

Wednesday, February 10, 2021

Daily Bridge Club

Useless finesses

By FRANK STEWART
Tribune Content Agency

I continue a series on those infuriating finesses — which invariably lose when you need them to win. A club player brought me today's deal. He had been declarer at 3NT in a team match.

"My partner said I should tape an 'out of order' sign on my forehead," he told me. "I won the first club with the ace and led a spade to my queen, and West took the king and led another club. I won, unblocked the ace of spades and led a diamond to dummy's king.

"I forced out the jack of spades next, but it didn't help because dummy had no more entries. I wound up going down, and my partner was annoyed."

player at your right opens three spades. What do you say?

ANSWER: So much for conducting a careful, leisurely auction. Your opponent's preempt compels you to guess at a contract. In these situations, to avoid being talked out of makeable games, you must assume that your partner has a fair share of the missing strength. Bid 3NT and hope for a decent dummy.

South dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH
♠ 10 9 8 4 2
♥ J 3
♦ K 8 2
♣ A 7 2

BETTER

At the other table, South's play at 3NT was better. He won the first club in his hand and led the ace and queen of spades, rejecting a finesse.

West won and led another club, and South won in dummy and led the ten of spades to force out East's jack. South could reach dummy with the king of diamonds for the good spades. He won three spades, three clubs and three diamonds.

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

EAST
♠ J 7 6 3
♥ A 9
♦ J 10 9 3
♣ 6 4 3

SOUTH
♠ A Q
♥ Q 7 5 4 2
♦ A Q 7
♣ K Q 5

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

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ A Q ♥ Q 7 5 4 2
♦ A Q 7 ♣ K Q 5. Both sides vulnerable. After two passes, the

Opening lead — ♣ J

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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. 0106

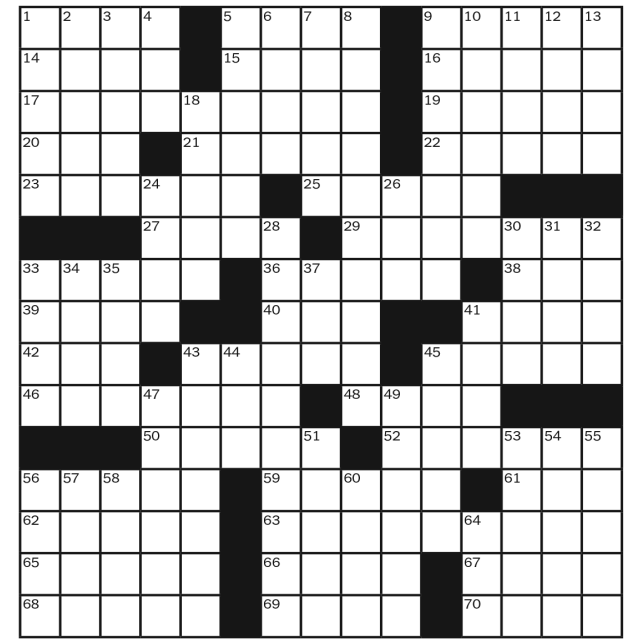
Note: The clues in this "uniclue" crossword appear in a single list, combining Across and Down. When two answers share a number, they also share a clue, in a manner to be determined.

CLUES

- 1 Rubberneck
- 2 Lands heavily
- 3 Predators of penguins
- 4 ___ to shame
- 5 Stiffly formal
- 6 Rice-A-___
- 7 Not reacting
- 8 Raised one's spirits?
- 9 Old Glory
- 10 Past the point of being a joke, say
- 11 Best Picture winner directed by Ben Affleck
- 12 Fidel's brother and successor in Cuba
- 13 Take off
- 14 No ___ traffic
- 15 Author Jaffe
- 16 Holy scroll
- 17 Sold at Sotheby's, say
- 18 "Huh-uh!"
- 19 Scoundrel
- 20 Multivitamin fig.
- 21 Part of the Notre-Dame Cathedral destroyed by a 2019 fire
- 22 Remark from one who's obviously not going to call
- 23 Ancient Jewish ascetic
- 24 Emoji that can mean "Get a load of this!"
- 25 East Coast city on a western coast
- 26 60 secs.
- 27 City near Leeds with historic walls
- 28 "Quit fooling around!"
- 29 Second-level
- 30 Counselor Deanna on the U.S.S. Enterprise
- 31 Frenayed so?
- 32 Pen sound
- 33 Kind of sauce in Chinese cuisine
- 34 Third and fourth word in many limericks
- 35 French political division
- 36 Vivid colors
- 37 Game with antlers
- 38 The last one was named Louis
- 39 Breakfast grains
- 40 Portuguese greeting
- 41 Fully from, as a place
- 42 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup champs
- 43 Footwear fashion faux pas
- 44 Condition that can lead to repetitive behavior, for short
- 45 Risk losing one's license, say
- 46 1950s-'60s entertainment group
- 47 Container at a bakery

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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

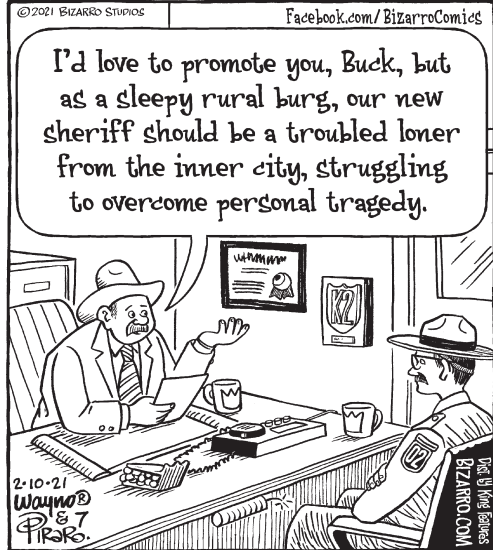


PUZZLE BY ERIC BORNSTEIN

- 48 Button on a deli scale
- 49 Houston team
- 50 Country with 28 states
- 51 Enthusiasm
- 52 Actor Poitier
- 53 "Gotcha"
- 54 Each
- 55 Exaggerated stories
- 56 Proven to be reliable
- 57 Orange discard
- 58 "No food for me, thanks"
- 59 "Impractical Jokers" channel
- 60 Italian man
- 61 Reproductive cells
- 62 Cowboy's lasso
- 63 Sneaker insert
- 64 Former Japanese P.M. Shinzo ___
- 65 Store hours word
- 66 Anxiety about being excluded from the fun, for short
- 67 "Feel the ___" (bygone political slogan)
- 68 Paradieses
- 69 The Jackson 5 had some big ones, informally
- 70 "Slow Churned" ice cream brand

Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 7,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$39.95 a year).
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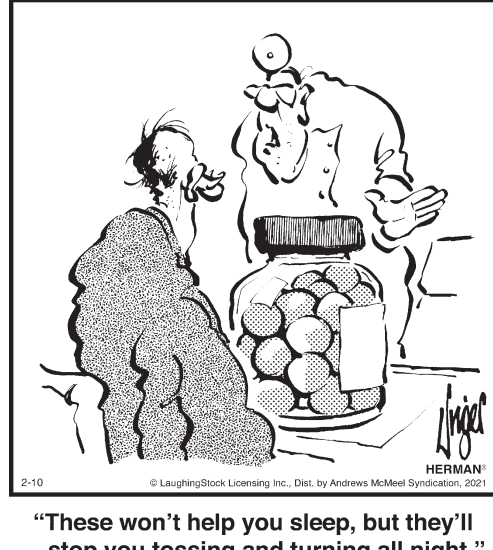
BIZARRO



DENNIS THE MENACE



HERMAN



JUMBLE

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

PVRIE
TNSAD
MHOYLE
CAEKLC

WITH SO MUCH PREPARATION AND REHEARSAL, THE STUDENTS' STAGE PERFORMANCE WAS ...

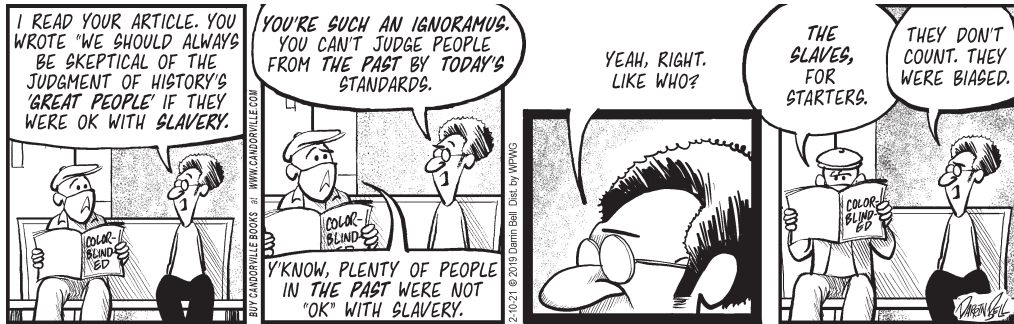
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Ans. here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: KOALA PIVOT ACCESS PLACID
Answer: The witch didn't need a rod and reel to catch fish because she could — CAST A SPELL

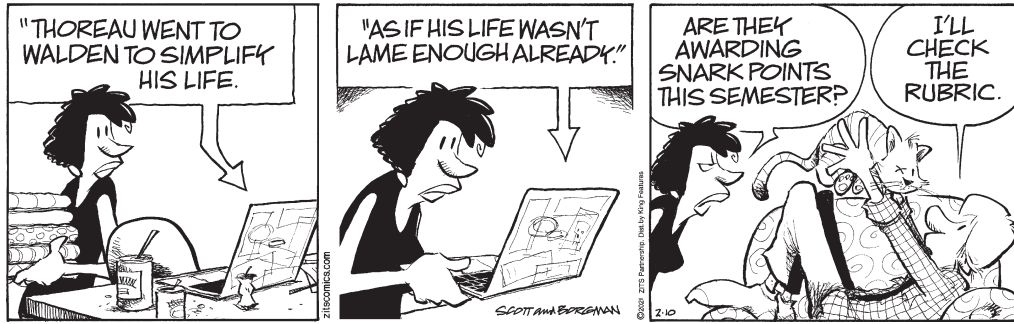
CANDORVILLE



WUMO



ZITS



SUDOKU

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

SOLUTION TO PREVIOUS SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

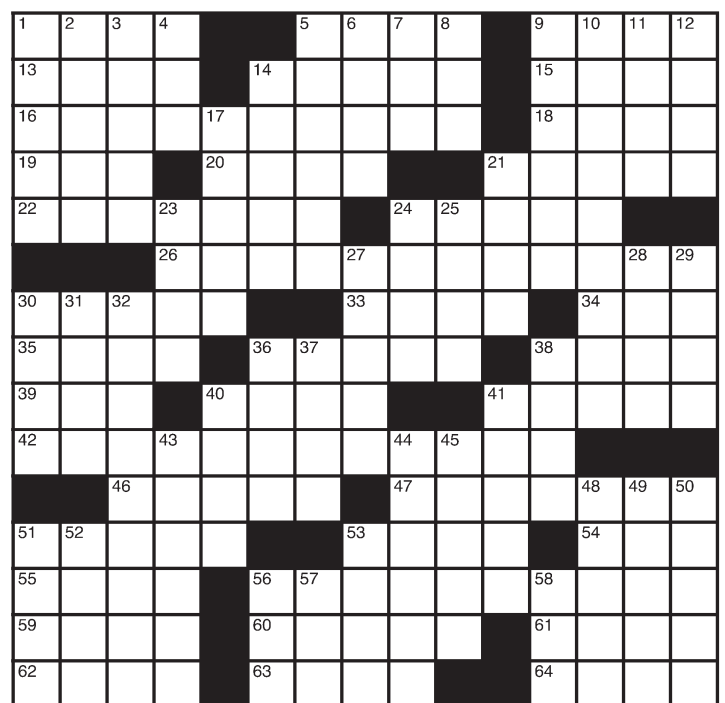
Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 Not imagined
- 5 On
- 9 Arthur of tennis
- 13 Country quarters
- 14 Be behind
- 15 Skier's need, maybe
- 16 Arose to catch the proverbial worm
- 18 President's Day event
- 19 Ivy League student
- 20 Dynamic prefix
- 21 Sushi bar brews
- 22 Ristorante favorite
- 24 "Holy smokes!"
- 26 Award won twice by Adele and Kelly Clarkson
- 30 Monks' wear
- 33 Total drubbing
- 34 Flatow of "Science Friday"
- 35 Opposite of home
- 36 Dozen dozen
- 38 Craftsy retailer
- 39 Tiny, for short
- 40 "Not long"
- 41 Guilty and not guilty
- 42 Philanthropist who was a Time Person of the Year co-honoree in 2005
- 46 Spectrum maker
- 47 Comment after a missed shot
- 51 Characteristic
- 53 Shred
- 54 Tint
- 55 "I didn't mean to do that"
- 56 Relatively unknown quality items ... and what can be found in 16-, 26- and 42-Across
- 59 Unmitigated joy
- 60 Seller, usually
- 61 Its symbol is Fe
- 62 Some cameras, for short
- 63 Amorously pursues
- 64 Fiddling emperor
- 2 ___ Gay
- 3 Naysayers
- 4 Pelican State sch.
- 5 Biblical mount
- 6 Tropical root vegetable
- 7 Squeaky-wheel need
- 8 Tissue layer
- 9 Attack
- 10 Hazard in many old Westerns
- 11 Opening
- 12 Lambs' moms
- 14 New drivers, typically
- 17 Novel units
- 21 Whack at a mosquito
- 23 With skill
- 24 Family outing destinations
- 25 Numbered piece
- 27 Outlet insert
- 28 Celestial bear
- 29 First Black MLB team captain, 1964
- 30 Not nervous
- 31 Something Mommy needs to kiss?
- 32 Computer screen background
- 36 Odin and Thor
- 37 Wander
- 38 "Need anything ___?"
- 40 Sulky state
- 41 Pie nut
- 43 Flouery van Gogh work
- 44 Battery terminals
- 45 Solution strength measure
- 48 "Over ___"
- 49 Something from a mill?
- 50 Type of survey question
- 51 Duds
- 52 Dinner table staple
- 53 License plate fig.
- 56 "___ come?"
- 57 Iconic WWII island, briefly
- 58 Winning game cry

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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

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- DOWN**
- 1 Orion's left foot, some say

By Catherine Cetta
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