Crosswords at a Crossroad: The Puzzle Turns 100. What Is the Clue to Its Survival?

Lynn J. Feigenbaum, Old Dominion University

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Department
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Committee Director
Avi Santo

Committee Member
Lindal Buchanan

Committee Member
Heidi Schlipphacke

Abstract

Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the crossword on Dec. 21, 2013 will be a dedicated, demanding and outspoken following – an online community that may be the key to its future as a popular American pastime. The crossword puzzle has always had a tight-knit core of fans, even in its earliest years. But, for the most part, doing a crossword was a solitary pursuit. That has changed with the advent of a burgeoning fan community on the internet, a virtual community of crossword enthusiasts. It is not far-fetched to regard the saga of the crossword as a microcosm of modern community building, a case history on how a traditional pastime can adapt to new media.

In this paper, my intent is to show – through research, interview and my own longtime amateur participation in puzzling – the importance of community to a leisure-time pursuit; and specifically how cyber-fans use their collective voice to influence crossword output both creatively and economically. Creatively because blogs and other web resources have raised the volume and reach of an active crossword fan base, allowing it to exert more far-reaching pushback on puzzle creators and content. Economically because with the dramatic decline of the crossword's longtime medium, the print newspaper, this traditionally paper-and-pencil pastime is moving online.

Complicating the discussion is a growing generation gap, a tug-of-war between younger and older puzzlers for what they see as relevant and acceptable content. Thus, the crossword is at a crossroad: an older generation forms a core part of the fan base while younger puzzlers are charged with adapting and shaping the crossword for survival in the future.

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Welcome to Crossword Heaven, a crossword clue search engine by a crossword aficionado. I'm trying to add as many tools as I can to help both crossword solvers and crossword constructors. The main tool is essentially a crossword dictionary, letting you search for clues you can't find the answers to. It has over a million entries of clues alone, not to mention almost every word in the English language. Unlike most clue search engines, we have both a pattern matching search for matching a word pattern and a search including the clues.

Dailies. New York Times (subscr.) One Clue Crossword: examine pics to solve crosswords! app game by AppyNation Ltd. on ios iphone and android devices. from the pizza picture you can get words for horizontal dough, napkin, pepperoni, tomatoes, basil and vertical words ham, meal, olive, cheese, mushrooms, pizza. Complete this word, then try another. Complete the whole puzzle to earn more rewards. Complete every chapter of the puzzle grid to reveal the hidden crossword! for chapter 1 you can get: RANCH APE CHILD HAPPY.

Advertisement. ONE CLUE CROSSWORD is a new kind of crossword puzzle. Instead of a list of written clues, c... Crossword enthusiasts are well familiar with The New York Times' super-sized Sunday puzzle, and its editor (and frequent Ask Me Another guest) Will Shortz, has become a wordplay superstar. To mark the puzzle's 100th anniversary, Ask Me Another puzzle guru John Chaneski crafted this special AMA-themed puzzle. While you don't have to be a superfan of the show to solve it, astute listeners of the show's credits will sense a theme. Click here, or the photo above, to download the puzzle. (Right click, save-as). Only one question remains: will you be using pencil, or pen? We're