

WORD RECTANGLE

For the tenth Gathering for Gardner, March/April, 2012

Across:

- 1 Tracing part of the graph of $x^2 + y^2 = 1$
- 2 Crossroads (curiously from Latin *quadrifurcus*)
- 3 Getting off the fence
- 4 Its last Earl before Prince Edward was killed in the Battle of Hastings

Down:

- 1 Had _____ (fruck out)
- 2 Family of plants that includes canola
- 3 Some PC screens
- 4 Bouquet or eye part
- 5 Obama's state bird
- 6 When Martin would have been XCVII

—Noam D. Elkies

Solution:

1A: The graph is the unit circle; "arcing" is one of a very few English words where c is pronounced hard before i.
 2A: "Quadrifurcus" contains "f", but it corresponds to "carre-", not to "-four".
 3A: "gathering" is not really a synonym, though both can mean "deciding".
 4A: (I'd rather not have used -ing gerunds for both 1A and 3A but found no alternative with good Down words.)
 4A: See the Wikipedia page for Wesssex.
 A R C I N G
 C A R R E 4
 O P T I N G
 W E S S E X
 1D: Suggested by the colloquial conjugation of "freak out" (cf. 3D).
 2D: As in "rapeseed" (from the Latin for "turnip").
 3D: The clue's abbreviation "PC" suggests an abbreviated answer (a standard convention in crossword puzzles).
 4D: This double usage goes all the way back to ancient Greek, via the goddess of the rainbow
 (whence also the name of the element iridium, due to its colorful compounds).
 5D: This native name for the Hawaiian goose has long been a boon to cruciverbalists.
 6D: Gardner was born in October 1914, so would not yet have reached 98 by the end of the tenth Gathering.