Debuts of unusual cryptics about our imaginative metrist (he’s ultrararefied),
Kevin Wald

Enumeration withheld.

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TEACH YOURSELF UCAOIMHU
by Qaqa

This puzzle provides a lesson in Ucaoimhu, in several simple steps. Most clues have a single typographical error each, in which one letter has been replaced with another. Of the wrong letter (the one that currently appears on the page) and the right letter, one will be in the range A-Q and one will be in the range R-Z; this pair of letters thus indicates a square in the grid. Then:

(A) Shade in all the indicated squares (some will be indicated twice, but you only have to shade them in once). These shaded squares will form a foreign-language expression that may seem appropriate at some point during this solving process.

(B) The letters in the shaded squares, read left to right, top to bottom, letter by letter, will provide a description of the grid in its current state (enumerated 7 4 4 2 2 4 3 2), in a different foreign language. (If you like, Qaqa will provide a literal translation.)

(C) As alluded to in (A), some of the squares are indicated twice, once by (1) a clue with its wrong letter in the range A-Q, and once by (2) a clue with its wrong letter in the range R-Z. Read the first letters of all the (1)-clues in clue order, and then their last letters; joined together, this will tell you where the grid could be found. (Google may prove helpful for explication at this point.)

(D) Read the first letters of all the (2)-clues to get a description of this puzzle’s impetus.

(E) Read the last letters of all the (2)-clues to get the first four words of a seven-word sentence that is true in terms of (C), but certainly not true otherwise.

(F) Read the letters in the twice-indicated grid squares, either in the order of the (1)-clues that indicate them or in the order of the (2)-clues that indicate them (either ordering works), to get the last three words of the sentence from (E).

(G) Finally, read the first letters of all the clues without typographical errors, and then their last letters; joined together, this will form a two-word phrase that could be an alternate way to end the sentence begun in (E), though in this case it is not true in terms of (C), but certainly true otherwise.
This grid represents a birthday cake, festooned with 40 candles, each of which is represented by one of the letters in the word CANDLES. When the grid is completed, "blow out" these squares by shading them in—you'll get it. Bars have been deleted, and word lengths have been withheld. The grid is not symmetrical. And because of the nature of the honoree, a few of the clues are somewhat more trivia-focused than usual. Happy birthday, Uc!

### Across
1. Play guitar and drink after Thursday
5. Robert's smuggling a Fritz Lang movie--that's awful!
8. Maria Kern screwed with a new business creator
9. Ready to nap awkwardly [2 wds.]
10. Top five of diamonds in deck of sorts
11. Loves Byzantine figure
12. Gambles after the first dessert course
14. Beginning to declare Nike's reorganized and clean, in a way [MW-derivable]
16. Movie sound system surrounds Abyss with Jackson: it takes in money [2 wds.]
18. In this, ham is Sid's undoing!
20. Ancient god's wine cask overturned
21. One who makes a recording diminish gradually
23. Start changing notes
24. In Orkan, an utterance! [not MW]
26. Vulcan symbol includes ring containing element 53

### Down
1. Upset giant robot in Crawford's last film
2. Bit of hooting and applause
3. John and Jason's animals beheaded
4. Lit sassy nude abstract without help [MW-derivable]
5. Acrobat on a beam has let down Met performer [2 wds.]
6. Ancient Persian drink in the sound
7. Put up with stream
13. Siamese twin embraces diarist and Broadway star
15. In Spanish, I don't know "poke"
17. Mobile bay trip combining two groups
19. In Bangor, kill a high-profile Russian
22. Report Bruce Willis's daughter in audience
25. Returning seed-spiller's iPod

27. Butter hurt back
28. With facing removed, anklet twisted, bent at the floor.
29. Pop top off a child's toe
30. Overheard religious comedian
Automorphisms and Noninvariant Properties of the Completely Enumerable Sets

330Hz, 5.

In the usual celebratory manner of our übergeek community, we present an unorthodox cryptic.

This paper builds on the work of Wald (1999), which states: “We also show that the properties of quasicreativity, n-creativity, subcreativity, and effective simplicity are not invariant under isomorphism.” [Emphasis added.]

In this paper we present 40,16-uproarious clues. We divide the clues into four subsets, uniquely corresponding to Wald’s four properties:

- **Definition 1:** We define quasicreative clues as those whose answers create a new word without modification of the original set of letters: that is, the answers are to be transposed before being entered into the grid. **Axiom 1:** The final letter of quasicreative clues is significant.

- **Definition 2:** We define n-creative clues as those whose answers create an extra n before being entered into the grid. **Axiom 2:** The nth letter of n-creative clues is significant, where n is the position of n in the entry.

- **Definition 3:** We define subcreative clues as those whose answers are too long for the grid, and therefore only a substring created from the answer is used as the grid entry. **Axiom 3:** Let w represent the index of the first character of the entered substring; the first letter of the wth word in the subcreative clue is significant. (Hyphenated compounds, if any, count as multiple words.)

- **Definition 4:** We define effective simplicity as the property of any clue not in the preceding sets, and whose answer is entered, unmodified, into the grid. **Axiom 4:** The first letter of clues possessing effective simplicity is significant.

By construction, each clue appears in exactly one set. Enumerations have been, unsurprisingly, concealed. One clue answer is not listed in 11C, and one is used in a non-MW sense (which is appropriate for this readership). One grid entry is in NI2 (which observes that it appears “in phrases after” another grid entry), one grid entry is two words, and one grid entry is 11C-findable. In some clues, surface punctuation is intentionally misleading.

We use the “significant letters” of each set of clues, read in clue order, to construct four ordered sets that are only approximately complete. Applying a particular noninvariant isomorphism (the same one each time), we will modify these sets in an obvious way to provide four sets that are uniformly complete.

One set identifies a set of objects which we will unerringly count. One set specifies the ubiquitous coordinates where the objects can be found. The third set describes the output of a mapping function whose input is the previously undertaken calculations. The fourth set identifies an ur-context for this paper.

Once we have performed the umpteen computations and passed them through the mapping function, the output will be used carefully to let us complete the unclued central entry to reveal a true statement; if its meaning is unclear, consult Wald (once he’s solved this) or Greene for an explanation. When viewed properly, the same output unambiguously confirms the noninvariant isomorphism used above. Finally, we will see that the output, taken in isolation, provides this paper’s ultimate conclusion.

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1 The author expresses his gratitude to Qaqaq for reviewing an earlier draft and suggesting many improvements.
2 The umlaut’s compulsory.
3 In other words, a “noninvariant” or “variety” cryptic.
4 While the grid undoubtedly could have been rotated to unconventionally categorize the entries as running “UP” and “CROSS”, that would have been unnecessarily confusing – not least for the unfortunate constructor!
5 The function is to be applied twice; each time on a group of four results. A specific reference source will be useful.
Across:
1 NASA uncertain about university’s social bath
4 McCourt’s narrative makes claim against network
7 Legal copy revised “liable” trope
11 Inamorata’s sweet talk with soulless subordinate holding love-in
12 Varied lone chip for card game
13 More howling, “Be victorious!” “Lose ignominiously!” and “Run!”
16 Computer brain took control, suffered from infection
17 Exotic grass on garments from Polyneisia
19 Island-filled expanse in Pacific Ocean rim is variegated
20 Robe obtained from Basinger and Yoko
21 Change course, down around visitor from Alpha Centauri
24 SF giant, like yours truly, with short turn
25 Panic coming from mislabeled "Retro Award" eschewing past
30 Unmoored Lisa’s yachts
31 Medico declining Eastern state’s opening
33 Promote keeping former lover with hundred sperm, e.g. (2 wds.)
35 Joyous experience is false! Untrue! Lie! (Nice, for one.)
41 Jeanne Dixon, e.g., speaking of drought
42 Real erratically, year is ahead of schedule
44 Scam heroin and steal cattle, rubbing out leader of republic
46 Arabic member of Parliament leading it to become unpleasant place to go to
48 Instrument in Utopian orchestra
50 Types “Newton is growing older, losing head”
52 Twice falls over, abandoning God
53 Yanni’s characters portrayed by flora and fauna from several regions (British excepted)
54 Organofluorine compounds dispersed, lost: no A/C
55 Candy made from drop of theobroma and skimmed beverage
56 Plant’s material matches declared yield
57 Mirrorlike electromagnets clamping ship’s bottom
58 Cryptic resource described by radio operator interrupting radio operators

Down:
1 “Unclean!” (said exactly that way)
2 One Dirac equation derivative
3 How “one” functions: Ones divided by one equals ones, in a group. That’s cultish
4 Following interest, Neville Longbottom’s pet toad has flipped over shy person
5 Held by gas pedal!
6 Post contents of Ibsen drama
8 High flyer from America following interstate with motorized transport
9 Combination of “Alice’s Restaurant” owner and WikiLeaks founder getting rid of obstinate jerk
10 Condemn, mostly, East End edict from ruler
14 “Mecca Aid” disbanded, not producing any practical outcome
15 Producer of champagne Simpson’s barkeep and tavern’s opening
18 Bikini’s top above stripper’s string is Grade A
19 Apple gadget is programmed after trades by R&D
22 Major Strasser’s killer, filling submachine gun, is wounded
23 Truly disgusting agent on Chicago transit forty days before Easter
24 Rookie’s name source of excitement among staff
26 Receiving accolades dispelled despair
27 Interrupting Ms. Flanders with answer about a solution’s density
28 Current time-out started by soccer’s first-place team
29 Right at Jovian moon, syzygy’s first producing relationships arithmetic
30 Chen, Liszt improvised a Viennese specialty
34 Albany, without odd characters, is not professional
36 Previously named ones taking blame for attempt to treat disorder
39 Oakland team snaps jelly molds
40 Annoy the French horn
43 Rising pitch indicates scab
47 Eagerly at first, following celebrity’s gaze
49 Carelessly clone six tomes, like the OED
50 Brothel, sin, kinkiness supplying European capital
51 Oppose inconclusive “truth” and error
SAVOY TRUFFLE
by Trazom

In honor of Ucaoimhu's 40th birthday, and to celebrate our shared passion for the works of Gilbert and Sullivan, I offer this cryptic-operatic bonbon. Each Across answer must be modified before entry in the grid, in a manner reflecting the title, subtitle, setting, or plot of one of the G&S operas; each of five operas is represented by four grid entries. Down clues are normal, but in the spirit of a sixth opera, one letter in each column has been pirated from the grid and relocated to the space below (the resulting entry will not necessarily be a word). These letters will spell out an appropriate title for the most ingenious and awe-inspiring cryptic constructor I know.

**ACROSS**
1 Singer/actress cut to the audience
5 Opening for expression of approval
8 Remain an alien from Yerevan, e.g.
9 In Nicaragua, what hesitation is suspicious?
11 Rotten, molten fruit
13 Val waited anxiously for ocean peril … (2 wds.)
15 …until a pair was reported
17 Strange, truncated dam
19 Offending intergalactic emperor suppresses conditional force
21 Tan lime is disgusting food
22 Mean to lose head and return thumbs-down in Glasgow
24 Trim Eastern European city, familiarly
28 Minor damage spoiled plum inside boiled treat
30 See you confused re: elf law
34 Instruments before fools
35 Fight for practice, clutching excellent weapon
36 Look, you and I had discussed marine vegetation
37 Remove trace of rubidium from ferrous particle
38 Stalk listener
39 Sounds from a medium wearing pig pants

**DOWN**
1 Friend, drink up!
2 Leaders of Norway interact throughout extended period after sundown
3 First son of nomadic Inca
4 Mopes about source of salts
5 Establish without old supply of money
6 Love to interpret mountain nymph
7 Shining circle around a yard
9 Queen, up and over in a corner
10 Weasel: objectionable creature lacking velocity and energy
12 Pole totaled German car
14 Exchanges bodily fluids, including water
16 Dirty politician concealing corruption, for example
18 Vivacious sprite doesn't start
20 Country singer from Ireland holding up tip of kazoo
23 Heretical saint supports Mass worship service
25 Illinois town — heavens! — nearly securing approval
26 Obscure trine is noble, in some contexts
27 Norm goes after fuel — he's a wise man [NI2]
29 Nothing in Belize rocks
31 Wild boar, swallowing horse, can't stand
32 Letter from a female
33 Rising volcano risk
35 Queasy subject (yecch!)
Die? I Live, Aid (^4 ^4 *1*1*1)
A Cryptic by Gabby on the occasion of Ucaoimhu's 40th birthday

Well, it appears the zombie apocalypse has finally (?) happened. But don't worry – we're not dead yet. Even though there are zombies all over the place, and even though many have fled – though the one guy with the car and the chainsaw said he'd be back – we don't have to join the mindless, soulless, lifeless, hopeless hordes. We may have our differences (detailed by those who have taken flight), but we also have something in common (detailed by the zombies from the acrosses). At any rate, I'm definitely 4-Down, if I may borrow from the musical phrase; if that isn't sufficiently clear, interpolate the results of following the instruction (4 wds, 1 hyph.) provided by the zombies from the downs.

Tagging notes: Entries modified from clue answers before entry include one 11C-inferable NI2 word and one possibly unfamiliar NI3 word. 35D is an NI3 variant of an 11C entry.

Across

2 Dolts make up general population (excluding man)
7 Hatch's neighbors, perhaps, rejected dull person holding on to tickets, accommodating Bush
8 Burglarize and throw out stout
10 Heartless relative from French city
11 Brief reply omitting Biden, for one, and lodge member to annoy Scottish county
12 Certain Peruvian with homespun outreach to noted billionaire
16 Pays attention to point where sound is echoing
17 Spent time with Call of the Wild
18 On Xena, Gabrielle's "neener" comeback
20 Ordinary soldier and lieutenant are decorated, perhaps
22 Steve Urkel's girl, leaving Los Angeles school, then Wisconsin, was nearly gone
24 Wait impatiently, perhaps, to tote around gorilla
26 Contact that girl that way
28 Rule of crime-writing was frustrating and added afterwards
31 Around for each prank
32 Awful acne covering skin of ugly creature
36 Cargo transfer delay brought about uproar
38 Why 'Andy'? Name has returned for some unspecified point in time
40 Half of truly special occasion is over for church leader
41 During times without notes, beginning to extemporize - starts over, perhaps
42 Respond to rude yawners
46 Singer Cleo: grand, reflective, kind
47 Reorganized bathroom, not recognizing B movie monster
48 Empathetic one hiding it in loading area
50 Loony Al travels to university
52 Some deep dish, perhaps, to glimpse Olympic distance runner
53 Ribald, horrible pun? Solution – block it out at the start

Down

1 First aid location in high school for women
2 Invader of England has some nerve?
3 Hissing, object after excuses over
4 [unclued]
5 First leg of travel with western carrier
6 Affectionate sign-off in Finnegans Wake
9 Parts of legs start by backsides
13 Leonard the singer? Corporate bigwig never lead around that man
14 Composer of musicals wrote up Finally Home, You and I, and Grease
15 Grand Forks school with refusal to participate in rollback
17 Hostile course of action: having A & P destroyed in anger
19 Instruct one to scatter?
21 Necessity for a drive: steer neither left nor right
23 A signed obligation: back an insurance company
25 Groom in advance of an almost interminable stretch
27 Company's designation, perhaps; Vegas lacks it, yes?
29 Bummer to be hard up, hitting bottom
30 Ex-prime minister's racket, reportedly
33 Cold one carrying oven to meet
34 President in club, surrounded by bunnies
35 Twosome - it breaks up parent
37 Teeny mix-up in Russian: no
39 Nurse entered, ordered usual from waitress in Mad About You
43 Righteous one, not self-righteous one?
44 Pore over, describing this short African archaically
45 Unusual to broadcast again, saving second showing for the end
46 Trendy retailer's inviting a patron inside
47 Skinny, after I'm rebuffed in center of fashion
49 Garrett on TV sounds like Mr. Romano
51 Not as much of Paul on guitar
HEROES
by Zither (aka Zebraboy and Hathor)

A nefarious villain is out to sabotage Kevin's birthday. His wicked deeds include the thefts of a single letter from each of several clues. Initial letters of those clues, in clue order, will ID the miscreant. Final clue letters, in the same order, will describe his plot. The stolen letters, in the same order, will form a mysterious string of gibberish you'll need some assistance interpreting.

Help is on the way! Buffy Summers will vanquish the answers to the unvandalized Across clues: a third she'll decapitate, and she'll put out the hearts of another third, causing them to crumble. The remaining third are unaffected but entering them in the grid correctly will require some concentration.

Veronica Mars will investigate the unvandalized Down clues: in a third she'll plant a bug, and another third she'll put a tail on. The remainder will be handled similarly to Buffy's final third.

Interpreting the letter string will be the job of a third hero, who may be found visiting appropriate intersections in the grid. That character's first and last name together comprise a four-word instruction ("___ ___ , ___ , & ___") that will allow you to determine what will be required to take care of the villain once and for all.

ACROS$: BUFFY SUMMERS

1 Spot a conservative in audience for spicy Italian fare
6 Early on, Seth Green recalled 1000 teeming pests...
9 ... his character returning to New England neighborhood
12 Looking directly at Cecily's heart, captured by a feature of a vampire's smile
14 Ira Rosenberg initially going in to marry soothsayer
15 Ancient snake-worshipper's whip draped around strange chair
16 Erin's not stale describing harbor and river in Deutsch
17 Van carried away quiet men in potentially prickly case?
18 Noisy fellow who once shot witches is a scoundrel
19 "Into every generation a slayer is born," say I, looking back a bit with a touch of nostalgia
22 Skeletons: they might give you goose bumps
25 Immense feline's liver excited outré chefs
26 Last members of Sunnydale gang honoring hero's accomplishment?
28 Poindexter's kid's losing small piece of banana
30 Understanding for teenagers in country
31 Satirist's The Return of Spike entertaining Kevin W.
35 Not at all oddly, Anya's snarly and whiny-sounding
37 Added pieces of information after beginning to comprehend origins of scales and eyestalk (2 words)
38 Science in a museum on the Charles is pain in the ass
39 Rachmaninoff ultimately rebuking pair putting forth Piece for Banjo and Bouzouki
40 Tries to sharpen up sad liquor-loving men
41 Your eccentric bride's shorthand for stuff like volleyball and ping-pong
42 Willow's orientation being unresolved, British character watched attentively
43 Warlock is bad about love and charitable acts, often (2 words)

DOWN: VERONICA MARS

1 Narcs ... on ... on ... drugs. Da-a-a-a-ang!
2 She starts to have Echolls reinvestigated
3 "Crime's just getting started!" editors used to rant
4 Oddly themed article of clothing
5 Proportion of stoolie information passed between man and machine
6 Racer's goal: win early run with prize at the finish
7 Author at one assembly in literary France
8 Shelter Backup in a desolate place
10 Bedroom openings of incredible elasticity being something soft and runny
11 A kinky sex partner and second person getting talked about
13 Reverend Spooner's rational plug for a weapon used in several movies
20 Stagehand's medal taken by guy who lets go onstage, then offstage, then onstage, etc.
21 Supply of food tapers off
23 Veronica habitually evinces moment when it all becomes clear
24 Suspect can start to make a deal
27 Home, for some Texans, pales after heading to Oklahoma (2 wds.)
29 A pop is half-human
32 Reckless fun, easy almost, like angering Weevil Navarro
33 Element of operas trolls do on the Cartoon Network
34 Search frantically for answer in old torture device
36 Ran gathering intelligence (a bit hard in Cologne)
37 Glass returned to Jackie's sweetie