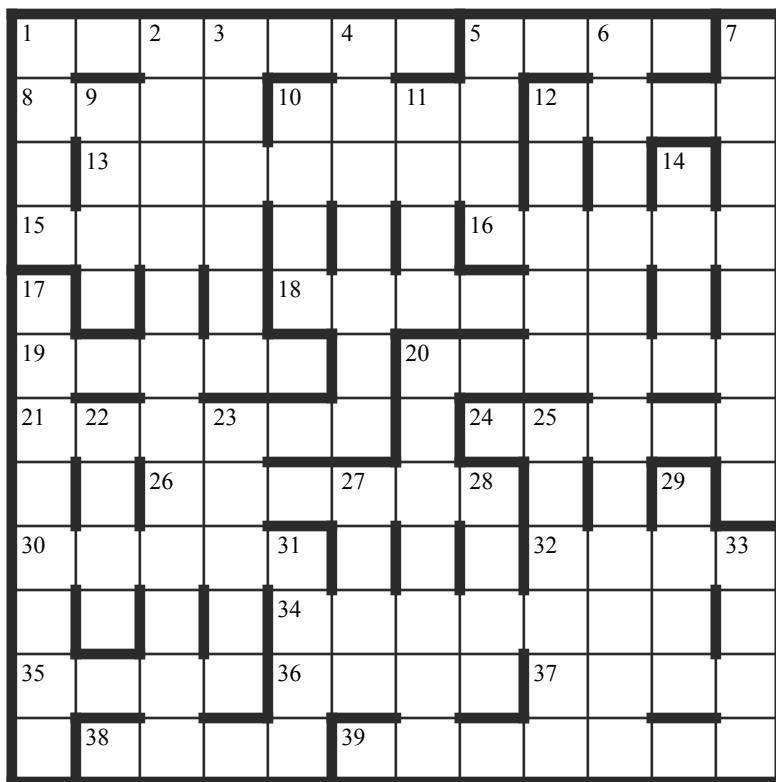


# Hole Punchline as told to Ucaoimhu

Ucaoimhu's cryptic themes for Conline 1 (beasts!) and 2 (Canada!) have left an obvious hole which we two are best qualified to fill. When entering some answers, you must get rid of their holes in our two distinct ways. In clue order, the first letters of clues for answers altered in the more popular way, and (separately) the last letters of clues for those altered in the less popular way, will say who we are. (One altered entry is a proper name.)

There is other, more confusing terminology for the two of us, though. In another 21 clues, the wordplay yields a letter sequence with a single extra letter at the (1) start, (2) center, or (3) end. In clue order, the (1) letters and (3) letters will separately spell out two places where this terminology is differently applied; (2) letters will spell out what is in between. The remaining clues' answers each must be entered with a trigram (three-letter string) in one (checked) square; read these trigrams in the grid to see an explanation (which is not obvious to *us*) for this confusing difference in terminology.

Finally, to uncover the terminology itself, let each of us get rid of the *other's* holes, and match the two resulting letter sequences letter by letter. Then for each matched letter pair, circle the letter that is *between* them in one of the trigrams in the grid; then read the circled letters.



## ACROSS

1. Backer of non-sheepish female lawmaker with wrath in the late period of Mayan culture (2 wds.) [NI3]
5. I will follow this desire
8. A bundle of hay back where Napoleon was
10. Name Belgian zine about British ham
12. Male tests ethics
13. Universally sympathetic, record-holding boxer doing just as well as the other team (*hyph.*) [NI2]
15. The Castilian leaves Zeno's home
16. White stargrass used in medicine a lot captivates eastern Australian beast [NI3]
18. A Minnesota city's amazing rodeo show
19. Perhaps wakes up wearing bloomers
20. Overturn teeny, tritium-free tub to get ethylacetylene
21. Parisian is outside of lair with a yellow, wandering creature
24. Dart containing oxygen or speed (2 wds.)
26. God of the winds is gold-wearing, windy louse
30. Country engulfed by whirling storm
32. Albert repeatedly capturing King Kevin's base
34. Offer to buy shares regardless of price is bad debit risk (2 wds.)
35. Masculine one in Rome with UN troops' entertainers
36. Jug-thrower resembling Phil Niekro
37. Iberian's article claims "earth is earth"
38. Dodge person from Muscat, say
39. With German consuming nitrogen-filled beef and sake

## DOWN

1. The usual number for an intro from old, energy-filled Herman's Hermits frontman (*hyph.*)
2. Swede immutably damaged arena in London (2 wds.)
3. Rapidly beat liver spread that large pita goes into
4. How male ovines behave recklessly around 2001 [NI3]
5. *Young Frankenstein* lab assistant's chic clothing store
6. Arrive with semi-reliable, pigment-covered iron to provide humorous interlude (2 wds.)
7. Nikola, who invented reversible stocking feet and horse dentures (2 wds.)
9. Filling in blank with the Italian term that means "euphoria" when it precedes "land" (*hyph.*)
10. E.g., the first, second, and last of YMCAs!
11. Weasley, you know something unique in the UK [NI3]
12. Avg. mass of a multi-atomic entity every other entity in Siam followeth (2 wds., *abbr.*)
14. Iron corroded beneath German trunk's lower end
17. Sudden hype about, say, Ginger taking that one pair of outfits
20. Cree has a bit of breakfast before our dance
22. Exhibiting malice towards small can-eating swine
23. Checks are printed with current numbers
25. Upright we lastly pound with a hammer or mallet that's easy to grab [NI2]
27. Strip, showing back muscle and 40% of thigh
28. On the podium see canine volleyball player
29. Style employed by Jamaican musicians and Mormon poets in Scandinavia, formerly
31. They hold fungal spores when here in Tahiti
33. Business publication's finally put the I in MIT (*abbr.*)