

Friday, August 13, 2021

Daily Bridge Club

Proper defense

By FRANK STEWART
Tribune Content Agency

A club member who was recently married — he and his wife play in our duplicate games — came to me in the lounge.

“Before I got married,” he told me, “I didn’t even know there was a proper way to place a milk carton back in the refrigerator. But I’m learning.”

My friend was today’s East, and his wife led the nine of spades against 3NT: deuce, ten, queen.

“South lost a diamond finesse next,” he said. “I shifted to the jack of hearts. My wife took South’s king and led another spade, but after I took the jack and ace, South claimed, making three. My wife said I’d goofed. At least she was less assertive than usual.”

SHIFT

Assuming West has something in hearts (and if not, East’s play is moot), East must take the ace of spades at Trick One and lead the jack of hearts. The defense gets three hearts, a spade and a diamond.

East can’t beat 3NT with spade tricks, and if he lets South win the first spade, South will surely have nine tricks once he sets up the diamonds.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ K 5 3 2 ♥ 5 ♦ A Q J 10 6 3 ♣ A J. The dealer, at your right, opens one heart. What

do you say?

ANSWER: You can overcall two diamonds. Then, if you hear two hearts at your left and two passes, reopen with a double. An option is to double first. If partner responds two clubs, you bid two diamonds, not promising great strength if your partnership observes “equal-level conversion.” Decide with your partner what your style will be.

North dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH

♠ K 5 3 2
♥ 5
♦ A Q J 10 6 3
♣ A J

WEST

♠ 9 8 7
♥ A 7 6 3
♦ 8 2
♣ 6 5 3 2

EAST

♠ A J 10
♥ J 10 9 8
♦ K 9
♣ 9 8 7 4

SOUTH

♠ Q 6 4
♥ K Q 4 2
♦ 7 5 4
♣ K Q 10

North

1 ♠
1 ♥
3 NT

East

Pass
Pass
All Pass

South

1 ♥
2 NT
Pass

West

Pass
Pass
Pass

Opening lead — ♠ 9

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The New York Times
Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0709

ACROSS

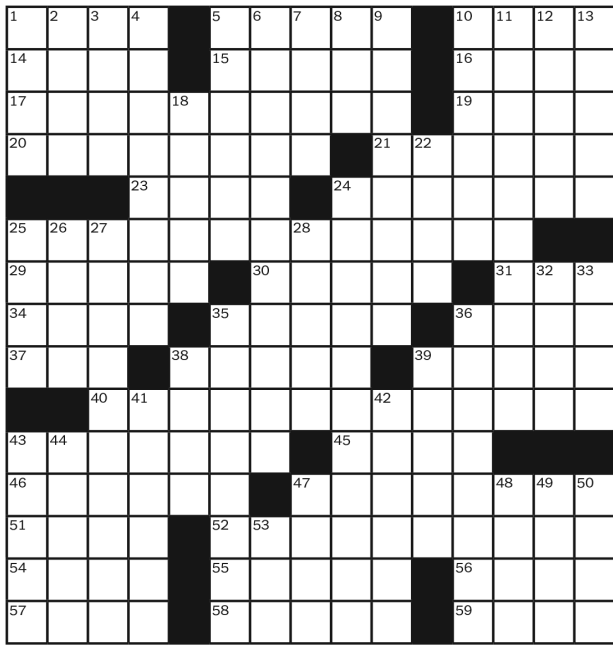
- 1 Spelunker’s aid
5 Went (for)
10 Club alternatives
14 Home of the Polka Hall of Fame and Pro Football Hall of Fame
15 Interpret the parts of
16 Line for a sleigh ride
17 Olympics haul of fame?
19 European royal capital
20 Images that are nice and easy to look at
21 Master negotiator
23 Move named for the 19th-century skater Paulsen
24 Most milquetoast-y

- 25 Skill for a good physician
29 Heritage
30 Folk rock band with two 1965 #1 hits, with “the”
31 Org. with an Office of Air and Radiation
34 Some Tripadvisor listings
35 Light brown seals
36 “Frozen” character with antlers
37 It’s not the final number: Abbr.
38 Skier’s problem
39 Equanimity
40 Accept things as they are
43 Nurse’s office supply
45 Sassy

- 46 Sport that made its first Olympics splash in 1904
47 Slot machine bonus
51 Piece of mind?
52 Crawl
54 Stretched out
55 2x
56 International grp. that’s well financed?
57 Pump up
58 Did some crew work
59 Kind of force

DOWN

- 1 Box on Broadway
2 Shouted greeting
3 Word with air or square
4 “This American Life” and others
5 Led the way
6 People-powered vehicles
7 It helps make waiting easier
8 Common night school class, for short
9 Goes to hell?
10 TV journalist Baldwin
11 Choice made while thinking “ugh”
12 Mahjong set
13 Ungentle laugh
18 Long dresses



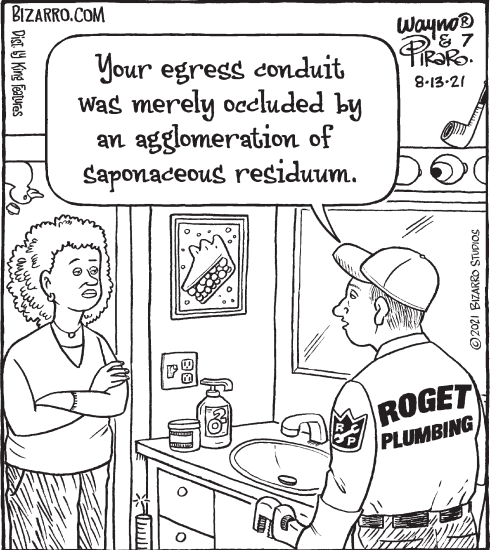
PUZZLE BY ROBYN WEINTRAUB

- 22 You can see right through it
24 On menus, it’s often by the lobster
25 Big wheel at a party?
26 Millennia
27 “Keep on keepin’ on!”
28 Biblical birthday gift
32 Capital of the Philippines
33 Over
35 Doesn’t surrender
36 Charming vulnerability
38 Journalist Ifill who was depicted on a postage stamp in 2020
39 Israeli P.M. between Rabin and Netanyahu
41 Oxymorphone, for one
42 Followed
43 “Downton Abbey” daughter
44 Irrational thing to celebrate?
47 “Not ___!”
48 Follower of Oscar in the NATO alphabet
49 Snacks that drip
50 Head turner
53 Group depicted in the 2015 biopic “Straight Outta Compton”

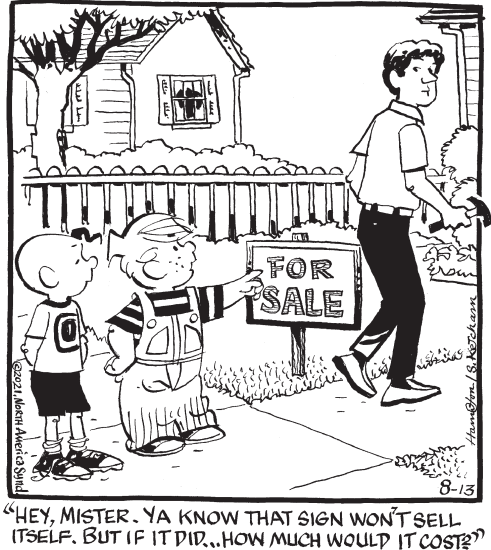
Online subscriptions: Today’s puzzle and more than 7,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$39.95 a year).

Read about and comment on each puzzle: nytimes.com/wordplay.

BIZARRO



DENNIS THE MENACE



HERMAN



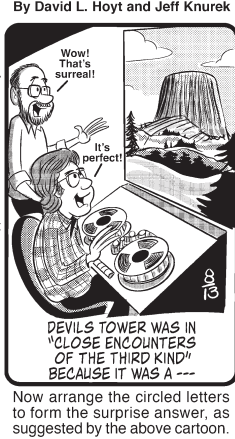
JUMBLE

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

- LYRTU
TRAAO
YBNOED
ALZABE

Answer here: _____

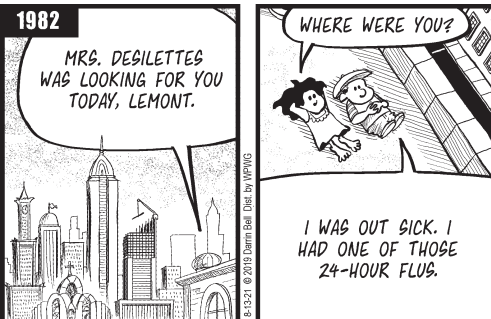
THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



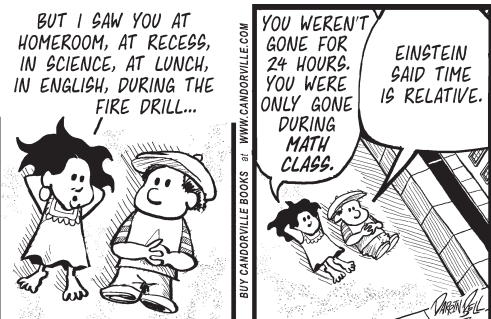
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Yesterday's Jumbles: ENACT AXIOM ANYWAY INVOKE
Answer: They studied U.S. history in preparation for the — “EXAMINE-NATION”

CANDORVILLE



WUMO



ZITS



SUDOKU

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

SOLUTION TO PREVIOUS SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

- 1 Suitable for growing crops
7 Rain unit
11 4x4, for short
14 Song with a story
15 Ephesus' region
17 Hamburger Hill setting, briefly
18 L
20 Long order
21 Teacher's note
22 Sparkling flapper accessory
24 Cobblers' tools
27 M
31 Dumbledore and Snape, in brief
33 Range rover
34 Military meal
35 ___ rasa
37 Clarinet, e.g.
39 F
45 Somewhat, to Salieri
46 “Circus Sideshow” pointillist
48 General vibe
52 Traditional doings
55 Skylit lobbies
56 R
59 George Harrison's “___ It a Pity”
60 Kit Kat component
61 Capital served by the Queen Alia International Airport
63 Ballpark fig.
64 Secret message technique ... and a hint to four puzzle clues
71 Pulitzer novelist Harper
72 Strainer
73 Madrid-based airline
74 Vehicle for some trips
75 It has a head and hops
76 Ankle-related

DOWN

- 1 Simple comparison
2 Fan noise
3 Like
4 Like ignorance, at times
5 “Stay in your ___!”

- 6 Ranger or Corsair
7 Compilation
8 Bulg. neighbor
9 Half of eleven?
10 Wall map insert
11 Nader's “___ at Any Speed”
12 Alphabetically penultimate zodiac sign
13 Places in a cell
16 Alaskan site of the only WWII battle on U.S. soil
19 Layers of big eggs
23 School of thought
24 Quick
25 Stop shooting
26 Timber wolf
28 Fork-tailed flier
29 Coral habitat
30 Some Blizzard ingredients
32 Place to park a clipper
36 Scrat's obsession in “Ice Age” films
38 De Matteo of “The Sopranos”
40 Juul product, briefly
41 Ninth Greek letter

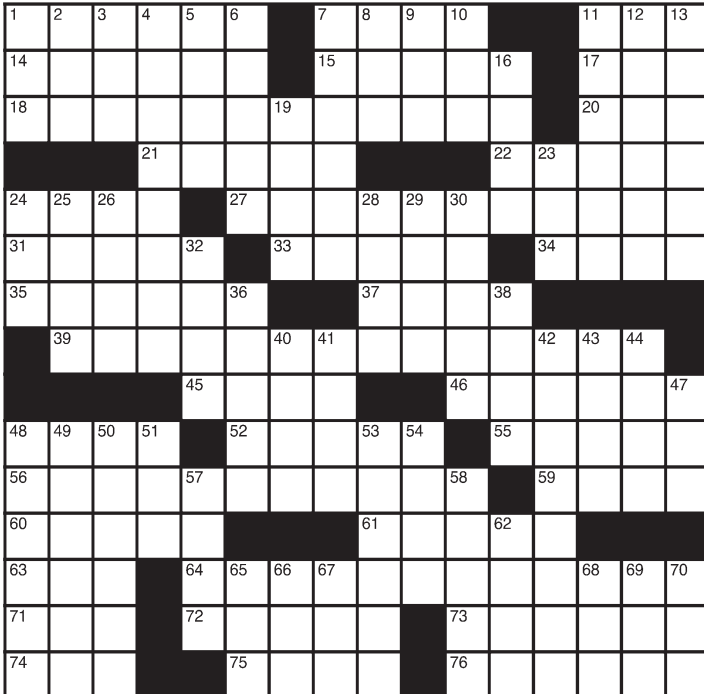
- 42 Fletcher Christian, for one
43 Does as humans do?
44 Sprinkle, perhaps
47 Skin pic
48 In addition to that
49 Czar's decrees
50 Traveled like Huck and Jim
51 Bolted down
53 Tip for fixing mistakes?

- 54 Highway behemoth
57 Camera part
58 Gamut
62 Daughter in “The Time Traveler's Wife”
65 Spoonbill's bill
66 Angled formation
67 “___ gotta run!”
68 Collection agcy.
69 Peeples seen in People
70 Actor Penn

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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

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By Bryant White

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