

IN COMES COMPANY - SOLUTION TO LAST ISSUE'S PUZZLE

Some clues in last issue's puzzle were invaded by company bearing the gift of an extra letter; that is, an extra letter string of the form "cXo", with X being various letters. Those strings needed to be overlooked to properly parse the clues. Reading the extra letters in clue order gave the location in the grid of a card to go with the gifts: "EVERY FOURTH LETTER". Those letters, highlighted at right, spell "HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MR. SONDHEIM. WE CELEBRATE YOUR BEING ALIVE."

Clue Notes

Across 1. B + (-c)arhop 5. AD within "scamp" anagram 10. [cEo]; papa + (-w)ay reversal 12. Gl(st)s 14. "at an art" anag. 15. mis + do 18. (-s)miler 20. "he set" anag. 22. [cVo] any...always initials 24. sh(us + H)e's 25. "an aid" rev. 26. [cEo] "awns" anag. + (-fok)ker 30. [cRo] o + as(+e)s 33. [cYo] a + l(+k)ane + t 36. b + "corn" anag. 38. [cFo] s(-ea)t + (-d)rum 40. prYOr LEarned rev. 41. [cOo] pi(-k)e 44. Dr. + ape 46. [cUo] "green" anag.+ al 47. "flint" hoophone 48. cance(-r) + L 49. [cRo] miss(+ IV)e(-s) 50. [cTo] acting...nuclear final letters

Down 1. "bites" homo 2. [cHo] A + Z + "thus I'm" anag. 3. ha(T)s 4. par(ole)e 5. [cLo] dreaMYTHing 6. "not dead" anag. 7. C + at + ch 8. "eat bad" anag. 9. "sleigh" anag. 11. [cEo] p + "no sir" rev. 13. s(l)tout 16. double definition 18. [cTo] double def. 19. "learns" anag. holding N 21. double def. 23. "a pricy" anag. 24. SM("go" rev.)s 27. chAMBERmaid 28. s(nap)py 29. Len + "niece" anag. 31. "the man" anag. 32. [cTo] "maui ars" anag. 34. "don + girl" annie 35. b + rings 37. [cEo] "bred to" anag. 39. [cRo] "sure" anag. + s 42. videO GAME 43. A + L + A.E. eAgLeEyE

