

1. Austin, We Have Two Problems

by Ucaoimhu

A certain well-known figure was, fortunately, well trained to deal with certain problems as they arose. Specifically:

(1) For thirteen Down clues, the string of letters produced by the wordplay part differs in exactly one letter from the word clued by the definition part. Change this letter to yet a *third* letter to get the entry to be put into the grid (this will in one case be a two-word phrase). These new letters (left to right, one in each column) will say where this figure received his training. (Yes, really.) Meanwhile, the letters from the wordplay parts, and the letters from the definition parts, will each (still reading column-by-column) show one of the two problems, surrounded by the subcontractor who was engaged to deal with it. (One of the two subcontractors is more “canonical” than the other.)

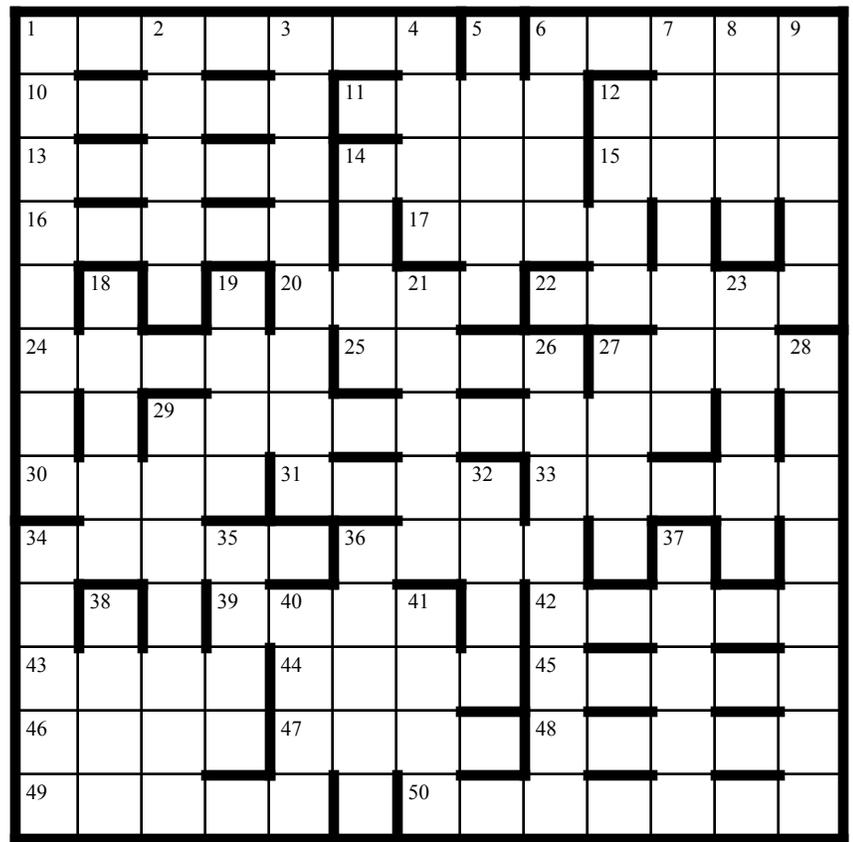
(2) Certain squares will be “overstuffed,” containing one of two materials, which the tools used by the above subcontractors were made of. Each such square is crossed by both an Across and a Down entry, both working normally. For each material, the clues for the corresponding Across entries “link up,” in that the last letter of each such Across clue is the same as the first letter of another such Across clue. If you draw lines connecting the squares of a given material that correspond to linked clues, you will see the tool made of that material; take the initial letters of those clues in the order determined by the links, starting at the clue corresponding to the overstuffed square in the grid’s central column, to see briefly how the subcontractor would use that tool.

(3) Take *all* of the Down clues from (2), ordered by the overstuffed squares they intersect (left to right and top to bottom in the grid), without regard to which material is in those squares; all of their first letters, and (separately) all of their last letters, will spell two lines describing several instances of one tool, with each line missing a few letters. Count, as per these missing letters, from (a) the start and (b) the end of each Across clue not previously used in (2). The letters from (a) will tell you where the other tool might appropriately be found; the letters from (b) will tell you where to find a suitable reward for all of this hard work.

ACROSS

1. Store carrying Uc & Company’s corn-and-bean dish
6. Exhibiting, to a greater extent, audacity added onto a bit of boldness!
10. Shun a modified form of Ovid
11. Priest beheaded a beast
12. South American land for each individual in the west, universally
13. What helps provide when overturning red-and-yellow log
14. Hod full of sulfur near hot cheapo . . .
15. . . . van in Raipur, inside a fake Hindu hermitage
16. Trims ship-holding structures
17. One who annoys odd pets
20. First letters from someone you met surveying a former clothes vendor
22. Dorian characters and I sat around eating a doughnut
24. Restrain (using bars from the east, say) a teen’s bugaboo
25. The “place” in a Latin phrase for “in place” is “ut”? Wild

27. Nine of the Parisians filling one UFO
29. Outspoken young wood supplier is familiar with uncharged, minuscule items
30. Wearing a smile, one conceals endless grit [NI3]
31. Theater’s supporter is male and English
33. Bloom’s parcel of land near us
34. To tilt crude poles
36. *Scream* star Campbell just swiveled
39. Thugs from a gym start to specialize
42. Outcome of baking, using cinders and a rock, about twenty copies of *V* [NI3+]
43. Warning from perverse Verne character seen under water
44. That hurts the wings of Linda’s birds
45. Place where Messina is decapitated with no passion
46. Hilda finally gets into tunes of Scott Joplin works played by Ravi Shankar
47. Ones who know gases will flow
48. In Sussex, saltpeter, erbium, and tin will travel westward
49. A cardinal alien precept
50. Synopses of 501 adventurous stories



DOWN

1. Raps about enthralling puzzle pack carried by an Appaloosa
2. Resume eating old, cold, hard mollusk
3. Mentor’s pal crazily dyes us. So?
4. Tone from core of bass instrument resembling a lyre or cithara (2 *wsds.*)
5. Shatters bands worn by leader of mob
6. Clarinetist Goodman’s numberless sons
7. Haberdasher, I testify, has imprisoned descendants of Gad’s brother [NI3]
8. Ra will stop Alcestis in the Middle Ages
9. Railroad cops in uniform tilted platforms
12. Top has improperly displayed the language of Hamid Karzai
14. Spot climbs craggy hills
18. Escargot tin is on top of everything
19. Actress Uta hit a bloke before the ending
21. Sorcerer maintains one real illusion
23. “West African amulets” Sue turned up will include Union Jack
26. Allowing free rein to Glen, a Hun, is bad
27. Gander eggs in Alaska
28. Principal character in film is that guy with indubitably specialized lenses (*hyph.*)
29. Bit of opal caught inside nickel head of Tantalus’s daughter [NI2]
32. Sheep dry from bottom to top
34. Shaved 25% of Sheldon’s bare torso
35. A sap manipulated animals’ hands
36. Norm and Earl pay for the kind of music Enya is known for (2 *wsds.*)
37. Shirt blocking paths floats on the breeze
38. Thing you see that is holding up limb
40. Versifier’s point about a Hindu mantra
41. Sow is upsetting actor Asner