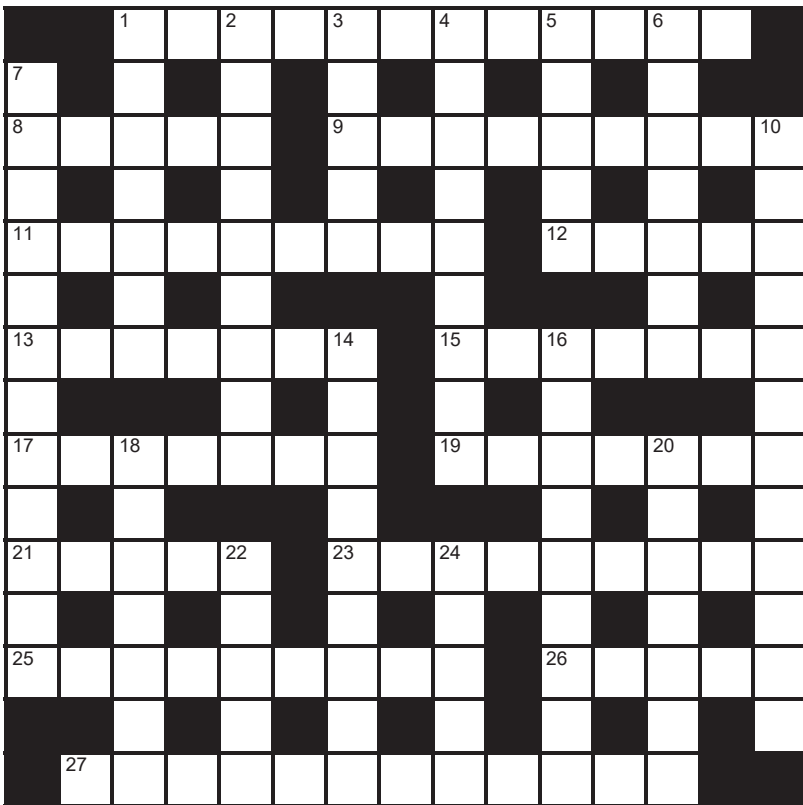


CROSSWORD No 17,679 by MONK



ACROSS

- 1 Etonians, laid off, put under state control (12)
- 8 Boring thing, extremely eager — a promising catch? (5)
- 9 Reckless bore pinching large flock of sheep (9)
- 11 Punctilio, somehow indiscreet (9)
- 12 Stamp gold covers for so long (5)
- 13 Looping component of weekend lessons (7)
- 15 Poet's line inspired by wonder (7)
- 17 Burden borne by curt geek, one shunning drugs (3-4)
- 19 Apocryphal book finally seen in South America and North America (7)
- 21 Tailless parasite eats tip of tobacco plant (5)
- 23 Fruit from out-of-bounds area checked by 9 (9)
- 25 Unfortunately, I urged withdrawal of regret required by etiquette (2,7)
- 26 In prime locations, manages vast anxiety (5)
- 27 Purifying process that might render barnacle bare? (12)

DOWN

- 1 Secretary marked boxes for small computer (7)
- 2 Shorter broadcast censoring nothing about sick page-turners (9)
- 3 Old boy clutching right eye socket (5)
- 4 Perhaps *Fawlty Towers* starts to evoke smiles in any way whatsoever (2,2,5)
- 5 Country showing how diva embraces Victor? (5)
- 6 Author audibly breathed dejectedly for destruction of life-support systems? (7)
- 7 25-50% sector of pie is so old, suet began disintegrating (6-6)
- 10 Where men may go after, say, anti-aircraft spies? (6,6)
- 14 Plain, calm girl initially stops before appeal overthrown (9)
- 16 Militants following a Russian monarch northwards for former emperor (3,6)
- 18 Fool oversees republic backing informal club (7)
- 20 Old lady holds fruit over piercing tool (4,3)
- 22 No time to spot Greek letter (5)
- 24 Approximately two thirds of band beginning to argue (5)

Solution 17,678

S	H	O	E	L	A	C	E		B	O	W	O	U	T												
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JOTTER PAD



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