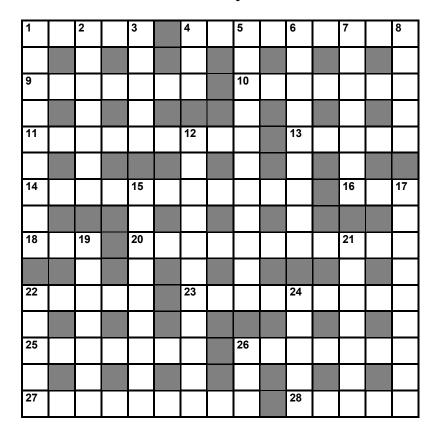
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ACROSS

- 1 An application in semi-solid form is a very good one (5)
- 4 Interior designer last month briefly hooked up with speaker (9)
- 9 A mouthpiece clutched in youngster's palm?(7)
- **10** Mother included in ramble (7)
- 11 Pacific island group is openly maligned by America's leader (9)
- **13** Bad guys lifted car parts (5)
- **14** Brave told stories about another in a bad way (4-7)
- 16 Sea, oddly, died down (3)
- **18** Leading vessel turned back (3)
- **20** Pompous goody-goody keeping on big top, say (11)
- 22 Experienced associates of intolerant pedagogue returned (5)
- 23 Mixture of ethane now past its prime (2,3,4)
- **25** Wooden pole put on an angle (7)
- **26** Blow off steam about writer, one in authority (3,4)
- 27 Favourite walk around stable (9)
- 28 Wrinkled, like the inside of a good suit (5)

DOWN

- 1 A perfect place contracted group's guide on board ship (9)
- 2 Great Italian goalie tossed around ball finally (7)
- **3** Go round wearing rabbit fur (5)
- 4 Complete time period (3)
- 5 Division's remark about gin turning up (11)
- 6 Resistance leader from Germany, living in hide-out, somehow did without basic comforts (7.2)
- 7 Outsider, greatly disconcerted, is tiresome (7)
- **8** Reports missing record number of dishonest schemes (5)
- 12 Investor has fixed her up with senior (11)
- 15 High temperature it is restricting onset of patient's viral disease (9)
- 17 Broadcast is essentially produced in vacated dockland? (9)
- 19 Adolescent turned up on ecstasy to irritate (7)
- 21 Prepared to air one unfinished speech (7)
- **22** Help a small group (5)
- 24 Carefully move large piece of artist's equipment (5)
- **26** Experienced firm giving up right (3)