

Again With The Ten?

by Ucaimhu

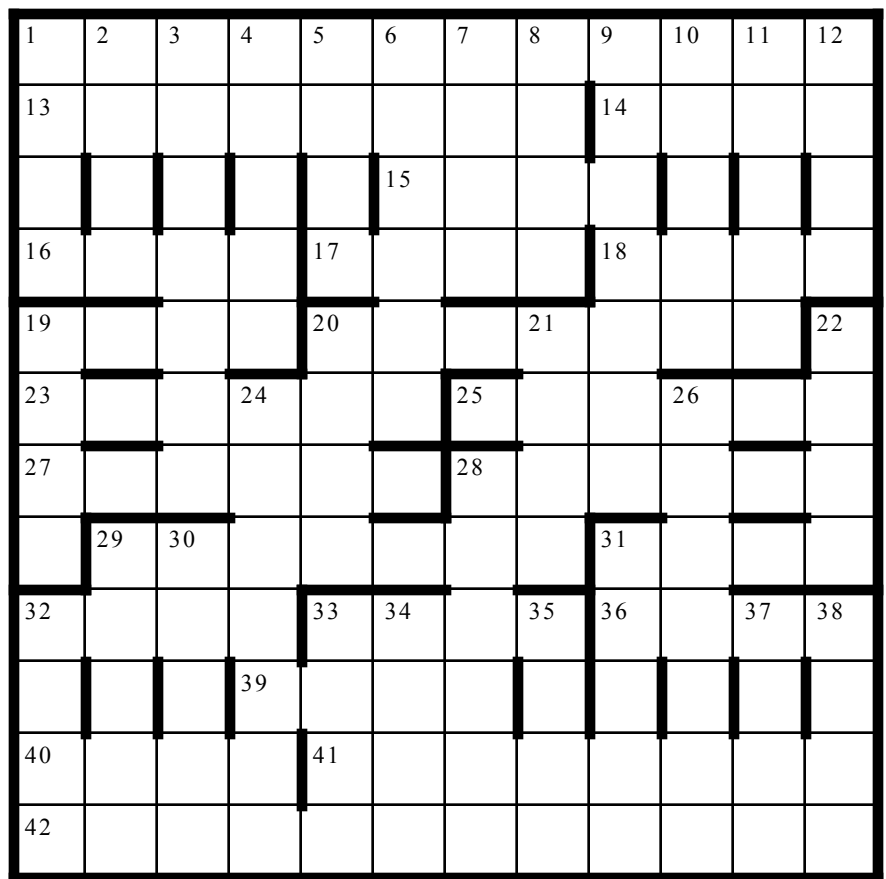
The villainous Academy has again nominated 10 films for Best Picture, meaning that I once again need to pair them up to get my usual gimmick to work. Specifically, you must modify each Across answer before entry, so that four are odd, four contain an affirmative answer, four are replaced by their little brothers, four (collectively) give four “beheadments,” and four (collectively) undergo the theft of *very* intellectual property. (Modified answers include one variant spelling.)

All Down answers are entered normally; in each Down clue, however, the cryptic part either clues one extra letter or leaves one letter unclued. The *extra* letters, in clue order, will state what I have had to do. This is similar to what was done by [1 Across] in another movie this year, who after facing [42 Across] dealt with the Oscar hopeful spelled out by the *unclued* letters, left to right as they appear in the grid.

Naturally, this would have been easier with some help. Read the *unclued* letters in the grid again, top to bottom, to get a collection of items in this puzzle; the first two letters of each will spell out the (appropriate) sponsor I was hoping to get.

ACROSS

13. Lucy & Lisa act badly, employing sarcasm
14. Don't keep cap on beer eternally, when waxing poetic
15. The Mexican embraces a country in Asia
16. Opera in which Scarpia appears large, Italian and well-proportioned (2 wds.)
17. Reflective individuals like Mork and Spock and Jeanne D'Arc, e.g. (*abbr.*)
18. Dr. Cobb returned, carrying Peg's half-quart of berries, say (2 wds.)
19. Yes, in Vienna you and I had talked at length
20. Knew Kay would meet Ed around 12:45?
23. Castilian is holding copper coins from old Paris
25. Fairy-land's superficially dangerous aspects
27. Paean about new daughter of a goatish god [NI2]
28. Hurl piece of fried cod
29. Christmas songs containing university botanist Linnaeus's first name
31. Edged weapon flew through the air audibly
32. Sit on crackers, as a childish retort (2 wds.)
33. Ceremony is correct-sounding
36. Sellers of beers without head, drinking Cher's shooters
39. Homes where you see *How I Met Your Mother Around Rhode Island*
40. Nevadan city girl embraces star (2 wds.)
41. Larry the Stoooge, taking back slicer, truncated noodles



DOWN

1. Shoo sad, disheartened feline (4)
2. Roman Emperor's unfinished house in Iberia (4)
3. Part of route adapted to be an exit (7) [NI2+]
4. This gutless former hubby of Britney went “tut-tut” (5)
5. Quirky paste- and beer-dispensers (4)
6. Coats made from random pelts (6)
7. In Marseilles, he rested poorly (4)
8. NaOH-coated tees break up chemically (4)
9. Greg (or Dusty, alternatively) measuring the earth (7)
10. Edward, covered with upsetting filth, is made over (5)
11. One letter from Ithaca, NY is conveying the intended meaning by saying something completely different (5)
12. Popular explorational videogame in my collection (4)
19. African trip doesn't end a long way off (4)
20. Unit of energy or cabbage, mostly (4, *abbr.*)
21. Be wicked, perverse, naughty figures? (4)
22. Egg on, say, street in Montreal runs the wrong way (4)
24. Catch Mr. Weasley's subatomic particle (7)
26. Cat barely tips over liquid derived from conifers (4 3)
28. Semi-frenzied old city in California (6)
29. Beginning of name extracted from agreement (5)
30. Coo at bizarre urn with hornlike structure (5)
31. North Scottish poet describes top of hibiscus bush (5)
32. Vicious radicals might be gentlemen (4)
33. Isn't, ultimately, a kind of beer that overturns bias (4)
34. Book among 7,500 in the same place (4, *abbr.*)
35. Ira Gershwin's first unsatisfactory spaghetti sauce (4)
37. Operate on the Cuban-Norse character (4)
38. Male and female dates (4)