

Tuesday, May 25, 2021

Daily Bridge Club

Conspiracy theory

By FRANK STEWART  
Tribune Content Agency

"It's a conspiracy," Cy the Cynic wailed. "The word is out on what Minnie does to me. Now other people think it'll work for them."

Minnie Bottoms, my club's senior member, wears old bifocals that make her mix up kings and jacks, often to her opponents' dismay. Cy has been Minnie's chief victim.

Cy was declarer at today's 3NT, and West led the seven of hearts. When dummy played low, East (who happened to be Ed, my club's best player) followed with the jack. The Cynic had to take his queen — for all he knew, West had led from A-K-10-7-2 — but when he finessed in diamonds next, Ed won and led the king of hearts, and West overtook and ran the hearts. Down one.

GRIN

"Minnie sent me," Ed told Cy with a grin.

Ed knew that if West's hearts were Q-10-8-7-2, the contract was unbeatable; there weren't enough points in the deck for West to have a fast entry as well. The only chance was that West had A-10-8-7-2, but Ed then had to induce Cy to take the queen at Trick One.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ A K 4 ♥ Q 6 5 3  
♦ Q 9 6 ♣ A Q 3. Your partner

opens one diamond, you respond one heart, he bids two clubs and you stall with a "fourth-suit" bid of two spades. Partner then bids three diamonds. What do you say?

ANSWER: Your partner has six diamonds, four clubs and extra values. With a minimum hand, he would have rebid two diamonds. I can't imagine a hand that won't produce a slam. Bid four diamonds if it's forcing. Otherwise, bid six diamonds or 4NT.

South dealer  
N-S vulnerable

NORTH

♠ J 6  
♥ 9 4  
♦ A J 10 8 3  
♣ K J 8 4

WEST

♠ 9 5 2  
♥ A 10 8 7 2  
♦ 7 4  
♣ 9 6 2

EAST

♠ Q 10 8 7 3  
♥ K J  
♦ K 5 2  
♣ 10 7 5

SOUTH

♠ A K 4  
♥ Q 6 5 3  
♦ Q 9 6  
♣ A Q 3

South 1NT West Pass North 3NT East All Pass

Opening lead — ♥ 7

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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

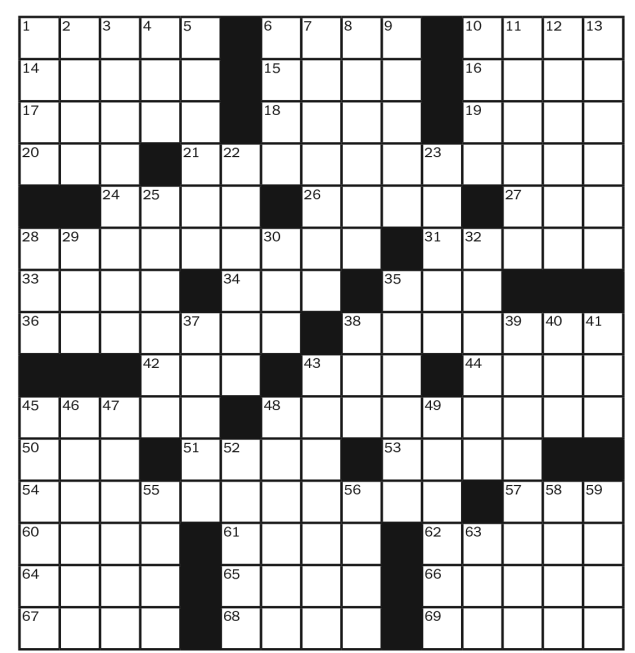
Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0420

- ACROSS**
- 1 Indian royal
  - 6 Egypt's pyramids of —
  - 10 Polluted air
  - 14 Honda luxury brand
  - 15 Have \_\_\_ (be well connected)
  - 16 Actress Kathryn of "WandaVision"
  - 17 Severely injures
  - 18 James who likes his martinis "shaken, not stirred"
  - 19 Woman's name that anagrams to GOAL
  - 20 Instagram upload, for short
  - 21 Brewery jug
  - 24 British noble
  - 26 Bug spray ingredient
  - 27 Conger, e.g.
  - 28 Largest speaker in a sound system, usually
  - 31 Posh
  - 33 Jack who pioneered late-night talk
  - 34 Golfer's target
  - 35 "Funny!"
  - 36 Like wine that's given a chance to "breathe" before drinking
  - 38 \_\_\_ Stone (hieroglyphics key)
  - 42 "\_\_\_ the Damn Season" (2020 Taylor Swift song)
  - 43 Mooch, as a cigarette
  - 44 Org. with 50+ members
  - 45 Expel, as waste
  - 48 Longtime host of "The Price Is Right"
  - 50 University of Tennessee athlete, for short
  - 51 Chicago mayor Lightfoot
  - 53 Like "manspreading" on public transportation
  - 54 Power user of a popular review site, colloquially
  - 57 Fashionable
  - 60 Classic theater name
  - 61 Career
  - 62 Stinky smells
  - 64 Scissors sound
  - 65 Book after II Chronicles
  - 66 Oblong tomatoes
  - 67 Fiona or Shrek
  - 68 Quaint affirmative
  - 69 15-percentner
- DOWN**
- 1 A.D.A.-compliant entrance feature
  - 2 Smoothie berry
  - 3 Business where all the employees blend together?
  - 4 Sleeve filler
  - 5 Big name in board games
  - 6 Comedy's Kaplan or baseball's Kapler
  - 7 Correctly arranged
  - 8 Snappy put-down
  - 9 \_\_\_ 3000, one half of rap's Outkast
  - 10 Have a visible baby bump
  - 11 Whack-a-mole whacker
  - 12 "You've gotta be kidding me!"

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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

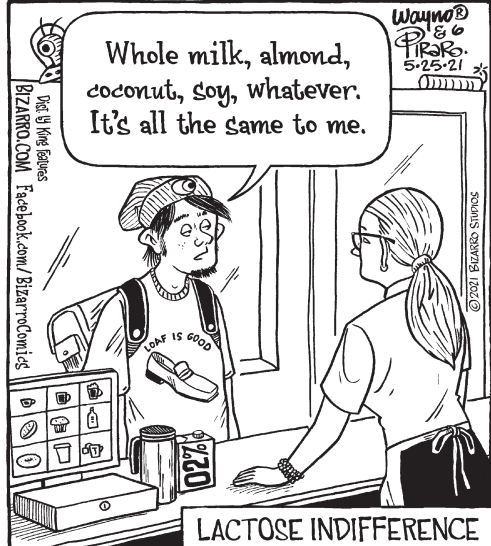


PUZZLE BY ADAM WAGNER

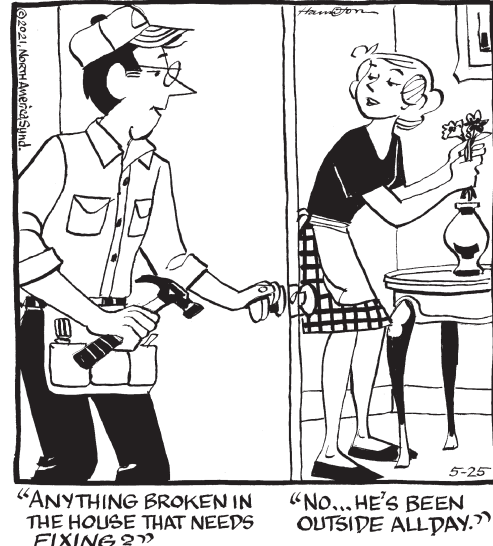
- 13 Awesome, in surf-speak
- 22 Says "I do" without the ado?
- 23 Others, in Oaxaca
- 25 "Dam it!"
- 28 Place for a mud facial
- 29 Country with the world's tallest building, for short
- 30 Furbys or fidget spinners, once
- 32 Gossip starter
- 35 Man of Mexico
- 37 Mister President or Madam Speaker
- 38 Barbecue coating
- 39 Earn after tax
- 40 Uno, due, \_\_\_
- 41 Earth Day's mo.
- 43 If they leak, you may find yourself in hot water
- 45 Extremely
- 46 Run out to catch a deep pass
- 47 Magic potion
- 48 Light wind
- 49 Northern lights phenomenon
- 52 Yiddish "Yikes!"
- 55 "Sorry, you're just not my \_\_\_"
- 56 Baby carriage, to Brits
- 58 Country across the Persian Gulf from the 29-Down
- 59 Vowelless attention-getter
- 63 Animal you might describe by the ends of 21-, 28-, 48- and 54-Across

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

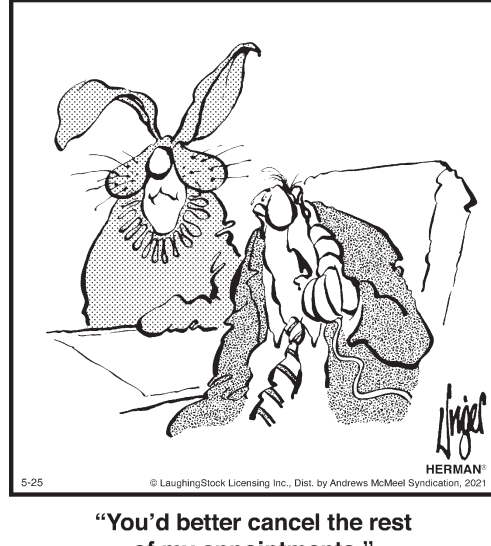
BIZARRO



DENNIS THE MENACE



HERMAN



JUMBLE

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

RUGDO  
CCIKL  
GNNINI  
TDOSED

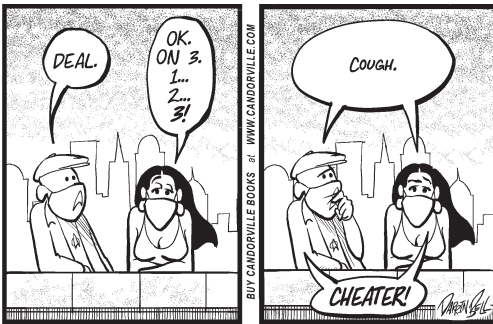
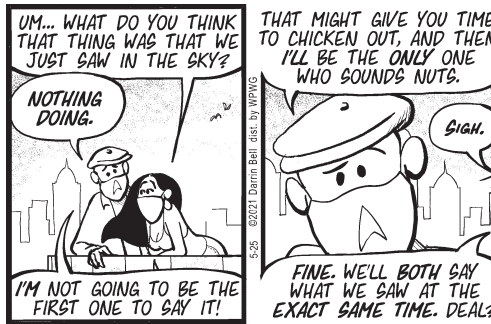
Get the first JUMBLE logo? Follow us on Twitter @nytimes

THE BAND'S OUTDOOR PERFORMANCE WAS READY TO START, BUT THE WEATHER WAS...  
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SUNNY LAUGH DEFACE LOCKET  
Answer: The young student looked up the word "fist" in the dictionary which was — CLOSE AT HAND

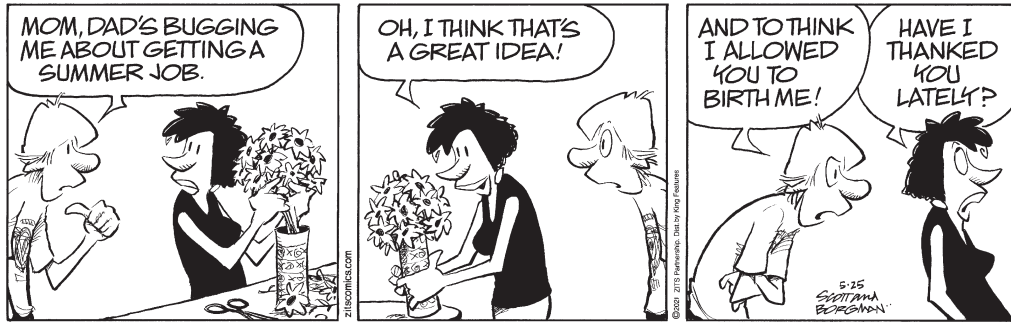
CANDORVILLE



WUMO



ZITS



Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

**ACROSS**

- 1 Aquatic barker
- 5 "Notorious" justice, initially
- 8 Frozen rock in a bar?
- 12 Lake that drains via the Niagara River
- 13 City on the Nile
- 15 Daunting exam
- 16 \*Historic lifetime golf or tennis achievement
- 19 \*Cushioned Adidas running shoes
- 20 TV censoring device
- 22 Do canine care?
- 25 Long-bodied fish
- 26 Dose amt.
- 28 Super Bowl org.
- 29 Bronze component
- 31 Hang loosely
- 33 Tigger's best friend
- 35 Clear sky hue
- 37 Long-eared equines
- 38 Need to pay
- 39 More secure
- 40 Extreme clutter
- 41 Oscar-winning actress Berry
- 43 "Should that happen ..."
- 44 Power source for Watt
- 46 Sleeping sound
- 48 City hall leaders
- 50 Guiding principles
- 53 Driver's licenses, e.g.
- 54 Donnybrook
- 58 "Crazy Rich Asians" director Jon M. \_\_\_
- 59 A or B, but not O
- 61 "30 Rock" actor \_\_\_ Morgan
- 62 Pleased
- 63 Follow orders
- 64 Product pitcher
- 65 "Mary Magdalene" star Rooney \_\_\_
- 66 Capital on the Tiber
- 67 Party attendee
- 68 Portent

**DOWN**

- 1 "Be there in a \_\_\_!"
- 2 Stat for Clayton Kershaw
- 3 Breathing necessity
- 4 Bloodsucker
- 5 Pasta sauce brand
- 6 Eagle or lark
- 7 Steffi in the Tennis Hall of Fame
- 8 Pink cocktail, familiarly
- 9 Digital address letters
- 10 Sheep sound
- 11 Common name for a tree-lined street
- 13 Corn, wheat, etc.
- 14 Switch type
- 17 Privileged groups
- 18 Cowboys' home
- 20 Chapter companion
- 21 "Social status hierarchy
- 23 Seafood appetizer, and what each answer to a starred clue literally is?
- 24 Foals' fathers
- 25 Wax-coated cheese
- 27 Links tournament with two-person teams
- 28 Yuletide carols
- 30 Roman fiddler
- 32 Basil-based sauce
- 34 "Wise" flier
- 36 The Congo, formerly
- 41 Word or phrase preceded by "#"
- 42 Put into code
- 45 Goof up
- 47 Uranus or Neptune
- 48 Key that may sound sad or angry
- 49 Marinade in Philippine cooking
- 51 Windy City hub
- 52 Khartoum's nation
- 55 Language of Pakistan
- 56 Like Hubbard's cupboard
- 57 Nails, as a test
- 60 Lens location
- 62 Controversial food letters

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:**

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

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By Agnes Davidson and C.C. Burnikel  
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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

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

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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