ENTERTAINMENT

Technique • Friday, January 16, 2004

Two Bits' New Bits
Our resident sage recounts his New Year's brouhaha in Baltimore. Does your celebration stack up? **Page 18**

Bull's-eye in the sky!
Who knew that jumping out of a plane could bring home the gold for Tech? **Page 28**

Stiller in a rut, but *Along Came Polly*

By Jason Allen
Staff Writer

After catching the ubiquitous trailer for *Along Came Polly* before nearly every theatrical release during the past two months, my sensors told me that Universal was uber-hyping this latest effort from Ben Stiller and Jennifer Aniston in order to cover for a lousy product. Simply highlight every single gag in a winning preview and hope for the best in the January film wasteland. I was wrong.

Stiller's straitlaced Reuben Feffer never lives on the edge because, as a New York City risk analyst, he constantly calculates the odds of a

See Polly, page 16

Photo Courtesy Universal Studios

Along Came Polly **centers around Reuben Feffer (Ben Stiller) and Polly Prince (Jennifer Aniston). Feffer is a risk analyst and as a result leads a rather mundane, sheltered existence. That is, of course, until Polly comes along.**

Purchase discounted Ferst Center tickets

Take advantage of the Ferst Center's "One Day Sale" for students and staff. Students with a current BuzzCard can purchase two tickets for only $15 each. Faculty and staff receive 50 percent off any two tickets. The sale lasts from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Jan. 17.

Geek Love to play through Jan. 25

Horizon Theater company adapts Katherine Dunn's cult-classic novel into a stage performance of *Geek Love.* The show runs through Jan. 25 with ticket prices ranging from $12 to $15

Forget to make Friday night plans?

The High Museum is hosting Friday Jazz. A $15 admission price lets you into the Robinson Atrium to eat, drink and mingle among the more sophisticated in Atlanta. Of course, smooth jazz dabbles the background.

Jake's Westside offers more than just unusual ice cream

By C. Jason Mabry
Senior Staff Writer

Jake's Westside is the third Jake's in Atlanta and a welcome addition to west Midtown. Located a few blocks northwest of Tech, Jake's offers a quality student atmosphere with unique ice cream flavors, a wide range of breakfast, lunch and dinner foods, books, games, free internet and of course, caffeine.

The café and ice cream parlor is a very friendly locale with a great, laid-back environment. The development is fun, but not flashy, and feels like a college hangout. Unique touches make Jake's an even better spot.

The eating area has a few hundred books for those contemplating a quiet lunch or board games for socializing with friends. The newest addition comes in the form of free internet, devoid of annoying pop-ups, perfect for studying over a meal.

In the morning, Jake's serves a variety of breakfast bagels, muffins and cereals to go with a wide selection of caffeinated beverages (hot, cold and tea-based). The real food comes out later in the day. The kitch-

See Jake's, page 17

By Peter Jensen / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Although Jake's is famous for their unique ice cream creations make sure to try a sandwich or salad while cozying up next to the inviting fireplace.

Peach drops on city, marks start of 2004

By Kathryn Shoemaker
Contributing Writer

The majority of Tech students will spend four to five years for the most part ignoring that they live in the major city of the South. In an effort to not go back on a New Year's resolution to make the most of living in the downtown area, it was imperative to attend one of the largest events of the Atlanta winter season: the Peach Drop at Underground Atlanta.

The massive party this year hosted 145,000 people for over 16 hours of revelry. It was televised in Atlanta and even syndicated to over 30 cities across the Southeast. Besides being an event that those of us who leave Tech for other less populous cities might regret missing, the Peach Drop has everything a college student could want in a party: no cover charge, live entertainment and DJs, ease of attending and lots of college and mid-twenties people from schools like Tennessee and Clemson (the Peach Bowl was the same week).

Park on East Campus, preferably ER51 (the old R01) and walk to the North Avenue Marta station. Though, late night Marta travel is usually not something that a 5'2" female should engage in, the increased police presence and the fact that 99 percent of the riders were going to the same place made for a safe ride. The ride itself was worth going out for, a medley of trendy cloths, with jeans, old football jerseys and of course the occasional plastic hat.

Underground is located at the connection of the lines, but by following the flow of the crowd, it was hard to get lost. After stepping out of the terminal, the whole street seemed to come alive with crowds

Photo Courtesy Diane Kirkland

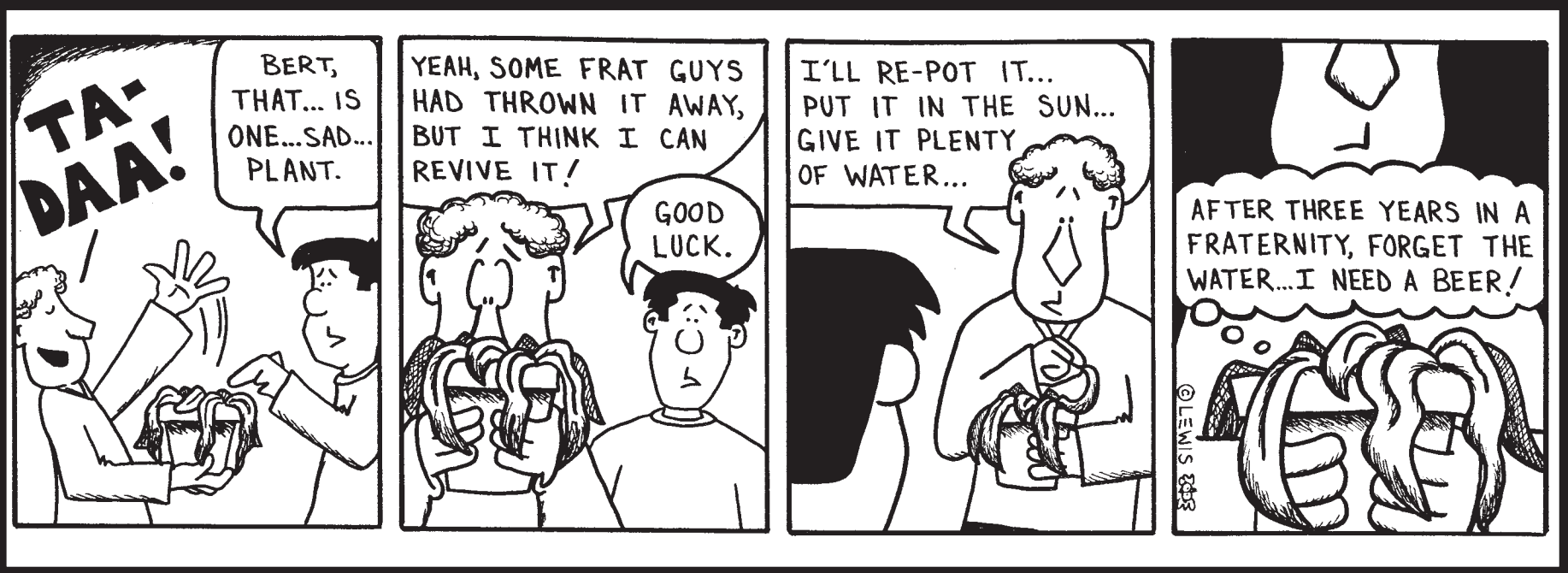
Atlanta rings in the new year Georgia style by dropping a giant peach. The annual ceremony at Underground never ceases to be a must-attend event.

of people. The main party is right by the peach, though earlier in the night the stage had the highest density.

On a normal night Underground has the reputation of a rough crowd, which is really too bad because Kenney's Alley is awesome. Picture an indoor atrium with bars and pubs on both sides and people milling around and talking among them. This is perhaps the prefect place to wait for midnight, where the music is background noise so you can talk, but the atmosphere is full of all that is great about a low-key pub with-

See Peach, page 17

Q.E.D. Original Comic Strip



by Brian Lewis (gtg043f@mail.gatech.edu)

Polly

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catastrophe happening to him every day. Avoid sidewalk grates. They're not secure. Never eat the mixed nuts at the bar. You surely know that only one in six people wash their hands after using the restroom. The bowl of cashews you're nursing there contains the germs of many, many, many customers who fingered through earlier. Think about that.

Reuben places every major decision he makes into a computer software program called the Riskmaster 3000. This tightly wound ball of nerves has eagerly lined up the rest of his existence, content to reside safely in the suburbs with his beautiful new bride, Lisa, played by Debra Messing. Reuben's 50-year plan goes awry somewhere on day one of the marriage, when his wife is caught with her scuba diving instructor doing the horizontal tango, swim flippers flailing about in the air.

A devastated Reuben begins to rebuild his protective bubble but eventually runs into former middle-school classmate Polly Prince, who is now a catering waitress. This spark from the past gives him hope, even if she is the total opposite of his highly structured personality, and the romantic comedy formula gradually kicks into high gear. There's a reason it's a formula. It works if done properly. The ensuing courtship of this onscreen pair follows the expected script arcs, but I constantly had a goofy grin on my face and often laughed out loud.

> "His wife is caught with her honeymoon scuba diving instructor doing the horizontal tango, swim flippers flailing about..."

Stiller infuses insurance man Reuben with the same lovable charm he brought into other successful romantic comedies such as *There's Something About Mary* and *Meet the Parents*.

He's mastered the well-intentioned, sad sack that you want to see succeed no matter how badly he's screwing up dinner or getting tongue-twisted. Aniston doesn't do much beyond channeling her free-spirited Rachel Green from *Friends*, but apparently that gig's worked out pretty nicely for her on NBC, and it fits perfectly here, as well.

The impressive supporting cast includes Alec Baldwin as Reuben's blunt, insensitive boss prone to bathroom urinal pep talks. Hank Azaria turns on a hilarious English-mangling foreign accent as the enormously buff and scantily clad islander who seduces Lisa on the beach. However, the standout Philip Seymour Hoffman steals every scene he's in as Sandy Lyle, Reuben's best friend and repeatedly self-described "wingman." Not usually one for the joker-sidekick role, Hoffman embraces every pratfall and offers wince-inducing relationship advice. He grasps for past fame as a child star and alternates his wardrobe mostly among an extensive collection of crotch-hugging sweatpants.

Take a date. Expect a crowd-pleasing good time.

Peach

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out the smoke.

For those who like concerts, however, the outdoor entertainment on the main stage was talented. The crowd really responded to the acts and DJs. The acts included the Temptations Review, 7 Sharp 9 and The Drifters.

When it comes to New Year's though, in the end it is all about fruit dropping. At midnight, perhaps the only place to be is under the giant, 800-pound peach. Besides celebrating with the masses, and the chance of being part of the event instead of watching it at home, a cool perk of being out on the town at midnight is throwing confetti and not cleaning it up. The rest of the crowd had more patriotic feelings however, so while LDS POW Ron Young, Jr. threw the switch to let the peach drop, the crowd chanted "U.S.A." before the required countdown. After the drop, there were fireworks, and the migration for some back to Kenney's Alley for refreshments and more partying until 4 a.m.

If you do not have plans yet for New Year's 2005, then the Peach Drop might be a great choice for at least part of your New Year's festivities. The only down side of going downtown for New Year's is you might have better luck getting that New Year's kiss in a less public and darker dance-filled location.

For further information head to www.peachdrop.com

Jake's

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en serves up a variety of salads, sandwiches and soups, most of which are pretty good, and all of which are affordable. The Hard Core Chicken Sandwich is quite interesting, consisting of a chicken breast marinated in cider and topped with pepper jack cheese and Granny Smith apples. It may sound bizarre, but the apples lend a certain bite to the sandwich, and it comes together nicely. The Redneck Reuben is quite fun as well. It is comprised of turkey and Swiss with slaw and spicy ranch dressing. Other favorites include the Fried-Green Tomato BLT, the Old Fashioned Thanksgiving Turkey Sandwich and the Deviled Egg Salad Sandwich.

Jake's offers a variety of salads, all large and leafy. Soup is made daily, and customers can order half soup and sandwich or salad combinations to try a variety of choices. While the food is not gourmet, it is fun, inspired and generally high quality.

Of course, most people know Jake's for its ice cream. Among the more popular varieties are flavors such as Brown Shugah Vanilla, Chocolate Slap Yo' Mama, Coffee and Donuts and Root Beer Float. Other odd flavors are more acquired tastes, such as Mexican Hot Chocolate, Tiramisu Su Sudio and Nutter Nanner Elvis.

Egg Nog and Root Beer Float is certainly a combination worth trying. For the lactose intolerant, Jake's even offers dairy-free varieties. The shop also carries a multitude of sorbet flavors for those in the mood, and will create shakes as well.

If good, simple food with a twist is on the menu, it can be found at Jake's. Jake's Westside is worth a visit.

"Don't You Forget About..." Simple Minds

By Erich Hansen
Contributing Writer

The 1980s are back and better-sounding than ever, thanks to Virgin Records' remastered re-releases of 12 CDs by Simple Minds.

Extremely popular in Europe, Simple Minds is best known in America for their song "Don't You (Forget About Me)," featured on the soundtrack for the movie *The Breakfast Club*. The band was formed in the late '70s by Jim Kerr, Charlie Burchill, Tony Donald and Brian McGee. The name Simple Minds was inspired by David Bowie's "Jean Genie."

The band has survived over 20 years since releasing their first album, *Life in a Day*, in 1979 and their latest, *Neon Lights*, in 2001. *Neon Lights*, however, is not available as a remastered reissue. The band's evolving sound can be heard over the 12 re-issues. The first few albums sound like kids who just discovered the synthesizer. There is a flavor of dance club music in these CDs, especially *Empires and Dance*. Songs are fast-paced but with poor lyrics—lyrics that are sometimes so bad they have to be good.

After hearing one of their mid-'80s releases, first-year Materials Science major Andrew Whitman said, "This smells like the '80s."

This statement is the most accurate assessment of the middle sound of the band. The sounds conjure images of big hair and the early days of *Saved by the Bell*. The band has audibly improved by this era, in which they released their hit "Don't You (Forget About Me)."

As the years passed, Simple Minds' sound gradually becomes more and more '90s and progressively better. With their 1998 release *Neapolis*, the band has much better lyrics and music. Comparing later releases with the earlier material is like watching the band grow from child to adult in the span of a few hours.

Out of the 12 re-issues, there are three worthy of recommendation. The first is *Live in the City of Light*. This live CD has all the band's hit songs on it, including "Don't You (Forget About Me)" and "Alive and Kicking." *Empires and Dance* is another really solid, early release. It's got some good synth-pop tunes with a progressive rock feel. It's also got some nice distorted lyrics on "Twist/Run/Repulsion." Lastly, *Neapolis* is a really great modern album with a more mainstream sound. It's got great songs like "Superman vs. Supersoul" and "Killing Andy Warhol." The reissues include: *Life in a Day*, *Reel to Real Cacophony*, *Empires and Dance*, *Sons and Fascinations*, *New Gold Dream*, *Sparkle in the Rain*, *Once Upon a Time*, *Live in the City of Light*, *Street Fighting Years*, *Good News From the Next World* and *Neapolis*.

...1010**10**1010101010101010...Two Bits1010101010101010101...

Two Bits Man brings tidings of wisdom after fertilizing Baltimore Harbor to ring in 2004

I don't remember where I was on New Year's 2000. Since it wasn't the end of the world, it just meant that pop radio would finally retire "1999" by the Artist Formerly Known as Prince (or whatever the hell he called himself in 1999). Likewise, I don't remember where I was on New Year's 2001, 2002 or 2003 either. Probably parties, but I'm not totally sure.

New Year's 2004, on the other hand, is a different story. Allow your Two Bits Man to once again prove that truth is indeed stranger than fiction. After all, it's not every day that you see a death metal band at a punk club in Baltimore with larger-than-life paper mache genitalia and condoms suspended from the ceiling with fishing line. That is how I spent New Year's Eve this year, and that is why I won't forget it.

The day started like any other New Year's, other than the fact that I was in Baltimore for the first time in my entire life. What do you wanna do? I dunno. What do *you* wanna do? Oh, I dunno. Anything should work. This went back and forth until we had the bright idea to visit the *Washington Post* website to look for Editors' Picks for swingin' hotspots around DC.

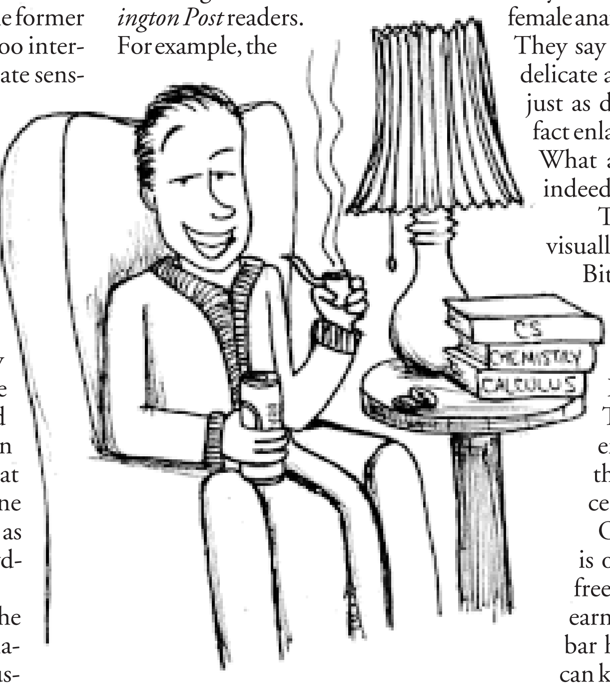
Bear in mind that the Editor's Picks are the crème de la crème of things happening around town, the picks so exciting and cool that they completely eclipse the bland offerings in the rest of the lifestyle section.

Being that the Two Bits Man and his Baltimore friend, the former Two Bits Mistress, are far too interesting to subject their delicate senses to the mundane, we naturally chose an Editor's Pick.

After carding us at the door for our will-call tickets, we went in to hear the local band that was advertised. As soon as we crossed the threshold we were greeted with what was obviously acoustic molding, because everyone knows that a good punk club should maintain the same level of fidelity that you would find in other fine music establishments such as Carnegie Hall and the Sydney Opera House.

However, such was not the case. Upon further examination, we saw other items suspended from the ceiling, including, but certainly not limited to, a paper mache condom. Being the sharp Techies that we are, we quickly surmised that the square of acoustic moulding was actually the corresponding wrapper to the paper mache condom we had just seen.

The thing that was most striking about this particular club was that it was evenly divided into two factions: regulars and *Washington Post* readers. For example, the girl with pink, spiked hair and fishnets looked just fine in this club. We, on the other hand, joined with the other faction. The Former Two Bits Mistress said, "Ya know, I may be slightly overdressed. I think I'm the only one wearing a Nordstrom sweater."



Don't get the Two Bits Man wrong. I have the utmost respect for the artist who was able to so accurately able to recreate both male and female anatomy on a yard-long scale. They say that scale modeling is a delicate art, and I'm sure that it's just as delicate when you are in fact enlarging the model instead. What a gifted artist! We were indeed awed.

Though the club was quite visually stimulating, the Two Bits Man and the Former Two Bits Mistress were still overly enthused about our surroundings. Fortunately, the Former Two Bits Mistress's younger brother drove, so we did the obvious thing; we proceeded to get drunk.

Of course, New Year's Eve is one of those times when free market economics truly earns its stripes in a bar. The bar has the supply, and they can keep nudging the price up thanks to that heightened demand. Each one of us, thirty bucks into a tab, was still sober enough to realize that we had spent thirty bucks on booze and could still stand up. Shameful! Obviously, we needed to change plans poste haste.

Stumbling, but too sober to be falling, we left at 11:30 to go to the harbor to see fireworks, but tragedy—or more specifically, beer—struck at 11:40, and all of a sudden, I realized I had two choices. Pee or die. Pee or die.

Of course, this leads to much confusion, because the City of Baltimore was not courteous enough to place Porta-Potties around the harbor for the triumphant return of the partygoers' spirits. I looked at the harbor and proposed that it was the obvious place to go, but no.

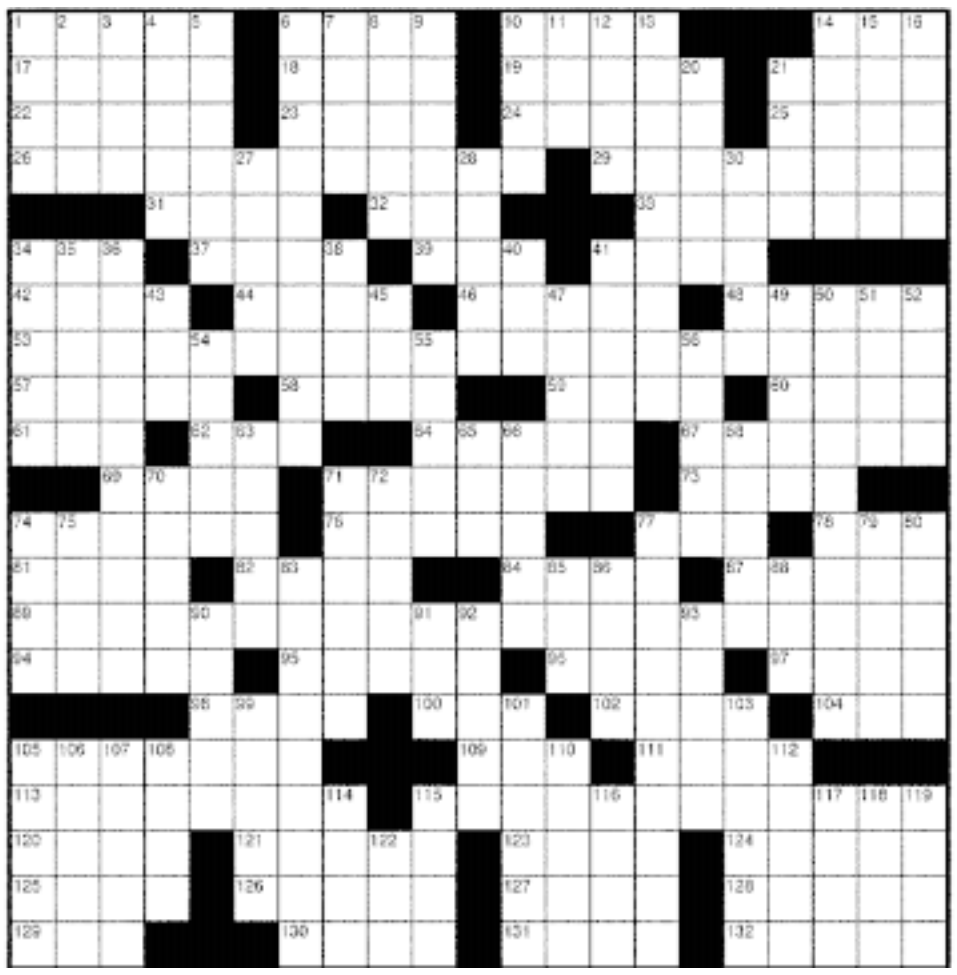
"Don't disrespect my city," she scolded, and we hobbled about until we found a building that was still open. With a fast beeline for the crowded restroom, we waited and finally made it out at 11:57.

Midnight came, fireworks were shot and this was another year in which we were all still alive. What should you take home from this story, other than birdcage liner, of course? How about a public service announcement?

Millions will choose to drink on New Year's Eve, but if you do, please drink responsibly; locate the bathroom before you start. This message has been paid for by your Metro Atlanta Two Bits Man, who until next week wishes you a happy 2004.

Theme Crossword: Fiscal Limitations

By Robert Zimmerman
United Features



ACROSS

1.Ledge
6.Brume
10.Long narrative
14.Cut from (with "off")
17.Wood for chests
18.Woody's son
19.Fashion
21.Molten material
22.Asian palm
23.Rich, crumbly soil
24.Teacher of Stradivari
25.Ñ Ñ arms
26.Start of Spike Milligan quip: 3 wds.
29.Circus family
31.Bark
32.Call for help
33.Looks over
34.PC alternative
37.Blowgun projectile
39.An evergreen
41.Art movement
42.Old Mogul capital
44.Marsh bird
46.Brings to maturity
48.Recess
53.Part 2 of quip: 5 wds.
57.Divas' offerings
58.Rubaiyat author
59.Person of importance
60.Moos
61.Nordic airline
62.Rhea's Roman counterpart
64. Tore
67.Disinclined
69.Old laborer
71.Diving birds
73.Fragrant ointment
74.The friendly ghost
76.Household gods
77.Affleck or Kingsley
78."Ñ Ñ Yankee Doodle dandy ..."
81.Patient's problem
82."Mermaids" star
84.Jai Ñ
87.Grandmothers
89.Part 3 of quip: 5 wds.
94.Seven: prefix
95.Ñ Pradesh
96.Underwater plant
97.Lab burner
98.Shindig
100.Seed vessel
102.Sub Ñ (in secret)
104.Auricle
105.Kind of triangle
109.Wedding announcment. word
111.Ñ -and-aft
113.Moocher
115.End of the quip: 3 wds.
120.Ornamental flower
121.Absolute
123.Actress Ñ Sorvino
124.Play, in a way
125.Digits
126.Swiftly
127.Resembling a wing
128.Purposeful
129.Print measures
130.Slumgullion
131.Lovett or Waggoner
132.Hippodrome

DOWN

1.Grifter's specialty
2.Hoagie
3.Perfect place
4.TV's "Cagney & Ñ"
5.Worn away
6.Inopportune
7.Branding or shooting
8.Box spring support
9.Hoyden
10.Command for Fido
11.Forelimb
12.Appurtenances
13.Ristorante fare
14.Ñ lazuli
15.Of fleecy beasts
16.Twinges
20.Ate
21.Humdinger
27.Buckle relative
28.Consumers
30.Let have
34.Indians of the Yucatan
35.Place of congregation
36." The Love Boat" locale: two words
38.Decorate
40.Director Ñ Craven
41.Old Celtic priests
43.Cry akin to "Eureka!"
45.Santa Ñ
47.More skilled
49.Bum
50.Harmonize
51.Chops
52.To be: Lat.
54.In unison: 2 wds.
55.Programming bug
56.Silly
63.Ñ Bysshe Shelley
65.Consumed
66.Labor leader Ñ Chavez
68."Wheel of Fortune" co-host
70.Exhausted
71.Private eye
72.Weight unit
74.Hacks
75.Field measure
77.What's to eat: three words
79.Food from heaven
80."Ñ Ñ is Born"
83.Roofs
85.Albanian money
86.Mimicking one
88.Peer Gynt's mother
90.Derisive remarks
91.Chart
92.Town in Maine
93.Derby town near London
99.Loos or Bryant
101.Cutaneous
103.Awn
105.Malice
106.Shot in billiards
107.April baby
108.Youths
110.One of the Brontes
112.Lab compound
114.Coup d'Ñ
115.Zoomed
116.Kind of surgeon
117.Perry's creator
118.Bankrupt
119.Village People hit
122.Expert

*See **Solutions**, page 27*