

Supreme Cohort by Ucaomihu

Welcome to 2014's ACPT! A certain cohort is poised to do very well here this year. In each of 15 Across clues, a single character must be altered before solving; in clue order, the new characters, and separately the old characters, will each describe this cohort.

All the other Across clues work normally, but each one's answer will be entered with a bigram (two-letter sequence) in one square; the bigrams that occur form an appropriate set. Where an entry's "overstuffed" square is the *m*th square from its start and the *n*th from its end, circle the *m*th letter from the start of, and *n*th from the end of, its *clue*. In clue order, the *m*th letters will obliquely say what each member of one subset of the set of bigrams is; the *n*th letters will (less obliquely) do the same for a second subset.

The Down clues also work normally, but you must deduce where each answer is entered in the grid. Each overstuffed square intersects a Down entry; for each bigram subset, find all squares with those bigrams, and use the same letter-circling method as above on the Down entries crossing those squares. The *m*th letters and then the *n*th letters for the first subset, and then those for the second, will say what the two subsets are, in a more personal way.

For each overstuffed square in each Down entry, write the letter naming its clue beside the grid, due west (for a bigram from subset 1) or east (for subset 2) of that square; these letters will ID a secret cohort member that is here now in an influential position. Also, for each Down entry with *no* overstuffed squares, if *x* is its length, write the *x*th letter from the *end* of its clue *under* the grid due *south* of the entry — unless another Down entry with no overstuffed squares is in the same column below it, in which case change *end* to *start*, *under* to *over*, and *south* to *north* in the above instruction. These letters will give the cohort's description of what they have done to try to ensure they finish "in the money" this year.

ACROSS

1. Tiger's relatives left Samantha elated
2. Random hugs flow unsoaringly
3. Twice, Pam almost shows Matt to Mama
4. Rosa lit run-down districts with theaters in them
5. The heart of sensuous, blue-green fruit is transcendent
6. Not as embellished as Mary's intro before the premiere of *Rhoda*
7. Tyrone and Ephraim's chats are numerous
8. Yuri's barely written about the hollow organs women have
9. Plant identical to garland is in Ecuador
10. Fancy, fancy shoe
11. English garment that protects a water bird that's brightly colored
12. What Caesar said about southwestern native captivates reader in Texas (2 wds.)
13. Francisco, who painted a barn, reclining Maja, and gentile Arcadians, chiefly
14. Debased nut & hero like an *extremely* long film (*hyph.*)
15. After reelection, a Republican stops discussing Algerian city
16. An ancient Roman's armor starts to limit one Roman I'd called Augustus

17. My mother's son has to grab a vat or pipe a hospital would have (2 wds.)
18. Observe model bouncing back after losing a wing and a fork
19. A foe's sibling decapitated macho guys from the east
20. Rockets from the '40s ultimately fit into Volkswagen and unoccupied Olds (*hyph.*)
21. Net very loquacious ballplayer Schilling
22. Net one upsettingly romantic couple
23. Over three feet west of my damaged tree
24. Accessible bong that's unwrapped and filled with a bit of hash (2 wds.)
25. Shows initially gnomish tax collectors
26. Empty revelry obstructing Brooks and Streep on movie screens
27. Slangy word often used before "gill" by 20% of Tasmanians
28. Say "Nina" to Doty
29. A duck seller's location near a road
30. Nifty new sort of ten
31. Mr. Soprano put club behind 3D 1000-ounce weights
32. An author named Jong cooked rice back in Asia

DOWN

- A. Aquatic person hugs really vacuous guy Robin Hood has with him (2 wds.)
- B. I don't know what finally stops Mr. Pyle before the fifth (2 wds.)
- C. Rube, er, chewed some fat in Toulouse
- D. I'd hide amongst calmer men dancing under a serrate-leaved tree (2 wds.)
- E. Gets ready to paint prudish, gutless, flip-flopping Steve

- F. Aspirate "h" in a line shabbily
- G. Union's beginning to triumph in old Tokyo, or once did (2 wds.)
- H. One in the choir obtains truth at last despite the fact that . . . (*var.*)
- I. . . three from Piedmont, MO launched a conspiracy of silence
- J. Pipe inside reduces the volume of inverted anatomical wall
- K. A dried stem with blemishes turned up
- L. SUV got rebuilt for the Feds after undergoing compression? (2 wds., *abbr.*)
- M. Quiet couple of typologists claiming that is symbolizing religious devotion
- N. Top-tier art I redesigned for the company that made *Centipede*
- O. Making something better than faceless, invading men getting beheaded by Bond
- P. He who begets a forerunner of Surrealism
- Q. Complaint that secondarily gets into what you make brandy from
- R. Talked about *Post*'s men, say
- S. Exuberantly marveling at series of linked cars that doesn't sit on a track (2 wds.)
- T. Actress Ringwald omits minute word that occurs before "oxen free," doubled
- U. Pitcher Young's shirts will depict closed anatomical sacs and similar bodies
- V. British person who amuses a drone accompanying our one saint
- W. Ruin two five-digit sequences from a reporter's oddly numbered pages
- X. Misdirected NYC subway in Pennsylvania is like a slightly raised anchor
- Y. Without a tendency to hoard shillings
- Z. Carbon-free coating for oxidized iron

