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)
9 Stake a prototype version (4)
11 Liberal representative loses Massachusetts
12 Extremely sensitive with respect to rent (3,6)
13 Stresses about documentation errors, maybe (9)
15 Sounding like IT support specialist is someone who may have made sacrifices? (5)
16 Tear George's idea to pieces - that's one way to end an argument (5,2,8)
19 Some card sharp, winning nothing (5)
20 Legendary brand of Tex-Mex/Cali burrito filling (9)
23 Two foreign articles by good, cool college student (9)
24 Symbolized by the eye in defaced Egyptian language (5)
26 Hold back support (4)
27 See 8a

DOWN
1 Iowa captures tailless, batshit reptile (6)
2 Something clogging snorkel, perhaps! (4)
3 Take heed at the beginning of the end (6)
4 Japanese company has no plan on the inside (8)
5 Takes up physical training amid troubles (6)
6 Dreamboat to take off following trace of tryst found in home (10)
7 "Mixed up patches" may describe one! (8)
10 Dave turning around somewhere in North American state (6)
14 Loads truck and drives, after adding a bit of gas (10)
16 Selflessness of key RuPaul quote? (8)
17 Doctor fired after disrobing - gross (6)
18 Event tab is around $101 (8)
20 Crude shortage after failing to start refinery on the eastern border (6)
21 Ha! Ass-backward scrub (6)
22 Rackenfracker's first five themers beginning to make noise (6)
25 Cancel last of cable in duplex (4)