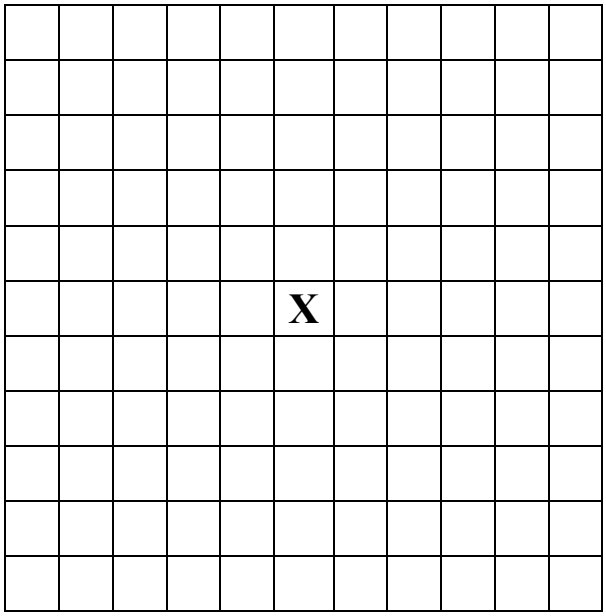
Guest Puzzle — April 2017 "Unsecured" by Arthur Schless

Instructions: Guess the words defined by the cryptic clues (answers vary in length from three to eleven letters, one is capitalized, one is an affix, and one is a prefix) 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. Two across words and two down words won't fit in the grid unless four of their letters are compacted into a single cell, the one marked X at the center of the grid. In addition, four across words and three down words won't fit in the grid unless one of their letters is omitted. Those seven letters, taken in order as they occur in across and down words, spell a two-word phrase related to the four letters compacted into the central cell marked X. Thanks to John de Cuevas for editing the clues with aplomb and betterment.



Across

1. Reposition antiriot bar for settling of differing opinions
2. To sun god, beginning of holy scroll
3. Hurled erratically and with difficulty
4. Instrument length, like the Eustachian, e.g.
5. Rain splattered Hindu queen
6. King and nephew gain knowledge
7. Vat of Okie rum
8. Select a snack
9. Covered Caesar and Sullivan
10. Part of computer address is due to be revised
11. Antelope's gait
12. George hit in fight as a guerrilla
13. Worn out wild hen yacked
14. Meal without seconds is a blast
15. Bird's head, at first petite, becomes wide
16. Your old part of bathysphere
17. "O I soar" out of sorts in operatic passage
18. Boredom of nine wandering around university
19. Passageway in sea or tarn
20. Scoundrel beheaded racehorse
21. Run in third, including last inning
22. Orally requires massages
23. She dug randomly and spouted effusively
24. Binge of rampaging peers

Down

1. Ascribing giant turbit in flight
2. Summary herbicide
3. Thai kudos included a form of poetry
4. Stop bothering baker
5. Covertly observe pony's meandering
6. Sid holding Ali's injured alderfly
7. Center house at first is home
8. Number of hundreds in diagram
9. Twister is author with a touch of humor
10. Steeplebush is difficult to chop
11. Commissioned writing, say, done in a cab?
12. Intimidate daughter and her mother's sister
13. Unusual noun is "identity" in musical pitch
14. New art is a linear mark
15. Little goblin holding toy
16. Favorite princess turned unenthusiastic
17. Utter love for fat
18. Money lust
19. Plant included in haftarot
20. Intercalary spring
21. Chemical is new, one that is synthesized
22. Barbara's garden
23. Loosened a seed awkwardly
24. New user shuffling in rear