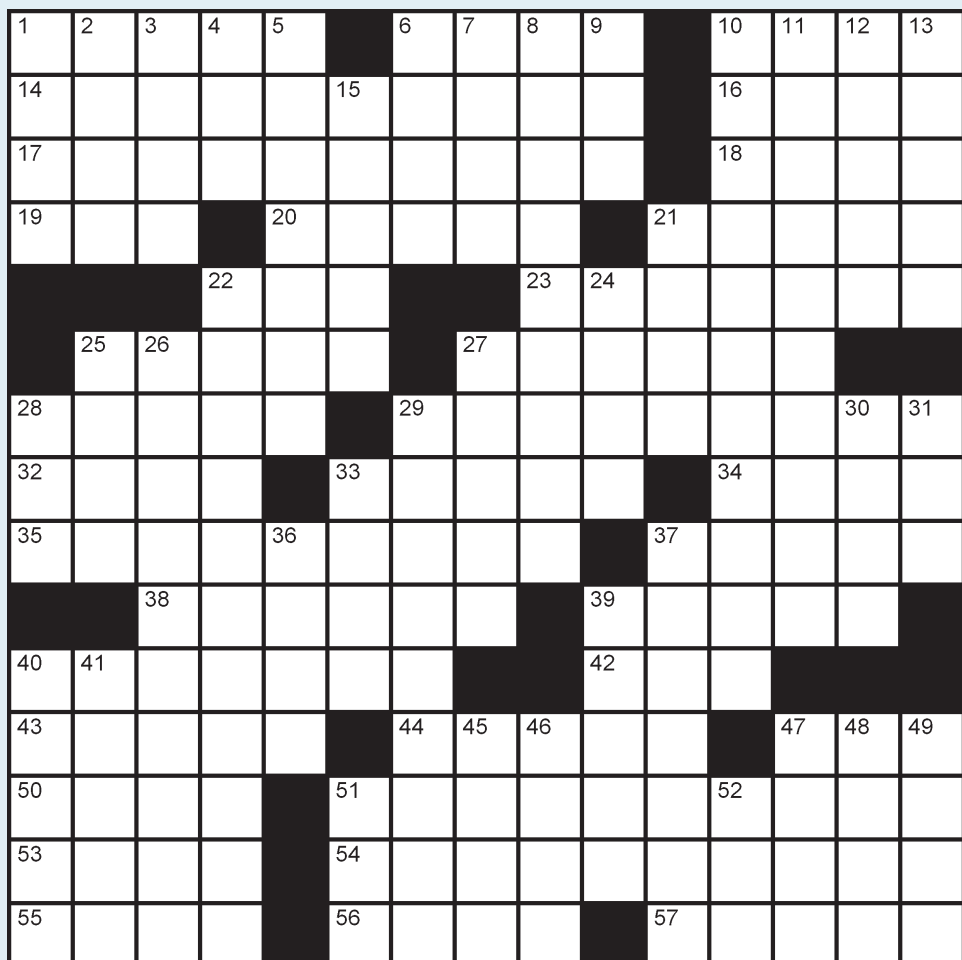


Universal Freestyle 20 by Hemant Mehta

Universal Crossword edited by Amanda Rafkin



- ACROSS: 1 Bit of parsley, 6 Foot treatment, for short, 10 Tarzan might swing on one, 14 "Really no need to explain further", 16 Suffix for "senior", 17 "One of you has betrayed me", 18 Get back to a host, 19 Mattar paneer legume, 20 Roadside stopover, 21 Noodle soup with a tonkotsu variety, 22 Phillipa of "Hamilton", 23 Piece of art that depicts a scene, 25 Overblown flattery, 27 Belgian chocolate company, 28 Like some R-rated humor, 29 "\_\_\_ is 20/20", 32 College west of Penn, 33 Wanders, 34 Apply sloppily, 35 Handles paired with passwords, 37 Bridle straps, 38 Sports analyst McFarland, 39 Roaring beasts, 40 Reunion attendee, often, 42 FaceTime software, 43 Leave alone, 44 Himalayan region that celebrates Losar, 47 What makes the earth turn?, 50 "The Wizard of Oz" pooch, 51 Cliched excuse for missing homework, 53 Mystery writer, for short?, 54 They may elicit sighs of relief, 55 Actress Russo, 56 Word after "jam" or "cuddle", 57 Faintly lit?, DOWN: 1 Lose traction, 2 Show about drag ball culture, 3 Tomato variety, 4 Barinholtz of "The Mindy Project", 5 "\_\_\_ Girls" (2000-2007 TV series), 6 Bog material, 7 Raison d'\_\_\_, 8 Sounds heard on landlines, 9 Addams family cousin, 10 Internet uploads that are viewed millions of times, 11 "I'm baaackk!", 12 Skin care brand, 13 College sports channel, 15 Apt rhyme for "doom", 21 Stats for sluggers, 22 "Instrument" for a "womp womp" moment, 24 Does sum work?, 25 Hindi honorifics, 26 It may be pressed at the start of a video call, 27 Person who donates, 28 "Brain" hidden in "logic puzzle", 29 Unpretentiously simple, 30 Fifth-century invaders, 31 "Friday Night Vibes" channel, 33 Pasta sauce brand, 36 "\_\_\_ of your beeswax!", 37 It's "read" during a scolding, 39 Feudal figure, 40 Place to exchange vows, 41 Sierra \_\_\_ (African country), 45 Words exchanged at weddings, 46 "Poppycock!", 47 Assist, 48 Massage therapist's supplies, 49 Site for selling handmade crafts, 51 Hosts, informally, 52 \_\_\_ chi

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2022 Swelling Scorpio Moon



The sun and Saturn suggest friction, conflict, the sand in the pearl, the bug in the eye of an otherwise blissful bike ride. The moon is swelling to fullness in Scorpio with a lunar eclipse; is it a blink of that big eye to assure that all is well? Is it the wink of a flirt, the ocular stutter to suggest lies? It's up to interpretation; so, what's yours?

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Don't worry, things will organize and settle themselves. Getting in the middle of it will only complicate the process. Time will bring all into order.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Though it's not always advisable to invite outside opinions, today, the review of an objective party will be an invaluable resource. "A guest sees more in an hour than the host in a year." -- Polish Proverb

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Questions of worth and value come up along with themes of earning and deserving -- so much math. If you have to assess the commodities this closely, maybe there's not enough love in the deal.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). What causes things to heat up? Friction. Don't be afraid of getting close, opposing the argument, going toe-to-toe or making a mess. These are the options that keep it interesting.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll help by focusing people's strengths. Instead of pity or sympathy, you offer respect and a firm belief in the wells of tenacity and talent that lie deep inside people.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Being true to the one you love does not mean doing everything they want you to do. Take care of yourself before taking care of your relationship and all will stay in good balance.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Morning brings a strong inclination toward the things that will make your life better. Evening brings a strong inclination toward ease. So, what can you do to make a desired behavior easier to accomplish, no matter what time it is?

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The enemy of communication is noise. To increase the clarity of your signal, you need to eliminate everything that is not the message. Being succinct and direct will earn you respect and status.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It's a long way to the end of a project, and trying to extend your mind all the way there might produce feelings of overwhelm and anxiety. Instead, think about the next 10 minutes, and then the 10 minutes after that.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). While a touch of unpredictability can be a fun character trait, flakiness is a dealbreaker for you. Today, you'll honor your agreements, expect others to do the same and enjoy this logistically smooth day.

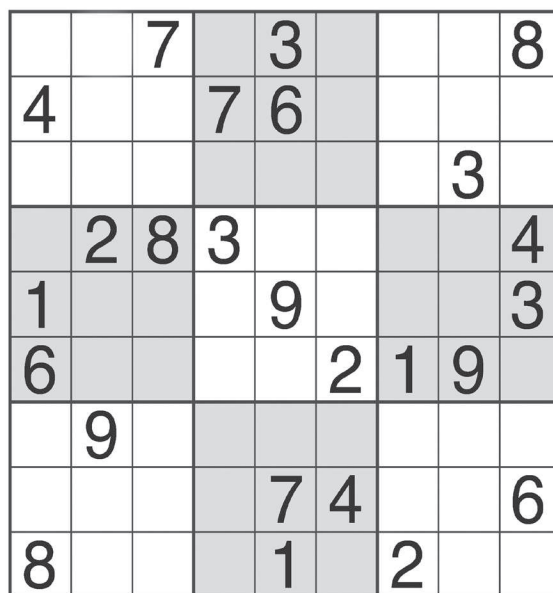
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There are those who lack a fundamental understanding of the value you provide. You can still do good here, but it's not the best fit. You'll be happier around people you don't have to work so hard to please.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). A habit has served you well for a very long time, and yet you can do much better. This you'll find out as you make the switch to less costly and more fulfilling options. Eventually, the new choice will come easily to you.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 15). Love in many forms will fortify and support you. You'll find yourself on a mission so important, you'll tune out the rest of the world and anything distracting from your goal. You'll push past the point when others would have given up. Good fortune rains on you as you reach the mile markers at extraordinary distances. Leo and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 30, 1, 28 and 16.

Universal SUDOKU

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



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

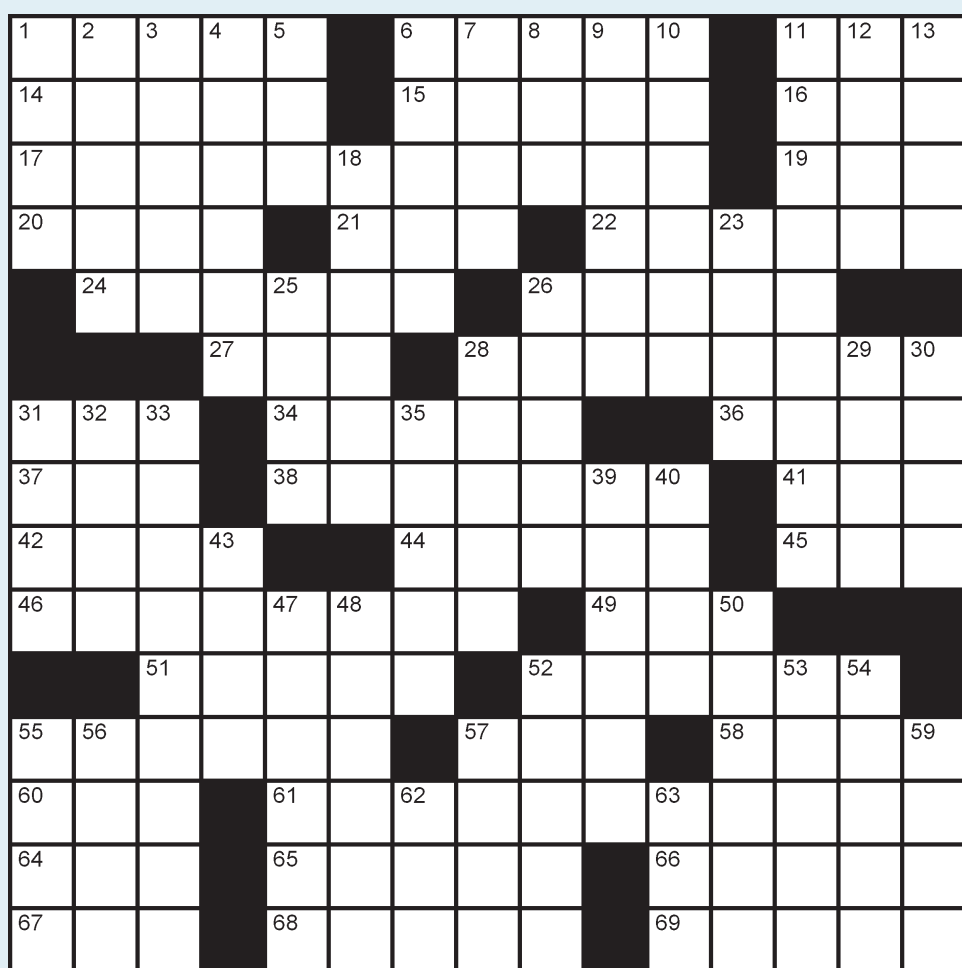


SOLUTIONS



Front Man by Lynn Lempel

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS: 1 Ice cream drink, 6 Big hit, in two ways, 11 Hit the slopes, 14 Dealt with enough frustrations, 15 Definite no-no, 16 Card game similar to Crazy Eights, 17 \*Symbolic Cold War barrier, 19 Bowler's target, 20 Stereotypical techie, 21 Tattletale, 22 Basic principles, 24 Stuck-up, 26 Projecting part of a cap, 27 St. Pete's state: Abbr., 28 Tongue's sensory organ, 31 Hotel-rating org., 34 Outdo, 36 Get trounced, 37 Meal on a patio, informally, 38 \*Assistants at baseball games, 41 Pint-size, 42 After-school group, 44 "Great blue" bird, 45 Source of a hippie's trip, 46 Marine mammal that floats on its back, 49 Morsel in a crunchy truffle, 51 Part of nearly every English word, 52 Tools for neatening lawns, 55 Spain plus Portugal, mostly, 57 Woman who wore a fig leaf, 58 Users' payments, 60 Name hidden in "namely", 61 \*Long-leafed growth in a hanging pot, 64 Software coder, informally, 65 Arcade "coin", 66 Attila's mount, 67 Bali undergarment, 68 Artery-opening tube, 69 Starting phase, DOWN: 1 Knee-ankle connector, 2 Rabbits' relatives, 3 Decorate, 4 A bit, 5 List shortener, for short, 6 Homeless dog or cat, 7 "Friends" actor LeBlanc, 8 Judicial org., 9 Words of agreement, 10 "I'm not kidding!", 11 \*Big happening for TV advertisers, 12 Like a polo shirt, 13 They must be charged, 18 Sister city of Champaign, Illinois, 23 Christmas, in some carols, 25 Lava lamp lump, 26 Rocket's trail, 28 Potato, for one, 29 Functions, 30 Proof of ownership, 31 Pre-K lesson, 32 Sufficiently skilled, 33 \*Aftershave brand, 35 Lucy's neighbor on "I Love Lucy", 39 Over there, quaintly, 40 Close-fitting, 43 Unrefined person, 47 Contorts, 48 Vessel with a handle and spout, 50 Nonstick coating, 52 Baby shower or birthday, 53 Hind parts, 54 Good judgment, 55 Site for film info, 56 Pub crawler's drink, 57 Spot where fig leaves were worn, 59 Editor's "Don't change that", 62 '50s POTUS, 63 Vietnamese noodle soup

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

MONDAY, MAY 16, 2022 Flower Moon



In May, the full moon is a flower, this time blinking with flirtatious energy, and as an eclipse reminds us that even the best things come with a degree of uncertainty. If it were not so, life wouldn't be exciting. The mysterious Scorpio lunar waves soon take the shape of an arrow, driving toward an adventure beyond the horizon.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The Latin phrase "amor fati" -- "love of fate" -- describes how you're living. You'll not only accept what comes but you'll quickly find what's beautiful and favorable about it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). In most cases, perfectionism isn't realistic, necessary, useful or timely. You'll opt for a relaxed approach and move steadily, easily and imperfectly forward.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Communicate casually and often today. The action is moved with conversations that seem to be about nothing and yet reveal everything. You'll learn important news, intriguing facts and small but relevant details.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll benefit from adding new faces to your social swirl. A little competition for your attention can be a good thing. It keeps familiar people from taking you for granted.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Doodling is a form of meditation that could help you solve a problem today. Whether you believe you possess drawing talent is irrelevant to the helpfulness of what your brain reveals to you as you drag a pen across paper.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). When someone is asking for the truth, you will not let emotions get in the way of hearing or telling it. Often, people don't ask. They have their reasons. You'll be judicious with your communication.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). While it does feel safe and secure in an environment where everyone agrees with you, you'd rather be where you can grow. Disagreement is what helps you sharpen your skills and strengthen your case.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll learn the sum total of what's possible -- the good, the bad and the ugly. Despite everything you learn, you will not be jaded. The power of love makes it possible.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Some questions feel like a hug. "How are you really?" "What can I help you with?" Other questions feel like an invasion, and you're justified in throwing up a polite defense and distancing yourself from the source.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). When you're a superhero, a lot of the gig is hiding your identity until it's time to shine. Blending in is the fun part. You'll enjoy it even more, as you now sense the action sequence is around the bend.

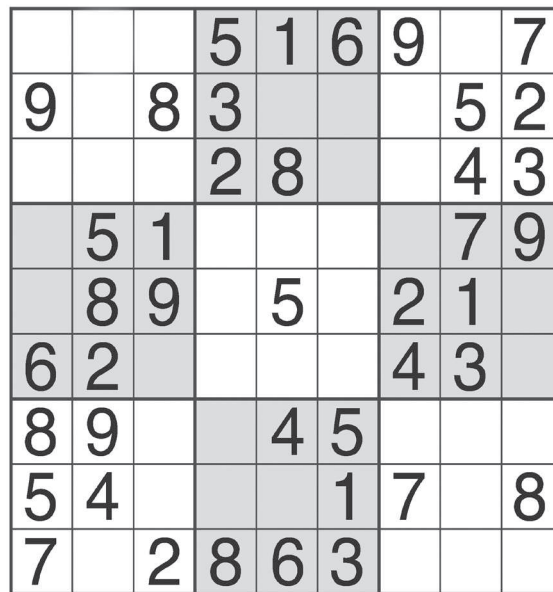
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your mind is opening to new possibilities. Learning about the world helps you see that there is much more available to you than the choices most people around you are making.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Those who have power without a healthy sense of duty will ultimately be unseated from their position. Those who assume responsibility will eventually become more powerful.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 16). The influence of one loving person will make a beautiful difference in your days. Someone who wants only your happiness can actually help by merely sharing experiences with you. You will expand an area of expertise, and your income grows along with the territory. A purchase will be part of your legacy. Virgo and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 15, 3, 38 and 19.

Universal SUDOKU

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



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆



SOLUTIONS

