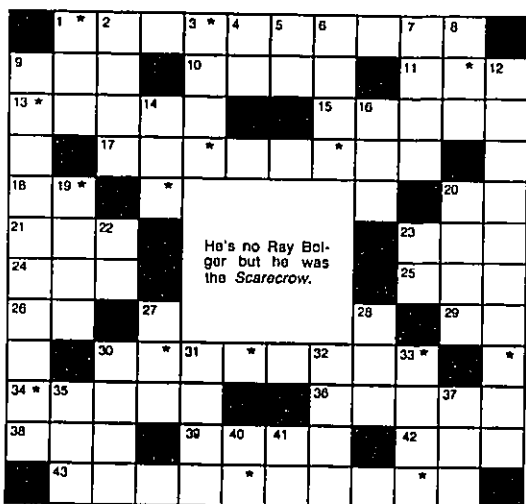


## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

## SOAP TALK



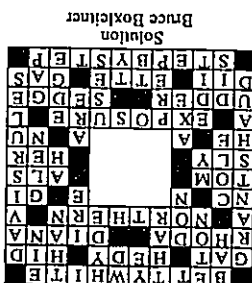
The answer to the Crossword Quiz is found within the answers in the puzzle. To find the answer, unscramble the letters noted with asterisks within the puzzle.

## ACROSS

1. Actress on *The Golden Girls* (2)
9. Weapon for Al Capone
10. Actress Lamarr
11. Concealed
13. Role for Valerie Harper
15. Singer Ross
17. With 30 Across, Rob Morrow's series (2)
18. Jackie's state of birth; abbr.
20. Soldier, for short
21. Magnum's portrayal
23. Pacino and others
24. Crafty
25. That woman
26. Was *Her Man*; 1934 Cagney movie
29. Greek letter
30. See 17 Across
34. Cow's feature
36. Marsh plant
38. 1490 years ago
39. Suffix for Ann or Nan
42. Motorist's need
43. Staci Keenan's series (3)

## DOWN

1. Humbug's forerunner
2. Prestigious school
3. "... she blows!"
4. Biblical pronoun
5. Initials for Demarest
6. Half of a split personality
7. Word used in comparisons
8. Drol minus zwei
9. Miles of *Murphy Brown* (2)
12. *Winters'* series (2)
14. Barney Fife's portrayal
16. Wrath
19. Gary or Natalie
20. Campbell

Victor and Nikki:  
entertaining friction

By Candace Havens

Dear Candace: I know that story lines are written months in advance, but to say "love never dies" is criminally insane on *The Young and the Restless*. I can't believe they want Victor and Nikki involved with each other again! There is no way these two characters could ever find happiness together. There is too much that has happened between them.

I simply cannot believe a powerful rich man finds a woman like Ashley with brains and beauty and throws her aside for an ex-stripper who has lied to him on a consistent basis. Give me a break. —An ex-fan of Y&R, Alice Bramer, Abbeville, La.

Dear Reader: When I interviewed Melody Thomas Scott (Nikki), she said she thought there would always be something between Victor and Nikki. The characters would forever be pulled together, only to be forced apart later. You are right in saying that these two could never find happiness, because that would be the end of the relationship. It is the friction between the two of them that keeps people watching.

Now that Nikki has gone back to Jack, because she is pregnant with his baby, it looks like Victor has come up dry in the woman department. He has alienated Ashley totally and Nikki is determined to make things work with Jack. I'd like to see a new love interest for Victor, someone as ruthless as he is who could cause him a great deal of grief. One thing we know for sure, ol' Vic is going to make Jack's existence a living hell.

Dear Candace: I think Karen Witter's character on *One Life to Live*, Tina, has taken a turn for the worse since Cord left. I don't like the idea of Tina and Cain being together. When she's with him, she doesn't think about her children and Cain is too self-absorbed to be fatherly. I wish the writers would find another love interest for her.

I would also like to have seen Lee Ann gain custody of her baby. Kevin might be financially able to care for a child, but he is emotionally immature. —Nicole Thomas, DeRidder, La.

Dear Reader: Tina and Cain certainly spice things up on the show with their shenanigans. Unfortunately, most soap mothers have little to do with their children in general. It is just the nature of the genre.