TIME CAPSULES QUIZ

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This is a double-decker puzzle. Level 1 is intended to be relatively accessible to most puzzlers, but there is a second level for more serious sleuths.

Note: Student names are fictitious.

HOW TO PLAY

LEVEL 1: Each of the items described in the clues could have been placed into one of the class time capsules ringing the Quad. Your task is to determine the first possible year that each item could have been included. Keep in mind that the time capsules are sealed in June around the time of graduation, so any event occurring later that year could be placed in only the following year’s capsule. After you’ve made your guesses, calculate the difference between each of your answers and the correct year (found on page 71). Tally up the differences and rate yourself on this scale: 0-30 Postdoc; 31-45 Grad Student; 45-60 Senior; 61-90 Applicant; 90-plus Did you maybe go to Berkeley?

LEVEL 2: Hidden within the clues is another item that could have been put into a time capsule on two separate occasions. Find it, determine the two years, and send your answer to masopuzzles@gmail.com. If successful, you’ll have a chance to win the double-decker prize: your name or that of a loved one in a future puzzle.

THE ITEMS

1. Newspaper birth announcement for Hugh Hefner, placed by Nicholas Isaacs
2. First-edition copy of Fer-de-Lance, the first Nero Wolfe story, placed by Tim Tyler
3. Quiz from history class featuring the question “Who succeeded Margaret Thatcher as British prime minister?” placed by Howard Klein
4. A Jim Plunkett photograph showing him holding his Heisman Trophy, placed by Erin Reed.
5. Volkswagen windshield wiper from the first VW sold in the United States, placed by Nancy Young
6. Republican campaign button reading “Bush-Cheney,” placed by Ikaru Egashira
7. Beautifully solved Rubik’s Cube that was received as a Christmas present by Alice Abrams
8. Block of ice that broke off the berg that struck the Titanic, placed by Otto Mann
9. Listing featuring Doogie Howser, M.D. in its original Wednesday, 9:30 p.m. time slot, placed by Corinne Sheldon
10. Cover from the Grateful Dead’s debut album, placed by Olivia Assange
11. Cool movie poster featuring James Dean in Rebel Without a Cause, placed by Theodore Edwards
12. Time magazine cover featuring “The Whistleblowers” as Persons of the Year, placed by Terrence Yardley III
13. A pretty map of the nation of India, placed by Isaac Hamill
14. A ticket stub from the first World Series game, placed by Cedric Evans
15. The autograph of the first elected female governor in U.S. history, placed by Ulysses Wilson