

# American Hero

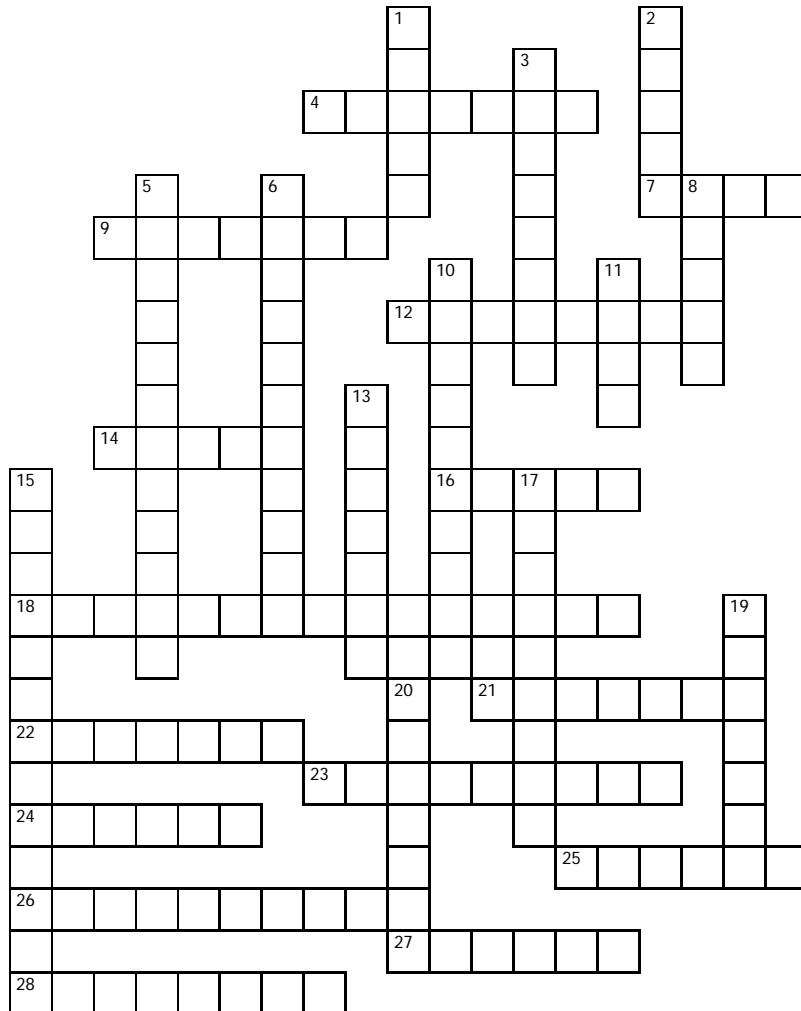


Presented by Editor in Chief Joseph Chilton

*The mob mentality is a strange thing. I am not usually the type of person who hurdles bon fires and cheers as people rip street signs from their posts. (Well, maybe that's a slight exaggeration. I'm not the type of person who usually does those things when TV cameras and police officers are within 20 feet of me.) But for some reason that's what I did, along with 50,000 or so of my closest friends on Franklin Street in Chapel Hill Monday night while celebrating UNC's national basketball championship win over Michigan State. The effect of sports on the human psyche is a strange phenomenon. A friend of mine who spends most of her time either curled up reading Dave Eggers while listening to The Weepies or complaining how*

*people she perceives to be morons get full scholarships to bounce balls came out of her shell and jumped over a fire next to me, screaming "Tar! Heels!" in mid-air. I saw a kid who stole my girlfriend in high school, and I jumped into his arms as if he was my long-lost BFF straggling up to me after being lost at sea for six years. For such a massive celebration, there were only two arrests (which kind of makes me wonder what kind of mayhem those two must have perpetrated), and it should have been that way, since nobody really got hurt and the keen eye got to observe how sports can gel a diverse community. To the thousands of other fans there that night, and especially to my road dogs Big Sam and Cheese, I salute you as true American Heroes who showed that chaos can lead to burnt hems on jeans, hoarse throats, hangovers and most importantly unity.*

## America's Game



**ACROSS**

- 4 Broke Brooklyn's heart; Artful in Dickens
- 7 Berra of great quotes
- 9 .200 line
- 12 Candy bar named for slugger
- 14 No help with curveball, according to "Major League"
- 16 Fat Fielder
- 18 Politically Incorrect former Brave mascot
- 21 Reggie Jackson's month
- 22 Team once owned by W.
- 23 Redford's homemade boomstick
- 24 Communist leader once cut by the O's
- 25 Lost St. Louis squad
- 26 Interrupted 1989 Series
- 27 Ruined 1994 season; you get three
- 28 Left hander, directionally

**DOWN**

- 1 Cock fighting, sucker punching Met
- 2 Struck out at the bat
- 3 First father-son outfield
- 5 Short blooper; Don't mess with it
- 6 Enshrinement locale
- 8 Site of College World Series
- 10 If he was a hot dog, he'd eat himself
- 11 Cursed by a Billy Goat
- 13 Bash Brother and steroid tattler
- 15 Atlanta Negro League team
- 17 Easy pop; delicious and convenient
- 19 Most hated Steve in Chicago
- 20 Civil War victors