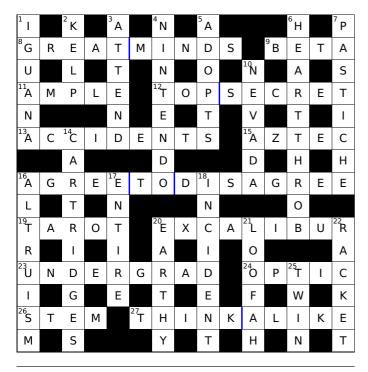
Better Than One

By Aaron Riccio and George Ho



Across

- 8, 27 In the dark, smile at king after some serious banging both of us came to the same conclusion (5,5,5,5) GREAT MINDS THINK ALIKE. (IN THE DARK SMILE AT KING)*
- 9 Stake a prototype version (4) BETA. BET + A
- 11 <u>Liberal</u> representative loses Massachusetts's 9th (5) AMPLE. [s]AMPLE
- 12 Extremely sensitive with respect to rent (3,6) TOP SECRET. (RESPECT TO)*
- 13 Stresses about documentation <u>errors, maybe</u> (9)
 ACCIDENTS. ACC(ID)ENTS
- 15 Sounding like IT support specialist is <u>someone</u> who may have made sacrifices? (5) AZTEC. "as tech"
- 16 Tear George's idea to pieces that's one way to end an argument (5,2,8) AGREE TO DISAGREE. (TEAR GEORGES IDEA)*
- 19 Some card sharp, winning nothing (5) TAROT.

 TAR(0)T

- 20 <u>Legendary brand</u> of Tex-Mex/Cali burrito filling
 (9) EXCALIBUR. tex-mEX CALI BURrito
- 23 Two foreign articles by good, cool <u>college</u> student (9) <u>UNDERGRAD</u>. UN + DER + G + RAD
- 24 <u>Symbolized by the eye</u> in defaced Egyptian language (5) OPTIC. [c]OPTIC
- 26 Hold back support (4) STEM. Double definition
- 27 See 8a

Down

- 1 Iowa captures tailless, batshit <u>reptile</u> (6) IGUANA. I(GUAN[0])A
- 2 Something clogging snorkel, perhaps! (4) KELP. snorKEL Perhaps (&lit)
- 3 Take heed at the beginning of the end (6) ATTEND.

 AT + T[he] + END
- 4 Japanese company has no plan on the inside (8) NINTENDO. N(INTEND)0
- 5 Takes up physical training amid troubles (6)
 ADOPTS. ADO(PT)S
- 6 <u>Dreamboat</u> to take off following trace of tryst found in home (10) HEARTTHROB. T[ryst] inserted in HEARTH + ROB
- 7 "Mixed up patches" may describe one! (8)

 PASTICHE. (PATCHES)* containing I (&lit)
- 10 Dave turning around somewhere in North American state (6) NEVADA. N(DAVE)
- 14 <u>Loads</u> truck and drives, after adding a bit of gas (10) CARTRIDGES. CART + RID(G)ES
- 16 <u>Selflessness</u> of key RuPaul quote? (8) ALTRUISM. ALT
- 17 Doctor fired after disrobing gross (6) ENTIRE. ENT + [f]IRE[d]
- 18 Event tab is around \$101 (8) INCIDENT. IN(CI)DENT
- 20 <u>Crude</u> shortage after failing to start refinery on the eastern border (6) <u>EARTHY</u>. [d]EARTH + [refiner]Y
- 21 Ha! Ass-backward scrub (6) LOOFAH. (HA + FOOL)<
- 22 Rackenfracker's first five themers beginning to make <u>noise</u> (6) RACKET. RACKE[nfracker] + T[hemelesses]
- 25 Cancel last of cable in duplex (4) TWIN. TWIN[e]