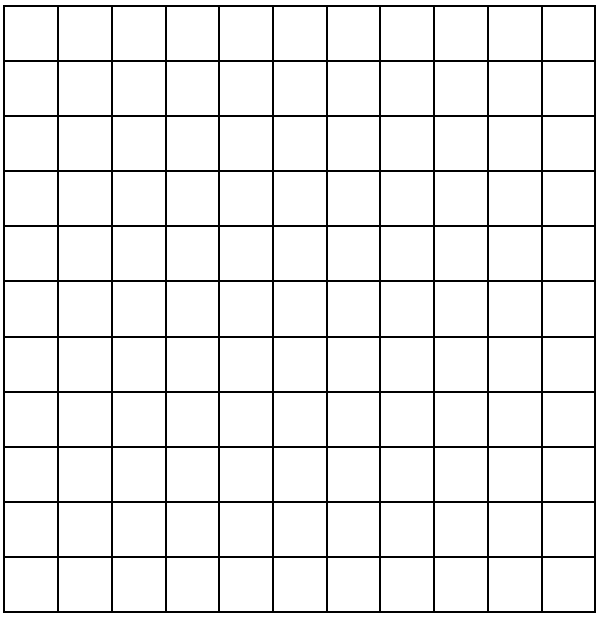
Puzzle # 203 — May 2018 "Solve"

Instructions: Guess the words defined by the cryptic clues (answers vary in length from three to eleven letters, one is foreign, and four are capitalized) 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. Eight across words and eight down words won't fit in the grid unless one of their letters is omitted. Those sixteen letters, taken in order as they occur in across and down words, spell a five-word phrase related to the title and the mystery entry. Thanks to Kevin Wald for test-solving and editing this puzzle.



Across

1. Distilled beer gave something to drink
2. Cover in college duel – that's illegal
3. Trouble nurse for garnish
4. This haddock has ingested fish
5. Bread register
6. Harry Rod embracing school
7. Odile bungled a formerly popular song
8. Fruit time
9. Merrymaking exposes adult being absent
10. Slackened and wrongly entered about 50
11. Sword of the peerage
12. Concentrated tennis played with energy
13. Embarrassed holding tapestry
14. Mail goes astray in Peruvian city
15. Bushy clump contains a repulsive critter
16. Misrepresent book by Wiesel
17. Prepares a porridge having flavor
18. Rode randomly around cape for scenery
19. Slight depression in lair beginning to tell
20. Fresher in underpants
21. Lodging of sinners
22. Second move for business establishment
23. Whole retinue disbanded after uncle leaves
24. *Mystery entry*

Down

1. Sound of rotting rubble
2. Explicit recipes fouled up
3. Old doe meandering to kill time
4. Capp, single and solitary
5. Poor slave carrying one suitcase
6. Step without a movement
7. Require train to come back for Hector
8. Idler getting aggravated and annoyed
9. Sharpen tip of razor held in check
10. Richards denies being in trouble
11. Unlikely hero taking on a jetport
12. Spanish German brewer?
13. Writer holds English hammer part
14. Small covering for surgical device
15. Protective space is reversed in minor part
16. Monitor silent commotion
17. Has to attempt capturing ermine
18. Dwell in this place
19. Wild rage about West Indies insect
20. Minded clown covering error
21. Color of male snake
22. Hang around ancient relic
23. Deprived father wearing cap