

Monday, June 13, 2022

Daily Bridge Club

Indecisive play

By FRANK STEWART
Tribune Content Agency

“Indecision may or may not be my problem.” — graffiti.
As declarer at a suit contract, you must decide whether to draw trumps first, later or not at all. Your choice may be right or wrong, but indecision will invariably be wrong.
At today’s four spades, South waffled and finally figured he’d better try to draw trumps. He won the first heart in dummy and let the queen ride. When West took the king and led a second heart, South had a heart to lose, plus a diamond and a club. Down one.

FOUR LOSERS

South’s play was indecisive. He has a possible loser in each suit but can try to set up a second club winner to pitch a heart from dummy. South can’t afford to attack the trumps early: If a finesse loses, the defense will set up a heart winner.
South must win the first heart in his hand and lead a low club. West takes the king, but South wins the heart return, takes the queen of clubs, leads a diamond to his ace and discards dummy’s last heart on the ace of clubs. His game is safe.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ A J 10 8 2 ♥ K 6 3
♦ A 9 ♣ A 8 4. Your partner opens one diamond, and the next player passes. What do you say?

ANSWER: I consider this a close case. A response of one spade would be routine for many experts. Still, the hand has great slam potential. If partner holds a minimum with long diamonds such as K 5, A 7 2, K Q J 7 3 2, 7 6, he would have a good chance at seven diamonds. I would accept a strong jump-shift to two spades, planning to bid 3NT next.
South dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH	
♠	Q 9 5 3
♥	A 5 4
♦	7 6 5 3
♣	Q 7
WEST	
♠	K 7
♥	Q J 10 8
♦	Q 10 8 4
♣	K 10 6
EAST	
♠	6 4
♥	9 7 2
♦	K J 2
♣	J 9 5 3 2
SOUTH	
♠	A J 10 8 2
♥	K 6 3
♦	A 9
♣	A 8 4

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	All Pass

Opening lead — ♥ Q

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SEEKING A FRIENDLY DUPLICATE BRIDGE?

Find five games weekly online at bendbridge.org

The New York Times Crossword

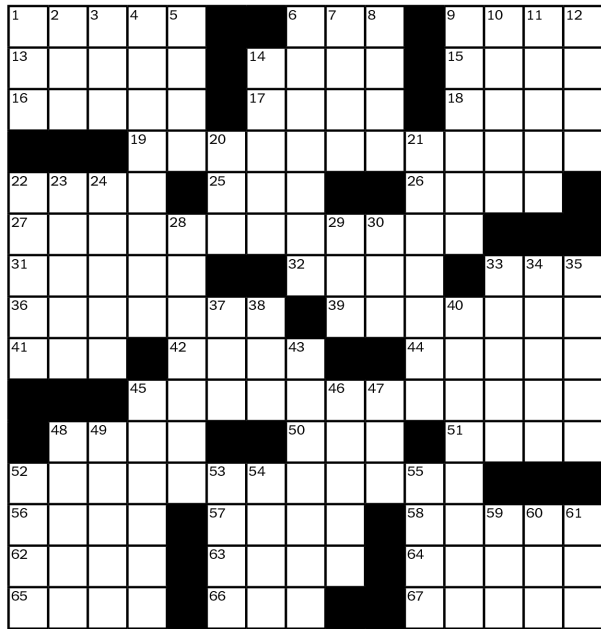
Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0509

- ACROSS**
- 1 Pace set by a metronome
6 Ewe's mate
9 Percolate
13 Measure of gold's purity, not its weight
14 Cause of a laugh
15 Bone parallel to the radius
16 Closing bit of music
17 In memoriam piece
18 Doe or buck
19 "Have another round — my treat!"
22 ___-bitsy
25 Private eye, in old slang
26 C-worthy
27 Gloating words of mock consolation
31 Wretched
32 Amanda of "Sleeping With Other People"
- 33 Texter's "Hold that thought"
36 Revealed accidentally
39 Once-standard feature not found in most newer vehicles
41 greenpeace.____
42 Trolley
44 Blow, as a volcano
45 Invitation to a prospective waltz partner
48 Actress Rudolph of "Bridesmaids"
50 Feathery accessory
51 Lays down turf
52 Empower a successor, metaphorically
56 "Dagnabbit!"
57 Decorated, as a cake
58 In a good mood
62 Rough patch in adolescence?

- 63 Rainy day hue
64 Full of fury
65 Bogus
66 Make music on a kazoo, say
67 Sufi poet thought to have coined the adage found at the starts of 19-, 27-, 45- and 52-Across

- DOWN**
- 1 Boxing ring ruling, in brief
2 ___ de toilette
3 Mohawked star of "The A-Team"
4 Transport built for revelry
5 Tweeter's "alternatively"
6 Title cyborg in a 1987 sci-fi flick
7 Similar (to)
8 Distribute, with "out"
9 Puzzle with a 9 x 9 grid
10 Justice Kagan
11 Foe
12 Peel ... or, phonetically, a fruit you might do this to
14 ___ K. of Kafka's "The Trial"
20 "___ be a big help"
21 Solaced
22 Author Calvino
23 The ___ of Babel
24 Sound heard twice in "George"
28 Something special



PUZZLE BY AUGUST MILLER

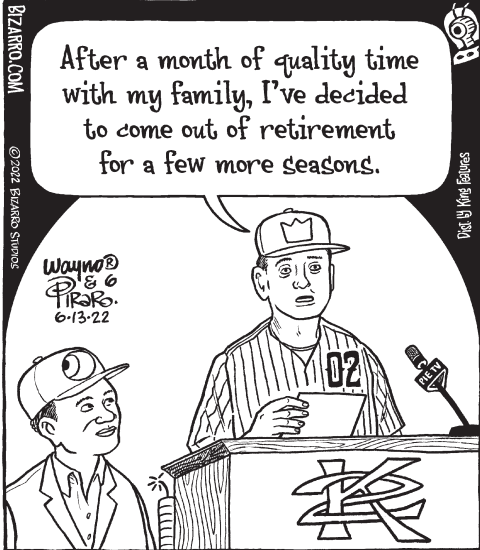
- 29 Stephen of "The Crying Game"
30 "You bet!"
33 Uncle "we don't talk about" in Disney's 2021 film "Encanto"
34 Bygone music collection from Nas or Lil' Kim
35 Computer memory units
37 Good name for a financial planner?
- 38 Buddy
40 Sculptures made of found objects and scraps
43 The Reds or the Red Sox, for short
45 The "S" in iOS
46 Folk icon Guthrie
47 Anatomical canal locale
48 1963's ___ on Washington
- 49 Cat pose or downward dog
52 BlackBerrys and PalmPilots, for short
53 Low's opposite
54 Hosiery shade
55 ___ Pet (onetime fad item)
59 Small butter unit
60 School fund-raising grp.
61 "Oh, quit bellyachin'!"

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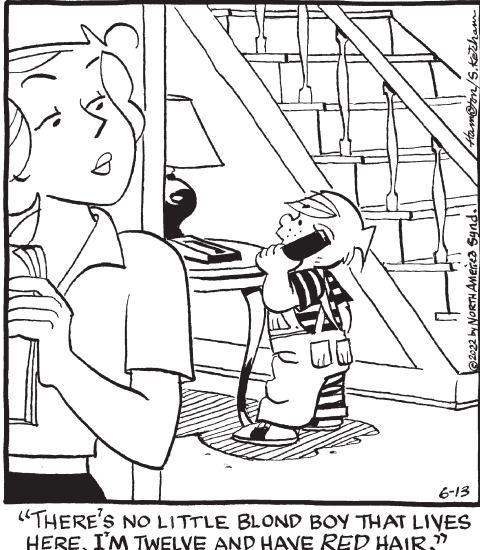
ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



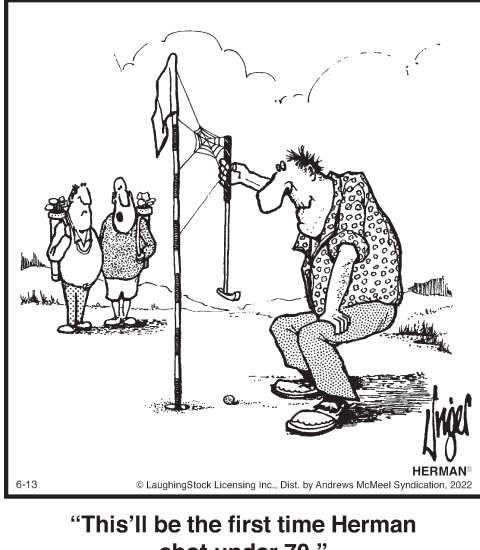
BIZARRO



DENNIS THE MENACE



HERMAN



JUMBLE

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

PTZOA
NIHYS
UISNFE
CLOTEK

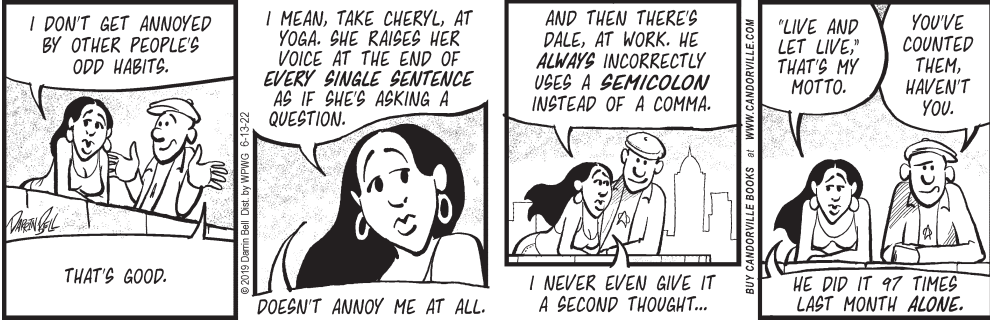
THE MIKE HAD THE WINNING BID AT THE ---

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

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: SPOIL AMUSE CUDDLE DRIVEL
Answer: The tug-of-war was going well until he — PULLED A MUSCLE

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

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

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

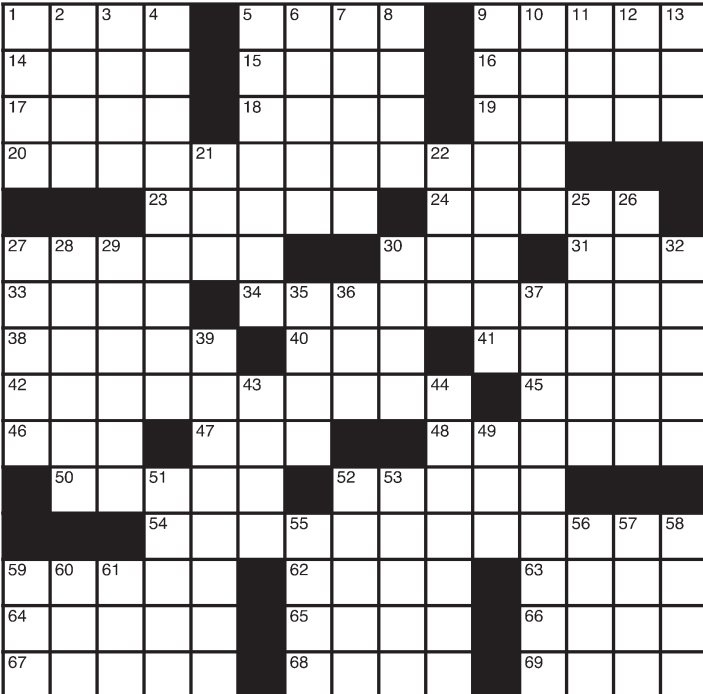
Edited by Patti Varol and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 Mustang automaker
5 Honey liquor
9 "___ Mial": ABBA musical
14 Nike rival
15 Convention center event
16 Noble gas in some lasers
17 Prepare for a newborn's arrival
18 Softball glove
19 Entice
20 "Title of many compilation albums
23 Old 1-Across named for a horse
24 Stores
27 Costello partner
30 Sweetie
31 Vote in favor
33 Actress Polo
34 "Not at all talkative
38 Take along
40 ISP pioneer
41 Covert agents
42 "Taylor Swift song with the lyrics "You can't get rid of it / 'Cause you remember it ..."
45 "To be," in French
46 Up to, briefly
47 Directional suffix
48 Agitation
50 White ___ machine: sleep aid
52 Sight-singing teaching method
54 "There's no way to know yet"
59 Infomercial dude
62 Dancer Falana
63 Drink whose logo has frosted letters
64 LEGO brand for tots
65 "Stay" singer Lisa
66 CBS military drama
67 Reproductive health pro
68 Pop artist Warhol
69 Superlative acronym spelled out by the starts of the answers to the starred clues
- DOWN**
- 1 Long, pointed tooth
2 "Evvie Drake Starts ___": novel by Linda Holmes
3 Counterpart of run in calculating the slope of a line
4 Unit of information
5 Foul ball caught at a game, e.g.
6 Have life
7 Likely will, after "is"
8 Biblical verb
9 "Crash Into Me" rock group Dave ___ Band
10 Childish retort
11 Old RKO rival
12 Messy hairdo
13 Industrious insect
21 ___ for tat
22 "No need to tell me what happened there"
25 Mineral that resembles gold
26 Passover meals
27 Facing the pitcher
- 28 German capital
29 S.O.S. alternative
30 Kristen of "The Good Place"
32 Strong point
35 Young deer
36 Adversary
37 The "O" of iOS
39 Contributes to, as a group gift
43 Utah city near Provo
44 Soothing song
49 Super Bowl org.
- 51 Setting of Elena Ferrante's Neapolitan novels
52 Faint
53 Lubricated
55 "Boo'd Up" singer ___ Mai
56 Danish shoe brand
57 A Skywalker twin
58 For fear that
59 Hullabaloo
60 Name
61 Fuel efficiency stat

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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

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By John Lieb
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