Zentive Christmas 2010-11-21 by TORUS

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ACROSS

- 1 Understood the fine points of cutting waste. (7)
- 5 Make sick about state of union, on which strikes rely. (5)
- 7 Left the thing perched. (3)
- 8 Measure of decline, perhaps, through shrapnel. (7)
- 10 Support journal in outstanding effort. (7)
- 11 Possible hit-man calls back about very loud ring. (5)
- 12 Messed around in one Latin art to show it's relevant everywhere. (13)
- 15 Praise be to has-been left without. (5)
- 17 Two hired helps may have been fired. (7)
- 20 Ancient doorway to the return of intelligence. (7)
- 21 John, perhaps, would make partner for a buck or two. (3)
- 22 Quench with second water. (5)
- 23 Players make sly insinuations about Chris Tucker's heart. (7)

DOWN

- 1 Growth of quiet stroke. (5)
- 2 Maybe strike savage with whip. (7)
- 3 Before cracking nut I left. (5)
- 4 Relating to faces drawn by mistake. (13)
- 5 Baseless arguments given by alternative versions of myself after a month goes by. (1,6)
- 6 Real ale mixed with it in both directions.(7)
- 9 Finish bagel before starting fudge brownie. (3)
- 12 Kill restrictions in white areas. (3,4)
- 13 Put out about the rent. (7)
- 14 Lumps of uniform horse thrown into monster nest. (7)
- 16 Unwanted movement of junction on chip. (3)
- 18 Terrible drain in the depths. (5)
- 19 No directions about turning back; stand for things as they are. (5)