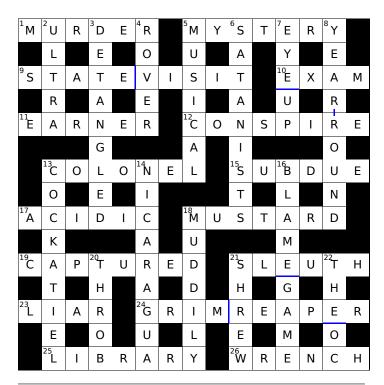
## Clue: Loplop Cryptic #019 [15x]

By George Ho



## Across

- 1 Ruby liquor, knocked back, <u>put someone to</u> <u>sleep</u> (6) <u>MURDER</u>. (RED RUM)<
- 5 Loplop's second attempt to pen English <u>puzzle</u> (7) MYSTERY. MY + S + T(E)RY
- 9 Piece of data on electric vehicle... is it for an <u>executive meeting?</u> (5,5) **STATE VISIT**. STAT + EV + IS + IT
- **10** American Express moving up second half in <u>inspection</u> (4) EXAM. {AM/EX}
- 11 Breadwinner's musical skill initially not even recognizable (6) EARNER. EAR + N[ot] E[ven] R[ecognizable]
- 12 <u>Scheme</u> of chief of police thronged by pliable cronies (8) <u>conspire</u>. 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 -<u>spicy stuff</u> (7) <u>MUSTARD</u>. MU(STAR)D

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

## Down

- 2 <u>Super-super sound kind of treatment?</u> (5) ULTRA. Double definition
- 3 Trio of detectives went fishing and <u>unraveled</u>... (9) DETANGLED. DET[ectives] + ANGLED
- 4 ...final part of cipher done with <u>perserverance</u>, <u>say?</u> (5) ROVER. [ciphe]R + OVER
- 5 American in Michigan, California or <u>maybe</u> Oklahoma! (7) MUSICAL. M(US)I + CAL
- 6 Assistant improvised for <u>some devilish people?</u> (9) <u>satanists</u>. (ASSISTANT)\*
- 7 Starts to examine yearningly... entranced, <u>utterly possessed!</u> (3,2) EYE UP. E[xamine] Y[earningly] E[ntranced] 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 <u>caged talker</u> (9) <u>COCKATIEL</u>. C[aseboo]K inserted in COAT + I[nvestigation] E[very] L[ast]
- 14 <u>State</u> 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 <u>Shrill squealer</u> is endlessly cunning (5) SHREW. SHREW[d]
- 22 <u>Teen drama</u>'s emotional outburst starts in weed ingredient (3,2) THE OC. E[motional] O[utburst] inserted in THC