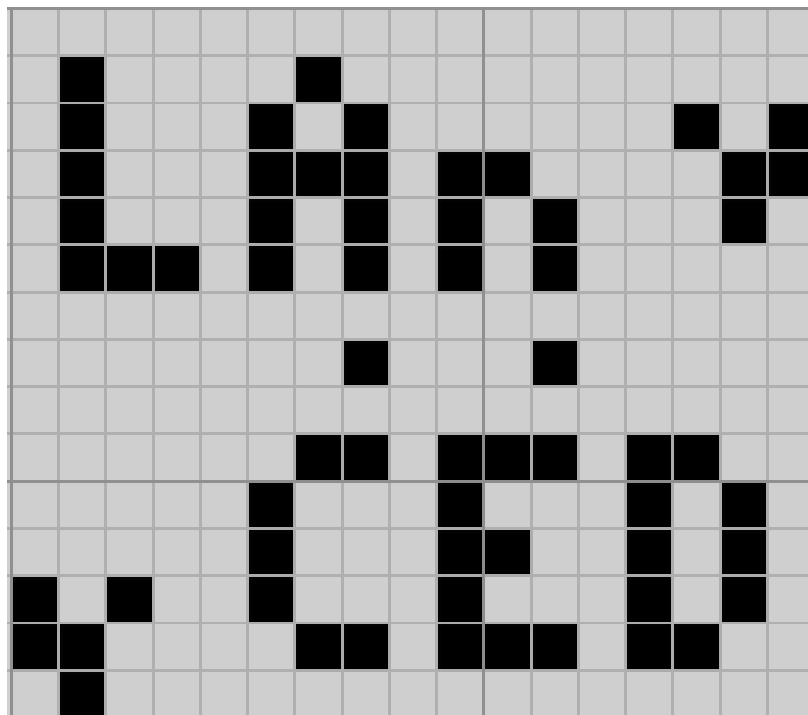


## Overall solution

Cryptic clues for the entries in each row and column are given in order. They may be entered into the grid, skipping spaces where across and down clues would otherwise conflict (or, in the bottom row and rightmost column, where unchecked squares would result,) to give the pattern below, in a mechanism taken with apologies from Cox and Rathvon's "Asteroids".

P	A	■	S	S	E	R	I	N	E	P	E	R	A	S	A	P
■	I	N	T	E	■	■	R	I	O	R	R	E	C	T	■	O
■	S	E	A	R	P	I	■	O	N	O	R	D	H	E	R	■
U	L	■	N	■	A	S	■	■	■	F	■	E	E	■	■	■
M	E	■	D	■	I	■	A	B	■	L	A	■	S	T	E	R
■	L	O	U	V	R	E	T	E	S	■	S	E	L	A	T	E
M	■	O	■	I	R	■	E	■	W	I	I	■	O	L	E	D
E	E	L	P	L	A	Y	T	H	E	G	A	M	E	P	S	I
L	A	D	L	E	D	E	■	A	L	■	■	S	C	A	S	E
O	R	G	Y	A	I	■	R	S	L	A	B	G	I	■	L	L
U	N	L	E	S	■	S	I	■	N	■	O	U	■	■	Y	E
Z	■	O	L	■	A	A	B	S	■	T	R	A	■	C	■	T
■	E	R	I	S	T	■	E	L	E	■	G	R	A	■	■	M
■	■	■	P	E	■	N	S	■	S	E	E	D	O	■	L	E
O	D	Y	S	S	E	Y	■	E	S	■	■	S	■	A	Y	■

When this is done, the unclued entry PLAY THE GAME dead center in the grid and the characteristic glider shapes at the lower left and upper right corners hint that the pattern of blank/black squares should be evolved according to the rules of Conway's Game of Life. In the next step, the black squares spell out the answer LANCED, as shown.



## Cryptic clue explanations

### Across:

1. Songbird haphazardly rinses pea – anag. RINSES PEA → PASSERINE  
Each half of one might be skinny? – dipPER  
Immediately, like a wire service – AS + AP
2. Government department put in the ground around Rio – INTE(RIO)R  
Director’s innards are on the right page – diRECTOr
3. Burn these artistic letters – theSE ARTistic  
Arthropod cut in half by subatomic particle – scorPION  
For starters, Orville risked death in an airport in Chicago – initialism O + R + D  
That woman’s in the resistance – tHE Resistance
4. Consul nastily grips forearms – consUL NASTily  
What it’ll cost you to talk about the golden ratio – homophone PHI → FEE
5. Dame I misrepresented in books and movies, for example – anag. DAME I → MEDIA  
Ray gun fouls up stable stats package – anag. STABLE + R → BLASTER
6. Brits shutter Parisian museum – double def. LOUVRE  
Hardy girl upends pattern-matching game with initial satisfaction – SET reversed + S → TESS  
Make one happy by turning over half a leaf and stirring tea – LEaf reversed + anag. TEA → ELATE
7. Swaddling one more with watered silk – MO(I)RE  
Console one in Wisconsin – W(I)I  
I fell out of lubricated luminescent object – OILED - I → OLED
8. When a well-sheltered spot gets rolled over a lot ... that’s a moray – LEE reversed → EEL  
(Robin’s note: I am so sorry.)  
Ypsilanti is home to Greek character – yPSilanti
9. Spoon, boy, with the French – LAD + LE  
Copes with 500 imperfect ales – D + anag. ALES → DEALS  
Losing energy, cease to box – CEASE - E → CASE
10. Topless Ligeti’s wild sex party – gyORGY  
A couple of irises give atmosphere – A + IR  
Small dog’s memorial marker – S + LAB  
Water flows through it in measured amount ... – double def. GILL
11. ... except in the dark, with no sparks starting – sUNLESS  
Ian: so busy he, oddly, was a longtime senator – IaN sO bUsY hE
12. “Emile”, or, “Overload: Between one end and the other” – Z + OL + A  
Pathological tact bars a short introduction – anag. TACT BARS → ABSTRACT
13. Father backs up into personification of chaos – SIRE reversed → ERIS  
Homer’s wife allowed, in return, to cable – MARGE + LET reversed → TELEGRAM
14. Shuts up in suspense – susPENSE  
Observe bishop’s domain – double def. SEE  
Hand out impure old ecstasy – anag. OLD + E → DOLE
15. A long trip from intoxicating soy dyes – anag. SOY DYES → ODYSSEY  
Try a pair of vices, say – vicES + SAY

**Down:**

1. Violent lump keeps me thoroughly beat – anag. LUMP → PUM(ME)L  
Wild zoo preserves caribou tail in anise liquor – anag. ZOO + cariboU → O(U)ZO
2. Pathway from an atoll – A + ISLE  
Old king Ned got an education – LEAR + NED
3. Type of con discombobulates one – anag. ONE → NEO  
Go drolly, all tangled up with a banner – anag. GO DROLLY → OLD GLORY
4. Tragically undo pants—no no, that’s comedy – anag. UNDO PANTS - NO → STAND UP  
We’re told a tall tale that’s caustic – homophone LIE → LYE  
In the beginning, Lloyd is punched smack in the kisser – initialism L + I + P + S
5. Reviles horribly, like a toady – anag. REVILES → SERVILE  
Incompletely evaluate backsides – ASSESs
6. Gorilla turns over pollution monitor – APE reversed → EPA  
Bombard with energy from twisted, dire tiara – anag. DIRE TIARA → IRRADIATE
7. Overheard certain grains are in bread baking step – homophone RYES → RISE  
“Aye aye, sir” has it – aYE Sir  
You might be expected to press this key article by the end of Saturday – AN + Y
8. Headless buccaneer is beside himself – pIRATE  
Endeavors to eat bear’s head for clans – TRI(B)ES
9. Knight’s word on award for mythical mourner – NI + OBE  
Psychopathic slasher cuts off own foot—what a pain – anag. SLASHEr → HASSLE
10. Excellent son runs amok for ages and ages – E + anag. SON → EONS  
Next to a water supply, a lawman in good health – WELL + NESS
11. Teacher on Long Island scandal? “Extravagantly wasteful” . . . PROF + LI + “GATE”
12. Make a mistake in admitting Republican to emergency room – E(R)R  
John Galt’s assertion is backed up on continent – “A IS A” reversal  
Cube dweller: excellent for comic Victor – BORG + E
13. In medias res, judge exchanges coupons – RE(DEEM)S  
Shepherds’ hand protectors – double def. GUARDS
14. One revolutionary’s pain – A + CHE  
Shrub is not very bright, we hear – homophone SLOW → SLOE  
Italian valediction given by heads of Central Intelligence Agency offices – initialism C + I + A + O
15. Instruction to keep stent, excising bit of nose – STEnT  
Provider of wool hat in Alabama upset by drama’s conclusion – A + A(CAP)L reversed → ALPACA
16. A steer careens through rock formations – anag. A STEER → ARETES  
Foxy and canny, shaking off spy’s lead craftily – SLY + sLY
17. Study an opening – double def. PORE  
Pass on low grade web browser – D + IE  
Offer to help with part of Hamlet memorization – hamLET MEmorization