

Oh, the Places You'll Go!

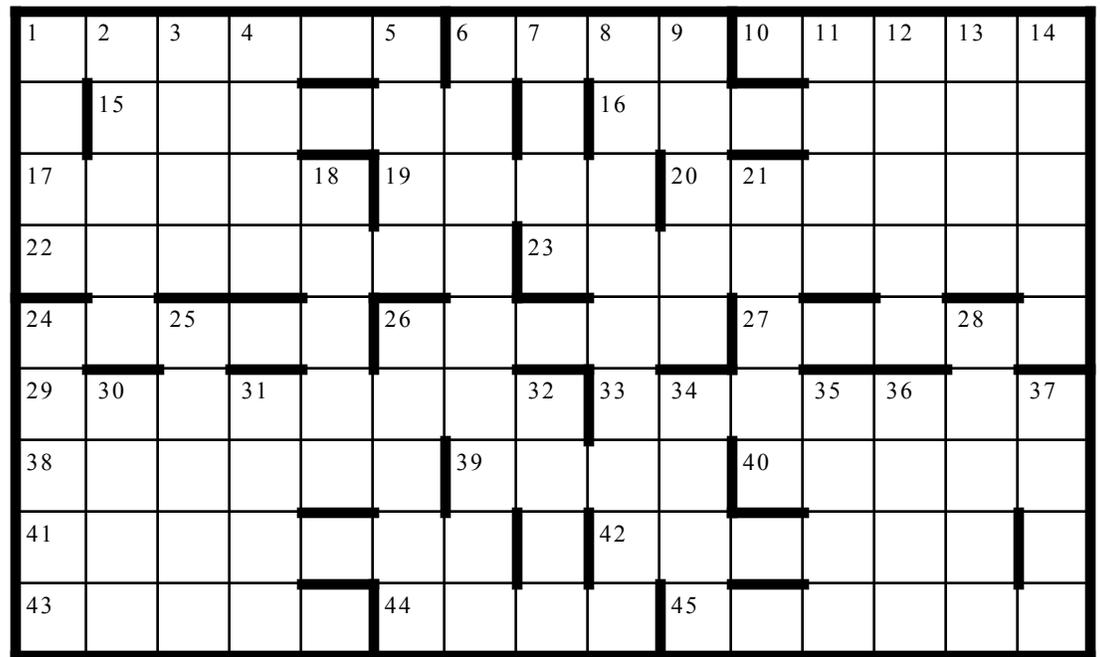
by Ucaomihu

This puzzle is written in the spirit of moving forward in a graduated way. Specifically, in twenty of the clues, the string of letters clued by the cryptic part differs from the answer by having one letter replaced by a string of one or more letters indicating compass directions (N, S, E, or W). For each such clue, after entering the answer (normally) in the grid, you can make a (nonbacktracking) "journey" by starting at the replaced letter and moving from square to square in the directions indicated by the sequence of direction letters; draw a line connecting the centers of the starting and ending squares of this journey.

When all of these lines have been drawn, the resulting image will indicate something about an event scheduled for later tonight, which will provide a nice contrast for all of these moves. Read the letters in the final squares of the journeys, in clue order, to see what that event will consist of.

ACROSS

1. Suddenly appears and takes legal action to stop men like Gregory XIII (4 2)
6. Insects like hugging unenergetic G-man Eliot (4)
10. Officer in a fix left Oregon (5)
15. Scratched actress Ward married (6)
16. A New York subway beat six flying craft (3 4)
17. Disheartened, say "I will display internal organs" (5)
19. Start to slay the weird brother of Cain (4)
20. I will leave flowers in places where honorees are (6)
22. The French forbid working in a Mediterranean country (7)
23. I lost one complicated device that sharpens knives (8)
24. Mad at Hun from the Beehive State (5)
26. Nosh outside of old nightclub (5)
27. Fool one host of the Tonight Show (5)
29. Most pert waterbirds nap, except for the alphas (8)
33. So Latin unfortunately is set apart (7)
38. Do better than host would after making Mark cross (6)
39. Gershwin number depicting Persia (4)
40. At first, World Wide Web sites shouldn't use badly arranged links pertaining to anatomical ducts (5)
41. Checks about sin, twice (5 2)
42. Sneakers containing carbon and magnetic metal (6)
43. Said Stallone would move smoothly (5)
44. 37.5% of messages about white, white, white, white, white, white cat's vocalizations (4)
45. Recounts about 100 lymphocytes (1 5)



DOWN

1. Friend holds up singer Simon (4)
2. Gutless candy company recalled eight items (5)
3. Lower-class person with addition to letter on how a spider catches dinner (4)
4. Cake-maker Lee's shirt from Kriss Kringle (4)
5. Bury Leon naked under penne for 100 centavos (4)
6. Wacky idea: Neon's a component of RNA (9)
7. On the radio, I disagree with that drag group opposing the Warsaw Pact (4, *abbr.*)
8. Island folk at back struck actors McKellen and Holm (9)
9. Northbound Chicago trains containing funnyman Caesar move left or right (5)
11. Fighting endlessly perverse giant (2 2)
12. Argonaut a Brady girl embraces that way (5)
13. She-fox has love for half a dozen bovine beasts (4)
14. Gotten up by discordant siren (5)
18. Topless Pooh Bear's concave belly button (5)
21. Audibly request Giant Mel's neckwear (5)
24. Doctor Seuss to portray people with computers (5)
25. Computer code where B's 66 and A's 102 (5, *abbr.*)
26. Where you'll find flowers I am to make darker (5)
28. Play for time to some extent (2 3)
30. Xena dances before excellent skating maneuver (4)
31. Mail envelopes finally close (4)
32. Think archaically, in the end, about quarrel (4)
34. More than one can put up with a state of agitation (4)
35. Evangelist's fifty-four-stringed instrument (4)
36. Cain's brother's lab's messy (4)
37. Nell redesigned building extensions (4)

The event: