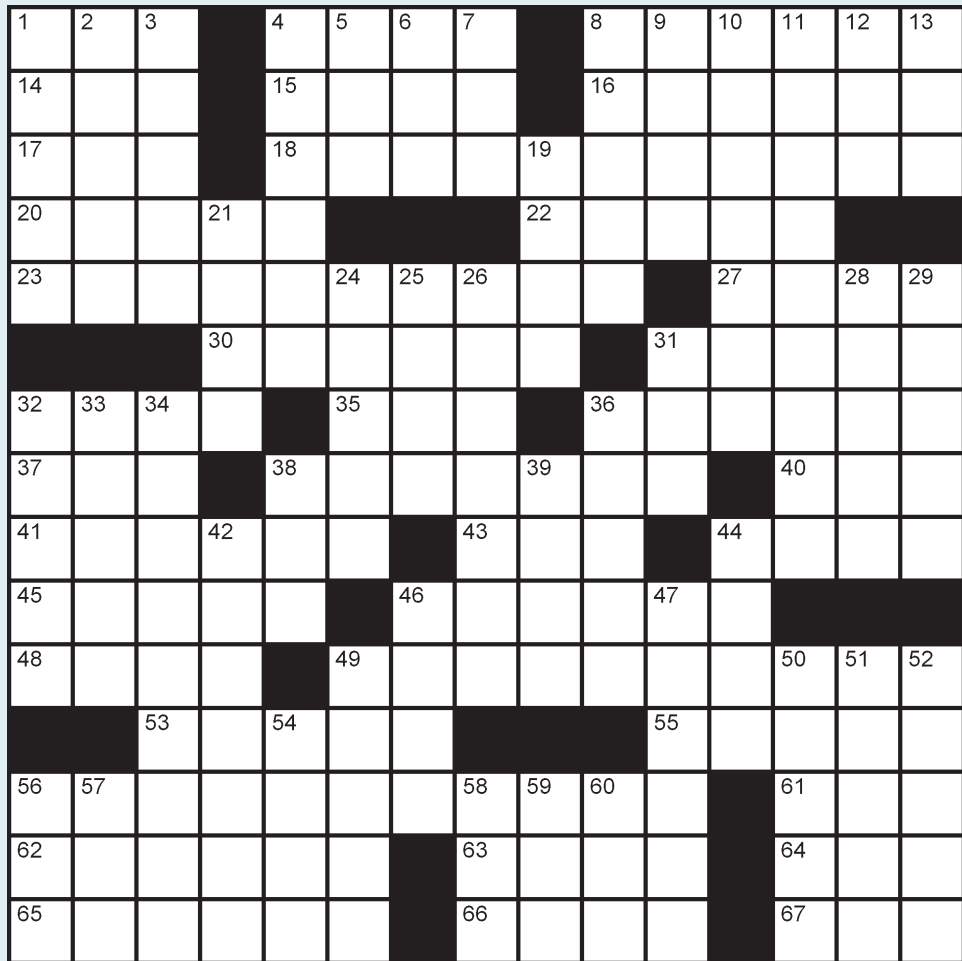


Pick Me! by David Distenfeld

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS: 1 UFC sport hidden in "scrimmage", 4 Phone programs, 8 Formally charge, 14 Corn core, 15 Contents of spreadsheets, 16 2010s dance inspired by a 1990s sitcom character, 17 Bit of hope, 18 One of five in a full house, 20 "The gram", 22 Sticky secretion, 23 Rocker's low instrument, 27 Raises a paddle at an auction, 30 Puzzle invented by a Japanese math teacher, 31 Country by the Red Sea, 32 History chapters, 35 "Shop ___ You Drop", 36 Seasoned sausage, 37 Part of L.A., 38 Door security, 40 Dredel, e.g., 41 "Sycophantic" pet, 43 Letters before a stage name, 44 Gendered clothing department, 45 Bit of land in the sea, 46 Fathers' group?, 48 Diehard fan, 49 Pretty plant that wasn't planted, 53 Like seven games that Nolan Ryan pitched, 55 Too good for, 56 Virtual group of real players, 61 By way of, 62 Pluck, like a unibrow, 63 Beatles song, album or film, 64 Series finale?, 65 Married, 66 ___ out (just manages), 67 "I'm gonna pass" DOWN: 1 Golden Arches sandwich that has no bones, 2 Disney film with a Polynesian protagonist, 3 Chasm, 4 It makes money for Money, 5 Friend, 6 School meeting org., 7 "I've been thinking ...", 8 Word before "circle" or "child", 9 Reminds constantly, 10 Sound unit, 11 Lifeless, 12 One may pass a smog check, 13 ___ Talks, 19 Neighbor of Pakistan, 21 Sounds of disapproval, 24 Remove a name from, as on Facebook, 25 "Just teasing!", 26 Like a juicy memoir, 28 Exorcist's enemy, 29 Cuts quickly, 31 Tibetan pack animal, 32 ___ Island (landmark near Lady Liberty), 33 Honor with insults, 34 According to schedule, 36 Winter neckwear, 38 Antes build it up, 39 Gave the go-ahead to, 42 Signified, 44 Initials meaning "Butt out!", 46 Skyscraper's spot, 47 Sleeps in a luxurious tent, perhaps, 49 Smartened (up), 50 Like wicker products, 51 Musical set in Buenos Aires, 52 Arm measure, 54 It reduces visibility, 56 Enthusiastic online acronym, 57 Flabbergasted feeling, 58 Opener for many rock bands?, 59 Cartoonish scream, 60 Pub pint

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2022 Mercury Humor Warning



In the early days of the word "sarcasm," the term referred to a bitter, harsh mockery. In its modern usage, sarcasm is softened by a touch of irony, humor or both. Still, communicating in this way comes with risks to be aware of, especially with today's climate of sensitivity. Avoid dry or ambiguous humor. Stick with warmth and authenticity.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The one you love can hurt you with so much as a look. Knowing this, you recognize the similar power you hold and will wield that power with gentle compassion.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Talent is everywhere and what you witness will get the wheels of your mind whirring. People are doing the unimaginable, though once you experience it, imagining certainly gets easier.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You have many interests. Even if the people around you don't share the same passions as you, they appreciate your wide range. For your sake and theirs, keep on exploring!

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Some people listen; others just wait for the chance to talk again. You're an attentive listener who deserves the same. Today it's better to just avoid the known offenders who can't or won't connect.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The day has a confessional quality, including admissions you'd rather not hear. As for your own information, you like to keep it on a need-to-know basis. Later you'll leverage all the mystery you've cultivated.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The potential for tedium is too high for your liking, so whatever you can do to keep things interesting is strongly favored. Elements of humor, mischief, creativity... even chaos... can help.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Saying "sorry" doesn't put things back the way they were before, but it can give the closure necessary to start again. Do they deserve your forgiveness? Debatable. Forgive anyway. You deserve the peace.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Being around different styles will make you appreciate your own. It will also inspire you to change a few things. You're the best kind of impressionable right now.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The answer will involve putting people to work. This is more effective than any other way of starting a relationship. Through work, bonds are woven, loyalties forged.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). People say it's not about the cards you're dealt, but how you play them -- not entirely true. Good cards win. Bad cards can win too, but only if you bluff. Today's game will be tricky; perform and prevail.

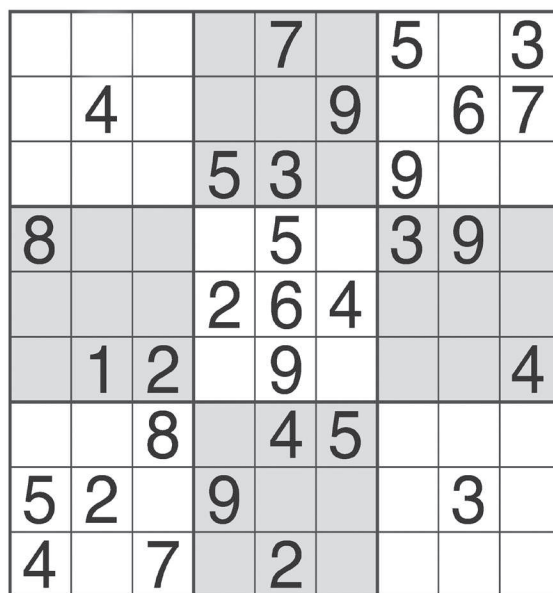
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The secret to success is... there is no secret. It's the same thing everyone knows. Work and try. Improv. Try again. When your offer is what they need and want -- success!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Everyone has a self-image and a public image. These two images will align in a curious way. Whatever you do, do it for you. Please yourself and don't look for validation from any other.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 11). You'll take part in a race. Many will drop out before the finish line, but not you. You'll eventually end up among the winners. Your tenacity will also net lucrative arrangements and gloriously beneficial relationships. Avoid attracting unwanted jealousy; remain low-key about your abundant blessings. Aries and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 22, 19, 30 and 45.

Universal SUDOKU

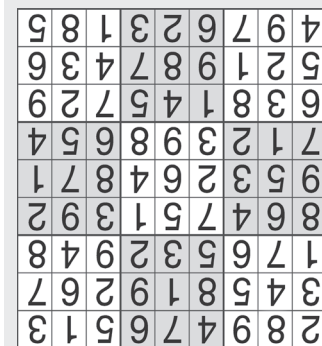
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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

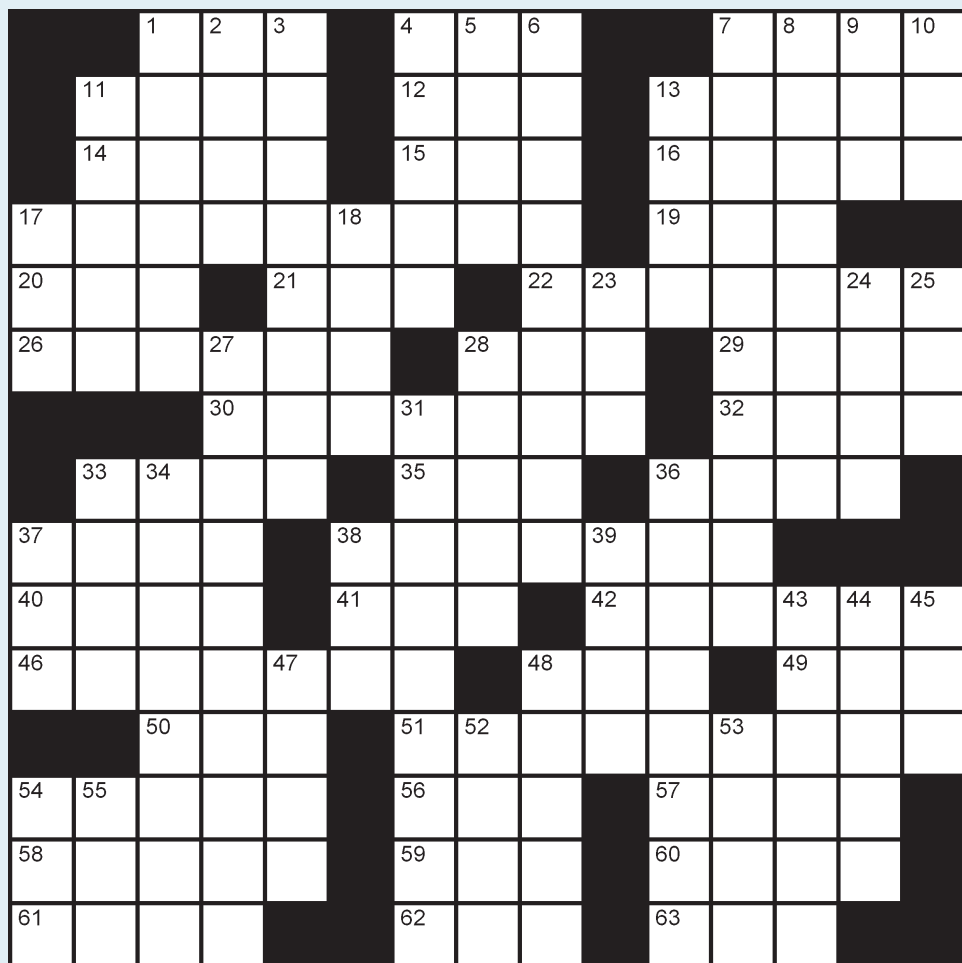


SOLUTIONS



Drop By Drop by Gary Larson

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS: 1 Closest bud, 4 Hardware chain, 7 Impulsive, 11 Hatcher of "Desperate Housewives", 12 Rotten, 13 Justice Sotomayor, 14 Flock sounds, 15 Barely get (by), 16 Gentle strokes in golf, 17 Backpacker's accommodation (Hint: Look down at letter 5), 19 Number in a dating profile, 20 Insect not found in Antarctica ... or is it?, 21 That dude's, 22 Keeps back (... at letter 4), 26 Auto remote, 28 Energy, 29 Whacks weeds, 30 Dawson of Hollywood, 32 Lead-in to "sesame" or "secret", 33 "Star ___: Discovery", 35 Head to Vegas?, 36 Took legal action, 37 Like a wafer cookie, 38 Classic sayings, 40 Bench, in Paris (hidden in "urban center"), 41 Free ad, 42 Click ___ (noisy insect), 46 Snooty attitude (... at letter 4), 48 Chicken-king connector, 49 Salmon eggs, 50 Not just "a", 51 Cascade, and a feature of 17-, 22- and 46-Across?, 54 Garment that may say "Life is what you bake it", 56 Pen tip, 57 Flowerpot filler, 58 Woo, 59 Thurman of "Even Cowgirls Get the Blues", 60 Compost holders, 61 Future twentysomething, 62 "Gangnam Style" singer, 63 Desired answer to a proposal DOWN: 1 Skin-deep attribute, 2 College party site, 3 Marlins' catcher, 4 Assists in crime, 5 Angel food or devil's food dessert, 6 "The Sound of Music" song named for a white flower, 7 Get rowdy, 8 "Home on the Range" critter, 9 Plop down, 10 Suffers from, 11 Steakchoice, 13 Fight about the dishwasher, say, 17 Cow's shaggy relative, 18 Twins, e.g., briefly, 23 Nasdaq debut, 24 Monopoly card, 25 Sensitive ID, 27 Coiled brass instrument, 28 The devil wore it on the big screen, 31 Like an assured victory, 33 Tom yum's cuisine, 34 Sound about right in, 37 "Truthfully," in textspeak, 38 Special ones are covert, 39 Willing partner?, 43 Some have many cars, 44 Takes it easy, 45 Fish that may be electric, 47 Storage unit expense, 48 Unable to retreat, 52 Objectives, 53 ___ gras, 54 Pretense, 55 Writer who inspired the Baltimore Ravens' name

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2022 Mercury Emphasizes Intuition



Love, art, exploration and many other endeavors can seem, on their face, to be pointless. There is no logical purpose for embarking, only a magnetic pull where the logic should be. Maybe you only do the thing because you can't not do it. But with Mercury in intuitive Pisces now, that should be all the reason you really need.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Uninspiring work makes you lethargic. Perhaps it has to be done, but does it have to be done by you? Once you get into an interesting project, it will be like you're plugged into a power plant.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You don't learn or grow much from goals that are too easily attained. Strive for the hard aims now. Likewise, make it a little more difficult for others to win prizes from you. You'll be doing them a favor.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). People everywhere are engaged in their own internal battles. Sometimes these conflicts go undetected to even their nearest and dearest. Whether you are on the giving or receiving side of help, things are improving.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Around people who may be envious of your success, you'll be tempted to play it low-key. It's better to say nothing at all than to downplay or speak ill of your good fortune.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There's an ace up your sleeve and you're about to play it. Once you do, the game is yours. Apply your winnings to improving your favorite thing. It will be a thrill to watch something go from good to fabulous.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). A relationship has been weathering some tension, but the reconciliation is coming. You'll each say what you need to say and hear what you need to hear.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You can say what you need to say, and the other person won't be the least bit defensive. Accept all invitations for joint ventures, especially work-related ones. Your dreams are celestially tied to people who support them.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There will be evidence that, contrary to popular belief, life may really be fair after all. Justice comes in many forms, including poetic or delayed. Things turn out the best way possible.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You do not have to be a painter or poet to be creative in your work. Even straightforward tasks like filing or cleaning will be turned into creative endeavors because you approach with style.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your ability to lead yourself will depend largely on your environment. Arrange your environment so it's easy to do the things you tell yourself to do and/or very hard to do the unwanted behavior.

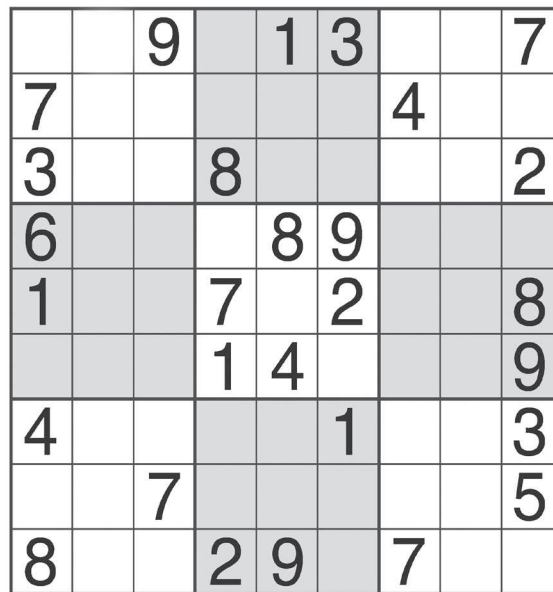
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Happiness and simplicity will be linked up. The minute you feel things involving too many elements or getting too complicated, busy, messy, fast or expensive... stop and start over.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). One solution doesn't work for everyone. Also, one solution doesn't work for anyone all the time. This is why when something is working, you celebrate it.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 12). Success is not an award, a number on a chart or an amount in the bank. Success is a feeling, and one you'll cultivate and recreate many times over. You'll revel in certain aspects of your work and tend to details that elevate you to excellence. A study will thrill you and you'll travel to pursue deeper knowledge. Capricorn and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 4, 49, 1 and 15.

Universal SUDOKU

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



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★



SOLUTIONS

