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Across

- 1 Soviet spy exposed in 1948 by congressman Richard Nixon in "pumpkin papers" scandal
- 4 Degrading job done by young American women in 1950s and 60s involving uniform with bowtie, rabbit ears and cottontail
- 8 Electroconvulsive therapy (abbreviation)
- 9 Slovakian Canadian biochemist born Walter Rosenberg known for daring escape from Auschwitz as teenager with detailed report of extermination program committed to memory
- 10 Slowly cooked stew of meat and vegetables
- 12 Norse god of thunder known for big hammer
- 14 Beautiful, misty river in northern Italy
- 15 Race of intelligent horses dominating uncouth hominid underclass encountered by Captain Gulliver in famous travels
- 17 Primordial mother in Wagner's *Ring* cycle appearing twice rising from the earth and visible from the waist only
- 18 *No Blood for ...* Stirring anti-war slogan of Howard era (largely missing point)
- 19 New Testament *or* Nigel Tufnel (initials)
- 20 Arabic term for lull in hostilities (mostly fleeting) or truce
- 22 Pertaining to ruling dynastic house of Israel inc. Solomon and Rehoboam from which Mashiach is predicted to come
- 24 Initials shared by controversial American author (*Myra Breckinridge*, *Caligula* etc.) and transcendent *Beach Boys* classic of 1966
- 25 Phase in session of heavy drinking (prior to remorseful)

- 27 Unhinged Turkish far-right, ultra-nationalist *Grey Wolves* member (and convert to Roman Catholicism) who shot Pope John Paul II in 1981 (6, 4)

Down

- 1 Archaic term for Muslim world best known from hyperbolic description of Hagia Sofia by Mark Twain in *An Innocent Abroad* as "the rustiest old barn in ..." (which he also claimed to find "battered, ugly and repulsive")
- 2 Miraculous event wherein Mary was born free of original sin in order to be a pure vessel for the Incarnation (initials)
- 3 US prison inmate described as "an extremely dangerous and menacing psychopath" (and "a dangerous homosexual") known as the Birdman of Alcatraz portrayed by Burt Lancaster in sanitized biopic of 1962
- 4 Member of sinister, paramilitary wing of Nazi party known as Sturmabteilung or SA (nickname due to uniform) (5-5)
- 5 King in absurdist Alfred Jarry play of 1896
- 6 Hentoff, King Cole, Fyfe, Young
- 7 Turbulent former state lead by Marshal Tito
- 9 Van Gogh *or* viral GIF (initials)
- 11 Ideology espousing immutable superiority of people of Northern European descent over all others and innate right to rule over them (associated with Nazi Germany and based on model of biblical chosenness)

11.5 (contd.)

Down (contd.)

- 13 Stylish leader of East Timor known for arresting Nehru jacket with stubble look
- 14 Contacting someone on smart phone on matter of a private nature
- 16 Desolate, godforsaken home of Cain east of Eden causing him to say "My punishment is greater than I can bear"
- 21 Prestigious US university on West Coast with noted alumni Ben Shapiro, Shakira and Cordell Broadus
- 23 Expected at or planned for a certain time (library book, essay, baby etc.)
- 26 "Money is my mother
Power is my father
Fall down on your knees
When you see me walk on water etc."
Catchy song by Total Ape (with pronounced similarity to *Dun Dun* by *Everglow* in plagiarism scandal rocking K-Pop world) (initials)