

Clue: Loplop Cryptic #019 [15x]

By George Ho

1	M	2	U	R	3	D	E	4	R		5	M	Y	6	S	T	7	E	R	8	Y		
			L			E			O			U			A			Y			E		
9	S	T	A	T	E	V	I	S	I	T							10	E	X	A	M		
			R			A			E			I			A			U			R		
11	E	A	R	N	E	R					12	C	O	N	S	P	I	R	E				
						G						A			I							O	
			13	C	O	L	O	14	N	E	L			15	S	U	16	B	D	U	E		
						O			E		I				T			L			N		
17	A	C	I	D	I	C					18	M	U	S	T	A	R	D					
						K					A				U						M		
19	C	A	P	20	T	U	R	E	D			21	S	L	E	U	22	T	H				
			T			H			A						H			G			H		
23	L	I	A	R				24	G	R	I	M	R	E	A	P	E	R					
			E			O			U						L			E			M		O
			25	L	I	B	R	A	R	Y			26	W	R	E	N	C	H				

- 19 Smoked outside of apartment? Apprehended (8)
CAPTURED. C(APT)URED
- 21 Detective's crazed hustle (6) SLEUTH. (HUSTLE)*
- 23 False witness trains to backpedal (4) LIAR. (RAIL)<
- 24 I'm about to stuff fruit with trace of radium - it might bring death (4,6) GRIM REAPER. GR(IM + RE)APE + R[adium]
- 25 Repository rapidly emptied after a sign (7)
LIBRARY. LIBRA + R[apid]Y
- 26 Painfully separate from small songbird near church (6) WRENCH. WREN + CH

Down

- 2 Super-super sound kind of treatment? (5) ULTRA.
Double definition
- 3 Trio of detectives went fishing and unraveled... (9) DETANGLED. DET[ectives] + ANGLED
- 4 ...final part of cipher - done with perseverance, say? (5) ROVER. [ciphe]R + OVER
- 5 American in Michigan, California or maybe Oklahoma! (7) MUSICAL. M(US)I + CAL
- 6 Assistant improvised for some devilish people? (9) SATANISTS. (ASSISTANT)*
- 7 Starts to examine yearningly... entranced, utterly possessed! (3,2) EYE UP. E[xamine] Y[earningly] E[ntanced] U[tterly] P[ossessed]
- 8 Darn, you're going through the wringer all the time (4-5) YEAR-ROUND. (DARN YOURE)*
- 13 Tucked into coat, casebook's covering sources for investigation - every last caged talker (9)
COCKATIEL. C[aseboo]K inserted in COAT + I[nvestigation] E[very] L[ast]
- 14 State during picnic: "A ragu! Amazing!" (9)
NICARAGUA. picNIC A RAGU Amazing
- 16 Finger pointing at couple of blisters on a gigantic self (5,4) BLAME GAME. BL[isters] + A + MEGA + ME
- 18 Joe (Democrat) is over Illinois? Yes, confusedly (7) MUDDILY. MUD + D + IL + Y
- 20 Beat pair of thieves before hold up (5) THROB. TH + ROB
- 21 Shrill squealer is endlessly cunning (5) SHREW.
SHREW[d]
- 22 Teen drama's emotional outburst starts in weed ingredient (3,2) THE OC. E[motional] O[utburst] inserted in THC

Across

- 1 Ruby liquor, knocked back, put someone to sleep (6) MURDER. (RED RUM)<
- 5 Loplop's second attempt to pen English puzzle (7) MYSTERY. MY + S + T(E)RY
- 9 Piece of data on electric vehicle... is it for an executive meeting? (5,5) STATE VISIT. STAT + EV + IS + IT
- 10 American Express moving up second half in inspection (4) EXAM. {AM/EX}
- 11 Breadwinner's musical skill initially not even recognizable (6) EARNER. EAR + N[ot] E[ven] R[ecognizable]
- 12 Scheme of chief of police thronged by pliable cronies (8) CONSPIRE. P[olice] contained in (CRONIES)*
- 13 Officer sounds like a bit of an earful? (7) COLONEL. "kernel"
- 15 Tame reminder to renew your Twitch membership? (6) SUBDUE. Double definition
- 17 Sharp rock band to cover singles - not just one but two (6) ACIDIC. AC(I)D(I)C
- 18 Nasty political accusations involving celebrity - spicy stuff (7) MUSTARD. MU(STAR)D