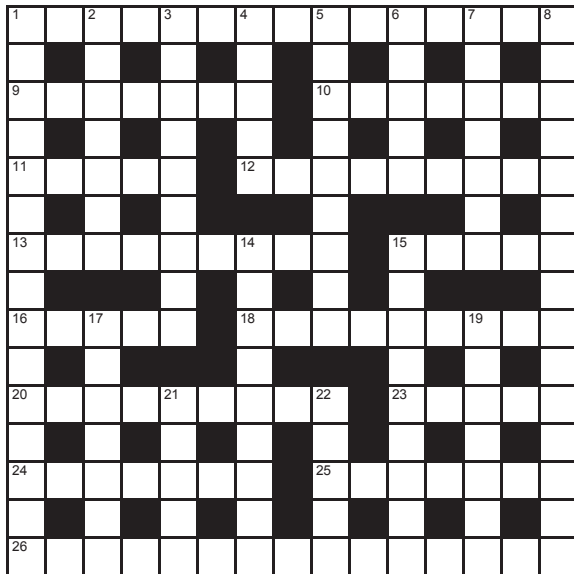


# CROSSWORD

No. 16,527 Set by BASILISK



JOTTER PAD

## ACROSS

- 1 Name beneath trio cast adrift? (5,3,2,1,4)
- 9 Eccentric genius acquires new following (7)
- 10 Praise judge waiving right to lodge objection (7)
- 11 Time heralded by near darkness (5)
- 12 Duds involved in match not selected from the top drawer? (9)
- 13 Captains in ceremonial guards guilty of hypocrisy (9)
- 15 Person barely used by film director censored in X-rated shot (5)
- 16 Nonsensical description of how essays and exams should begin (5)
- 18 Facilities obtained from positions gaining power over time (9)
- 20 What's been written retrospectively about renting houses (9)
- 23 Person in commanding position that goes to some length (5)
- 24 Bleat about result of suffering application of lashes (7)
- 25 Diversity found in most peeled fruit (7)
- 26 Book's score of meeting records is one short (8,7)

## DOWN

- 1 Evil banishment I recollected in classic tale (3,9,3)
- 2 Concedes defeat over board rules limiting close of business (7)
- 3 Sexist men initially spurned church life (9)
- 4 Cardinal's eminence overlooked at first (5)
- 5 TV writer on leaving wife becomes withdrawn (9)
- 6 Way of identifying assailant's covered up (5)
- 7 Wealthy university temporarily provided work leads (7)
- 8 Rebels supporting newspaper as well as book (3,3,4,5)
- 14 Annihilate energy getting spread out around the speed of light (9)
- 15 Deed for which this host's application is detained? (9)
- 17 Craftsman employed by upstart is annoyed (7)
- 19 15 equals 500 plus 4 divided by 50 (7)
- 21 Compel payment of indirect tax using tips from Customs and Excise (5)
- 22 Prepare man due to play vital role in union (5)