

## Last Puzzle

Nobody understands mortality better than an actuary, but that doesn't make the losses any easier. First, earlier last year we lost Irwin Vanderhoof, our long-time guide to actuarial Wonderland. Then in late December, two days after Christmas, our puzzles maven Alan Goldberg passed away at the age of 73.

Alan became puzzles editor in the January/February 1996 issue. No doubt it helped fill all the time he suddenly had on his hands after he retired from his career as an actuary. And it was a full one. Alan worked for the Social Security Administration in Baltimore for three years, and served as chief actuary and chief financial officer at Sun Life Insurance Company in Baltimore for 25 years. When he retired, it was as vice president and actuary of Provident Corporation in Louisville, Ky. after 17 years of service.

I never actually met Alan, only talked to him on the phone. But I have a feeling he and my dad would have gotten along famously. My dad was a chemical engineer, not an actuary, but he loved puzzles too. Puzzles of all kinds. And, like Alan, he was a great bridge player. Although he never achieved the Grand Master title the way Alan did, my dad took his bridge seriously. The two of them probably could have talked Charles Goren till the last rubber was played.

Something else that was important to Alan was making sure all the puzzle solvers got into the magazine — with their names spelled correctly if we could manage it. He was a man who knew his audience, probably because his audience was just like him. He knew they worked hard at untwisting some of the more recalcitrant brain teasers he'd devised, and they enjoyed being acknowledge for it. It might not be the end of the world if we missed one, but still ...

In deference to Alan Goldberg, there is no puzzles page in this issue. We hope and expect to find someone else to

carry on the tradition in the May/June issue. Not to replace him, just to carry on.

The solvers of, and answers to, Alan's last puzzle in the January/February issue are listed below. On Alan's behalf, we congratulate you all.

Solvers for November/December (Previous Issue): B. Bartholomew; J. Laman. Solvers for January/February: T. Adams; D. Berne; M. Evans; R. Koch.

The answer to Electoral College is: (a) A candidate could win or tie with as few as 11 states and lose or tie with as many as 40 states. A tie is possible for any number of states in between. (b) Mississippi, the 6th State beginning with an "M." (c) Missouri, on 8/10/21 it was the 24th State admitted to the Union. (d) Using the electoral distribution from the 1980 census, the Democratic candidate would have had 271 electoral votes assuring election without Florida! Remember, this is just a puzzle

The answer to Y2K is: If Plan (a) is left off the first ballot, it appears that (b) would win the first round but lose to (a) in the run-off. This would be the least favorable plan for F, so F adopts a strategy on the first ballot. F votes for (c) even though that is less favorable than (b). E also votes for (c), so (c) wins the first round. In the run-off (c) wins over (a) and F's strategy pays off resulting in two parks instead of one. Similarly when Plan (b) is left off the first ballot, it appears that (b) would ultimately prevail, but strategy by E makes (a) the winner. When Plan (c) is left off the first round, strategy by W produces (b) as the winner. Who ever said voting is easy? ●



EDITOR

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