

Item in the Media

by Ucaoimhu

A certain periodical recently used an off-beat four-word phrase to refer to an item often seen at events like the NPL Con; the first three words of this phrase were rather fanciful. You must enter the whole phrase at 1A and 40A; to help in this:

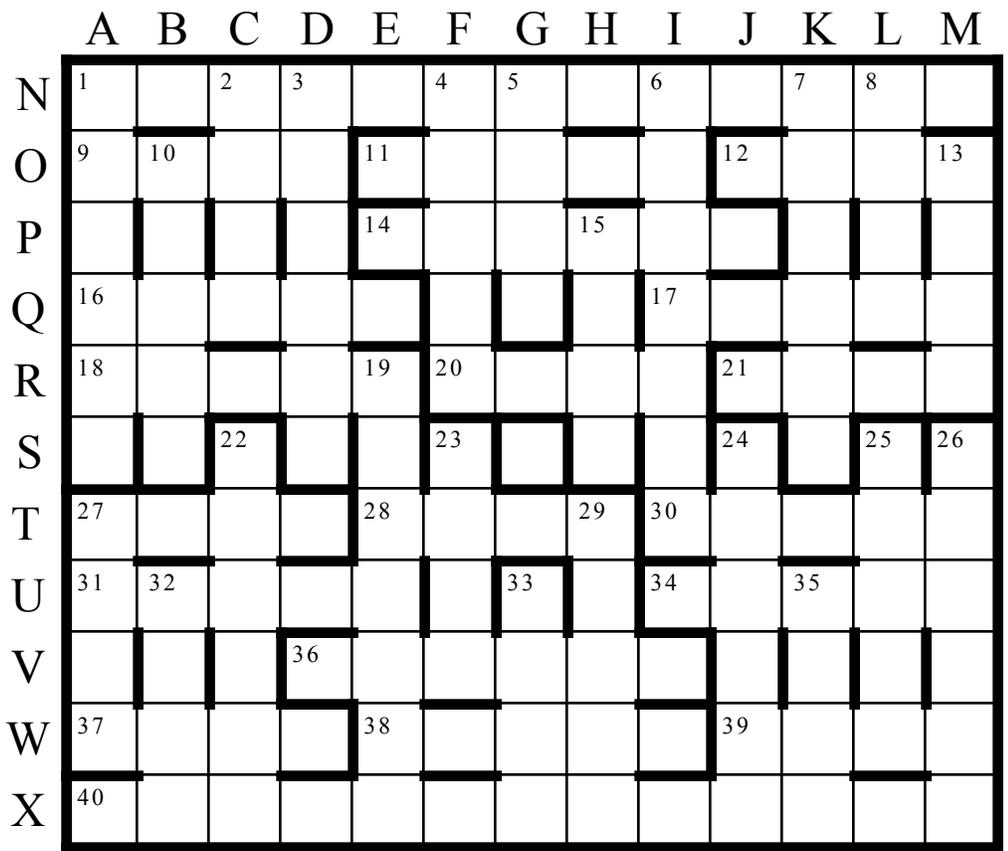
(1) Each of the other Across answers must be altered before entry, in one of three ways corresponding to those first three words of the phrase. There will be six of each kind of alteration; the words resulting from these alterations will include four proper nouns and one prefix.

(2) Three of the Down clues each contain an extra word that must be deleted before solving; each of these words is associated with one of the first three words of the phrase.

(3) Each of the remaining Down clues has an incorrect letter that must be corrected to a new letter before solving. For each such clue, find the old and new letter at the top and side of the grid (not necessarily respectively), and shade in the square in that column and row. When all of the indicated squares have been shaded, the result will be a picture of the item. In addition, once the grid has been filled, the letters in the shaded squares, in clue order by the clues whose corrections indicated those squares, will give the name of the periodical.

(4) Also, a two-word phrase, telling where the item is found in real life, will be spelled out by the letters along a meandering path through the grid. This path starts at one of the shaded squares, and proceeds by king's moves, ending at the empty central grid square, which you must fill in appropriately. The letters in the shaded squares, read this time just as they appear in the grid, will form a description of the starting letter of the path; this description should enable you to deduce the exact starting square, and will also contain within it a description of the whole two-word phrase.

(5) Finally, filling in the empty central grid square will form, twice, a word for something associated with the item. Complete the picture by circling both copies of this word.



ACROSS

1. *See instructions*
9. Harry Winkler put creases in
11. It's observed to be about nine plus a fifth of thirty-five!
12. Unveil some Hindu mantra
14. To consume skinned meats
16. Compete to grasp shilling with jawed implement
17. Name fashionable diarist "Anais"
18. Borne by the winds in Sheol, I claim [NI3]
20. A drop in rent
21. Female parent, or male alternative
27. End of a cube
28. Not a soul is working in New England
30. What lets you hear half of this dirt
31. Reporter's turn to be plied with alcohol
34. Mostly care for a beautiful woman
36. They're superficially like social functions
37. Force quantity through your lips!
38. The family *Felidae* acts strange
39. Wild ram's limbs
40. *See instructions*

DOWN

1. At first, fried rice is eerily opaque, like trifle (6)
2. Editor's unfolding hot letters from Iceland (4)
3. No time to quit evoking list of Agrippina's imperial offspring (6) [NI2]
4. Perceive Taj-shaped item inside (5)
5. French core of Denver upset North Scandinavian (4)
6. Do something done preciously by a recent lunatic (7)
7. Toast sextet of dim, inessential NH groups (6)
8. Appliance company veeps empty new part of a pool? (4)
10. In addition, look at Dotty with disdain (5)
13. At first, roasts are heated little affairs (4)
15. Crow goes back to show business skits, say (4)
19. Completely peeved wacko stops opposing web link (7)
22. Spooner's fibers provide revenge for those who sell menswear (3 3)
23. Ten in front of topless nude, jeering (4)
24. Penny is leading then-awful sports league (3 3)
25. Limb sporting torcs and a scent (5)
26. Diva, 86, resents embracing composer Edgard (6)
27. Remove probe after it drops a bolt (4)
29. Slam's discouraging talk of NL team "not having men" (5)
32. After getting rid of toff finally, due to meet no-good Chinese leader (4)
33. Sue a weird guy who shared a DVD with Jacob (4)
35. Perverse bird that has sued English cop (4)