

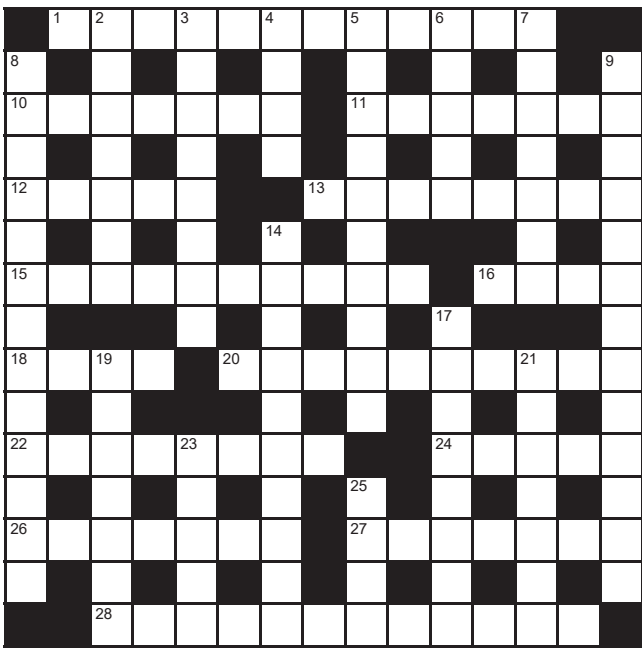
# CROSSWORD 18,000 by JULIUS

## ACROSS

- 1 Verdict of CIA: junta did become violent when taking over (12)
- 10 Simply put, wearing pants son discarded (2,5)
- 11 Joe rejected coin base (7)
- 12 Healthy volume imported, split equally (5)
- 13 Busby Berkeley's debut rakes in bucks (8)
- 15 Reviewing eight rows drowsy poet penned? (10)
- 16 Eagerly desirous for topless work in Florence (4)
- 18 Pack runs away from Plod (4)
- 20 Featured in *Grandstand*: Roma/Chelsea — one in classic match! (10)
- 22 Leaderless SNP got stuck into lusty big night out (3,5)
- 24 Personification of *Sun* papers: weighty, reliable (5)
- 26 Charlie and Mike withdraw from elite university contract (7)
- 27 Nice house where the local moggy is given its water? (7)
- 28 Member of the armed forces spraying 5 left and right (12)

## DOWN

- 2 Democrat, more skillful, to overcome second-rate dilettante (7)
- 3 Heavens! Uncovered runic piece of work by 15 (8)
- 4 Dodgy, smelly starter binned (4)
- 5 The greatest chaps attempt covering article on nutrition (10)
- 6 Pub *The Queen* (it's next door to *The Bull*) (5)
- 7 Arrest old Victor, having abducted fine writer (7)
- 8 Expendable bloke sent out to bat for Rembrandt perhaps? (5-8)
- 9 Sensational book review critical of former Defence Secretary? (5,8)
- 14 Daughter running a new hotel that's rather seedy (4-2-4)
- 17 English queen cuddles — now and again kisses! — spy (8)
- 19 Marvin Gaye's finale excited arts sponsor (7)
- 21 Tree found in California crater (7)
- 23 Check gold/diamonds investment tips (5)
- 25 Advanced short distance on eastern peak (4)



Solution 17,994

T	H	E	G	H	O	S	T		G	I	V	E	U	P
A		S		A		A				M		X		O
S	T	O	P	P	A	R	D		S	P	R	A	W	L
S		T	P		A		I		E		C		T	
E	N	E	M	Y		C	H	A	R	A	C	T	E	R
L		R			E		G		C				O	
	M	I	L	T	O	N		O	T	H	E	L	L	O
E		C		O					E		O		N	
P	R	A	T	T	L	E		O	L	D	A	G	E	
I				H		R		C				A		C
D	E	S	D	E	M	O	N	A			M	A	R	C
E	C		H		S		R		A		I		I	
M	A	R	G	I	N		S	I	N	I	S	T	E	R
I		A		L			N		N		H		O	
C	A	P	O	T	E		D	A	L	E	S	M	A	N



Scan the QR code for the FT's monthly US puzzle, published on Sunday March 16, and to access FT crosswords over the last 30 days — cryptic, Polymath, Weekend and Sunday puzzles — or go to [ft.com/crosswordapp](http://ft.com/crosswordapp)