

14-11-23 by Ucaoimhu

This year, Thanksgiving week starts on November 23, and the four long Across entries (which are not all people and don't all quite have "dictionary nature") are all enthusiastic about different parts of it:

1 Across likes the mirth of Friendsgiving (the weekend before Thanksgiving), as shown by **putting out one giggling syllable or another**.

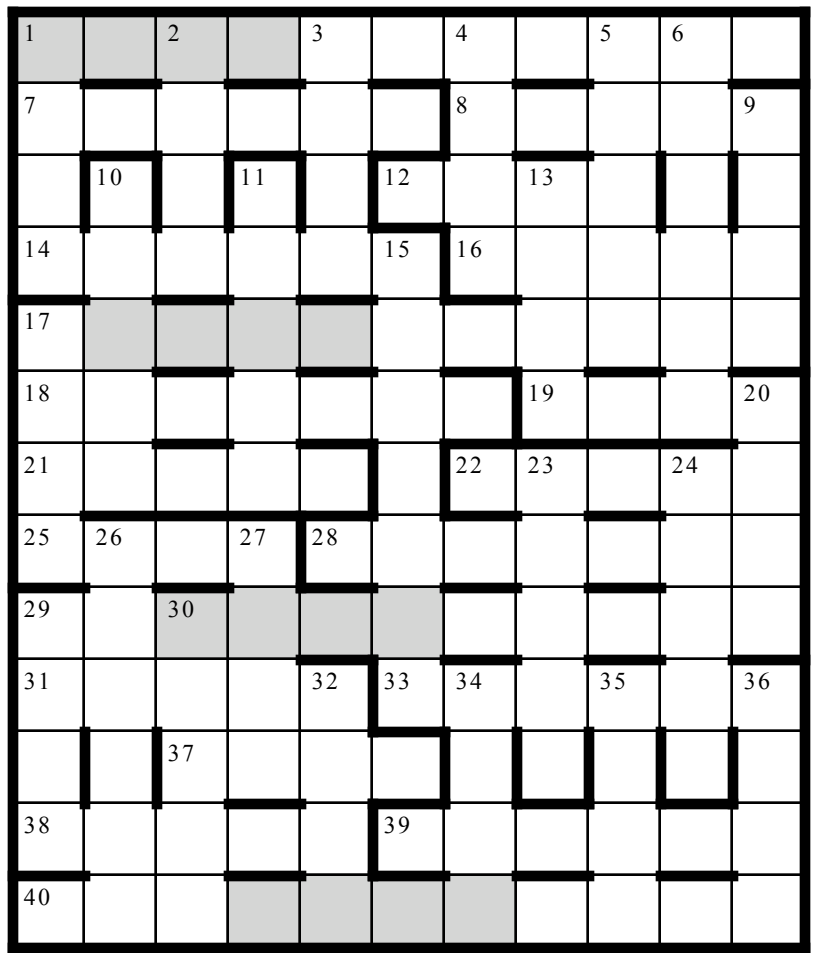
17 Across likes the cooking leading up to the holiday, with everything **aboil**.

29 Across likes Thanksgiving itself, with its opportunity to see **certain relatives**.

40 Across likes Black Friday, when merchants **gain millions on one side or the other**.

The other sixteen Across answers must be altered before entry, in four different ways (four answers each) reflecting the above boldfaced phrases.

Down answers are entered normally, but each Down clue has one extra letter that must be removed before solving; this letter will always be at the (i) start or (ii) end of some word. When the four "enthusiasts" above argued about their preferences, they tore their copy of this puzzle to shreds; the (i) letters (in clue order) will say what it ended up as, and the (ii) letters will give a coined term for this. The two parts of this term (or alternatively something else on this page) will also hint at how you derive, from each enthusiast's shaded word, a "watchword" associated with their preference.



Watchwords: _____

ACROSS

1. Star of *Lois and Clark and Margaret* who led Britain to hold back anger (4 7)
7. Eek! Rector is mistaken for NASA employee
8. Nonfictional part of a film is heard
12. Cute individuals sketch topless pictures of Hamilton?
14. Donkey eating that guy's trees
16. Add a bag
17. Competent cryptic constructor informally tossed Spot stuffing he eats with fungus (1 4 6)
18. One that follows, gripping back of car!
19. Start to engrave crosses in bishopric's sofas
21. Sonny's ex hugs native New Yorker with more joy
22. Incorrectly list Peg's farm animals
25. Right and left, helium was altering donkeys' brays (*hyph.*)
28. Little by little, moves timeless insult comic Don
29. Sickly, pale drunkards carrying hatchet around western city (2 4, 5)
31. A person that sails by one video game company
33. Prime minister's bottling the Italian's cellular fluids
37. Docile ones escape? Nonsense
38. Saks gets unusual requests
39. Many a little bird, you idiot, holds fast to your ear
40. Movie that shows giant ants discussing Senator Franken is a work of art (3 4 4)

DOWN

1. Alternative to a bust from a store to the north (4)
2. Some brand-name phonographs scare bats (4, *abbr.*)
3. Part of the amendable component of blood (4)
4. Train obstructing child's jog (4)
5. Rush laughs at both ends of tier (5)
6. Epsilon Delts, when drunk, raged the most (6)
9. Viral internet item featuring uncentered image, twice (4)
10. Sword damaged labs near hospital facility (5)
11. You and I will hold that gala in what location? (5)
13. Bart on *The Simpsons* cuts grass, reportedly (3'1)
15. Son near Copa, eating completely shelled mollusk (7)
17. Lace, at church, conceals red bow (4)
20. Islip's on the outside border of rebellious parts of a 20th-century state (4, *abbr.*)
23. Canoe disrupted ozone in which fish live (5)
24. Nice leader that appears in fantasies a lot (5)
26. Alit on dry grass after turning and going to Israel (6)
27. Mostly bare like somersaulting actress Gilbert (4)
29. Pict with Elliott and Jiminy Cricket reflectively describes wd.'s origin (4, *abbr.*)
30. Linguistically analyze seer's power to pen Ira up (5)
32. Same randomly offered chiefly juvenile retort (2 2)
34. Bodily fluids and liver cells ultimately rotated (4)
35. Norse deity that's tall right inside Billy Joel's home (4)
36. Help Sally, initially, with ballplayer Sammy (4)