

ENTERTAINMENT

Technique • Friday, March 15, 2002

Gravity dragging you?

You might like the Jennifer Nettles Band's new release entitled *Gravity: Drag me Down*. They're playing Eddie's Attic tomorrow. **Page 23**

What's the Buzz?

That's what the *Technique* asked the baseball team's junior catcher Tyler Parker in a new question-and-answer column in Sports. **Page 23**

It's 'Showtime' for De Niro and Murphy

Eddie Murphy and Robert De Niro take comedic antics to the crime scene in director Tom DeY's dangerously funny new cop-action spoof *Showtime*. William Shatner also makes an appearance as none other than himself.

By Chris Webb
Staff Writer

Film: *Showtime*
Studio: Warner Bros.
Starring: Robert De Niro, Eddie Murphy, Rene Russo
MPAA Rating: PG-13
Rating: ★★★ 1/2

Eddie Murphy and Robert De Niro put on a badge and lay on the laughs in *Showtime*. The movie is a lampoon of TV shows such as *Miami Vice* and movies like the *Lethal Weapon* series.

Mitch Preston (De Niro) is a "by the book" 26-year veteran detective with a penchant for pottery. While on a drug bust, a media helicopter swarms in creating confusion and a deadly gun battle. In the midst of battle, the drug dealer, played by rapper Mos Def, pulls out a gargantuan gun that fires uranium-depleted bullets. In a race to catch the fleeing dealer, Preston gets entangled with a media cameraman. He shoots the camera in disgust.

In trouble with the police for destroying the camera, Preston is forced to participate in the reality-based cop show "Showtime." His new partner, Officer Trey Sellers (Eddie Murphy), is an incompetent show-off more concerned with his struggling movie career than catching criminals. The remainder of the movie involves the two police officers' quest to find the gun. Only steps behind them trail producer Chase Renzi (Rene Russo) and a captive TV audience.

The best parts of the movie are found when Renzi tries to make Preston into a cop star. William Shatner (as himself)

holds a boot camp, so that the officers can "properly" jump onto car hoods and test for drugs. Of course, TJ Hooker never had to deal with the reality of car repair or as Preston explains, "There's a reason why cops don't taste cocaine, it could be cyanide."

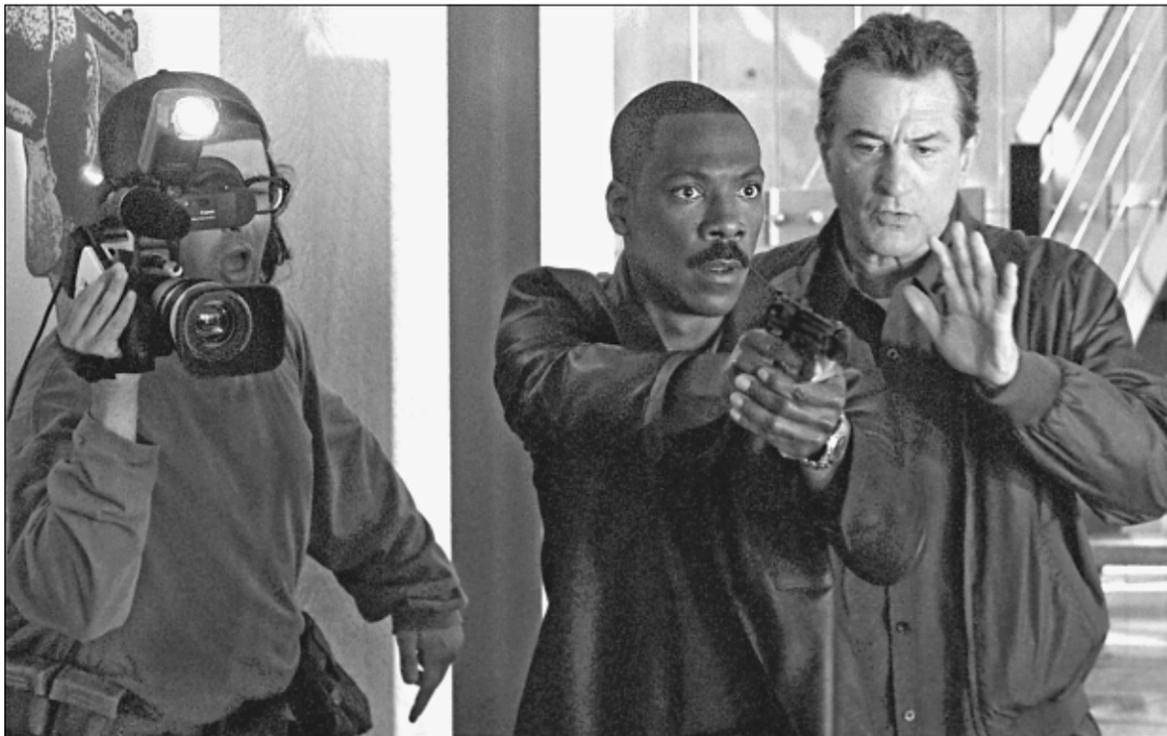
In further hopes of making Preston a bigger star, the producers replace his land yacht for a jet-black Hummer and convert his living room into an advertisement for Ikea. Their hands even renovate the police station from a grungy mess of papers into a slick office with chic computer desks and a confessional for one-on-one time with the TV audience.

Nevertheless, Preston takes no pleasure in the changes that have become imposed upon his life. He grudgingly accepts the torture if only to keep from getting fired. The best lines in the movie come from his witty comments about the "realness" of the whole situation.

The movie could have picked up the jokes and run with them for a few more laughs. Shatner was superb as himself, but a few more cameos would have gone a long way to pick up some of the duller moments. Perhaps Judge Reinhold could have appeared to reprise his *Beverly Hills Cop* role.

Showtime isn't a bad movie, but it isn't the sidesplitting comedy that its talent warrants. The result relies too much on the comedic talents of Robert De Niro, known far more for his dramatic acting. Eddie Murphy plays essentially the same jokes throughout the movie. There are only so many times that his intentionally poor acting resonates into a laugh.

Sadly enough, the coolest



thing in the movie might be the gun. The movie isn't that bad, the gun is just that good. Imagine if someone carried around a bazooka the size of a machine gun. Even though De Niro informs the audience that real cops don't have gun battles or see exploding cars, this spoof is full of them. Critically, this is also the worst part of the film. In the process of making a cop spoof the writers fell into the same traps of cars explosions and bank robberies. That shouldn't distract you from seeing the movie.

You will like this movie if you watch any kind of cop show just to laugh at their stupidity. This movie will suit you perfectly. Expect this movie to be the major blockbuster of the weekend. If you can, wait until your friends see it to gauge their reaction.



Photos courtesy WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Eddie Murphy and Robert De Niro (top) are the stars in the reality-based television show called 'Showtime' in the new movie of the same name. Rene Russo and William Shatner (bottom) are the producers trying to weave a tale of TV gold.

Minogue continues Australian invasion



By Steve Shaw / CAPITOL RECORDS

Incredibly popular and successful in her homeland, Australian pop princess Kylie Minogue is attempting to find an American niche.

By Kimberly Rieck
Staff Writer

Artist: Kylie Minogue
Label: Capitol Records
Title: Fever
Tracks: 12
Rating: ★★★

It appears that every few years the U.S. pop scene reaches out to a specific culture and grants a few of the culture's superstars their 15 minutes of fame. It was not long ago that the Latin pop scene had a heavy impact in pop music. Before that, European pop was all the rage on MTV. Now it appears that the newest fad has come full circle from the 1980s. Back then, Kylie Minogue was singing "Loco-motion," which dominated the charts in 1987. During that time, Crocodile Dundee movies were also enormously popular with audiences. Then Americans proved that their

tastes are fickle, the fad ended, and Minogue became a virtual unknown again in the United States.

Despite the fact that Minogue had lost her popularity in America, she continued to rise in popularity with worldwide audiences. The former *Neighbours* star released eight albums in addition to her greatest hits collection and a live album. Minogue has had over 30 hit singles and sold over 30 million records. In Australia, she's their answer to Madonna or Janet Jackson. Like Madonna and Jackson, she has acted in numerous films and collaborated with numerous international pop stars like Robbie Williams and the Pet Shop Boys.

In 2000, U.S. audiences once again heard the Kylie's name when she performed ABBA's "Dancing Queen" and her song "On a Night Like This" in front of over

See *Kylie*, page 24

Touring Rent show delights crowds at Fox

By Bryan Basamanowicz
Assistant Entertainment Editor

It's been six years since *Rent* opened off Broadway. Ironically, just hours before the first cast took their positions on the stage for the show debut in January of 1996, *Rent*'s writer and composer, Jonathan Larson, died suddenly on account of an undiagnosed aortic aneurysm.

Since its creator's untimely death at 35, *Rent* has earned the late Larson a Pulitzer Prize for Drama, four Tony Awards (including Best Musical), and a \$5 million deal with Miramax for movie rights, attracting the interest of directors such as Spike Lee.

See *Rent*, page 22



feeling like Nostradamus lately? put that to work.

forecast the Academy Awards. nigue.net/oscars

Rent

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In addition to Larson's own fame, *Rent* has also launched the careers of many of its original Broadway cast members. Jesse Martin launched from his role as Collins in the original Broadway show into a role on NBC's hit series *Law and Order* as detective Ed Green. Taye Diggs (Broadway's Benny) went on to land major roles in films such as *How Stella Got Her Groove Back* and *Go*, and is also starring in the upcoming film adaptation of *Chicago* alongside Catherine Zeta-Jones and Richard Gere.

Six years after the fact, *Rent* is no less an extravagant experience to have. On stage, it's an outrageously fun procession of loud music, loud acting and explosive visual decadence, all situated within an intelligent and deeply moving theme.

Thanks to the Atlanta Broadway Series, *Rent* is once again in Atlanta, hosted by the Fox Theatre. To sweeten the deal, much of the talent behind *Rent*'s Broadway suc-

cess have been brought along for the show's run in Atlanta.

Paul Clay, stage designer for on-Broadway sets for *Rent* has brought his vision to the Fox. The stage at a glance seems to just be a loud as-

It's an outrageously fun procession of loud music, loud acting, and explosive visual decadence... within an intelligent and deeply moving theme

sembly of randomness. However, as soon as the actors start supplying and applying the stage design with purpose it takes on an highly organic character that brings Bohemia to life.

Other notable Broadway talent being showcased at the Fox includes the work of costume designer An-

gela Wendt and Tony Award-nominated choreographer Marlies Yearby.

The acoustics of the Fox Theatre are stretched to their peak performance via the efforts of sound designer Steve C. Kennedy whose Broadway credentials include *Cats*, *Starlight Express*, *Song and Dance*, and *The Phantom of the Opera*.

The cast of this touring production is full of a rightfully aspiring energetic team of musicians and actors that keep the energy of the show well afloat. Notable performances include those of many debuting stage actors such as Krystal L. Washington (Mimi) and Kevin Spencer (Roger), each of whom make convincing contributions to their characters.

Atlanta is one of the first stops on a tour that has almost three months left to it so some of the actors haven't quite yet broken into their roles entirely, yet the overall energy of the show is still almost more than the Fox Theatre can contain.

Rent will be showing at the Fox this Saturday at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Nettles

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first six months, and was a popular mainstay on many college radio stations in the South. Nettles herself has gained much acclaim, landing a spot on the 1999 Lilith Fair tour, and was recognized as Independent Musician of the Year in 2000. She and her band have performed at many venues around the South and at such popular festivals as Music Midtown and 99X's Big Day Out.

"Gravity" and "Drag Me Down," the two title tracks on this album, juxtapose the surrendering attitude of someone who has been broken down with pure defiance, according to Nettles. The album has already sold 2000 copies in its first week of release.

Nettles' voice is as dynamic on this album as the lyrics and musical styles. With the ability to sing at a soft twang at one minute and then belt out with all the power and color her vocal chords possess, she gives exactly the kind of harsh and honest delivery her lyrics demand.

The opening track, "What You Signed Up For," is a sassy testimony of a woman tired of her lover's games set to a backdrop of a relaxed blues groove and a voice bleeding with soul.

The vocals and music of "Change" are reminiscent of a smoke-hazed

Nettles' voice is as dynamic on this album as the lyrics and musical styles...she gives the kind of delivery her lyrics demand.

jazz lounge, and the chorus seamlessly breaks out with a gospel feel.

"El Camino," by contrast, is rich with the energy of a bluegrass barn dance, as Nettles sings invitingly with her Southern twang, "Hey babe, why don't we go honky tonkin?"

Far from the diluted angst or fluff that dominates the women's folk and rock scene, Nettles is known for her mature song-writing, and is a candid but poised storyteller. She declares in "Page #2," "And as long as I'm breathing I'll sing my joy and my grieving/And I'll fumble with the guitar until arthritis takes these hands."

The crunching guitars and drums in "Shift" prove that Nettles can do more than "fumble" with her instrument and that the band rocks out as deftly as they deliver the blues.

With such versatility and maturity, this band will definitely keep a strong fan base and be a mainstay in folk rock. *Gravity: Drag Me Down* does not follow any rules, and it also has something for everyone to enjoy.

During their current tour, the Jennifer Nettles Band will be making a stop in Atlanta at Eddie's Attic tomorrow night and the Roxy on April 19. Tickets for the Roxy show are currently \$12 in advance and \$14 at the door.

Kylie

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4 billion people at the closing of the Sydney Olympic games. Madonna even provided free publicity when she wore a bejeweled "Kylie" shirt at an awards show that was similar to her infamous Britney Spears t-shirt. Film audiences also got a glimpse of Minogue when she appeared as The Green Fairy in *Moulin Rouge*.

Minogue's latest album *Fever* has sold over 2 million copies and went double platinum in the U.K. Capitol Records is releasing *Fever* in the United States in the hopes that Minogue can capitalize on her recent publicity, and the new wave of popularity for Australian culture. Her album comes out at a time when fellow Aussies Russell Crowe and Nicole Kidman are nominated for Oscars as well as *Moulin Rouge* for Best Picture Oscar. Over the past month, Natalie Imbruglia and Kasey Chambers have also released albums.

Fever highlights Minogue's corporate pop sensibilities. The international diva fails to produce any new sounds or insights. Her vocals are great, but only a few tracks stand out. "Can't Get You Out of My

Head" is an entertaining, dance mix. The lyrics describe obsessive love, and the song itself is one that will surely be one that you will keep hearing over and over again on pop radio stations, *TRL* and *VH1*. The title track "Fever" is a great dance song that is the ideal club music. Minogue is subtly encouraging audiences to discover her in the same way that the rest of the world has. "More More More" wonderfully augments Minogue's exotic diva vocals.

Unfortunately, most of the album is a disappointment. It is depending on a few good songs to catapult Minogue to U.S. stardom. The other songs sound like they are blatantly trying to follow the same corporate machine-formula that has launched other *TRL* acts into the pop stratosphere. The few songs that are good will most likely be enough to give Minogue her 15 minutes of fame on MTV.

However, if Minogue is looking for the album to catapult her into superstar status in *America*, she has to produce more quality songs than the few that are offered in *Fever*. She has the potential to achieve longevity, but first she has to break out of the corporate mold and produce a full album instead of only a couple infectious songs.



The Live List: Your Official Spring Break Edition!

COTTON CLUB (152 Luckie St.) (404) 688-1193

<http://www.atlantaconcerts.com/cottonclub.asp>

3/18 12 Stones
3/19 Eels
3/27 Anti-Flag
3/29 Soul Underground
3/30 Poison the Well
3/31 Damian Marley & The Ghetto Youth Crew
4/6 Millencolin
4/8 Tanya Donelly
4/13 Big Wu / Strangefolk
4/15 Eyes Adrift
4/16 Vox Rox the Stage 2002
4/21 Local H
4/23 Apex Theory
4/25 Talib Kweli / Blackalicious
4/26 Mary Prankster
4/28 Dave Weckl
4/30 Super Furry Animals

ECHO LOUNGES (551 Flat Shoals Rd.) (404) 681-3600

<http://www.echostatic.com/echolounge>

3/15 Crybaby
3/16 Bitch and Animal
3/17 Holly Golightly (ex-Thee Headcoatees)
3/18 Hood
3/19 Girls Against Boys (Jade Tree) / The Pattern (Lookout Records)
3/20 Ted Leo and the Pharmacists
3/21 The Briefs (From Seattle) / Lords of Altamont (ex-Bomboras)
3/22 The Woggles (Telstar Records) / The Deadly Snakes (feat. Greg Oblivian)

FOX THEATRE (660 Peachtree St. NE) (404) 881-2100

<http://www.foxtheatre.org>

3/12-3/17 Rent
3/18 Robin Williams
3/21-3/24 Hearts of Men
3/25 Royal Winnipeg Ballet (Sleeping Beauty)
3/29 Steven Curtis Chapment
3/30 Jerry Seinfeld
4/5-4/7 Madame Butterfly
4/9-4/14 Music Man
4/17 Grigovich Ballet (Spartacus)
4/18-4/19 Barry Manilow
4/20-4/21 String Cheese Incident
5/2-5/5 La Rondine

GEORGIA THEATRE (Athens) (404) 881-2100

<http://www.georgiatheatre.com>

3/15 Second Annual Zac Weil Memorial Benefit
3/16 XXX Harddrive / Wide Open / Yucko the Clown
3/26 Bob Mould Carnival of Light and Sound / Her Space Holiday
3/28 Club D'Elf
3/29 Cosmic Charlie
4/2 Pat McGee Band
4/3 Nickel Creek
4/4 Dave Matthews Cover Band
4/5-4/6 Soundtribe Sector 9
4/11 Tony Furtado
4/17 Rollin' in the Hay / Deep Blue Sun
4/18 Gran Torino

MASQUERADE (695 North Ave.) (404) 577-2007

<http://www.masq.com>

3/19 Mushroomhead
3/22 Victory Records Tour Feat. Catch 22, Grade, Reach the Sky
3/30 Business
4/4 Hatebreed
4/5 Flogging Molly
4/17 Twiztid

PHILIPS ARENA (1 Phillips Dr.) (404) 878-3000

<http://www.philipsarena.com>

3/25 Santana
4/8 Champions on Ice
4/17 Crosby / Stills / Nash & Young

ROXY (3110 Roswell Rd.)

<http://www.atlantaconcerts.com/roxy.asp>

3/15 Angie Aparo
3/16 Puddle of Mudd
3/22 Ruben Blades
3/30 They Might Be Giants
4/13 Cracker
SMITH'S OLDE BAR (1580 Piedmont Ave.)
(404) 875-1522
<http://www.smithsoldbar.com>
3/15 The Hot August Nights / Lithp / Field Day
3/16 Kinchafoonee Cowboys
3/18 Hardly Time / Adam Wolfe / Aslyn
3/19 Open Mic / Late Night with Antigone Rising
3/20 Railroad Earth / Barefoot Manner
3/21 Kevn Kinney Band / Grob Droll
3/22 Reckless Kelly / Cross Canadian Ragweed / Blue Jays
3/23 Gran Torino
3/24 Dan Bern / Ian Webber
3/25 Copper / Maple Yum Yum / Homemade Water
3/26 Launching Dragon / Comedy Haha Show
3/27 Charlie Robison / Lucero
3/28 Black Goldstein / The Hiss
3/29 Ghost Trane / Baseman / Captain Soular Cat
3/30 Push Stars / Hanging Francis
3/31 Ed Zachary / X List

TABERNACLE (152 Luckie St.) (404) 659-9022

<http://www.tabernaclemusic.com>

3/15 Nelly Furtado
3/16 Buddy Guy
3/17 Jars of Clay
3/18 311
3/21 Bush
3/23 112
4/1 Tenacious D
4/2-4/3 Pat Metheny Group
4/9 Brute
4/11 Gov't Mule
4/14 Youssou N'Dour
4/18 Sevendust
4/19-4/20 Willie Nelson
4/24 Rob Zombie
5/6 Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds
5/13 Belle & Sebastian

UNDER THE COUCH (Couch Bldg.) (404) 206-0985

<http://utc.gatech.edu>

3/16 Used For Comparison, The Orphans, Popad, Polly Factor
3/18 Uneath, From Autumn to Ashes, Diecast, Black Paper Diary, Cast Aside The Fallen
VARIETY PLAYHOUSE (1099 Euclid Ave.)
(404) 521-1786

<http://www.variety-playhouse.com>

3/15 Joan Baez
3/16 Larry Keel / Hackensaw Boys
3/18 Stanton Moore
3/20 Leftover Salmon
3/22 Rhonda Vincent / DaVinci's Notebook
3/23 Norah Jones
3/24 Micheal Brecker Quartet
3/27 Bob Mould
3/28 Steve Smith's Vital Information
3/29 Jump Little Children
3/30 Cubanismo

THEME CROSSWORD

EMPTY NEST

By James Barrick

ACROSS

- 1 "Sound of Music" setting
- 5 Quaffs
- 10 Alice's cat
- 15 Box a bit
- 19 — tide
- 20 Casals or Neruda
- 21 Remove, in a way
- 22 Pith helmet
- 23 Anthology item
- 24 Last word
- 25 Upright supports
- 26 Dash
- 27 Start of a quip by Jack Benny (5 wds.)
- 31 Membership requisite
- 32 — noire
- 33 Like xenon or argon

- 34 Branch of physics
- 37 Freshet
- 39 Remain valid
- 41 Steal
- 42 Old Spanish coin
- 43 Cheese variety
- 45 Varnish ingredient
- 48 Price of some bargains
- 49 NHL team
- 51 Folding money
- 52 Frosted
- 53 Veneration
- 54 Anatomical cavity
- 55 Odium
- 57 Throw of the dice
- 58 Stage setting
- 59 Purplish color
- 60 Income
- 62 Part 2 of quip (6 wds.)
- 67 Pep up
- 68 Be foolish

- 69 Marine creature
- 70 Meter cousin
- 71 Cipher
- 72 Jury
- 73 Abbr. on food packaging
- 76 Redding the singer
- 77 Means of access
- 79 Reddened with makeup
- 81 Farm denizen
- 82 Buttons
- 83 Magical transport
- 85 Produced
- 86 Imposing residence
- 87 "— Python's Flying Circus"
- 88 Parts
- 89 Trained
- 91 Native New Zealander
- 93 — monster

- 94 Eschew
- 95 End of the quip (4 wds.)
- 103 Seed appendage
- 104 Porch
- 105 Greek letters
- 106 Term of endearment
- 107 Sidekick
- 108 Blair or Hamilton
- 109 Speak at length
- 110 Wiesel
- 111 Slack
- 112 Detroit dud
- 113 Parts of necks
- 114 Discern

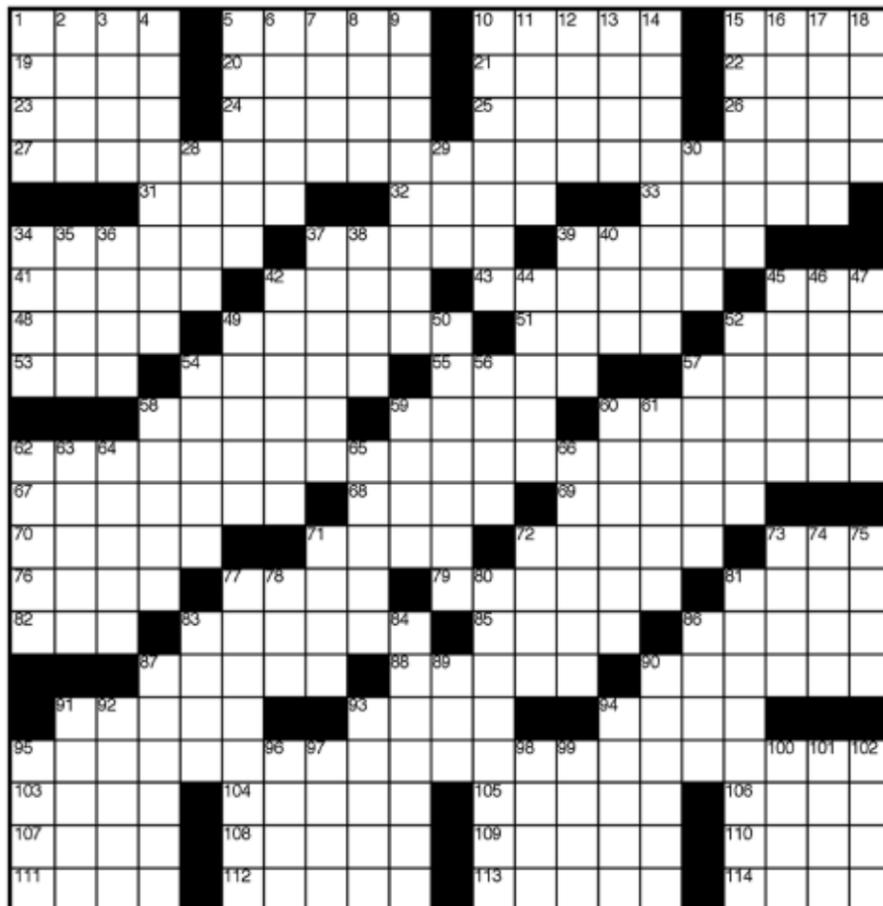
DOWN

- 1 Opposing
- 2 Plumbum
- 3 — Alto
- 4 Shopaholic's problem
- 5 Unwearable suit
- 6 Walks, in a way
- 7 Leggy bird
- 8 Merriment
- 9 Jawbreaker cousin
- 10 Greek goddess
- 11 Hopping mad
- 12 Droll poet
- 13 City near Turin
- 14 Mercenary soldiers
- 15 Brooded
- 16 Pivotal
- 17 To smithereens
- 18 Table scrap
- 28 Nip and —
- 29 Old-timer

- 30 — Domini
- 34 Peak in Thessaly
- 35 Do a farm job
- 36 Antler branch
- 37 Harsh
- 38 Irksome one
- 39 Pirate in "Peter Pan"
- 40 Brown color
- 42 Extirpate
- 44 Sleek animal
- 45 Rouse
- 46 Change, as a bill
- 47 Singer — Lauper
- 49 Ticket (sl.)
- 50 Window cover
- 52 Give back
- 54 "Merry Widow" composer
- 56 Yearn
- 57 Fiber plant
- 58 Change purse items

- 59 Incite
- 60 Spaced-out
- 61 Well-worn
- 62 Ulan —
- 63 Act in concert
- 64 Like a milquetoast
- 65 Idolize
- 66 Representations
- 71 Written material
- 72 Nothing but
- 73 — John Silver
- 74 Party
- 75 Dele's undoing
- 77 Romance-writer
- 78 Scrap
- 80 Religious offering
- 81 Metal glove
- 83 Cotton fabric, for short
- 84 Piddling
- 86 Pacific island
- 87 Jester's garment
- 89 Ringside shout
- 90 Dissertations

- 91 Righteous
- 92 Form of "Anna"
- 93 Slope
- 94 Put forward
- 95 Muffle
- 96 Aforementioned
- 97 River into the Danube
- 98 Circle dance
- 99 Nipa palm
- 100 Wretched place
- 101 Maleficence
- 102 Stagger



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answers on page 22

last fall, you had to beat



matthew bryan,
editor-in-chief

in the football forecast.

now, i get to say "bring it on."



andrew santelli,
entertainment editor

try to be the movie expert.

it's time for the first ever
technique
oscar forecast

enter at niquen.net/oscars