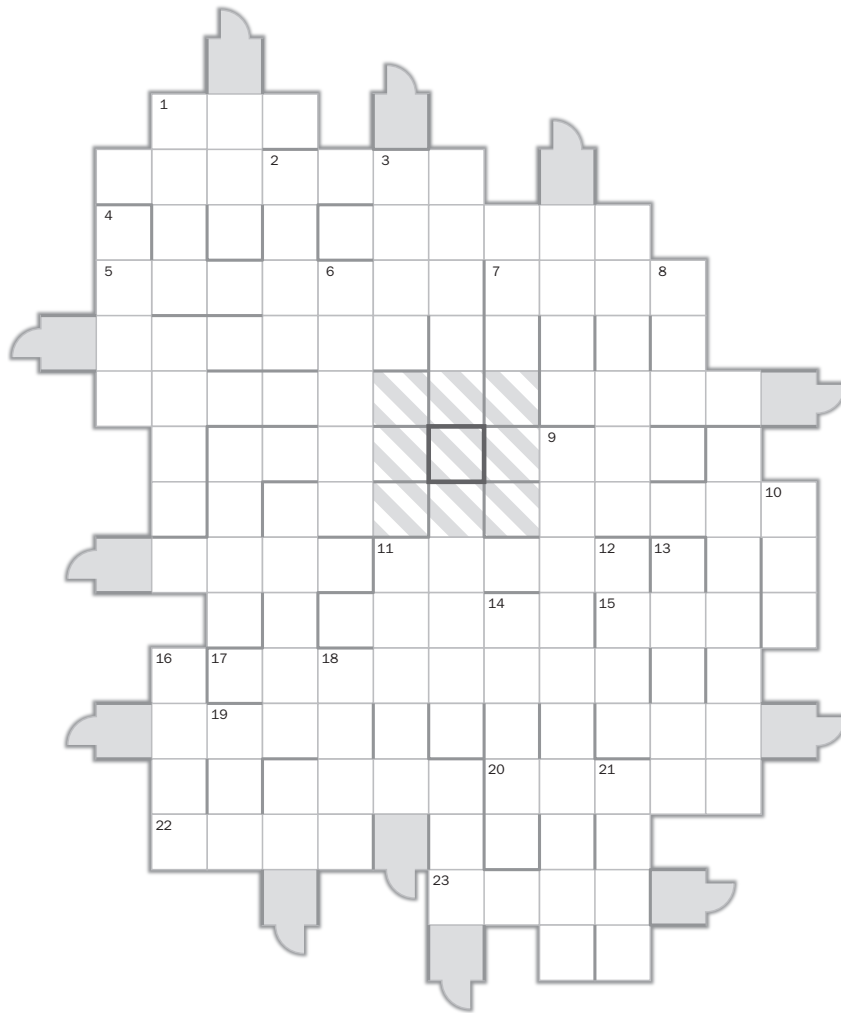


Rackenfracker's Eleven

JOEADULTMAN x RACKENFRACKER



We've put together a heist, with Danny Ocean returning to the Bellagio as the ringleader of a brand new crew of experts.

Our eleven crew members (including Danny) are listed on the facing page, each with a set of three clues that form a path from one of the casino's exterior doors to the safe room. The safe itself must be cracked by two of the members.

Nine members modify their answers according to their specialty before entering them in the grid. Each modified answer is also a dictionary word, with enumeration provided for the unmodified answer. The modified answer to their clue A starts or ends in a unique door. Each subsequent answer for that member intersects its

immediately prior answer, either across or down. The first or last letter of the answer to their clue C uniquely contributes one letter to the safe room.

Two crew members take a slightly different approach: They modify the placement of their answers, leaving the answers unchanged. The answer to their clue A starts in a unique door. It and each subsequent answer for that member forms a continuous path according to their specialty. The last letter of their final answer uniquely contributes one letter to the safe room.

The remaining 24 clues represent the regular occupants of the casino and are entered regularly.

But it wouldn't be an Ocean heist without one final surprise! One crew member, instead of visiting the safe room, is handed the contents of the safe and completes their path at an exterior door, ending up with the thing you've watched us steal this whole time.

Don't worry; we didn't leave the crew hanging: they still get to share the real treasure, which is spelled out clockwise in the nine squares of the safe room, starting from an unspecified corner. And if everything goes according to plan, you and the crew will get your own reward, spelled out clockwise in eleven entrance doors, starting after the twelfth door.



The Rackenfracker #11

THE CREW

THE RINGLEADER

- A** One getting baked takes in second installment of *Indiana Jones* (4)
- B** Small amount of memory used by a computer routine (3)
- C** joeadultman and Rackenfracker would unite (3)

THE BACKER

- A** Angle for an edge, trading bishop for rook in delight (5)
- B** Profit from bloody boxing competition (6)
- C** Run, heading to first base (4)

THE FIXER

- A** Display brilliance in test covering length and area (5)
- B** Making very small Colorado city even more crowded (6)
- C** To show good cheer, add splash of rum to berry-flavored drink (4)

THE FORMER PARTNER

- A** He takes a pause to read Scottish philosopher (4)
- B** Lacking Prime features, Apple TV is option on a Mac (3)
- C** One court jester's performance (3)

THE ULTIMATE HACKER

- A** Board, in an act of deception, changing hands (5)
- B** Fair share of contemptible charm (5)
- C** Cultivate Petri dish of intestinal tissue (5)

THE MUSCLE

- A** Elitist from the east holding \$0 in assets (5)
- B** Past purchase of speakers (2)
- C** Hail biggest of Taylor Swift's #1 tunes on the charts (4)

THE SMOOTH TALKER

- A** Getting a measure of energy from coffee-drinking borders on universal (5)
- B** Run-down houses revert to a prior state (4)
- C** Take in after deduction up front! (4)

THE DARK HORSE

- A** It's "Up on the Housetop" and "The Night Before Christmas" in concert (4)
- B** Superfan reddened when treated in a reductive and crude manner (4)
- C** Observe pressure leak (4)

THE BURGLAR

- A** Southern California, with the onset of drought, burned (7)
- B** Once again produces triple aces after a shuffle (10)
- C** Says regressive group is coming after particular kind of marijuana (9)

THE DOUBLE-CHECKER

- A** No way to proceed around motorway as it begins to get backed up (3, init.)
- B** A little tragedy plus time (3)
- C** One-on-one with DiFranco (3)

THE ACE IN THE HOLE

- A** A real lowlife, Sigma could turn into one of these? (4)
- B** Revere stripped horse in switch (7)
- C** Foremost members of pious organization recently caught hosting a platform for some swingers? (5)

THE CASINO REGULARS

ACROSS

1. Tree that developed near the Arctic Circle and Alaska (3)
5. Alternative route across Long Island to yield exceptional value (7)
7. Abandoning last shred of decorum, Venmo changes requirement for cookies (4)
11. Are ten taken in by elaborate robbery when eleventh finally escapes? (5)
15. Flipped over \$7.10 fuel (3)
17. Crash recklessly into place for shopping trolley (8)
20. Leaves out "moist" in revision (5)
22. Someone landed in the middle of whirlwind at O'Hare (4)
23. Unopened art supply is not used casually (3*1)

DOWN

1. For an hour, hold on to every second in tropical island (4)
2. Taking up an element of control, I self isolate (4)
3. Ass-backward user interface feature makes one angry (4)
4. What distinguishes "oy" from "ahoy" for a legendary seafarer? (4)
6. I rent out place for the last time (5)
8. Step up each ingredient of Dew by 10 to concoct a stronger drink (3)
9. Intern must supply stethoscope or otoscope (10)
10. Dated saying (3)
12. Small potatoes to Eliot (4)
13. Per the Smooth Talker, the Dark Horse moves like one in darkness (5)
14. Kicking butt of rampaging Balrog is a Herculean task (5)
16. Singing Disney princess is one often heard from a tower (4)
18. "Rosebud," famously the ultimate in reveals, was first (4)
19. Flirt with or without leading on oldster (3)
21. Smitten with Toni's dancing (4)

