

Saturday, February 13, 2021

Daily Bridge Club

Simple Saturday

By FRANK STEWART
Tribune Content Agency

“Simple Saturday” columns focus on improving basic technique and logical thinking.

The finesse — say, leading toward an A-Q in your hand and playing the queen after right-hand opponent plays — is a useful technique. But because finesses lose as often as they win, they are good to avoid. You certainly don’t want to try more than necessary.

Against today’s six diamonds, West led the ten of hearts, and South took the ace and led the ten of trumps to finesse. When East won, the defense cashed a heart. South escaped for down only one when the spade finesse worked for him later.

HEART LOSER

South took one finesse too many. Suppose the trump finesse wins. To make the slam, South still needs a winning spade finesse to discard his heart loser from dummy. So whether the trump finesse works is only a matter of an overtrick. South should lead a trump to the ace at Trick Two and return the queen of spades.

Avoid a “practice finesse” whose gain will be negligible even if it wins.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ A J 10 ♥ A 6 3
♦ Q 10 9 8 ♣ A K Q. South in today’s deal opened one diamond with this

hand. Do you agree with that call?

ANSWER: South held 20 high-card points with balanced pattern, plus two tens. Many partnerships agree that their range for a 2NT opening bid is 20 to 22 points; they would have opened 2NT. If instead your partnership range is 21 or 22 points, then to open one diamond would be acceptable. Discuss with your partner.

South dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH

♠ Q 9
♥ J 4
♦ A J 7 6 4
♣ J 10 9 8

WEST

♠ 8 7 4 2
♥ Q 10 9 5
♦ 5 3
♣ 7 4 2

EAST

♠ K 6 5 3
♥ K 8 7 2
♦ K 2
♣ 6 5 3

SOUTH

♠ A J 10
♥ A 6 3
♦ Q 10 9 8
♣ A K Q

South
1 ♦

West
Pass
All Pass

North
3 ♦

East
Pass

Opening lead — ♥ 10

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The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0109

ACROSS

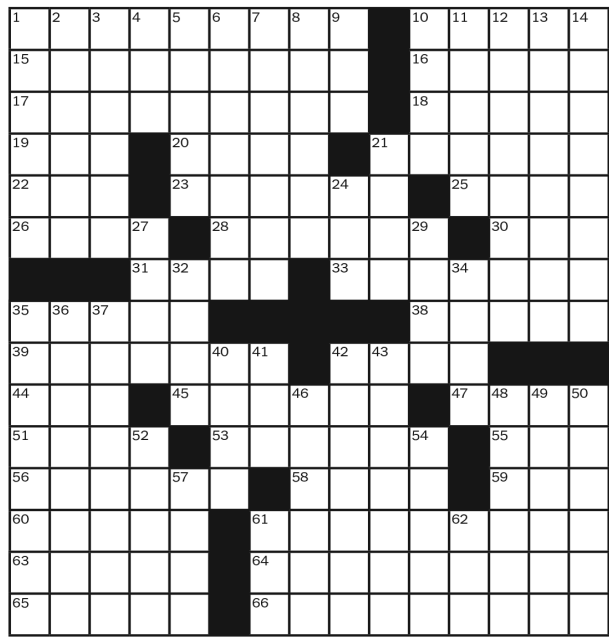
- 1 Coltrane’s rendition of “My Favorite Things,” for one
10 ___ friends
15 A nonzero amount
16 Word with car or talk
17 Marked by stately beauty
18 Roman leader?
19 Accessory that might have a netsuke attached
20 Move fast, as clouds
21 Like some letters and lines
22 Modicum
23 Very unfortunate
25 C-worthy
26 North Carolina county near the Tennessee border

- 28 Dined with a menu, say
30 Quandary
31 Beams
33 In heaven
35 ___ Crawford, the N.B.A.’s all-time leader in four-point plays
38 Senior member
39 But not that exactly
42 V.I.P. of industry
44 Travelers from a faraway place, for short
45 Crow’s home
47 Release
51 Biblical character who lived to be 912 years old
53 Gets down
55 Singer on the album “Live Peace in Toronto 1969”
56 Hoarse

- 58 Crib cry
59 Result of a clutch hit, maybe, for short
60 Sea serpent in the night sky
61 Sazerac garnish
63 In a swing state?
64 How Prince Harry met Meghan Markle
65 Modicum
66 Zip

DOWN

- 1 Southwestern shrub that yields a cosmetic oil
2 Wolf-headed god of Egyptian myth
3 Summit
4 State of madness
5 Obtain by force
6 “Hit the bricks!”
7 Plumlike fruits
8 Proceed wearily
9 This is the end
10 Ship that survived the Clashing Rocks, in legend
11 Selling points
12 Anthem of the European Union
13 Sarcastic response to backpedaling
14 Finding a four-leaf clover, they say
21 Certain bra spec

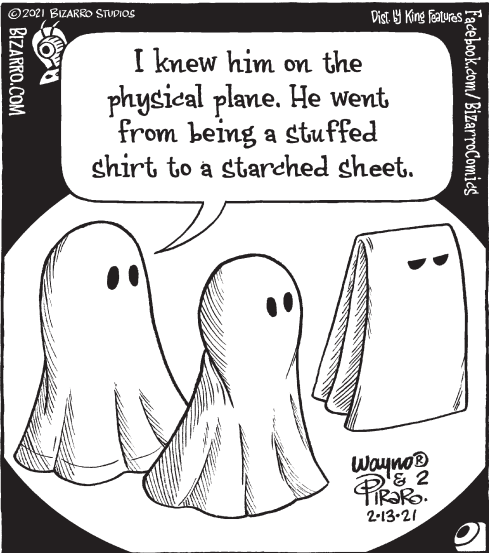


PUZZLE BY TRENTON CHARLSON

- 24 Acknowledgment of a debt
27 Things sometimes named for kings
29 Finish line?
32 Scores
34 Put to sleep
35 Everyman
36 “Go ahead”
37 Ice age beast
40 Hinge (on)
41 Something shot from a cannon nowadays
42 Kind of tile
43 Master of meditation
46 ___ Hayden, actress who voices Milhouse on “The Simpsons”
48 Doctor in an H. G. Wells novel
49 Still being tested, say
50 Can
52 Head of cabbage?
54 Does some shop class work
57 Danny who played Walter Mitty
61 Great Society monogram
62 “Stat!”

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.

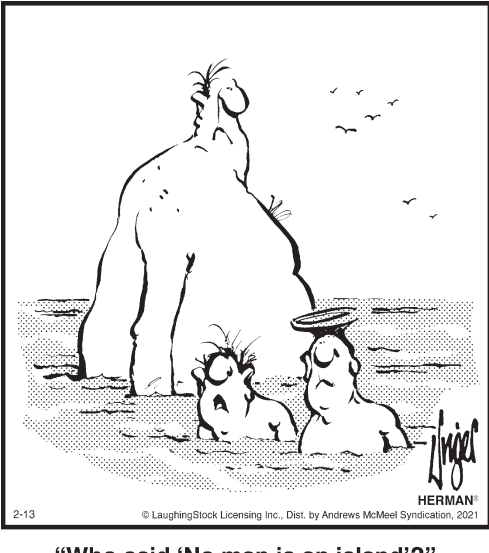
BIZARRO



DENNIS THE MENACE



HERMAN



JUMBLE

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

IMNUS
SYOBS
REKLEN
ANIDUS

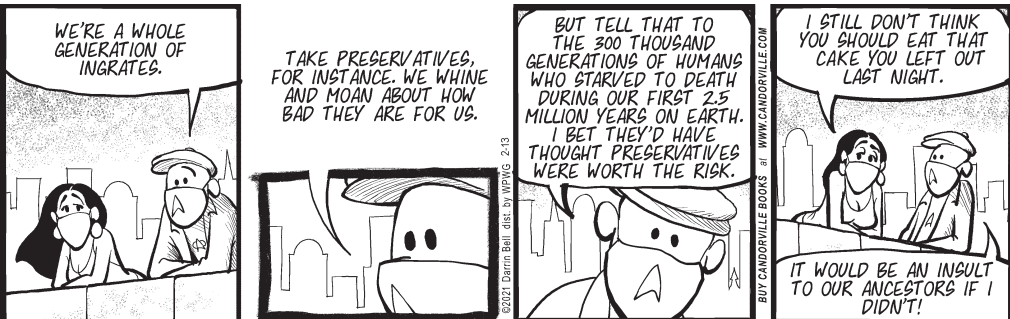
THE STORE RUN BY THE BABOONS FAILED BECAUSE OF ALL THE ---

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

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday’s Jumbles: SIGHT AHEAD GROWTH BATTEN
Answer: When “Cheers” was nominated for 13 Emmys in its first season, it — SET THE BAR HIGH

CANDORVILLE



WUMO



ZITS



Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

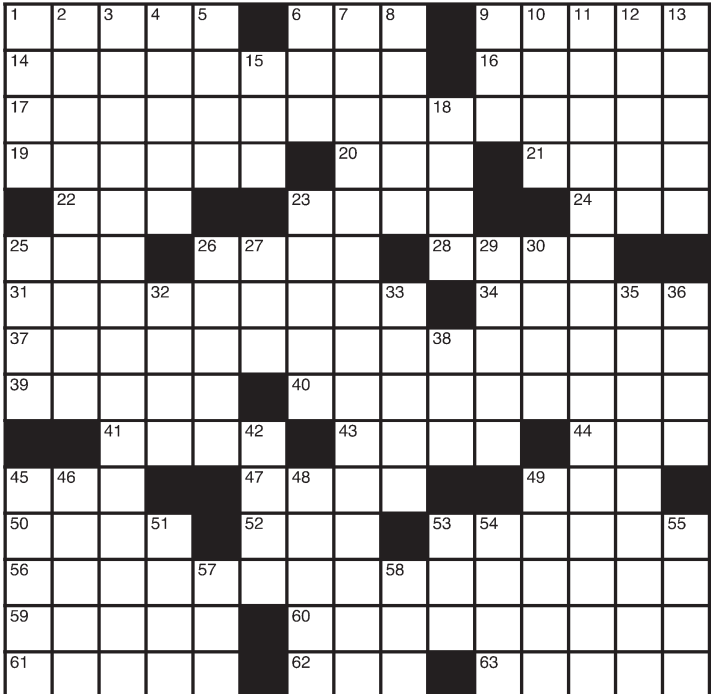
- ACROSS
1 Where to find an OR
6 “The Magic School Bus” network
9 Retro finish
14 Implement associated with its own age
16 Impulse conductors
17 They may work on profiles
19 Jerks that surprise you
20 Lacto-___ vegetarian
21 Fade
22 Prince ___ Khan
23 Austin festival, briefly
24 Recent delivery
25 Sushi bar order
26 Consort of Shiva
28 Diwali garment
31 Strip often twisted
34 Stellar spectacles
37 Cause of a faux pas, perhaps
39 Singer Adkins known by her first name
40 Draft portmanteau
41 Parks of Alabama
43 ___ slicker
44 Possessive pronoun
45 Body with arms, usually
47 Riga resident
49 “Henry & June” diarist
50 Additional characters, in gamerspeak
52 Chi preceder
53 Would consider, after “is”
56 Seatbelt campaign slogan
59 Variety show
60 Together
61 Hostile force
62 Org. concerned with secrets
63 Sculptor’s subject

- 2 Pre-sign sign
3 Acting incentive
4 Not sitting well?
5 Wave generator?
6 Hawaiian fare
7 What might cause you to forget your lines?
8 Some Eastern Europeans
9 Couldn’t stand, maybe
10 Turnoff
11 One who’s typically up
12 Opener
13 It can be fixed
15 Univ. helpers
18 Tiffs
23 Move like a cat burglar
25 ___ breve
26 Jeans parts
27 Radio host Shapiro
29 Sore
30 Oblong tomato
32 1952 Winter Olympics host
33 Really liked something, man
35 Priests, at times
36 They’re usually toward the front of an orch.
38 “Brooklyn Nine-Nine” title: Abbr.
42 Some choir members
45 Stravinsky’s “Le ___ du printemps”
46 Talk show host who voices the adult Dory in “Finding Dory”
48 Eschew the diner, maybe
49 Wafer giant
51 Foul film
53 Nebraska native
54 Pub order
55 Gustav Mahler’s composer brother
57 Decoding need
58 Red Seal record label company

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:



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By Adrian Johnson and Jeff Chen
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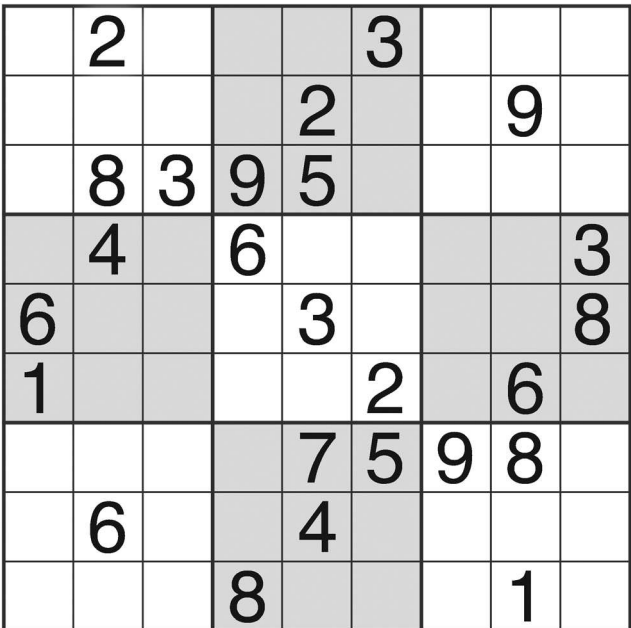
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SUDOKU

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

SOLUTION TO PREVIOUS SUDOKU

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



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★★