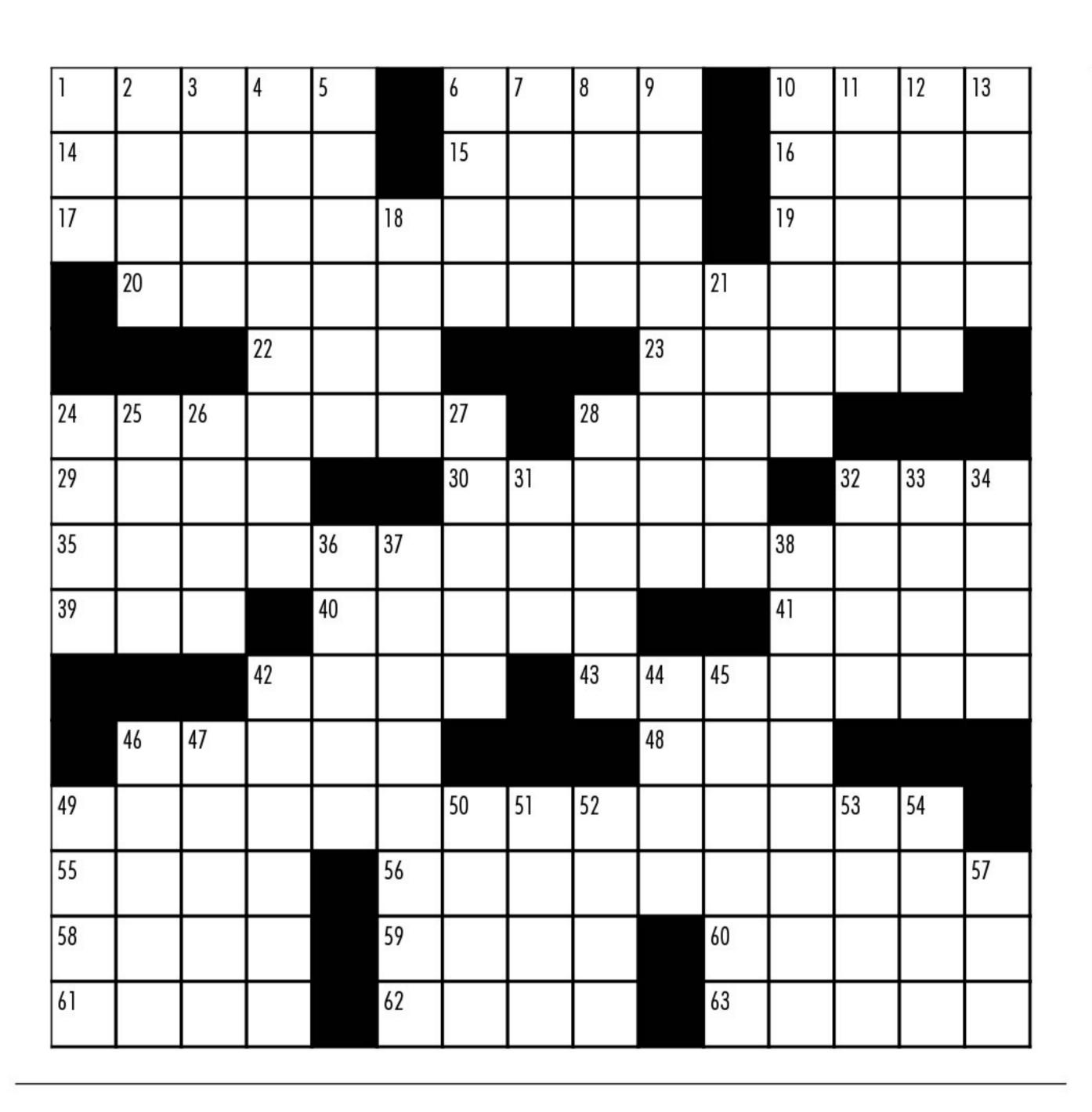
The Vulture Crossword Contest: Costumes, Everyone!

This puzzle's contest answer is a costume that was popular for Halloween 2014. $By\ Matt\ Gaffney$



Across

- 1 Prickly plants
- 6 Slimy hopper
- 10 "Yeah, sure!"
- 14 "Magic in the Moonlight" director
- 15 Vegas casino next to the Mandarin Oriental
- 16 Steep drop

- 17 Prepares to enjoy, as string cheese*
- 19 Thought
- 20 He was an excellent wingman*
- 22 Key by the space bar
- 23 Weak and dizzy
- 24 Unfortunate
- 28 Tons and tons

- 29 California hometown of TV's Bionic Woman and Six Million Dollar Man
- 30 Ricochet
- 32 TV character with an 18-letter surname
- 35 Breakfast options*
- 39 Settlers of Catan resource
- 40 Release your grip
- 41 Strict memorization
- 42 Cash amounts
- 43 Passed along
- 46 Where many Caribbean cruises begin
- 48 Shot with topspin
- 49 They're prepared with flour, butter, and milk*
- 55 Neil Young classic
- 56 Country where a 1986 Oliver Stone movie is set*
- 58 ____ time (never)
- 59 Linguist Chomsky
- 60 Make it through, but just barely
- 61 Identifies, in a Facebook pic
- Explosion causes
- 63 Zellweger with a new look

Down

- 1 Put a limit on
- 2 Nicole's costar in "Malice"
- 3 Miss ___ (TV psychic)
- 4 Copy Pinocchio
- 5 Part of a shoe
- 6 Video
- 7 Word before surgery

- 8 Gets broadcast
- 9 Software architect's concern
- 10 Admission of guilt
- 11 Obama's No. 2
- 12 Navratilova rival
- 13 They're often green or black
- 18 Colony members
- 21 Wynonna Judd's mom
- 24 Traveler with a bindle
- 25 Not quite shut
- 26 "Juno" Oscar nominee
- 27 Sings improvisationally
- 28 Enthusiasm
- 31 He directed Heath and Jake
- 32 Shout from a ship
- 33 Postlethwaite of "The Constant Gardener"
- 34 Not new
- 36 Spitting creature
- 37 Beach sand, for example
- 38 Maryland delicacy
- 42 Wild West shouts
- 44 Airline whose name means "skyward"
- 45 Angled slat, as in a Venetian blind
- 46 Conductor Zubin ____
- 47 Cake cover
- 49 One of many seen in "Jaws"
- 50 Musk who started Tesla Motors
- 51 Future atty.'s exam
- 52 Walmart offshoot, for short
- 53 Genesis garden location
- 54 Pepsi brand
- 57 ____ whiskey

Once you've solved the crossword, email the hidden theme answer to vulturecrossword@nymag.com by November 12. One entrant, drawn at random, will receive a year's subscription in print or a two-year subscription to the iPad edition (winner's choice). The winner of last issue's competition was Irma MyersDonihoo of Plano, Texas.