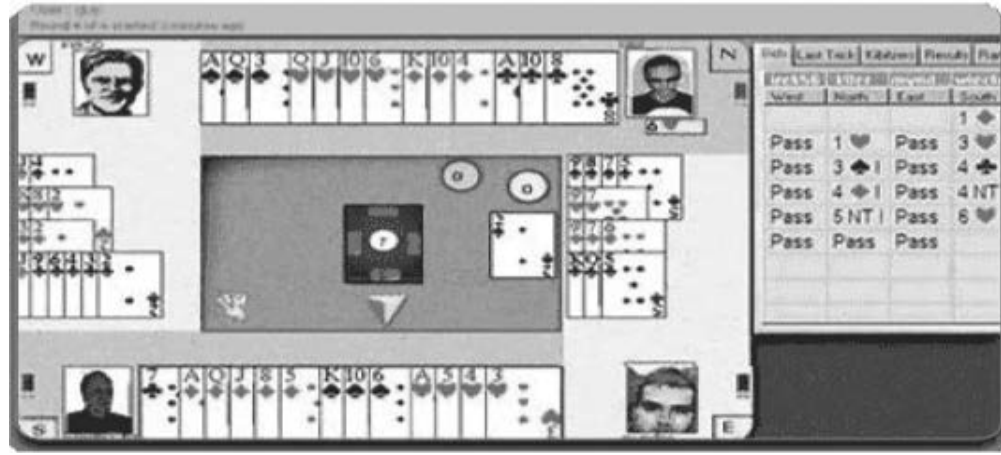


DIVERSIONS

BRIDGE Ante up!



aries

This is a tricky day. You are advised to avoid a showdown with a parent, boss or authority figure. (This includes the police.) Things are too unpredictable!

taurus

Steer clear of controversial subjects like racial issues, politics and religion, because this is a potentially explosive day. Expect travel plans to change or be canceled or delayed.

gemini

Double-check all financial transactions related to wills, inheritances, taxes, debt and shared property. Something might be out of whack. Don't become caught off guard!

cancer

Do not fall into intense discussions or arguments with partners or close friends today. Steer clear of these. In a nanosecond, someone might be overheated or too emotional.

leo

Be patient with co-workers today, because equipment breakdowns and delays can trigger arguments or moments of frustration. Chill out. Be supportive, no matter what happens.

virgo

This is an accident-prone day for your kids so be extra vigilant. It's also a dicey day for romance, so be aware of this as well. Patience is your best virtue.

libra

Small appliances might break down today, or minor breakages could occur. That's because something is going to interrupt your home routine. Be patient with family members in order to avoid intense arguments.

scorpio

This is an accident-prone day for you, so pay attention to everything you say and do. Don't try to convince others to agree with your point of view. Easy does it.

sagittarius

Something to do with your cash flow, money or possessions is unpredictable today. Make sure you know what's happening. Keep your eyes open.

capricorn

Avoid arguments with others today, because this is a potentially explosive day. People are on edge. Plus, unpredictable things are happening! It's a dicey combo.

aquarius

There's an undercurrent of uncertainty to whatever you do today; you can feel it. A lot of other people can feel it as well. Just be cool.

pisces

A powerful person might seek you out today and then lean on you about something. This could erupt into an argument. You don't need this, so run the other way!

IF YOU WERE BORN TODAY Although you are popular, easygoing and well-liked, you also are driven, ambitious and passionate. You love to learn and try new things. Take advantage of opportunities that present themselves now, because this is the year you've been waiting for! Oh, yes! For many, a major change will occur, perhaps as significant as what occurred around 2006. It's time to test your future!
BIRTHDATE OF: Rosie Huntington-Whiteley, actress; Tom Hughes, actor; America Ferrera, actress.
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Solution to a quandary

"Dear Mr. Becker: This hand occurred in a rubber-bridge game. I held the East cards. My partner led a heart against three notrump, and I won with the ace. I returned the six, my original fourth-best heart, in accordance with standard practice.

"Declarer played the ten, and my partner took the jack. Partner then shifted to a spade, and South won the rest of the tricks, taking six clubs, two spades and three diamonds.

"Obviously, something went wrong with the defense, since we could have taken five heart tricks off the top. My partner contends his play of switching to a spade was proper because it was possible that declarer had started with the Q-10-7-5 of hearts, in which case cashing the king at trick three could prove fatal.

"I see no flaw in his argument because I would also have returned the six had I originally held A-6-2. Is there any way for West to have known to play the king of hearts? Very truly yours, W.H.M."

Perhaps the best way to answer this question is to go back to East's play of the six at trick two. It is true that in returning the suit partner leads, it is customary to return the original fourth-best card from four or more cards, and the second-highest card from three. This usually enables the other defender to diagnose declarer's length and strength in the suit.

But, as can be seen in the present case, the lead of the six does not clarify the true position for West, since East's return may be based on ei-

North dealer.

East-West vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A 9 3
♥ 8 4
♦ A K J 9 6
♣ 10 9 2

WEST

♠ 10 8 6 2
♥ K J 9 3
♦ 10 8 5
♣ Q 4

EAST

♠ Q J 5 4
♥ A Q 7 6 2
♦ Q 3
♣ 7 6

SOUTH

♠ K 7
♥ 10 5
♦ 7 4 2
♣ A K J 8 5 3

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♦	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 NT			

Opening lead — three of hearts.

ther of two opposite holdings. West might have cashed the king of hearts and hoped for the best, but he could not be sure that play was right.

The answer to the problem is that East should have returned the two of hearts rather than the six. This would cause West to believe that East held four hearts originally and South only three. West would then have been safe in cashing the king, and the actual situation would have been revealed.

Tomorrow: The world of the card-pusher.
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Crossword/Quote Word Sleuth

CROSSWORD

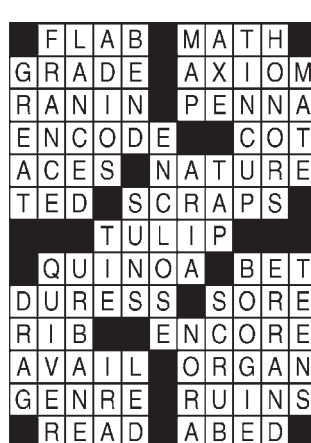
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Rough guesses
- 6 Gators' kin
- 11 City on the Nile
- 12 City on the Red River
- 13 Florist's creation
- 15 Bright beam
- 16 Fresh
- 17 Catch sight of
- 18 Storytelling uncle
- 20 Academy attendee
- 23 Swivel
- 27 Plow pullers
- 28 Existence
- 29 Decimal fraction
- 31 Enjoy the rink
- 32 Laced with profanity
- 34 Boxing punch
- 37 Big snake
- 38 Balloon filler
- 41 Charging in court
- 44 Change chemically
- 45 "Divine Comedy" writer
- 46 Wise guys
- 47 Like a cliff

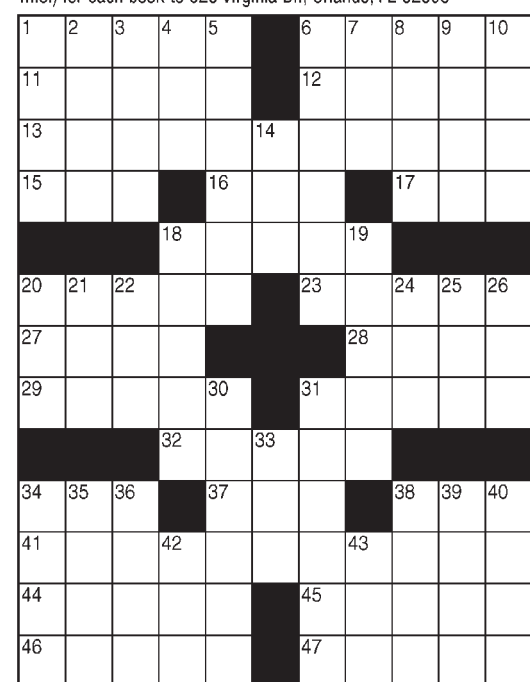
DOWN

- 1 Surgery reminder
- 2 Movie plantation
- 3 Ethereal
- 4 Lingerie buy
- 5 Shakespeare work
- 6 Grind to bits
- 7 Lamb's father
- 8 Small bills
- 9 Volcano shape
- 10 Location
- 14 Sparkler
- 18 Signs a lease
- 19 Smooth
- 20 Guest's bed
- 21 Hatchet's kin
- 22 Comfy home
- 24 By way of
- 25 Many a time
- 26 Course peg
- 30 Customs part
- 31 Fans' place
- 33 Firewood unit
- 34 Baby food buys
- 35 Vicinity
- 36 Toot one's own horn
- 38 Heredity unit
- 39 Kitty start
- 40 Dance
- 42 Blackjack card
- 43 Yoga need



Yesterday's answer

THOMAS CROSSWORD BOOKS 1-8! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) for each book to 628 Virginia Dr., Orlando, FL 32803



SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★

4/18

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty Level ★

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WORD SLEUTH • IRS TAX FORMS

L R O L I E B Y V S Q N K H E
B Y (F O R M I O 4 0) N R W T R
O L O J G E B B Z Y W U A R C
P N R K I G O E D B Z E X V E
S Q M O 8 M 0 K L I L G E A L
C O W 8 9 4 5 A Y U 5 W O U U
S Q 2 P 0 9 5 9 D 6 D 4 N L D
J H F I I E O E O C O E A Y E
X V U S I Q H I P I N M H K H
J H F E C C B Z Y X V U T C C
R Q P O S M D E L U D E H C S

Monday's unlisted clue: TAKEOFF

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Tuesday's unlisted clue hint: Personal Income Short Form

1040EZ	1098	5500	Schedule B
1040NR	1099	Form 1040	Schedule C
1065	1120	Form W-2	Schedule D
1095	5498	Schedule A	

AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

4-18 CRYPTOQUOTE

P L H I N X H J X V C P B
B A N J Z I H N W V C
M C H C P L W C I R G W A L
X C W A N I D A N B C H L W

P L H I N X . — I N H L Z I U H J W A
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: A ROSE HAS THORNS, A CAT HAS CLAWS; CERTAINLY BOTH ARE WORTH THE RISK. — UNKNOWN