

Witch Trial
by Squonk

The Wicked Witch of the West: the epitome of evil, or simply misunderstood? Sure, she threatened Dorothy with flying monkeys, but why? The reason is revealed by solving the five puzzles below, each inspired by a famous phrase attributed to the Witch. The number of letters in each final answer is given next to the title. Each answer will lead you (in a way for you to determine) to a new word. These words explain the Witch's behavior (and might even describe some other puzzles in this issue!)

How About A Little Fire, Scarecrow? (5)
Don't worry; it's been contained.

Down entries must be entered with letters in scrambled order

ACROSS

- 1 1986 AL Rookie of the Year
- 2 Contraption in a checkout line
- 3 Hot, as salsa
- 4 Mascot Sam and his ilk
- 5 From Egypt, for example

DOWN

- 1 Spanish appetizers
- 2 Stops, as a villain's plan
- 3 Accustom
- 4 Kick out
- 5 Irregular; uneven

I'll Get You, My Pretty... (16, 2 wds.)
If it's the first...I mean, the last thing I'll do

Exceptionally pretty woman
First word in title of Dirty Pretty Things' 2006 album
He sang "Oh, Pretty Woman" (2 wds)
Making more pretty
Pretty, as a proof
Subject of the parody "Pretty Fly (for a Jedi)" (2 wds)
With the next clue, her products helped make you pretty
See the previous clue

ATE	GEL	LAM	ORI
BET	GOD	NKE	RLO
BIS	HOB	NOB	SEL
DEN	IWA	NTW	YOR
DES	IRO	OAR	ZIN
EGA	IZA	ONG	

....And Your Little Dog, Too! (5)
Anything else you want to add?

1978 short-lived musical based on a Thomas Wolfe novel (5; 6; 2)
Fictional detective with 11 children (7 4; 6; 6)
Lionel Sternberger is credited with inventing it in the 1920s (12; 7; 5)
Name shared by a psychic and a song by Built to Spill (4; 8; 7)
1993 film whose plot mirrors that of the musical The Phantom President (4; 6; 4)
Food called gezi in Mandarin (5; 6; 2)
Maienfeld is the main town in an area named for this children's book (5; 10; 6)
Basketball team that derives its name from a famous statue (7; 4; 2)
Group also referred to by a phrase meaning "Our Thing" (5; 6; 4)
"Cousin" used as a metaphor for adding cute children to a TV series (6; 6; 1)
King whose name means "peaceful" or "complete" (7; 7; 6)

Surrender Dorothy (13; 2 wds)
Even if she's under an assumed name
GMWN JCIINJ
GUN GUMI WLI
L BCV GUMIB
ALYU LIA EMEEV
WMRULNE
GUN MIAMLI JCIINJ
WJY DLJHNJ LIA GUN PMRMZCY RMJREN
NIGNJGLMIMIB LIBNEY
ANND MI WV UNLJG
WZIHNV YUMINY
RLEE MG L ALP
ANLGU ZK L RNIGNJKZEA
GZZGYMN

I'm Melting! (5)

At least you're shedding lots of weight

Before Melting

Story by Ellison or poem by Whitman (8)

Wrote, as Lovecraft did for Houdini (7)

Ms. Summers, on a 1960's sitcom (4 3)

Calculate, as with a Macintosh (7)

Skiing competition with two separate events (8)

Loses (9)

After Melting

Amount (to) (4)

Made a thorough search (6)

Many, many, many years (4)

Piece in a board game (3)

What a returning student might earn: abbr. (3)

Young girl (4)

SPOILER SPACE prior to answers

Solutions:

Fire...

The letters CAN appear in each Across entry in a different position. They must be squeezed into a single square to be shared with a different letter in a Down clue. Those letters, in order of the CANs, spell ALIVE.

Across

- 1 (CAN)SECO
- 2 S(CAN)NER
- 3 PI(CAN)TE
- 4 TOU(CAN)S
- 5 AFRI(CAN)

Down

- 1 TAPAS
- 2 FOILS
- 3 INURE
- 4 EVICT
- 5 EROSE

Pretty

The trigrams can be arranged to spell the answers to the clues, although not in the order given. The clues' answers (in clue order) are:

GODDESS, WATERLOO, ROY ORBISON, GLAMORIZING, ELEGANT, OBI-WAN KENOBI, ELIZABETH, ARDEN

The answers in trigram order are:

GODDESS, ELIZABETH, OBI-WAN KENOBI, ROY ORBISON, GLAMORIZING, ELEGANT, WATERLOO, ARDEN

Taking the first letters then the last letters spell GEORGE WASHINGTON

Dog

The first number in parentheses gives the answer to the trivia question (the answers happen to be in alphabetical order). Each answer is also the name of a famous person's dog. This person's last name has the number of letters given by the second number. Take the nth letter of the last name of each person, where n is the third number in the parentheses.

- Angel – Chuck Norris (O)
- Charlie Chan – Peri Gilpin (N)
- Cheeseburger – Warren Buffett (E)
- Cleo – Gillian Anderson (O)
- Dave – Dick Cheney (N)
- Grits – Amy Carter (A)
- Heidi – Dwight Eisenhower (H)
- Liberty – Gerald Ford (O)
- Mafia – Marilyn Monroe (R)

Oliver – Tom Snyder (S)
Solomon – Oprah Winfrey (E)

The phrase ONE ON A HORSE refers to the word RIDER.

Dorothy

The cryptolist consists of a series of movie titles. In each film, an actress (or in the last case, an actor) portrays a character named Dorothy. The initial letters of the surnames of the actresses/actor spell JOHN MALKOVICH.

The code (plaintext on top):

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNPOQRSTUVWXYZ
LFRANKBUMTHEWIZDOJYGCPQSVX

The actresses/actor (film in parentheses)

Suzy Joachim (Time Runner)
Maureen O’Sullivan (The Thin Man)
Julie Hagerty (A Guy Thing)
Bebe Neuwirth (Dash and Lilly)
Andie MacDowell (Michael)
Patricia Arquette (The Indian Runner)
Jennifer Jason Leigh (Mrs. Parker and the Vicious Circle)
Maira Kelly (Entertaining Angels)
Merle Oberon (Deep In My Heart)
Joyce Van Patten (Monkey Shines)
Frieda Inescort (Call It A Day)
Jamie Lee Curtis (Death of a Centerfold)
Dustin Hoffman (Tootsie)

Melting

The “Before” answers are: EIDOLONS, GHOSTED, MARY ANN, COMPUTE, COMBINED, MISPLACES. The “After” ones are: COME, COMBED, EONS, MAN, GED, MISS

By removing a word from the middle of each Before answer, you get an After answer. Those words are: IDOL, HOST, RYAN, PUT, IN, PLACE. The first three words clue SEACREST, and the last three clue SET. Using these two as another Before/After pair gives you the final answer ACRES.

Meta

The five answers are:

ALIVE
GEORGE WASHINGTON
RIDER
JOHN MALKOVICH
ACRES

Each of these can be preceded by another word to form the title of a movie, book, or TV show. These words are IT'S NOT EASY BEING GREEN, applicable to the Witch, and (with a comma after EASY) possibly some now colored Enigma puzzles. (Note: NOT forms the title of the P.G. Wodehouse book Not George Washington.)