Each of the five is a different letter-for-letter substitution. All five are derived from the same mixed alphabet at different settings against itself.

1. VLKKTG HSQ CWLITG AHNT HVLKKOKSC HC NJFLWG FHLAKJ
2. OYHQLGOZ XKGHBQLJ VOQJH XBG QKXL VHIW ZKWL GKHHOL
3. SRPSM MRP ZOSRM ZBMLO MZVJLL ISXUI-LSWWSY XJVPUV
4. CSDT DKBTBVUK DAYDIEC RMSUCD YIBVYE ERA IUCD
5. SGLHN ENZTWZ AESFTLTSSTHW DSGW QHN ENLGW DNHLSJAI

APRIL 1968

The following are all headlines from a recent daily paper. Each of the five is a different letter-for-letter substitution. All five are derived from the same mixed alphabet at different settings against itself.

1. PVVXCJIS KJLAK EXCJS GUJI AZG IXPEKIUCZ JCULPEI
2. UGXL-HAJNZU LRNXJ HANXLO AY YMSOOAMSO GZ LGXXRM
3. OESCPFT ICTNCJF JRFTEPR AVU IBVAU ICFPACFPQRV QESENNFN
4. MXHUNGPUMXHN JZRXPYDZN MUNFY ND MXHUXNZKJVHR XNUU
5. WIAQRIFQR EPMQVPI TGNGJVU WMGEPA JFUG FCNMCKJFVKAQ

JULY 1969

The following are all headlines from a recent daily paper. Each of the five is a different letter-for-letter substitution. All five are derived from the same mixed alphabet at different settings against itself.

1. XOYWHCXTOV ICTUI XKIO KXAOV HCX OWAIUWV
2. WP S QZHSYPMW LJLSY BPJK QIZZOHDGFR LMO KHBPJDFGR
3. KDWKKIP KSYXSHUXK BXWE SF SMF DFZVSK ZV MFYBE HUXKK
4. KLPAOVI AW UAPMT-GMKQOV IKMPWQIL EGPQT EMUQWQU QITGI
5. NFSDN PCBLFN NDCBJNBKFKS DZEVFKS PZKVNCEPNFZK

THE 1970s

JANUARY 1970

1. FAEUC LAJZVT WJAWQZU CXQVOL OVNNZK WXJVOH
2. NMMHLHTJW MTLF HQBHLGVFQG NQ ZTLRFG JHQRW
3. TJS AEP EJNRZMBJ ZJNPT JOE KEJAPS RO APJS
4. FCKHE CEWT LFNS QCSQ XCQFEKJLHK WHKJVCWTQ KTJHLECLEHKQ
5. PGZ IAMYJN WPGACNVJ ZBJDA ZPMY DZ AMNC PDNAJWP YJCZ

AUGUST 1971

NOTE: Beginning with this puzzle, in addition to solving the substitution, recover the setting, key, and hat.

1. KP W LY KI ORBL, SP ZRKP W QRLD SWI URDPUOPB, BPY NPWLE WLY BTZPQI, WLY UOWLA IRM, EWUZOKR
2. HWXULNUZ AD XUQHQEULQWZ NC XNR DAW LKZ UKNEZCZ RZXD
3. JHBLQHSSVPHVP QHSJHB ZIMX ZHV EN OVMHJ LP JVSLEFZ OVSGHN
4. SWRYMEZR SMSWHAASWBB LDRDAC LZH CCC, EZS LW W B A
5. EAYY IRQXXI UQQVQUXU RABWQFAQSY QRIF EPY. EGFUGFIW BQSF

NOVEMBER 1972

1. QYOQYOOMEY NVSF LYO OC AVOOMOE JO LYCS AYEQX
2. XAPDJIABCVCP JLBSWC RXAJSPD IAPAXGXG OARWJ
3. JCVYMFMYU LCY XWBEMKRYBE HU WOVVMRLHOMFEOX CLKJMLBVB HCWEBW
4. ZWPU WFB ACUCSH KALWSP ZKFBHSHB ASKLWSNFHS BWUW
5. OQMYXIMDA OQSIY VSDHQMYAS OJYY YOMDIXDH VMXEXDH

NOVEMBER 1973

1. RCWVPM LBPWRLFM VEK BFJJCJW
2. UWZWSQ ELPZ EPZGSQ LDD BLPZG LD ZJXWP
3. TKMJT QZYJQXZR BJGKTF CEKLDI JT HFTZJN PELLZPPJQ
4. IAWDE DZ AE ZPMHN ZG RMZ IRMKHDE
5. CXGBY AYZTWTGZIXV ZQ CGXQAVXYI BN ZGWXYIAYZ

JULY 1974

1. QATERFT BFYKWRQ QSXXDRE SJRABATBKFD YTENRQ JSQR
2. ZNADRVNK NTFMJKZTMPD ZMJVNPSARFMPNPS
3. AKZTNYD SMDA PRY JAXMAD SMVTJP KZJPKMBBRV
4. FVXGEV-IGFFVM OAEVJ UWYY EJWIF AOVJ LADFV LDJMYV
5. PUABCNPZ HUTWZ FSAAUT NQAAMAQHU WUQCBSOCK SAFMTPMCB

MAY 1975

1. YZSEOH FES-MZUF, KEMJ PG EKKSUR XSH GPBI, SM RUER
2. GZKS PINZVKOR OHVPVKV DSVK SE VGEHO GIN DJHGIHO DGOV
3. NCF-WFUGO UB RG REW NHEX NHE XRGF
4. PROM FPHKOONFO QVROFC ND QKPHRCNK
5. DXTJK FUCAAKTW YA ALCFFYLC FJYUD JQ FXKWJT

APRIL 1978

1. WCLPRPJYAWYPSR WRC LPRIAJ NWVI VSFAY JDSGCSGR
2. JRNMT HJNLT URCZNEPJ RMTHRN UENOP EF UMRGEFWZ OPRXJO
3. IJRDJ JQIKZNER -RFH RFYEJPT- URHJ EF JWTIP
4. NICHUIV VPA NUVRFBFLU XPGUIV GEUT CJ JPSKRAKPH RUVR LPRP
5. NQJNG CJDPCNDEYMOYFC NGEQQ YDEQ UJLGQC GQEQ

JUNE 1979

1. BFLWKLZO FEBZBLKUDL PKH PKPGSQN HSFENKLNK PWEZZH SAZE ASHDP
2. NOVOE FGIZ SOQOMI QGNR HNOMOIZ FGQWGOVJ
3. PWUEAON UEYNTUNCP U A V W U E R Y T V H Y A L C N V Y N M W L N
4. JNK HFLQMU RNLQR JPP PUFLOM FPHMU OJKKNRNJL
5. EDRVQYEJ ZDKXJ PDDE DKQOVL WV YBQKYBSUU ZIPRL

THE 1980s

JUNE 1980

1. EDNQT NTVOGJ CEAARNIFQ TQLIHEA KIONITR LEJ AQN RMEM CI
2. PDRKU WFXIJZXPBW JPDRXFH PHFDPR JPKFHW VZ ODUZH FVPID
3. FPWIXIBW XOWIB GOH KODI QIOSIU, BNGI LOPSB WXFG QXFGI
4. PMSHUM UOWIQP TKJS TKWQVMT JGSTRHV V QGUM
5. ZVAWIXRI NFWZGBXR V WX PFYYOVS AM FROIGFCI XFFZVWX

MAY 1981

1. CPPROYKR DOMUPKR PDYK UOLYKR, UVK CYYXR VDYQLY MVDVXOYK XPRRYR
2. UYYQ MKOSY KORY XVOZ UP MPEKUR, MPSSEQOUG
3. KRSTNI QDYOI BR YOORQL, NIRMLRMB YKKQRYOIDN
4. XFIFSNAB QFKZJ JGRSSIK NJ ZNB ST TUKE JUNLK MTA ZNAMNAK
5. THKK VWWZV ODWHKWD DEPW RED RWMWDHPYHDZ WGDWYDWGWBDV

JULY 1982

1. UGCHCWA TCPXOCOY UXENAAXEP; BGCYEHX WZOJ CO OXT EHHENJ
2. XGWNLMP H QSTWTVPHQEH JLSQ ZTM VTKOZOQK SLJOELCOHV
3. GB. P. PJCO OST LJBT QTTGTG
4. SUVMBO ZGDSSJBI XS MBGJ-X.Z. FMNSMJIB
5. HSIN HELM QP PHQFERS MWUI OEBOCSU RWREXSNWR

FEBRUARY 1983

1. IULI GIZ ZU YGGMI VIK QSMXQS CDKG IDGYVE GZXYQZMXIG
2. ZRSVNO ZGP IDLKO KLEEZ RSND VHCVLH RINLH
3. CHIUASTU BWKKHN VDYFDGU, EIZETVH RD UWBHC FDYN
4. ICOPCECJ HLJDNLOV AJZR ICOHZLV TM HNL BDPZMMLQ OLJRCEP VQVHLB
5. DNKJDKLI PKT TAJAKIDLY PSJYKTDKL ISIQARN

JANUARY 1984

1. TGQQJ XCQQU XMGPBK TU QCJI-JBDAPK XCGKBXJ EGDE
2. CYRVRK ORTNZ XQKVCYZZ NYZEHRMY NYLHXHM CYNTXMHQK LRHOTCY
3. ONDJOYNOG, DNOBUYNR UCYJ QEPL, SJECR SLBUZULO QEOPG
4. LNKONL SO ZXTSBJ VX PNCW RXXY TKSPM RGKXX
5. ILBEYQP I CJFPD, YA FXTSWP, TSPXI JUJYAIP EYIIYWXI

JANUARY 1985

1. OTY UDZQTC IMQDWTL LPGY WMLMOQ ZTIMSMC
2. OGEB LEGYIKBZ OWEQ OWE IHBEU GR QIRIYXI; X.Z. LHIQBK
3. XTQIJAXVQT TGEVIG GIIXAQ TXQGCCPQG PATPBG TDVQQCG
4. NVPQUZ CYACTSUXJJ AQUI AQKQNCSEFX PXVTS ACBWFKXUVMXI
5. QGRGELAL HGALHGJJ - ETX HLXXLB, ETX UTBAL - HPX FYWWLBLEX

MARCH 1986

1. QBNBGDC SGEOGDTQ VE UB BCLTLPDVBW LP UJWOBV SCDP GBNLND C
2. VNBBYALYC BN AQZZPPC LA ZIYPM NM VLESYJN ZTYEP VTNQH
3. RUMDBTHRMEFR TEX ID EXFHDLW UWCIGHTB TXWHEUTC HWBTIEDCRMFR
4. ZFKLQ CIBN TT: ZFQL ZGID WZ. NIYX ZGID
5. KHCLGQZOC TZUIAM QKZQ ZGMC ALGMASGE EHCQC TGOO DAKAZXV

JANUARY 1987

1. EQGDIFPP WKC G P M Q TGNFPM TDCMF WQNFIMAWQKTETFP
2. ZIXGH XUNCZ ERNQi EJU ZIYICZ URNQIZ
3. MAOGYVM VYCK, MZRI AR TGNMARG, VYG OGARI YGUAUGT
4. LTKDS HYXPJHKJE GJBJML HGD STEPTE YJTMJ XOOJG
5. GFOGTFED XGOZPT XFEEO KEMVFETM KPC XACIEIGO

FEBRUARY 1988

1. WHKLPRLR LKXVQ WKNOL LK HNJMLR VR RIBBNL NRRIP
2. HVIA ZHLS UHA IHDGV XEEMLS GQ ZVXAYPXQSYHR VHLX
3. PTKGXW XIJ RVKWSVJRGU VU JSVZTKGZJSVT
4. TJHMGW RJ VTUZMW JYR TUQAZ UQVZV
5. Z ECWAPDSZP ZGGQZX: DCQ VQQAQPD EZPQP NLV O

FEBRUARY 1989

1. NFBMNLZ ZN AIBZYAZQJTH, BNHIBTY YAMBQRSF UZ NSFF PBRLS
2. DZLSLAT XRBUJELBG DZLAT WUXMMZATZO DG MJWXM SRELQOLWBLJAJ
3. YDUTNFKRZ NQB CPMR GDHU SHNWR CURFWNYR, FDLMDUG JHUZPZDUJ
4. YXAXP WX ONXTTZA ZOOXYFU EKCXT YAGPX DKAQGU DKAOX
5. TBAIVKMI WHFJXRR WKEQGTB RFABI QX NHFEV

THE 1990s

DECEMBER 1990

1. CBFBF YBOJNWKF KCG BF GOFRPDKWE JOYIFPYY
2. VZIXIL JPLORVXNA FXOMLPH LFQP OVJMTPQYNTMXIQQP
3. DKKNXP PN NZDXXUAD SREF ZDPN NK EPNCBQC SRABDP KQUIE
4. HUATTM INJPUJIGM QFGNH FPUFIAGMJLJH JP LAF QMTNJKG PJVAL
5. TERVZ PRLAZJ JRRI CV CN, FXGTFG?

JUNE 1991

1. BLGVN SM DTTSVXZI, PD L.M. DLKNL ENB DP UGIIDGB DTBLDDUM
2. XHPO UHTAYNOG AV PLYXQGQZ HUQYNJHWPVQQE YQJQPPNAW
3. XJILNBT HKBTT HIFWBDBDX YTOWDJK OLLNFIH
4. IJDCQ WMJPNM NIERQML LZCEEMV GCQO SMLZMQVJS
5. ZVZKO ZTJSLB DZEDEBQF QOJVZB SEFFCAEEN BLKNTEB

SEPTEMBER 1993

1. YZDGZZDG PMUUXB HDQHM, DXAMC, PMDRCMQXGN
2. QTNSLMFTVNFP YLMPLN ZRRLDZSPTM TI LEWLUURLELMS
3. UTCVVEFV TEVXQK WFKPQQOPJ UPQGPPF TRZNEPK, ICTOEFK
4. RUCHN JZPAPH JZVJ JPCU VW LGWJJ VIZ PVUPHVCL PUWHZ
5. VIQEIOXRI FMVUIQR ZOXAIQ NLO FLOI OIPIKRPIQQ OXMK

MAY 1994

1. JUPMXUKANXM JWSFJ OKHX EMKO RKWMFJ FK RKTBMXJJ
2. WYGBW PYHBYW VCIPV EGCWZUE BIFZIC WCCFZIL
3. VHWKLX EAQWFMOPMTPXKTATKSNVWUS UTALSNT TX MSHW
4. INIKSLXTNSX FEPVM QNTUSL IWH MSTNPM HSIWHU XSPQTVGX
5. DKCSLW Y,YSRYGAYA SCZGW CZB BIYY S DLGYK DCZS

MAY 1995

1. GNFBCJ ENJJCQM MIYQC IVQL PU ICUJYBVU YIIQVIQPYJPVUM
2. KMJJOVGA ORMJEK FR YJ OERORKJZ XRE ZVKFEVTF RQJEKVASF YRIEZ
3. FIPEGFYE ASESW HGWHIAJO, EXIEOAEAWEXOAXWSVXO SJHIWS
4. VHYZNDJ QBYIPD UYPDD LVVLIZ LMLNWDV ZHYRNDJ YPSPXD NW NYLA
5. VIDMLIWRGLMV RZQLRF UW TDKQ ODMUZE ODMZLUUD-RWKQILLG GLDR

NOVEMBER 1996

1. GTPEX UQLX KQEH TI SXPUTKG CG BEABCQS LQBNV KCPN TNCTDPQPX
2. ZQPHEQ TRSEOSYQB RFQAOIXHTE RK EQCQFOBQZ XAQBZQSEOHC ZQPHEQB
3. FVXYKWY OGWOWMJM GJDMXHPJYK WE EIX DHJYKM KW FWPIDK
4. APNSE HUUSLAPV PSZ XHUNZCLS NH SPTCPQS RCPCVSRSPN HU PSNZHLYX
5. QIJNQG BQVCPQS PECXD PT EXJQCG GTELQSBH QIPXE CDSQLCB MCBPTEH

AUGUST 1997

1. DRYWC HVDCYYS AWRJLYK RDLKUYWL SYADVCK UGY KVEYCU NDSEI
2. ZTQXEPBLE PSYX STBPIXL KZGF LZFX BT JSLYXP EXXESK
3. JNGA INGA GPVRSFD RG M.D. IFFQ XBNDF HPVXJNG OMBF XJPGAG
4. PDVOND QRBBPAF QROPVFD HRVJUNMO-OMG FRAJVJ
5. JUNUFI XQ NAP HIPAQQH, EQX ANNIJAUXIV JUEFIPQOH

MAY 1998

1. PMADOFYMU OSENO E.O., FEBDHF; RANRSMRSO NEBC YMDAFSUF YMUXMPO
2. PUJTMJ DGFYHUY UPPFDFKG CMMC CDKYEKG MERFYR UIH CIVCHKYDM
3. GPNQTW PI NPPCPXA LPO LQISN LPXO AQT CWA MTSNGWOM, TPXIAW O LW Q AW O M
4. RJXY-SEFMKJR CJTAC TJSATYJR YA XJ STJSFTBWM XBM XKRMJY FC
5. RDSWSZDNFN UEESAFN FS AUBDFASOCYU YLWDESABDLYSBOSA FS RDZ NCANSLAD-
BZ

DECEMBER 1999

1. VX PXYXVBCPE BCFA, PECT FCZAE ZC EPDDCMZ TYMZAM
2. JEBBCGK BMYCWJ RCMMWYVQ JWVWMB CK RGVEM KWCNSVHJSHHY
3. VQIOBQLJ FGQDGL FO LUDIG JQVG
4. LUQMIJ LPD ZJCXU JMX JCVTCV VJ PMZ UIJGJLD, IJGHCLUKH
5. JSHYWBCGK AWGUW G VHHK PH KWCNSVHJB

FINAL NEWSLETTER PUZZLE

OCTOBER 2000

1. LNONI GBWNIF HZWENIZ UATODB, EXGWFAUI UHNETNDUF
2. GCIQ DBIAIEI NMDB I GFAE, IEASWI EM MJR FNBRUF
3. VBK QIBTDE FQ GE JDSDFDKG, BIGS EGP EFQQKPVOGP
4. AQUYIER, NUMUQDIER, PIUS SW RIUQ BIUQ TIOS VIIX
5. PFYVGDIG EVTUGA FD IYVYLNFT YD GPG YE IVFDBYD PFAFB

ANSWERS

FIRST PUZZLE — NOVEMBER 1964

1. OERTER SETS OLYMPIC DISCUS MARK
2. HURRICANE ISBELL LASHES PALM BEACH
3. MARIS, MANTLE AND PEPITONE CONNECT
4. ERHARD AND ESHKOL TO MEET
5. MARTIN LUTHER KING WINS NOBEL PRIZE

MAY 1965

1. BERLIN AUTOBAHN SHUT FOR HOURS
2. CARDINALS TURNED BACK BY YANKEES
3. EX-PENTAGON AIDE AND EX-G.I. HELD AS RED SPIES
4. PRESIDENT OFFERS FARM PROGRAM CUTTING SUBSIDIES
5. SELMA MAYOR IS FLIMFLAMMED

JULY 1966

1. KHRUSHCHEV AND MOLOTOV VOTE IN SOVIET ELECTION
2. ROMNEY FAVORS WIDENING BOMBING OF NORTH VIETNAM
3. KY ABRUPTLY CANCELS TRIP TO SEOUL TALKS
4. EASTERN BLOC GENERALS MEETING WITH ULBRICHT
5. INDIRA GANDHI FINDS INDIA FACING CRISIS

OCTOBER 1967

1. GREEKS AND TURKS LACK AGREEMENT AT CYPRUS PARLEY
2. INTREPID CAPTURES FIRST CUP RACE FROM DAME PATTIE
3. INDIA AND CHINA CLASH ACROSS TIBET-SIKKIM BORDER
4. SEVEN ECONOMIC EXPERTS ADVISE PROMPT TAX RISE
5. LABOR URGING MULTIBILLION PLAN FOR URBAN PROBLEMS

APRIL 1968

1. MCCARTHY STUNS PARTY WITH NEW HAMPSHIRE TRIUMPH
2. GOLD-BUYING DAILY BUILDS UP PRESSURES ON DOLLAR
3. MARINES DISLIKE KHESANH BUT DOUBT DIENBIENPHU PARALLEL
4. PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA PLAYS AT PHILHARMONIC HALL
5. PYONGYANG BLUNTLY REJECTS PUEBLO CASE ADJUDICATION

JULY 1969

1. REINFORCED LOCAL RULE URGED FOR ENGLAND
2. GI'S BLOCKING ATTACK WITH BULLDOZERS AND HOWITZERS
3. SPASSKY STRETCHES LEAD TO TWO POINTS IN WORLD CHESS
4. THRONGS OF CORAL-EATING STARFISH PERIL PACIFIC ISLES
5. TIGHT CREDIT THREATENING HOUSING CONSTRUCTION

JANUARY 1970

1. SOUTH KOREAN PROPJET HIJACK CALLED PIRACY
2. OFFICIALS FACE INDICTMENT ON RACKET LINKS
3. DARYLE LAMONICA NAMED AFL PLAYER OF YEAR
4. HANOI AIDE THUY SAYS WASHINGTON DOWNGRADES NEGOTIATIONS
5. HIS FLOWER CHILDREN STEAL SHOW AS LORD HARLECH WEDS

AUGUST 1971

1. "ME AND MY HORN, WE COME A LONG WAY TOGETHER." RED BEANS AND RICELY, AND THANK YOU, SATCHMO

2. PRACTICE OF ACUPUNCTURE IS AID FOR THE CHINESE DEAF

3. MEDITERRANEAN TERMED SICK SEA BY PACEM IN MARIBUS PARLEY

4. PENTAGON PAPERS SPELL FINISH FOR HHH, GOP FEELS

5. MISS EVONNE GOOLAGONG VICTORIOUS OVER MRS. MARGARET COURT

keyword: ECTOPLASM, setting word: GHOST, hat: POLTERGEIST

NOVEMBER 1972

1. CINCINNATI REDS WIN NL PENNANT ON WILD PITCH

2. LONGSHOREMEN STRIKE CLOSING HONOLULU DOCKS

3. HOSTILITY NOT PREDICTED BY RUSSIAN BUILDUP ON CHINESE BORDER

4. PAST AND FUTURE OF MARS PONDERED FROM MARINER DATA

5. PRESIDENT PRODS CONGRESS TO PASS SPENDING CEILING

setting: JACKS, key: TUGOFWAR, hat: MUMBLETYPEG

NOVEMBER 1973

1. CATFISH PITCHES FOR PENNANT

2. MISSILE BOATS BATTLE OFF COAST OF SYRIA

3. NIXON REPORTED MOVING QUICKLY ON AGNEW SUCCESSOR

4. CUBAN AT UN TRIES TO HIT CHILEAN

5. PERON INAUGURATED AS PRESIDENT OF ARGENTINA

setting: GREAT, key: UNWASHED, hat: HOIPOLLOI

JULY 1974

1. TRUDEAU CABINET TOPPLED OVER CRUCIAL BUDGET VOTE
2. HISTORIC IMPEACHMENT HEARINGS OPENED
3. SCHMIDT GETS NOD AS WEST GERMAN CHANCELLOR
4. SENATE-PASSED VOTER BILL TRIPS OVER HOUSE HURDLE
5. KENTUCKY DERBY WINNER CANNONADE 'BEAUTIFUL' IN WORKOUT

setting: GOOSE, key: HORSEPLAY, hat: MONKEYSHINE

MAY 1975

1. CHIANG KAI-SHEK, LAST OF ALLIED BIG FOUR, IS DEAD
2. AUTO INDUSTRY RESISTS COST OF SAFER AND CLEANER CARS
3. FLY-TYING IS AN ART FORM FOR MANY
4. MOST EMBASSIES CLOSED IN CAMBODIA
5. HANOI STEPPING UP PRESSURE SOUTH OF SAIGON

setting: SPUNK, key: GUMPTION, hat: GETUPANDGO

JUNE 1976 — BICENTENNIAL HEADLINE PUZZLE

1. CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION OPENS AT PHILADELPHIA
2. ROBERT FULTON MAKES FIRST PRACTICAL STEAMBOAT TRIP
3. TEXAS VOTES APPROVAL FOR ANNEXATION TO UNITED STATES
4. JESS WILLARD KNOCKS OUT JACK JOHNSON IN TWENTY-SIXTH ROUND
5. DESTRUCTION OF SPANISH FLEET BY DEWEY'S WARSHIPS

settings: SMITH, key: JAMESTOWN, hat: SETTLEMENT

NOVEMBER 1977

1. STAN MUSIAL NL BATTING CHAMPION FOR SIXTH TIME
2. ELIZABETH II PROCLAIMED QUEEN OF UNITED KINGDOM AND CANADA
3. FIRST HYDROGEN DEVICE EXPLODES AT ENIWETOK
4. TRUMAN ORDERS SEIZURE OF STEEL MILLS TO PREVENT STRIKE
5. FIRST JETLINER PASSENGER SERVICE, LONDON TO JOHANNESBURG

setting: YEARS, key: TWOFIVE

APRIL 1978

1. ADMINISTRATION AND MINERS FACE COURT SHOWDOWN
2. EARLY DERBY FAVORITE ALYDAR FIRST IN FLAMINGO STAKES
3. PEACE EUPHORIA — AND ANXIETY — FADE IN EGYPT
4. PROBERS SAY PESTICIDE MAKERS KNEW OF FAULTY LAB TEST DATA
5. TENTH SNOWSTORM DUMPS THREE MORE INCHES HERE

setting: ANNIE, key: ORPHAN, hat: WARBUCKS

JUNE 1979

1. ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI AND ANATOLY DOBRYNIN AGREED OVER VODKA
2. RIGID CASH LIMITS MARK BRITISH CAMPAIGN
3. SITHOLE THREATENS TO WITHDRAW FROM NEW REGIME
4. OIL TANKER SINKS OFF FRANCE AFTER COLLISION
5. KENTUCKY DERBY WEEK ERUPTS AT CHURCHILL DOWNS

setting: HERTZ, key: UNIT, hat: FREQUENCY

JUNE 1980

1. AFTER TRICKY GALLSTONE REMOVAL DOCTORS MAY LET SHAH GO
2. RODIN SCULPTURES PRODUCE RECORD PRICES AT MONTE CARLO
3. INTEREST RATES MAY HAVE PEAKED, SOME BANKS TRIM PRIME
4. SENATE THUMBS DOWN DOUBLED WINDFALL BITE
5. NEBRASKA CORNHUSKERS TOPPLED BY OKLAHOMA SOONERS

setting: LOGIC, key: METAPHYSIC, hat: EPISTEMOLOGY

MAY 1981

1. HOOSIERS VICTOR OVER TIGERS, TAR HEELS AVENGE CAVALIER LOSSES
2. TEEN CRIME RISE LAID TO COURTS, COMMUNITY
3. POLISH REACH NO ACCORD, SHOWDOWN APPROACHES
4. MILITARY VIEWS SHUTTLE AS WAY TO OPEN SPACE FOR WARFARE
5. WATT SEEKS GREATER ROLE FOR FEDERAL PARK ENTREPRENEURS

setting: FUOSS (rebus for Much Ado About Nothing) key: CONSTABLE, hat: DOGBERRY

JULY 1982

1. BRITISH WIDENING BEACHHEAD; FRIGATE SUNK IN NEW ATTACK
2. HUNGARY'S ECONOMY SETS PACE FOR MODIFIED CAPITALISM
3. DR. J. JUST THE CURE NEEDED
4. POLAND STEPPING UP AN ANTI-U.S. CAMPAIGN
5. LAST LINK OF FLORIDA KEYS HIGHWAY DEDICATED

setting: EVANS, key: PSEUDONYM, hat: GEORGEELIOT

FEBRUARY 1983

1. POPE SET TO ISSUE NEW CHURCH LAWS EASING STRICTURES
2. SOVIET SPY CRAFT FALLS OVER INDIAN OCEAN
3. REDSKINS PUMMEL COWBOYS, ADVANCE TO SUPER BOWL
4. VIRGINIA TEACHERS LAUD VIRTUES OF THE MCGUFFEY READING SYSTEM
5. ITALIANS BAR RELEASING BULGARIAN SUSPECT

setting: STONE, key: CHONDRITE, hat: METEORITE

JANUARY 1984

1. BILLS RALLY RUINED BY LAST-SECOND RAIDER KICK
2. REAGAN LAUDS CONGRESS DESPITE DEFICIT REDUCTION FAILURE
3. REPORTERS, PERMITTED INTO CUBA, FOUND FAMILIAR CURBS
4. WARSAW IS HOPING TO CALM FOOD PRICE FUROR
5. SCHMIDT'S PARTY, IN REVOLT, VOTES AGAINST MISSILES

setting: SWIFT, key: VOYAGE, hat: HOUYNHNNHNS

JANUARY 1985

1. NEW BUDGET FIGURES SHOW RISING DEFICIT
2. FIRE BRIGADES FORM FOR ALERT IN MANAGUA; U.S. BLAMED
3. ASTRONAUTS SECURE ERRANT SATELLITE INSIDE SHUTTLE
4. LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CARD CATALOGUE BEING COMPUTERIZED
5. JAPANESE BASEBALL — NOT BETTER, NOT WORSE — JUST DIFFERENT

setting: ORATE, key: PANEGYRIC, key: ENCOMIUM

FEBRUARY 1989

1. FEARFUL OF CHAOS COMING, AFGHANS SCRAMBLE TO FLEE KABUL
2. BEIJING AUTHORITY BEING CHALLENGED BY LOCAL JURISDICTIONS
3. GORBACHEV AND WIFE TOUR QUAKE WRECKAGE, COMFORT SURVIVORS
4. PEREZ DE CUELLAR ACCEPTS NOBEL PRIZE FOR HIS FORCE
5. REDSKINS' PLAYOFF PICTURE FADES TO BLACK

setting: SMITH, key: GLADYS, hat: MARYPICKFORD

DECEMBER 1990

1. NASA'S FAILURES END AS DISCOVERY LIFTS OFF
2. AQUINO PROCLAIMS VICTORY OVER CAPTURED MUTINEER
3. EFFORT TO OVERRIDE BUSH VETO OF STOPGAP BUDGET FAILS
4. SCHOOL PRINCIPAL FEARS ENCEPHALITIS IN THE FLORIDA NIGHT
5. WHOSE LOCKER ROOM IS IT, ANYWAY?

setting: MULCT, key: SWINDLE, hat: BAMBOOZLE

JUNE 1991

1. TRUCE IS OFFICIAL, NO U.S. ORDER YET ON PULLOUT OF TROOPS
2. VAST MAJORITY OF SURVEYED AMERICANS FEEL RECESSION
3. GULF OIL SPILL STRAINING CLEANUP EFFORTS
4. MAJOR LEAGUE UMPIRES STOPPED WORK YESTERDAY
5. RERUN RIGHTS PROPOSAL ANGERS HOLLYWOOD STUDIOS

setting: DANCE, key: POLKA, hat: SCHOTTISCHE

APRIL 1992

1. UPPER VOLTA VICTORS IN TWO-DAY WAR WITH PEOPLES' REPUBLIC OF CHINA
2. HOME ICE ADVANTAGE GIVES ORIOLES AN EDGE OVER CELTICS IN SUPER BOWL
3. SENATE APPOINTS SELECT COMMITTEE ON COMMITTING SELECTED SENATORS
4. RECENT HOPKINS STUDY LINKS ATHLETE'S FOOT TO PLAID POLYESTER SOCKS
5. DISNEY SCANDAL; MICKEY DENIES CHARGE OF 'CHEDDARGATE' INVOLVEMENT

setting: APRIL, key: FIRST, hat: SHENANIGANS

SEPTEMBER 1993

1. MONSOONS BATTER INDIA, NEPAL, BANGLADESH
2. ROSTENKOWSKI DENIES ALLEGATION OF EMBEZZLEMENT
3. BRAGGING RIGHTS UNSETTLED BETWEEN ROCKIES, MARLINS
4. BLIND SEAMAN SETS SAIL TO CROSS THE ATLANTIC ALONE
5. DESPERATE MIDWEST BRACES FOR MORE RELENTLESS RAIN

setting: CROUP, key: STIFLE, hat: WITHERS

MAY 1994

1. SHAREHOLDER SUITS MOVE FROM COURTS TO CONGRESS
2. RUMOR DU JOUR SENDS AMERICA ONLINE REELING
3. CROWDS IN BOPHUTHATSWANA WELCOME MANDELA AS HERO
4. FLAWED SALES PITCH BLAMED FOR HEALTH REFORM SETBACKS
5. FLORIDA, ARKANSAS ROUND OUT NCAA'S FINAL FOUR

setting: PETTY, key: PICAYUNE, hat: TRIFLING

MAY 1995

1. BUDGET CUTTERS SPARE PORK IN PENTAGON APPROPRIATIONS
2. SWEEPING POWERS TO BE PROPOSED FOR DISTRICT OVERSIGHT BOARD
3. OKLAHOMA STATE CHECKS IN, ARKANSAS EARNS RETURN TICKET
4. TURKISH FORCES PRESS ATTACK AGAINST KURDISH REBELS IN IRAQ
5. SHAREHOLDERS LIKELY TO BACK MARTIN MARIETTA-LOCKHEED DEAL

setting: YIELD, key: ONEWAY, hat: SPEEDLIMIT

NOVEMBER 1996

1. NOTRE DAME WARY OF LETDOWN IN CRUCIAL MATCHUP WITH OHIO STATE
2. DEBATE CONTINUES OVER IMPACT OF TELEVISED PRESIDENTIAL DEBATES
3. CLINTON PROPOSES REASSIGNMENT OF FBI AGENTS TO COMBAT TERRORISM
4. INTEL OFFERING NEW SOFTWARE TO ENHANCE MANAGEMENT OF NETWORKS
5. AFGHAN CAPITAL TRIES TO REGAIN NORMALCY AFTER ISLAMIC VICTORY

setting: EAGLE, key: STAR, hat: TENDERFOOT

AUGUST 1997

1. OCEAN PIONEER JACQUES COUSTEAU REJOINS 'THE SILENT WORLD'
2. INVESTORS TAKE ANOTHER WILD RIDE ON MARKET SEESAW
3. HONG KONG NATIVES IN U.S. KEEP CLOSE WATCH ON RULE CHANGE
4. ASTROS PILLAGE PIRATES WITH FOUR-RUN EIGHTH
5. DAMAGE TO MIR 'SERIOUS, NOT IMMEDIATELY DANGEROUS'

setting: SLOOP, key: FRIGATE, hat: GALLEON

MAY 1998

1. MILOSEVIC SNUBS U.S., EUROPE; ALBANIANS BURY VIOLENCE VICTIMS
2. FORMER CLINTON OFFICIAL SEES SCANDAL EDGING OUT SUBSTANCE
3. POLICE ON LOOKOUT FOR FINAL FOUR TICKET SCALPERS, COUNTERFEITERS
4. DEBT-PLAGUED XEROX REPORTED TO BE PREPARING BIG BUDGET AX
5. BIOLOGISTS' EFFORTS TO REINTRODUCE CALIFORNIA CONDOR TO BIG SUR SOARING

setting: AGNEW, key: DOLE, hat: ROCKEFELLER

DECEMBER 1999

1. IN UNANIMOUS MOVE, USOC VOTES TO SUPPORT CARTER
2. RUSSIAN SOLDIER KILLED BY REBELS IN KABUL NEIGHBORHOOD
3. MARYLAND BEATEN BY NOTRE DAME
4. MEXICO MAY DOUBLE OIL OUTPUT TO AID ECONOMY, CONSUMERS
5. RHODESIAN PEACE A BOON TO NEIGHBORS

setting: PEACE, key: TRANQUIL, hat: QUIESCENT

OCTOBER 2000

1. JAPAN ISLAND VOLCANO ERUPTS, CHILDREN EVACUATED
2. BUSH RESISTS GORE'S BAIT, STICKS TO OWN AGENDA.
3. OIL PRICES UP AS VENEZUELA, IRAN SAY SUPPLY OKAY
4. BLAZERS, CAVALIERS, HEAT TO SEAL DEAL NEXT WEEK
5. VIOLENCE FLARES IN COLOMBIA ON EVE OF CLINTON VISIT

setting: ADIEU, key: CURTAINS, hat: THATSALLFOLKS

Introduction to the HEADLINE PUZZLE

by Paul Derthick

April 1978

[written by Mr. Derthick's successor]

Below you will find some tips written a number of years ago by Paul Derthick, creator of the Headline Puzzle, in response to frustrated *Newsletter* readers who asked, in essence, "How the heck do you DO those stupid things?" You should find that, with a few minor exceptions, I follow most of the rules that Paul devised, so the tips will apply to my stupid puzzles in pretty much the same way that they did to his stupid puzzles. The exceptions are these:

* Where Paul used headlines primarily from *The New York Times*, I'll use any old rag I can find (including at one time during a field assignment, a large number from the galactically reknowned *San Antonio Express-News*). I've even been known to fabricate headlines in celebration of the 91st (or sometimes the 92nd) day of the year.

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1965

The following are all headlines from a recent daily newspaper. Each of the five is a different letter-for-letter substitution. All five are derived from the same mixed alphabet at different settings against itself.

1. XBBWGPLSF QSYKSP RGWKAKBMW LKBLNMBL RW G A
2. KFRXZG NTZYN YBFHL KRIO PH NYRZL
3. RQKXY OCPHDCB EXSC WYCC-PHCKS TYPWS
4. PONPNM MAZ ZC PIOEEAJBA IOEEAPF
5. JSRDYA IAC DQIIP WYRC AIUY UIRP

* Paul made sure that his HAT words were always at least seven letters long. While I'll try to follow this lead in most circumstances, I'm not a fanatic about it.

* Paul always included at least one headline from the Sports page. I'll also try to use at least one from International News and one from the Business Section (but take note of the operative word here: try).

* Some of my headlines may include common non-words such as acronyms or abbreviations (e.g., TV, NAACP, NFL). If the paper prints 'em, I'll use 'em.

So, without further ado, Paul's solving tips.

APRIL 1966

The following are all headlines from a recent daily newspaper. Each of the five is a different letter-for-letter substitution. All five are derived from the same mixed alphabet at different settings against itself.

1. CJVYCOSQ YOBYBRSR IBUMXEUVSUM HEMCBJM ERBPXMEBU YBPEIQ
2. EJTSOFYWVF EBOYSTWOB WV DVFF JFI AVFIVF EOWSOF FJWV
3. UZLXNG AZSANPNU LNSRU UWIANA
4. YMKRZMB WDKQDP PGQYL ZMEL-OYKGL EWKJLOQPXP
5. NGSVQR SLGAFGL KVYBMNLFJ JGEN YR FMNPMGKFBM BLAR

MARCH 1970

The following are all headlines from a recent daily newspaper. Each of the five is a different letter-for-letter substitution. All five are derived from the same mixed alphabet at different settings against itself.

1. JRMEZYMJ GQCYMSGO URHJEYM MQCQURBB OUZRRG UMQEQUQOI
2. HZKNOSH HOOQ MOHS GOXDNF SUDQH MNSYNF SYXOO MOOQH
3. LBJEIG YUQUUCTQEJ EN LYGNC LPYUDCEY
4. SPTWECSUY TAWWEIT XYPIDU DSGYFUT CE XGYFPGWUIC
5. VPRDK DIEXLP QREEK IU WVP HGY HIROQ WQGYYPQPO HK QXLIQM

JANUARY 1978

The following are all headlines from a recent daily newspaper. Each of the five is a different letter-for-letter substitution. All five are derived from the same mixed alphabet at different settings against itself.

1. YQUWRIWNIEVNMN'E 'YCIE NMH UCAFAE' YAFQPA CMEAUAMHAMI
2. BDGLPG BTJZKC YB OTZKJZYJZS BDTNHFX JZ BDTLJPJZS STTPC
3. MZYRZRY AB SZZXS GAWAQMGP O UZQZRY OPTMSZR WUXSBZPQT
4. ZMOQXJXAXBX GZO OC HBECVR ECW PCTXGGX Q
5. TFQTYKOUKHSR BVOOVBQEW O PQEQD PVCYWO TSANSVCE

The preceding puzzles appeared in the *Newsletter* on the dates indicated. Note that the instructions for the puzzle have never varied, yet each of the puzzles is an example from “major” changes in the manner of constructing the mixed alphabet. There have been, and are, “minor” changes in the other steps of the puzzle, which can occur at any time, and are (hopefully, I say!) a little challenging and frustrating.

The puzzle was planned to have the widest appeal possible, and there are almost as many approaches to it as there are those interested. I have known some very good brains who were challenged only by the headlines, and at least one who preferred to struggle with a pattern like ABCDEFGDABCE rather than tackling the shorter words. And I have also known some very good brains who thought the puzzle was too easy, despite the ramifications in the cipher process, and that has been one of the reasons for changes: to sustain interest. I give you a caveat.

The use of headlines was a happily malicious thought. It permits the inclusion of outrageous proper names, and has a tendency to exclude the commonest words. The five most frequent words in English are THE, OF, AND, TO and A; of these, due to the condensed nature of headlines, THE and A are almost always omitted, with AND being replaced by a comma. On the other hand, headlines exhibit their own peculiar frequencies with words such as SAYS, REPORT, HOLD, SET, OPPOSE, etc. The first word is an attention getter, and one to be leery of, unless you are looking for a pattern as in CARTER, NIXON, CONGRESS, and the like.

The interrelationship of the five headlines also makes it less important that each letter be repeated as in the usual cryptogram. I look for headlines with a fair repetition rate and rarely change a word to repeat a key letter. Most headlines come from the Sunday *New York Times*, but I use both the Washington and Baltimore papers. I do not save up headlines that are stinkers — I’m too lazy for that — and the quality of the puzzle suffers from my usual

rushing to meet a deadline. I have special dispensation from the *Newsletter* to submit the puzzles later than most, but, at best, the headlines are four to five weeks old to the solver. One discovers that yesterday’s headliners are often today’s nonentities. One of the headlines is almost invariably from the sports page and all of them have the least expected words that I can find in haste, including a rare THE or AND.

Unless that is the way you prefer, do not sweat over each headline in turn, but look for the shortest words or best patterns in them all. With luck and effort, the solution of one headline can be of help in solving the second, but, in general, it is easier and more profitable to solve at least two headlines before attempting to reconstruct the mixed alphabet. In a rare case, you may have a problem after solving all the headlines. Years ago, a solver said she just hated me because all of the five headlines produced even decimations of the mixed alphabet and split into two thirteen-letter sequences. It was an unjust accusation, for although I delight in pulling a dirty trick occasionally, the long arm of random was the culprit. I select words on which to base the cipher steps for length, uniqueness of letters, or even obscurity, etc., and for their relationship to one another, and do not worry about what they are going to produce in the puzzle, except for identity encipherments and unprintable Anglo-Saxonisms.

Before I go too far for the uninitiated, let me explain what I intend to do. I will work out the January 1978 puzzle at the beginning of this paper, which is an example of the current puzzle. The initial steps are applicable to all past (and probably all future) puzzles. And I will explain the distinctions from the current puzzle in the earlier examples, and let you work them out for yourself. All this in order that you may be prepared to anticipate changes when, dammit, one puzzle doesn’t work like the last one.

Looking at the January 1978 puzzle, probably headlines #2 and #3 would succumb to effort first, since an assumption of OF and TO in #3 would be correct, and it wouldn't take long to spot IN, the third most frequent two-letter word, in #2.

- 2. BDGLPG BTJZKC YB OTZKJZYJZS BDTNHFX JZ BDTLJPJZS STTPC
 PRAVDA POINTS UP CONTINUING PROBLEM IN PROVIDING GOODS
- 3. MZYRZRY AB SZZXS GAWAQMGPO UZQZRY OPTMSZR WUXSBZPQT
 SIGNING OF KIICK TO BOLSTER AILING REDSKIN BACKFIELD

Since the encipherment is by sliding a mixed alphabet against itself to a fixed position for each headline, we know the cipher and plain pairs BP, DR, GA ... in #2 are composed of letters which are separated by the same fixed distance X within the mixed alphabet. In #2 we find the cipher/plain pairs BP, PD and DR, and we can chain these into the sequence BPDR, which are letters at a decimation of X of the original alphabet. Producing as many chains as possible from #2, we get:

Z N B P D R
 K T O C S G A
 H L V
 J I
 Y U
 F E
 X M

Similarly, the pairs in #3 are a different fixed distance Y apart in the same mixed alphabet. Chaining #3 we get:

M S K
 Z I
 Y G T D
 U A O R N
 W B F
 X C
 Q L
 P E

MARCH 1986

1. SEVERAL PROGRAMS TO BE ELIMINATED IN BUDGET PLAN REVIVAL
2. GOTTI SAID TO SUCCEED AS CHIEF OF GAMBINO CRIME GROUP
3. SCHOLARSHIPS AIM TO IMPROVE CENTRAL AMERICAN RELATIONSHIPS
4. SUPER BOWL XX: SURE SHOT VS. LONG SHOT
5. HOSPITALS WARNED THAT AIDS EPIDEMIC COSTS WILL BE HEAVY

setting: TEXAS, key: JAMES, hat: MICHENER

JANUARY 1987

1. CONGRESS PLANS TO INVESTIGATE COVERT POLICIES
2. STUDY URGES FIGHT FOR STATES' RIGHTS
3. LIBERAL ARTS, LONG IN DECLINE, ARE BEING REVIVED

The usual case will probably not produce a complete alphabet from just two headlines, but it should be complete enough to be useful in solving the other headlines. As more headlines are solved, more chains can be constructed and used to complete a single twenty-six-long sequence. All you have to do now to finish deciphering the rest of the headlines is to prepare sliding strips and immediately check your assumptions, or try deciphering a cipher word at all slides looking for meaningful plain. The fact that your alphabet is a decimation of the original makes no difference.

As a matter of fact, we were doubly fortunate in the above alphabet; #2 is actually an odd decimation of the original (you don't actually know this yet — just take my word for it), while #3 is even. Had both been even, we could have ended up with two thirteen-letter sequences, with no clue as to how they

should be interwoven. If this happens to you, it is best to tackle another headline and hope that it is at an odd decimation.

At this point, the approach to all my puzzles is identical, and some may have happily assumed that the puzzle is solved. But if after having solved all of the headlines we construct a table showing the reconstructed sequence and the slides used for each headline:

4. TAMIL SPOKESMEN REJECT SRI LANKAN PEACE OFFER

5. ATLANTIC SALMON STILL FIGHTING FOR SURVIVAL

setting: TRADE, key: FAIRY, hat: CHANGLING

FEBRUARY 1988

1. PROTESTS TODAY POINT TO RIGHTS AS SUMMIT ISSUE

2. ARMS PACT HAS MAJOR EFFECT ON PRESIDENTIAL RACE

3. CADETS TOP MIDSHIPMEN IN PHILADELPHIA

4. POLAND TO SPREAD OUT PRICE RISES

5. A CHRISTMAS APPEAL: THE NEEDIEST CASES FUND

setting: MUSIC, key: RHAPSODYINBLUE, hat: GERSHWIN

If we assume that the letter Z (beneath which we found the setting word BEING) is actually the first letter of the true mixed sequence, we can see how the sequence was built from the box:

Z N B was first;
P D R was next ;
W K T was next;

and so on. The order in which the columns were taken from the box was:

2 9 5 7 8 3 6 1 4

R E A L I T Y B C
D F G H J K M N O
P Q S U V W X Z

This numerical series represents the alphabetical order of the letters in the third word to be solved for, the HAT. In a hat, each letter of a word is numbered according to where it occurs in the English alphabet. The letter which occurs earliest in the alphabet would receive the number 1, the next would be numbered 2, and so on. If two or more of the same letter occur in the hat word, they are numbered left to right. One aid to solving for the hat involves writing out the letters which define the limits for each position:

2 9 5 7 8 3 6 1 4

B E C D D B C A B
C F D E E C D B C
D G E F F D E C D
E H F G G E F D E
F I G H H F G E F
.....
V Y W X X V W U V
W Z X Y Y W X V W

Note that the only letter that could possibly be an A is at 1; that 2, 3 and 4 can all be B; that if 3 is B then 2 must also be B, but 4 could be C, etc.; and that if 4 is B then 2 and 3 must also be B. Similarly if you assume that 1 is C, then 2, 3 and 4 can at earliest be D, etc. Likewise, 9 is the only possible Z, and 7 and 8 can at most be Y. By a lot of trial and error, we find that the hat is EXISTENCE. It is possible that a number of words might fit a given numerical sequence, but usually only one will have a relationship to the setting and key words.

The setting word will always be five letters long, and the key word will never contain repeated letters. There are no restrictions on the length or character of the hat word, beyond that it will always be related in some manner to the other two.

This January 1978 puzzle was an exception to my usual lazy habits. Note that if I had taken the columns out of the keyword box from top to bottom, the mixed alphabet would have started with the letter B. With the setting word BEING, the first head-

line would have been enciphered at a slide of 0, meaning that a plain A would become cipher A, plain B would be cipher B, plain C would ... well, you get the picture. The first headline would not be enciphered at all (not much of a challenge). I had to do something to prevent the first (or any) headline from producing an identity encipherment, so I reversed everything: the setting word reads bottom to top, the cipher alphabet is on top of the plain alphabets, and the columns are taken out of the keyword box from bottom to top. More frequently you will find the setting word reading from top to bottom, the plain alphabet on top and the cipher alphabets inside, and the columns taken top to bottom from the keyword box.

The earlier puzzles I have listed will give you some idea of the evolution of the process, and it may be some fun trying to remember the headlines of those dates. The January-February 1965 puzzle was one of the earliest, back when the *Newsletter* was born. It uses a straight keyword alphabet and five-letter setting, such as

C A S T L E B D F G H I J K M N O P Q R U V W X Y Z R E G A L

The April 1966 puzzle would scramble the keyword sequence using the alphabetical order of the setting word (vs. a separate hat word):

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R E G A L
5 2 3 1 4
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C A S T L
E B D F G
H I J K M
N O P Q R
U V W X Y
Z

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to give: T F K Q X A B I O V S D J P W L G M R Y C E H N U Z

Since the chains from #2 and #3 are decimations of the same original alphabet, it follows that they are decimations of each other, and we can convert the information from one into terms of the other. The first chain from #2 and the fourth from #3 both contain the letters R and N. In #2, N is 4 places to the left of R, and in #3 N is one place to the right of R. If we place the chain from #3 into the form of #2 (i.e., reverse the order of the letters and separate them by 4), we can combine the smaller chains into longer ones.

Z N B P D R . . . O . . . A . . . U

We can now add further chains from #2:

Z N B P D R . K T O C S G A .. Y U

and add more from #3:

I . F E Z N B P D R W K T O C S G A X M Y U

moving between the two sets of chains, attempting to form the longest possible combined chain. With beginner's luck (I work very few of my own puzzles), we get a complete sequence of twenty-six letters:

H L V J I Q F E Z N B P D R W K T O C S G A X M Y U