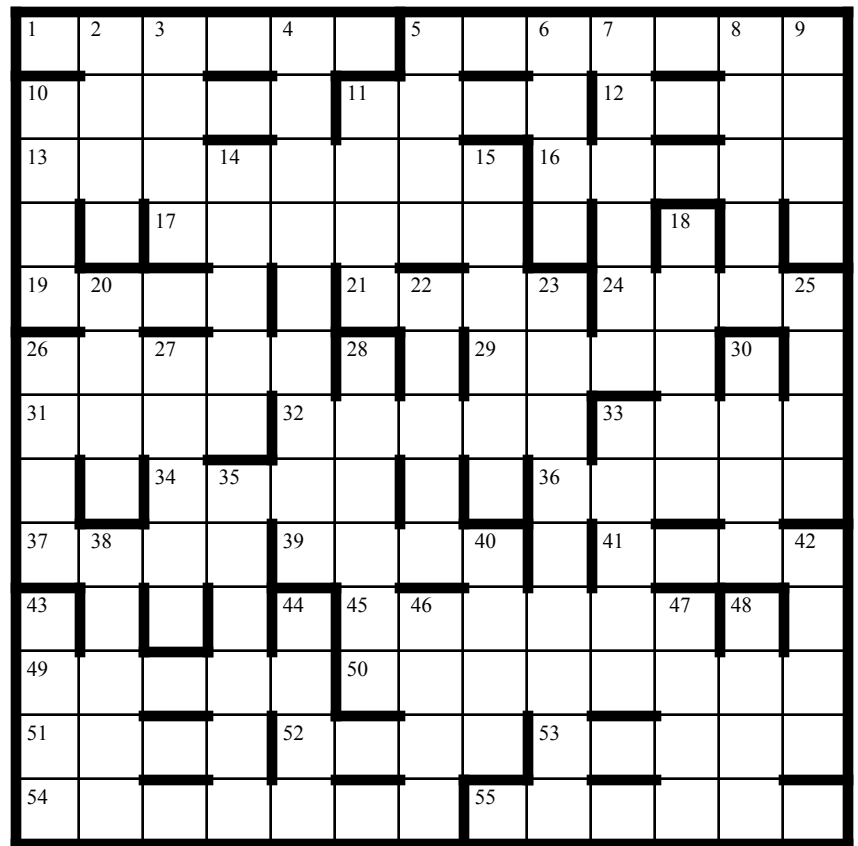
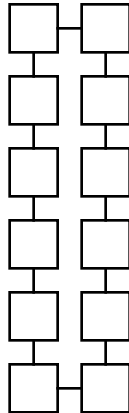


Face to Face by Ucaoimhu

In honor of Friday's Showdown, here is another chance to compete face-to-face, old school. In this one, some Across answers will be entered unaltered, but either (1) with one letter on a grid line (thick or thin), or (2) rotated 180°. This will cause two items to occur repeatedly in the grid.

To tell you more about these items, the remaining Across answers will be "expanded" before entry; i.e., (3) the short ones will have one character replaced by a two-character sequence, and (4) the longer ones will just have a character added. Circle the added characters from (4); anagrammed, these will spell out a word for the items from (1) and (2) — with one character slightly modified so that such an item is additionally represented in the grid.

Also, you can fit the characters from (3) into the loop next to this paragraph, so that each replaced character is between the two that replace it (in either order). If you read the circled characters left to right in the grid, and "shift" each one around this loop in one direction, you will get one figure; if you read them top to bottom, and "shift" them in the other direction, you will get another figure. Both of these figures were associated with the items from (1) and (2) a century ago.



What was in those items? One component is well-known, but there is another, less obvious, component. For each (3) or (4) answer, find the position of the character that was replaced or added, and take the letter at that position in the *clue*; these letters, in clue order, will give a number *n*. Connect (with a diagonal line) any (1)/(2) items that are precisely *n* square-lengths apart (if you travel only vertically and horizontally) to get a depiction of the other component.

And now you have finished filling in the grid! For each (1) or (2) clue, find the position in its answer of the letter that yields an item, and take the letter at that position in the clue. These letters, ordered by the way you have connected the items in the grid, will say what you have just done. Also, if you take the letters in those positions counting from the *ends* of the clues, in *reverse* order, you will get another phrase associated with the depicted component; if you look at the past puzzles on my website (math.uchicago.edu/~wald), that should give you sufficient information to figure out who you were up against in this competition.

ACROSS

1. Maintain the political unity of 50% of whingers, including PI (2 wds.)
5. Distort or tint Neptune's largest moon
10. Madly zap orc with antidepressant drug
11. Hidden in 51 amphorae, about five hours before dawn (2 wds., abbr.)
12. Bird that's female, male, and neuter
13. Non-damageable line of cliffs at summit
16. Ooze moves back to show symbols that replaced those from (2)
17. End of cinema show where you see young bohemians don't exist
19. A grain vessel with no front
21. A steamer, say? Pish — that's batty
24. In Genesis, the mother of all dark hours
26. At first, we circle and get loudly vocal
29. Red revolutionary soldier's equipment
31. Yes, boxer Baer talked about computers from Apple Inc.
32. Wharf a nobleman mentioned
33. A Chinese-American architect baked pie
34. Athenian characters with hips aquiver

36. Odd characters ask cow to dance
37. Wife is quiet, skinny one
39. Europa's fifth sister, with many a trident
41. A particle studied by physicists involved in espionage
45. After cooking, liver is worse
49. Lamb feeder with rain-water container
50. Norman is initially likely to wear greens at dinner, without any head decorations
51. Canto that will transform and perturb (2 wds.)
52. Hermione's head is a thing worth scratching
53. As one little bee inside a traffic pylon turned (2 wds.)
54. Twerp's working with Homer or Marge
55. Six from Rome will return after vacuous Caesar weeps

DOWN

2. Sun god in India, Quebec, Basra, etc. (4)
3. Village cowpoke's device turned up (4)
4. Disapproving comments about Persian

5. 1982 movie featuring computer graphics and, ultimately, President Reagan (4)
6. Weaklings beheaded little demons (4)
7. This and this start to confuse financial regulators (3 3, abbr.)
8. Hawaiian geese heard no denials (5)
9. Trains top-notch actress Lanchester (4)
10. Sap's weirdly informative ads (4, abbr.)
11. Dealt heartlessly with both sexes (4)
14. Ways of evoking pity but not love (5)
15. The ref spilled something on a computer keyboard (1 5)
18. Elegant parts of ships heading north (5)
20. Vainglory of soda-drinking male (4)
22. Those who press, mangle or rinse (7)
23. Raleigh joint that doesn't close up and remodel (3 6)
25. Omar on *House* kept stripping, by the way (4)
26. Tumbling cube had stopped (4)
27. Unprotected coast is a fertile area (5)
28. I tried actively to be more organized (6)
30. A *Star Trek* empath running riot (4)
33. Face the Spanish jury (5)
35. One doctor possessing quill and loom (6)
38. Take care of turning over props (3 2)
40. Insult Henry's tableware (4)
42. Every other component of Edam is not a skin-penetrating chemical (4, abbr.)
43. Topless barbarian character played by Arnold is a biblical figure (4)
44. Creep letting go of lady's stomach (4)
46. Those who once fought against aliens (4)
47. Puzzle not involving Union or Confederate soldiers (4)
48. Say I'm going to Bali, for example (4)