

THE PUZZLER

by EMILY COX and HENRY RATHVON

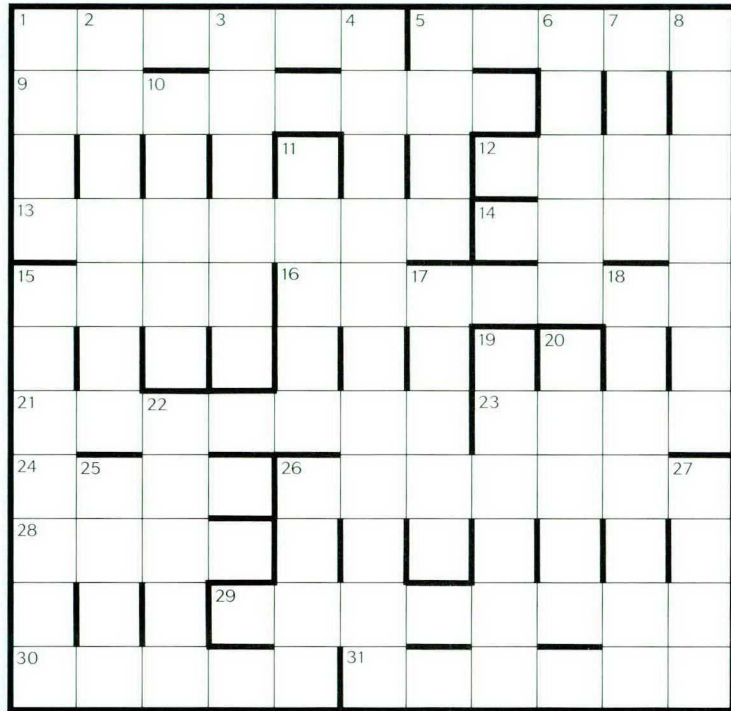
Help Wanted

Your overburdened puzzlemakers are seeking assistance and have placed a "Help Wanted" message in this puzzle's grid. Naturally, the message has been cryptically rendered to screen for qualified applicants. Because of the resulting alterations to certain entries, answer lengths have been withheld. Answers include eight capitalized words.

Last month's Puzzler solution is on page 152.

ACROSS

1. Encrypted the ad, keeping center separate
5. South American greeting bar fare?
9. Protect novel version of a utensil
12. Feeble-minded scoundrel holding box
13. Writer on either side of *Charly* producer
14. Playwright's suggestion after the premiere
15. Agents lifting units
16. Hauntingly beautiful English picked up by abandoned child
21. Buttinsky's broken promise
23. True to a listener's tradition
24. Drama about a patriarch
26. Be fascinated by noise engulfing hockey arena (*two words*)
28. Poet turned in the direction of actress
29. Reformulation of lens-care disinfectant, perhaps
30. Clobber heavyweight
31. Muslim doctrine is held by carpenter's helper



DOWN

1. Lower World Cup record
2. Terminate more masculine mammal
3. Grand gold rush
4. Wayward heirs share bead shops
5. Featured performer sings "Westbound"
6. Crumb in opening of soft drink
7. Floated vandal \$1,000
8. Greek character penetrating in gracious, artless role
10. Palm, perhaps, inserted in sort of pocket carelessly
11. Internet marketers of technetium in ruins
15. In audition, check flame's colorful display
17. Free ring set in favorite gem
18. Fixes pot payments, accepting two notes
19. Opera taking place among northern animals
20. Gaining interest, has kids spinning bright tops
22. Temporarily leave a jacket
25. A hot new word
26. Marketer of fruit parcel
27. Not one room is standard

Note: The instructions above are for this month's puzzle only. It is assumed that you know how to decipher clues. For a complete introduction to clue-solving visit www.theatlantic.com/issues/puzzclue.htm or send an addressed, stamped long envelope to The Atlantic Puzzler, 77 North Washington Street, Boston, Mass. 02114.

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