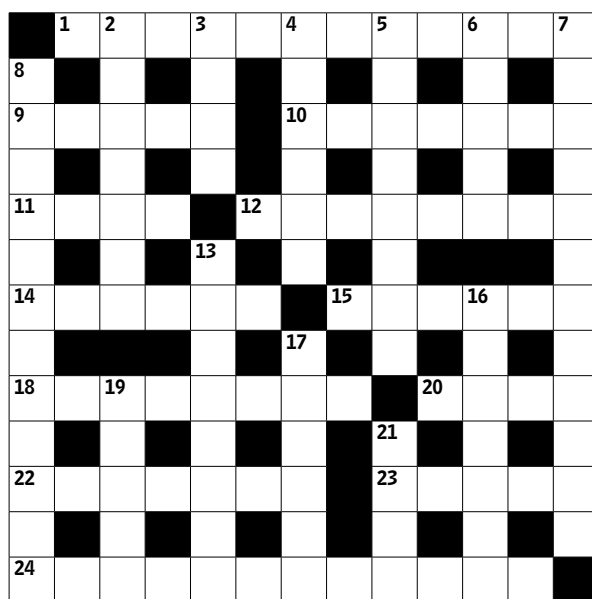


SPEEDY CROSSWORD NO. 985



SOLUTION NO.984

L	E	G	A	T	E	S	W	I	T	C	H
U	U	O	A	H	R	E					
S	C	A	L	P	E	L	O	P	E	R	A
A	V	S	L	O	A	T					
K	O	A	L	A	I	M	P	A	S	S	E
A											
F	U	L	L	O	F	B	E	A	N	S	
S	N										
T	E	L	A	V	I	V	L	A	S	E	R
A	E	I	O	O	I	G					
T	R	A	M	P	U	R	G	E	N	C	Y
I	S	E	R	U	C	L					
C	O	H	E	R	E	R	E	N	E	G	E

ACROSS

- 1 Handles a situation successfully (7,2,3)
- 9 Point of greatest despair (5)
- 10 Derived from experiment and observation rather than theory (7)
- 11 Catch (4)
- 12 Tight together (5-3)
- 14 Less-considered (6)
- 15 Updated version (6)
- 18 Describing newly-born (8)
- 20 Killer whale (4)
- 22 A Gemini? (anag) (7)
- 23 Characteristic (5)
- 24 Aiming for the top (5,3,4)

DOWN

- 2 Daunting; strenuous (7)
- 3 Choice (4)
- 4 In a level and regular way (6)
- 5 One who makes deceitful pretences (8)
- 6 Man-eating giants (5)
- 7 Confront the truth, however unwelcome (4,3,5)
- 8 Having a good chance of winning (2,3,7)
- 13 Leisurely (8)
- 16 *Par avion?* (7)
- 17 Garden shelter (6)
- 19 Animal, a sort of zebra/giraffe cross (5)
- 21 Adult male deer, often with antlers (4)