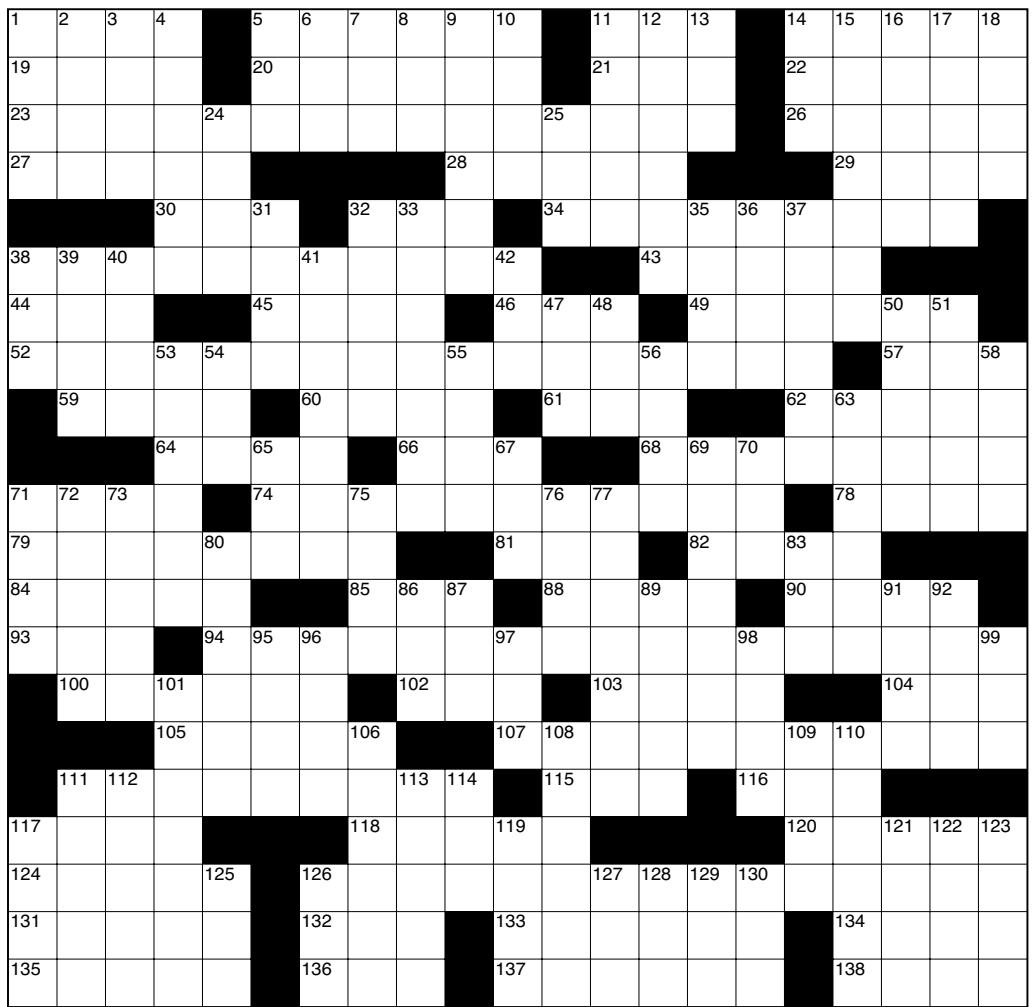


Rated Triple-A

By Merl Reagle

ACROSS

- 1 Unspoken agreements?
- 5 Is the boss of the bus
- 11 "Out there"
- 14 Fragrant compound
- 19 Actor Stoltz
- 20 Cereal grass
- 21 Chicken tender?
- 22 ___ Island
- 23 Uniter of the Americas
- 26 Canary's cousin
- 27 Taunting word
- 28 January, in Jalisco
- 29 Schism
- 30 Tom's sleepless co-star
- 32 Sgt.'s underling
- 34 Summer job at a beach resort
- 38 Migrating honker
- 43 Promised oneself
- 44 Bravo alternative?
- 45 Singer Lovett
- 46 Altercation
- 49 A bug in one's ear?
- 52 Popular two-wheelers
- 57 *Weekend Edition's* home, familiarly
- 59 Average guy?
- 60 Golfer's concern
- 61 Overly
- 62 Mary Kay rival
- 64 Architect Mies van der ___
- 66 Toon collectible
- 68 Winfrey rival, once
- 71 Different
- 74 Fountain treat
- 78 French airport
- 79 Reason for overtime
- 81 Expected
- 82 Mechanical starter?
- 84 Old TV sidekick
- 85 Query from Poirot
- 88 Pizazz
- 90 Chooses
- 93 Word with big or young
- 94 1992 Denzel Washington film set in the South
- 100 Take your pick
- 102 Cote call
- 103 Robt. ___
- 104 Not prepaid
- 105 Make ___ (utilize)
- 107 Alien words that save the world from destruction in *The Day the Earth Stood Still*
- 111 Place to stay
- 115 Ex-flyer?
- 116 Cozy room
- 117 Stately splendor
- 118 Bridge seat
- 120 With 68 Across, former daytime TV host
- 124 Crawling (with)
- 126 Prank reaction
- 131 Come as a result
- 132 Clint's "ugly" co-star, in a western
- 133 Acted badly?
- 134 Time gone by
- 135 Considers (to be)
- 136 Soggy
- 137 Stair posts
- 138 Woolly ones



DOWN

- 1 Diamond of note
- 2 Roughly speaking
- 3 Morse taps
- 4 Mental image, to a shrink
- 5 Dallas sch.
- 6 Christmas contraction
- 7 "Don't Bring Me Down" band
- 8 Ferrell film
- 9 Staves off
- 10 *South Park* kid
- 11 Actress Maureen
- 12 Disbands troops, to a Brit
- 13 Forensic evidence
- 14 Hosp. areas
- 15 Often mispronounced dessert
- 16 1947 Bob and Bing fling, *Road* ___
- 17 Enlighten
- 18 Part of RTO
- 24 Wilbur's pal
- 25 Essential: abbr.
- 31 Fancy fundraiser
- 32 Crayola concern
- 33 Horace's *Ars* ___
- 35 Off-base?
- 36 Hemidemisemiquaver, for example
- 37 Up
- 38 Playful
- 39 Tony winner Cumming
- 40 Disney fish
- 41 Shorts, sweats, weights, etc.
- 42 Misadd, e.g.
- 47 Pumpkin mo.
- 48 Devil's Tower st.
- 50 Bury
- 51 Be in a bee
- 53 Collar
- 54 Med. plan
- 55 Dentist's directive
- 56 "How ___ is that?"
- 58 Bank (on)
- 63 Busybodies
- 65 Home of *Rome* and *Deadwood*
- 67 Huck or Tom
- 69 Sullied
- 70 Ear-related prefix
- 71 Classic rebuke
- 72 Detroit team
- 73 Simpleton's lack
- 75 Latest information
- 76 Rock singer Quatro
- 77 Orbs
- 80 1978 Jane Fonda-James Caan film, ___ *Horseman*
- 83 Flapper wrapper?
- 86 Fruit drink brand
- 87 Spanish bear
- 89 Messy kin of "thud"
- 91 Pushpin cousin
- 92 Place for a coin
- 95 ___ tea
- 96 Greek portico
- 97 Cry
- 98 Anthropologist Margaret
- 99 Hubbub
- 101 Undivided amount
- 106 Closing number
- 108 "Ain't That ___"
- 109 Spongy toy material
- 110 Longtime Hawaiian senator, Daniel ___
- 111 TV innovator Arledge
- 112 Entertain
- 113 Way more than scoreless
- 114 Gun org.
- 117 ___ guilty
- 119 After that
- 121 Whiteness exemplar
- 122 Concerning
- 123 Orbs
- 125 "You rang?"
- 126 Cut with an ax
- 127 Resolve
- 128 *Printemps* follower
- 129 Akin: abbr.
- 130 Fabric amts.

(By the way, the only A's in this puzzle's grid are the ones in the theme answers. There are no extraneous ones.)

* PUZZLE FANS ! *

For info on Merl's Sunday crossword anthologies, visit www.sundaycrosswords.com

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