

Saturday, April 10, 2021

Daily Bridge Club

Simple Saturday

By FRANK STEWART
Tribune Content Agency

"Simple Saturday" columns are meant to improve basic technique and logical thinking.

One difficult aspect of learning bridge is that many "rules" of play have exceptions — and the exceptions have exceptions.

Today's West leads the seven of spades against 3NT: deuce from dummy, king from East. If South has learned to avoid holding up a winner if that play will cost a trick, he will take the ace — and lose his contract.

If South leads a heart next, East wins and returns a spade, and West plays low to keep communication. South has only eight tricks. When he forces out the ace of clubs, East wins and leads his last spade, and West takes three spades. Down one.

LONG SPADES

West's opening lead suggests long spades headed by the queen, but East is marked with the other missing high cards for his opening bid. South must duck East's king of spades and duck the spade return.

West can establish his spades but will never get to cash them. South will lose two spades and two aces.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ K 6 5 ♥ A 2
♦ Q 10 9 8 4 ♣ A 8 3. With both sides vulnerable, the dealer, at your

right, opens one spade. What do you say?

ANSWER: To overcall at the two level, especially when you're vulnerable, you need a good hand and usually a six-card or longer suit. Pass. To bid two diamonds here has uncertain chances to gain anything and risks being doubled and penalized — either immediately or when your partner competes too actively.

East dealer
Both sides vulnerable

NORTH

♠ 10 2
♥ K 10 9
♦ A 6 5 3
♣ Q 10 9 7

WEST

♠ Q 9 8 7 3
♥ 7 6 4 3
♦ 7
♣ 5 4 2

EAST

♠ K 6 5
♥ A 2
♦ Q 10 9 8 4
♣ A 8 3

SOUTH

♠ A J 4
♥ Q J 8 5
♦ K J 2
♣ K J 6

East 1 ♦
South 1 NT
West Pass
North 2 NT

Opening lead — ♠ 7

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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. 0306

ACROSS

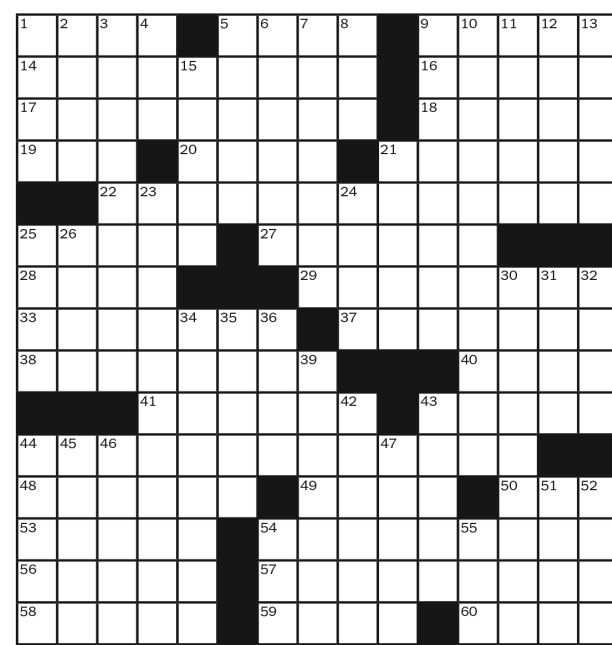
- 1 Author of "The Witches" and "The Twits"
- 5 One might be raised by a skeptic
- 9 Energy sources, of a sort
- 14 Side opposite 41-Across in a sci-fi clash
- 16 Bedizen
- 17 Worked on together
- 18 Event whose organizers are concerned with brand recognition?
- 19 Grate stuff
- 20 "Live" co-host beginning in 2001
- 21 Pre-commencement activity

- 22 Skills that not many people know about
- 25 Steals, slangily
- 27 Keep off the court?
- 28 Sticks in water
- 29 Symbol of San Francisco
- 33 Promises
- 37 British pop star who sang 2012's "R.I.P."
- 38 A.F.C. South squad
- 40 Leak proof?
- 41 See 14-Across
- 43 Patches, say
- 44 School science project involving a vegetable and a voltmeter
- 48 Faces of the internet?
- 49 Organic fuel
- 50 Barb
- 53 In a relationship
- 54 Aria, e.g.

- 56 "Done!"
- 57 What takes all types?
- 58 Removes from the mound, in baseball lingo
- 59 What "M" and "F" are both short for
- 60 Harper of "No Country for Old Men"

DOWN

- 1 "Star Trek" character played by 12-Down
- 2 "That's the way the cookie crumbles"
- 3 Place for the self-righteous, metaphorically
- 4 ___ slip
- 5 Traditional feature of a Hindu bride
- 6 A.D.A.-compliant, in a way
- 7 Expansive
- 8 Bond
- 9 First supermodel to produce her own posters and calendars
- 10 Page-previewing program
- 11 "The Age of Bronze" artist
- 12 Actor Spinner
- 13 Busses near Paddington Station?
- 15 Certain school clique
- 21 Literally, "my master"



PUZZLE BY SID SIVAKUMAR

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



- 23 "So sorry, that was totally the wrong thing to say!"
- 24 Bolshevik's foe
- 25 Main ingredient in the curry dish kosha mangsho
- 26 Curling target
- 30 Groaner
- 31 Like most of Mars
- 32 Freestyles, perhaps
- 34 Shticks
- 35 "___ World" ("Sesame Street" segment)
- 36 Crack, so to speak
- 39 Stir-fry ingredient
- 42 Unrelenting
- 43 Used as a rendezvous point
- 44 Insignificant
- 45 Birthplace of Malcolm X
- 46 Unit of cryptocurrency
- 47 Adjusts to zero, in a way
- 51 They might be tapped out
- 52 Lizzo title lyric repeated three times before "Make a girl go crazy"
- 54 "How ___"
- 55 What curly brackets denote, in mathematics

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



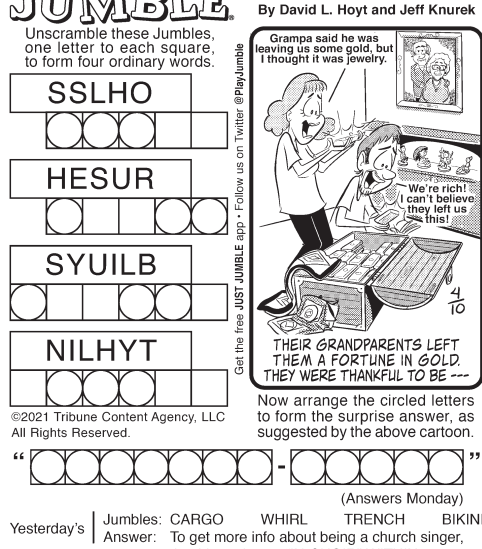
DENNIS THE MENACE



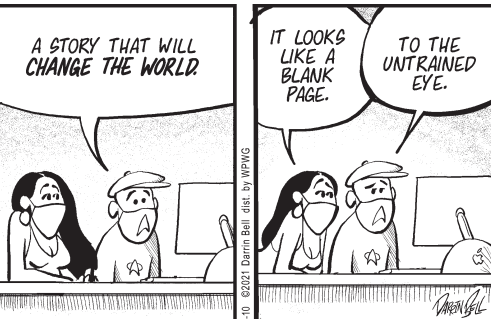
HERMAN



JUMBLE



CANDORVILLE



WUMO



ZITS



Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS
- 1 Calendario square
- 4 SAT prep topic
- 9 George Harrison played one in "Norwegian Wood"
- 14 Point B, usually
- 15 Warren Buffett's birth city
- 16 Stunned
- 17 Makeup of some facial masks
- 18 Big wheels?
- 19 Breads sometimes served with meze
- 20 Middle of dinner?
- 21 Impolite look
- 22 Weapon for Buffy
- 23 Put down
- 25 Competitive event
- 27 Some anti-mob agents
- 28 Argument-ending words
- 31 Relevant
- 33 Fluffy herder
- 34 Kind of bird Blu is in the 2011 movie "Rio"
- 35 1981 hit known for its drum break
- 40 10th-century Holy Roman emperor
- 41 "The Bathers" artist
- 42 Mate-related
- 45 Carlisle of the Go-Go's
- 46 Waffle ___
- 47 Baja resort
- 49 Many a Snapchat user
- 50 Autumn colors
- 52 Current moment
- 55 Is in the past?
- 56 Ready to blow
- 57 Like Romantic music
- 58 Watson's co.
- 59 No-holds-barred happening
- 60 Nocturnal carnivore
- 61 Aromatic neckwear

- 62 Deltoid-working exercise
- 63 Gone from the table
- 64 "Silent Spring" subj.
- DOWN
- 1 Lorenzo who sponsored Michelangelo
- 2 How Gregorian chants are sung
- 3 Seasons, in a way
- 4 Bks. in a set
- 5 Drop
- 6 Muscly Chevy
- 7 This minute, in Tijuana
- 8 Manicure layer
- 9 Tentative tastes
- 10 Bent on victory
- 11 Teahouse floor covering
- 12 Come to
- 13 Begrudge
- 24 Many profile portraits
- 26 Response to huge applause, maybe
- 29 Plans for losers?
- 30 It's about 950 miles north of LAX
- 32 Comic-Con event
- 34 Sports doc's pic
- 36 Gilbert and Sullivan operetta that satirizes Parliament
- 37 Out of control
- 38 Pull-out furniture item
- 39 Convey
- 42 Act stingily
- 43 Sommelier, at times
- 44 More affordable, perhaps
- 45 Brit's car hood
- 48 "Go, me!"
- 51 Spots
- 53 Sugar source
- 54 Panache

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

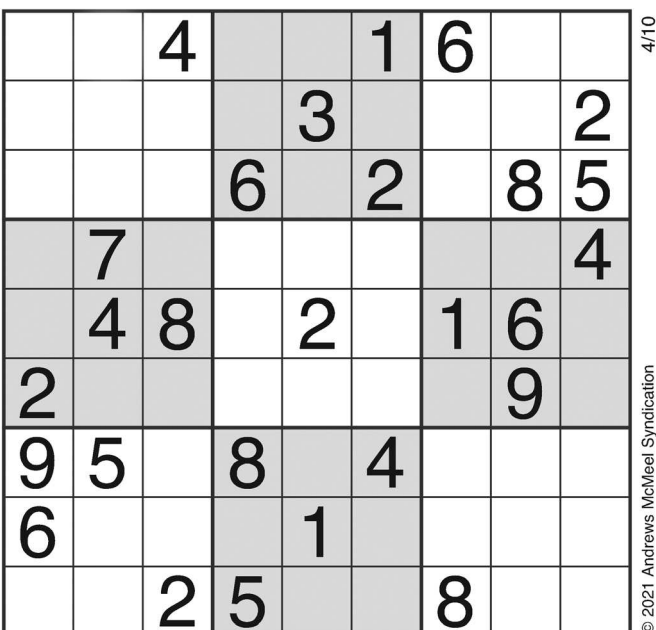
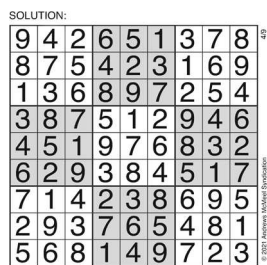


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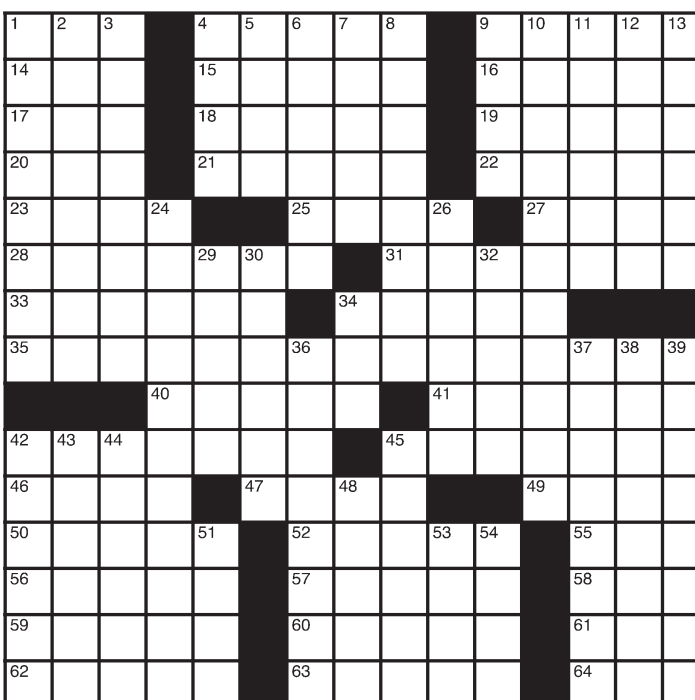
SUDOKU

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 Stella Zawistowski
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