



**Across**

- 9 The Italian behind and a sexy top half - Feeling uncomfortable? (3,2,4)
- 10 A politician has one excuse (5)
- 11 Spooner's custom contract is all over the place (7)
- 12 Treasures found around some crus? (7)
- 13 Refined salt, say, to a certain state (4)
- 14 Smug company rep left a small tip (10)
- 15 Front of House caterer's irritated (7)

**17 Commands**

- Governor-General to stop whips (7)
- 19 Cold front to immobilize Mike Pence at New Orleans (10)
- 22 Large body of articles about a modern system (4)
- 23 Flapper's Eastern rest break in Malaysian capital (7)
- 24 Deserter framed to be in French sanctuary (7)
- 26 Music counterattack? (5)
- 27 Course of the future rests on love? (9)

**Down**

- 1 Fantasy novel with sinful ruler burying husband (7,8)
- 2 Writing festival to obey the rules (4,4)
- 3 Case uncovered expensive tuition (4)
- 4 Brownie trap? (8)
- 5 Give facelift to energize boomer? (6)
- 6 Reactionary show of support by whip (8)
- 7 Difficult undertaking is just closing up (6)
- 8 Composing fictions is a sad start of Tesla's boredom? (15)

16 Remove appearance

charge after booking mostly fell through (8)

- 17 Old Labour champ inspires liar to change (8)
- 18 Feature of thriller writers in Southern America; Creole Soul (8)
- 20 Places an Italian river rests against (6)
- 21 Let loon out with a number (2,4)
- 25 Flowers undo a petty quarrel (4)