1994 MIT IAP Mystery Hunt

In the 21st century, cash is illegal — all monetary transactions are conducted strictly by electronic funds transfer (except, of course, for certain sleazy underground narcotic dens). H. Acker is a member of a secret society dedicated to preserving our right to illegal tender, known to its members as IHTFP (Internet Haven For Tender Preservation). Recently, Acker was chased by the cybercops and forced to hide IHTFP’s most valuable item of illegal currency — the apocryphal MIT IAP Mystery Hunt coin — somewhere on the MIT campus. To make sure it would not be lost if she were captured, Acker hid the coin in a public location and generated a set of encrypted messages that described how to find the coin. Our hero cleverly described a precise path to where the coin lay, but replaced each crucial word with a nonsense word. She then inserted a set of puzzles in random order into cyberspace that provide replacements for the nonsense words. Each of Acker’s puzzles was designed to appear to be a normal puzzle to the untrained eye. Only by combining all the answers would it be possible to find the coin. She also uploaded a set of pictures of various locations at MIT for some unknown reason. Your mission, should you decide to accept it, is to find the coin and save the IHTFP! The attached portfolio is a printout of the puzzles and photos created by Acker.

Some of the puzzles include instructions; some do not. If there are no instructions, figuring out how to solve the puzzle is part of the puzzle. If there are instructions, they are as precise and accurate as we could make them. If you find them confusing ask us — they are not intended to be part of the challenge of the hunt. The rest of the hunt will be challenging enough. Note that for ease of identification, all instructions appear in this distinctive font.

The puzzles were created by IHTFP staff members, Eric Albert, J-J Coté, Tom Izdikowski, Bruce Leban, Roy Leban, Debby Levinson, Kelly Moutsos, Peg Primak, Julian West, and Rose White. Staff members will be available for consultation over the next few days. To reach us during the hunt, first try to find us physically on campus. We will leave a note in lobby 7 telling where we will be when we are on campus. Second, call 365-7446. This is a cellular phone so it will always be with one of us. Please do NOT call this number after Sunday! We borrowed this phone just for the weekend. If we don’t answer this number, call 969-8787. This phone has an answering machine that we will keep updated. Finally, send e-mail to leban@lcs.mit.edu. We will try to check mail regularly during the hunt, but your best bet is to save your questions until you’ve found us.

Every puzzle has a unique definite solution. After you solve each puzzle, you will get a two-part answer. This will be specified in the instructions or should be obvious after you’ve solved the puzzle. We will confirm these answers. The first part is a single word that can be placed before one of the nonsense words from the path to form a new word. Some of the answer words can be placed before several different nonsense words, but there is a unique pairing that uses all the nonsense words and all the first words from the puzzle solutions. All of the new words in this pairing are common words. The second part of each answer is the replacement for the nonsense word. This second part may be a word, a phrase, a number or something else.

Finally, the hunt is supposed to be fun. If you’re not having fun, let us know and we’ll try to do something about it.
This puzzle can be found in today’s New York Times. The starting point of the hunt can be found in the first column and one of the answer pairs can be found in the last column.

The metal cyberkey.

telnet 129.32.17.32 1729

This grid conceals twenty related words. There is one word in each row and column. The words read from left to right or top to bottom, but the letters are not contiguous (i.e., the across words skip over the down words and vice versa). Each letter is used in only one word and there is at most one unused letter in each row or column.

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

MADE
GREAT
RIGHT
TURN
SIGN
FOUR
ONE
GRECE
WEEK
IDLE
DAYS
ROME
Each of the questions below has an answer of two or three letters. Below each set of questions is an alphabet containing the answers. Each letter is used only once.

1. The letters that sponsored the season premiere of Sesame Street on 11/22/1993.
2. The Malay word for “water.”
3. The Dutch acronym for Royal Dutch Airlines.
4. Denzel Washington is on this month’s cover.
5. The nickname for an item of clothing named after a town in New York.
6. The Statue of Liberty is located within the border of this state.
7. 2–13
8. Intermediate vector bosons.
9. The magazine that featured Hillary Rodham Clinton in a bondage suit.

VWCGBKHSZQAEOFPLNTRUMDJXY

1. The largest transportation company in the United States.
2. All the letters not used in the two-letter postal designations of US states.
3. The highest-point-total three-letter word in the Official Scrabble Player’s Dictionary.
4. The striped-shirted character in the comic strip Dykes to Watch out For.
5. The two large letters on the clock reading 11:32 in the film After Hours.
6. The three initials of the person being shaved by Cindy Crawford in Vanity Fair.
7. The letters worn on the uniform of a player for Arsenal Football Club.
8. 850 of them will get you an Economist.

FWBMRKYQUZIDAJGLOEHPXVTSCN

6

A “spoonerism” is a spoonerism of a pair of antonyms (of course). Thus, lover/hater becomes hover/later. You are given one half of each spoonerism and are to find the other half. Following each word is a number. Take the letters specified by these numbers to produce the answer.

<p>| | | | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>yam</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>feel</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>whack</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fad</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>caw</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>lied</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>west</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>torte</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
For each row and each column of these grids, a list of numbers records the number of black squares in each contiguous group of black squares. There is at least one white square between the groups of black squares. The number of white squares is not recorded. So for instance, with ten rows there are 15 possible placements of 2 and 3 including the two shown on the right.
1. What word has the meaning "smelling like garlic"?
2. Who wrote the stories on which the play on which the musical Cabaret is based is based?
3. What chemical element was named after the Latin word for Russia?
4. What is the first name of Scotty, the chief engineer of the starship Enterprise?
5. Who is one of the characters waiting for Godot?
6. What word describes the usual condition in adult human females of having breasts of different sizes?
7. The name of what cheese contains a very unusual silent letter?
8. What common word can be made by rearranging the letters of "hotel suite"?
9. Most states have an official state song and flower. What state has the state drink tomato juice?
10. What was the name of the fictional land created by Aslan?
11. Who was the son of Amenhotep III?
12. The name of what former monetary unit contains a very unusual silent letter?
13. In what book of the Bible is Passover first discussed?
14. Who said "It was the first time, and the only time, in my career that I knew a law of nature that nobody else knew"?
15. What prefix means "one quintillionth part of"?
16. What is the name of the mongoose in The Jungle Books by Rudyard Kipling?
17. By what name is Kal-El better known?
18. What important substance is produced by the islets of Langerhans?
19. What is the generic name for a very popular tranquilizer?
20. What was the name of the sword that was returned to the Lady of the Lake?
21. A west African country was renamed in 1984; what is its capital?
22. What was Rock Hudson's second last name?
23. In what field is the lead character of Edward Scissorhands especially skilled?
24. Who was president of the United States for only 32 days?
25. The software company Aldus is named after a fifteenth-century printer responsible for what important innovation?
26. What is the name of the other baseball team in the musical Damn Yankees?
27. What state comes after Georgia on the back of a five-dollar bill?
28. What nonsense word begins the title of a reggae-styled Beatles song?
29. What was the profession of the World War II character Rosie?
30. In which eponymous Hitchcock film does the eponym never appear?
31. What was Irving Berlin's first first name?
32. What fictional character owns a cat named Spot?
33. What chemical element got its name because it smelled so bad?
34. Who was the youngest president of the United States?
The seven sayings below have been abridged by removing all spaces and only printing a letter the first time it appears. What are the original last letters of each saying?
(Example: the last letter of “IHATESFUCKNGPLC” is E)

EVRYONSACIT
DOASIYNT
ONEMASTIHRP
ALSWETHND
FIGHTREW
ITAKESHFOC
HEWOSITAL

414 + 701 = 717 + 402

This is a “jigsaw” puzzle. Fit the pieces together to spell out a message. The solution is approximately rectangular and includes spaces between words. Words are not broken between lines.
Each of the ten puzzles below has 25 boxes, each box containing one or two letters. By taking the contents of one box from each column (not necessarily from the same row in each column) and reading across, you can spell out, for each puzzle, a group of five related words. A single letter has been removed from the central box of each puzzle marked by * or #. These missing letters can be arranged to form two words.

```
AIMINS
TEIRSG
GACEI
LIURUS
PRBEA

TALVX
SIIO
CUL#
BOSKX
REMEA

APAWR
SLHDE
SR#OR
MARCEO
MIPHESE

RIIUAR
CLICIE
FUMULS
HADBUA
TAVERS

LOILARE
POUNCON
FAP#SE
PERMAER
FOIRCAT

OUONUHS
FANXTRY
POARD
COESNY
PETLTBU

REVAR
LADOM
SAR
RODAL
MAGES

HAPPENED
DITAYS
TY#HN
IETUON
TIETRIS
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1210, 1013, 1110, 1214, 1014, 1012, 1212, 1112, 1114, 1211, 1010
1612, 1413, 1411, 1611, 1613, 1614, 1410, 1514, 1510, 1610, 1414, 1412
2214, 2312, 2310, 2313, 2414, 2314, 2311
2711, 2613, 2611, 2713, 2811, 2813
3111, 3112, 3113, 3110, 3214, 3014, 3114
ACROSS
1 Nonclerical
5 Spy’s cover?
10 Put-poses
14 Junk cars
19 TV oldie, Answer
20 Redback?
21 Go on the road
22 Duran Duran in
23 Mom, Dad, and
25 Tête-a-tête
27 Stupefied
28 Causing jitters
30 Takes to the
31 Guitar feature
32 Skywalker’s
33 Purely academic
34 The Ponderosa, e.g.
37 Falcon’s home?
38 Uncollectable
39 Power
40 Purely academic
41 Was
42 The Great White
44 San Francisco’s
46 Access to daylight
47 Soft location
48 Off the payroll
49 Prepare a soufflé
50 Blonde’s secret?
51 Vegas villain?
55 Removes water
56 Bang on the door, maybe
58 Weaver vehicle
59 “Dust in the
60 He may work at
61 Piches
62 Offs
63 Under the Cherry
64 Ms. Scoble
65 Alpha Canis
66 See eye to eye
67 Stage practice
68 Publicize
69 The Ship of Fools
70 Comply with
71 Unadulterated
72 Rock music’s
73 Brian
74 Movement head
75 Jewel-heist booty
76 Refrain from
77 The Roman Hat
78 Put on
79 Campers have a
80 Campers have a
81 Selenic
82 Mask
83 Precambrian
84 Sounded
85 sheepish?
86 Needed Alka-
87 Different setup
88 Cutting edge
89 See 34-Across
90 The King
91 Supporting the
92 Singer-actress
93 Moon ___ Zappa
94 February forecast
95 Ancestor’s opp.
96 Put on
97 Adjective for
98 It’s often carved in
tone
99 Everest’s
100 Exam type
101 Oster author Grey
102 Major ending?
103 Sammy Davis Jr.’s
104 Veninous viper

DOWN
1 Burt’s Mrs.
2 “Make __ for the
3 Cortez conquers
4 Chicken’s
5 Manic
6 Dog Day
7 Sapporo sash
8 Whole
9 Peepers’ window?
10 Upright
11 __ Dame
12 Tax
13 Packed, in a sense
14 Drag racers
15 Will’s subject
16 At the drop of
17 Soccer superstar
18 Mane director
19 Capacitance unit
26 Cobralike
27 Some are liberal
28 Well-known
29 Olympia artist
30 Citizen Kane prop
31 Elf
32 Bad place for a
33 Connoisseur
34 Confine
35 Creamy toppper for
36 Water or 53 Soothing
37 or 53 Soothing
38 Algerian abuser
39 Singer-
40 Toni
41 Breathing disorder
42 41/6 of purity
43 Pressing
44 Enthusiast
45 More knowing
46 Surface
47 Where the
48 Action is
49 Estevez’ brother
50 Handed out hands
51 Boulogne
52 or 53 Soothing
53 or 53 Soothing
54 Algeria abuser
55 Singer-
56 Toni
57 Breathing disorder
58 41/6 of purity
59 Pressing
60 Enthusiast
61 More knowing
62 Surface
63 Where the
64 Action is
65 Estevez’ brother
66 Handed out hands
67 Boulogne
68 or 53 Soothing
69 or 53 Soothing
70 or 53 Soothing
71 or 53 Soothing
72 or 53 Soothing
73 “Buffalo ___ ”
74 or 53 Soothing
75 Herculean
76 Dexterity
77 or 53 Soothing
78 or 53 Soothing
79 or 53 Soothing
80 or 53 Soothing
81 or 53 Soothing
82 or 53 Soothing
83 or 53 Soothing
84 or 53 Soothing
85 or 53 Soothing
86 or 53 Soothing
87 or 53 Soothing
88 or 53 Soothing
89 or 53 Soothing
90 or 53 Soothing
91 or 53 Soothing
92 or 53 Soothing
93 or 53 Soothing
94 or 53 Soothing
95 or 53 Soothing
96 or 53 Soothing
97 or 53 Soothing
98 or 53 Soothing
99 or 53 Soothing
100 or 53 Soothing
101 or 53 Soothing
Do you speak Esperanto? It doesn't matter if you don't. Just take the thirty-six Esperanto words in this list and fit them into the grid below. One letter has been entered to get you started. The five shaded squares read clockwise contain the first word.

Thirty-five related words, taken from the official list of eighty-eight, are concealed in the grid below. The words run in all eight possible directions. A letter may be used once, many times or not at all. The unused letters read from left to right, top to bottom will give you the second word.
This is a cryptic crossword. There are two unclued words in this grid marked by * and # respectively. Anagram these words to come up with the final pair of words. Each clue in a cryptic crossword contains two parts: a definition of the answer and a second description of it through word play. Finding the dividing point between the parts is the key to solving. Watch for anagrams, hidden words, containers, curtailing, behedgments, charades of two or more smaller words and other language tricks. See back issues of GAMES magazine for other cryptics (with solutions).

Across
1. First Greek letter precedes sixth English letter (5)
2. Our home’s broken heart (5)
3. Primarily, nurses are the attendants legitimately connected with birth (5)
4. A symbol, it means baby ‘em (5)
5. G-man, go back to clear the air (5)
6. Traverse wasteland of endless dangers (5)
7. Cat has one hundred and one plants (5)
8. It often runs in rainy London (5)

Down
1. Running for office, put candy coating on acid reform (9)
2. Carelessly reinfect a computer’s user software (9)
3. Like some twins, having genetic material, after a degree, all in a state (9)
4. Clone me? Ha! Crazy! I can change my appearance (9)

Add one letter to each of the following words and rearrange the resulting letters to form a new word. Rearrange the letters that you add to the words in each column to form the two words of the answer. All of the new words in the first column belong to one group. All of the new words in the second column belong to a related group.

GRAILS
MAINE
CRAYON

AIRY
AMIGA
DERAIL
GLEAN
GOO
RANKED
REPOSING
WENDS

Assam plesiosaur
Jesse Ventura
Weigh tons
Burn in effigy
White noise
Hans Werschoten
Ask yourself
Mundane astrology
This part of the mystery hunt is a scavenger hunt. There are four words to the answer. For each four of the items below you bring us we will give you one successive word of the answer. You don't need to bring us all the items at once (i.e., we'll give you the first word as soon as you bring us the first four items).

Ground rules: All items must be authentic. We will not accept fabricated or stolen items. On the other hand, creative interpretations of the items in the list are welcome. The decisions of the judges are, as always, final.

1. A bag of nuts from an airline
2. A ball cap with the insignia on the opposite side from the visor
3. A calculator or wristwatch with an LED display
4. A Chinese restaurant take-out menu with a typo on it
5. A comic book cover dated 1963 or earlier
6. An 8" floppy disk
7. An expired credit card or driver's license
8. A green 5 from a deck of cards
9. A guitar pick with a phone number printed on it
10. An item of food past its expiration date
11. A key with the name of a major university other than MIT stamped on it
12. An original letter or greeting card with any US President's signature on it
13. An LP
14. A magazine sweepstakes entry blank
15. A match book with an 800 number printed on it
16. A Milky Way or Heath candy bar *
17. A non-cubic Rubik's cube
18. A non-US coin
19. A pair of dice that generates exactly the numbers between 2 and 14 (inclusive)
20. A phone book from any state other than Massachusetts
21. A presidential campaign button
22. A screw, or anything else, with left hand threads
23. A tag that warns that it shall not be removed "under penalty of law"
24. A TV Guide from September 1993 or earlier
25. A US postal stamp that does not have any numbers on it
26. A $2 bill or Susan B. Anthony $1 coin
27. A $1000 bill
28. Book 4 of any "trilogy"

* All items will be returned to you except those marked *.
Take the names of these pictured objects and enter them into the grid below.
If there's a way, I'll get ahead. I work with style and care. And you can always count on me if you've a load to share. Give me a hand and I'll go first. I'm good at ending pain. But don't expect me before lunch if you've got half a brain.

Alice, Bob and Cajix live on Acacia Avenue where the houses are numbered consecutively 2 to 65. None of them know where the other two live, but they all know that their house numbers ascend in the order A < B < C. In fact, the difference between the numbers of any two of them is at least 4, but none of them know this.

Bob asks Cajix whether the number of its house is a perfect square. Cajix answers. Bob believes Cajix is telling the truth. Alice, who overhears, believes Cajix is lying. Cajix is lying.

Cajix asks Alice whether the number of her house is a perfect cube. Alice answers and Bob overhears.

Alice asks Bob whether the number of his house is a multiple of 23. Bob answers and Cajix overhears.

After a pause for reflection and calculation, Alice says that she knows where Bob lives and also knows that Cajix must live in one of two houses; she writes down the answers. Bob says that he knows where Alice lives and writes down the answer. Cajix says that it knows where Alice and Bob live and writes down the answer. Every single answer is wrong.

$$3A + 3B + C$$

---

22

*We've assigned each letter a unique number between 1 and 26. Each color in the list below is given a value which is the sum of the letters in the word, i.e., RED = R+E+D.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BRICK</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOLD</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLUM</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FLAX</td>
<td>63</td>
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<tr>
<td>CREAM</td>
<td>75</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAROON</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GREEN</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CANARY</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PURPLE</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOLDENROD</td>
<td>119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RED</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUFF</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDIGO</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECRU</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AQUA</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHITE</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRONZE</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YELLOW</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIOLET</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PERIWINKLE</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BROWN</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAN</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLACK</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLUE</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JADE</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEIGE</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEAL</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORANGE</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAUPE</td>
<td>113</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAGENTA</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$$6789 = \text{SPECTRUM}$$
The sides of four dice have been labeled with 24 different letters, and the dice have been rolled a number of times to produce the following twelve words. After you deduce the letters on each die, arrange the letters on each die in alphabetical order and then write the dice down in alphabetical order below. The numbered letters give you the first part of this answer.

AXIS CRAG HALF JAMB JUTE KEYS MOLD PATH PING SHOT VENT WIRY

The digits in the math problem below have been replaced by letters and asterisks. Every time a letter appears it represents the same digit. An asterisk represents any digit. The second part of this answer is EI.

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{FOUR} \\
x \text{NINE} \\
\text{Y} * * * O \\
\text{T} * * * V \\
\text{T} * * * T \\
* * * * Y \\
\text{I} * * * * * * \\
\text{+ FIVE} \\
\text{FORTY ONE}
\end{array}
\]

UDQAZRZWSMKUEQXMCJERKZCRWZUZQCRZWRWFJY
QOZUJMRWZURQCUWKDERZGCDKUZKRUAHERK
EHKEOIKUKJERZTDXJCLEURCQEOZEVVJCX
LURJUZNZHREZVXKMQELEZVAKFKGQKJ
EURJPJXLXYOJWZCZJEJZWEJQWZPZMJCZ

-- EKOWRPXQAN

OCIDLUMTNEKALLATFOMEHOTRAHRODUOYIGD
UEVIRPTHGAWAOSYREHASEAENPYSRIANUSTSI
FEHRSIOWTADRBDNSALUFANRIECHTSTOEREH
Raïa qu’éc orce turban béret crosse
Toussez afin laide y appeau nez ouate torse
Rhinanthes heure fine guerre, sans bel sonneur tôt.
Chiches. Lave moujik où est révère chicot.

Et qui rit des curés d’Oc?
De Meuse raines, houp! de cloques.
De quelles loques ce turque coin.
Et ne d’ânes ni rennes,
Équires des curés d’Oc.
Start at the diamond ◆ in the upper right. Find a path that passes through every circle ●, ending when you have reached every circle. You may move horizontally or vertically, but not diagonally. When you start you may only move through the grid where there are no walls blocking your path. When you reach a circle, you gain the ability to move through walls. However, you lose the ability to move from square to square where there are no walls. Each time you pass through a circle you will change from not being able to walk through walls to only being able to walk through walls and vice versa. You may not pass through the same circle more than once and you may not pass through the same square of the grid going in the same direction more than once. Collect the letters that you pass through just after each circle to find the answer.
Once you have solved all the puzzles, here’s all you have to do to find the coin:

1. Walk towards **board**
2. Add the digits of this door together then go to that building and locate the door that says the same thing as the door you were just at
3. The door **port** is alpha, the final step on the path takes you to omega; the coin is exactly **way** per cent of the way from alpha to omega
4. Walk **light** until you reach the **day**
5. Turn **stone wash** and meander along this pathway
6. Until you have counted **where sore s mark**
7. Go through the door marked **rot**
8. Continue in this direction until you have enumerated **over fall s** on the **weed** side of this corridor
9. Turn **shoe** and follow the corridor
10. Upon arriving at the **ball turn bug**
11. Journey **fly**
12. Pass through the door on the **storm**
13. Enter the **set** door on the **side**
14. Follow this passage to the **lash** and pass through the door there
15. Using the floor tiles as a grid, go to the point **herring** East and **red** North
16. Note the room number immediately ahead of you on the **fuse**, remove any digits in the zip code of **boat** and go there
17. Proceed to the **note** and go through the double doors
18. And reverse the digits of the number on the door **lift** and go there
19. Journey until you have passed **cake hold s**
20. Continue **play** completing a total of **while room**
21. Add the zip code of **line** to the number on the **time** door and find the door with that number