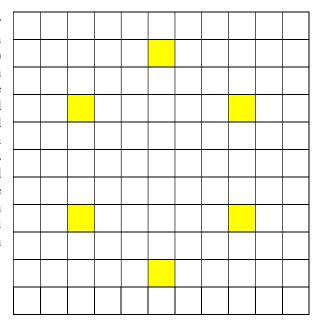
Guest Puzzle #22 – February 2010 "Draw a Blank" (by Arthur Schless)

Instructions: Guess the words defined by the cryptic clues (answers vary in length from three to eleven letters, and six 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. Six across words and eight down words won't fit in the grid unless one of their letters is removed. Those fourteen letters, taken in order as they occur in across and down words, spell a four-word phrase related to the title and the pattern highlighted in the grid.



Across

- 1. Circus performer is unlikely Reno Red Cap
- 2. Noble went from club to club periodically
- 3. Notable departure from Bible
- 4. Hydrocarbon in front of instrument
- 5. Nearly stab outlaw's belly
- 6. Implied anti Catholic bloc backlash
- 7. South African's robe in disarray
- 8. Ambushed GI with ton of metal mass
- 9. Harsh in sound, like a stallion
- 10. Small pictures are fashionable
- 11. Old-fashioned tin cane eroded
- 12. Artist of Schubert era
- 13. Evaluate container after opening
- 14. Flattery nearly spoiled bishop at the beginning
- 15. Rabbi sick in valley
- 16. Redistribute loose toppings
- 17. Unfortunately espies 0 poems
- 18. City within Panama control
- 19. Type of TB that's essentially spotty
- 20. Oracle was a late Pharisee rabbi
- 21. Promise a hot whirlpool
- 22. Compassion and godliness without error
- 23. Athlete unlawfully takes Ritalin primarily
- 24. Zone in most western part of county has metallic element

Down

- 1. Portion laity divided for good reason
- 2. Long ago end of causeway had mineral deposit
- 3. Try at first to behave without being rude
- 4. Disease of Tripoli oldsters
- 5. Sugar making Boris move with energy
- 6. Economist beats musically
- 7. Train next to large building extension
- 8. General having drink with enemy chief
- 9. Region has new stadium
- 10. Fruiting spike of spearmint
- 11. Demand the premier tool
- 12. Club is troubled about cafe
- 13. Movie director once edited
- 14. Approval comes up from tutor
- 15. Lists of women users
- 16. Noise from right paddle
- 17. End retreat in Kentucky
- 18. Regal hijinks stand out inappropriately
- 19. Measure of deep interest
- 20. Glaze stirred with relish
- 21. Tennis point for Cobb
- 22. Cop hired to guard a source of gold
- 23. Mall attendees get coffee drink
- 24. I left pioneer excited to start again
- 25. One Roman cue circulated about Jesus having a ritual