

12/15/12 by Ucaoimhu

Today, we celebrate three events: a holiday season, a house move, and one other. Correspondingly:

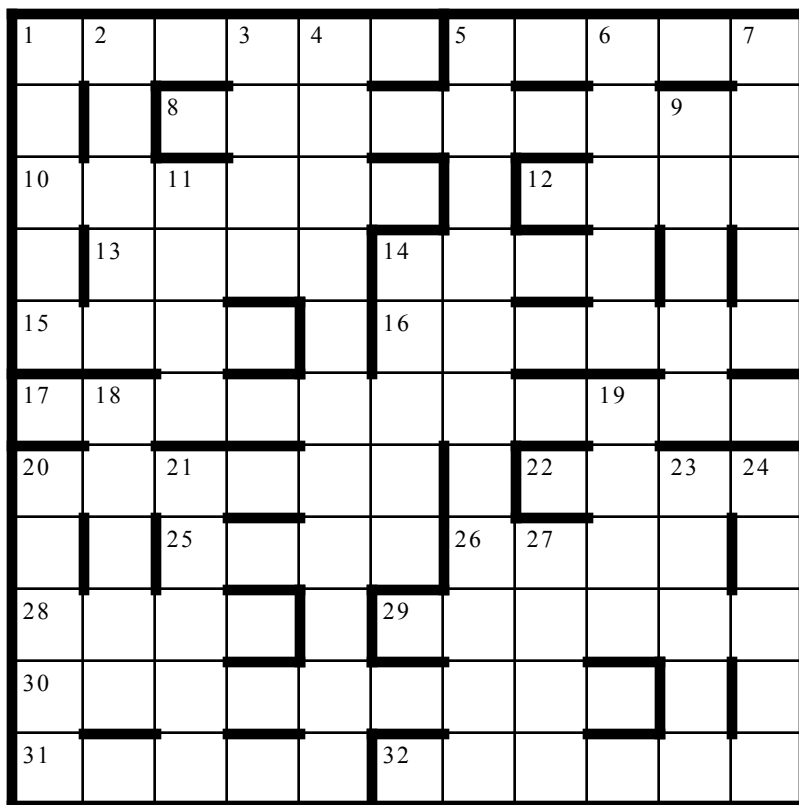
(1) Some Magus-like folks have brought three types of substances (as per tradition, one mineral and two vegetable, but here none are aromatic resins) whose *resonantness*, *reflectivity*, or *lively character* each alter the answers to six clues before entry. Two of the clues whose answers are altered in a given way have, as their *n*th word for some *n*, a substance of the corresponding type; read the *n*th *letters* of each of the other four clues to get a third substance of that type.

(2) Of the other half of the clues (whose answers are entered normally), half have a cryptic part yielding a letter sequence with one wrong letter. Circle the correct letters in the grid, and label each “dot” thus created with the corresponding wrong letter; then you can use the three “third substances” from (1) to connect the dots. Read the circled letters column by column to see what (relevant to moving house) you’ve now drawn. (And if you split this word into three parts, one a suffix, and apply the three alterations from (1), you’ll get three more substances of the appropriate types.)

(3) Of the remaining nine clues, one works normally and gives a more specific label for the picture. In the others, the cryptic part yields a letter sequence with one letter missing. Shade the missing letters in the grid. Read left to right, they will say what the house move and holiday, but not the third event (on 12/15/12), have in common. Top to bottom, they will say what person (appropriate to the picture) is the key figure of the third event.

ACROSS

- California snake swallows red diamond, perhaps
- Pondering one masculine computer operator
- On the other hand, Evita, at left, gets cold (2 *wds.*)
- Eccentric can eat robelike garment
- “Power drink” is light in color
- Essentially, tarragon in water
- Ryan (R) forgets name for a Hebrew month
- Friends, Gore has to follow Perot’s lead
- Starters in six early races all can see icy pinnacles
- Elfin ghouls playing brass instruments
- Ellipse surrounded by &!%\$# path
- A male deer-shooter’s coming back
- Send out reversible cravat



- Monster mined mineral containing bit of gold
- Captain partly overturned Gillette razor
- Even letters from bookies miffed actor Michael in *Caddyshack*
- Comedienne Coca losing male nude mice of a closely related individual
- Drug provider is finally nabbed by performer [NI2]
- Dr. Ted’s unusually cowish features

DOWN

- Chestnut initially hits dolt to encourage rowers
- City in Spain is a mostly vile one
- Encourage a blue movie by Steven Spielberg
- Ape’s heart, for Liza and Edward, must be, say, four or five inches in diameter (*hyph.*) [NI2]
- Healthy heroes deck stranger (*hyph.*) [NI2]
- Ringo’s semi-strong run
- About 20% of stuff Mr. Neeson sends
- Superficially, sage following rabbi in is clean
- Remarkable Afro-German woman
- Minuscule key is half-length
- Short and overly low backless 20 Down
- Stake releases white substance that causes ripening
- Broadway musical that’s under \$100 a seat
- Love Houston’s hockey team
- Republicans that miss a rodent
- Aspen shedding cesium-coated potassium particles
- The Senate Majority Leader is disencumbered