

**"MONDAY ON SUNDAY" COMICS**

Monday, January 11, 2021

**Daily Bridge Club**

**Fractionally better**

By FRANK STEWART  
Tribune Content Agency

"Eight out of 24 Americans can't reduce a fraction to its lowest terms." — graffiti  
Expert declarers look for slight extra chances to succeed. Over a lifetime of play, those chances can matter.

At today's 3NT, South took the ace of clubs and saw that to lead a low diamond wasn't safe. If dummy's queen won, South would lack the entries to set up and cash the diamonds. So South led the king of diamonds.

East won and returned a club. South took the queen, but when he cashed the jack of diamonds, East threw a spade. South took two more high diamonds, then tried a spade to dummy's jack. East won and led his last club for down two.

you bid two hearts and he returns to two spades. What do you say?

**ANSWER:** In "Standard" methods, partner's sequence invites game. Since you have good trumps, a side ace and a helpful queen in his side suit, bid four spades. In the "two-over-one" style, his two diamonds forced to game, so you might bid three spades in case he has slam aspirations.  
North dealer  
N-S vulnerable

**NORTH**  
♠ A K J 5 2  
♥ A 10 6 3  
♦ Q  
♣ 6 4 2

**WEST**  
♠ 9  
♥ K 8  
♦ 8 7 6 5 4  
♣ J 10 9 8 3

**EAST**  
♠ Q 10 8 4 3  
♥ Q J 9 7  
♦ A  
♣ K 7 5

**SOUTH**  
♠ 7 6  
♥ 5 4 2  
♦ K J 10 9 3 2  
♣ A Q

North	East	South	West
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 NT	All Pass		

Opening lead — ♣ J

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**BETTER PLAY**

South had a fractionally better play. He leads a spade to dummy at Trick Two and returns the queen of diamonds. If East followed low, South would overtake with the king to continue diamonds. But when East's ace appears, South is safe.

East will have the singleton ace only one time in 100, but those little chances can add up.

**DAILY QUESTION**

You hold: ♠ A K J 5 2 ♥ A 10 6 3 ♦ Q ♣ 6 4 2. You open one spade, your partner responds two diamonds,

**SEEKING A FRIENDLY DUPLICATE BRIDGE?**

Find five games weekly online at [bendbridge.org](http://bendbridge.org)

**The New York Times Crossword**

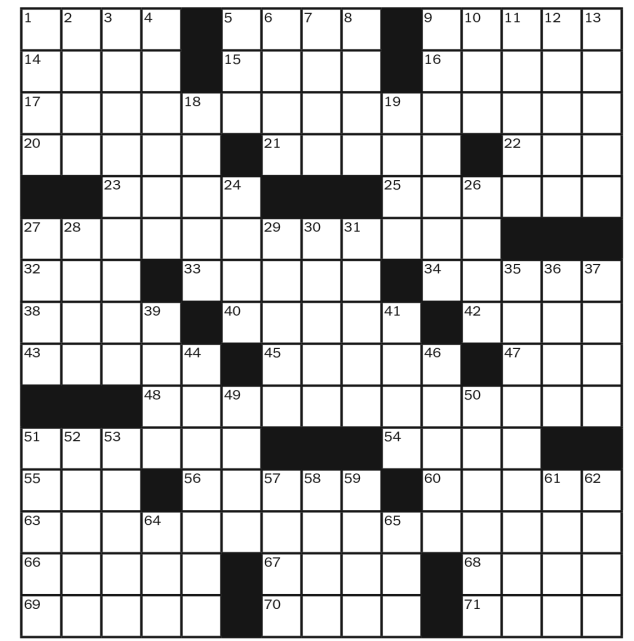
Edited by Will Shortz

No. 1207

- ACROSS**
- 1 Message to the office staff
  - 5 Old South American empire
  - 9 Mosquitoes and gnats
  - 14 Grp. that sets oil benchmarks
  - 15 Start a game of cards
  - 16 American living abroad, e.g.
  - 17 Traveled by subway?
  - 20 Mexican mister
  - 21 Seat at the bar
  - 22 \_\_\_ v. Wade
  - 23 Magnum \_\_\_ (greatest work)
  - 25 Like a recovering hosp. patient, perhaps
  - 27 "Would you call the elevator for me?"
  - 32 Japanese sash
  - 33 Piece of pizza
  - 34 Foreordained
  - 38 Chrissy of "This Is Us"
  - 40 Pet peeves?
  - 42 Wine region of California
  - 43 Dickens's "\_\_\_ House"
  - 45 "Naughty" and "nice" things for Santa
  - 47 Letters after nus
  - 48 "Hand me a flashlight"?
  - 51 Admits, as an offense
  - 54 Pouty expression
  - 55 "Well, lookee here!"
  - 56 "Person" that speaks in beeps and boops
  - 60 Home that might melt
  - 63 Use French fries as legal tender?
- DOWN**
- 1 Cuts the grass
  - 2 Fencing sword
  - 3 Amish cousin
  - 4 Tentacled sea creatures
  - 5 Vow before a judge
  - 6 The latest
  - 7 Jargon
  - 8 Cher, e.g., voicewise
  - 9 Remove, as a sticker
  - 10 Part of an office telephone no.
  - 11 Period of rapid growth
  - 12 It's a no-no
  - 13 Like some ski slopes and prices
  - 18 Pharmacy offerings
  - 19 Certain pueblo dweller
  - 24 \_\_\_-evaluation
  - 26 Ending of seven Asian countries' names
  - 27 Item in a purse
  - 28 Whom Cain slew
  - 29 Drawers for money
  - 66 Constellation with a "belt"
  - 67 Good amount of land to build on
  - 68 Golf ball stands
  - 69 Insurance giant
  - 70 Worker paid day by day, maybe
  - 71 Hairstyle that may have a pick

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE**

S	L	I	M	J	I	M	L	I	M	B	E	R	
L	I	N	E	E	M	U	P	I	D	E	A	T	E
U	P	S	T	O	R	E	T	E	T	R	A	D	
G	O	Y	A	S	D	E	G	D	E	B	I	T	
G	U	N	S	J	E	W	E	L	D	E	L	I	
O	T	C	T	I	R	E	O	U	T	Q	E	D	
M	O	T	H	E	R	N	A	T	U	R	E		
D	E	A	R	T	O	G	E	N	I	E	S		
Q	U	A	R	T	E	R	E	S	T	S			
R	L	S	E	R	N	E	S	T	O				
C	L	E	M	S	E	L	M	A	S	O	B	E	
O	P	I	U	M	T	A	I	S	W	O	O	P	
D	A	N	C	E	R	I	L	I	K	E	D	I	
E	I	T	H	E	R	D	E	V	I	L	I	S	
S	N	O	O	T	S	Y	E	S	L	E	T	S	



PUZZLE BY BARBARA LIN

- 30 Nail the test
- 31 Dog walker's need
- 35 Reason some people move to the Cayman Islands
- 36 More than amazing
- 37 Dot's counterpart in Morse code
- 39 Microwaves
- 41 Long part of a rose
- 44 Hurricane that was the subject of 2006's "When the Levees Broke"
- 46 Keeping a stiff upper lip
- 49 Any minute now
- 50 Should, informally
- 51 Hot après-ski beverage
- 52 Alternative to Chicago's Midway
- 53 Put forward, as a theory
- 57 Dinghy or dory
- 58 First word of a fairy tale
- 59 Six years, for a U.S. senator
- 61 Abbr. on a O button
- 62 \_\_\_ buco
- 64 Sweetie pie
- 65 Leaf-turning time: Abbr.

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**BIZARRO**

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WOUND P & P  
PIKARO  
1-11-21

PSYCHOLOGISTS ANONYMOUS

**DENNIS THE MENACE**

"SOMETIMES YOU JUST HAVE TO FACE THE MUSIC, DENNIS."

"SO... WHERE'S THE MUSIC?"

**HERMAN**

LOANS

"I could literally double my income with a 20-foot ladder."

**JUMBLE**

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VAWEE  
GEHED  
CCNILI  
NTCREH

Print the answer here: ○○○○○○

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: DOILY FLUID THORNY DRAGON  
Answer: He had the small dent in his wife's car repaired to keep her from — "FIND-DING" OUT

**CANDORVILLE**

@candorville - You tweeted "Honestly, I don't miss movie theaters at all."

@candorville - On April 19, 2007, you tweeted the following:

@candorville - "When people begin a sentence with 'honestly,' I have to wonder if everything else they've said has been a lie."

I'M OLD ENOUGH TO REMEMBER WHEN THE PURPOSE OF TALKING TO STRANGERS WASN'T TO "WIN!"

@candorville - I've proven you're a massive hypocrite LOL

**WUMO**

Ah, yes. It's so simple and so clever. Instead of a radiator cover, we got an "ugly kid" cover ...

**ZITS**

I HEARD YOUR BAND PRACTICING. YOU GUYS SUCK!

YEAH? COME SAY THAT TO MY FACE FROM A SAFE DISTANCE OF AT LEAST SIX FEET WEARING A MASK...

SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE COMEBACKS ARE THE LAMEST.

**Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle**

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 Story like "Roots"
  - 5 K9 Advantix II targets
  - 10 Dance that tells a story
  - 14 Capturing device
  - 15 Cuba \_\_\_ rum cocktail
  - 16 Former Lacoste partner in sportswear
  - 17 Taj Mahal city
  - 18 5,000 feet, roughly
  - 20 Providing post-bath garb to red-breasted singers?
  - 22 Keep a roomie awake, maybe
  - 23 Letters before an alias
  - 24 Window sticker
  - 28 Surg. areas
  - 30 Chocolate-filled cookie
  - 31 Doing poorly in baking class?
  - 36 Became the champ
  - 37 Farm bleaters
  - 38 Like many SSA payment recipients
  - 39 Growing dried grapes?
  - 44 Mischievous doings
  - 45 Jaguar XK-E, e.g.
  - 46 Tomato concentrate
  - 47 Hope/Crosby film destination
  - 50 Make roar, as an engine
  - 54 Recording easy putts?
  - 57 "That's slightly inaccurate"
  - 60 Bluesy James
  - 61 Put one \_\_\_ on: fool
  - 62 Gadget used on an apple
  - 63 Ace, as a test
  - 64 High roller's rolls
  - 65 The ones over there
  - 66 Abound (with)
  - 4 Two that match, as socks
  - 5 Flier on a pole
  - 6 Heavenly scales
  - 7 Kindle download
  - 8 Dutch-speaking Caribbean island
  - 9 Alien-seeking org.
  - 10 "And he ... HE \_\_\_! ... The Grinch carved the roast-beast!"
  - 11 Israeli weapon
  - 12 Enthusiastic online "Ha-ha!"
  - 13 Beverage suffix
  - 19 "\_\_\_ I don't?": challenging words
  - 21 Foam-based ball
  - 25 Piled-stones memorial
  - 26 Authors Rice and Tyler
  - 27 Suffered defeat
  - 29 6-Down and 11 others
  - 30 Beethoven's love
  - 31 Polynesian Disney princess
  - 32 Watts and volts
  - 33 Rich holiday drink
  - 34 Long-nosed fish
  - 35 L.A. commuter org.
  - 49 Looks untowardly toward
  - 51 Curriculum \_\_\_: resumé
  - 52 Loosen, as a knot
  - 53 Song of worship
  - 55 Treaty
  - 56 Spare in a Brit's boot
  - 57 Currently
  - 58 Egg cells
  - 59 Talking stuffed bear of film

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:**

H	O	W	Y	O	U	D	O	I	N	R	E	P	O
E	R	R	O	R	P	R	O	N	E	O	S	L	O
R	E	A	D	E	R	S	H	I	P	T	O	P	
E	L	P	A	S	O	S	T	O	P	G	A	P	S
I	T	A	L	S	T	O	U	T					
T	E	A	S	E	R	A	D	I	N	T	E	R	N
H	E	L	M	S	R	E	E	S	E	P	H	O	
A	R	E	S	P	R	I	S	M	C	L	O	T	
T	I	X	T	R	Y	S	T	T	R	A	D	E	
S	E	T	T	E	E	M	A	C	H	I	N	E	S
R	E	A	D	E	S	L	I	M					
O	N	E	T	R	I	C	K	O	R	E	C	K	S
R	O	B	O	C	L	E	A	N	S	L	A	T	E
E	V	E	N	T	A	R	G	E	T	A	R	E	A
O	A	K	S	T	R	E	S	S	B	A	L	L	

01/11/21

**SUDOKU**

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

**SOLUTION TO PREVIOUS SUDOKU**

1	9	3	6	4	8	5	2	7
8	4	6	7	2	5	1	9	3
7	5	2	3	9	1	4	6	8
6	8	7	2	1	3	9	5	4
3	2	4	9	5	7	6	8	1
5	1	9	4	8	6	7	3	2
2	7	1	8	6	9	3	4	5
4	6	5	1	3	2	8	7	9
9	3	8	5	7	4	2	1	6

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

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By Jeffrey Wechsler  
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