

My Oscar Pickets

by Ucaoimhu

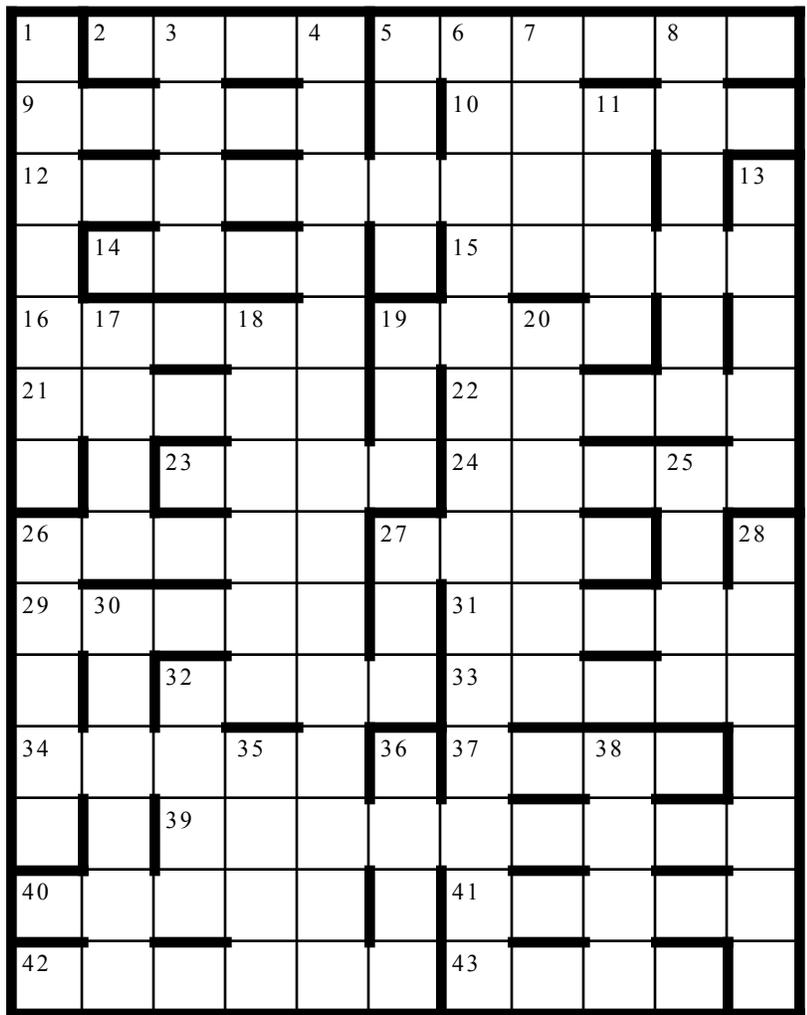
Now that the strike has been settled, we can once again honor our Best Picture nominees as they deserve: by modifying the Down answers before they are entered into the grid. Specifically: For four of them there will be extra stuff added; four will have something omitted; four will get knocked up; four will stray no longer; and four will undergo (where applicable) the transformation illustrated by a certain title character. (Entries after modification will include five proper names, one two-word phrase, and one variant spelling.)

However, one group of nominees remains unhappy with the settlement, and will still be picketing. Two of them (at 4 and 6 Down) will contribute picketers; three of them (not appearing in the grid) will tell the picketers how to find the picket line (one of the short thin lines in the grid) relative to their original locations.

When the picketers are on the line, they will be united as one, and you will be able to read the very pithy oppositional slogan they have elected to shout. Also, the grid column that crosses the picket line will indicate a certain letter in each clue of a certain type, by stating what those letters do; if you read those letters in clue order, you will see another description of what that slogan is (and will see why not every member of the group was in favor of it).

ACROSS

2. Left time to make revisions (4)
5. Don't say anything if Cobb is evasive (6)
9. Two of opponents cheer for Winfrey (5)
10. Er . . . Garland's vocal performance is calm (5)
12. Ones held by fastening devices inside look at that dog (5 4)
14. Those who run things briefly in 2000, having grand time (4, *abbr.*)
15. Picasso's father almost let some air out (5)
16. Manuscripts about episodic, extremely abbreviated time periods (5, *abbr.*)
19. Noisy child must pay toy company (4)
21. Bah — I'm moving a podium in a synagogue (5)
22. Fret about your missing heart line (5)
23. Melville novel seen in Kokomo only (4)
24. Don't run back to eat one pungent root (5)
26. Silver and green Ford's predecessor (5)
27. Dorm replaced an old videogame (2 2)
29. Containing bugs sounds smart (5)
31. Cat from Thailand scrambled to ark (5)
32. Heard car in little shed (4)
33. Hurtled into two from Persia (5)
34. Detective almost noted orca at SeaWorld (5)
37. Announced how one might walk around barrier (4)
39. Listen up after cellist defeats toothy predator (4 5)
40. Detectives moon less on a beach in California (5)
41. Individual grabs copper when signaled (2 3)
42. One flipping bird, enthralling lady's relatives after a wedding (2-4)
43. Continue being a thug (4)



DOWN

1. Neat electrical unit, if I do say so!
3. Interpreter's ma being eaten by Smaug or Puff
4. *See instructions*
5. Raves when disheartened by finks
6. *See instructions*
7. In France they remove odd letters from bibles
8. At the start of the second half, Generation X-er is in more pain
11. Talked about Mr. Costello, head of Scotland Yard
13. Exchange money for direct, outspoken author of *Don Juan*
17. Doing a quick scan of the airwaves for the sound of a cat moving slowly
18. Sleep with the gutless partner [NI3]
19. Sexy singer Don finally left
20. One combining a bit of marble and wood
25. In no one's iPod
26. At first, clothes and hair don't match
27. Limey verse lacks energy
28. Once again, heals injured tinkers
30. Second clue omits the "t" in "tibia"
32. Charity supports ailing pecan plants (2 *wds.*) [NI2]
35. Imam & lama disrupted our class in biological taxonomy [NI3]
36. These naked males
38. Pilot circumnavigates top of mountain peak