

Where In Blazes Did I Put My Cake Mix?

by Ucaoimhu

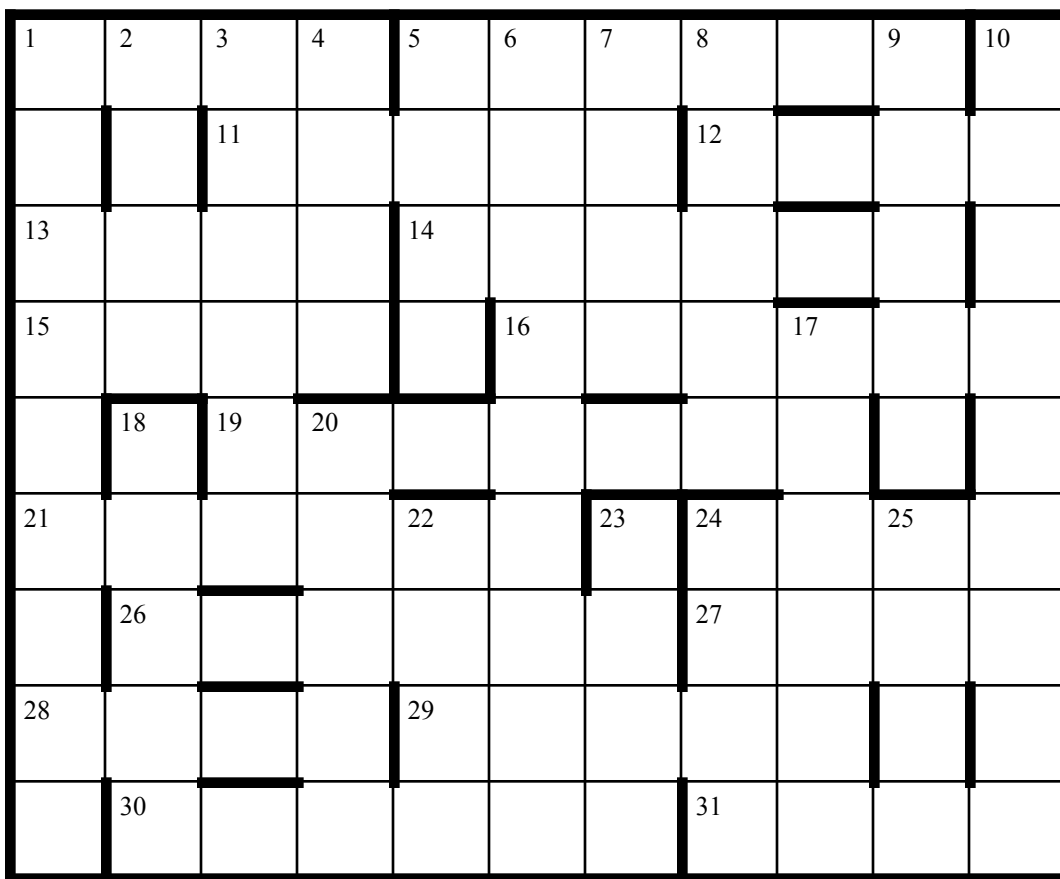
As a birthday tribute, this puzzle contains several candles, each two squares high. Each also has a wick on top, indicated by a letter from a Down answer that does not match the letter from the Across answer intersecting the same square; these Across and Down answers constitute one third of all clued answers in the grid. These candles also illuminate the transformative effect of time; those who used to be denoted by the word spelled out at the wicks (which also applies to all the candles)

are now often denoted by the unclued entry at 6 Down (which applies only to the candles in the right half of the grid). Either type of person could readily make use of the birthday message given by the candles themselves.

An additional third of the clues appear on the page with one altered letter, which must be changed back before solving. (The remaining third of the clues work normally.) The altered letters, in clue order, form an additional (double) tribute; the letters you change back to, in clue order, will describe the items I was so frantically spinning in the previous paragraph.

ACROSS

1. Streetcar ultimately hit a sheep (4)
5. Jon originally was interested but frightened (6)
11. Flings one's hand in front of father's car (5)
12. An Indonesian city barely upset Chopin (4)
13. Say, "A Qatari agent's stare misled lawyers" (4)
14. Lead performer on the radio eats one kind of sandwich (2 3 1, *abbr.*)
15. Norman's the one lender in stylish floral garb (4)
16. Result of you and me getting Penny excited (6)
19. Roosevelt gets telegram about large revolver (7)
21. Make pointless speech in bank or in rec room (6)
24. Heard from one's mouth! (4)



26. Actress Ruby drinks German and Scottish port (6)
27. For example, obstructing nonsensical requests (4)
28. Not in the piny western parts of western Alaska (4)
29. A real geek's endless enthusiasm (5)
30. Doesn't just hint about dictatorial Oaklanders being beheaded (4 2)
31. An old gasoline brand is Mexican, therefore (4)

DOWN

1. If everybody had to have a U2 song (1 4 4)
2. The Hun, when worshipped . . . um, turned red (4)
3. "Hai!" fit badly as a Shakespearean interjection (1' 5)
4. Crowds flipped over Mr. Diddley in Mississippi (4)
5. Thin, not quite viscous liquid (4)
7. Had disrobed foal in nothing flat (4, *abbr.*)
8. Pour water on dancing siren (5)
9. Make love in Jack's karate schools (5)
10. Corrupted a doll with an Irving Berlin song (4'2 1 2)
17. One radical among that woman's future employers (6)
18. Surrenders first to Castillians east of the trench (5)
20. At last they realize the other hay is not quite right (5)
22. Sod farmer finally brought up dietary data (4, *abbr.*)
23. Imitated old Queen of Carthage (4)
24. Aha — an item used to play music for an audience! (4)
25. When you are the principal, many a wise guy becomes less immature (4)