Tuesday, February 9, 2021

Daily Bridge Club

Cy's selection process

By FRANK STEWART
Tribune Content Agency

Cy the Cynic denies that he's lazy. He says he believes in "selective participation." But when Cy is declarer, he habitually "selects" the first line of play he sees.

When Cy played today's six spades, he won the first club in dummy and swiftly let the jack of trumps ride. West took the king and led another club to Cy's ace.

Cy then led a heart to the ace, ruffed a heart, returned to the nine of trumps and ruffed a heart. When West discarded, the Cynic had no chance as the cards lay; he had to lose a diamond.

INFERIOR

Cy picked an inferior line of play. He staked the slam on a 50-50 finesse. Cy should win the first club in his hand, take the ace of hearts, ruff a heart and lead a low trump. Say West plays low and dummy wins. The Cynic next ruffs a heart, takes the ace of trumps, leads a club to dummy and ruffs a fourth heart.

Cy can then lead a diamond to dummy and pitch a diamond on an established heart. This play wins if hearts break no worse than 4-2 or the trump finesse wins: about 92 percent.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ J 9 ♡ A J 8 6 5 3 ◇ K 3 2 ♣ K J. Your partner opens one club, you respond one heart and he bids one spade. What do you say?

ANSWER: You have enough strength for game, but your best game is unclear. A jump to three hearts would be fine if forcing, but most partnerships treat it as invitational. You must create a force. Bid two diamonds, "a fourth suit" bid that doesn't promise diamonds but asks partner to continue describing his hand.

South dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH
♠ J 9
♡ A J 8 6 5 3
◇ K 3 2
♣ K J

WEST
♠ K 3 2
♡ 9 7
◇ Q 9 5 4
♣ 10 9 8 5

EAST
♠ 4
♡ K Q 10 4
◇ J 10 6
♣ Q 6 4 3 2

SOUTH
♠ A Q 10 8 7 6 5
♡ 2
◇ A 8 7
♣ A 7

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♡	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
5 ♠	Pass	6 ♠	All Pass

Opening lead — ♣ 10

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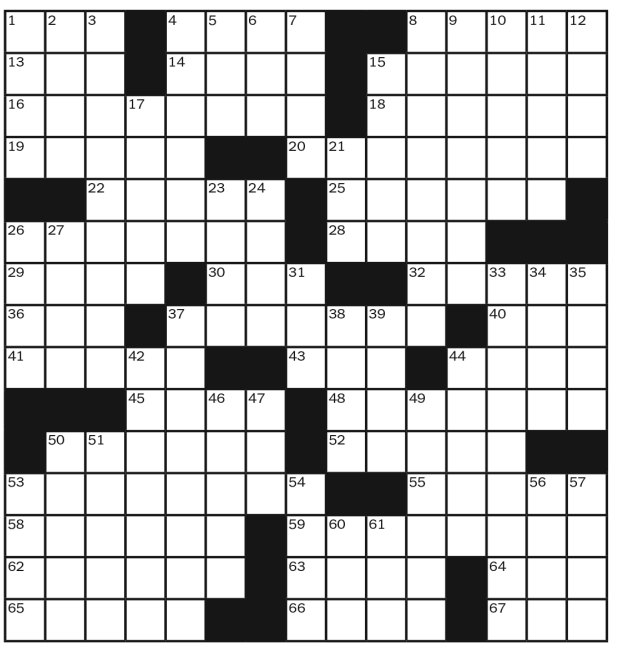
SEEKING A FRIENDLY DUPLICATE BRIDGE?
Find five games weekly online at bendbridge.org

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0105



PUZZLE BY AMY SCHECTER AND CHRISTINA IVERSON

ACROSS
1 Petite pooch, familiarly
4 Small lumps
8 Plot twists may elicit them
13 Group of docs
14 Aware of, as a scheme
15 Lassie, for one
16 Singer Benatar feels blue
18 Consignment shop business
19 Aromatic dried pepper
20 Author Grafton has arrived for dinner
22 An alto probably can't hit it
25 California ball team
26 Actress Wells has just entered the scene
28 First company to feature a gay couple in a mainstream U.S. TV ad (1994)
29 How a used item may be sold
30 Slugger's stat
32 Stop by
36 Tailor's concern
37 Actor Nicholson will bat next
40 Medium for some sculptures with short lifespans
41 Sample
43 "Fly swatter" for an elephant
44 One of a fairy tale threesome
45 Jazzy James
48 Baseball's Boggs has agreed to join us
50 Shot follower
52 Online magazine covering politics and culture
53 Actor Norris got tagged
55 ___ Lama
58 Chart-topper, e.g.
59 TV father Cleaver has just left the starting line
62 Some garden dwellers
63 Skin care brand
64 Org. with an inspector general
65 Located (in)
66 Lily that is Utah's state flower
67 Head of England?

DOWN
1 "Come to ___"
2 Country whose name can be an exclamation
3 Compete intellectually (with)
4 Condo restriction
5 Numero ___
6 "Just so you know...," in a text
7 "___ and Lovers" (D. H. Lawrence novel)
8 Throws a lo-o-ong pass
9 One who didn't make it to the office
10 "12 Years a ___"
11 Things some sorters make
12 Oracle
15 Sound like an old floorboard
17 Protected body parts for goalies and baseball catchers
21 News inits.
23 Circular wedding dance
24 "Fast Money" channel
26 Addlebrained
27 Locale of both the highest and lowest points on the earth's surface
31 Mike's candy partner
33 Some engine fuel
34 Purple berry
35 Relative of a sea gull
37 Zipped along on a watercraft
38 Proverbs
39 Name of a mountain range or a river
42 "How do you do it? I want to know"
44 Trial stages
46 Trial stages
47 The Cards, on scoreboards
49 Cool cat
50 Where the compass was invented
51 Science fiction awards
53 Classic N.Y.C. punk rock venue
54 Counting by them takes half the time
56 Big do
57 In that case
60 Ginger ___
61 Jaunty piano tune

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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

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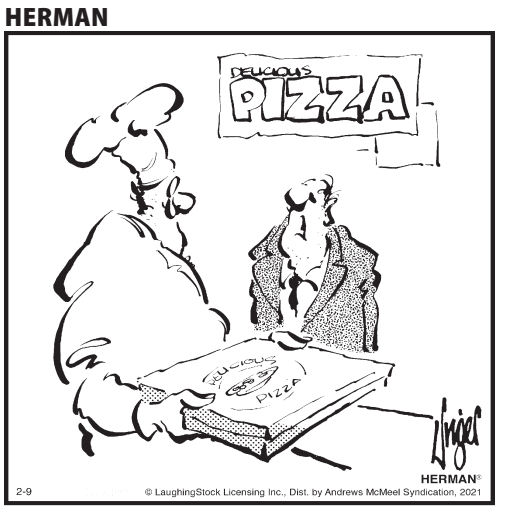
BIZARRO

DENNIS THE MENACE

HERMAN



"I called your receptionist this morning for a 3 o'clock appointment to have my eyes tested."

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

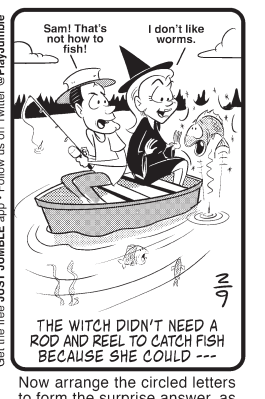
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LAKAO

VTIPO

CSASEC

CLADPI



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

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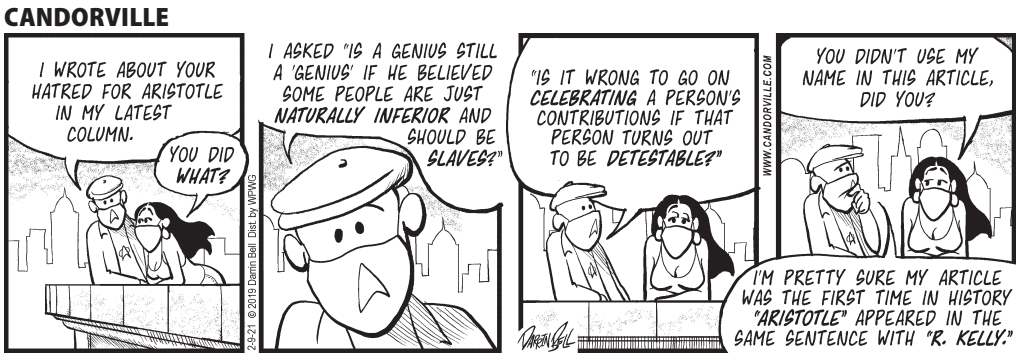
Ans. here:

(Answers tomorrow)

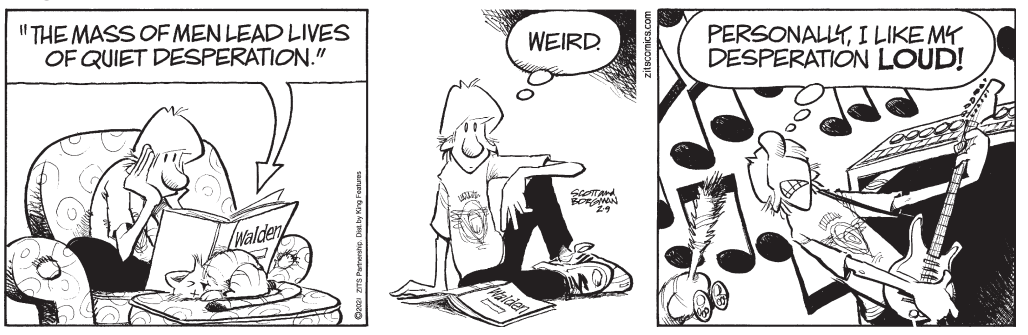
Yesterday's Jumbles: HELLO DRAWN TONGUE BECOME
Answer: When asked what two times two equaled, her students answered — ON THE DOUBLE

CANDORVILLE



WUMO

ZITS



SUDOKU

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

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

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

SOLUTION TO PREVIOUS SUDOKU

SOLUTION:

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

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS
1 One of the Three Bears
5 Pro concerned with Apr. 15
8 Like one liable for libel
14 Tons
15 The Boston Bruins retired his #4 in 1979
16 Like mosaic stones
17 Ilk
18 *Nostalgic place for a walk
20 Patella
22 Sign of summer
23 D.C. figure
24 Alabama march city
25 Porcine sounds
27 *Place to pursue pleasure
33 Brought back to its original condition
36 Song for a diva
37 Sturdy tree
38 Some shower components
42 Overnight option
43 Plumbing concern
45 Fixed, as old shoes
47 *Place with no options
51 Relaxed
52 Trivial, as issues
56 Have debts
59 Without end, to the Bard
60 Cry of approval ... and what the end of each answer to a starred clue is
62 *Evidence in white-collar crime
65 Dunkable cookie
66 Aphrodite's love
67 Web address
68 Measure of versatility
69 Renter
70 Map part
71 Measure of proficiency

DOWN
1 Batman and Robin wore them
2 Without help
3 Type of mushroom
4 NFL passing stat
5 Robin Cook's breakout 1977 novel
6 Pre-cooking job
7 Limb on a rest
8 Fire alerts
9 Break up, as a bovine team
10 Without exception
11 Ewe sounds
12 One drawn in the sand
13 First home
19 Potpourri
21 Pool shot
25 Said, "I'll have the lobster," say
26 Health resort
28 Rage
29 Bumped into
30 Seed cover
31 Diner sticker
32 Round of applause
33 Went in a taxi
34 Merit
35 Icy street risk
39 "__ the ramparts ... "
40 P-like Greek letter
41 Sordid
44 Author of macabre tales
46 Remove from text
48 Spenser's "The __ Queene"
49 Fly to avoid
50 Bonn mister
53 Like Odin and Loki
54 Curved moldings
55 Fowl pole
56 Australian gem
57 Walk in the shallows
58 Grand-scale poetry
60 Line with a plug
61 One on your side
63 Sunny pair?
64 Arctic diving bird

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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

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By Michael A. Macdonald
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