

Thursday, January 13, 2022

Daily Bridge Club

Placing the blame

By FRANK STEWART
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“To err is human. To blame it on a computer is even more human.” — graffiti.

If all else fails, you can try blaming it on your partner.

When today’s East-West bid four hearts, South went to four spades and was doubled. West led his singleton diamond. East won with the jack and led a low club. Declarer won with the ace and led a trump, and West took his ace and led the queen of clubs. South produced the king and drew trumps. He lost three diamonds, a trump and a heart: minus 300.

PLUS 500

East-West could have been plus 500, and each defender blamed his partner.

“Lead a low diamond at the second trick for me to ruff,” West growled. “You still get two diamonds.”

“I wasn’t sure you’d led a singleton,” East said. “Underlead in hearts to my queen when you take your ace of trumps and I’ll get the idea.”

East should lead the king of hearts at Trick Two. West will signal with the deuce, implying that his diamond was a singleton. Then East can lead a low diamond.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ K Q 9 8 4 ♥ 9
♦ 9 6 3 2 ♣ A K 7. Your partner opens one heart, you respond one

spade and he bids two clubs. What do you say?

ANSWER: You probably, but not assuredly, have a game, but you know too little about partner’s hand to decide. Bid two diamonds, forcing. If partner bids two spades next, go to four spades. If he bids 2NT, raise to 3NT hopefully. If he rebids two hearts or three clubs, you may end up stopping below game.

South dealer
E-W vulnerable

NORTH

♠ J 10 7 6
♥ 8 5 3
♦ K 10 8 4
♣ J 9

WEST

♠ A 5
♥ A J 10 7 4 2
♦ 5
♣ Q 8 6 3

EAST

♠ 3 2
♥ K Q 6
♦ A Q J 7
♣ 10 5 4 2

SOUTH

♠ K Q 9 8 4
♥ 9
♦ 9 6 3 2
♣ A K 7

South

1 ♠
4 ♠
All Pass

West

2 ♥
Pass

North

2 ♠
Pass

East

4 ♥
Dbl

Opening lead — ♦ 5

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The New York Times
Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 1209

ACROSS

- 1 Brave ___ lion
4 Still on the line, perhaps
8 Hallucinogen from a cactus
14 Part of a range: Abbr.
15 Word that becomes its own opposite when “n” is added to the front
16 Temporarily out
17 Blackjack ___, source of dense wood
18 Film adaptation with ___, a choir arriving at the airport? (2016)
20 Brand of light-colored cookie
22 Nonfiction film, in brief
23 Minute, informally
24 ... a room in an environmentally friendly hotel? (2018)

- 28 Leave in a huff, with “out”
29 Carb- follower
30 Govt. org. that had the same leader for its first 48 years (1924-72)
33 Follower of John
35 Japanese carrier
37 Alphabetically first of the 100 most popular boys’ names in the U.S.
39 ... a triceratops trying to find a spot for its car? (1993)
43 Let up
44 You might need this to go on
45 “Mm-hmm ...”
46 Kind of battle
47 Ginger ___
50 Rob with four Super Bowl rings, familiarly
52 ... a quick trip to purchase cutlery? (2019)

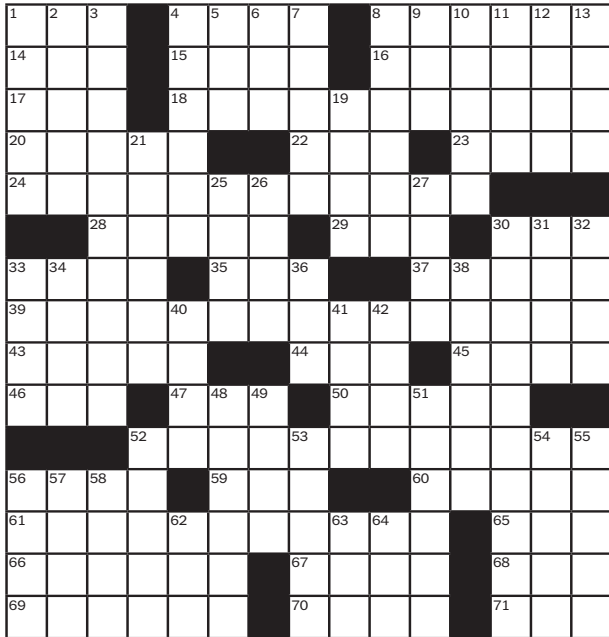
- 56 The duck, in “Peter and the Wolf”
59 Pizzeria order
60 Skin-care application
61 ... a movement to make invoices illegal? (2003)
65 Prefix with system
66 In a daze
67 Biblical progenitor of the Edomites
68 ___-core (punk offshoot)
69 “Absolutely, will do”
70 Feeling sad
71 Govt.-issued ID

DOWN

- 1 ___ friends
2 One on the case?
3 High-heel shoe attachment
4 Presidential middle name
5 Pop singer ___ Max
6 Brooks with Emmy, Grammy, Oscar and Tony awards
7 Home to the largest Goya collection in the world
8 Tranquil
9 Geology interval
10 “Catch my drift?”
11 Getting the job done
12 You might have a stake in this
13 Experimental, say

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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



PUZZLE BY ALEXANDER LIEBESKIND

- 19 Disney+ series set after “Avengers: Endgame”

21 Unleashes on

25 Things with hooks

26 Hyatt alternative

27 “Warm”

30 Quality of a playful kitten

31 Something to chew on

32 Playwright William

33 Cracked a bit
- 34 Home of the 62-Down hummingbird, the world’s smallest bird

36 Louisville is in it, in brief

38 Like

40 John, abroad

41 Dogs in Tibetan monasteries, once

42 Sleekly designed, informally

48 Cell membrane makeup

49 Iniquitous
- 51 Surpass in strength

52 Clarkson with the 2004 hit “Since U Been Gone”

53 Set certain underwater traps

54 Makes out

55 [What a joke!]

56 Sign off on

57 Hold tight

58 One’s parents, slangily, with “the”

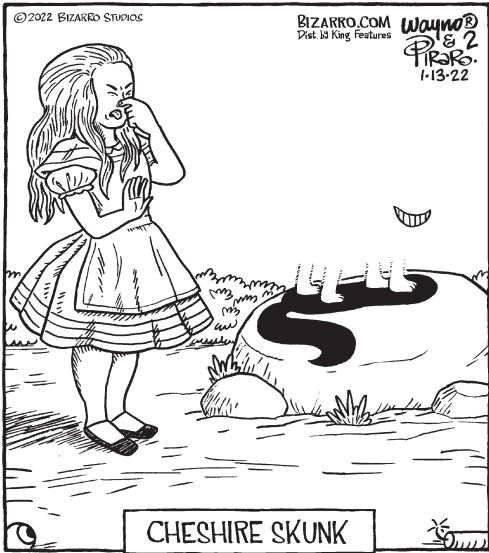
62 See 34-Down

63 Cousin of equi-

64 “Yer wrong”

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.

RYUFR
ETLTI
CEAUNN
WEREPT

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app: Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

BEING ABLE TO GO FISHING WITH HIS GRANDDAUGHTER WAS A ---

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

Answer here: “ ”

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday’s Jumbles: GROUT PENNY REGRET FACADE
Answer: The hypnotist’s new door made a great — ENTRANCE

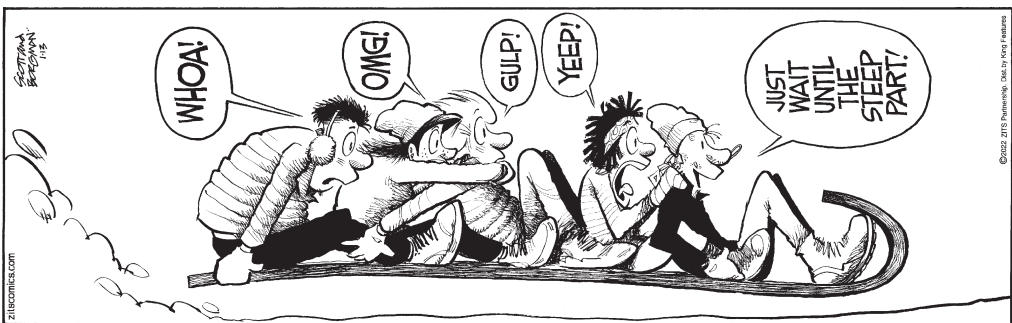
CANDORVILLE



WUMO



ZITS



Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS**

1 Assurance on some menus

6 Current event

10 Crawled?

14 Have the floor

15 Outback option

16 Head light

17 *It’s hard to put down

19 Like much cheese

20 Middle of Cannes?

21 Lend, informally, as money

22 Think the world of

23 *Bond, for one

26 Clothing buyer’s pleased words

29 Also-ran’s terse summary

30 Buzzer beater?

31 Low point

33 “Awesome, dude!”

36 *One of about 50 orbiting the Milky Way

40 Saddlebag carrier

41 Roof features

42 Qwirkle piece

43 Colonial diplomat

45 Julia of “Ozark”

47 *Put the pedal to the metal

50 Toyota since 1982

51 31-Down competitor

52 Anthem author

55 Component of 53-Down

56 Airport annoyance, and a literal hint to the answers to starred clues

59 Slips on

60 Appearance

61 Bagel flavor

62 Genesis grandson

63 Shaw’s “___ and the Man”

64 Units of power
- 5 Prepare

6 Catcher’s interference is charged as one in baseball

7 Italy’s “Supreme Poet”

8 Titled rapper

9 “___ Blues”:

“White Album” track

10 Nuances

11 Old West traveling group

12 Warn

13 Rock’s Depeche ___

18 Lines at the checkout counter?

22 Greek marketplace

23 Something to build on

24 Oceans’ motions

25 Sacha Baron Cohen persona

26 Rae of “Insecure”

27 Christmas poem opener

28 Inaugural Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee

31 Skin care brand

32 Bolted down
- 34 Bridge toll unit

35 One skilled at giving hints?

37 “Rescue Me” actor Denis

38 Road division

39 USPS deliveries

44 Way out

45 Short dip?

46 “As I was saying ...”

47 Cameroon neighbor

48 ___ pole
- 49 Secluded locations

50 Airport ID, e.g.

52 Heal, in a way

53 Showbiz “grand slam” acronym

54 Itches

56 Morning TV fare, initially

57 Word before France or Jordan

58 CNN anchor

Cabrera

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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

01/13/22

SUDOKU

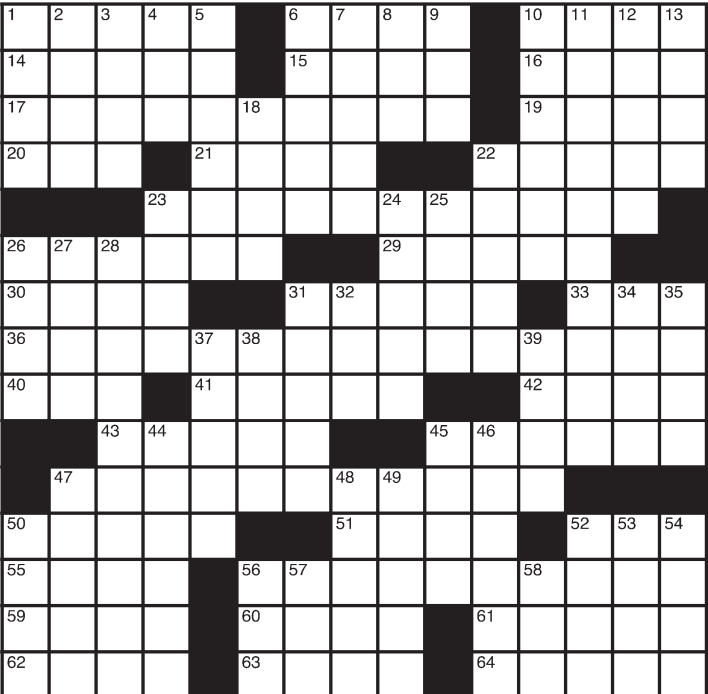
Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

SOLUTION TO PREVIOUS SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆



By George Jasper
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