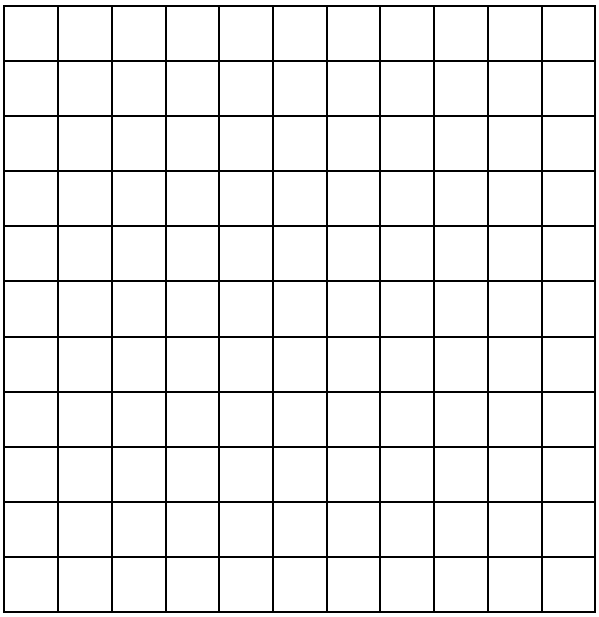
Puzzle #164 — January 2015 "Like I Need a Hole in the Head"

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



Across

1. First timer's up in bed at ten getting banged
2. Speak of being excitedly erect while embracing yours truly
3. One Belgian in shipwreck is correct
4. Nothing in bottom came up
5. "Not any," sister said
6. Propaganda about someone who isn't Christian
7. Naked dancer jiving in French city
8. Eddie Gordon's undercover name
9. Say "evil" with love
10. Matted fibers of duffel thread
11. Learn pathology of kidneys
12. *Mystery entry*
13. Grab a bunch
14. Poet is part of London network
15. Do free verse
16. Sleep undressed in shelter
17. One is active and sound
18. King has gold for teacher
19. Strike head of pin to get light
20. Private about woman's name
21. Loses footing in wind-blown dust
22. It comes from an afflicted *nez*, see!
23. Planet's path
24. Cheater should initially gain fifty held by the German

Down

1. Adherent clips shaped in die
2. Story about bachelor's food and drink
3. Write a chapter about coach
4. Palatine organ's value endlessly changing and adding up
5. Fine maneuvering in wager for gain
6. Decapitated, pounded, and ingested
7. Soup one consumes at the time of . . .
8. Surround with bare glow in moving scene
9. Roll and turn led the wrong way
10. The lady's quartet in Atherstone
11. All there is in this anesthetic
12. Stronghold's foreign dialect
13. Part of Egypt is in a renewal
14. Party for every male heir
15. Banner about one of the Brontë's
16. Epic's end for a pundit
17. Men go crazy for a maxim
18. Lizard and dog RNA interchanged
19. Bird in panic
20. Hopelessly confining footballer
21. Running average without one error leads to waste
22. Magnitude of catch decreased by approximately 2.718
23. Studies cheer and comfort
24. Serious cut beginning to exude