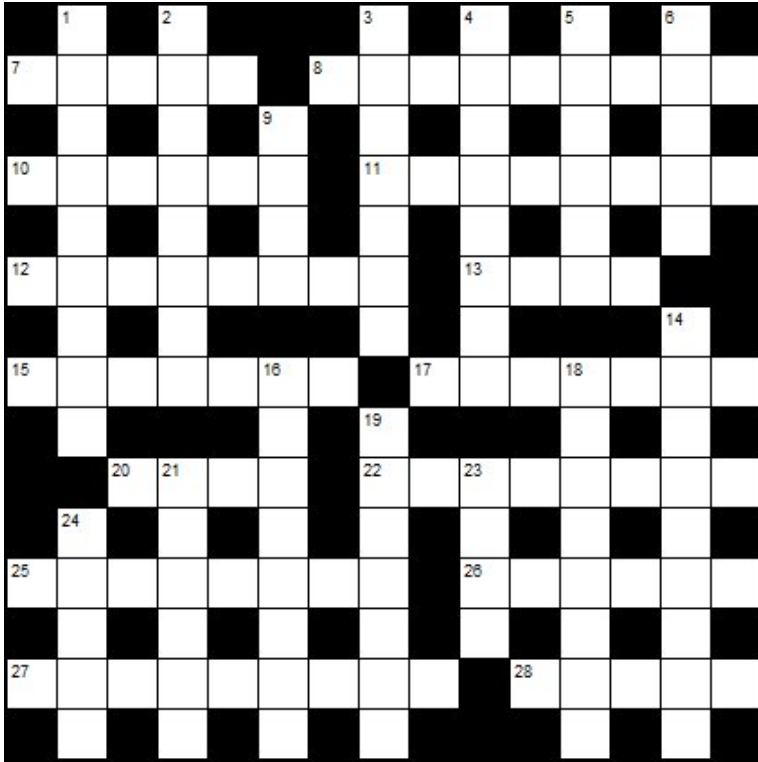


Puzzle 3 by Rodolfo

This entertaining third puzzle from Rodolfo has some very clever (and balanced!) political satire that would be worthy of *Private Eye*. Particularly noteworthy are 10/11 across, 28 across and 3 down.



ACROSS

- 7 Stoned, Dave fiddled with pig's head (5)
- 8 First Lady cut off journalist after Democrat's lead grew (9)
- 10,11 She could destroy Union with large cost? (6,8)
- 11 See 10
- 12 One new hint to get flipping top marks! (8)
- 13 Keel over, it's a vegetable! (4)
- 15 A horse and sheep, shaped as on here? (7)
- 17 Like this extraordinarily majestic phrase, with grammaticized narrative requiring all alphabet for starters (7)
- 20 Result of knife attack, perhaps, in Bizet's *Carmen* (4)
- 22 Own a refurbished salon (8)
- 25 Where members remain whilst sitting? (8)
- 26 Result of European vote embraced by just over half of Britain? (6)
- 27 Be real gutless and buy lime cocktail (9)
- 28 Nutty at heart, an arse and a load of gas? (5)

DOWN

- 1 Controlling rotter in government taking Number 10, sadly (9)
- 2 Giving up and removing democracy? (8)
- 3 JC's in disarray, being associated with heads of IRA and Hezbollah (7)
- 4 Writer is overwhelmed by drink, so gets another (8)
- 5 Extremely blotto, ogling Isabelle dancing (6)
- 6 Lemon, bananas and another fruit (5)
- 9 A piercing nail will lead to this (4)
- 14 Examples of average mornings round mine (9)
- 16 15 ales or so in cans? (8)
- 18 Shape of grotesque Tory... e.g me (8)
- 19 Work of T-total dead actor? (7)
- 21 Blimey! Reportedly rubbish holder of the Labour leadership? (7)
- 23 Wrongfully deprives as backwards looking Osborne has? (4)
- 24 Annoyed by new Tory leader: dire (5)