

CRYPTIC WEDNESDAY -- #1 in a series?

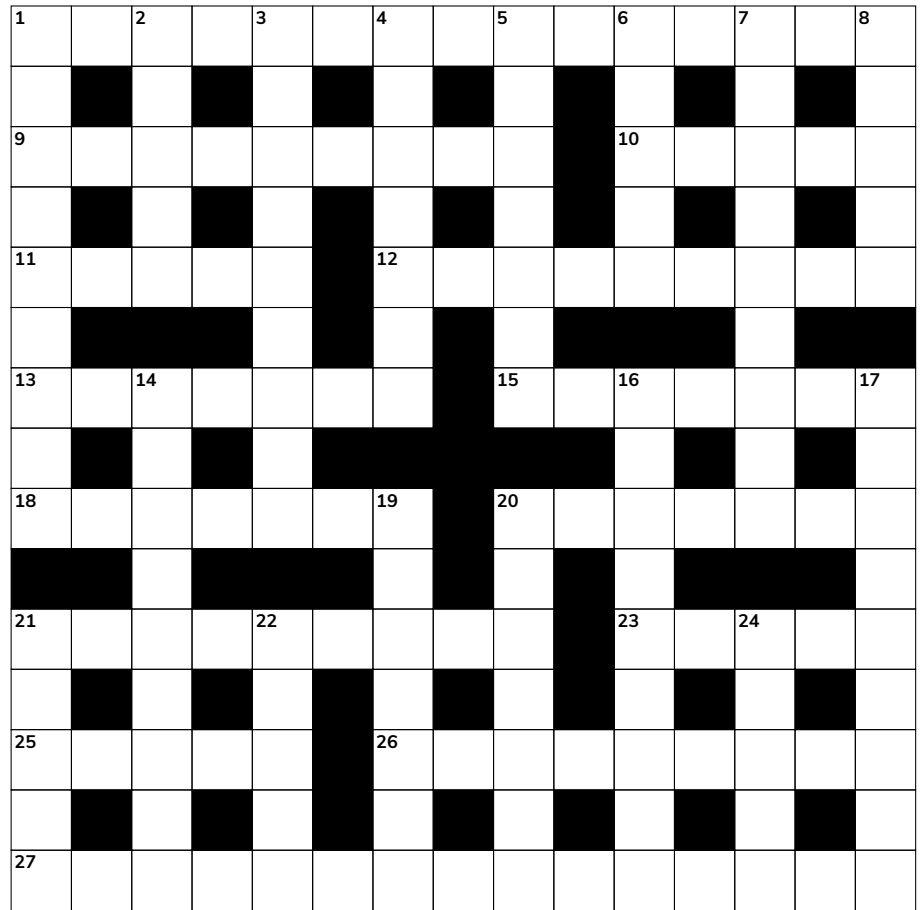
Brendan Emmett Quigley

ACROSS

- 1** Someplace mighty dilapidated where top athletes compete (3,7,5)
- 9** Lock in ten plays for actor (4,5)
- 10** Dracula's author takes a little off the top for a pothead (5)
- 11** Hammond offering is finally coming up short (5)
- 12** Card game quietly sat without any competition (9)
- 13** How cute! Bishop is into viewing legal material (7)
- 15** Figures -- percussion instruments coming from speakers (7)
- 18** "Say. That feels good! Old Harry is coming back, Ms. Henstridge" (7)
- 20** Black snake works its way around Ocean State instrument (7)
- 21** Low point among neighborhood's warehouses (9)
- 23** Subway mascot shows a container to Mad man (5)
- 25** Beats me in Scottish rugby (5)
- 26** Ragin' Cajuns interrupts applause for an egg drop (9)
- 27** Emphasize gannet all over periodical (4,3,8)

DOWN

- 1** What nerve, disrupting a carpenter's joint with that kind of hat (3-6)
- 2** Microsoft product sounded really big? (5)
- 3** Desires sexual attraction for losers, probably (4,5)



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- 4** Hooker shelled husky gastropod (7)
- 5** PepsiCo repackaged frozen treats (3,4)
- 6** Crawl out of bed and dress (3,2)
- 7** Slides over incongruous moose mark (5,4)
- 8** Top fiddle's pub game upset (5)
- 14** Top drawer splattered bit of rain (9)
- 16** Dope! Callas is lying about Peron (9)
- 17** Thrashing about disrupted "Candlemas" (4,5)
- 19** Rock star's rough oral sex (3,4)
- 20** Foolish embrace in Arizona town (7)
- 21** Pound placed in your ear (5)
- 22** Black ball's elevation below the top (5)
- 24** Andrei Kirilenko has therapeutic touch (5)