

# YOU GOTTA GET A GIMMICK

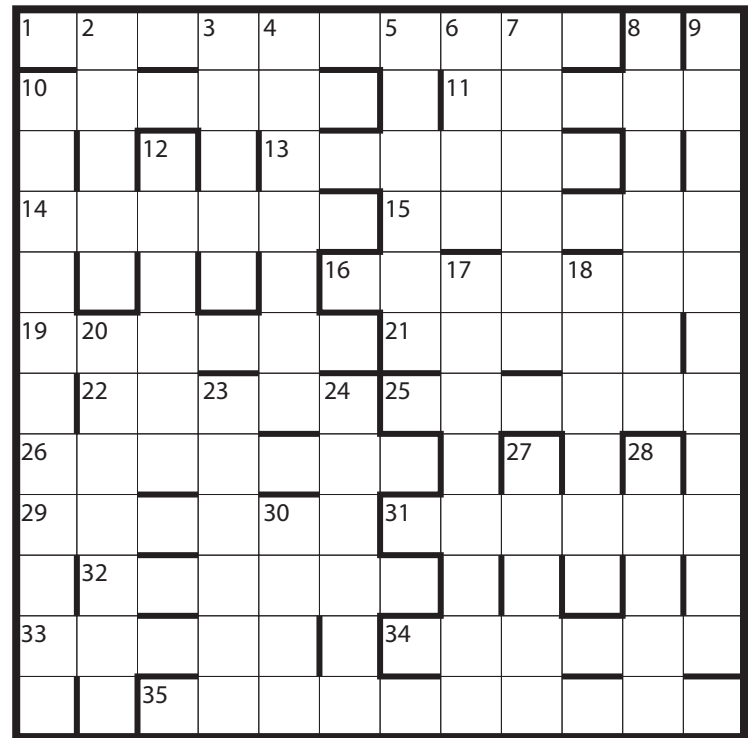
by Mark Halpin

The three ecdysiasts starring in this puzzle have each found a novel way to strip.

Mazeppa, for example, strips a single letter from each of twelve **answer words** before they are entered in the grid. The answer STRUMPET might thus be entered as TRUMPET, the S being stripped. Enumerations given with these clues refer to the new entries, which are all legitimate words.

Electra strips a single letter from the **definition** portion of another twelve clues. The answer BUMP, which might otherwise be defined with "Jolt," would in this case be clued with "Jot," the L being stripped.

Finally, Tessie Tura strips a single letter from those accounted for in the **wordplay** portion of the remaining twelve clues. For example, "Ring out" provides all of the letters needed to anagram the answer word GRIND except for the stripped D.



Reading Tessie's stripped letters in clue order, followed by Electra's and then Mazeppa's, will answer this question: Why have the three ladies been so concerned about bringing novelty to their routines?

## ACROSS

- 1 Applications of primer haphazardly used on car (10)
- 10 Remix of R.E.M. LP is not so overwrought (6)
- 11 Art Nouveau designer's most unusual composition: *Angelic Maidens* (5)
- 13 Remote, scattered streaks, primarily! (6)
- 14 Again cover alternate going in for running back (6)
- 15 Smoke obscured Native American (6)
- 16 Taking in a mediocre party, date's wit surfaces (7)
- 19 Perverted smut I saw (6)
- 21 Large, sort of weary person in the bar (5)
- 22 A lens distorted dams in photography (5)
- 25 "La" not a regression in *Noël*, harmonically (6)
- 26 Bungling heist, duo retreats (7)
- 29 Alas, nun destroyed short-lived plants (6)
- 31 Attention: it sounds a little fast for a rabbit (6)
- 32 Giving up lithium, free to act like a Virgo (6)
- 33 Glazier's chief going in advance somewhere to get panes in MA (5)
- 34 It's less healthy having little wet-weather gear (6)
- 35 Reptiles that few wild roars upset (10)

## DOWN

- 2 Some water sprites (nine, that is) in extremes of nakedness (5)
- 3 Poet polished *Pavilions in the South* (5)
- 4 Rueful acceptance of lame parent essentially more about saving face (7)
- 5 Bony horse disappearing from inn (6)
- 6 Sit in Iowa discussing goals (4)
- 7 Jailer put into place ready to go (6)
- 8 Just a dram, one taking a toll on alcoholic leader? (7)
- 9 Doctor avoids a lot: high blood pressure treatment, for example (11)
- 10 Yielding, tarts belch drunkenly (11)
- 12 Silver disk on the shore (6)
- 17 Company at last restructured, showing one popular person's influence (8)
- 18 Hold ewe's last, smallest offspring skyward (6)
- 20 Fuchsia in bower providing colorful array (7)
- 23 Pair of Europeans sing Sondheim lead role (6)
- 24 Disquiet and disease disturbed rest (6)
- 27 Park animal, oddly, used for a tow in Africa (5)
- 28 River lily, for example (5)
- 30 Printer's division in L.A. newspapers cut by 80% (4)

If you're new to cryptic crosswords and would like tips for solving clues, please contact the constructor at [markhalpin3@gmail.com](mailto:markhalpin3@gmail.com).