

Go To The Head Of The Glass

by Ucaoinmhu

As befits this occasion, I hereby present you with . . . a graduated cylinder! In this cylindrical grid:

(1) The “rows” are actually rings, with the right end connecting back again to the left end. The “Around” answer(s) for each ring will fill the entire ring; since (as is usual with such cylinders) no vertical markings appear, just horizontal, it is up to you to determine where in each ring to start entering the answer(s).

(2) To further reduce the number of vertical marks, (a) in six Down clues, please remove an extraneous vertical mark from the definition part before solving, and (b) for six other clues, please remove all vertical marks from the answer before entering it in the grid. To help you with (b), the remaining six Down clues each contain an extraneous word (to be removed before solving) cluing one of the modified grid entries.

(3) Finally, to reflect the etymology of “graduated,” the completed grid will contain a series of steps. Specifically, starting in the “middle” of ring A (with a word befitting this party) and continuing stairwise upwards to ring K (with a word befitting this topmost position) is a word ladder (a series of words, each differing by one letter from the previous one). Be careful as you climb it, though; there are three steps that do not belong, which can be combined into two items that can make marks on glass. The sequence of “new” letters appearing in the ladder, bottom to top, will tell you what (more prosaically) these items are; if you modify this sequence as per (2), it will instead describe the honoree of this puzzle.

K		1		2	3		4		5	6	K
J											J
I											I
H	7					8		9			H
G			10		11					12	G
F											F
E									13		E
D	14	15		16		17	18				D
C											C
B											B
A											A

AROUND

- K1. Fry ought to get chewy
- K2. Impressionist and mother profit
- J1. Ms. Croft captures very young insect
- J2. Sal in *Rebel Without a Cause* and Moe in *Horsing Around*
- I. Program a can opener to sound like some horses
- H1. “Headgear for bishops in power” is wrong-sounding
- H2. Horse leaves the room for some time
- G. Wild emu met Coco bicycling into work, perhaps
- F1. Aye, Nancy embraces a Chinese city
- F2. “Bush,” rewritten to get longer, finally!
- E1. Air channel blocked by the front of the instrument
- E2. Golden boy Welles in *Citizen Kane*
- D1. Department store with Lost Ark™
- D2. Unhealthy quartet of couples loudly cheer
- C. Herb skiers abused in highlands of Massachusetts
- B1. Code word for a furry alien adult
- B2. Outspoken tease worked on a nonpermanent basis
- A1. Initially exclaim, very loudly, “Summer in Paris is decadent”
- A2. Company and pound’s perverse political alliance

DOWN

- 1. Wee man from Loire discussed Alaskan city
- 2. Drippy person who venerates the Show Me State?
- 3. Wings one singer coated with beer
- 4. Revenuers almost wipe out *Times*
- 5. Reportedly hit Key West from S. Formosa’s largest city
- 6. Wild oxen initially hurt poet Khayyam
- 7. Guys at middle of maximally crude list
- 8. Steals antimony, record or flip-flops
- 9. Let’s resume playing with Mr. Curry, a German (2 wds.)
- 10. 2009 Michelle Pfeiffer film set . . . er, in Chicago
- 11. Dog that is with physicist Marie
- 12. Last 80% of Hunt is nattier
- 13. Six letters held back by Claire Forlani, pertaining to a non-feast weekday
- 14. Revolutionary Cuban medicine is found within nine-hundred-and-sixty-thousandth of a minute (*abbr.*)
- 15. James nakedly embraces the ultimate in rubbish, *Alias* (2 wds.)
- 16. Claim sauce on pork would be so fine after 3 in Bari
- 17. Test for future Bari workers involved salt (*abbr.*)
- 18. What you call someone that Cain hurt: “Abel”