

PUZZLE

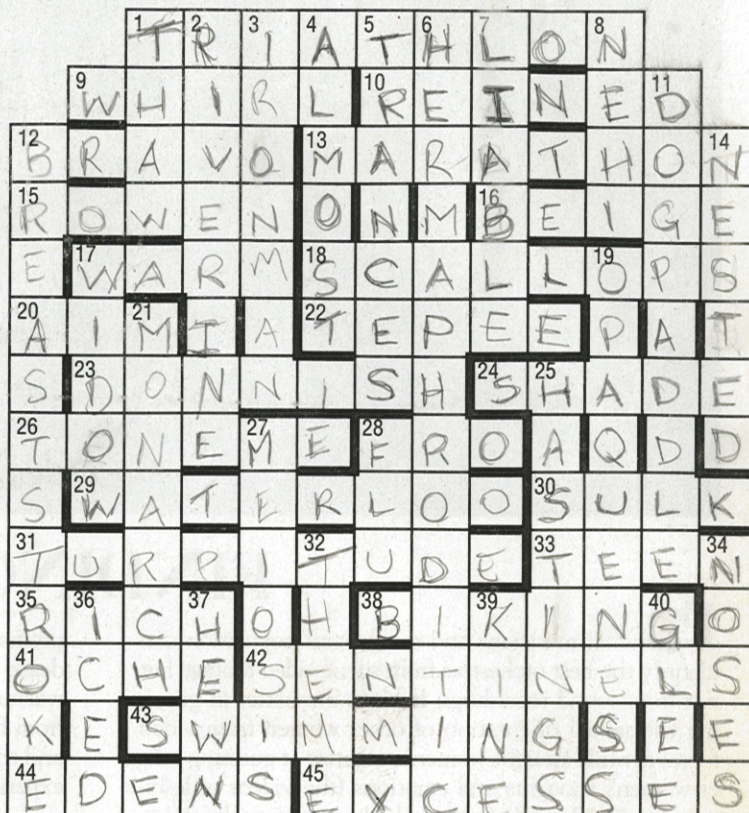
THEME AND VARIATIONS

By Richard E. Maltby Jr.

(with acknowledgments to The Listener)

Eleven entries are unclued. Three of them—theme-words A, B, and C—are linked. Each theme-word has two variations. The variations are different in each case. For example, if the theme-words were PEPPER and SALT, the variations might be ENERGY and A PIECE (definitions of component parts of PEP-PER) in the first case, and WATER and TALKS (the latter half of phrases beginning with SALT) in the second case. To complete the puzzle, 3 Down is an example of a 1 Across, which is what links the theme-words.

Clued answers include one proper noun. 15A, 26A, 41A, and 2D are uncommon. As always, mental repunctuation of a clue is the key to its solution. The solution to last month's puzzle appears on page 79.



ACROSS

- (see instructions) (9)
- Spoken in the past tense, this would make a planet spin (5)
- Checked in—precipitated noises (6)
- Good going in underwear worn before 50? (5)
- Theme-word C (8)
- New or otherwise, it's a second crop of hay (5)
- Buzzer holds back soldier that's buff (5)
- Friendly, but with gun at the back (4)
- Seafood ring served in concessions (8)
- Point of an instant message? (3)
- Mobile home tethered, at first, to a piece of fencing (5)
- Pedantic gossip carries on—one's heart follows (7)
- Heads off a ghost (5)
- Language unit distinguishable by pitch to backward European males (6)
- Back from being cut short (3)
- Variation on theme-word C (8)
- Evenly selected, use tip, like stew (4)
- Turned up, I rutted in depravity (9)
- Athletic supporter with name of an age (4)
- Loaded in electric heater (4)
- Theme-word B (6)
- Throwing line in a game can produce echo (4)
- Watches reset (in ten less letters) (9)
- Theme-word A (8)
- Tailor needs spots that are perfect (5)
- Profligacy in various sexes describing Second Coming? (8)

DOWN

- Why water isn't hard? What's wrong? (4)
- Before, I never disputed small state of a flower! (8)
- (see instructions) (7)
- To slam misfits, virtually (6)
- Spells "nectars" another way (7)
- Variation on theme-word B (14)
- Apt to be dancing in ball, i.e. (6)
- Pop in, greeting one with nothing out in front (4)
- Variation on theme-word A (3, 6)
- Variation on theme-word A (12)
- Gussied-up den, set like some tables (6)
- Opening, except for the third word that goes on the next line (5)
- Needing oxygen, see queen pass out—you can't see past it (10)
- Variation on theme-word B (7)
- Variation on theme-word C (8)
- Miso soup is full of energy—it affects the cells (7)
- Illness in the ear—took a powder for it (3)
- Melody from the Met: interminable (5)
- Bills engendered by a majority of diagnoses (5)
- First to last, what's thrown around by gamblers? Getting murdered (4)
- When broke, cut down (4)
- Cows members of flock in Episcopalianism (4)
- Kind of club that uses gravity to pull up fish (4)

Contest Rules: Send completed diagram with name and address to "Theme and Variations," *Harper's Magazine*, 666 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10012. If you already subscribe to *Harper's*, please include a copy of your latest mailing label. Entries must be received by May 9. The sender of the first correct solution opened at random will receive a one-year subscription to *Harper's Magazine* (limit one winner per household per year). The winner's name will be printed in the July issue. The winner of the March puzzle, "Gremlins," is Madeline Cook, Milledgeville, Ga.