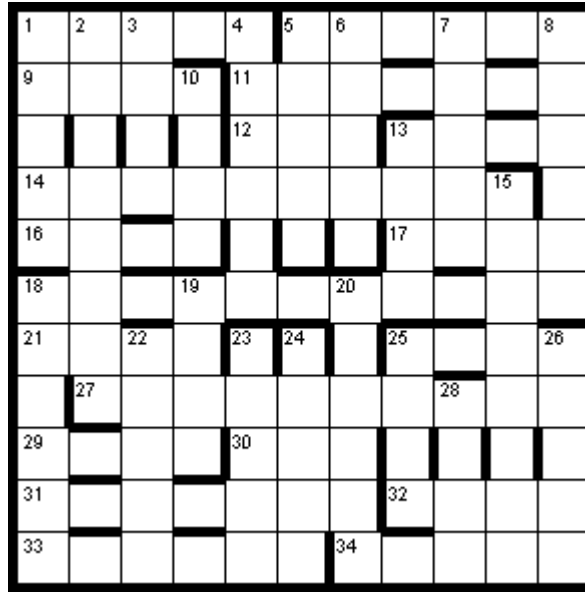


An Evolutionary Question

by Kegler

One answer in each column loses a letter to become a new word before entry.

From left to right, these letters provide the 18 Across.



Across

- 1 Is led astray, but does nothing
- 5 Hype about Mr. Guthrie's sitting room
- 9 Bird chews repulsively, for the most part
- 11 Socially acceptable one committed to veggie and small dessert
- 12 One true insect
- 13 Cold sheep stuff
- 14 A tuft of hair wrapped around weapon; essentially inconclusive, it might get you started (2 wds)
- 16 Dolt stuffing piece of Limburger in fish
- 17 Sound of machinery starts to worry homeowners in region
- 18 *See instructions*
- 21 Pay up front for a tangled net
- 25 Permit for park animal
- 27 Concur; starting late, darkness envelops lady, okay? (2 wds)
- 29 Shut off, like so
- 30 Indicate approval of Oxford fellow's return
- 31 At home, initially, in part of dump
- 32 Retained most of key point
- 33 Broadcast line about pair of wheels spinning
- 34 Stand, grabbing head of nozzle for shampooing step

Down

- 1 Embraced by Erica, a singer brought up Biblical character
- 2 Fastening, in a way, performing excellently inside
- 3 California city camper with a Caterpillar, say
- 4 Rogue ingredients, at first, in seafood dish
- 5 Greek character backing into strange chap's belly
- 6 Having change of heart, use in an appropriate way
- 7 Large bend in tree
- 8 Note rare vessel carrying me back
- 10 Study up on radical social misfit
- 13 Southern flier has cold, unpleasant expression
- 15 Certain rules for joints after 1,000 sing terribly
- 18 Ray quietly hugs real sexy woman
- 19 Tries to find source of several startled cries
- 20 Tour leader has left right amount of old Dutch money
- 22 Honesty, finally heartfelt, hurt badly
- 23 Stoner exercises certain muscle
- 24 Rise, but ultimately speak no lines
- 25 E.g., salmon bite back end of hook
- 26 Letters from Bucharest, a teacher's property
- 28 Gradually catch on to funny angle