

## Does This Sound OK?

Once again we have a puzzle from Bob Fink and Jerry Miccolis. And once again they have expanded my parochial knowledge of wordplay. The device they employ here was new to me. At first I thought there was something wrong, and you might, too, but there's not. They just use a variation on a standard cryptic puzzle technique. It'll make you crazy, then you'll love it. For extra credit, send in the name of the technique if you know it—or find it. And if you're stuck, send me an email and I'll tell you what it's called. Here's the description from Bob and Jerry...

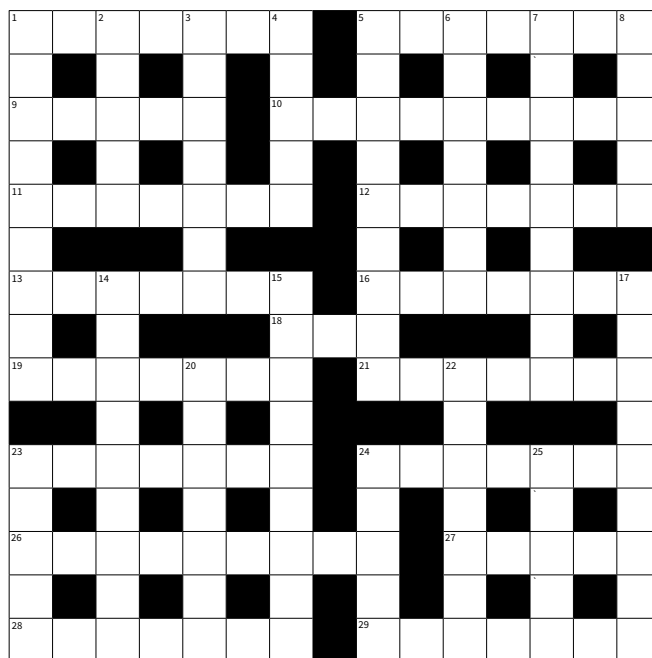
**This puzzle, while not completely straightforward, should be completely self-explanatory.**

**There are no proper names, and every word in every answer, prior to entry in the grid, is playable in Scrabble. Beware of punctuation, which has been known to deceive.**

**Thanks to Dan Feyer, cryptic crossword editor for *The Browser*, and Tom Toce for their expert editorial suggestions.**

### Across

- 1 I mop up pie destroyed in Poppy's smoking device?
- 5 Spoiled child, stuffing cat, comes around and takes responsibility
- 9 Tattered components recycled for exchange
- 10 Movie magic created by animating ET's cliff escape
- 11 Awfully scary tie makes for killer look
- 12 Furrow running east to west near center of pitch held by opponent is a concern for a soccer player
- 13 Part-timer is Latin, Gale
- 16 Yes, Gwen can broadcast for AP or UPI
- 18 Consider me as a subject in a rebus puzzle [*This clue may provide a hint to fitting eight other answers into the grid*]
- 19 Sinister scheme, doctoring unpaved soil
- 21 Tear poster edges off in retaliatory maneuver
- 23 Northern Territory Republican departs chamber, gets high in car
- 24 Hot date coy about dental problem
- 26 Somehow, I'm Mr. Poe's type for a meaningless commitment
- 27 High-ceilinged lobbies of US not seen in Central European country
- 28 Honest heads of sovereign Iraq negotiate currency exchange rate entente
- 29 Silly, cheery man is primary adversary



### Down

- 1 Supplied missing suit to actor Danson
- 2 Expresses hearty approvals when lead-off goes from first to third
- 3 Furious about tight end's state again
- 4 After Rod leaves, promise to follow
- 5 Due to turnover, Rene's retaining Peg with a bonus
- 6 Old IT worker half-rises to yield seating on flight
- 7 Spots supply of THC thief, so oddly situated
- 8 Type of cut—in the movies, that is
- 14 Unbalanced young lady happens to drop pence and shilling
- 15 Break down and convert to cash?
- 17 Request to a waiter in Sydney, after which someone tips the man?
- 20 Extract of lilac to season a sugar
- 22 Everyday experts utter expression of disgust on the radio
- 23 Opposed to incorporating power booster in sirens
- 24 The teaching assistant describes a standard argument for trigonometry
- 25 *Monster* actress loses the lead portraying leggy bird