

# PUZZLE

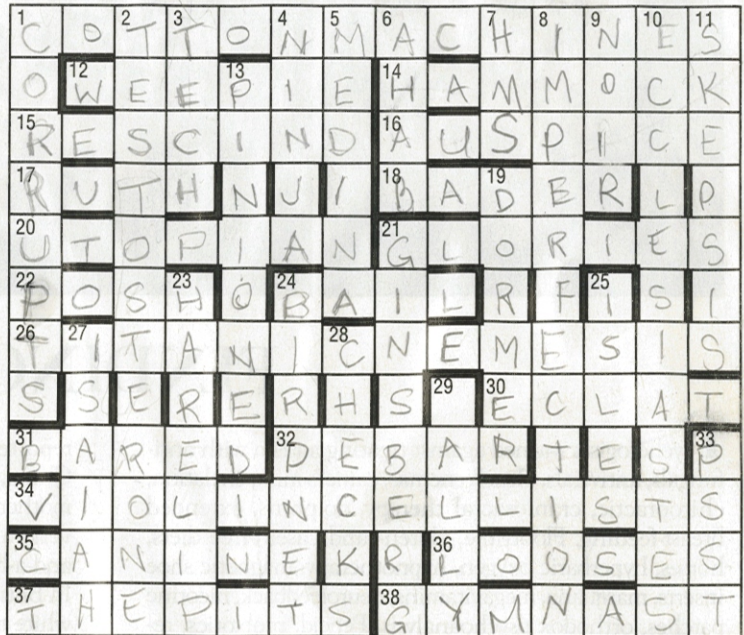
## THEME AND VARIATIONS

By Richard E. Maltby Jr.

(with acknowledgments to The Listener)

**N**ine entries are unclued. Three of them, theme-words A, B, and C, are linked in a familiar way. 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.

Clue answers include three proper nouns and one abbreviation; 16A is a variant and 11D and 24D 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 55.



### ACROSS

1. Variation on theme-word C (6, 8)
12. Tearjerker that's a little tart (6)
14. One acting badly, not real swinger (7)
15. Discern changes in reverse (7)
16. Singular protection during a university season (7)
17. Theme-word A (4)
18. Theme-word B (5)
20. Auto-piano, out of the box, perfect (7)
21. Religious shows with wild orgies left in (7)
22. Bribe for backing horse? Very smart (4)
24. Sounds like a lot of hay to get out of a can! (4)
26. Variation on theme-word C (7, 7)
30. Acclaim, etc., swirling around Hollywood location (5)
31. Variation on theme-word B (5)
32. Variation on theme-word B (5)
34. Designing icon still loves bowers (14)
35. Relating to Fox Family Movie: *An Intervening* (6) CINE
36. Releases British head-sets? Time out! (6)
37. Really bad situation can make you pettish (3,4)
38. Flipper finds great many changes on strait (7)

### DOWN

1. Court's P.R. representation makes a crook ... (8)
2. ... rebuild store after trial—one man's source of power (12)
3. Misprint the "c" in "computer nerd" (4)
4. Fighter's name in German? Sure thing! (5)
5. Maiden voyages all around a holy city (6)
6. A word from a miser upset a sea captain (4)
7. What leads in some ships evens out in homes (3)
8. Failing to make me proficient? Quite the opposite! (12)
9. Iron works producing a kind of film (4)
10. Variation on theme-word A (12)
11. Being around philosophical leader, kisses off philosophical doubt (7)
13. Bound to get in, in op-ed possibly (8)
19. It includes a Gable movie initially, in a different order (6)
21. Theme-word C (8)
23. Defect gets you a lot of money—cheer up (7)
24. Protector of Bushes, inbred, idiotic, and finally incompetent (4, 3)
25. One less trained lands in the water (5)
27. Variation on theme-word A (6)
28. Stops drafts (6)
29. Reckoning it's a big year (5)
33. Poses at odds with something to get attention (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 8. 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, "Tetris," is Kari Magill, Ann Arbor, Mich.