

WHAT CAN YOU DO ON A SATURDAY NIGHT ALONE?

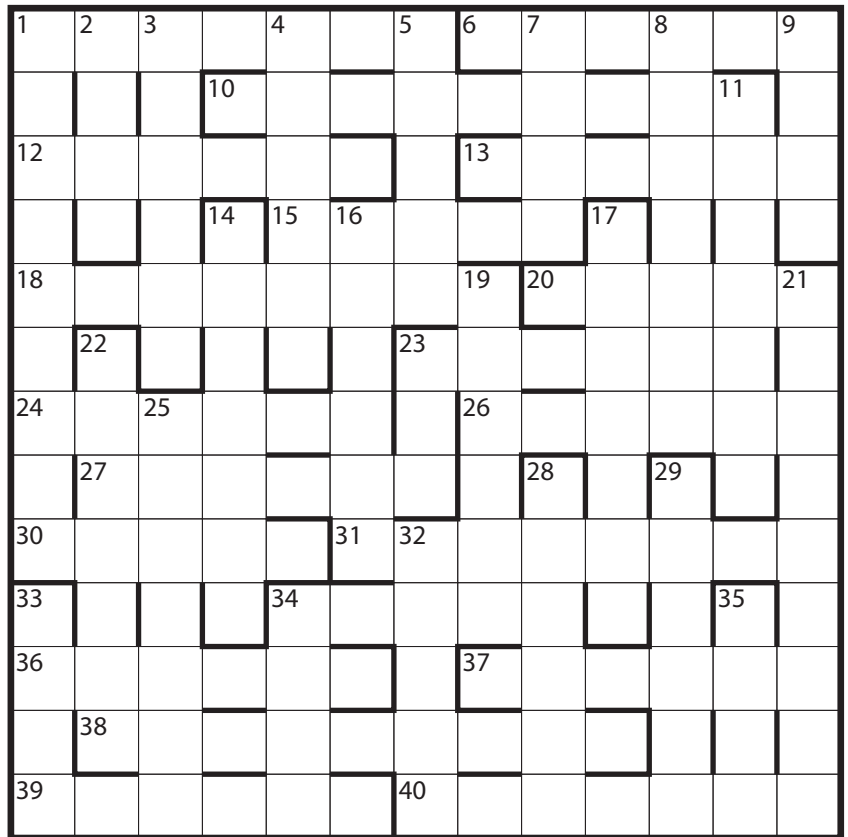
by Mark Halpin

This dilemma routinely vexes the Brooklynites of *Saturday Night*. What to do, what to do?

While Ted scrambles to find a girl and Ray suggests taking in a movie, Gene decides to attend a swell party. Fifteen clue answers each adopt one of these three strategies (five apiece) before being entered in the grid.

All grid entries are legitimate words or phrases. As a solving aid, the unchecked letters in the fifteen altered entries may be arranged to make the (otherwise meaningless) sentence TEACH HOUSEFUL OF UNAWARE BOYS A CRAZIER AIR.

The initial letters of the clues for answers that emulate Ted, followed by those for Ray's answers, and finally Gene's (taken in clue order in each case), will yield an apt description of the desperate housemates.



ACROSS

- 1 Wandering a crooked mile, south then south again
- 6 Sadistic type concocted a rebus
- 10 Nippy chihuahua at first getting tiresome
- 12 Rudely eat & run, revealing inherent character
- 13 Lass meeting overly backward, clumsy fellow
- 15 Sends out items needing repair
- 18 E.g. first and second exams interrupted by ruckus
- 20 Armed lunatic's aspiration
- 23 Red wine, in brief, with good, lively flavor
- 24 It's one place to get fresh fish or ripe bananas
- 26 Judo instructors disregarding yours truly's rationality...
- 27 " " likened it to stupidity, to some extent
- 30 America's Cup racer is last to enjoy inane chat
- 31 Converted grain to most eminent of Italian pasta
- 34 Learn all about "Over the Rainbow" composer
- 36 Vermin's lair surrounded by rubbish
- 37 Depressed one limped pathetically
- 38 Door friend's holding a bit for the dog, perhaps
- 39 Egyptian god replaced rice with more abundant spice?
- 40 Eaux de cologne, after debut, getting small change

DOWN

- 1 Way more than one guy at health club
- 2 Almost completely delete periods
- 3 The French prove to be most avant-garde
- 4 Really, really, really losing heart
- 5 Chipmunk spotted among tropical vines
- 7 People who swing both ways without a preference
- 8 Some who are not usually neat arranged novels by subject
- 9 *Kiss of the Spider Woman* star was excruciating
- 11 Risk is war game that's empty on the inside
- 14 Everyday routine at home
- 16 Space station initially rejected alternative optical device
- 17 Notion of God's one minor shortcoming described by essay
- 19 Smart ingredient to use making stuffing
- 21 Oddly ignored impulses cause a disturbance
- 22 Dad stirs up drink for the kids (2 wds)
- 23 Put down forged IDs
- 25 I'd carp nastily about ring and fighter in the ring
- 28 Crank adjusted main cooling unit
- 29 Ringtail is not in favor of eating nothing
- 32 The author laid out an epic saga
- 33 "Swamp monster" is a bunch of baloney (almost...)
- 34 One who's no fan of *Mame*, e.g. in the audience
- 35 Overstuff stomach with little inside