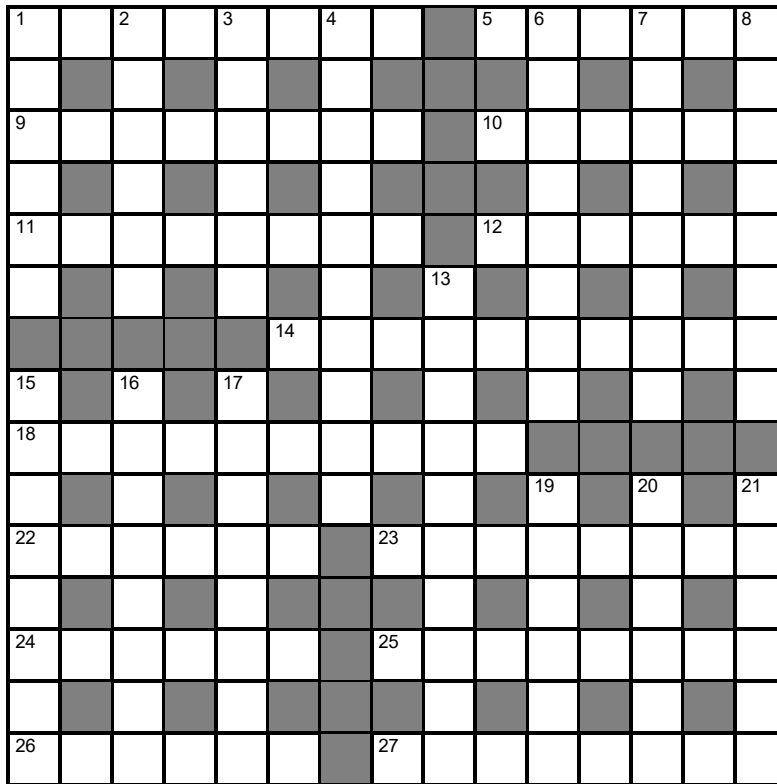


Cryptic 045 by Leucine



Across

- 1 Masthead platforms playing Motown artists on speakers (8)
- 5 Swelling rival of Chambers comes before half-hearted matchmaker (6)
- 9 Intermittent fix for wayward PC (3,3,2)
- 10 Ascended to Oxford, perhaps? (4,2)
- 11 Author to run off with faithful wife (8)
- 12 Fleishy ecclesiastic shuns investigator (6)

- 14 Ace speeder crashes to die first (10)
- 18 Discreditably fume madly in next action when you've shillied (10)
- 22 Dye more incensed in America? (6)
- 23 French rag absorbs a fizzy drink (8)
- 24 Horny types announced as American whiskey hooter (6)
- 25 Tornado, perhaps, in Twist Alley (8)
- 26 Feat of flexibility skewers round learner (6)
- 27 Browbeaten Trojan journalist (8)

Down

- 1 Obsolete storage.....like New Coke, maybe? (6)
- 2 Sport in red gives money back (6)
- 3 Go in Asian capital, initially in spike (6)
- 4 Well-to-do wizard with us (10)
- 6 Cheap yet dreadful accessory for pirate (8)
- 7 Starmer's first into public schoolboy for Balt (8)
- 8 Outraged news agency became less interesting (8)
- 13 Dined after brief infidelity to corrupt (10)
- 15 Penniless cancellations tendered in GDR (8)
- 16 Monkey trapped by oilman drilling (8)
- 17 Apostle hangs up on Picard to taper off (5,3)
- 19 Stew of stolen hash (6)
- 20 Bleat about South Africa with river in market (6)
- 21 Decapitate to assume top job (6)