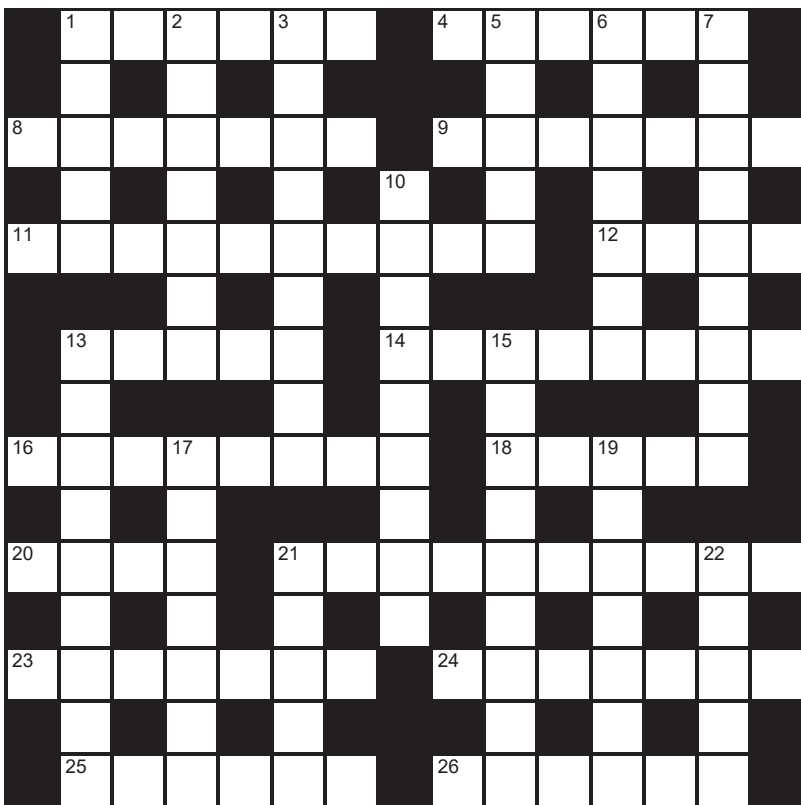


CROSSWORD No 17,973 by GOLIATH



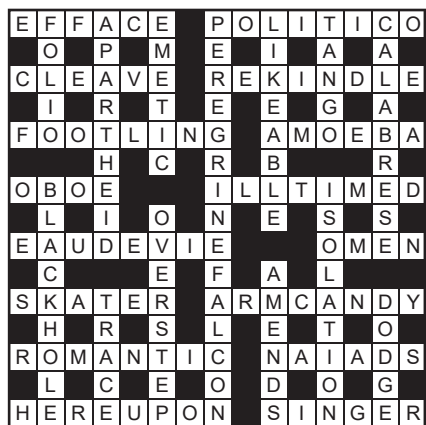
ACROSS

- 1/4** Gone astray, lies stranded here (6,6)
8 Range isn't over 20 (7)
9 During danger, they say you were ultimately silly (7)
11 Less hairy race? Nonsense! (10)
12 Duck leaving a vacuum (4)
13 Some people attempt to gather (5)
14 Encourage growth of aubergine down under (8)
16 Wicked anti-immigration old Tory party leader (8)
18 Author will read out passage (5)
20 Opposed to infantilisation (4)
21 Hummus and baba ghanoush placed before Arab with a drink problem (10)
23 Rider said to select an entrance (7)
24 Got into ripe bananas as selfish behaviour (3,4)
25/26 Dined in style, housed by unrestrained timely help (6,6)

DOWN

- 1** Follow mother's teachings (5)
2 Rod's back, protecting disloyal extremists (7)
3 Stir-crazy riverside dweller comes up for coffee (9)
5/15 County where most laugh when playing instrument (5,9)
6 A contender follows Romeo's entrance (7)
7 Love affair and marriage after initiation of divorce (9)
10 Develop a clue for Kate (4,5)
13 Simple misunderstanding and he complains (9)
15 See 5
17 Perhaps Sheikh Al Maktoum could give us airtime (7)
19 Surprise the French supporting graffiti? (7)
21 Do this with sorrows or learn to swim instead (5)
22 I call back, after a change of heart and... it's a long story (5)

Solution 17,972



JOTTER PAD



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