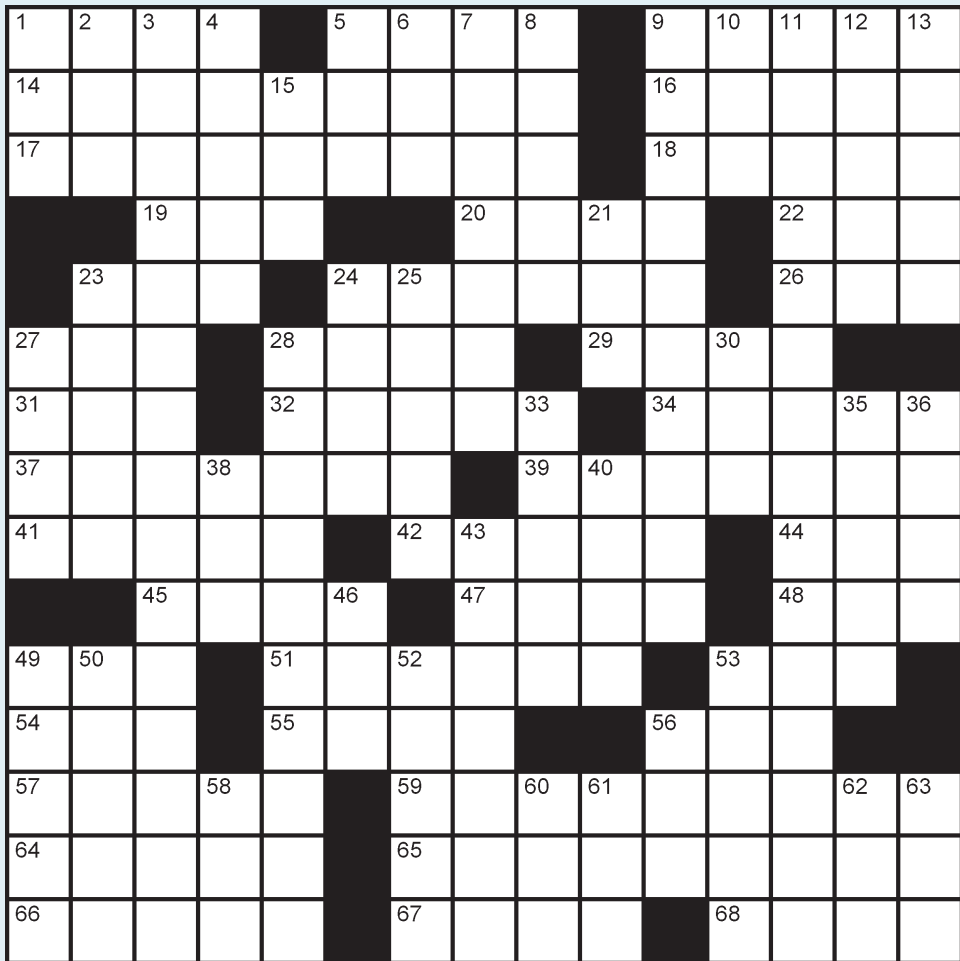


Change the Covers by Ross Trudeau & Chandi Deitmer

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS: 1 "Swanky" Spice Girl, 5 Green stuff on a log, 9 Hockey disks, 14 What lets you mix and match?, 16 Atmospheric gas, 17 Rights, as a wrong, 18 Printer need, 19 Cat or ferret, 20 "Lights out" bugle call, 22 Thoroughly evaluate, 23 Savings options, briefly, 24 Seek favor from, 26 Conductor Pekka Salonen, 27 Big California, 28 Poke, 29 Way, way out, 31 Overly, 32 "My bad!", 34 "Understood", 37 Deadlock, 39 Environmental devastation at human hands, 41 Tribute involving insults, 42 Like some rail fare pricing, 44 Rubbish receptacle, 45 One may be dropped in conversation, 47 Illness often treated with exposure therapy: Abbr., 48 Fate, quaintly, 49 Degree higher than an M.A., 51 Dogs that clean themselves like cats, 53 Partner of "haw", 54 Cochlea's organ, 55 Camera's "eye", 56 Cat (rich donor), 57 Speed for many cinematic showdowns, 59 Sterling example?, 64 Falcon claw, 65 Exercises using the crisscross technique, say, 66 Skateboarding leap, 67 Celebrity, 68 "This \_\_\_ over!", 27 Mix with a spoon, 28 "Circles" singer, 30 Green New Deal rep., 33 One might kibitz about a klutz, 35 "Break a leg," for one, 36 Circus structure, 38 Simile center, 40 Mama of '60s music, 43 Declines to participate, 46 Scrape (by), 49 Green pasta sauce, 50 Kosher, in Islam, 52 Dressed for cuddling, 53 Asian capital on the Red River, 56 New Deal prez, 58 "Who, me?", 60 Thurman of "Kill Bill", 61 "Code Switch" station, 62 High score for a gymnast, 63 "C' \_\_\_ la vie!"

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

FRIDAY, JULY 2, 2021 A Word From Pluto



Words are symbols of things, not the things themselves. Before a thing is named, an understanding of it may be vast yet incommunicable. As a word comes to the aid of communication, the width and breadth of understanding is squashed into a word-shaped box. The lunar square to Pluto points out: Definitions are limits, but necessary ones.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You can't always get away when you want to. Anyone can accept a pleasant moment they wanted, planned and expected. It's how people behave in the unexpected moments that really tells a fuller story.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). If only you had unlimited time and attention. Alas, you'll give all you have, and it will be more than enough. Your first priority is to invest in the ones who need it most. Then give to the replenishers who give back.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The lines that delineate responsibility are like map boundaries. While many can agree where they are in theory, it's different on the ground, and much depends on whom you ask. Good communication saves the day.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The day presents you with a fascinating balance of opposites and, being a sensitive and astute observer of life, you'll thrill to the "accidental" grace of happenstance.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Between the archives of past capers and the plans and models for future endeavors is a tense line of thought, vibrating like a violin string as the bow of your imagination pulls across the possibilities.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Though you think planning is often half the fun of doing a thing, some of your favorite plans are loose -- more like a list of options. You'll investigate new ones now. This list is becoming a work of art!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You've noticed a particular pattern of yours -- not exactly a bad habit, but it's not doing you any good either! And now you'll find a juicy reason to knock it off -- quick and painless -- because the rewards of doing so are rich.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The subject might be narrow, but the way you think about it is broad indeed. Later, you may even feel that you're so focused on a subject that it dominates your thoughts, but don't worry; a breakthrough is coming.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It's common in the animal world, but when a human baby walks before crawling, it's a developmental rarity. You'll soon echo the metaphor with an extraordinary move.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Like children at a party who go wild when the parents leave the room, your thoughts have all kinds of feral fun once the uptight prefrontal cortex gets out of the way. Today brings vivid fantasies and dreams.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It doesn't matter how old you are in body. In your head, you are young, resilient, creative and filled with wonder. From this fresh place, you will solve a very adult problem.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Unprepared? Great. Clueless? That's even better. After all, knowing a lot about what you're about to embark on could hinder your progress. The best state for learning will be one of hopeful naivete.

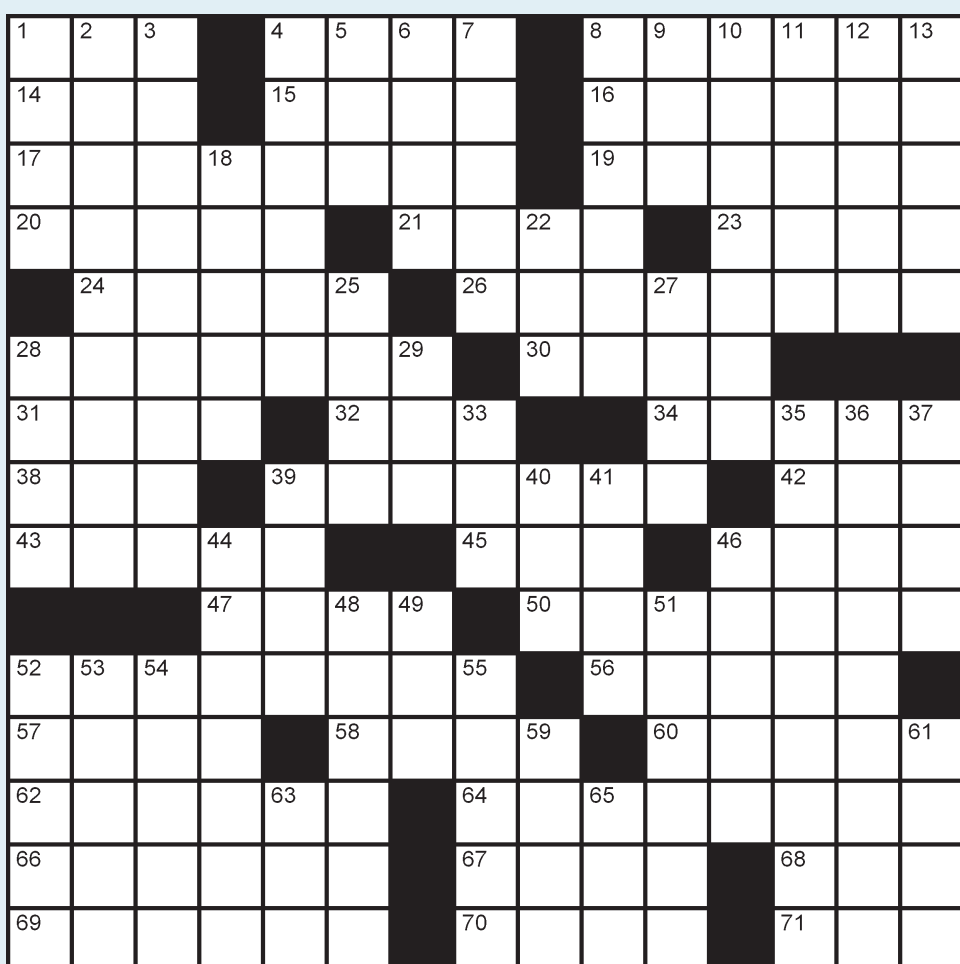
TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 2). The attitude you cultivate contributes to hundreds of thrilling wins. You play your advantages and, in doing so, minimize your disadvantages. Because you're so adept at making the most of things, life gives you the premium version just to see what heights you can soar to. You'll enjoy special sharing with like-minds and hearts. Scorpio and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 10, 4, 44 and 16.

Universal SUDOKU Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively. Includes a 9x9 grid with some numbers pre-filled and a difficulty rating of 4 stars.

SOLUTIONS A 9x9 grid showing the completed numbers for the Sudoku puzzle above.

Highs and Lows by Jasper Davidoff

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS: 1 What you need to solve a crossword on your phone, 4 Turning points in ballet?, 8 Not imaginary, 14 Damage, 15 Easter egg event, 16 Woman whose help is requested in a Beach Boys hit, 17 When to wish a tennis player luck?, 19 C in chemistry class?, 20 Big bags, 21 Informal assent, 23 Pius VIII or Urban VIII, 24 Assert, 26 When you actually had to call people?, 28 Closes the door on, 30 Gunk, 31 Unclothed, 32 San Francisco's Hill, 34 Certain IRAs, 38 Had for lunch, say, 39 When not to interrupt a jazz soloist?, 42 Kanga's child, 43 Multiple fish, in Italian, 45 Everything, 46 Round of applause, 47 European peaks, 50 Instinctual drives, 52 When to decide on a lover's suitability?, 56 Egg-cooking aid, 57 Wicked force, 58 Phys. ed. sites, 60 Roman clothes, 62 Eye part with rods and cones, 64 When to read Luke and John?, 66 Legendary Norse sea monster, 67 Kite-flying obstacle, 68 Dessert for the kittens who found their mittens, 69 Throws around, 70 MMXXI, e.g., 71 Perceived visually, 27 Piece of footwear with a blade, 22 Rainbow shape, 25 Far from full-size, 27 Grassy layer, 28 Sound made with two fingers, 29 Head gesture, 33 Upper undergarment, 35 International economic disparities, 36 Speakers' fees, 37 Covers with rolls of grass, 39 Not very spicy, 40 Feeling crummy, 41 Move like a butterfly, 44 Feline, 46 Fan's words to a TV camera, perhaps, 48 Ancient Greeks, e.g., religiously, 49 Pig's home, 51 Holding a grudge, 52 Private jets, corner offices, and others, 53 In plain view, 54 Plucked Indian instrument, 55 Ready for a refill, 59 Achy, 61 Bias, 63 Word before "money" or "moon", 65 Sailor's place

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

SATURDAY, JULY 3, 2021 Cosmic Credit Toss



Who would you credit for making the sand so soft? Would you award the faithful and tireless waves who are only going with the tide or the tide who is only obeying the magnet moon or the moon who is only obeying her mother orbit? Mars square Uranus suggests both blame and credit will be passed along, never quite landing correctly.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). As far as you're concerned, power, money and fame are not the goal. There's nothing wrong with those things, but they are only worth obtaining insofar as they can be utilized to create a better community.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Dreaming big used to entail thinking of a blown-up version of your wish. Now your consciousness has changed. Dreaming big entails expanding your vision to include the best interest of the highest number of people.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Loved ones will grow and change right along with you. This is not a coincidence. You're helping one another grow. You are especially good at celebrating the many passages and incarnations inside of this life together.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The sculptor chips away at everything that's not the sculpture. The detective discovers the truth by finding the lies and cover-ups. And you'll figure out what you want to do by trying things that turn out to be definitely not that.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You believe in giving more than you get, and yet it's going to be a really difficult thing to accomplish because your generosity keeps repaying you exponentially.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Embrace those inevitabilities you cannot get away from. There is no living in the light without the contrast to help you see things. There is no retreat from one's own shadow, but at least you always have company!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There is nothing selfish about figuring out what you like. You actually do the world a huge favor by learning yourself very well. The struggle against one's own baser instincts can be as ferocious as any external conflict.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Delight yourself. Don't wait for someone else to do it; you're the one best suited to the job. Anyone who'd memorized your preferences would still be clueless as to nuances of quantity and variation that might please you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The difference between a step forward and a step back is the destination. You think you know where you're headed, but life has other ideas. Right now, it's safe to assume that if you're moving, you're making progress.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your receptiveness earns you an insider's position. You'll learn so much by listening well that you just may save your own agenda and stories for another time.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll learn through cautionary examples and aspirational models alike. Let everything absorb a while. The lessons are like a marinade; you have to soak in it to get the flavor, and there's no way to shorten the process.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It is said that you can never have too many friends, and your current stars suggest you could use a more diverse array. Skills and orientations different from your own will teach you and afford you rare advantages.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 3). You find yourself through discovering the world. As you become an expert on what interests you, doubts dissolve -- not just about your subject but about other areas of life. Boldness and breakthroughs are the theme. The more you love your choices, the less you need other people to love them -- and yet, love them they do. Leo and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 30, 5, 27, 10 and 44.

Universal SUDOKU Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively. Includes a 9x9 grid with some numbers pre-filled and a difficulty rating of 5 stars.

SOLUTIONS A 9x9 grid showing the completed numbers for the Sudoku puzzle above.