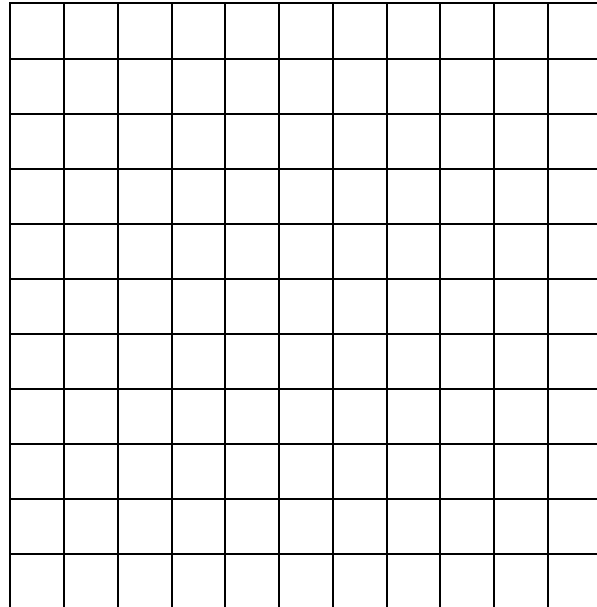


Puzzle #69 — February 2007 "Lighten Up"

Instructions: Guess the words defined by the cryptic clues (words vary in length from three to eight letters and include four proper names), 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 they are altered in a certain way; the four mystery entries suggest how. As ever, I am indebted to Kevin Wald for help with the clues.



Across

1. *Mystery entry*
2. Silly diary returned with poem
3. A heavenly body and me in bed
4. Limits of odd/even gait
5. A bit of laundry takes so long to wash
6. Deplore beheaded heron
7. One cheer for a lizard
8. Endless bilge about being fluent
9. Magritte was beginning to get fresh again
10. Container holding large map
11. Professor holding heraldic band
12. Given without a strong desire
13. Devil posed with a nurse's cap
14. Star's backing for Eden's earldom
15. Romeo holds up a slat
16. Landed in Bali tired
17. Guaranteed to be free of sulfur when hardened
18. Helping sister with parasites
19. Leave period open-ended for teaching
20. Back issue a national magazine first printed in 1923
21. Chambermaid has a beer
22. Long-lasting bad rule is amended
23. Ruby's victim was old when shot
24. Leading performer has one lute
25. *Mystery entry*

Down

1. *Mystery entry*
2. Put out to finish up old
3. Last love game played
4. Pennington's first run is, within certain limits, an unexpected event
5. Prepare to turn left instead of right
6. Jack loses his head in the middle of church
7. Chief goes in to rewrite proclamation
8. Fruit turnover on top of table Ed contributed
9. Monk and violin maker giving one away
10. Pessimist broker's tip gets attention
11. Spotter holding rod and filter
12. Informer lets one go for a brief period
13. Phony bird brought back
14. Talks foolishly of deer keeping time
15. Haggled mainly about ring maintenance
16. Brief sensation of deep angst
17. Buffoon and companion in contest
18. Fish buried in mausoleum
19. An emperor turns up in Florence
20. Drink and eat when sloshed
21. One in revel for a tree
22. *Mystery's* meaning changed with one number removed
23. Resell the Mexican knife
24. *Mystery entry*