

Vote Splitting by Ucaimhu

Reflecting this year's five pairs of Best Picture nominees, Down answers will be altered before entry in five ways: (1) four will have reversed bits of costume, (2) four will have what starts things at the end, (3) four will start with a word merriam-webster.com says "p" represents, (4) four will show a derivative of a Greek word with a genitive, and (5) four will have something that's white that flies 25% of the way in. (Altered entries will include a phrase, an abbreviation, and three names — one pluralized.)

Two additional nominees can be found, unclued, at 1 and 11 Down — almost. Specifically, 1 Down, in addition to containing a nonletter, has extraneous letters (turning it into an aphorism of mine), each representing a *split* or a *nonsplit*. For each such letter, perform the following steps:

(a) For each clued entry it is part of, if it is the *x*th letter of that entry, circle all the Ns and Ss in the *x*th word of that entry's clue. Let *n* be the *total* number of Ns and *s* be the *total* number of Ss you have circled.

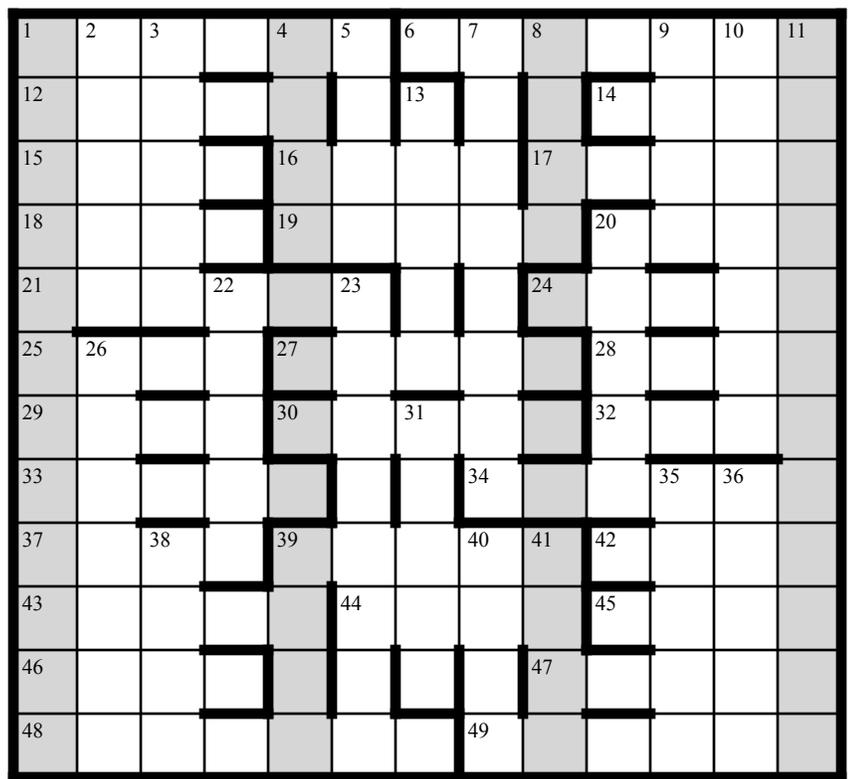
(b) Note the square in the next shaded column to the right, in the same row. If your original letter is a *split*, circle the *two* squares that are (respectively) *n* spaces north, and *s* spaces south, of the new square; if your original letter is a *nonsplit*, circle the *one* square reached by traveling, from the new square, *n* spaces north and then *s* spaces south.

All squares you have circled should be splits or nonsplits; repeat (a) and (b) for these circled letters to circle letters in the third shaded column. Then repeat (a) and (b) once more to circle some letters in 11 Down; for each of these, on the *line above* the word in 11 Down it occurs in, write the *original split or nonsplit letter* in 1 Down that led to its being circled. 11 Down will then show the other nominee.

Each Across clue either is missing a letter (or the nonletter from 1 Down) at the (i) start or (ii) end of some word, or else (iii) has wordplay yielding a letter string with one missing letter. In clue order, the (i) characters will spell a nominee that could benefit from 1 and 11 Down splitting votes, and the (ii) characters will spell the associated film; the (iii) letters, left to right in the grid, will say what that film would have been called if it had used the same naming convention as the film for 1 and 11 Down.

ACROSS

1. Is a Hawkeye State prophet (6)
6. Words said after passing hep stranger embraces Zadora (7)
12. *Quintet inside can't wash hat* used to be in poetic style (5)
14. In Quebec, e is put next to hollow iguana hipbones (4)
15. Extinct birds with many a scar changing bass into men (4)
16. Rightmost 60% of pear pierced by indigo seed coat (4)
17. Spy silver teaspoon inscribed with pair of numerations (5)
18. Pitchers would be outside of javelin range? Strange (4)
19. Rhenium's east of Turin's lower holes (5)
20. Beat odd character in epics named for lion and Odysseus (4)
21. Finishes with our tea before we finally dine (4 2)
24. Nine take away three-shilling adult stamps (5)
25. So Poe (wooooo!) doesn't have any tor to heave (4)
27. Cincinnati oilwoman educed three quarters (just about) of Homer's dialect (5)
28. Edge of damlike French thing making earth start to move (4)
29. Mega-mega-hit and trailer are not shown in rani's city (4)
30. Umber on a tag looks like ink that is full of carbon (5)



32. Kinks hit everybody around (4)
33. Right half of macro in King Alfred's west Swedish coin (5)
34. Let Sid assume Eve did some training (6)
37. Yale students nickname confused Ilse (4)
39. Hide from Ra aboard MTA car created by Mazda (5)
42. Notes Mars (4)
43. Unconvincing skit, essentially, with comedienne Lawrence from *Mama's Family* (5)
44. *Have Marley and Me* actor Wilson (4)
45. Three aspects of leftover lass appearing in *Front Page* (4)
46. Twosome who ate it, upsetting me (4)
47. Hear of cow chasing amphibian unfamiliar with . . . (3 2)
48. . . . navy clothing of lector and gossip of a geeky sort (7)
49. How a robot might see tin's golden (6)

DOWN

1. [See instructions]
2. Castilian for "draws round cobalt architectural features"
3. Swiss river destroyed area
4. Dad, say, curtailed word after *¿Que*
5. Express delight at the German sandwich
7. 1,001,100 sine wave detectors
8. Deity's Spanish? Yes, Virginia
9. Tetrad in beleaguered city where Zeno lived
10. Sloth and lady are sick
11. [See instructions]
13. Swimmer and author help to obtain room
20. Jeer at Kay's tome
22. Without snakes biting one
23. Is pierced by oxygen and nitrogen atoms that are charged
26. Lie about tritium having fewer calories, in ads
31. Rotating beanie uncovered suffix used in subfamily names
35. Competes with 5' 6" Italian from the south
36. Declaim nothing with speed
38. Hulled brick-red grain
39. What's announced to announce that one is participating and (jimony!) stripping (2 wds.)
40. Mention a red coin put in a blue box
41. Nonodd parts of Fernanda's Sicilian commune