

SANDWICHES

by Dave Shukan

You found a local crossword association and paid your annual dues, and your first gathering is today! You are very much looking forward to meeting new, kindredly spirited friends.

But oh no! As people arrive, the caterer calls and informs the group that its truck broke down and will not be able to deliver lunch. Everyone looks around with no ideas. Whatever will you do? Can the event be saved? Almost no one thinks it can.

- “Stand back,” you say, “I’ll make sandwiches!” And so you do, in three ways:
- (1) Each Row and Column contains two clues. Their answers are to be entered into the grid with one (either one) sandwiched inside the other. For example: BREAD, MEAT LOAF could be entered BR/MEATLOAF/EAD or MEATLOA/BREAD/F, among other ways.
- (2) Each Column will skip over one Row letter that is sandwiched, but not used, inside one of its two entries. (If a letter appears twice consecutively in a Column and one must be skipped, you may skip either one.)
- (3) One clue in each Row will have a word containing an extraneous letter sandwiched inside it, to be removed before solving. But don’t throw them away! Instead, sandwich those letters – all different – into words in the Column clues, one letter and clue per Column, before solving. All these transformations will result in common dictionary words (but might not preserve surface sense).

Once you’ve finished, in the nick of time and saving the event, read the skipped letters from (2), left to right in the grid, to see the moniker the grateful association members have bestowed upon you. Then, for each clue pair transferring a letter in (3), take the letter at the midpoint of the alphabet string starting with the first letter of the Across clue and ending with the last letter of the Down clue – for example, G is the midpoint of (D)EFGHI(J), and B is the midpoint (X)YZABCDE(F), treating the alphabet as a circle. Those midpoint letters, arranged in alphabetical order of the corresponding transferred letters, will spell out what everyone can now do in light of your solution to the food problem, and the naysayers doubly so.

ACROSS

- 1 Midway arcade game from the 1980’s in which shouts are exchanged is partially legal again
- 1 Page at copier!
- 2 African capital is reportedly like a broad shove
- 2 Bank, at times, is spare but not close to moneyless
- 3 One not feasting a while from now, with meal ultimately seen as error
- 3 Young seal, assuming unsatisfactory lake was ahead, came quickly to a stop (2 wds.)
- 4 Left no cooking coasting in the kitchen
- 4 Misplaced bracelet no longer possessing original sentimentality
- 5 Baby hens, pinching a penny, tan (except for the front) with second-rate skincare product (2 wds.)
- 5 Initially avoids typing the new notation that identifies intended recipients (abbr.)
- 6 Feeling unwell, finally double over following wrong pasta variety
- 6 Pay respect to and debar unlimited work
- 7 Behaved unacceptably and organized powerless coup d’etat (2 wds.)
- 7 Indian city location to get a sandwich that is sapid
- 8 Churned sourly after passing opening in the stomach
- 8 Magical jinx heard cover bands
- 9 Dribbles blue parts of paints
- 9 Unusual bodysuit with no brand on the outside results in dress shop compliment (2 wds.)
- 10 Lawyer acquires commercial dam for tribe’s leader
- 10 Mutant parrot is a bird of prey
- 11 Technical expert conceals stray apartment feature
- 11 Workhorse, at last minute, hoists expensive unfinished prize
- 12 Improved retainer, and chore of protest is withdrawing (2 wds.)
- 12 Returned almost seven days before
- 13 Central piece of fudge grabbed by child at a baptism after Gram left is flavored (2 wds.)
- 13 Repaired after the head broke off

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DOWN

- 1 Beetle mostly travels untouched (2 wds.)
- 1 Geek character well-known in math circles, covered by body art briefly, is top stud of 2015 and Tap Your Heels and Pulpit’s offspring
- 2 Coyote disturbed unmatured egg
- 2 Peel exterior of vegetable prepared without using mat or dairy
- 3 Gin is a source of alcohol around tee time – gin with its cap off
- 3 Soil scientist’s concerns melted hearts
- 4 Simulated pier midway, rented at sea
- 4 Those people would interrupt a touchdown with an attention-getting yell
- 5 Heartless torpedoes blasted some holes in barriers to entry (2 wds.)
- 5 Revered semi-original copter forerunner
- 6 Declined seconds from catering aide favoring starving actor O’Neill
- 6 Made a funny pound note, but not *too* funny
- 7 As part of a program, an iterated segment or portion of food spooned out, with a bit of lime replaced by orange (2 wds.)
- 7 Behaved like slots in long upcoming branded computer housing: essentially unremovable
- 8 Each of your statues primarily is brass and bronze
- 8 Rare peripheral to deice for networking
- 9 In the British style, gradually impart some pans, tilts (var.)
- 9 Juliet’s garden counterpart in a 2011 animated film bothered boogymen dropping by
- 10 Don, after a vacuous course, did great on a quiz
- 10 Person from a small European country and/or a leaderless Middle Eastern country
- 11 Pulitzer Prize winning composer Ned originally rhymed more awkwardly
- 11 Turn freshmen to alms, perhaps, even alternately restricting ticket to a show
- 12 More than one doozy of a starship helmsman appearing on television at length, heading toward the sky
- 12 Walked back over from rising point of land covered in bushing
- 13 Groups of lads to invest in energy in stir after being sent up (abbr.)
- 13 Tear extremely egregious old letters