But Eight? There’s More
by Ucaoimhu

In tribute to four pairs of Best Picture nominees, sixteen Down answers must be altered before entry: (1) Four will be citified, (2) four will contain a three-letter body part, (3) four will be male, and (4) four will be cleverly unraveled (i.e., anagrammed). In addition, (5) the remaining four Down clues must be altered before solving, in tribute to one more Oscar nominee. Of the last five characters in each Down clue, take the first for each (1) clue, then the second for each (2) clue, and so on; these characters will specify the nominee and alteration for (5).

Meanwhile, in each grid row, one Across word has a clue whose wordplay yields a sequence of letters with one letter wrong; top to bottom, the correct letters will specify one non-nominee, the incorrect letters will specify what happened, and circling the correct letters in the grid will illustrate the latter. Also, where the nth letter of a word is the incorrect one, circle the nth letter of the clue for the other word in that row; in clue order, these will say what the list of Best Picture nominees presents that can be taken as a tribute to this non-nominee.

ACROSS
4. More than one surface for playing on is fur, oddly (5)
7. Author White, encountering fudge, declines (4)
10. Pivoting, Gore repeated a word that precedes “Land” (2-2)
12. Dance inside of cute pub, perhaps (7)
14. A raised section of a cactus from an Oscar-winning Ben Affleck film starts to leak (6)
15. Leer at stranger, say (6)
16. West Chinese leader is hit (4)
17. Orator’s description of physicist Heinrich is painful (5)
18. Unclad skin around the midriff of Bertrand Russell on The Americans (4)
21. Officer’s toe caught in child’s crib (4)
24. Cause Chi-town paper to contact German (7)
25. Jet engine holds fuel containing alcohol (1-3)
26. Bancroft heard one (4)
27. Lassie, say, almost swallows snakes — giant ones (7)
28. Nutmeg-laced drink ought to be forbidden (2-2)
30. Not feeling obligated to spin endlessly (4)
31. Vacant houses initially repel Pierre’s brother (5)
33. Bird that can carry a rhino and small marsupials (4)
36. A route-setter messed up (6)
37. Turn southwest, like Dotty (6)
38. Shut up in Paris, a septet from Wichita is to eat (4-3)
39. Speak about fishing equipment with authenticity (4)
40. Sixteen pints for actor Gregory (4)
41. Kind of belly button I’d observed east of a hotel (5)

DOWN
1. Board member from Peoria’s far from overweight
2. Beastly individual with woodwind instrument returned
3. Stick 600 quarters in a bit of Gruyere
4. Way to touch the heart of entity and artsy town in New Mexico
5. Animals that run from the naked God of War
6. Not agin beginnin’ to flirt with the Queen of Britain
8. A greedy person is irrational? Gee
9. Despite that, the victim of a joke gets vocal
11. Timeless stories depicting drinks with hops
13. Grand lake near Utah causes deluge
19. Zones, for example, inside rare atoms missing an electron or two
20. People disregarding the odd parts of Joel’s kiss
22. Again examine your object trays — you or Bev broke many at the bottom
23. Count finally dealt with friend
26. Piece of cereal and hot beverage getting into propeller (2 wds.)
27. Machine used for driving around range
29. Actor Jeremy is hugging actor Glass
32. Actor Idle’s article, portraying power as the origin of rage
34. Ancestor quietly attends a version of La Bohème with rock music
35. Bottom line? Getting item, chiefly!