

Not Yet 6-0 by Ucaimhu

This puzzle, written a bit before an important event, makes use of an ordered set of items from even earlier. To start with, the clue for 12 Down is ambiguous, with two possible answers, each naming one item in the set (one tersely). Use the two answers and the clue to determine what the *key* item in the set is, which makes reference to another such event (happening to someone other than Audrey).

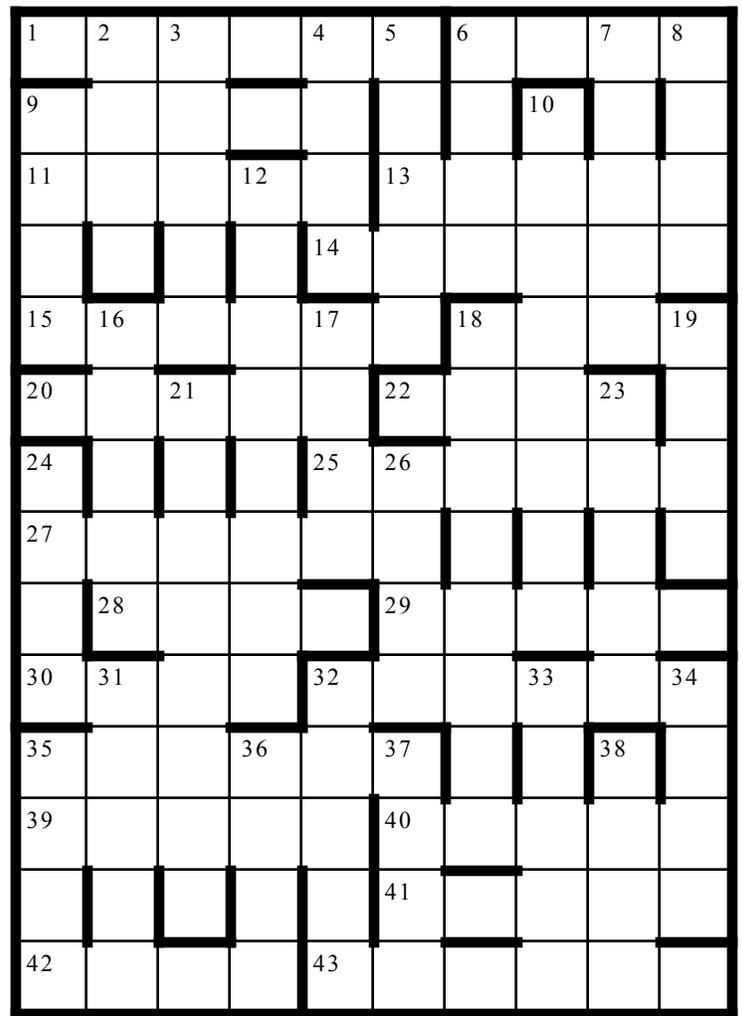
In all other clues, the wordplay yields a letter sequence with one extra letter. Specifically:

(I) For half the Across clues (some of which are also ambiguous), the extra letter is at the *beginning*. If it is the *n*th letter of the alphabet, write the set's *n*th item (with any initial article removed) so it overlaps the end of the answer's grid row, and then continues past the right edge of the grid. When this is all done, these items, the 12 Down answers, and the key item will be the complete set.

(II) For the other Across clues (none of which are ambiguous) the extra letter is at the *end*. Read the last characters of the clues, in order by the extra letters, to see what each item in the set is.

(III) For the Down clues other than 12 (which are unambiguous), if the extra letter is in position *m*, circle the *m*th through (*m*+3)rd letters of the clue. Each letter not used as an extra in (I) or (II) will be used as an extra here five times; put the five circled sequences for a given letter in clue order. The resulting 20-letter sequences (for the five letters, in order) will be (1) the key item's name, (2 & 3) two excerpts from the key item, (4) two things that appear in the part of the key item (2) and (3) come from, and . . .

Oh no! A strange, new item has escaped from (2) and (3) and now lurks next to the grid. It too has (4) in one part: these are given by (5). And it makes reference to yet another event of this kind; with the key item's event, the puzzle's full title is now accounted for.



ACROSS

1. A musician's slow "Goodbye . . ." has a G in it (6)
6. Item used to groom jazz group (4)
9. Actor Chaney, hugging flip-flopping git's hybrid cat (5)
11. Marx brother quietly replaces shelter's Bible (5)
13. Leave mother nickel from Muscat or thereabouts (5)
14. Alternately, think up Persian name for the "little, yellow, different" pain reliever (6)
15. Frequently, rock enthusiast at the rear, hidden between ears, fit inside frontless miter (6)
18. 1001.1000 IQ displayed by *Rent* character (4)
20. Start bashing, initially, before the middle of this half of a quid pro quo? (3 2)
22. Rhode Island pol Landon whom FDR beat for 100 dinars (4)
25. One examined the dehydrogenated precipitate (6)
27. "Rotating the old gas in the air"? Oh, Pa, that's bogus (6)
28. Person figuring in legends of Richard I's time incised line, east to west, between two kings (4)
29. But after scarlet, give another tint (5) [NI2]
30. Dart Peña unwrapped exhibits Viking graffiti (4)
32. Sack holding leaves, beat roughly, to be fed to old horse (3 3)
35. Duh! Drinking RC and then OJ is backwards, dangnabbit (2 4)
39. Grain enthusiast's exclamation contains, chiefly, @\$*#& (5)
40. Soy paste, near Utah? Can't be done (2 3)
41. You are lying, as normal, in beds you stripped (3 2)
42. Turning up next to actress Sandra's bodega (4)
43. Critic Rex, holding club, gets cash a seller may be offering (6)

DOWN

2. Put "heptad" 72 times on a large numbered disk (4)

3. One is on grey head of extinguished match (5)
4. With appended zinc Gino's barely aware of (2 2)
5. Air at Oxford is essentially unlovely and morose (5)
6. Climatologist's left inside without MP's free ticket (4)
7. Entrap Irwin's backers inside quartet of Mixmasters to see four quavers, all together (5)
8. CBing, nude, about our group event for hippies (2-2)
9. So state abutting LA and NM imports headgear (4)
10. A ladybird penultimately seized by Minnelli and Nugent, and secured with a cowboy's rope (8) [NI3]
12. Slice and dice (etc.) a pine for an item next to the key item (8)
16. Overture to *Elektra* stops being trio accompanied by quintet (5)
17. Both damsels and wee things use this suffix from French, Latin, and Zulu, you Belgian (4)
18. A key amount of money found in Mississippi is beguiling (8)
19. "Yes" often heard sarcastically from \$4B alien (1 3)
21. Camp lusty Paris was in beheaded dunces with crushes (8)
23. Lotte, in *Ten Blocks on the Camino Real* with actor Cariou, uttered cry of joy (5)
24. A stirrup-user's gizmo that sticks unopened Mrs. Butterworth products to the ceiling (4)
26. Conspiracy finally embraced by . . . er, ex-governess Jane (4)
31. Okay, Shamu's tail thrice hit grasping leaders from Zurich (2-3)
32. All-wet statements Buzz unveiled that primarily upset coach (5)
33. Aspen, zebra, etc. maintained by Punjabi votary (5)
34. Visit Elazig's latest and oddest vacuous dullard (2 2)
35. Ancestor, inwardly under oath, must pay (4)
36. Stainer's right next to insect that stings wood-filer (4)
37. Eddie, striking heads, eats gutless X-Men for lunch, maybe (4)
38. Motion of air that blasts man's undershirt (4)