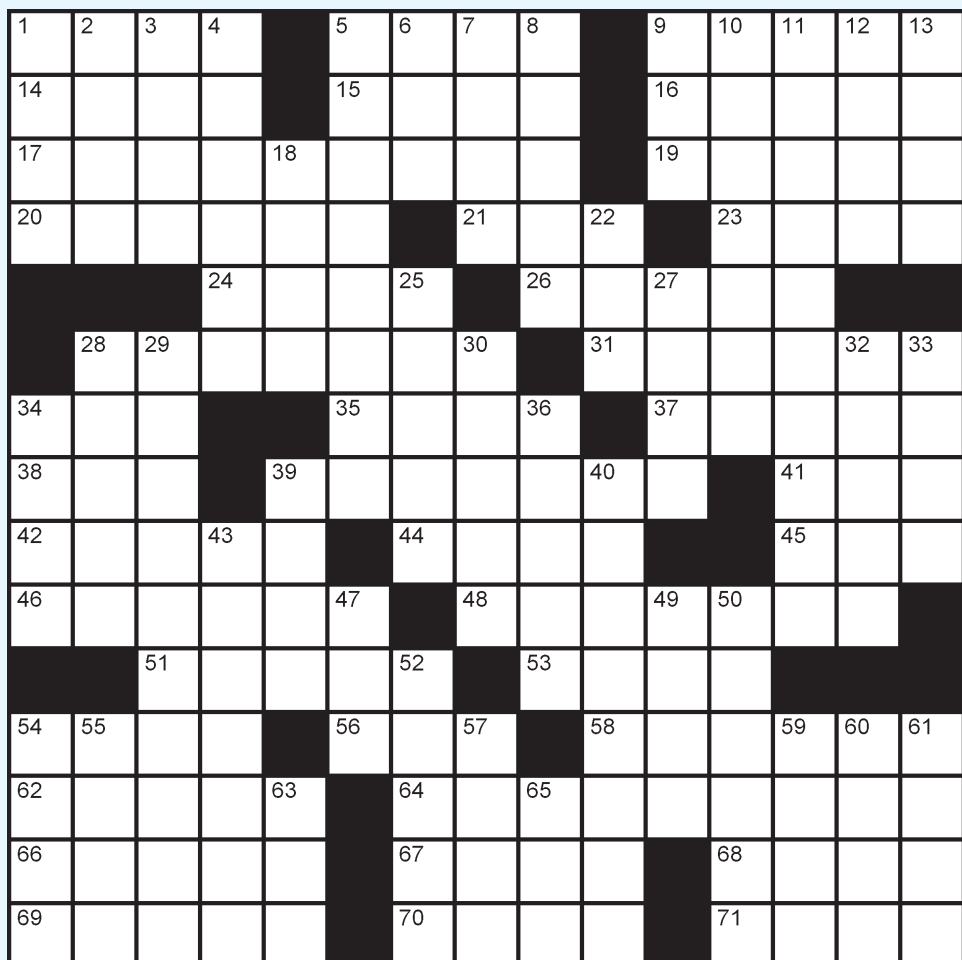


Closing Remarks by Zhougin Burnikel

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS**
- 1 Long tale
 - 5 "I called it first!"
 - 9 Some luxury hotels
 - 14 Israel's flagship carrier
 - 15 Country on the Strait of Hormuz
 - 16 Tea in Hollywood
 - 17 *Signed a treaty, say
 - 19 Hawke of "Training Day"
 - 20 Cool hangout
 - 21 Barnyard female
 - 23 Friend squad
 - 24 "___ in Boots"
 - 26 Storm tracker
 - 28 "Personally ..."
 - 31 Took charge of
 - 34 PreCheck org.
 - 35 Dreaded sound at a spelling bee
 - 37 Chili scooper
 - 38 "It's not bragging if you can back it up" boxer
 - 39 *Common source of buyer's remorse
 - 41 Poem full of praise
 - 42 Great danger
 - 44 Forever and a day
 - 45 Arya Stark's dad
 - 46 Intervene
 - 48 Wordsmith Noah
 - 51 Litter pickup spots?
 - 53 MacFarlane who made Ted talk
 - 54 Like many horses' hooves
 - 56 You may open one in a browser
 - 58 Sudden attack
 - 62 Brownish-gray nail polish color
 - 64 Closing comments, or what the ends of the starred answers are
 - 66 Hot under the collar
 - 67 Boyz II Men, e.g.
 - 68 Traffic jam sound
 - 69 California/Nevada lake
 - 70 Stage backdrops
 - 71 Name hidden in "use an alias"
- DOWN**
- 1 Long-haul rig
 - 2 Cryptanalyst Turing
 - 3 Wanders (about)
 - 4 Syrian city on the Silk Road
 - 5 Coca-Cola Zero Sugar, e.g.
 - 6 Savings plan letters
 - 7 "The Art of Fugue" composer
 - 8 Derisive look
 - 9 Futbol fan's cheer
 - 10 Fundraiser known for its outfits
 - 11 "Everything's OK"
 - 12 ___ instant (quickly)
 - 13 Perform in a glee club
 - 18 Rain really hard
 - 22 "I'm gonna pass"
 - 25 Like a catty remark
 - 27 PC brand
 - 28 Speck of land
 - 29 "I can live with that"
 - 30 Furnish with grant money
 - 32 Venerated village figure
 - 33 Property document
 - 34 Touches on the shoulder
 - 36 Some determine hair color
 - 39 Minor hiccup
 - 40 Hazardous insulation material
 - 43 Powerful Apple tablet
 - 47 Shrimp catcher
 - 49 Put away
 - 50 Beats rapidly
 - 52 Sprinkles, as an icy road
 - 54 "Make it snappy!"
 - 55 Maui's ___ Highway
 - 57 Uncovered
 - 59 Support for a backyard swing
 - 60 Skull session creation
 - 61 "NFL Live" channel
 - 63 Palindromic organ
 - 65 Pull up a stool

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

SUNDAY, SEPT. 27, 2020 *Communication Cuts*



We're headed into a cycle of communication that cuts through the noise. It happens in messages that are sharp, well defined and honest. It happens in moments of clarity and, sometimes, urgency. This is the gift of Mercury in Scorpio: In the quest to share what is essential, formality, ambiguity and fear will fall to the wayside.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). To be in touch with reality but not bound to it – that is the existential sweet spot you'll hit today. You'll be a player on the stage, pretending while never losing sight of the fact that this is only a role.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The question of the day: If you knew that everything you gave a person would be passed forward to someone else, would it change your offerings? And if so, how?

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There are good surprises and bad surprises, and yet you'd really prefer no surprises today. You'd rather people do as you do – which is to say, set up an expectation and then deliver on it!

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll have the sensation of many feelings happening at once, and the loudest ones get through. Life gets more interesting once you handle those loud feelings and settle into the nuances.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're a fixer, but not everyone's a fixer. There's an art to figuring out which problems to get into. Whatever you take on, it will touch you, mold you and ultimately define you. So, what here is really yours?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You can't un-ring a bell. Someone close to you will be unable to resist the impulse, even though ringing that bell is essentially "crying wolf" with the shake of a wrist. It's unhelpful, as there's no emergency.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). People feel different things in different places. You are a place, too – a roaming place with its own emotional atmosphere. Everywhere you go, you carry your weather with you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). In the digital world, you learn aspects of a person's being that are, essentially, abstract. There are many digital options, and yet, realistically, there is no substitute for sharing a vicinity with another person.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There's no perfect option. Each has benefits and pitfalls. Not knowing a pitfall keeps you in fear. So when you stumble into the pit, appreciate what's happened. It's better to know.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You've a stellar memory these days, but keeping records is still very important. Writing, taking pictures and more helps you keep things straight and frees your mental energy for more important things.

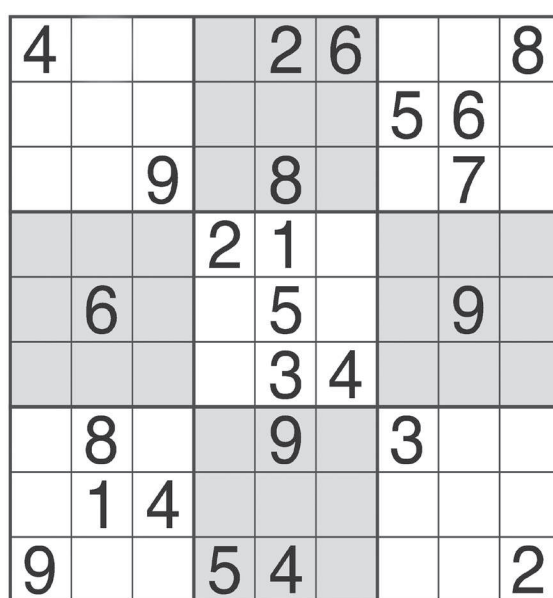
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Do not underestimate the power of context, which is largely about environment. It is easier to behave well in an environment that holds no temptations.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You are beginning to see yourself as a new person. You will become who you are in your mind's eye. Be daring. Try new visions. You can always change your mind later.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 27). Being right, important and powerful is an ego inflator. But being free is a soul inflator. You'd rather have the kind of levity that comes with freedom, and this becomes a guiding principle of your year. You'll find fulfillment in fascinating work and people who give you the room to be yourself. Aries and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 18, 9, 6, 22 and 43.

Universal SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★★

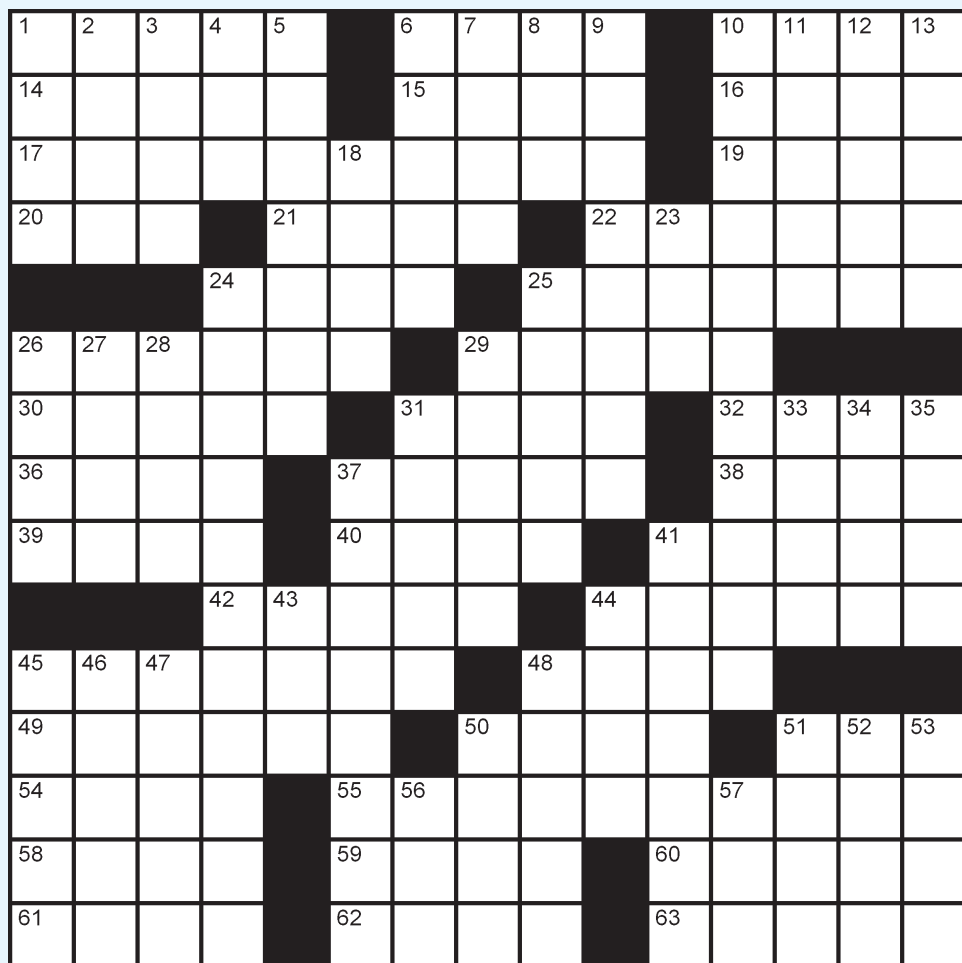


SOLUTIONS



Hairsplitting by Fred Piscop

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS**
- 1 Sometimes-induced sleeps
 - 6 Floored it
 - 10 Mosquito netting material
 - 14 Dizzying designs
 - 15 "Going Back to ___" (LL Cool J hit)
 - 16 "Masks required," e.g.
 - 17 Superstitious athlete's footwear (first letter + last 4)
 - 19 Cabbage mixture in some wraps
 - 20 Query
 - 21 Colt bearer
 - 22 Egg cell, e.g.
 - 24 Pitchfork part
 - 25 Sweetened, in a way
 - 26 Long-winded speech
 - 29 Long-winded speech
 - 30 "The ___ of the Baskervilles"
 - 31 Polling flaw
 - 32 Sailed through
 - 36 Leave out
 - 37 Actress Carter
 - 38 Recite the rosary, say
 - 39 Keep watch on
 - 40 Precede the headliner
 - 41 Source of lemons
 - 42 Judicial wear
 - 44 Hit the brakes
 - 45 Sister of Snow White
 - 48 Hit the brakes
 - 49 Test taker's tip?
 - 50 Lasting mark
 - 51 Put a lid on
 - 54 Good thing
 - 55 Place for the nostalgic (first 1 + last 3)
 - 58 Boring way to learn
 - 59 State firmly
 - 60 Carried by the wind
 - 61 Vending machine bills
 - 62 Has-been horses
 - 63 More than just suspend
- DOWN**
- 1 Drink with a burger
 - 2 Major work of music
 - 3 Big name in trucks
 - 4 Old Testament ship
 - 5 Hindered the progress of
 - 6 Reach home safely?
 - 7 Eight minutes per mile, say
 - 8 Bugling beast
 - 9 Identity concealer
 - 10 Sheridan's mangler of words (first 1 + last 2)
 - 11 Leonhard of mathematics
 - 12 Rock used in pool tables
 - 13 Felled with an ax
 - 18 Egg timer filler
 - 23 100+, for a centenarian
 - 24 Women's roomy garments (first 1 + last 6)
 - 25 Most of Iberia
 - 26 Drinking game amount
 - 27 First ___, first served
 - 28 Totally wreck
 - 29 Highest dice rolls
 - 31 Two-legged beast
 - 33 Raven's relative
 - 34 Mansard roof overhang
 - 35 Applied henna to
 - 37 Common guard dog
 - 41 "Praise the lord!"
 - 43 Tram load at a mine
 - 44 Lead actor
 - 45 Duplicate, in brief
 - 46 Early synthetic fabric
 - 47 Cook quickly, as onions
 - 48 Trash-hauling boats
 - 50 Skyline obscurer
 - 51 Fish in gefilte fish
 - 52 Boleyn of old England
 - 53 Lemon zest, essentially
 - 56 Marcille who left "The Real Housewives of Atlanta"
 - 57 Fish sandwiched in a bagel

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

MONDAY, SEPT. 28, 2020 *Venus and Mars Harmonize*



A single bar of metal, bent in two spots, forms the charming idiophone-type percussion instrument known as the triangle. When struck with a tiny wand, the sound that emanates is one of wishes granted by angels. Venus and Mars angle each other similarly today, striking a balance of yin and yang energies that's sweet music indeed.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Stay with what you're going through. Avoid the mindless activities or busyness that distract you from your thoughts and feelings. There's nothing inside your mind that you need to be afraid of.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). From the ice cream bin to the remote control, there will be a number of readily available, cheap pleasures to choose from. Be advised that what soothes one moment could harm the next.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Novelty is a necessity and can keep creativity alive while staving off depression. However, a little entertainment goes a long way. Too much makes it difficult to focus on what matters.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The sort of thoughts that travel ever forward are so fun to ride. But when you hit on those thoughts that loop back, or worse, spiral and constrict, it's best to jump off.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The clever one who showed you the ropes, led you down the shortcuts, handed you the recipe has already been repaid with a helping high and the satisfaction of your ease. Now you'll pay it forward.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). When you get stuck, forget about who you are and your role/story/brand... In fact, forget about all relevant nouns and just do the verb. Action is the way.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Those constantly signaling their own superiority are actually sending out a clear

indicator of insecurity. Instead of criticizing this, you'll embrace it, realizing the extra care that everyone needs.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It's easy to discern your preferences and easier still to criticize efforts that don't meet the standard. The hard work is to identify the root cause of one's own insecurity. Why does having superior taste matter so much?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your storytelling skills can win or lose points today. The way you tell a story will not only make a difference in how you are perceived; it will indicate where you are in your personal evolution.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Inside each problem is an opportunity to learn, grow, innovate or conquer. Now the opportunity will be hard to spot, though, and it will help to have an observant friend around to point it out.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your dream is bigger than the gatekeepers who are keeping you from it. If it's hard to make things happen, consider what you can change. How would this play to a different venue, genre or audience?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll find charm in natural objects, sights and sounds. And if the natural world seems far removed from you now, turn to your nature, which is as beautifully wild as any other alive.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 28). You'll get cosmic gifts you would not have thought to ask for and be delighted by a strange twist in November. You'll provide for your inner circle and be regarded as a leader. You'll sell a high-ticket item in February. In May, promises will be made and deals struck, and there's release from unwanted obligation. Scorpio and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 17, 30, 22 and 48.

Universal SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆



SOLUTIONS

