

12/15/12 by Ucaoimhu

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

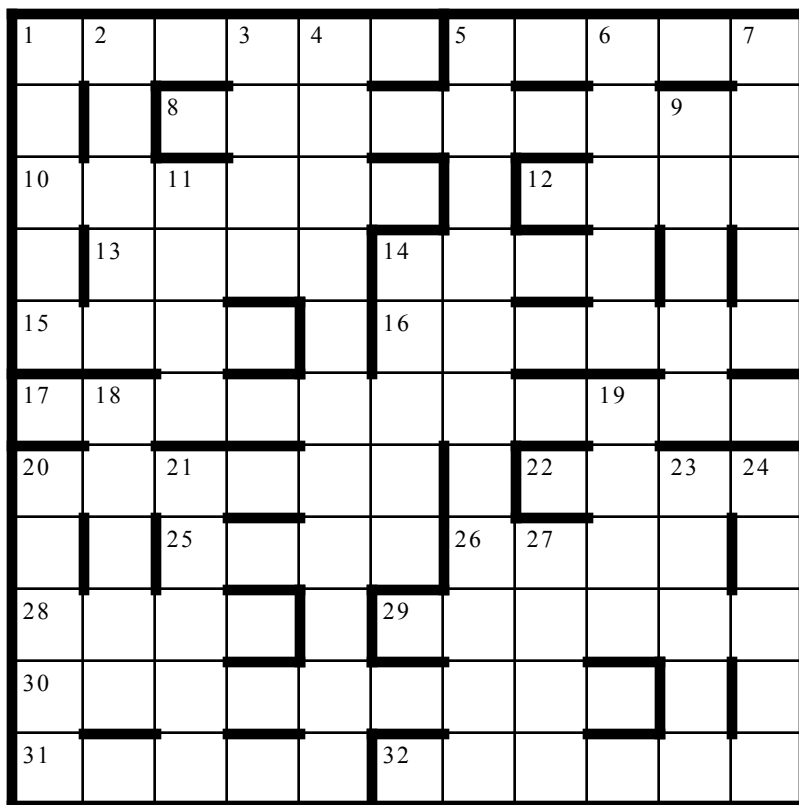
(1) Some Magus-like folks have brought three types of substances (as per tradition, one mineral and two vegetable, but here none are aromatic resins) whose *resonantness*, *reflectivity*, or *lively character* each alter the answers to six clues before entry. Two of the clues whose answers are altered 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

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



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

DOWN

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