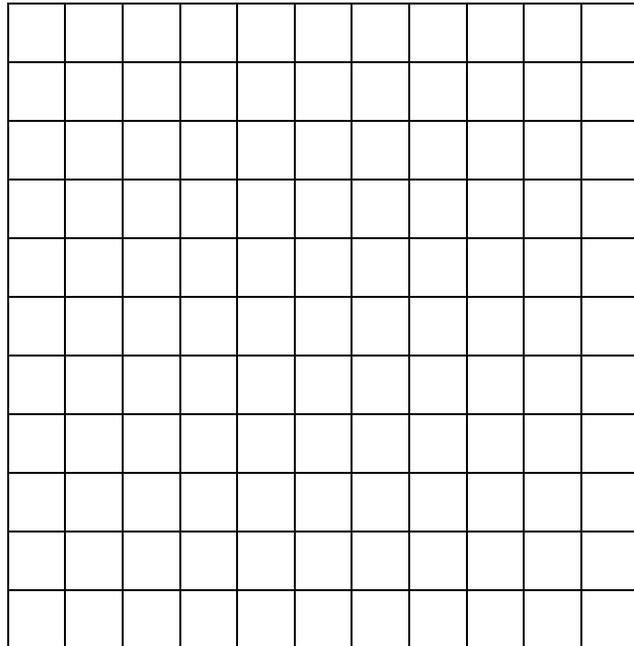


Puzzle # 51 – August 2005 "Singularity"

Instructions: Guess the words defined by the cryptic clues (words vary in length from three to ten letters and include six proper names and one foreign word), 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 margin continue on the next line; down words that don't end at the bottom margin continue in the next column. Five across words and five down words won't fit in the grid unless they are shortened in a certain way. Solvers must determine how that is to be done. As ever, I am indebted to Kevin Wald for help with the clues.



Across

1. Referee takes time to think
2. Stab a boy hurting ten in return
3. Country left out of one count
4. Consumed with urgency, started a fight
5. Frog's heart found in river in Irish county
6. Run in preliminary race showing courage
7. Sound of angry fly
8. Haiku really is about Honshu city
9. Restoration holds back decay
10. Cato's sister started seeing two alternatives
11. Note gender reversal in combinations
12. Harem mystery has won TV award
13. Constituent's MP screwed none in bed
14. Pierre's dream about expert rebuke
15. Request actor to switch from left to right
16. Have a ball-lifting device sent back
17. Girl with large buttocks
18. Endless twaddle gives energy
19. Bard's tankard contains last of wine
20. Brief verse put back in Lully's opera
21. Father gets new warning signal
22. Did business in ideal terms
23. Sincere new entrant initiated into Legion
24. News bureau's difficulties returned
25. Investigator put ring in vertex

Down

1. Woman holds counterfeit note of currency
2. Improve service without initiating change
3. Neophyte involved in petty romance
4. Secret desire about end of war
5. Recoiling child pierced by tip of dagger
6. Introvert's ramble
7. Minute pore impaired visceral lining
8. Profits from juiced lemon
9. About a hundred embracing state
10. Made waves, being vexed about tuppence
11. Evil influence of bachelor brew
12. Let off the hook without a cost
13. East yard has a place for pigs
14. District gets new theater
15. Starting slow walk in room
16. Hoary ending of strange story
17. Lonely river
18. Davis has rouge improved
19. *Rent* stars US composer
20. My sin included being gay
21. Give an edge to your first sweetheart
22. Fate with a turn of humor
23. Lying around is right for captive