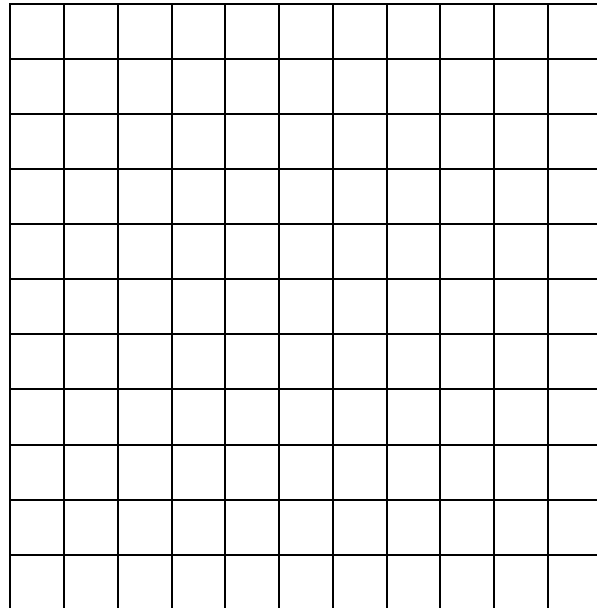


Puzzle # 58 – March 2006 "A Void"

Instructions: Guess the words defined by the cryptic clues (words vary in length from four to nine letters), then enter them in the grid one after another in the same order as their clues, starting in the upper left corner. Across words that don't end at the right continue on the next row, and down words that don't end at the bottom continue in the next column. Nineteen across words and fourteen down words won't fit in the grid unless one or more of their letters is removed. Solvers must determine which letters to remove. As ever, I am indebted to Kevin Wald for help with the clues.



Across

1. Prune asymmetrically, going around in discomfort
2. State building's topical renovation
3. Follow vehicle back at end of break
4. End turns east for pass
5. Put small cup into slipper for strength
6. Something enormous found headless in receptacle
7. One who abhors holding large noose
8. Time to claim last piece of iron bar
9. Gore remaining after excess becomes deadly
10. Fifty lost at end of fight with small charge
11. Feast on large pickled emu's head
12. Allowed nothing male around inn
13. Untie rig to unravel mystery
14. Think without starting to resolve a difference
15. Caller railed in anguish
16. Standard in women or men
17. Get-up concealed by trousers
18. Weblike structure of shrub with split center
19. Feel end of long cord
20. Hit after hit becomes, ultimately, unpopular disaster
21. Prize contests ending late, in reversal
22. A short time in a bewitched state
23. Menu with a fixed rate for two parties
24. Trip a female wearing a dress
25. On TV, lye-tossing is something new

Down

1. Howl of returning alien? A remarkable idea!
2. Infix demon and large insect
3. Outstanding singer in Stuttgart
4. Child surrounded by goods in prosperity
5. One getting notes from director at play
6. Hard rock's fundamental tenor
7. Top of unusual dune eroded too much
8. Insubstantial topless pixie
9. It's unfair in hunt to criticize
10. Sound note and beat
11. Like too much talk about converted center
12. Japanese characters finally check collection
13. Charitable person harboring victim of Hansen's disease
14. Tip of grotesque, unhealthy organ
15. Prohibit poet's revision
16. Treat an ape for breathing disorder
17. Gross consumer getting bigger
18. Old Roman hero holds tailless pet snake
19. Cast of female organ
20. Animal trainer ingesting grain
21. False start to end in disgrace
22. A bit of mushroom containing sulfur
23. Excessively hugging dull, attractive girl
24. Pathological swelling resulting from moistureless wrapping around foul sop