

CAMOUFLAGE? (answer)

by Peter Sarrett

The ambiguities can be resolved in two ways—either as a straightforward logic puzzle (list all possibilities for each row; for any rows with only one choice, cross off that row’s letter from all other rows’ possibilities; repeat; if a letter gets crossed off from all but one row, it must be correct in that row) or by noticing that the letters come in three groups—noise, signal, noise—with the noise appearing in alphabetical order.

M	O	C	H	I	T	C	H	A	T	O	R	Y
P	I	N	C	A	N	D	I	R	O	N	Y	M
S	T	R	A	I	N	F	A	L	L	O	T	E
R	E	V	A	P	O	G	E	E	R	A	L	T
R	E	M	I	N	D	I	G	O	V	E	R	N
F	I	O	N	I	N	J	A	R	I	Z	E	C
R	H	Y	P	O	P	H	O	N	Y	X	A	D
S	P	A	B	U	L	U	M	I	T	I	O	N
F	I	R	E	A	L	M	I	T	U	S	H	E
A	C	H	I	T	O	P	L	U	C	K	Y	O
Z	I	L	C	H	O	O	R	A	Y	E	R	V
B	I	K	I	N	I	R	V	A	N	A	C	K
Y	O	H	O	A	R	S	E	Z	I	A	R	Y
N	E	T	H	E	R	E	A	L	E	N	C	E
I	C	L	A	B	E	X	P	A	N	S	E	R
Q	E	M	A	R	G	Y	L	E	X	I	C	A
C	U	P	L	A	Y	B	O	Y	S	T	E	R
D	E	L	B	O	W	L	E	R	E	S	S	Y
T	Y	R	A	N	T	A	C	I	D	E	R	S
S	A	P	P	H	O	N	C	H	O	R	U	S
H	E	P	H	A	L	K	A	L	I	N	E	R
R	E	B	A	R	O	Q	U	E	R	I	L	E
D	E	M	O	N	S	T	R	A	T	I	O	N
A	R	C	H	E	R	V	I	L	R	O	A	D
F	R	E	S	C	O	W	H	A	N	D	L	E
S	T	R	A	P	E	Z	E	D	I	A	G	E

The message amid the noise in the middle column is HUMP OR SEXY BLANK. The word that replaces the blank, is the final answer, **BACK**. (HUMPBACk whale, SEXYBACk the hit Justin Timberlake song)