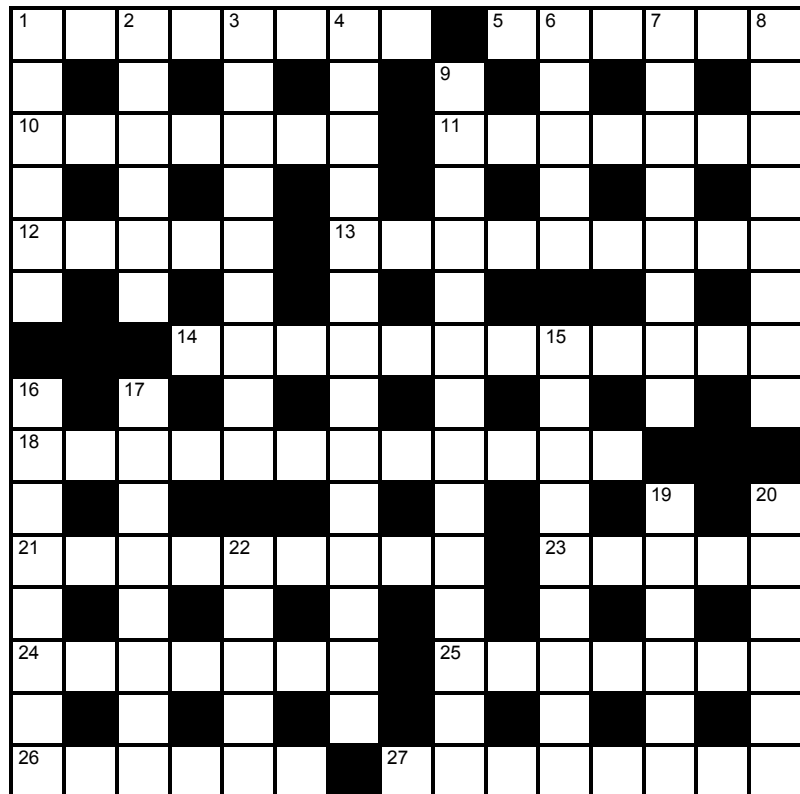


Across

- 1 Yellow-bellied American regularly bullied by government (4,4)
- 5 Struggle with America to protect large animal (6)
- 10 Religious leader not initially above bickering (7)
- 11 Pop into a ruin, wandering about island (4,3)
- 12 Return to decorate bathroom, possibly to point crack (5)



- 13 Retiring gangster admitted to original shotgun charge (9)
- 14 Bemuse sad fools with neat trick (4-3-5)
- 18 The latest goings-on in American capital - First Lady's in tears (6,6)
- 21 Fellow in headgear gets behind rugby players for powerful drive (4,5)
- 23 Almost completely takeover church pew (5)
- 24 Book available, the plot produced by a computer (7)

- 25 Retribution seems in order (7)
- 26 Hole in key, say (6)
- 27 Contract to remove lines from? (8)

Down

- 1 Dashing character that's Anglo-Irish at heart? (6)
- 2 Chaps try to pick up large stone (6)
- 3 Bring up first child to cause trouble (5,4)
- 4 Amusing character suggests how long reception will last? (4,2,3,5)

- 6 Mount Helena's core discharged first (5)
- 7 Break promise to one with green disposition (6,2)
- 8 Period working on small island helps to generate capital (5,3)

- 9 Perhaps life onscreen isn't so different in Penelope's case (6,8)
- 15 It's not clear to me when he'll arrive (9)
- 16 Batter recipe with a bit of egg, right here! (8)
- 17 What's held up during medal occasion (8)

- 19 Announce who's likely to run country (6)
- 20 Pure class overwhelms humble beginner (6)
- 22 Inclination of son to disappear with girl, topless (5)