

A Word or Two by Gary Larson and Amy Ens

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg

13x13 crossword grid with numbers 1-71 indicating starting positions for clues.

- ACROSS: 1 "Noodle" or "noggin," for head; 6 Droopy; 10 Failed guess in Battleship; 14 Chocolate maker's tree; 15 Berry in a purple smoothie, perhaps; 16 Not pro-; 17 Like a bartender tending bar?; 19 Declare; 20 "___ to Joy"; 21 Research money; 22 Lots and lots; 23 Rides a bike; 25 "For Your Eyes Only" singer Sheena; 27 Word after "worry" or "prayer"; 29 Sent an emoji, say; 32 Elisabeth of "Leaving Las Vegas"; 35 Actor Davis; 37 Fury; 38 Walked quietly; 41 Organize neatly; 43 Dot follower in UNICEF's URL; 44 Printing smudges; 46 Frankenstein's assistant, in film; 47 Ancient empire known for its rugs; 49 Coming up; 52 Changes for the better; 54 Practical; 58 Windows precursor; 60 Complete and total; 62 Was in charge; 63 Arab chieftain; 64 Like a jockey who's fed up?; 66 Strengthen, with "up"; 67 Once existed; 68 Orange Muppet; 69 Baker's dozen?; 70 Online crafts marketplace; 71 Horse controllers; DOWN: 1 Exclusive story; 2 Magna cum ___; 3 Behaved; 4 Time out?; 5 Search engine originally called BackRub; 6 Spencer of "Good Morning America"; 7 Cold quality; 8 Ray in tropical waters; 9 Napoleon in "Animal Farm," e.g.; 10 Tums alternative; 11 Like someone expressing anger while at home?; 12 Dish cooked in a pot; 13 Lancelot and Mix-a-Lot, for two; 18 ___ Major (bear constellation); 22 Certain male cow; 24 Be an accomplice to; 26 Start to wake up; 28 Bird that had a repeating sound?; 30 Thus; 31 Does and bucks; 32 "Cut that out!"; 33 Bring on board; 34 Like a teacher burning the midnight oil?; 36 Wrap at a pageant; 39 Awards with a Playwriting category; 40 Flair; 42 Opera set in Egypt; 45 They try things for a living; 48 Camping desserts; 50 At any time; 51 Less stuffy; 53 Comforter; 55 Pancakes served with sour cream; 56 His tomb is in Red Square; 57 Lawns' sides; 58 Allocate, with "out"; 59 "Blanket" over Los Angeles; 61 Parker of "South Park" fame; 64 Be behind on bills; 65 Nickname that anagrams to "red"

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2022 Suggestions from a Balanced Moon



The Libra lunar tides warn us of the ego's tendency to keep us working for its vision. As soon as it gets what it wants, it comes up with a new list of demands. Happiness and freedom depend on restricting the ego's power with modesty and service. Give the ego just enough to exist, but not enough to take over and run the show.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Fun is contagious, but it's also subjective. Your success will depend on your ability to read the room. If you're not in the room, as in an email or text situation, humor is a risk. The level of risk is commensurate with the payoff.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your fantasy life is going strong. As for these castles in the air -- maybe you can't live in them, but some of the ideas are practical enough to apply once you touch back down to earth.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your mood: ambitious. You'll push yourself. Because going after the larger experiences of life takes a great deal of focus and energy, it will require you to cut out distractions and bring your lower appetites into control.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Unless you are a DJ or a children's party character, it's probably not your job to make the people around you happy. So why not go where (SET ITAL) you're (END ITAL) the happiest? Only you know the way.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Life gets messy. The unexpected bumps, spills and overlaps are clues that we are, indeed, alive. Your mettle will be tested, and you'll get the opportunity to tidy up, compartmentalize and prove just how cool you can be.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). New projects gather steam. The work is really just beginning, but encouraging early results are a glimpse of what you'll get if you keep this up for the long haul.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The stage is set for rivalries to play out. Emotions run hot, alliances have been formed and the stakes are high. Even so, it's not too late for mediation, negotiation and peaceful deal-making.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Shared creativity is a bond. Writing can unite people. Art can flirt with your eyeballs. A song can pierce you straight through and connect you with invisible thread to the others who hear and love it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). As for the burdens laid on you by society, there's always a way around it. If you can't see it from where you stand, seek a perspective shift. Reading, travel and interviewing others are all valid ways to get there.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). If no one asks a question, nothing gets done. And if people keep asking questions, nothing gets done. Progress is asking the right question at the right time and getting answers before you move on to the next question.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You know what it's like to be the one who loves more, sacrifices greater and maximizes small returns. But don't worry; this will not be your destiny forever. Prepare for huge love.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You will somehow be able to see things as your loved one does and though you may not entirely agree, your understanding of the other point of view will lift the relationship to a new level of ease.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 15). You'll be publicly praised -- an event that makes such an impression, it alters the course of your work. Relationship building culminates in a lucrative deal. Though you're very strategic in some areas of life, when it comes to love, all game goes out the window. You simply give everything and joy spills everywhere. Pisces and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 2, 14, 38 and 17.

Universal SUDOKU

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

9x9 Sudoku grid with some numbers pre-filled.

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

9x9 grid of numbers representing the solution to the Sudoku puzzle.

SOLUTIONS

9x9 grid of numbers representing the solution to the Sudoku puzzle.

It's All Pretty Standard by Taylor Johnson

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg

13x13 crossword grid with numbers 1-67 indicating starting positions for clues.

- ACROSS: 1 Group of plotters; 6 Browser bookmarks; 10 Social position; 14 Like a 14-degree angle; 15 Look for; 16 Orchestra tuner; 17 Competition winner; 20 ___ Field (Mets' ballpark); 21 What gets you a hand?; 22 Credits as a source; 23 Record for later; 25 River that starts in the Swiss Alps; 27 Temporary retailers; 31 Diet soda discontinued in 2020; 34 Sidestep; 35 Address that's gender-neutral in "Battlestar Galactica"; 36 State with caucuses; 37 Give a darn; 38 Looking shocked; 40 Good bargain; 41 Liberal ___ degree; 42 Kind or type; 43 Gem that may be milky; 44 Empire State team, on the scoreboard; 45 Trances; 48 Partner of "fast"; 50 Black Lives Matter co-founder Tometi; 51 Piece of pizza; 53 Musical ending; 55 Revered figure; 59 Region for Bismarck and Montgomery, and a hint to the middle three letters of 17-, 27- and 45-Across; 62 "Go Hang a Salami! I'm a Lasagna Hog!" palindromist Jon; 63 Steak, in a rhyming dish's name; 64 Word before "march" or "sign"; 65 Not quite all; 66 "Buy It Now" site; 67 Did nothing; DOWN: 1 AP math subject; 2 Superfruit from a palm; 3 Get 22 in blackjack, say; 4 Teens stereotypically have them; 5 A fire sign; 6 Early online forum; 7 Take a breather; 8 "Go for it!"; 9 Genre that calypso influenced; 10 "The Thinker" sculptor; 11 What you may legally grab at the mall; 12 Zilch; 13 They're "stood on" at frat parties; 18 Gets a little shut-eye; 19 CBS police procedural; 24 Certain primate; 26 "Catch!"; 27 ___ sandies (nutty cookies); 28 Egg-producing organ; 29 Many senators toe them; 30 Tennis champion Naomi; 32 In the know; 33 Fancy dances; 36 Painted a rosy picture of; 38 Rings on TV; 39 Running group; 43 After-school grp. with no kids; 45 Not one to sit around; 46 Alter; 47 Folder for annoying emails; 49 Band of eight; 51 ___ Likely (annoying caller ID); 52 Toy brick; 54 ___ vez (again, in Spanish); 56 Nonrenewable source of energy; 57 Back in the day; 58 Must-have; 60 Enjoyed Froot Loops; 61 Lead-in to "Pen"

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2022 Pink Moon Musings



Albert Camus said it's necessary to fall in love, "if only to provide an alibi for all the random despair you are going to feel anyway." Can you think of times when you felt a certain way first and looked for reasons later? The full moon in Libra, the sign of relationships, offers the opposite directive -- claim hope and watch it blossom in your life.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Life is bustling and you'll do what you can. As for the rest, instead of saying "I don't have time," try more empowering language like, "this is not my priority right now" and feel like an absolute boss.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Communicate about money. If you're making wise decisions but your loved ones aren't on the same page, they could counter your actions and thwart your progress. Alignment creates momentum.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Humans often equate attractiveness with goodness, but the correlation doesn't exist. Though appearances may afford you many clues as to a person's character traits, you'll have to look deeper to know how good someone is.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You've a talent for understanding just how much you can and should take on. It's natural to want to distance yourself from a harsh reality or distract yourself from pain.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). To believe in your ability to sense what the right thing to do is and trust yourself to act accordingly promotes confidence in who you are now. For even more confidence, extend the same courtesy backward to Past You. No regrets.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). As you make more of a distinction between what you have to do and what you choose to do, you understand that the list of "have-to's" is actually quite small. You'll examine your reasons for continuing with certain responsibilities.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Conscious living has a price. The highs and lows will be extreme and acute. But feeling everything life has to offer is better than the alternative -- walking around as though programmed, like a numb zombie-robot.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). We want what seems somewhat, but not entirely inaccessible. Complete inaccessibility inspires derision. Desire will be ignited where beauty meets the unfinished or unpolished. Rawness makes a thing accessible.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're highly influential today. With power comes responsibility. Before you make your pitch, lead your team or get involved in any situation, stop and ask yourself what's best for all.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Even though a job is nearly complete, the refinements take almost as much time as the job itself did. Tending to details is hard work, but also very worth the effort.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're still navigating the complex matrix of another person. You'll never know it completely, but your willingness to try will keep the relationship fresh.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Because you feel less pressure to conform to norms today your approach to problems will be very different. You'll skip the usual solutions and come up with inventive and amusing fixes.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 16). You'll experience many environments and get the best of every world. Chaotic challenges shape you; calm, supportive places allow for intensive, focused work. You are brilliant without trying to be or do anything other than what comes naturally. Someone will travel far to see you -- the ultimate compliment. Scorpio and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 28, 9, 45 and 15.

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