

Tuesday, February 2, 2021

**Daily Bridge Club**

**Maintaining focus**

By FRANK STEWART  
Tribune Content Agency

In the club lounge, the talk turned to the importance of focus. One of our older members said his abilities were hard to gauge.

"One day, I amaze myself," he sighed. "The next, I'm trying to find my cellphone when I'm talking on it."

In today's deal, West led the jack of trumps against four hearts, and South won with the king, led a diamond to the ace and ruffed a diamond with the deuce of trumps. (Oops.) He returned a trump to dummy's ace and led a high diamond.

**SPADE SHIFT**

East ruffed (South threw a spade) and led the ten of clubs: king, ace. West then shifted to spade: five, queen, ace. South could only concede a club — he couldn't reach dummy — and the defense cashed a spade. Down one.

South lost focus at Trick Three. He must ruff a diamond with a middle trump, lead a middle trump to dummy and continue with a high diamond. Then, if the defense operates the same way, South can lead his deuce of trumps to dummy's four and run the diamonds to discard his low spades.

**DAILY QUESTION**

You hold: ♠ A 10 4 2 ♥ K 8 7 6 2 ♦ 4 ♣ K 8 7. Your partner opens one diamond, you respond one heart and

he bids two clubs. What do you say?  
**ANSWER:** This problem is agonizing. Since your partner may have only 12 points, to pass may be your only route to a plus score. But he could have as many as 18 points, and passing may miss a game. If vulnerable, with more to gain, you might try 2NT. Do not bid two spades, which would suggest much more strength.

North dealer  
N-S vulnerable

**NORTH**

♠ J 5  
♥ A 4 3  
♦ A K Q 5 3 2  
♣ 5 4

**WEST**  
♠ K 9 8 3  
♥ J 10  
♦ J 9 8 6  
♣ A J 3

**EAST**  
♠ Q 7 6  
♥ Q 9 5  
♦ 10 7  
♣ Q 10 9 6 2

**SOUTH**

♠ A 10 4 2  
♥ K 8 7 6 2  
♦ 4  
♣ K 8 7

North	East	South	West
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Opening lead — ♥ J

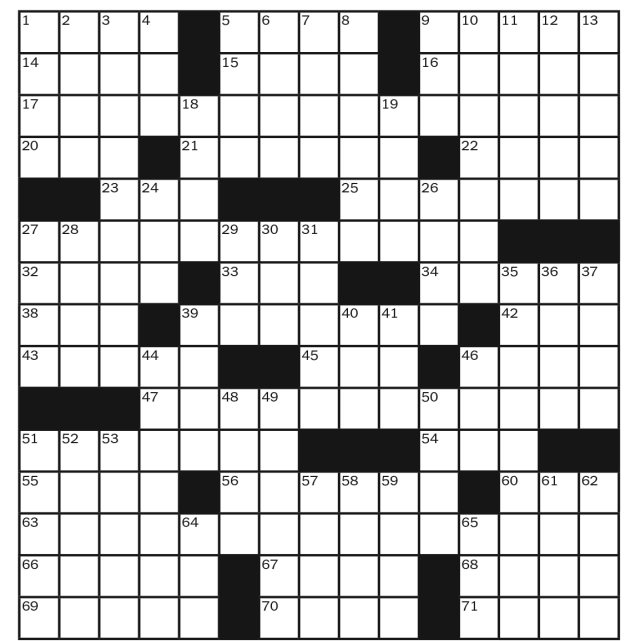
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**The New York Times Crossword**

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 1229

- ACROSS**
- 1 Salacious
  - 5 Opposite of loose
  - 9 Galileo, by birth
  - 14 \_\_\_ vera
  - 15 Frosty coating
  - 16 Loosen, as a knot
  - 17 Xena, notably
  - 20 Show known for its cold opens, for short
  - 21 Cantankerous
  - 22 Guard's command
  - 23 Half of a Monopoly pair
  - 25 "Smart as a whip" and "sharp as a tack"
  - 27 Largest lizard on earth (up to 10 feet long)
  - 32 Mideast sultanate
  - 33 Sweet-talk and send chocolates, say
  - 34 Looks lasciviously
  - 38 Sass
  - 39 Toronto landmark that's the tallest free-standing structure in the Western Hemisphere
  - 42 Cereal bit
  - 43 Totally lost
  - 45 Funnyman Brooks
  - 46 In years past
  - 47 Who sang the 1973 #1 hit "Midnight Train to Georgia"
  - 51 Request for payment
  - 54 It might be brown or pale
  - 55 Moscow turnaround
  - 56 Skulls
  - 60 By way of
  - 63 "Happily ever after" ... or what 17-, 27-, 39- or 47-Across has?
  - 66 "Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt" actress Kemper
  - 67 Tablet released in 2010
  - 68 Tribe that lent its name to a Nebraska county
  - 69 Speaks with a gravelly voice
  - 70 Cuts with shears, maybe
  - 71 "Auld Lang \_\_\_"



PUZZLE BY MATTHEW TROUT

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE**



**DOWN**

- 1 Ten Commandments, e.g.
- 2 Pizazz
- 3 Some classroom wall hangings
- 4 \_\_\_ Spiegel (German newsmagazine)
- 5 Garment that may be "dropped"
- 6 Broadcasts
- 7 Ones usually found at home
- 8 Mother \_\_\_
- 9 Many a groan inducer
- 10 Moving at a snail's pace
- 11 Super bargain
- 12 Political division, metaphorically
- 13 Locales of wasps and spies
- 18 \_\_\_ coffee
- 19 Hipster's "gotcha"

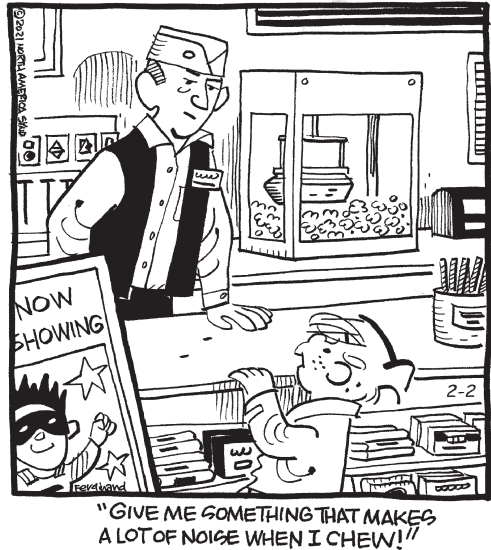
- 24 Particle in a particle accelerator
- 26 Secure at shore
- 27 Kind of nut
- 28 Leave out
- 29 Cable channel named for a talk show host
- 30 One of three in a Morse "S"
- 31 Spacious
- 35 What the biblical Methuselah is famous for
- 36 A pop
- 37 "Keep as is"
- 39 The Golden State, familiarly
- 40 Director Anderson
- 41 Rocky Mountain National Park sighting
- 44 It's all about me, me, me
- 46 Big Alaska export
- 48 Bank statement no.
- 49 Waylay, as a conversation
- 50 Tandoori bread
- 51 Deduce
- 52 Spiral-horned African antelope
- 53 Some bridal accessories
- 57 Big name in dog food
- 58 Kind of tide
- 59 Modern war hazards, for short
- 61 Sit \_\_\_ (audit)
- 62 Pulitzer-winning James
- 64 "You rang?"
- 65 Salon creations

Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 7,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$39.95 a year).  
Read about and comment on each puzzle: nytimes.com/wordplay.

**BIZARRO**



**DENNIS THE MENACE**



**HERMAN**



**JUMBLE**

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

SHIWK  
CKONK  
CUTBEK  
LCREDO

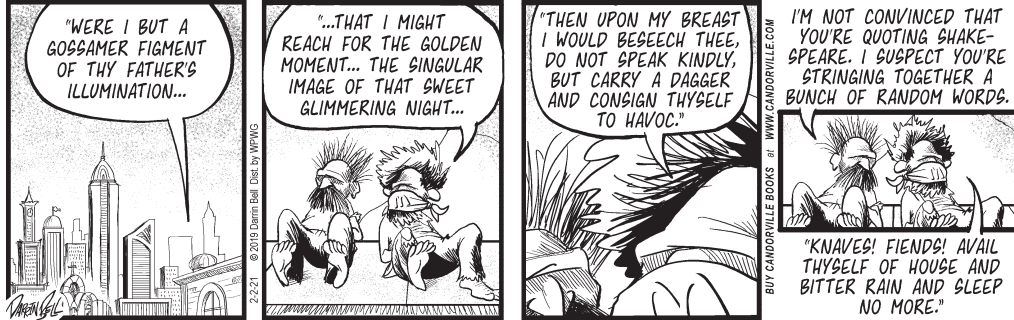
THE GROUNDHOG'S WIFE ASKED HIM TO TAKE OUT THE GARBAGE, AND HE SAID HE ...

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

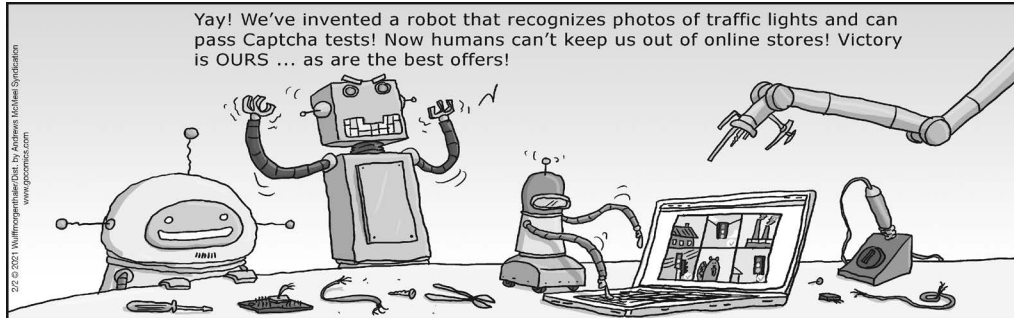
Answers tomorrow

Yesterday's Jumbles: ELECT RODEO OUTLET PLURAL  
Answer: The designer blouse was \$300. She was going to buy it and didn't mind paying — TOP DOLLAR

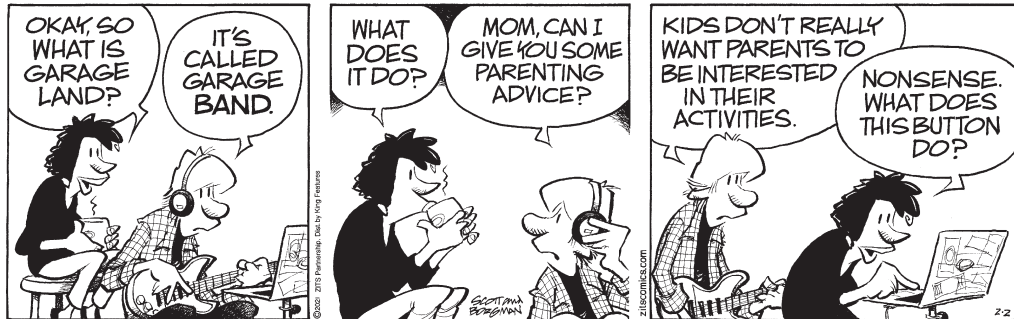
**CANDORVILLE**



**WUMO**



**ZITS**



**Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle**

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 Morse code component
  - 5 John Wick, for one
  - 11 Wedding reception VIPs
  - 14 Puerto Rico, por ejemplo
  - 15 Blueprint
  - 16 Legendary bird of prey
  - 17 \*Carpe diem
  - 19 Rap sheet letters
  - 20 "Zip your lip!"
  - 21 Lust or greed
  - 22 "And how!"
  - 23 \*Be the first to begin
  - 27 Hug
  - 29 Mom's mom
  - 30 Extended pd. away from work
  - 31 Notable period
  - 33 Commercial charge
  - 37 U.K. network
  - 38 \*Party gifts container
  - 41 Coffee dispenser
  - 42 Invite for
  - 44 Aggregate
  - 45 Container cover
  - 46 Escape clauses
  - 49 Letters in alphabet soup
  - 52 \*Act in desperation
  - 56 Retinal cells
  - 57 Fannie or Ginnie follower
  - 58 Silently understood
  - 61 Dismissal metaphor, with "the"
  - 62 Familiar slogan ... and what each answer to a starred clue is?
  - 65 A-lister
  - 66 Wind instruments
  - 67 Biter on a pooch
  - 68 Nonetheless
  - 69 Corporate jet maker
  - 70 Hide partner
  - 4 More smoke-filled
  - 5 FDR's successor
  - 6 German pronoun found in half of Munich?
  - 7 What we have here
  - 8 Highway divider
  - 9 Actress Seales of "Insecure"
  - 10 Opposing vote
  - 11 Emmy category
  - 12 Phoenix's 2019 Best Actor role
  - 13 Few and far between
  - 18 "At Last" singer James
  - 22 Hardly any
  - 24 Taiwanese PC maker
  - 25 Queen of Olympus
  - 26 Reel trouble
  - 27 Napoleon's 1814 place of exile
  - 28 Unruly crowds
  - 32 Tummy muscles
  - 34 Comprehensive
  - 35 Shallowest Great Lake
  - 36 Goals
  - 38 Rise, as prices
  - 39 Batter's job in a squeeze play
  - 40 Eros, in Rome
  - 43 Discard
  - 47 Husk-wrapped cantina food
  - 48 Something to update on Facebook
  - 50 Solemn vow
  - 51 "Whistle While You Work" septet
  - 52 Turkey topper
  - 53 "Chicago" showgirl Hart
  - 54 Highly skilled
  - 55 Splinter groups
  - 59 Understanding words
  - 60 Hardwood tree
  - 62 Ozone-depleting chemical
  - 63 Farm layer
  - 64 Free TV spot

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:**



02/02/21

- DOWN**
- 1 Frisbee, for one
  - 2 Befuddled
  - 3 Shoe with a strap that nearly encircles the ankle

By Roger and Kathy Wienberg  
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02/02/21

**SUDOKU**

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

**SOLUTION TO PREVIOUS SUDOKU**

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

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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