

The Woman in the Pink Knitted Cap

By Tricia Knoll

She spent five arctic nights
in a woman's shelter, but creatures sniffing
on cranky cots, overloaded
her, a male guard at the gate.

With the warm blow-in of southern rains,
she moved to a nook in her one dry place.
She's a wrung-out sponge, blotting up damp
in sweatshirts, tights, stretch pants,
one too-small jacket and the church-lady-knitted cap.
Relentless hours of hard rain erode
her gut-starch and her cross is choking tight.

One palm on the handle of her cart
keeps her from flowing.
Her fingerless glove swipes
a dripping nostril. Her tongue plugs
emptiness where a fist blew out a canine tooth.

Keep body and soul pasted together,
each wanders like her gray kitten.
She refuses to look at street kids'
brindled pit bulls.
What she cannot see will not bite.
She whispers to good people she once knew
and argues with the bad.

When sleep knocks her down, her night hag tiptoes
in, reigning hostess in a teetering house.
Both seldom know where the bathroom is,
never stare out windows and fear
that every shaky roof must fall.
She hears hag stories of lost sisters.
Now and then they trade clothes.

When morning comes, night hag hovers
behind her left shoulder, a burden-crushing fog
hangover of buzzing street light nights.
She hums and No One, day stalker,
always hears.

The Harvest of Halloween

By Dennis Kenneth Rollins

The deeper the heart,
The easier it is to fall apart.
In vein, it will always be the same.
Two titles given, means another one shared.

If you were to share another day fair,
The way is found
The entrance is open
For the passage is dear as time is near.

Two hearts open,
The way is clear.
Time for the occasion
Deep is the setting, clear to the view.

Time for harvest; time to scare.
Halloween is coming
Do beware
Giving, sharing, time indeed
Mummy, clowns, wolves, indeed
Time at hand, two words go on, indeed
Happy Halloween for you and me.

PUZZLES

By Kara Dimitruk

Answers on page 6

Crossword

Across

- 1. Way out
- 7. New York baseball player
- 10. Pro follower
- 14. It's also known as the splenic artery
- 15. A Sandy Koufax stat
- 16. Crude group?
- 17. Not done with purpose or intent
- 19. Isn't wrong?
- 20. "Give it ___!"
- 21. Second-stringer
- 22. A type of tea, with lemon
- 23. Phil Mickelson may use one
- 24. Nay's opposite
- 25. It's a free country?
- 27. Carnival site
- 28. While lead-in
- 30. Stun gun
- 32. Debtor's note
- 33. Pesto base
- 36. Yielding
- 38. 22-Down and 33-Across can be found here
- 41. Another name for a 38-Down
- 42. Legislate
- 43. Take the gold
- 44. Like some gases
- 46. Heidi's home
- 50. Mount Hood output
- 51. Summer shade
- 52. An end to sex?
- 55. 100%
- 56. 1989 film with Denzel Washington
- 58. A territory ruled by a duchess
- 60. Calendar square
- 61. "Holy ___!"
- 62. A harm or injury
- 64. It's used in fencing
- 65. Hail, to Caesar
- 66. Wears away
- 67. Loch ___ monster
- 68. Fourposter, e.g.

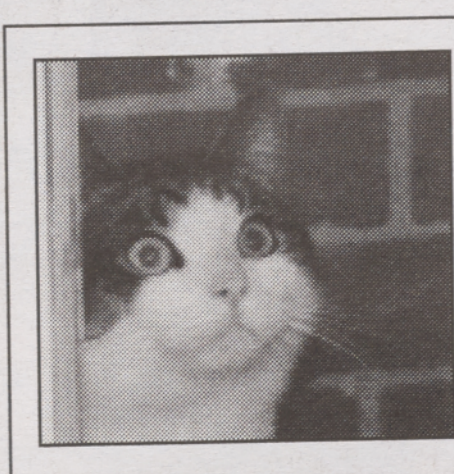
1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14							15				16			
17							18				19			
20				21						22				
23				24				25	26			27		
28			29			30	31					32		
			33	34	35				36		37			
	38	39							40					
41								42						
43				44		45					46	47	48	49
50				51				52	53	54		55		
56			57			58	59						60	
61						62						63		
64						65					66			
67						68					69			

- 69. Foil
- 12. They may be rising with the election
- 13. To perform Hamlet's soliloquy
- 18. Free
- 22. Used to ward off vampires
- 26. Nasal dividers
- 29. Traumatic Brain Injury Rehab, inits.
- 31. Rehem
- 34. Keeness in perception
- 35. Medicinal plant
- 37. Itty-bitty bit
- 38. Bunny or Black Diamond, e.g.
- 39. They may be left to hem
- 40. Monkey business
- 41. They traveled rural Australia on foot
- 45. Salad leaf
- 47. Brown Eyed Girl lyric, with "Sha"
- 48. A county in the Sacramento Valley
- 49. Least ingenuous
- 53. Sleep on it
- 54. Gift of the Magi
- 57. Some whiskeys
- 59. Like some books in Powell's
- 62. Apply gently
- 63. "I do," for one

Sudoku

	9							
	5	7					8	1
							9	4
	1	4		3				
						6	3	9
					2		1	
				4	8	3		
		1			5			
	3	8		2	6			

The objective of Sudoku is to fill in all the blank squares with the correct numbers, from 1 to 9. Every row, column and square must include all digits, 1 through 9, in any order.



Office Cat Rooty sends a big thank you to the groovy organizations and businesses who donated their time and wares for our online auction! Together, we build a great community!