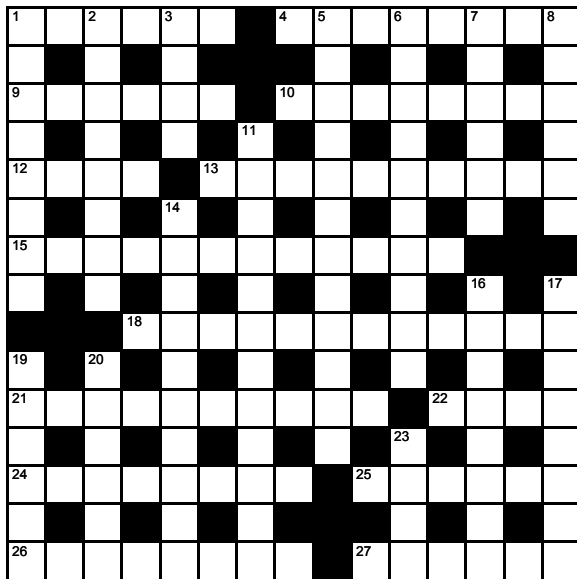


CROSSWORD

No. 13,552 Set by MUDD



JOTTER PAD

ACROSS

- 1 Stoned poser's turn to steal hard kiss (6)
- 4 Head of priest lit, mass performed for religious composer (8)
- 9 United initially barred from leagues for mishandling young wingers (6)
- 10 Search for view (8)
- 12 As one might say, look to be top (4)
- 13 Opening for water in back of tumbler – I drink (10)
- 15 Two joined news items, as I supposed (7,5)
- 18 Thunderous crunching tackles beginning to rock Croatian resort (12)
- 21 Hostile state tempted to imprison Brown after retirement (3-7)
- 22 Shocker about Zimbabwean leader being an idiot (4)
- 24 European celebrity, leading light (4,4)
- 25 Coming back, a Scottish engineer reaches old capital (6)
- 26 Legendary courtier left company lying back among broads (8)
- 27 Worry about monarch becoming an animal (6)

DOWN

- 1 Embarrassed when fleeced? (8)
- 2 Following corner, scores, holding a celebration in Scotland (8)
- 3 Volume removed from work for the present time (4)

- 5 Cryptic setter fighting to include upside-down animal, the old pro (12)
- 6 Keep taking note, though rushed (4-6)
- 7 Furious enjoyment cut short in the country, and lost (6)
- 8 Cut deeply into flower, leaving a cross (6)
- 11 I line up vice with this practice, to make meat paste (5,7)
- 14 Millennium's first space age rocket originally moving an astronomical distance (10)
- 16 A round is round, or square! (8)
- 17 Dumb foreign lady, topless, not gutless (8)
- 19 Slack documentation, that's clear (6)
- 20 Look to penetrate attack, taking indirect course (6)
- 23 Inflammation starts to swell, troubling your eye (4)

SOLUTION 13,551

