

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

Daily Bridge Club

Loss of focus

By FRANK STEWART
Tribune Content Agency

One of my club's older members was complaining to me about his memory lapses and loss of focus. "It's so bad," he told me, "that when Easter Sunday gets here, I'll be able to hide my own eggs."

My friend said he went down as declarer at today's four hearts and was annoyed with himself.

"West led the jack of diamonds," he told me, "and I played dummy's queen. When East's king covered, I took the ace and drew trumps. Next I led a club to the ace and finessed with my jack. When West took the queen, he found the winning defense: He led the deuce of diamonds. East won and led a spade, and I lost two spades. "If I had half a brain, I would have made the contract."

FIRST TRICK

South must not let East get in for that fatal spade shift. At the first trick, South should play a low diamond from both hands.

South wins the next diamond, draws trumps and finesses in clubs as before. When West takes the queen, he can only cash his ace of spades to hold South to no overtricks.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ K 4 ♥ A Q 10 6 2 ♦ A 6 3 ♣ K J 6. The dealer, at your right, opens one spade. What do you say?

ANSWER: You might double, planning to bid hearts next to show substantial strength. But opponents have the habit of getting in your way. If you double, the next player may raise the spades, forcing you to mention your long suit at an uncomfortable level. Bid two hearts. If the bidding continues with two spades and two passes, double for takeout.

South dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH

♠ 6 2
♥ K J 9 4
♦ Q 5
♣ A 8 5 4 2

WEST

♠ A Q J 10 3
♥ 8 7
♦ J 10 2
♣ Q 10 7

EAST

♠ 9 8 7 5
♥ 5 3
♦ K 9 8 7 4
♣ 9 3

SOUTH

♠ K 4
♥ A Q 10 6 2
♦ A 6 3
♣ K J 6

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

Opening lead — ♦ J

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SEEKING A FRIENDLY DUPLICATE BRIDGE?

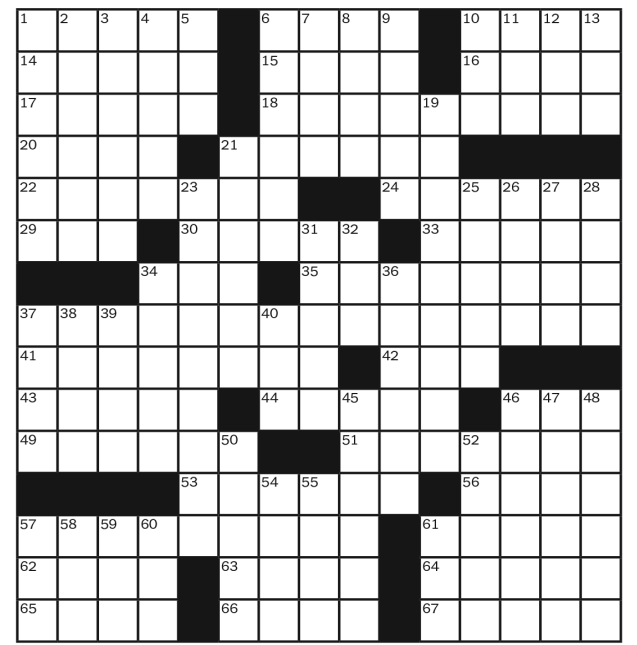
Find five games weekly online at bendbridge.org

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0210

- ACROSS**
- 1 Hatchling
 - 6 Line crosser, of a sort
 - 10 Component of a cellphone bill
 - 14 World capital that's home to the Temple of Literature, built in 1070
 - 15 Show up
 - 16 Blue-violet shade
 - 17 Crime investigated by an insurance company
 - 18 "Strike three!" or "Yer out!"?
 - 20 Sit (down) heavily
 - 21 Noisy shouting
 - 22 Way to catch a conger?
 - 24 Alley prowler
 - 29 It's used in soapmaking
 - 30 Input
 - 33 One of four in the human heart
 - 34 Mo. with a holiday on its final day
 - 35 Loser at Waterloo
 - 37 The main characters of "Brokeback Mountain," e.g.?
 - 41 Resisting
 - 42 Uno y uno
 - 43 Apple centers
 - 44 "Darn it!"
 - 46 When the Kentucky Derby is held
 - 49 Breaks things off
 - 51 Drinking buddy?
 - 53 Fixate
 - 56 Spot
 - 57 Gross messages?
 - 61 "___ World" ("Sesame Street" segment)
 - 62 Princess who says "You're my only hope" in a hologram
 - 63 Number of M.V.P. awards won by Wayne Gretzky
 - 64 Kind of beer ... or a multi-word hint to 18-, 22-, 37-, 51- and 57-Across
 - 65 Rich soil
 - 66 Temperance proponents
 - 67 Slyly spiteful
- DOWN**
- 1 Place of worship
 - 2 Road hog?
 - 3 Foot support
 - 4 Appropriate
 - 5 Clan
 - 6 Bulk up, as muscles
 - 7 Out-of-it state
 - 8 Toggle on a clock
 - 9 Make drunk, quaintly
 - 10 Run out of juice
 - 11 "___ You My Mother?" (children's book)
 - 12 Personal quirk
 - 13 "Green," "black" or "white" tree
 - 19 Cheese in an Italian sub
 - 21 "I refuse to believe that!"
 - 23 Economic downturn
 - 25 Places to find food courts and kiosks
 - 26 Miss ___, famed TV psychic



PUZZLE BY KATE HAWKINS

- 27 Profess
- 28 Till compartment
- 31 Furnish with money
- 32 Mil. branch of the U.K.
- 34 Fiona and Shrek, for two
- 36 Cycles
- 37 Speed
- 38 Door-to-door sales company
- 39 Homework lover, say
- 40 Helpful info for a curbside pickup, briefly
- 45 Society at large, with "the"
- 46 Big, bushy-tailed squirrel
- 47 Went to a restaurant
- 48 Like some breads and beers
- 50 Long-term U.S. security
- 52 European country with a cross on its flag
- 54 Tend to the sauce, say
- 55 "___, meeny, miney, mo ..."
- 57 "___ say!"
- 58 Bus. driver?
- 59 Sportage automaker
- 60 Crop item grown in China Achebe's "Things Fall Apart"
- 61 Key that exits full-screen video

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.

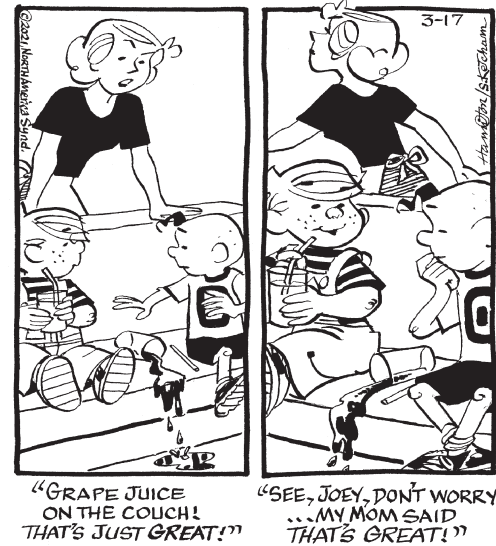
ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



BIZARRO



DENNIS THE MENACE



HERMAN



JUMBLE

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

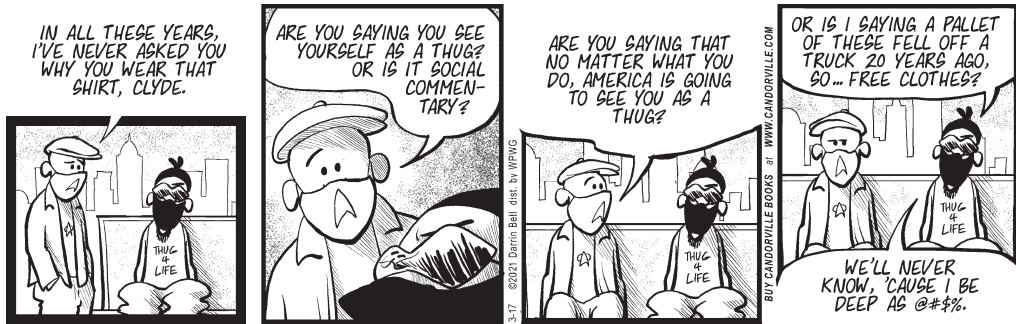
VLAGE
AYRIH
SGPOIS
NCTEIE

Answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: EJECT KNELT INFUSE LAGOON
Answer: It was clear that the two suspects weren't telling the truth to the police and were — ALLIES

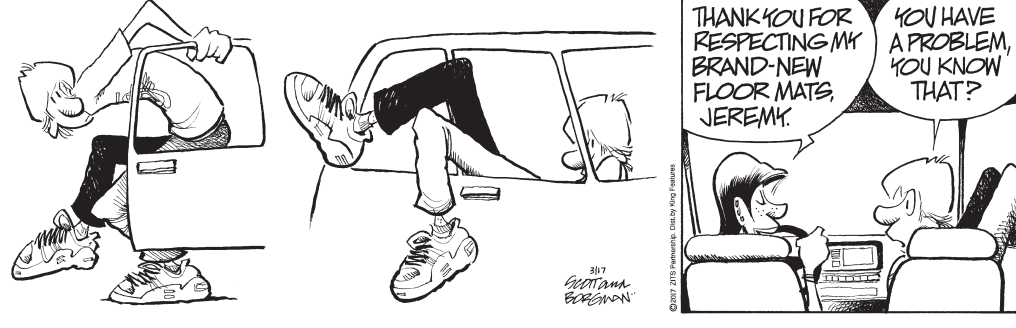
CANDORVILLE



WUMO



ZITS



Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 Slim advantage
 - 5 Embraces
 - 11 Intel seeker
 - 14 Many a character on HBO's "Euphoria"
 - 15 Warhol's "Campbell's Soup Cans," e.g.
 - 16 Vientiane people
 - 17 *Generous reward
 - 19 ___ al-Fitr: end-of-Ramadan feast
 - 20 Skater Midori
 - 21 Author's representative
 - 22 Northeast Corridor express train
 - 24 Gliding ballet step
 - 26 Cut loose
 - 27 "I sussed that out a while ago"
 - 33 One-named "Body Party" singer
 - 36 Sicilian peak
 - 37 Cut off
 - 38 Chewy Hershey candy
 - 39 Like some serious flaws
 - 40 Christmas candle scent
 - 41 "___ cost you!"
 - 42 Old Roman road
 - 43 Put in a bibliography
 - 44 "Family dinner reservation request, perhaps
 - 47 Designer Saanen
 - 48 Like Camembert
 - 52 Back in style
 - 54 Quickness
 - 57 Romance
 - 58 Dept. phone number
 - 59 Retreated on the same trail ... and what each answer to a starred clue has?
 - 62 Grow older
 - 63 Aerie newborn
 - 64 Tennis icon Arthur
 - 65 Former space station
 - 66 Renaissance fair rides
 - 67 "Watch ___ space"
- DOWN**
- 1 Work ___: moral belief
 - 2 "Murder by ___": 1976 Neil Simon spoof film
 - 3 Salami choice
 - 4 Pierre's "fin," to Peter
 - 5 Highest point in an orbit
 - 6 Taj Mahal feature
 - 7 Receptive
 - 8 "What's ___ is prologue": "The Tempest"
 - 9 ___TV: reality channel
 - 10 Namesake of a Venice basilica
 - 11 "You can give me an answer tomorrow"
 - 12 Sand transporter
 - 13 Jedi Grand Master
 - 18 Obama daughter
 - 23 Plot
 - 25 Park carriage, or one pushing it
 - 26 Agreement
 - 28 "I like it"
 - 29 Mammal at an aquarium
 - 30 Eat (up)
 - 31 Bistro pour
 - 32 Didn't dillydally
 - 33 Lit ___
 - 34 Scintilla
 - 35 Assurance after putting a Band-Aid on a boo-boo
 - 39 Inventory tracking method for a CPA
 - 43 Like corned beef
 - 45 Wears down
 - 46 Large jazz combos
 - 49 Knee-deep (in)
 - 50 Sweet Japanese rice cake
 - 51 Farm fittings
 - 52 Paper package
 - 53 VFW member
 - 54 Bigger than big
 - 55 Qualified
 - 56 Winter coaster
 - 60 Breakfast grain
 - 61 Club that may be flipped with joy

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:



03/17/21

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

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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