

A New Decade

by Ucaoimhu

To mark the new decade a certain person has just entered, most of this puzzle grid consists of (a) a rectangle of 40 boxes, and (b) a square of 49 boxes. The other seven-box rectangle, (c), is shaded in. When the grid is completely filled you must also shade in certain boxes from (a) and (b), as follows:

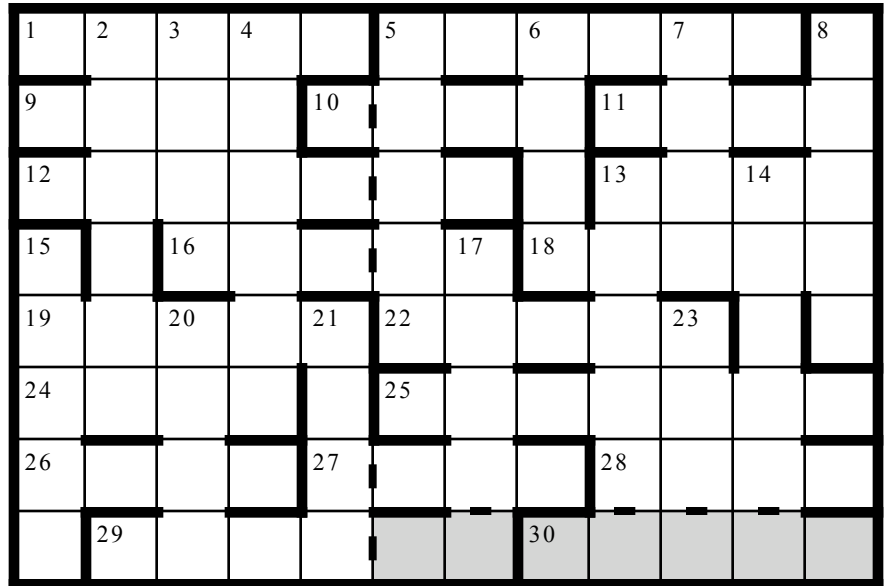
- (1) Most of the letters in (a) occur more than once in (a), but a few appear there only once. Shade in any row of boxes in (a) that does *not* contain a box with such a non-duplicated letter.
- (2) Shade in any box in (b) whose letter also occurs in (c).

Once this shading is done, you should recognize the shape formed by the unshaded boxes. You may also note that two unshaded boxes in (b) are marked, and the position of each, in its own way, matches the contents of (c). Only one, though, is due right of a certain unshaded word in (a).

As an additional aid to recognition, the cryptic part of each Across clue yields one extra letter (all Down clues work normally); in clue order, these letters spell out two

ACROSS

1. A former president eats bass up (2 3)
5. The Italian footwear binds (6)
9. With no club, Manilow'd turned boring (4)
10. Retired Belgian who gutted trout (4)
11. Radio operator's prefix meaning "computery" (4)
12. Light flotilla leaving Florida with army cop (3 4)
13. After party, she measured amount of drugs taken (4)
16. Word Penny initially thinks is "entice" (5)
18. Former musician Brian touches nitrogen gas (5)
19. Amorphously arranged atoms congeal, dummy (5)
22. Every other part of my puffy cocoa plant (5)
24. The Parisian frequently went away (4)
25. Intercourse-averse hill-dweller is king of Rome (7)
26. Country singer in India and Quebec (4)
27. Evergreen tree has a name once more (4)
28. Dance involving a horizontal pole-arm, say (4)
29. The way Dante says "3 AM" poetically is earth-shaking (6)
30. Directors Ang and Spike will claim one is biased (5)



more items in this decade, which if properly placed would straddle the shape formed. For each Down clue, find the number *n* of unshaded letters in its entry, and take the *n*th character of the clue (counting spaces); these characters, in clue order, will explain further what those two items are.

Finally, if you do the same for the number of *shaded* letters in each Down entry and take the *n*th character from the *end* of the clue, you will get an additional message.

DOWN

2. Small matter-lifter is not put together right (6)
3. Beast that flies around little person from, say, Lithuania (4)
4. Belts a stranger that is most adept (6)
5. Having protrusions of mixed plum and yellow at the top (5)
6. Untidy place by legendary waterway (4)
7. Ultra-dark, poetically timeless *10* includes Bo (4)
8. Don't resemble a tern flying about (4'1)
13. The Cuban perhaps put butter cream on over 10% of the population (6)
14. Child describing large amount of space before this clue is serious (6)
15. Blotchy citrus fruits with Jamaican origins one song has narrated (5)
17. *Piano Man* is about lunatic getting higher (5)
20. Not near the starts of all four alpaca rides (4)
21. Exclaimed "Look!" in a deposit of minerals (4)
23. Sizeable area or areas comprehending Italian? Yes (4)