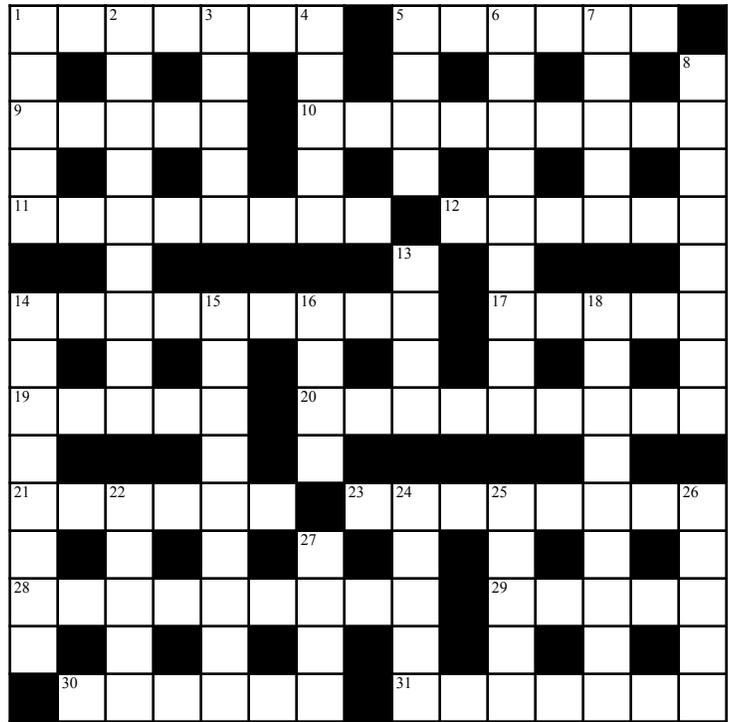


Opposing Side -- by Ucaoimhu, Rowen, *et al.*

Solving this cryptic crossword is straightforward enough, but to find the hidden message you must make certain connections, and read off (top to bottom, left to right) the letters you come across. What kind of connections? Well, if you search high and low here, you will find a partial description of them, but you won't get complete information on them until an additional clue appears on Friday.

This clue set will be in audiovisual form, and will be somewhat appropriate to both the theme of this hotel and the title of this puzzle. You will know this set when you see them, because they will appear to be having a 14D about a 30A. (But in fact they aren't having a 14D about a 30A. Why aren't they having a 14D about a 30A? The hidden message is the answer to that question.)



For the benefit of those who may miss the audiovisual portion of this puzzle, there will be an all-print version appearing on Saturday.

And no, this puzzle is not the Hidden Contest.

ACROSS

1. "Meeting up in ... in ... in ..." [nudge] (7)
5. Changed diaper as a couple (6)
9. Eliminating a crosswalk (5)
10. Can simple Tolstoy heroine articulately state that Napoleon lost? (9)
11. Referring to sound observation (8)
12. Ought to work magic with old Celtic symbols (6)
14. Compare one with misplaced Gale in Oz (9)
17. Japanese immigrant is one to receive selenium (5)
19. Suggested displaying old-fashioned deportment (5)
20. With desire to include red in this mosaic? (9)
21. Put down "1000 = 1 + 500 + 500"! (6)
23. Twenty-four pages among Saxony's chief knight's servants (8)
28. Cat flipped about last bit of lemon peel in candy (9)
29. Bill the French for meal (5)
30. Henry, that is a clothing accessory (6)
31. Those who have to be more mature in high school (7)

DOWN

1. To George Sand, I curtly answer, "Trousers" (5)
2. Has one sharp gal in translucent material (9)
3. Incumbent took bit of lead, perhaps (5)
4. Angel confused ancient anatomist (5)
5. Along with quiet, endless lust (4)
6. Marking things with spilled gin is a sin (9)
7. Get hair up about right to equip with weapons (5)
8. Make holy fool fancy it's . . . (8)
13. . . . it's but imaginary! (4)
14. Spat gum into a fissure (8)
15. Had too much love, losing head at road station (9)
16. Fond of topless Ford model (4)
18. Barrel it's mixing is possibly subjected to agitation (9)
22. Raising former queen's plant (5)
24. Travel northward, carried by quiet, graceful girl (5)
25. Up to hearing what antiagriculturalists do? (5)
26. Gets rid of barns (5)
27. Used to be as you and I are (4)