Race to the Top by Paul Coulter

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg

Universal Glossword edited by David Steinberg														
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ACROSS

- Little sweater?
- 5 Drink like a cat 10 Junk email
- 14 Bad to the bone
- 15 Playground retort 16 Rose brought on
- a date, say? 17 Coats can be
- hung on them
- 18 Painter's support
- Musicals often have two Old-timey way to
- say "Let go!" Pancakes that might be served
- with applesauce 24 S.F. winter hours
- 25 "Oh, absolutely!"
- 26 No longer in fashion
- Social sensitivity 29 Is super into
- "i" lid? 30
- 33 Pro's opposite out a living
- 34 36 Ziti shape
- city
- Like an unen-
- 37 It's smaller than a
- 38 Nightclub charge closed floor plan

41 Barter

- 42 Hog's home
- 43 Golfers want to be under it
- 44 Weed-whacking tools
- 45 Deep cut 47 Knightley of "Love Actually'
- 49 Back muscle, for short
- 50 Flow back 53 "Well, finally!"
- 55 Venomous snake
- 57 Blacken 58 Lodge (motel
- chain) 60 Aromatic
- seasoning 61 Southward
- 62 A1 63 Final Four letters?
- 64 Use some &\$^#ing bad
- language 65 Many "Euphoria" characters,
- agewise 66 Look after

DOWN 40 Soothing balm

- 1 Add some zip to 2 Bakery appliances
- 3 They prohibit union membership as a 31 Fall in line criterion for hiring (In this clue's
- answer, see letters 14-11) 4 Disney character who sings "Into
- the Unknown" 5 Polygraph procedure (...
- letters 12-9) 6 Amy of "Sharp
- Objects' 7 Downward dog,
- e.g. 8 Deploy
- 9 Sites that pool and analyze election prediction data (. letters 6-1)
- 10 Attacks, like a fly 11 Went faster, and hint to this puzzle's theme
- 12 Put some chips on the table? 13 More than just

- 21 MoMA city 23 Total jerk
- 26 Yearned (for)
- 28 Rice on a shelf? 29 Opera stars
- 32 Lowest card in a
- royal flush 33 Fizzy brown drink 35 Asian region
- where Seollal is celebrated
- 36 Throw out 37 Bug on a wire?
- 44 He/him/_
- 46 Off-road fourwheeler, for short
- 48 Brings home 49 Bedsheet fabric
- 51 Started
- 52 Naan or ciabatta, e.g.
- 53 Band with the aptly titled album "Power Up"

6

- 54 Shakespearean "you"
- 55 Vatican City VIP 56 Ain't another way? 59 Actor's prompt

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 2022 Alone Together



When you live on a spinning rock, with your closest LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It's not like you to accept neighboring planet at least 25 million miles away, it does inspire an urge to be as self-reliant as possible. And yet, today, as the Capricorn moon makes a precarious angle to the sun, it will seem equally wise to recognize the great extent to which we need each

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The other person's account of the events in a relationship may differ substantially from your own. Be receptive to the other person's point of view.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). This is a lucky day to gather and acquire resources. You'll accurately estimate what you need, find the right price and get a lot of use from today's purchases.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). A curious, experimental mood takes hold. You won't have to pursue it for long before you find yourself in a magical place. Perception alters the lighting scheme of the world.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Certain people require more of your patience. Or you can just ignore their thoughtlessness instead, and that's an act of compassion. Why take offense when no harm was intended? You have better things to think about.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You've fantasized about getting someone else to do the mundane work while you follow your creative whimsy. However, it's the mundane tasks that move your imagination. Being hands-on brings out your genius.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Normally you wouldn't gamble with what's precious to you, but there's a calculated risk that seems like it might be worth taking. Make sure you have good communication and a backup plan.

whatever life throws your way as though it's meant for you. You say what's meant for you. You think ahead;

you take control. What you give will strongly influence SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You could use some faith. While a naive abandon of thought process isn't your style, you could surrender your skepticism for

a more practical reason. It's heavy. Traveling light is

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There's much to do and you'll be a leader, overseeing the action. You already know one way to get the job done. To foster teamwork and innovation, encourage others to come up with solutions too.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Colleagues and friends can provide some of your most meaningful competition, as their close vicinity is intensely motivating. Don't be afraid to share information but keep some for yourself too.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). This is a sharing kind of day. What we share is inconsequential; it's the effort that matters. It's enough to appreciate being connected and let the particulars be what they are.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Minefields just look like fields until something blows up. It's a good day to respect hidden history, read all the signs, follow all the rules and heed all the warnings.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 25). Like the snap of a puzzle piece coming together or the satisfied rush that comes with a row of green Wordle squares, you'll often have the thrill of filling life's blanks. Your wins will build up and you'll get to wear them like a cape of confidence. You'll be made a leader and you'll use your power to make things better. Cancer and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 44, 4, 20 and 32



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆

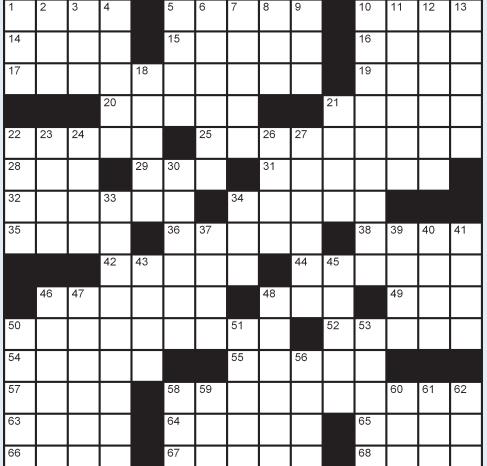
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6

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Obscure Musical Acts by Chase Dittrich and Jeff Chen

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- **ACROSS** Word before "easy" or "budget"
- 5 Test for purity 10 Greeting in Perth
- 14 Bit of cunning 15 Gaze
- 16 Irritate
- 17 Often-braised meat dish --> *On (fleeing) the
- and "Forrest Gump' "The Last Dance"

+ Actor in "Big"

channel 20 Abrasive powder Unsaid yet

understood

- 22 Martial arts star in "Mulan" 25 Graveyard sight -> *Male cat +
- Sound quality 28 Anvil's body part
- 29 Vegas Raiders
- 31 Confident bettor's words Throngs
- "Keep Austin (Texas city's slogan)

35 Really enjoying

- 36 Use a credit card 38 Washington-to-Idaho direction
- 42 Tantrum thrower
- 44 Olympic diver? 46 Be the go-
- between Lingus 49 Blasting letters 50 Some pickup
 - spots --> *Mean dog + March 15, e.g.
 - 52 Stopped sleeping 54 Usually Australian gems
 - 55 In a fitting way 57 golf (puttputt)
 - 58 Tribute groups, or a four-part hint to the starred clues'
 - answers 63 "Seriously?"
 - 64 Madison Square Garden, for one 65 Hype up
 - 66 Group of actors 67 Like fingers after eating wings

wooden horse

- 1 Bird that flies silently
 - 3 Shade tree
 - 4 *Fishing spool 5 Tennis legend
 - Arthur 6 Begins
 - 7 Japanese
 - 8 Where lions and zebras coexisted?
 - "I love that suggestion!"
 - 12 Skiing type 13 "Fiddler on the Roof'
 - matchmaker
 - *Road goo 22 Luke Skywalker,
 - 24 Brisk pace 26 Demeanor
- 68 City that took in a 30 Birthplace of St.

- **DOWN**
- 2 Traveling through
- electronics giant
- 9 Positive response
- 11 Strobe spots
- 18 *Four laps on a track, sav
- e.g. 23 Merit
- 27 *Chain of hills

- 33 *Singer 34 Exchange vows
- 37 Responded, legally _ clef (viola
- music symbol) 40 Dirty dish's destination
- 41 French for "head" 43 *That guy's
- 45 Toothbrush brand 46 Nyong'o of "Us" 47 Neighbors of

Pakistanis

- 48 Trembling trees 50 Ali Wong or Joan Rivers
- 51 Spots for icicles 53 Earp of the Old West

56 Aircraft carrier?

- 58 Video chat need, briefly 5-Across specimen
- 60 Neither here there Twosome
- 62 Swine's home

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 2022 Pluto's Perspective Cleanser

unobstructed perspective. Just think about what it's like to drive with a dirty windshield: even an obstruction as thin as a layer of dust or condensation can be troublesome. To enjoy a sense of safety and confidence, take the time to clear the windshield of

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Everyone has faults and it would be a waste of time to address them all. What's relevant to the current situation? What can be improved and how? You'll put your energy into making a good thing better.

the attention you need will not be to ask for it directly. That would be like a comedian standing onstage and asking people to laugh. You'll think in terms of playfulness, entertainment and enticement. GEMINI (May 21-June 21). If you believed every

compliment paid to you, you'd lose both your humility

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The best way to get

and your edge. You accept encouragement but keep thinking about what you'd like to do better. CANCER (June 22-July 22). The events of the day are neither positive nor negative, but they are actionable and are best handled sooner rather than

later. This will bring out the best in you.

fast answers. In fact, doing so is quite unlucky. Don't be pressured into acting too quickly. Assert your right to think things through. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Generally, you

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The best thing is not to give

shouldn't have to apologize for other people's behavior, but today a quick "sorry" may be the most diplomatic move. Stay confident, barrel through the rough moments and sail smoothly on.

♥♥♥♥♥♥♥₽₽₽ Mercury and Pluto highlight the importance of LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The opportunities are just waiting to be seized. Someone who doesn't know you well is worried that you'll seize what's good for you and leave the others behind. Give reassurances

and proof that you're a team player. SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're confused when people tell you to do your best. What else would you do? Sometimes you're doing your best at relaxing. It's certainly a worthy aim of the day.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). People feel

seen by you. You're especially tuned in to those with a low-key, unassuming style. You get subtlety and acknowledge the importance of things that most would take for granted. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Eventually, tranquility around you will create tranquility inside

you. This is why your labors to bring your domestic environment into the loveliest possible orderliness are well worth the effort. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). People remember their first time in a place. The chance to show someone around is an opportunity to make a memory. So, what

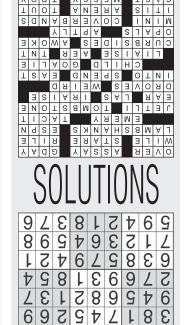
kind of memory do you want to make? You have the power to make a little magic happen here. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You often deserve a better quality of attention than you get. But when people fall short, you won't take it personally. You'll spend most of the day tending to others, yet somehow, at day's end, your own needs are quite fulfilled.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 26). Buoyancy of spirit is your cosmic boon and it's like the high tide that raises all ships. Your physical energy, relationships and more will be lifted into new realms. You'll be asked to work hard on a job that's important to you and you'll focus yourself well. You'll be proud of what you invent to delight your loved ones. Leo and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 3, 33, 18 and 41.



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





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