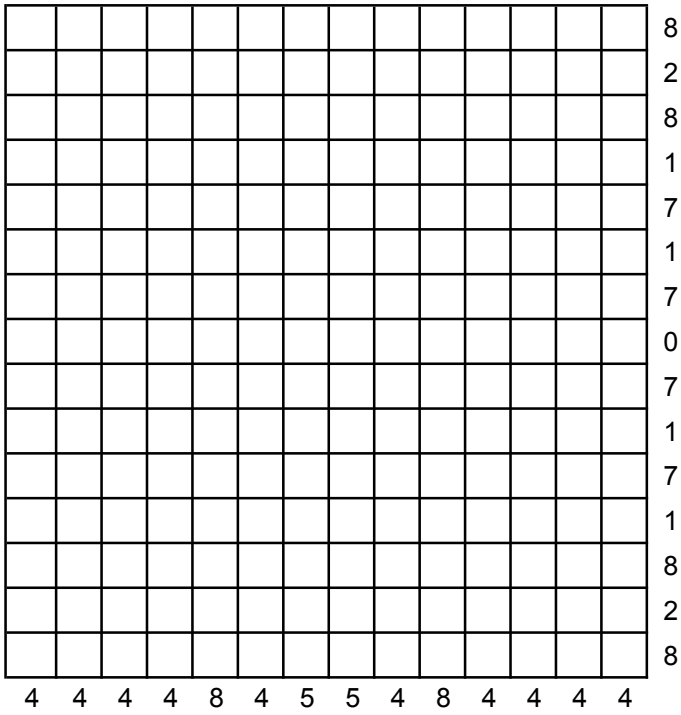
Double-Blind Experiment

UNODOS explains: It turns out I was mistaken about what constitutes a double-blind experiment. I assumed it entailed putting out both of the subject's eyes before beginning the experiment. Frankly, I like my idea better.

In this diagramless cryptic crossword, the number of black squares in each row or column has been given. If you prefer, you can open the envelope distributed with this puzzle to receive a non-cryptic crossword (with the same answer) at the cost of a 20 minute time penalty.



Across

7 A beloved figure is reportedly out of work (4)
8 Topless sheepish creeper? (4)
9 Every leader of Yahoo! is a friend (4)
10 Distraught niece protecting famed Scottish lake, basically (2,7)
12 Underlings of Sauron have tailless fish sent back (4)
13 Weird cult and complete fool make sword (7)
14 Cry of dismay leads to rest disturbed by bivalve (6)
15 ??? (7,2,5)
23 College official gets me to behave (6)
24 Dump Sonny's ex for Beckett or Lester (7)
25 At once, body modification's back (4)
26 Middle Eastern currency invested in films leads to dismissed court cases (9)
27 Unnatural odor in entryway (4)
28 Desmond's frilly skirt (4)
29 Lame duck, sometimes (4)

Down

1 Such climbing around sacred Egyptian bird's flower (8)
2 Items awkwardly held by physician from this country (8)
3 Chasms trapping Ani's musicians (8)
4 Monster mauled elf WoWer (8)
5 *Princess Bride* menace in tattered lace is something seen at a carnival (8)
6 Beryllium-carrying minion shows disgrace (5,3)
11 Odd saint causes a mess (5)
16 Make a choice, Mr. Howard: it carries a charge (8)
17 Ashes' container after apparent spill (8)
18 Said aloud, "Singer Shore may blow up" (8)
19 Strange pipe soot from start to finish (8)
20 Serve food to swindler, but not that guy (5)
21 Fabricated a pH value's disruption (8)
22 Emphasized small upside-down cake, for one (8)