

Circuit Court

Authors: Tom Belulovich, Sarah Krell

The answers to the clues are:

A1: VOODOO DOLL	B1: FLEXOR
A2: VIOLIN SOLO	B2: THOR
A3: GOODNIGHT MOON	B3: RANDOM
A4: OPPOSITION	B4: SORBET
A5: BOILING POINT	B5: EXORBITANT
A6: IMMOBILIZING	B6: GERRYMANDER
A7: WOODROW WILSON	B7: WANDER
A8: ORNITHOLOGIST	B8: THE EXORCIST
A9: MINT CONDITION	B9: LUXOR
A10: PHILIP III	B10: INCANDESCENT
A11: FOOD COLORING	B11: QUORUM
A12: PROHIBITION	B12: SPORK

All the answers from group A have the letters I and O as their only vowels.. Each has five of these vowels, which can be used to form 5-bit strings (with I = 1, O = 0) that we may later convert to numbers. For example, MINT CONDITION → IOIIO = 10110 → 22.

All the answers from group B have, as a substring, one of the words AND, XOR, OR, corresponding to a logic gate. (While having XOR as a substring requires that OR is also a substring; XOR should always be used if it appears. the puzzle authors hope this was a reasonable inference.)

This gives the solver twelve bitstrings to input into the circuit, and twelve logic gates to process these bitstrings (these are standard logic gates, but rules for how they work were given to solvers on their Supplemental Information sheet). Determining the circuit output gives the six strings OIOOI, OIIIO, OOIOO, OIOOI, OOOII, IOIOO, which convert to the decimal values 9, 14, 4, 9, 3, 20. Alphanumerically, this gives the answer, **INDICT**.