

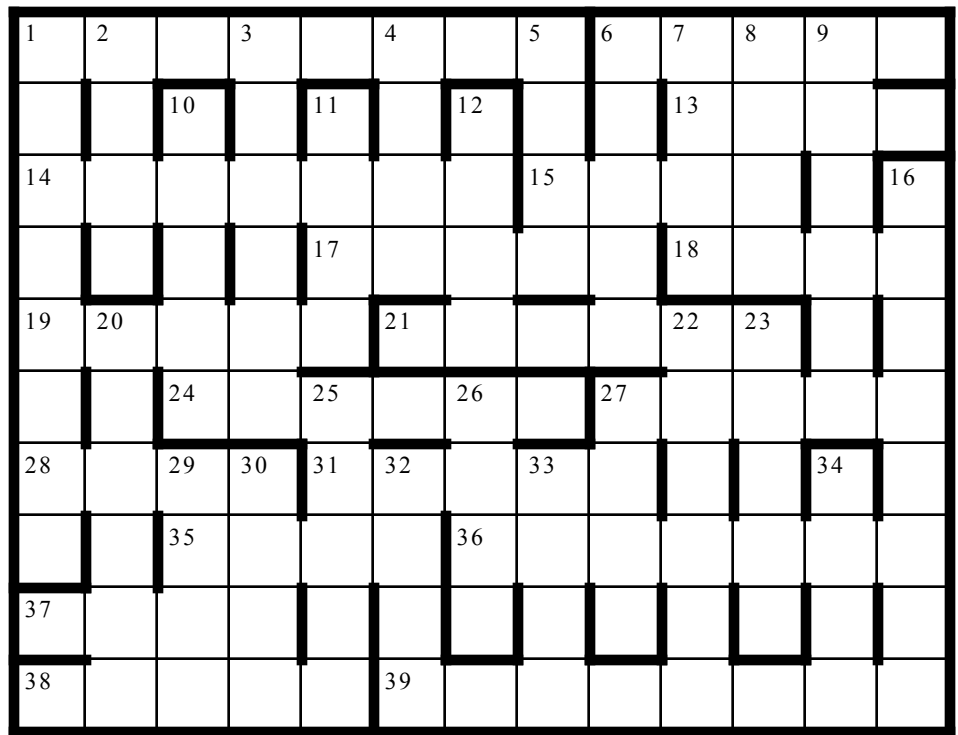
About ten years ago one person received a lot of attention on the crossword tournament circuit; this puzzle discusses him in more depth. The Down clues are split into sets of three. Two clues in each set have an extra word that must be deleted before solving; if these are the *m*th and *n*th words of those clues, circle the *m*th and *n*th *letters* of the other (normal) clue in the set. The circled letters will form a brief quotation from our subject (enumerated 1 5 3 7); the extra words will form a versified explication of what it refers to.

Meanwhile, half of the Across clues work normally, but have answers that must be altered by dragging one letter (always the same letter) to a new position. One grid row is “special,” and contains no altered entries. Each other grid row contains one altered entry; note what grid column now contains the dragged letter and if it was dragged right or left, and to the right or left (respectively) of the grid row write the letter *the special row* has in that column. The letters now to the left of the grid will give a terse term for the alteration you have done. Also, for any not-yet-used letter in the special row, write that letter both above and below the column it is in. Read, top to bottom, what is at the top, right, and bottom of the grid to get a conclusion to the verse, which will hint at how it might be sung, and will also name our subject.

Each of the remaining Across clues contains an extra syllable that must be *phonetically* removed before solving. Pronounced in *reverse* clue order, these will form a description (which we can logically infer our subject would have agreed with) for what is named *phonetically* to the left of the grid.

ACROSS

1. Jacket worn by Garfunkel’s west African rodent (5 3)
6. Herding hole-maker and omen-reader (5)
13. A dozen quartered back in that Brazilian city (4)
14. Old communist has Guevara covered with colorful, earthy material (7)
15. Whiter, grasping solver becomes ogler (4)
17. In Britain, kisses chiefly succeed alcoholic drinks (5)
18. Home for dazzling and large pinniped (4)
19. Carnies getting talebearer to portray golfer Palmer (5)
21. Sweetheart holds American shirts in exactly the right way (4 2)
24. Receiving silver, in tribute (6)
27. How an Erie senses you and I have to make cloth (5)
28. For an orator is familiar with discouraging words (4)
31. Frustrated cry of one caught with an envelope that’s misleading (5)
35. Creatures from the works of Tolkien or Lewis (4)
36. Part of an eldritch or strange air disturbed Carl (7)
37. Ladies going after Carlo’s cantos are lazy (4)
38. Hollow string’s sound (5)
39. Totes around starboard rib connectors (8)



DOWN

1. Sperm whale looks like (ha!) the cot Cal smashed (8)
2. Soon, love is embraced by dancer Miller (4)
3. Cross chicken near Ipswich Way gutted a biomedical research facility (3 3, *abbr.*)
4. A prefix that signifies “Mars bars Leon unwrapped” (4)
5. Discussing, say, the acceleration an object experiences when near some earth (3 1)
6. One fishes next to Sam’s empty, bottomless pit (5)
7. Uncloaked most attractive southwestern natives (4)
8. Former veep Al’s triangular piece of cloth shone (4)
9. Gregory XI’s predecessor’s iridescently ultraviolet clothing initially rankles outlaw (5 1)
10. Beast from noir novel that eats like horse (5)
11. Beheaded poet’s writing Gaelic (4)
12. A person’s unique code confused a dino (2 2, *abbr.*)
16. More rare than one mathematical structure ultimately appearing in (say) stout undergarments (8)
20. Kind feeling felt by an enemy, stranger, or narc (6)
22. Smooth substance Florence fed to five couples (6)
23. Partner, allegedly, of Vanzetti’s Pouch Company (5)
25. Erstwhile Chinese leader gets around former of Portuguese colony (5)
26. Expert raised up floor covering stone (4)
27. Back expert who almost touches Liza’s heart (4)
29. Herb unveiled the French name adorning detective in novels by Gardner (4)
30. Like sneakers loudly being hawked (4)
32. Adult upset by the old way station’s first snakes (4)
33. Look, Romeo isn’t inside to feed Paris (4)
34. Friend sits on minute tree (4)