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CRYPTIC by DA

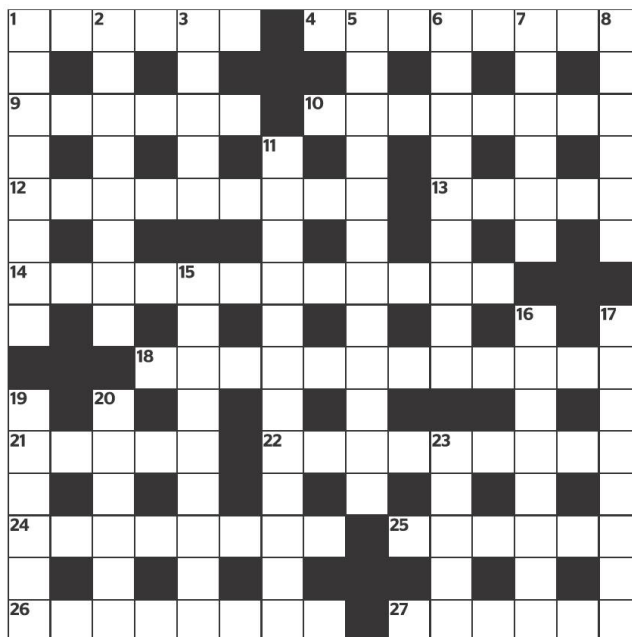
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ACROSS

- 1, 19-down Suspect leader half-content to bear snores and showiness (6-6)
- 4 Freeloader to wait it out, plugging into power (8)
- 9 Turn down a corner to use heroin? (3-3)
- 10 Dove's movement ruffled sci-fi map (8)
- 12 Divers heading for air like ducks, say (9)
- 13 Skimmed shoe heel (5)
- 14 Slapstick bloke tumbled in sequel (12)
- 18 Lover drinks in Queensland (7,5)
- 21 Discovered Middle Eastern video pioneer (5)
- 22 Dean possibly became creakiest (3,6)
- 24 Transport zone lost whole records back-to-back, getting nothing in return (8)
- 25 Loves life, slowly escaping (6)
- 26 Uncovering trade-fair rat (8)
- 27 City knight on horseback in outback NSW (6)

DOWN

- 1 Light help promoted in sexless country (8)
- 2 Veer by runner turning at old temple (8)
- 3 Pick up little Arnold Bridges (5)
- 5 Smashes Austen adorers into smithereens, showing no love (5,7)
- 6 TAC collection of funds? (4-5)
- 7 Carp close to shallow bank (6)
- 8 7-down heard motorbike wiping out final couple (6)
- 11 True alliance engrossed new crooner with narrow outlook (6,6)
- 15 A cattle prodding, minus 25-across (9)
- 16 Harsh cold eliminated by warm head covering (8)
- 17 Theatrical waiter developed stenography block? (8)
- 19 See 1-across
- 20 Ovine youngster to gather speed (4,2)
- 23 Mad biker took poker players' hearts (5)



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Yesterday's cryptic 20,785

