

### Solution to **LEFTY COVER**:

If you concatenate **LEFTY** and **COVER** (from the title) and remove **YC** (from the flavortext), you get the eight letter word **LEFTOVER**. Apply this process to the given data: Pick a word from the left column and pair it with a word in the right column such that removing the central bigram yields an eight letter word. For example, **DEFOG + TAMED = DEFOAMED + GT**.

The *leftover* bigrams are the relevant data: you now have an unordered set of letter pairs. Sort the bigrams by first letter according to the Harvard spectral classification for stars (as clued in the flavortext): **OBAFGKM**. The second letters in that order then gives the answer **REDSTAR**. Congratulations to Tom Griffin, who submitted the first correct answer on our website.

The puzzles we've seen so far have needed one step: applying a transformation to the given information yielded the answer. But you will often find puzzles that need a number of sequential steps to get to the final answer. If you've made any progress on a puzzle, consider **Rule 7: Do it again**. Each time you're stuck trying to

figure out what to do, take a look at what you've done so far -- can do something similar with your results?

Like these puzzles and want more? Gather a team and sign up for the Berkeley Mystery Hunt, our annual puzzle solving competition! See our website for more information and registration.

As always, if you think you have the answer, submit it on our website below.

### **DOWNSIZING**

*Polish your resume until it gleams and looks modern. Family members can help recycle the office contents into park sand. Recreational activities can maintain a sense of community.*

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