

Plagiarism?

K. S. Sarkaria

After solving the cryptic crossword puzzle (below) which appeared, as always, without any attribution in *The Indian Express* of December 17, 2011 (on page 4 of *Chandigarh Newline*) I typed "[It holds the unloved Emperor motionless](#)" into Google Search, and thereby found that the same puzzle had appeared before in a Canadian daily on April 10, 2010, but this time duly with attribution to *Gemini Crosswords*.

Indian Express, Saturday, Dec 17, 2011
CROSSWORD 2395

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

ACROSS

- For the record, Berliner invented it in 1887 (10)
- Lisp a salutation to friends (4)
- Arms order that's not on the level (5)
- Took the main course but possibly not a sweet (4,2,3)
- Team not assumed to be of star quality (8)
- It holds the unloved Emperor motionless (5)
- Brings together a thousand donkeys (7)
- Take a trip? (7)
- Keep in Moscow (7)
- Understand woodcutters make playground equipment (7)
- Sisters admit nothing, being proper perhaps (5)
- Settler in Panama? (8)
- The paints set, before us? (2,3,4)
- See 20 Down
- Church of Scotland (4)
- It's unlikely I will introduce a new problem about a sailor (10)

DOWN

- Tugs put out in a squall (4)
- Detest boat name I concocted (9)
- Nothing disturbs bees like being overweight (5)
- Pupils being punished for glaring mistakes? (7)
- Perplex with a minus sign? (7)
- Publication for children (5)
- A flower will transform these areas (10)
- It may be assumed it's struck theatrically (8)
- Used by the teacher when correcting papers? (7,3)
- Vendors, possibly nameless (8)
- Robs banks in order to get a polished door-fitting (5,4)
- 20 and 28 Across: It entitles drivers to lower cover charge (2-5,5)
- One who shows rank subservience? (7)
- Total issue (5)
- Rich man returns article with polite gesture (5)
- Lies in the water (4)

An e-mail of December 20, 2011 from Nigel Inwood of *Gemini Crosswords* then informed me that the originator of their cryptic crosswords was usually [Roger Squires](#) with

often considerable further editing—to make the puzzles suitable for an international consumption—done by Nigel Gee and himself. He also informed me that a publisher buying puzzles from them displays attribution either as a matter of contract or it is done “voluntarily by the newspaper, to demonstrate the quality of their puzzles if it will.”

Indeed, considering that Roger Squires is to cryptic crosswords what Sachin Tendulkar is to cricket, it is astonishing that *The Indian Express*—which, in common with all our dailies, is given to blowing its own trumpet—is **not** going to town about the excellent pedigree of the crossword it offers its readers every day! Could it be that it is just ignorant of the value of its gem? But this implies, in turn, that none of its, otherwise so learned, top-flight editors is into doing this beautiful puzzle? Sounds incredible, but an affirmative answer to these questions would explain why this charming puzzle is run so carelessly by it. As I pointed out at length more than three years ago—the situation has not changed a whit since—in [Fly, getting sad on a fair amount of alcohol?\(10\)](#).

Notes

1. “*Though unpretentious and austere ... it is surprisingly good,*” is how I had described *The Tribune’s* puzzle in this older paper. It too is run without attribution, and just as carefully! For example, on December 8, 2011, the clues did not pertain to the given grid, while the same puzzle was given on December 29 and 30, 2011. A web-search showed that the former puzzle had appeared before in that same Canadian daily, but this time with proper grid and due attribution: these quick crosswords are also distributed by *Gemini Crosswords* and this particular puzzle was composed [by NG](#) (Nigel Gee). So my guess then that the *Tribune’s* puzzle’s author was, “*probably an Indian with an excellent command of precise English,*” was wrong.

2. My statement that the printing process used by *The Times of India* gives “*a faithful copy [of the Daily Crossword of Tribune Media Services] only shrunk so much ...*” also needs to be amended. This apparent photocopy is not quite one: the date of publication is changed! (This fudging often mars this puzzle, for example, if the date of publication coincided with, say, Martin Luther King Day, and one of the clues was “*today’s honoree.*”) In particular, that puzzle about the “*city of the big shoulders,*” that I had solved on June 25, 2008, mistakenly thinking that it was “*the latest,*” was actually published on March 20, 2008 in the U.S. papers—e.g., [The Los Angeles Times](#)—which subscribe to this popular puzzle.

3. Also, my scanned solution for the cryptic of 26/4/2008 in that paper has two mistakes. My answers to 19-Across and 16-Down were wrong, and the former clue with its wrong answer *murders*—the correct answer was *martyrs*—is also one of the four from this puzzle displayed separately. Though I’ve become better at these cryptics since then, I still make mistakes. Indeed, you might have noticed that my answer, *wish*, to 6-Across in the scan given above is wrong! The correct answer is *kith*, i.e., friends, because this is how someone with a lisp would pronounce *kiss*, a salutation. (I fancy I would have made this correction by myself had I not seen the grid of answers on-line so prematurely; and after seeing it, it would have been ‘cheating’ on my part to correct this answer, so I let it stand in the scan.) As for its title, I’ve mentioned before in a more mathematical [paper](#) (see page 19) that taking some time out to write *Fly, getting sad ...* had helped dispel some “*blues that had become bottled up*” in me; to this let me now add that this same pesky ten-letter insect was clued thus in another puzzle: *Fly in a coloured container* (10). Also, I would like to emphasize that a grid of answers gives only the bare bones, to claim a solution in full it is obviously necessary that you should have correctly deciphered the rationale—that is, the proof—for each answer, e.g., *It holds the unloved Emperor motionless* (5) = i(ner)t because ner = Nero minus o = love!

213, 16A, Chandigarh, India.

E-mail: sarkaria_2000@yahoo.com