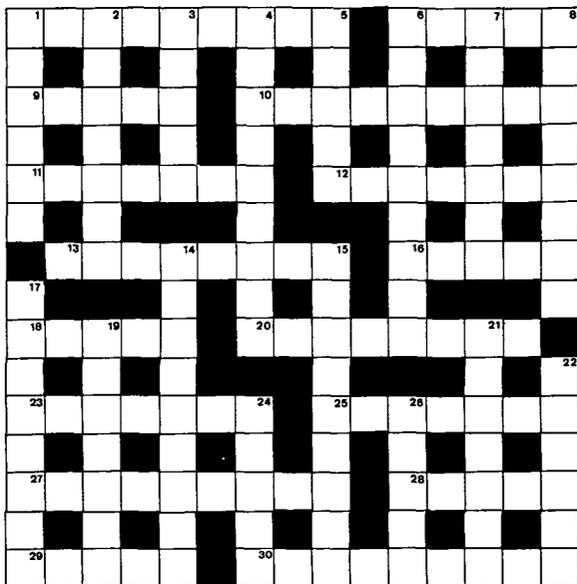


# the political puzzle

by John Barclay



## ACROSS

1. Will this man sire kings? (9)
6. To put fish away, see and leer back. (5)
9. Spavined, no sin is improved. (5)
10. He raced veto hysterically. (9)
11. Forgiving any Mets their faults. (7)
12. Cat sips milk very irregularly. (7)
13. The girl of Red Sammy. (2, 6)
16. Put the bite on the athletes, not Sal. (5)
18. Coronation site of King Noah I? (5)
20. Soon sour, but resonant. (8)
23. Salad form nips CIA plot. (2, 5)
25. Does nothing, repeat nothing, work here? (7)
27. When Al leaves here, it moves to Europe. (9)
28. William Randolph elevated in Brooklyn. (5)
29. Feb. 22, or Feb. 19 instead. (5)
30. The 50,000,000 test. (9)

## DOWN

1. East in Koran refers to Far East. (6)
2. Why events score three and ten. (7)
3. Look in Asia for little independent United States. (5)
4. Heaving of success times tires one. (4, 5)
5. They follow Virginia in fishing. (5)
6. He's a rare catch. (9)
7. In present it less often appears to name. (7)
8. The cloud over Paris talks. (2, 3, 3)
14. Again passes on prim stare. (9)
15. Aid the beat as ten copy. (9)
17. Hand and tail together in S.E. Asia. (8)
19. Stainer approaches closely. (5, 2)
21. This may ruin Mau Mau element. (7)
22. Gender weight makes churchman. (6)
24. Mohammedan official starts big state. (5)
26. Set of morals found in quiet hicks. (5)

The numbers indicate the number of letters and words, e.g., (2, 3) means a two-letter word followed by a three-letter word. Groups of letters, e.g., USA, are treated as one word. Answers to last month's puzzle are on page 44.

# What the FDA won't tell you about FDS

by Joseph A. Page

When feminists are looking for a good illustration of what's wrong with American business, they often point to feminine hygiene sprays. Denounced as both useless and hazardous by doctors and promoted through advertising demeaning to women, the sprays are a classic case of adding injury to insult.

One part of the feminine hygiene deodorant story that has not been explained is the federal government's role. For nearly two years, a combination of weak laws and timid administrators has kept the government from taking the steps necessary to protect the public. The latest installment in this continuing story came in February, 1973, when the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) failed to issue long-expected regulations for the sprays and gave no clue to its next step.

Feminine hygiene sprays are not, as their name might imply, related in any way to health; their only function is to guard against "vaginal odor." That such an odor exists has long been known, but that it is anything but normal was hardly suspected before 1966, when the first of these deodorants hit the U. S. market. The sprays usually contain alcohol, scent, an

antibacterial (until recently, the now-banned hexachlorophene), and an aerosol propellant.

The medical world is generally skeptical of the sprays. Doctors stress that routine cleanliness is the best protection against odor; as *The Medical Letter* advised its physician-readers recently, "It is unlikely that commercial deodorant feminine hygiene sprays are as effective as soap and water in promotion of a hygienic and odor-free genital surface." For those who have an odor problem soap can't solve, the sprays may actually be a danger. Physicians point out that odors can be a sign of disease, and that by blocking normal warning signs, a too-assiduous use of deodorant could delay needed treatment.

Deodorant sprays left the pages of *Mademoiselle* and attracted government attention because of their enormous commercial success and the numbers of consumer and doctor complaints that followed. The boom began when Alberto-Culver beat its competitors to the market and introduced FDS in 1966. In short order other sprays joined it, but the real expansion did not come until 1969. Then, in a decision that was to vaginal sprays what the 21st Amendment was to brewers, the National Association of Broadcasters decided to reverse its long-standing rule against televised advertisements for "intimate prod-

---

*Joseph Page teaches law at Georgetown University Law Center and is co-author of the Nader report Bitter Wages.*