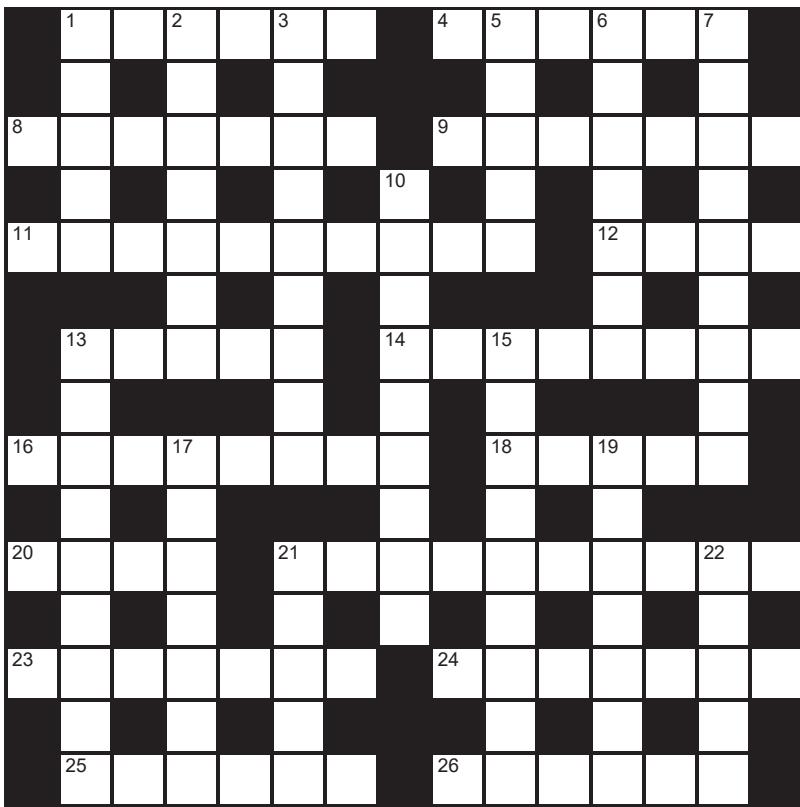


CROSSWORD No 17,973 by GOLIATH



Solution 17,972

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

JOTTER PAD



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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)