

Monday, March 1, 2021

### Daily Bridge Club

## Stringing along

By FRANK STEWART  
Tribune Content Agency

"Want to buy some of my antique yo-yos? No strings attached." — graffiti

When you are declarer and opposed by expert defenders, you must put no faith in their plays. Their job is to mislead you, not provide you with an accurate picture of the deal.

In today's deal from a team match, both Souths played at six hearts after a "transfer" response to INT by North and a "super-accept" by South. West led a club, and both declarers played the eight from dummy.

**ANSWER:** A few experts adamantly refuse to suppress a five-card major suit and would open one heart. I believe most experts think that describing the strength and shape of a hand in a single bid is beneficial and would open INT. Also, if you open one heart and hear a response of one spade from partner, you will have no descriptive second bid.

South dealer  
N-S vulnerable

#### FINESSE

At one table, East covered with the ten, and South took the ace and drew trumps. He cashed four diamonds to pitch a club from dummy, shrugged and led a spade to the queen. The finesse won, and South claimed the slam.

In the replay, East wasn't eager to force South into trying a spade finesse: On the first club, East played the queen. South took the ace and drew trumps, but then he tried for a 12th trick by leading a club to dummy's nine. He found that there had been strings attached to East's play at Trick One.

#### DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ A Q ♥ Q 9 8 6 5  
♦ A Q J ♣ J 9 8. You are the dealer. What is your opening call?

**NORTH**  
♠ A Q  
♥ Q 9 8 6 5  
♦ A Q J  
♣ J 9 8

**WEST**  
♥ K 10 7 4  
♠ 7 2  
♦ 9 6 2  
♣ 7 5 3 2

**EAST**  
♠ 8 6 5 3 2  
♥ 4 3  
♦ 8 7 4  
♣ K Q 10

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

South	West	North	East
1 NT	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	6 ♥	All Pass

Opening lead — ♣ 2

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#### SEEKING A FRIENDLY DUPLICATE BRIDGE?

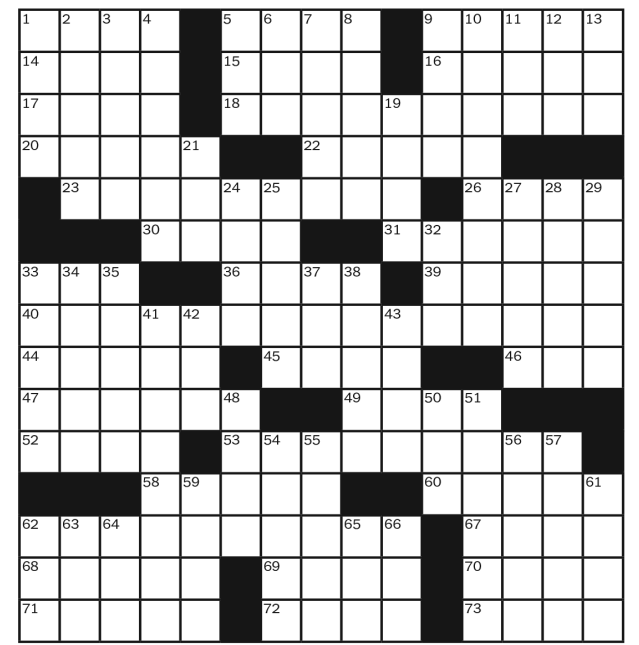
Find five games weekly online at [bendbridge.org](http://bendbridge.org)

## The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0125

- ACROSS**
- 1 Modern Persia
  - 5 Arnaz who loved Lucy
  - 9 Become acclimated
  - 14 "Finding \_\_\_" (2003 Pixar film)
  - 15 Alternative to a wood, in golf
  - 16 Name said twice before "Wherefore art thou"
  - 17 In vogue
  - 18 Oscar the Grouch's home
  - 20 International Court of Justice location, with "The"
  - 22 Bulls in a bullfight
  - 23 Old weapon in hand-to-hand combat
  - 26 Place for a nest
  - 30 Digital picture, maybe
  - 31 Less fresh
  - 33 Emergency call in Morse code
  - 36 Wild guess
  - 39 With 60-Across, one of two U.S. vice presidents to resign from office
  - 40 Result of a football blitz, maybe
  - 44 Completely anesthetized
  - 45 Exercise that might be done on a mat
  - 46 Cover gray, perhaps
  - 47 Like vinegar
  - 49 "Holy moly!"
  - 52 English channel, informally, with "the"
  - 53 Bit of fashionable footwear
  - 58 Home in the shape of a dome
  - 60 See 39-Across
  - 62 Dreaded cry from a boss ... or a hint to the ends of 18-, 23-, 40- and 53-Across
- DOWN**
- 1 Not give an \_\_\_ (be stubborn)
  - 2 Give a makeover, informally
  - 3 Spanish girlfriend
  - 4 "Hey, don't jump in front of me in the line!"
  - 5 Insult
  - 6 Time span sometimes named after a president
  - 7 Rather, informally
  - 8 Where work may pile up
  - 9 Best Picture winner set in 1-Across
  - 10 Swims at the Y, say
  - 11 "The Walking Dead" network
  - 12 Cause of a sleepless night for a princess, in a fairy tale
  - 13 Whole bunch
  - 19 Greek counterpart of Mars
  - 21 Yadda, yadda, yadda
  - 24 Zap with a light beam
  - 25 Contest attempt



PUZZLE BY KEVIN CHRISTIAN AND ANDREA CARLA MICHAELS

- 27 Classic work that's the basis for Shakespeare's "Troilus and Cressida"
- 28 "Goodness gracious!"
- 29 Not having two nickels to rub together
- 32 "For shame!"
- 33 Fledgling pigeon
- 34 Weight whose abbreviation ends in a "z," oddly
- 35 "Sexy" lady in a Beatles song
- 37 Blood grouping system
- 38 Hole-some breakfast food?
- 41 Nickname for the Cardinals, with "the"
- 42 Prefix with -pod or -partite
- 43 Zoo enclosure
- 48 Foal : mare :: \_\_\_ : cow
- 50 Lawyers' org.
- 51 Took care of someone else's pooch
- 54 Loud
- 55 Land with a demilitarized zone
- 56 Delayed
- 57 Four: Prefix
- 59 Insets in a crown
- 61 Line on a calendar
- 62 Talk, talk, talk
- 63 Regatta implement
- 64 French "a"
- 65 Wiggly fish
- 66 Dr. of hip-hop

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

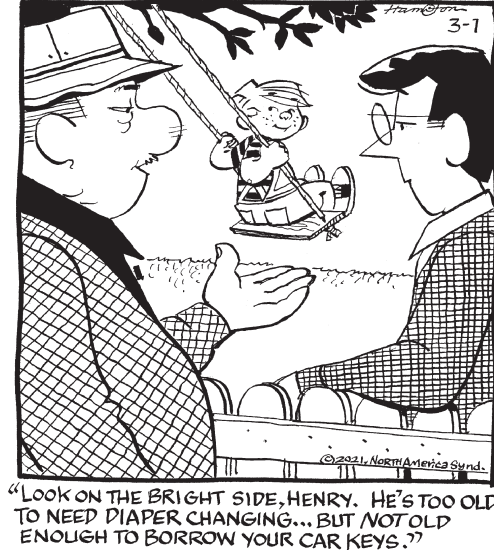
#### ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



#### BIZARRO



#### DENNIS THE MENACE



#### HERMAN



#### JUMBLE

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

FCLOA  
GDUNE  
LAFTUN  
TRYIGT

Print the answer here: \_\_\_\_\_

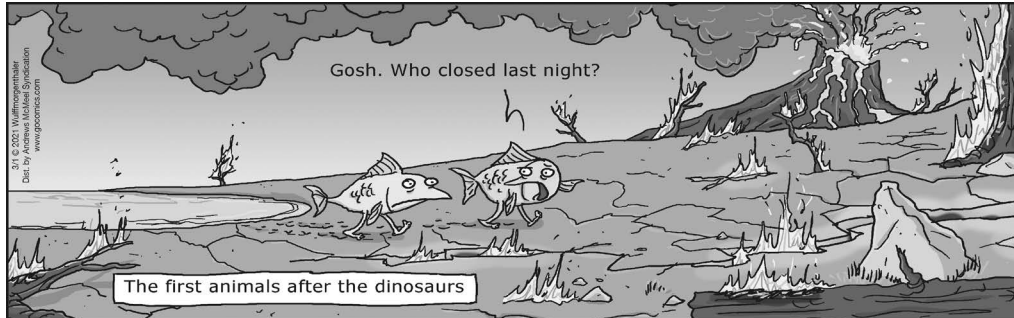
(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: BAYOU BUDDY NINETY NEARLY  
Answer: After the rock group trashed their hotel suite, the hotel manager — BANNED THE BAND

#### CANDORVILLE



#### WUMO



#### ZITS



## Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 Nannies and billies
  - 6 Skylit courtyards
  - 11 Toyota Prius, e.g.
  - 14 Tin Pan \_\_\_
  - 15 Transactions with interest
  - 16 Pub pour
  - 17 \*Data transmission science
  - 19 Khaki-colored
  - 20 Pedal pusher
  - 21 Full moon, e.g.
  - 22 Cartoon maker of iron bird seed
  - 23 Salinger teen who says, "I prefer stories about squalor"
  - 24 \*Elementary school fundraiser
  - 26 Whistle blower
  - 28 Piece for three instruments
  - 29 They're often pop-ups
  - 32 Major artery
  - 36 Irritate
  - 39 Quick swim
  - 40 Fell behind
  - 42 Golf ball holder
  - 43 Stockpile
  - 45 Dig deeply (into)
  - 46 Pigs out (on), briefly
  - 47 Blacken in a pan
  - 49 Dictator Amin
  - 51 \*Rank for TV's Columbo
  - 56 "Shoo!"
  - 60 The "I" in MIT: Abbr.
  - 61 Ceremonial conical structure
  - 62 Tra-\_: refrain syllables
  - 63 "\_\_\_, humbug!"
  - 64 Track meet infractions ... or short words hiding at the beginning of the answers to starred clues
  - 66 Musician Brian
  - 67 Had the flu, say
  - 68 Cove, e.g.
  - 69 Tennis do-over
  - 70 Sanctify
  - 71 Love to pieces
- DOWN**
- 1 Faux pas
  - 2 Mixed bags
  - 3 "Tuesdays With Morrie" author
  - 4 Wobble
  - 5 Leb. neighbor
  - 6 A, as in Athens
  - 7 Invoice word
  - 8 Employee's reward
  - 9 Motivate
  - 10 Biblical beast of burden
  - 11 Not be fooled by
  - 12 San Antonio mission
  - 13 Continue to subscribe
  - 18 Decide on
  - 22 Z \_\_\_ zebra
  - 25 Swapped
  - 27 Patronizes, as a restaurant
  - 29 Oral health org.
  - 30 Not bright, as a light
  - 31 Many a NASA mission
  - 33 "Far out, dude!"
  - 34 White-\_: formal
  - 35 Every one
  - 37 Ref. work that added "YOLO" in 2016
  - 38 Proposer's preferred response
  - 41 Paperless party announcements
  - 44 "\_\_\_ up!": "Quiet!"
  - 48 Sell directly to the consumer
  - 50 Manhattan or Staten
  - 51 Defame in print
  - 52 Foolish
  - 53 Woman's name backward or forward
  - 54 Vaulted alcoves
  - 55 Requirements
  - 57 Monte \_\_\_
  - 58 Raise a hemline on, say
  - 59 Sample, as food
  - 64 Tide alternative
  - 65 Spanish aunt

#### ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

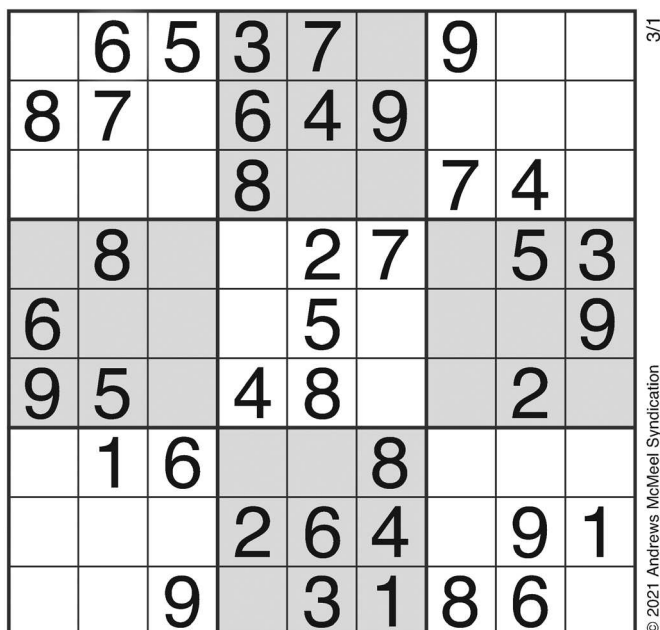
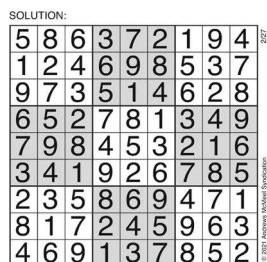


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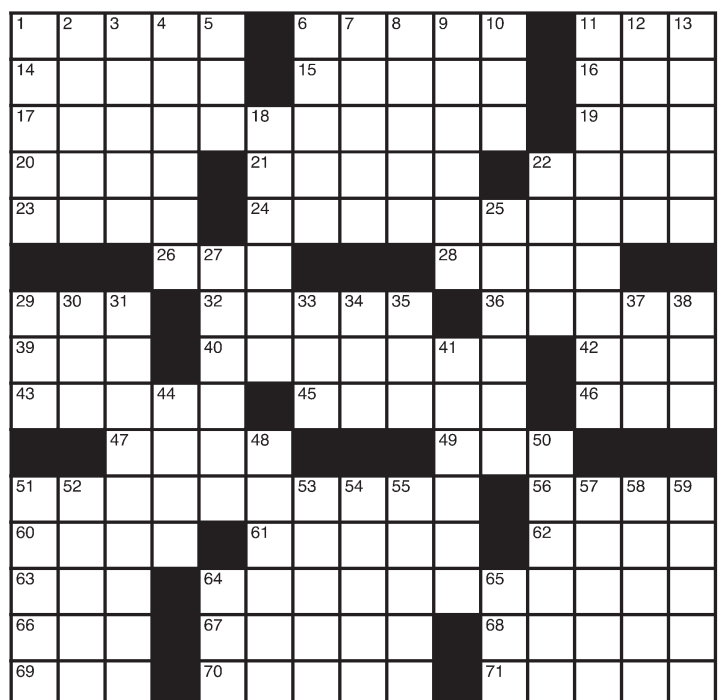
## SUDOKU

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

#### SOLUTION TO PREVIOUS SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆



By Catherine Cetta  
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