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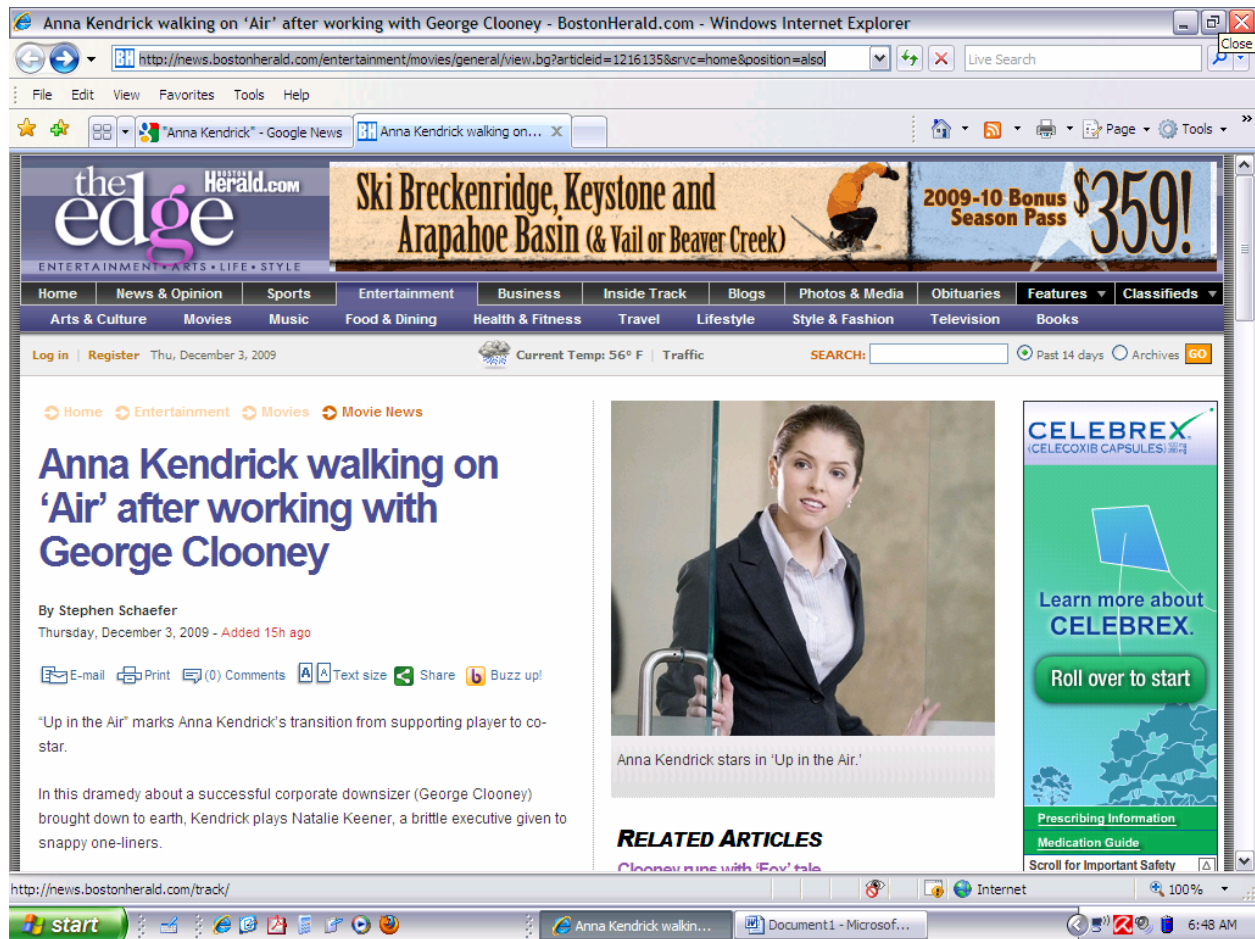
<http://news.bostonherald.com/entertainment/movies/general/view.bg?articleid=1216135&srvc=home&position=also>

Source: Boston Herald Online

Article Title: Anna Kendrick walking on 'Air' after working with George Clooney

Author: Stephen Schaefer

Posting date: December 3, 2009



The screenshot shows a Windows Internet Explorer browser window displaying a news article from BostonHerald.com. The article title is "Anna Kendrick walking on 'Air' after working with George Clooney" by Stephen Schaefer, dated Thursday, December 3, 2009. The article text mentions "Up in the Air" and describes Anna Kendrick's role as Natalie Keener. The browser window shows the URL, search bar, and various navigation tabs. A sidebar on the right features a CELEBREX advertisement.

“Up in the Air” marks Anna Kendrick’s transition from supporting player to co-star.

In this dramedy about a successful corporate downsizer (George Clooney) brought down to earth, Kendrick plays Natalie Keener, a brittle executive given to snappy one-liners.

There’s already Golden Globe and Oscar buzz for Kendrick, who is also featured in the “Twilight” saga as high-schooler Bella Swan’s best friend.

“It’s a little weird to still be thought of as a newcomer. But it’s cool, I’d rather be a newcomer than old news,” Kendrick said of being discovered.

Kendrick grew up in Portland, Maine, and made her Broadway debut at age 12 in the musical “High Society” - becoming one of the youngest people ever nominated for a Tony award.

“At 17, I started to do film and television and eventually moved to L.A.,” said the 24-year-old actress in an interview at New York’s Waldorf Towers hotel.

“Air” director and co-writer Jason Reitman (“Juno”) saw Kendrick in “Rocket Science” at Sundance Film Festival and was so captivated, he wrote the role of Natalie expressly for her.

“I thought she was special. She seemed almost a transplant from the ’40s, the way her wit works and the speed of her speech. I needed an actress who could represent all the bright girls who think they have the world figured out and are frustrated,” Reitman said.

As she looks at a possible future as a leading lady, her “Air” leading man could serve as a guide.

“I have seen some co-workers have their lives altered drastically and privacy taken away from them,” she said.

“George gives me hope about being able to maintain dignity and sanity and being kind to people. He’s been very famous for a very long time and he’s still awesome.”

“Up in the Air” opens Friday