



Hollywood Beat

Little 'Physical Evidence' of an actual film

By DAVID GIAMMARCO
You can usually tell how bad a Burt Reynolds film will be by the quality of his toupee at the outset of the movie. Well his latest film Physical Evidence looks like a recruiting tape for The Hair Club for Men.

Physical Evidence was originally supposed to be a sequel to the very successful film Jagged Edge from a few years ago which starred Glenn Close and Jeff Bridges. Well, due to other commitments, Glenn and Jeff were unable to do the film so in stepped Burt Reynolds and Theresa Russell. Obviously script changes had to ensue due to the replacement stars, and in doing so, Physical Evidence lost whatever strength and vitality it may have had.

Reynolds plays Joe Paris, a cop (a real stretch for Burt) on suspension from the force, and to add to his streak of bad luck, he's just been arrested for the murder of one of his longtime enemies. Jenny

Hudson (Theresa Russell) comes onto the scene as an ambitious court-appointed lawyer who Paris reluctantly accepts to defend him.

Problem is, Paris keeps feeding wrong information to Hudson and this little scenario leaves them both on shaky ground with each other. Hudson, determined to win her case, soon begins to have doubts as to her client's claims of innocence.

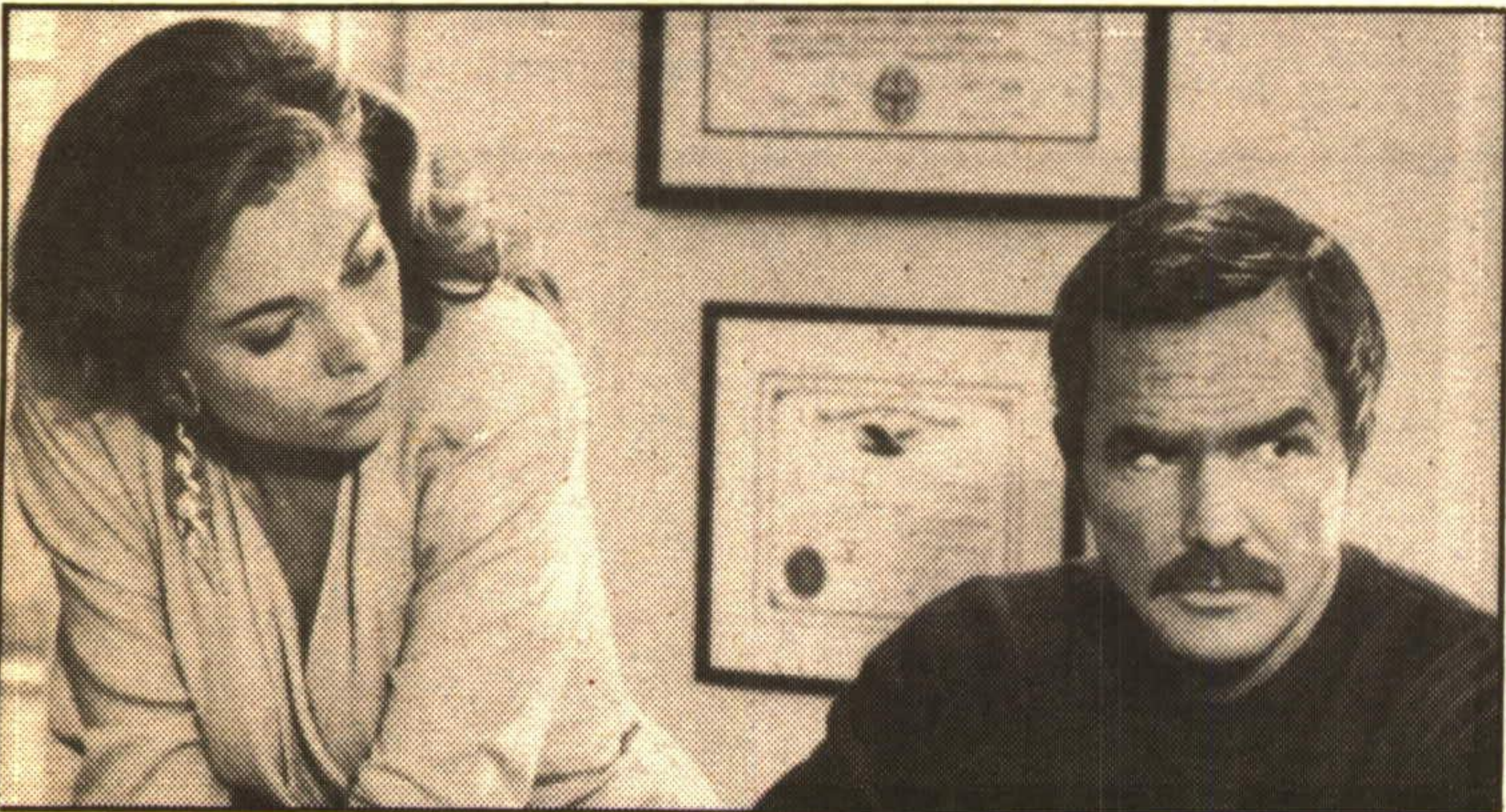
For a murder mystery, never have I cared so little about the outcome of a film. By the end of the movie, you really don't care who's done it, just as long as somebody has done it so as to get this disastrously uneven film over with.

Although Reynolds does a good job with his part, it's not enough to save this lacklustre movie. Theresa Russell on the other hand, who was very good as a murdering seductress in Black Widow, seems totally disoriented in this movie. Russell, who can be great at times, has to rely on her director for

guidance. If the director, in this case Michael Crichton, isn't up to par, then Russell seems to meet the same fate. Russell only seems to shine brilliantly when being directed by her husband Nicolas Roeg, in their many film collaborations together over the past few years.

Physical Evidence is full of annoying and unnecessary subplots, all of which add to the extraneous characters which haunt this movie from beginning to end. It makes you realize why Glenn Close and Jeff Bridges had 'previous commitments'.

Out of 10, Physical Evidence rates a four.



Theresa Russell (left) and Burt Reynolds devise a way to get a murderer to confess to his crime in a scene from Physical Evidence. If they really wanted to get a confession out of him, why not just torture him by making him watch this movie over and over again, says movie critic David Giammarco.

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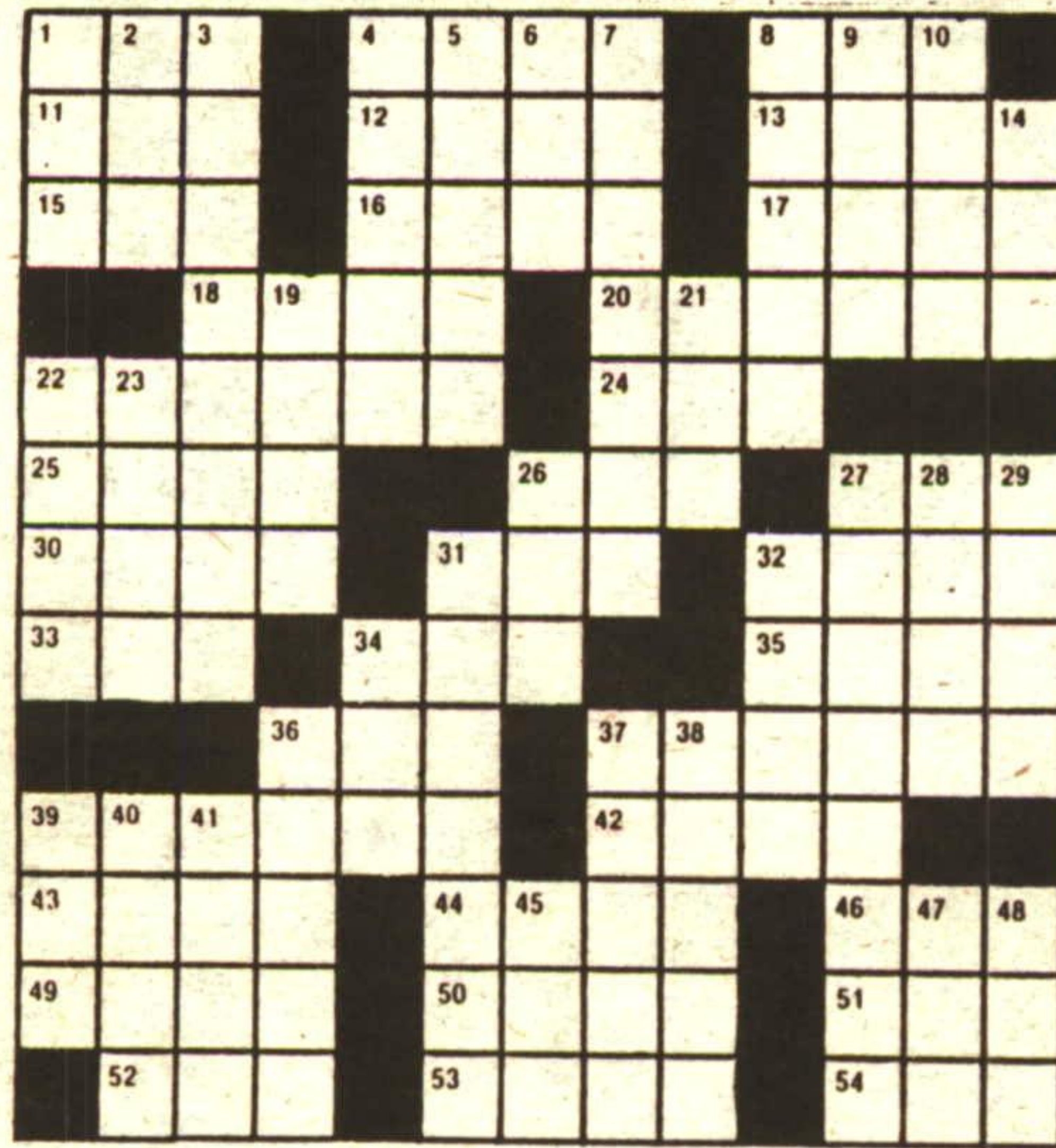
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