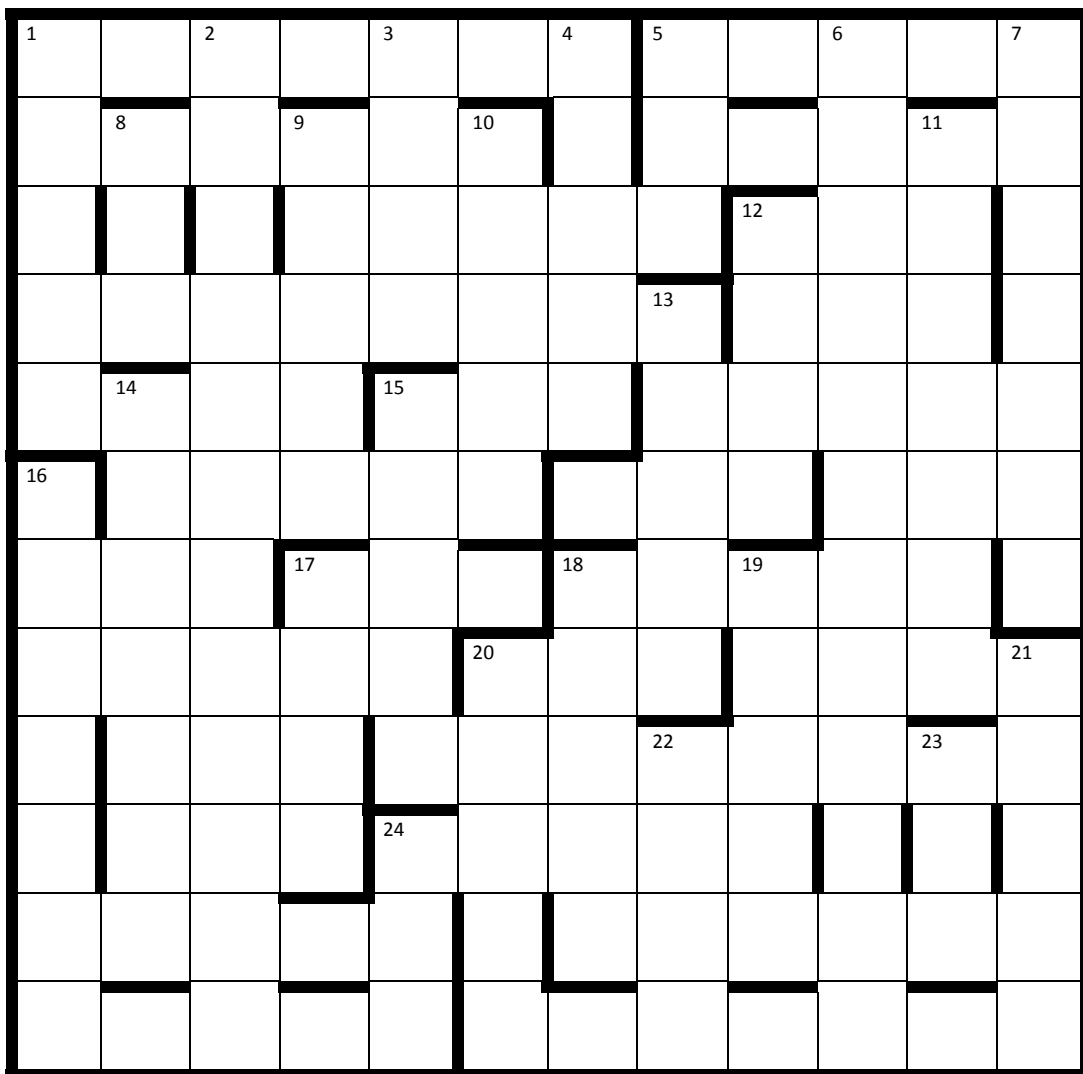


**CASE NAME: TAKE THAT!**  
 ATTENDING OFFICER(S): JEFF FORD  
 LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT  
 CRIME LOCATION: LA BREA TAR PITS



There's just too much good stuff in this puzzle to keep your hands clean. You'll need to steal a letter from 10 of the across entries before putting them in the grid, in each case forming a new word (one proper noun). You'll also need to steal a letter from the clue of the other across entries before solving them. Across clues are given with clues in alphabetical order with enumerations withheld. Use the normal down clues to help place the answers.



## Across

A lot of Huck Finn's vessel  
A spot is just open  
After first letter, org retreats to Indian state  
Boot ardor  
Complain "Oaring isn't right"  
Consolidate math GREs at Massachusetts college  
Cut off 40% of Sacha Baron Cohen character with Spanish cone  
Famous Knick with oboe  
In Mexico, Tia's chopped up tuna  
In the morning, I travel with Paul in Spain  
It plays when someone calls for rearranging region ten  
It's on TV again—sea bird's heart backs up leading to ruin  
Deceased language columnist talks about precious blue gem  
Men opt to mingle at bed time (2 wds)  
Rearranged coat for snack  
Sees Sam's needs, holding back, as a group (2 wds)  
Shifty, slippery, odd guy  
Show uprooted shrub for grooming implement  
"Smooth Operator" singer disappointed fanbase at the end  
Sounds like flake is spooky  
Start to shake, nervous, losing head with shearing, for example  
Study great duplicate heart (2 wds)  
That is, U.S. is returning inside problem  
These hold art, see also "collage"  
This might be 7, 10, or 50 in reverse gratuities  
Toy truck almost backs up into tangle  
Tweak gene internals for number of years  
Wipe out, um, all but the front of strand

## Down

1. MTV cartoon teen lost head over first of serious songs (5)
2. Politely decline to cheer up President and actor from Star Wars (8 4)
3. One who regrets was not as nice, lost heart (4)
4. Surprise! Twits disperse (5)
5. Heard baseball team missing a player had dinner (3)
6. State "Cowboys owner is adventurous archaeologist" (7 5)
7. At first, one might expect less extravagant tables serving breakfasts (7)
8. Yalie mixes up lie (3)
9. Money owed by Eliot after returning bed (5)
10. In gym, sprint for dried fruit (5)
11. Outer façade drives sane pro bananas (7)
12. Crazy for a crazy hairdo (4)
13. Listened to group of goats with one in the middle (5)
14. Confused eagle in family (7)
15. Frau Gerta hides bore (5)
16. Pudding tossed at curds (7)
17. Movie dog was talented inside (4)
18. It appears after you rub a magic lamp and turn right with half a shoe (5)
19. Windows entered by topless Kate to get half of a rock duo (5)
20. Search right unorganized file (5)
21. Trash? No, fail! Recycle! (5)
22. Relative's leg—you must be at least 17 to see it on the inside (4)
23. Unfinished line is back to nothing (3)
24. Your choice from lots, but not 1000 (3)