

Puzzle #34 – March 2004 "Fair Play"

Instructions: Guess the words defined by the cryptic clues (words vary in length from three to nine letters and include three proper names), then enter them in the grid one after another in the same order as their clues, starting in the upper left corner. Across words that don't end at the right margin continue on the next line below; down words that don't end at the bottom margin continue in the next column to the right. Four across words and five down words won't fit in the grid unless one of their letters is omitted. Those nine letters, taken in order, spell a word that suggests how all words are to be treated before they are entered in the grid. As ever, I am grateful to Kevin Wald for help with the clues.

Across

1. Quiet finesse captures one vessel
2. Submissive cry of cat
3. A block style of furniture
4. Furtiveness of the last movement
5. Purple backing in the cupboard
6. Stout? Removing a dress takes time
7. Function without Latin
8. Flat surface of Roman bread
9. Near a shifting field of action
10. Image is worthless in expression
11. Combined and flavored with core of salep
12. Earthy nude man shimmying
13. Sound law restrains holy one
14. Exclude bishop and horse
15. Minicar used to secure fallen flyer
16. Hall with male fish
17. Romantic muddle involves hot genetic material
18. Pierce top of paper stack
19. Find most of hair consumed
20. An element can rise when converted
21. Dour nature's in trouble

Down

1. Confine one after another by proclamation
2. Strive for a pinnacle
3. Chemical extraction of coffee's terpenes
4. After end of toast, everyone's high
5. Force is certain to follow before end of crisis
6. Address a beginning class from time to time
7. Strange mania about Earth leads to bad blood
8. A no-hitter is not in order
9. Expert turns in because . . .
10. . . . leftover rice gets mixed with last of cereal
11. Not in favor of study
12. Star owns 500-acre area in Africa
13. Associate with wild bonobo, getting hit for nothing
14. Father and uncle of Picasso meet in courtyard
15. Cipher about weapon upset associate
16. Reported pitch leads to a fly
17. Cargo coming down without number
18. Arawak culture has reversal of fortune
19. One federation colony member is more than enough
20. Shrewd cop returns with drunk one
21. Network doesn't begin to make a point
22. Leaders go after vehicle with a company of travelers
23. In addition, bird gets bone