

Nymnastics

by Ucaimhu

A certain recent nom change has involved a lot of very gymnastic changes; each change listed below must be applied to five Down answers before entry:

A. Quintuple somersault. Reverse the five-letter sequence immediately after the first letter.

B. Backflip. Reverse the two-letter sequence immediately before the last letter.

C. Gainer/Loser. Caesar-shift the first and last letters one place forward and back, respectively.

D. Lutz. Change a German word at the exact center of the answer to its antonym in English.

Altered entries will include two geographical proper nouns and a two-word phrase. Also, each altered entry is clued by a sequence of one or more consecutive words in the clue.

All Across answers are entered normally, but in each Across clue one word contains an extra letter that must be removed before solving. In clue order:

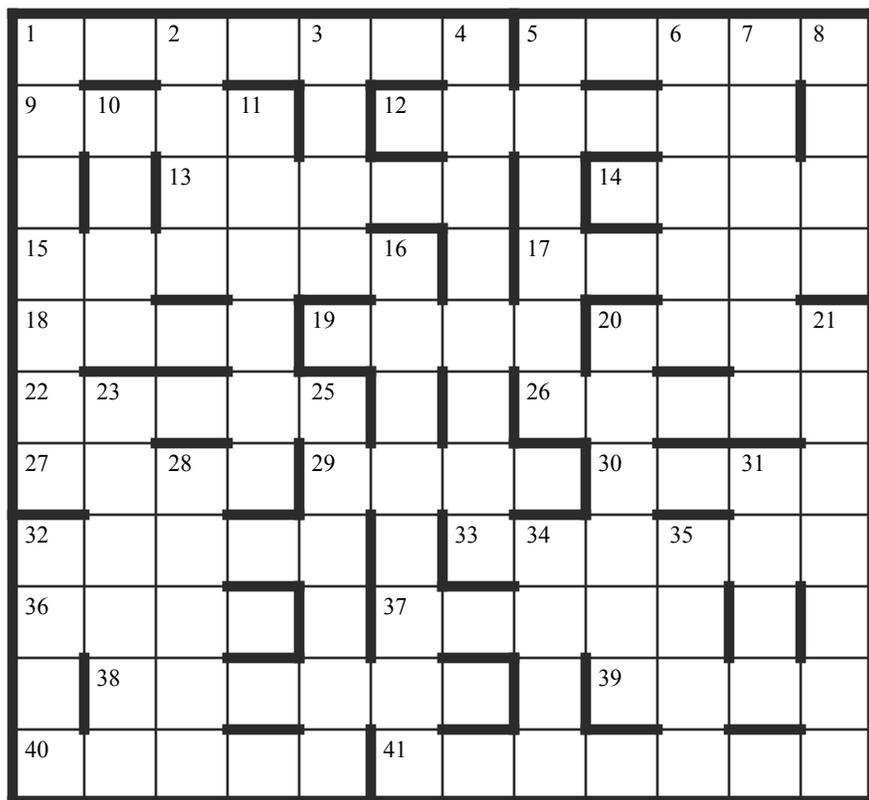
(1) The extra letters at the *starts* of words will say what the nom was before the change,

(2) The extra letters at the *centers* of words will say what sequence of seven changes was applied to the nom (one of these changes involves an old-fashioned spelling), and

(3) The extra letters at the *ends* of words will say what new nom results from this lively, athletic sequence of changes.

ACROSS

1. SF flick with Van Damme and Mae captured by jerk operative (7)
5. Hedge created with a needle and one cup of blood (5)
9. Raj starts to bisect rotating beam with an H-like cross section (1-3)
12. Atone in French, or one group of Lakota-like tongues (6)
13. Value of titre Mike brought back (5)
14. What starts when John comes to a stoop, freaking out cats (4)
15. Washes round bagel and baked, troll-like slabs (6)
17. Widen resident's green, retro, very French-style street (5)
18. Thais may hold small objects a rowing crew miniaturized, reportedly (4)
19. Support pastry-maker's butte (4)
20. Hide from capon inside of wiry coconut fiber (4)
22. Leander in rowboat with fish and fishing equipment (5)
26. Shilling, wheedling, and other things rock (5)
27. Ignoring every other item, Sal's used spine (4)
29. Pen a random suffix meaning "taking in hair" (4)
30. Metal center of Hermione's and Harry's opal (4)
32. Transport lady with a roble on *Cheers* (5)
33. Deer keeps twirling brownish-gray strip (6)
36. Individuals Reno's confused (4)
37. Parisian bead's next to . . . er, four cups and a bit (5)



38. Dog without orange, later getting more bananas (6)
39. Mailer's addiction, like, upset author Hinton (4, *abbr.*)
40. "Soy" is a bizarre word to attach to an alternative musical passage (5) [NI3]
41. Trusty clerk, after parking both items, becomes thief (7)

DOWN

1. Internally controls wing with one's latticework frame
2. Escape blue beast with an ovine mother
3. Exhibit stomach trouble, except on Friday
4. "Spiffed" sounded quietly rainlike, hollow — and tense, even
5. Barbarian hangs above true queen's pursuers
6. Charlie replaces thespian Thomas's large Polo
7. Soon resembles penultimately enthusiastic, tan, bi stranger (3 *ws.*)
8. \$*@&#! up sculpture
10. What's shot towards a higher spot with a cross-shaped item!
11. About 27 couples, in the end, disparage experience again
16. Soul-emptying fury that gets one communicating in less formal terms
20. Sections a contractor puts in with gentle gradients towards the rear, to support Santa
21. When one starting over becomes excellent property agent or tailor once more [NI3]
23. Sextet of supreme erstwhile runners of some regions in Africa and Arabia (*var.*)
25. Thong worn by a leader of a Persian-War-era polity
28. Discuss, essentially, substances containing N, Er, and T
31. Secondarily, poems were added as lexicog. refs (*abbr.*)
32. Cold fish at the caboose loves train sound
34. Takes in "Erica shrubs" spelled with no H's
35. River fills hat wagon