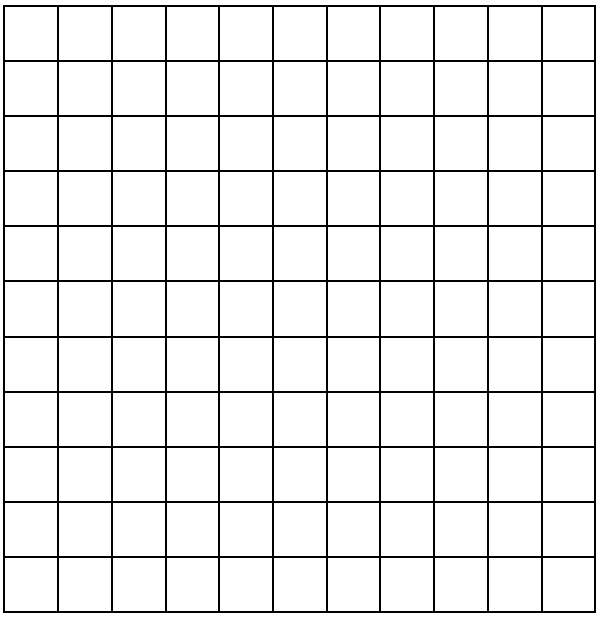
Puzzle #192 — May 2017 "Comedy"

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



Across

1. *Mystery entry*
2. Pen may falter with time and consideration
3. Repairer takes a ramble
4. Strange topic for an eye
5. A ruler's oddly dreamlike
6. State ethos includes effective means of enforcement
7. Joyful eastern tactics changed
8. Disavow Carter when changing tempo
9. Essence of press matter
10. Traveling anaconda rejects no country
11. A demon partly from Arabia
12. Attractive female's date is left in lounge
13. Father's idle talk lacking one target
14. First import endlessly taxed
15. One under-prepared to become acclimatized
16. Mild loss of energy by carbon and oxygen, e.g.
17. Children look around and move slowly
18. Pear tree disparaged in conversation
19. Aide's foreign name
20. Dry police chief
21. I flail in disarray relating to sons and daughters
22. An untruth about king being similar
23. *Mystery entry*

Down

1. United wild kitten with head of den
2. Car easily covering region
3. Strip of wood covering center lock
4. One judge will get angry
5. Ennui of psychic's first mark being made Tuesday
6. Heard, appeared, and joined
7. Lift flipper, hurt and missing one part
8. Mark of small vehicle
9. Charlie with a large amount and the choicest part
10. Flaw in western painting
11. Three lire found in rubbish
12. For example, Earth's level surface temperature
13. Finally reach one uncommon African city
14. Smart French bread
15. Fruit time
16. South American city caught in colorful images
17. Ward off pariah after turning back
18. One of two similar nuclei is more in motion
19. Talk about Republican plan
20. Affix on an office copy raises a storm
21. Meat for every basket
22. Carroll's character excited Celia
23. Front of cliff or escarpment
24. Adolescent grief
25. Chase purist running around university