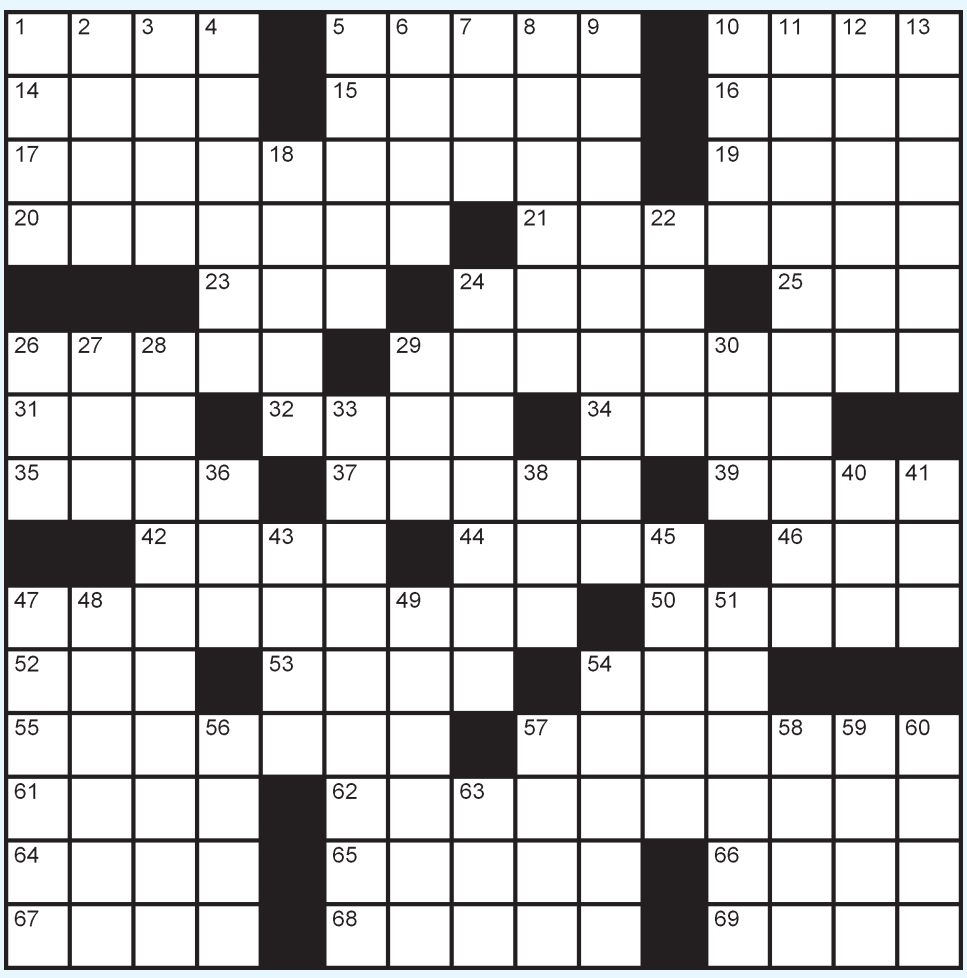
Spill the T *by David Distenfeld*

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



ACROSS
1 Pelting precipitation
5 "Spaceballs," e.g.
10 Common mixer
14 Seis + dos
15 Emmy winner Uzo
16 "Chocolat" actress Lena
17 "Which salesperson is handling Christmas trees?"?
19 ___ legs
20 "Could be"
21 "We're through!"
23 Hero with a yellow lightsaber
24 2000s sitcom starring a country star
25 Before, to Dickinson
26 Chicken ___ (crispy Japanese dish)
29 Neckwear for Carmen Miranda?
31 Kind of trip you take solo?
32 Alka-Seltzer sound
34 King who was played by a woman on Broadway in 2019
35 Bit of heredity
37 "American Idol" alum Paula
39 Pile
42 Strong character trait
44 The Beatles' "Back in the ___"
46 Pie-mode connector
47 Unhip hopper, informally?
50 Cow's milk source
52 Stick that's chalked
53 God with a thirst for conflict
54 Genre with confessional lyrics
55 G and PG
57 Him, her or them
61 Similar
62 "Message received" at a temple?
64 Furtive look
65 On your own
66 Many a TikToker
67 Kayaking hazard
68 Research physician's combo deg.
69 Bronte's Jane

DOWN
1 "___ it go?"
2 Soreness
3 Split Decision Breakfast chain
4 Weepers, in a rhyme
5 Like many beaches
6 Adobe files
7 Yes, in French
8 Conan of late night
9 Pitchers' "heaters"
10 NYC neighborhood near Tribeca
11 Loaf that shouldn't have pits
12 Spanish moola
13 MSNBC host Mitchell
18 Slightly beat out
22 Rational
24 Some pairs that release singles
26 Frat barrel
27 Word after "golden" or "old"
28 At a loss for words
29 Cropped hairdo
30 Reaction to shiatsu
33 Photo posted on social media way after it was taken
36 Period of history
38 G.I. show grp.
40 It may be blonde or amber
41 72, say, for a golf course
43 Neighbor of Turkey
45 Middle schooler's story?
47 Minor knee injury
48 Shook with fear
49 Like many items on eBay
51 Pledge drive plea
54 Mistyped a password, say
56 Jet-black
57 Phnom ___ (Asian capital)
58 Be a good dog
59 Cab alternative
60 Musical with a titular number?
63 Org. symbolized by an elephant

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

SUNDAY, MAY 23, 2021 *Opening Wisdom from Saturn Retrograde*

Volume is sometimes mistaken for clarity. As the person who tries to talk louder to be understood, with unsuccessful results, learns firsthand, though, turning up a misunderstood thing often has the opposite effect than intended. Address clarity problems instead by defining terms and clearing up the noise around a signal.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The muses are with you now when you speak or write, and you'll be communicating from the heart. With easy eloquence and effortless persuasion, you'll enjoy the warmth of other hearts shining your way.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your fantasy-world escape is offering free admission for brief visits. If you find yourself staying too long in the dream, however, the dream will start charging you rent.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Do you eat last and clean up first? Do you listen way more than you talk? Do you have the oldest phone in your family? Your self-sacrificing style may not always be fun, but you are deeper and richer for it.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your empathetic talents will serve you well. You'll mentally put yourself in someone else's place and make a good guess about what behaviors would be necessary in order to uphold that position.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Try not to think too far into a circumstance or dwell mentally on things that can only be experienced. There is no substitute for being there, so just go.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Since what you seek is also seeking you, all this shifting you're doing only makes it harder for the thing to catch up with you. Be still. Stop searching for it and let it find you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Confucius said, "To be wronged is nothing unless you continue to remember it." Arguably, some offenses are more memorable than others. You'll be judicious about which grievances to carry.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It's not always obvious how to best share. There are those who would accept your contributions but don't really need them, and others who need them very much but don't know to ask. Stay aware and awake to those who need you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Force is, by definition, a conflict with the reality of the moment. Maybe it's what's necessary, though other considerations might be entertained. To do more than what's necessary is a waste of energy.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). When you were a child, there was much you looked forward to with excited anticipation. Now there's even more. A different and varied set of expectations alights the buzz of giddiness. Sometimes it comes on for no reason at all.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your plate is full because people trust you to get the job done. They have a high level of faith in you -- something you can effectively pay forward, as you'll be needing to delegate some of this.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Freedom isn't always a process that takes forever. Sometimes, it's a state of mind that can be achieved in an instant. The way out may be just to get out – to rise above and find something different to care about.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 23). You're not the only one going for a prize, but you'll be the only one who takes it home. You'll be impressed by who follows you. In fact, you could gain more support and attention than you know what to do with, at least at first. The inner journey will mirror the outer one and vice versa. Both involve great distances. Gemini and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 3, 11, 30 & 49.

Universal SUDOKU

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

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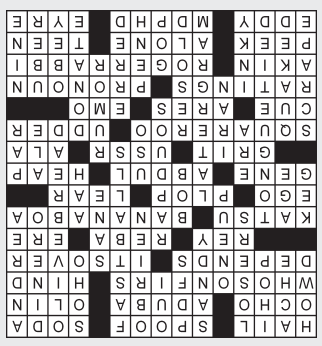
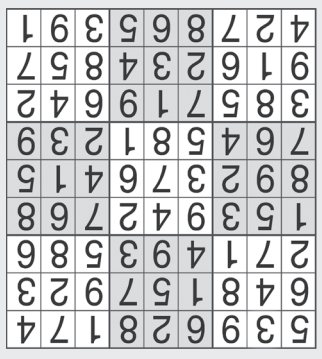
DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★★

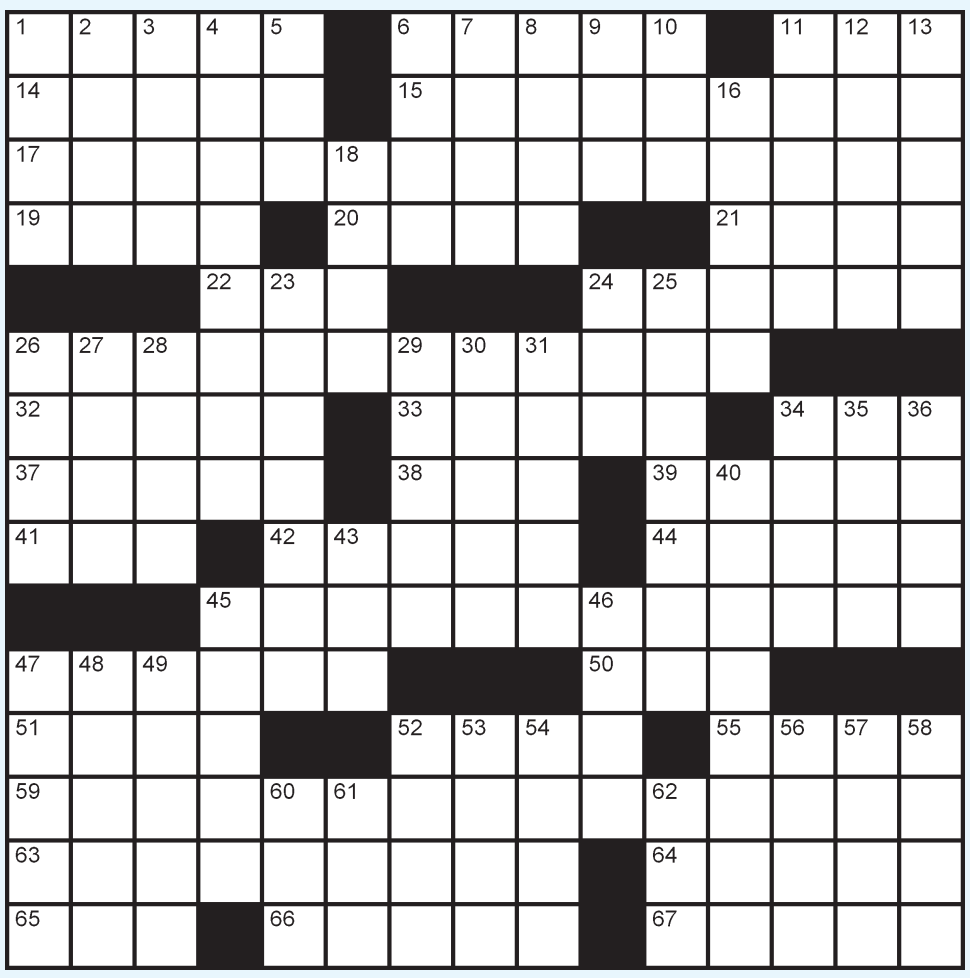
SOLUTIONS





Verbal Menagerie *by Richard Shlakman & Will Nediger*

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



ACROSS
1 "Ad ___" (2019 sci-fi film)
6 Chin indentation
11 Utter
14 Musical group that practices at church
15 Incredibly aloof
17 Is a selfish sleeper
19 Cuddly resident of Endor
20 Notion
21 Place for dough
22 Games' partner
24 Its streets are the subject of a classic cowboy ballad
26 Covers expenses
32 The 2020 Oscars telecast did not have one
33 "Everybody gets a car!" TV host
34 ___ burglar
37 Kitchen counter?
38 Common piece of merch
39 Roughly
41 Competed in a hot dog contest
42 Skedaddles
44 ___-go-round
45 Shakes on it
47 Synchronized
50 Use an abacus, maybe
51 Award for a play
52 Be cheeky with
55 What brings a team together?
59 Falls for a scam
63 Arrange to meet up
64 Some rides to airports
65 Anatomical palindrome
66 Hate mail content
67 Like Oscar in "The Odd Couple"

DOWN
1 Pain in the neck, perhaps
2 Don't just tell
3 Not for here
4 Can't-lose
5 Bronze busts, e.g.
6 Kept in the email loop
7 Earring location
8 Civil rights activist Baker
9 Org. that grants emergency use authorization
10 Former M&M color
11 Pasta drainer
12 Took the stage
13 Type of question with two answers
16 Hybrid LPGA garment
18 Whiff, as of perfume
23 Service charge
24 Mauna ___
25 Red in the face
26 Test phase
27 Give off
28 Pinnacle
29 Red piece in Monopoly
30 Some blades at the Olympics
31 Colgate rival
34 Central part
35 New Agey glow
36 Texter's "Ta-ta"
40 "Goodnight Moon" follower, often
43 Unit in many Olympic events
45 Fashion
46 Dish sometimes topped with a fried egg
47 Announcement made at a front door
48 "Dream on!"
49 Plumber's tool
52 Winged symbol of grace
53 Regarding
54 Education acronym that encompasses geometry
56 Buffoons
57 "Some assembly required" purchases
58 Site with custom jigsaw puzzles
60 Washroom, briefly
61 Poetic homage
62 Street associated with nightmares

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

MONDAY, MAY 24, 2021 *Moon of Hidden Options*

The motivational speaker says a turtle cannot progress without sticking its neck out. The pet-turtle forum shows many comments to the contrary. As for us, it's possible to choose a style and a risk level we feel comfortable with. Under this Scorpio moon, ask to see all available options instead of automatically signing up for the risk that's offered.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Mixed in with your sunny and constructive thoughts will be a number of unhelpful ones trying to pass themselves off as truth. Shut them down by questioning your thoughts to make them prove their merit.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The first step to acing the assignment is understanding that there is one. Find out what is expected of you, and then decide whether it's an expectation you care to fulfill.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll play around with your mental focus as if it were the zoom lens of a camera, toggling between a very detailed observation and the wide focus that lets more world in and makes problems seem small, if they exist at all.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You already learned the unhappiness that can come from mistaking the extras for necessities. A grateful heart remedies the distortion; a humble attitude prevents such confusion from happening in the first place.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It may seem like you crave a particular circumstance, though it could really be a feeling you're craving – and that can be conjured in a number of ways. Stay open to the possibilities.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You think you sense what the other person wants, and then he states his case and it's not what you thought. But actually, you're more correct than he was about it. People are notoriously bad at knowing their own wants.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Evidenced in magic tricks and parties where people hide in the dark and pop out yelling, the element of surprise is often planned and planted. But not today! The spontaneous novelty shows up naturally from out of the blue.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Nothing is fixed in your life at the moment. You can tinker with the variables and completely different outcomes will unfold. There's the exciting feeling of everything being up in the air without a hint as to how it will all land.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There have been times when you've dared to act on intuitive impulses running counter to reason and the results were so right for you. Now you wonder what would happen if you were to function completely from intuition.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're not afraid of change. You've accepted it as the only thing consistent in existence! Still, you like to have a general sense of where things are going. Today features a fascinating information-gathering session.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). This phase of life is like a costume you wear for a time, as you enact a role. Changing things about the costume doesn't change the role, but it makes you feel and move differently inside it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You may fumble around a bit in the effort to find your place. You'll be served by every mishap, enriched by the contrast of an eruption of confusion that settles into perfect peace.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 24). It's almost impossible for you to be selflessly generous, because you keep getting handsomely repaid for the sacrifices you make. It's like the universe is insistent on doubling your rewards. Fortune will favor you through collaborations. Athletic wins and creative breakthroughs are featured, too. August brings a game-changing deal. Sagittarius and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 25, 4, 26 and 1.

Universal SUDOKU

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

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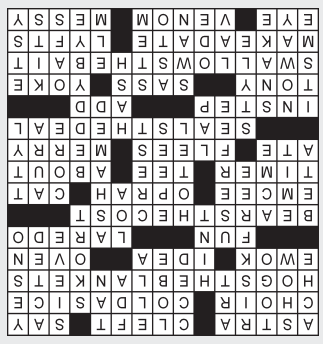
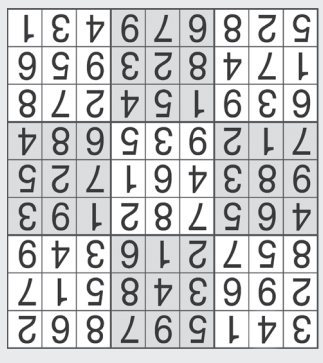
DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

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