

Monday, February 21, 2022

### Daily Bridge Club

## Solicited opinion

By FRANK STEWART  
Tribune Content Agency

In the club lounge, a player plopped down at my table and scribbled today's deal on a napkin.

"Can you give me an unbiased opinion?" he asked.

"Unbiased opinions aren't worth much," I said, "but go on."

He had been declarer at 3NT. West led the deuce of spades: ten, jack, ace.

"I saw nine tricks," my friend said. "I could run the clubs and then lead a diamond to try for a ninth trick."

But when I took the K-A of clubs, East discarded. I had to lose the fourth club to West, and when he led another spade, I went down.

"My partner was upset, but I don't see how I could have known to do better. Do you?"

opponents pass. What do you say?

**ANSWER:** A rebid of two diamonds would not be a terrible error, but if partner then bid two hearts or 2NT, you would have to pass with your minimum hand, not ever showing your spade support. I prefer a raise to two spades. If partner next bids 2NT, you can describe your hand well by bidding three diamonds.

East dealer  
Both sides vulnerable

#### NORTH

♠ K 10 5  
♥ 6 5 2  
♦ 7  
♣ A Q 10 7 5 2

#### WEST

♠ Q 9 3 2  
♥ 9  
♦ J 9 4 3  
♣ J 9 8 3

#### EAST

♠ J 8 7  
♥ A K J 8 4  
♦ A 10 8 2  
♣ 6

#### SOUTH

♠ A 6 4  
♥ Q 10 7 3  
♦ K Q 6 5  
♣ K 4

East	South	West	North
1♥	Pass	Pass	2♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Opening lead — ♠ 2

©2022 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

#### DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ J 8 7 ♥ A K J 8 4  
♦ A 10 8 2 ♣ 6. You open one heart, and your partner bids one spade. The

#### DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ J 8 7 ♥ A K J 8 4  
♦ A 10 8 2 ♣ 6. You open one heart, and your partner bids one spade. The

## The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0117

#### ACROSS

1 \_\_\_ and downs

4 John or John Quincy

9 Off-the-wall

14 Org. for the Flyers and Red Wings

15 First toy to be called an "action figure"

16 Congresswoman \_\_\_ Omar

17 Teenage military leader canonized in 1920

19 Country singer Patsy

20 \_\_\_ Domini

21 Not inclined to reveal one's feelings

23 "Goodness gracious!"

26 Sign of an old wound

27 Word before trap or prize

30 Marx's collaborator on "The Communist Manifesto"

34 Clown accessory that's often bright red

37 Skin soothers

39 Furniture megastore

40 Insignificant amount ... or hint to this puzzle's shaded squares

44 Genuine

45 Actress Rigg of "The Avengers"

46 "\_\_\_ sells seashells ..."

47 Rachel of MSNBC

50 Sign of fire

52 Places where the cucumbers aren't for eating

54 Dragonlike creature of fantasy

58 Big-dollar election-influencing grp.

62 Smoothie berry

63 Deadly nerve gas

64 "Tell someone who gives a hoot"

67 Use a stencil on

68 Instrument in Hindustani music

69 TV remote button

70 Turned white

71 Major pipes

72 Rap's Dr. \_\_\_

#### DOWN

1 Dislodge, as printer paper

2 Bogus

3 "Tea" for "gossip," e.g.

4 In the past

5 "What's the \_\_\_?"

6 Cracked, as a door

7 Glutton's demand

8 Religious offshoots

9 One who worships the Triple Goddess and Horned God

10 Itchy, say

11 Keep this up when you're down

12 Philosopher Immanuel

13 Number on a foam finger

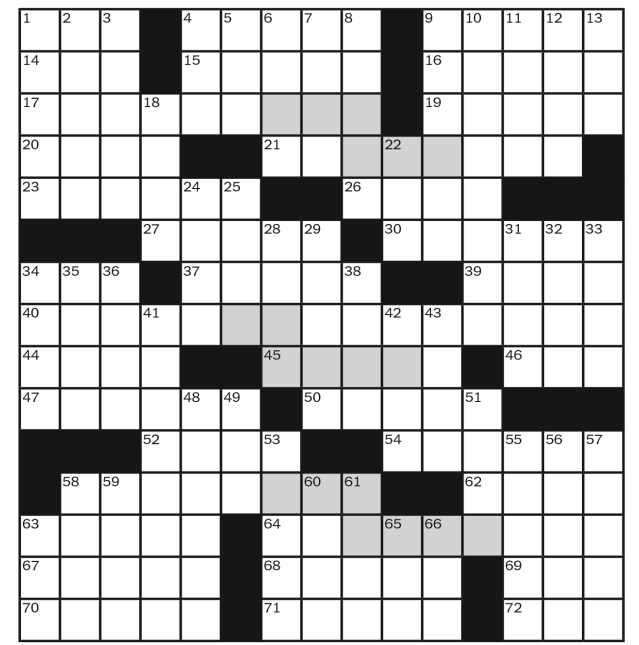
18 Beginner, in modern lingo

22 Rocks, in a drink

24 Dove or Dial

25 Hindu festival of colors

28 "\_\_\_, James \_\_\_"



PUZZLE BY EVAN MAHNKEN

29 Himalayan cryptids

31 Scrapes (out)

32 Jacob's first wife

33 Reasonable

34 In the 70s or 80s, say

35 Bit of inspiration

36 Mortarboard tosser

38 Bogus

41 Male grooming brand

42 Sufficient, to Shakespeare

43 Describing chardonnay, e.g.

48 Uncorked

49 Mindless two-player card game

51 Emergency relocation of people, for short

53 Twitch

55 Digital holiday greeting

56 Like uranium vis-à-vis carbon

57 Aunt and uncle's little girl

58 \_\_\_ Lee (dessert brand)

59 Russian river

60 Home to the Hang Seng and Nikkei 225 indexes

61 Commercial prefix with bank

63 Indy 500 sponsor

65 Aid on a hot summer day

66 1040 org.

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



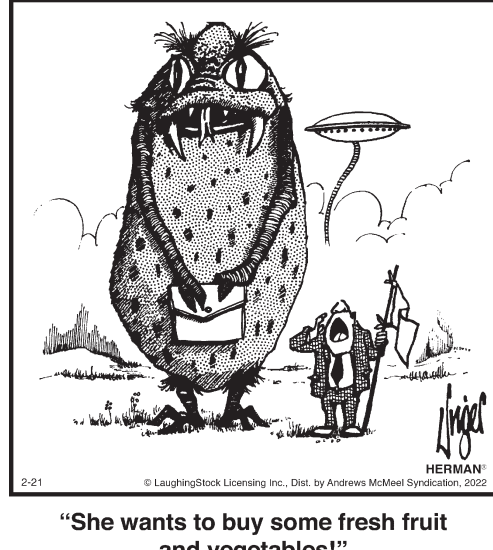
#### BIZARRO



#### DENNIS THE MENACE



#### HERMAN



#### JUMBLE

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

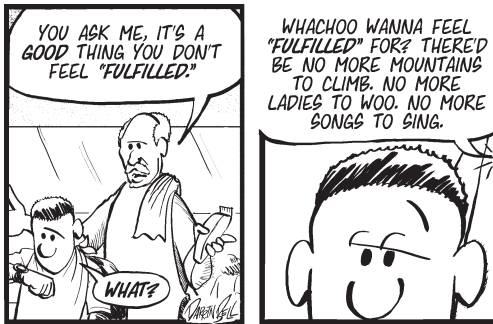
DLEER  
ETGAN  
YAUPTO  
WCDARO

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

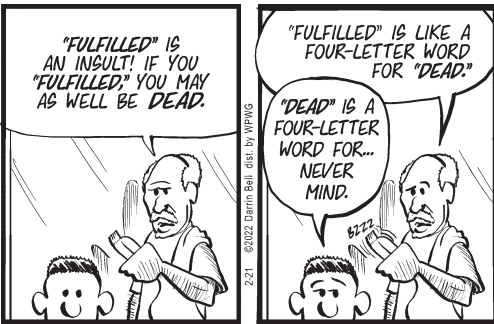
Answers tomorrow

Saturday's Jumbles: MAIZE PANDA NARROW GOPHER  
Answer: Many South American countries are home to the Andes because of the way they're — APRANGED

#### CANDORVILLE



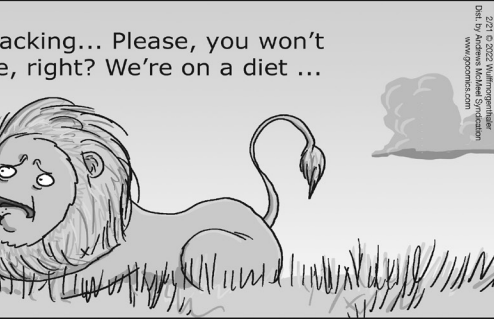
#### WUMO



#### ZITS



#### ZITS



## Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

#### ACROSS

1 Skin growth

5 Learns via word of mouth

10 Riot spray

14 Camera or eye part

15 Bates \_\_\_: "Psycho" setting

16 Muslim holy man

17 How a boat may rock

19 Busting agent

20 Ziti or rigatoni

21 How boxers square off

23 Generous slice

26 Macho

27 How Fred and Ginger sometimes danced

32 "The guy over there"

33 Stadium attendance counter

34 Sports show rundown

38 Not fer

40 Assumed name

42 Lotus position discipline

43 Pulsate

45 Furnish with a fund

47 Fond du \_\_\_, Wisconsin

48 How BFFs converse

51 Division in a church

54 Black gemstone

55 How people may agreeably see

58 Use elbow grease on

62 Take \_\_\_ the waist: alter

63 1984 De Palma film, and a hint to five puzzle answers

66 "\_\_\_ Talkin'": Bee Gees #1 hit

67 Birch relative

68 Coscant's reciprocal

69 Cake decorator

70 Video chat choice

71 Abbr. at the end of a list

#### DOWN

1 Thin trail of smoke

2 Mozart's "Il mio tesoro," e.g.

3 Frees (of)

4 Scary African fly

5 Managed care gp.

6 Camera named for a Greek goddess

7 Going \_\_\_: bickering

8 Second effort

9 Place to hide a metaphorical ace

10 Beethoven's Ninth is written in one

11 Stradivari's tutor danced

12 Christmas song

13 Roast host

18 Conversations

22 Bleacher feature

24 "\_\_\_ boy!"

25 Water heater

27 Chew the fat

28 Tipsy from wine, say

29 Kuwaiti ruler

30 "Cry Macho" (2021) star Eastwood

31 Set out for, as a destination

35 Pepsi, for one

36 Food thickener

37 Agreement

39 One of Nolan Ryan's seven

41 "Any day now"

44 Kiss from Consuela

46 "And your reason?"

49 One-celled pond dwellers

50 "The dog ate my homework" is a sad one

51 Conductor Ozawa

52 Pessimist

53 Throw with effort

56 Egg yellow

57 Drain swirl

59 Passing words?

60 Arm bone

61 Fishing rod attachment

64 "You betcha"

65 Dr. of hip-hop

#### ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:



02/21/22

## SUDOKU

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

#### SOLUTION TO PREVIOUS SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

© 2022 Andrews McMeel Syndication