

# THE APPROVAL MATRIX

Our deliberately oversimplified guide to who falls where on our taste hierarchies.

## HIGHBROW



**Chicago Symphony wins war with N.Y. Philharmonic** over conductor Riccardo Muti (right after they ganked our congestion-pricing money).

New mayor of Rome is said to declare intention to **ban American actors from local film festival**...



...while **France names Kylie Minogue a knight** in the Order of Arts and Letters...

...and British authorities appeal decision to **let Snoop Dogg into the country**. Europe: No longer the most culturally discerning continent?



**Laura Linney gets sinister** in *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*.



**Laurence Fishburne's Denzel-as-Malcolm X-level turn** as Thurgood Marshall.

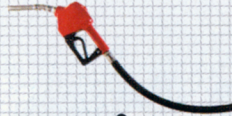
**Laura Dern's Meryl Streep-as-Anna Wintour-level turn** as Katherine Harris in HBO's *Recount*.



"**Godard's '60s**" at Film Forum.



Best response to this inconsiderate "hands-free umbrella": a hands-free **kick in the crotch**.



Candidates endorse economically **unsupportable gas-tax holiday**...

Turning to the sports page and finding the word **euthanasia**.

The Longacre Theatre's **handsome renovation**.



How about those **\$600 rebates**, though? Economics, shmeconomics, good times are here again!

The guy who started a business **manufacturing silly products from parody movies**.

DESPICABLE



ESPN's coverage of the Ashton Kutcher-Cameron Diaz comedy **What Happens in Vegas**.

**Webster Hall security boots fans** cheering for a Hold Steady encore.

**Amy Winehouse is too messed up** to record the next James Bond theme song.



R.I.P. Schnack.



**Mario Kart Wii**eeeeeeee.

BRILLIANT



Pictures of **Patrick Dempsey's face** ... everywhere.



The sweet and fun **Son of Rambow**.



**Terminator 4 to be rated PG-13**: will nuclear-holocaust plot be replaced by high-school love triangle?

Scarlett Johansson engaged to Ryan Reynolds, forever **crushing Woody Allen's dreams**.



**Thirtieth anniversary of first spam message**.



Beware the **penguin-rape seal**, on the loose near Antarctica.

**Will Forte on How I Met Your Mother**. "What's your favorite thing about koala bears?" "Their meat ... is delicious."



**50 Cent mugged onstage** in Angola by world's ballsiest chain-snatcher.



**Bollywood to remake Wedding Crashers**.

## LOWBROW