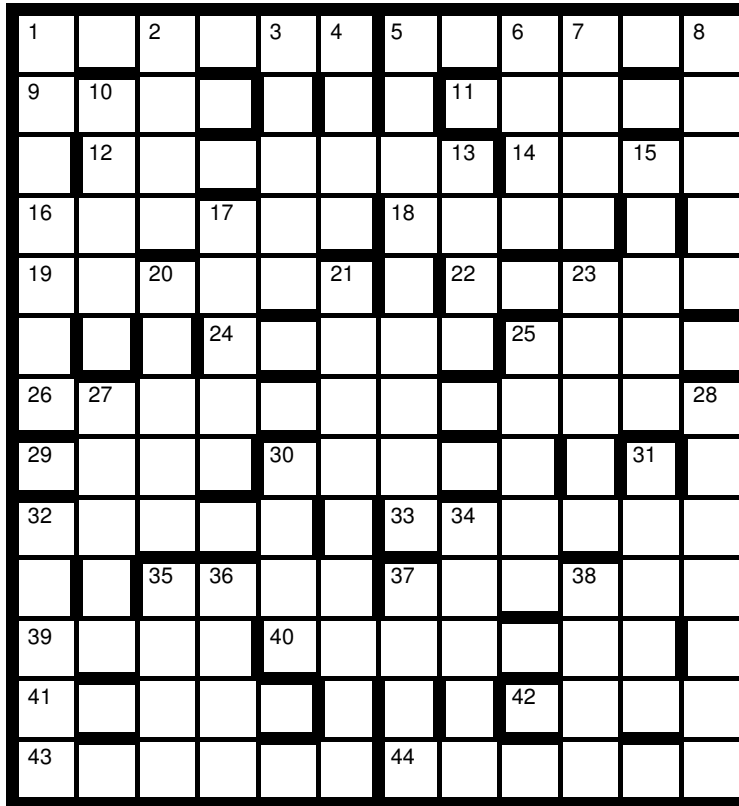


## A Conservative Platform

by Bob Stigger

Across and Down entries conflict at seven places in the puzzle. The unclued entry at 26A explains how to determine in each case what single letter to substitute for the two conflicting letters in order to make new words going across and down.



### Across

- 1 Marcos botched billiards shots (6)
- 5 Finish off quiet little rebellion (6)
- 9 A backless chair for cruising (4)
- 11 Chuck bares a cavalry sword (5)
- 12 Going out on the town, blowing fifth of money (7)
- 14 Indian city expels hot food emporium (4)
- 16 Shaq at times is rammed, stripped, grabbed by Ewing (6)
- 18 Through wheedling, get cable (4)
- 19 Directs *Reds* or *Goofy* (6)
- 22 Attack from Southeast, cutting through hazard (5)
- 24 Calulu, Australia offers outdoor feasts (5)
- 25 Race all over plot of land (4)
- 26 *See instructions*
- 29 Diagnostic procedures I introduced to my old lady? (4)
- 30 A touch of sitar contributed to *Help*, hit 45 RPM single (1,4)
- 32 Veto Gore's old hat (5)
- 33 Chronicles of Ms. Landers, with a long introduction from Safire (6)
- 35 Court factotum's source for remark from Duke or Prince? (4)
- 37 Persian governor brooded before strike (6)
- 39 Pet container's sent back (4)
- 40 Furs -- better rinse 'em (7)
- 41 Babe in nightie turned, exposing bellybutton (5)
- 42 Sean, the actor and writer, called (4)
- 43 Fits together thousands of meters (6)
- 44 Took care of dented convertible (6)

### Down

- 1 Announced rules for artillery (7)
- 2 Enlarge right portion of picture taken by St. Louis player (4)
- 3 Kitchen appliance repairman gets a fresh start (5)
- 4 Prison movement (4)
- 5 A rum China repackaged for a Chinese region (9)
- 6 Triumphant declaration from youngster with high grade (2-2)
- 7 Seconds from village, observe nearly extinct wild goat (4)
- 8 Court mandate about opening of strip joint (5)
- 10 Yosemite, for one, supports small flicker (5)
- 13 Lots more than one sailor (4)
- 15 Like a placebo's ingredients, inter-mingled? (5)
- 17 Some restaurant fare reeked, start to finish (5)
- 20 Opening in domicile's shower! (5)
- 21 Root beer ingredient with freshness, a trio of fragrances, a hint of sweetness (9)
- 23 Vowel sound in "school" was truncated (5)
- 25 Representative Gray, Newt's outside (5)
- 27 True-blue comic strip detective (5)
- 28 Temporarily withhold pay after retiring us (7)
- 30 Oxygenated beer? It'll soothe a burning sensation (4)
- 31 Blow final after breakfast (5)
- 32 Fundamental B.S. CIA put out (5)
- 34 Credulous aborigine loses shirt, ultimately (5)
- 35 Snake breath (4)
- 36 Notice guards for the ear (4)
- 37 Street filled with endless mud and filth (4)
- 38 Army surgeon Walter's guiding principle: "Off with the head" (4)