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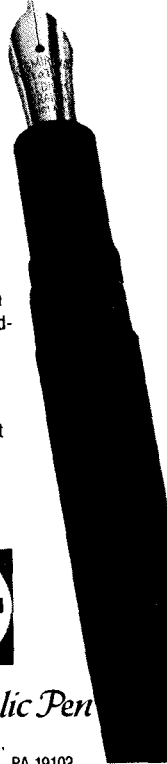
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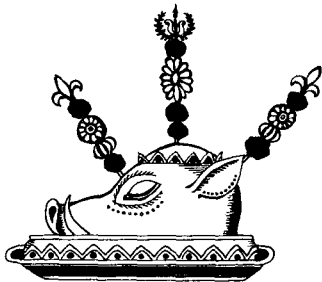
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## Top of My Head

### The Fee Enterprise System

by Goodman Ace

**I**F YOU are a young person thrashing around to find a job that has a groovy retirement plan plus munificent fringe benefits, you would do well to think about becoming an ex-President of the United States.

And you'd better start now, before that field becomes overcrowded and too competitive. Since 1976 the ranks of ex-Presidents have swollen by 100 percent. From one to two. Nixon's the one. Ford is the other. In the July-August issue of the magazine *Free Enterprise*, there is this list of fees that will be paid to the Ford family:

\$1 million from NBC [for] Mr. Ford's participation in programs during the next five years and for the first chance to broadcast portions of his memoirs.

\$500,000 from NBC to Mrs. Ford for participating in programs during the next two years.

\$1 million from *Reader's Digest* and Harper & Row to publish memoirs of Mr. Ford and his wife.

All these goodies are, of course, in addition to the incidental annual pension of \$63,000 our government pays to all its ex-Presidents. The big dough is in the ex-presidency. While you are President you get no bonuses, no matter how many press conferences you appear in on TV or how many sweaters you wear to chat before a fireside. That's what you're being paid \$4,000 a week to do. Which, compared with what you haul in as ex-President, is peanuts. No offense, Billy.

As for our other ex-President, television took handsome care of him by creating for your entertainment pleasure a mini-series called *The Nixon Interviews*, for which he was paid \$600,000, plus a share of the profits.

Usually I don't watch television in the late spring and the summer because the networks are awash with repeats of situation comedies (sit-com). So I push my TV set into a corner, face to the wall, and tell it to shut up till the new season begins.

But *The Nixon Interviews* was a whole new ball game. Instead of sitting through the usual sit-coms, I began watching this

situation tragedy (sit-trag) and was held spellbound during the four 90-minute installments.

Most of the grumbling from viewers seemed not so much concerned with the way Mr. Nixon comported himself, or with what he said, as with the 600,000 bucks paid him. But to be fair, Mr. Nixon was only doing what comes naturally in our fee enterprise system. You've heard the expression "Put your money where your mouth is." This ex-President was putting his mouth where his money is.

In 200 years, the United States has had 38 ex-Presidents who served as President with varying degrees of greatness, beginning with a President who won the hearts and votes of his countrymen by declaring early in life that he could not tell a lie. We have had others who could not tell a lie from the truth.

Nevertheless, the beauty part is that no matter who's minding the store, this widely advertised democracy still stands. And, far more often than not, proudly flourishes.

Which brings me to a minor detail I seem to have touched on too lightly. A sort of Catch-22. In order to attain the juicy job of ex-President, you will first have to take on the job of President. This may not appeal to you, but it's not too bad a scene. You get a rent-free oval office, an American flag, and a red telephone on your desk.

At most, it's only for eight years. If you play your cards wrong, you can be out in four years. President Nixon was elected for two four-year terms, but due to circumstances within his control, the time he actually served was five and a half years. He has not served any time since. The designated hitter was Gerald Ford, who, to his surprise, became an ex-President in only two and a half years.

Of course all this pertains only to ex-Presidents of the U.S. I'll bet you won't ever see David Frost on TV interviewing ex-President Podgorny of the U.S.S.R.

We are rapidly approaching the day when a young father holds his newborn infant aloft in his arms for admiring relatives to see and says: "This kid is going to grow up to become the ex-President of the United States." ©

Art Continued from page 54

scene in the nineteenth century, no artist since Caravaggio, 300 years earlier, had occasioned such a far-reaching aesthetic revolution. Opening at New York's Museum of Modern Art on October 7 and remaining there until January 3, an exhibition entitled "Cézanne: The Late Work" will deal with the last decade of the master's life—from 1896 to 1906. The importance of those ten years can scarcely be exaggerated.

Cézanne, like many great artists—Titian, Hals, Rembrandt, Monet, Renoir, Degas, for instance—became increasingly free both technically and philosophically as he grew older. In his middle years he was a cool classicist; in his later ones he became a controlled expressionist. From his last period one particularly remembers the various views of Mont Sainte-Victoire, the mountain in Provence that Cézanne made famous; one remembers, too, his slightly menacing confrontations with human skulls. The late works verge on the supernatural as they go beyond the subject to investigate generic meanings. Not least, the show will include some of the greatest watercolors ever produced, for Cézanne was a master of this medium, which he developed, especially during his final decade, into sonorous transparencies.

At the museum, orientation galleries with slide presentations and other photographic and documentary material will "facilitate an understanding of Cézanne's late work as a key to the art of this century." That, perhaps, is the pretext for showing this inimitable "old master" at a "modern" institution.

One additional word—the Metropolitan Museum in New York is featuring an exhibition from October 15 to January 15 called "Treasures of Early Irish Art: 1500 B.C. to 1500 A.D." Among the more than 70 masterpieces included will be the Tara Brooch, the Ardagh Chalice, the Cross of Cong, and the Book of Kells. These Celtic objects, often so small and exquisitely crafted that a magnifying glass is necessary for seeing them properly, are alive with interlacing spirals metamorphosing into unexpected animal and plant forms. Rich in optical deceptions, they depend on kinetically energized mazes of multiple overlapping images. Perhaps the most celebrated illuminated manuscript in the world, the Book of Kells, lent by Trinity College, Dublin, will star as an introduction to the abundant proliferations of early Irish art. Don't miss this show; you won't be seeing the likes of it again, unless you cross the Atlantic. ©

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—Finley Peter Dunne

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# Double-Crostic

by Thomas H. Middleton

## Number 129

### Instructions

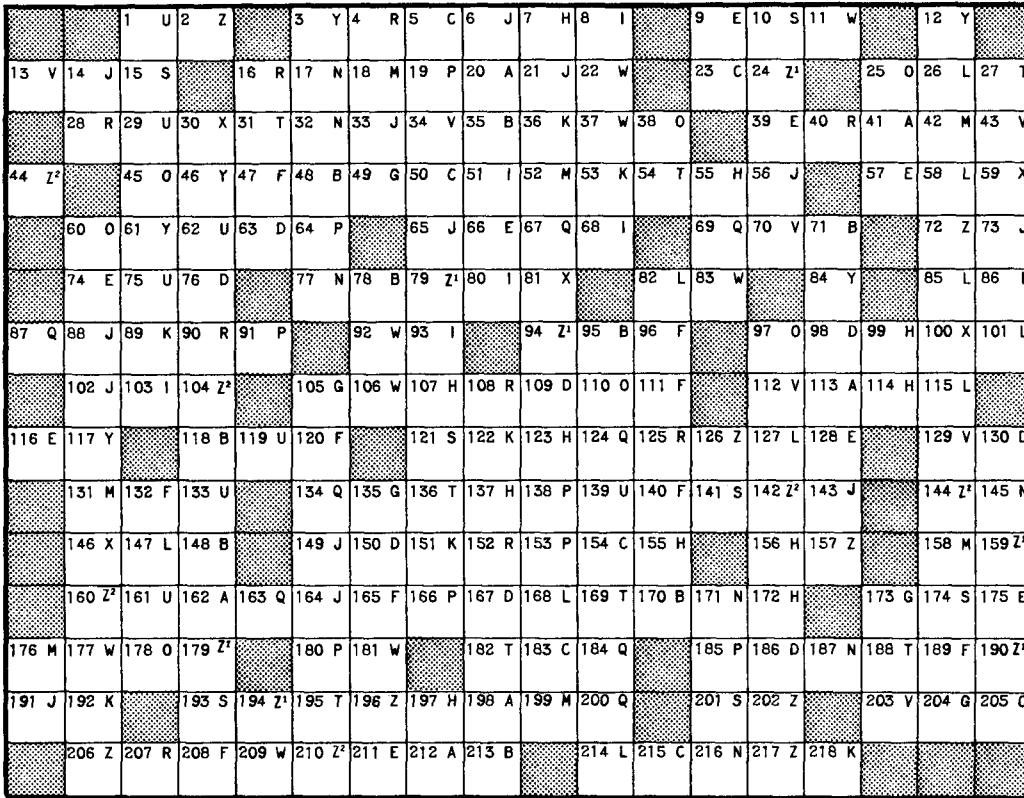
If you've never solved one of these puzzles, it will probably look much more difficult than it actually is. If you can answer only a very few of the WORDS correctly, you're on your way to solving the puzzle.

Fill in the numbered blanks of all the WORDS you can guess, and write the letter of each numbered blank in its correspondingly numbered square in the diagram. The letters printed in the upper-right-hand corners of the squares indicate from what WORD a particular square's letter comes.

The diagram, when filled in, should read as a quotation from a published work. The dark squares are the spaces between words. If there is no dark square at the end of a line, a word may carry over to the line below.

The first letter of each WORD, reading down, will spell the name of the author and the title of the work from which the quotation is taken.

You should find yourself seeing words and phrases taking form in the diagram; so you can work back and forth, from WORDS to diagram and from diagram to WORDS, until the diagram is filled in.



### CLUES

- A. Englishman for whom a college was named in 1638 (full name)
- B. Magnetism, allure; spectacle
- C. Shakespeare play (2 wds. after *The*)
- D. "\_\_\_\_\_ and hum of that low land" (4 wds.; Arnold, "Sohrab and Rustum")
- E. Wharf laborer or deckhand, as on the Mississippi
- F. Most evasive, trickiest
- G. Japanese system of syllabic writing
- H. Go from place to place, esp. in a regular circuit
- I. Irritable, irascible; precarious
- J. Nabbed, swiped; addicted
- K. Outline clearly or sharply; delineate
- L. Giddy, empty-headed, talkative person
- M. Belong intrinsically
- N. Viscid, sticky, gummy

### WORDS

- 41 74 84 113 127 159 173 184 196 213 6
- 8 19 45 60 71 100 126 141 199 195
- 79 93 130 146 167 180 209 1 40 124 17
- 28 53 66 85 121 175 23 99 197 7 44 76
- 102 147 212 12 57 96 117 172 25 73
- 108 122 150 200 22 35 55 87 137
- 183 207 11 52
- 103 132 13 90 120 32 168 192 210
- 215 10 61 151 182 48
- 69 94 107 63 83 125
- 133 155 211 2
- 16 91 110 129 158 181 33 43 163 214 136
- 81 201 20 36 47 139
- 142 178 205 5 105

### CLUES

- O. First name, *Scarlet Letter* heroine
- P. Strove
- Q. Quality, character, property
- R. Heinous, infamous, vile
- S. Abstract moisture from
- T. "\_\_\_\_\_ of accident nor dart of chance" (2 wds.; *Othello*, Act IV, Scene 1)
- U. Island in the Baltic belonging to the Estonian Republic
- V. Raises to a higher degree, intensifies
- W. Correct, discipline
- X. On the spur of the moment (3 wds.)
- Y. Flatter, cajole, coax
- Z. Town in Campania, Italy
- Z<sup>1</sup>. Bass, guitar, and drums in a jazz band (2 wds.)

### WORDS

- 156 186 26 59 78 116
- 165 30 109 187 15 161
- 182 203 27 34 111 49 86 104 144
- 154 194 148 188 72 119 46 101 145
- 14 50 67 176 164 118 64 82 152
- 92 143 88 54 185 42 177
- 80 174 190 115 39 202 128
- 123 206 171 38 95 9 68 58
- 106 31 160 204 89 77
- 131 75 29 65 140 70 51 169 37 149
- 189 166 135 157 18 97 198
- 3 179 112 208 153
- 24 138 216 170 193 4 98 21 62 184 56
- 114 191

**Answer to Middleton Double-Crostic No. 128:** Peter De Vries: Afternoon of a Faun  
 My father was a man steeped in the heavyweight German philosophers; his small talk ran to the likes of "I believe it was Hegel who defined love as the ideality of the relativity of the reality of an infinitesimal portion of the absolute totality of the Infinite Being."