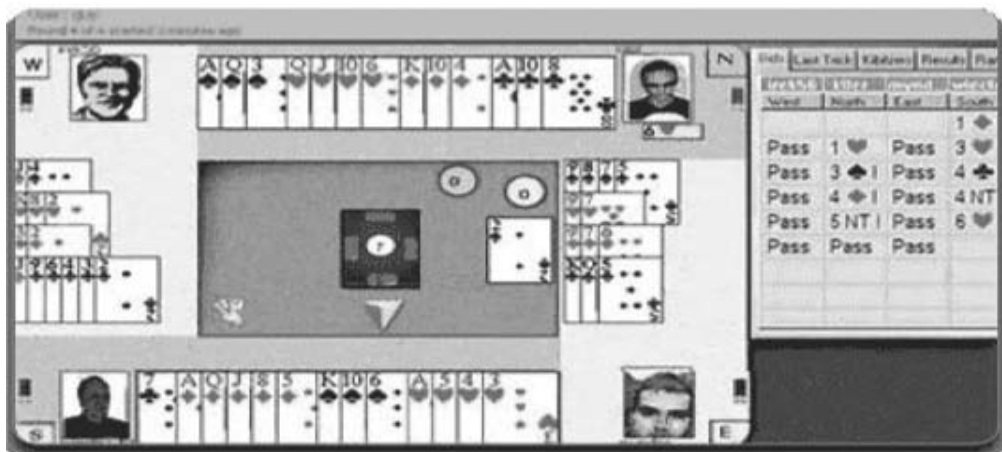


DIVERSIONS

BRIDGE Ante up!



Rara avis

There is a play that has to be seen to be believed, and after you've seen it, you may still not believe it!

As anyone can plainly see, West has a sure trump trick. He simply doesn't cover the Q-J of clubs when they're led. He just sits there and waits until his well-guarded king wins a trick.

Except that he never gets it! The king is dead, and there's nothing West can do about. Call it magic or sleight of hand or anything else: West's trump trick just vanishes into thin air! Declarer plays the hand very simply. He wins the diamond lead in his hand and plays the Q-J of clubs, West following low. When East shows out, the slam appears doomed, since South has a spade loser also. But declarer plays on, hoping for a miracle.

He cashes two more diamonds, then plays the A-K of hearts and ruffs a heart. He next plays the A-K and a low spade, won by East. At this point East has only two cards left — a heart and a diamond — while South has the 10-9 of clubs, West the K-4 of clubs and dummy the ace of clubs and nine of spades.

Whatever East returns, South trumps with the nine, and West's "guaranteed" trump trick goes down the drain.

We suggest that you don't bother to learn this play — just file it away as a curiosity. I've never come across it at the bridge table, and don't ever expect to.

Every once in a while I run into someone who

South dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ 9 8 6 3
♥ K 9 4
♦ K Q 10
♣ A 8 6

WEST

♠ 7 5 4
♥ 10 6 3
♦ 9 8 7
♣ K 4 3 2

EAST

♠ Q J 10
♥ Q J 8 5 2
♦ 6 4 3 2
♣ 5

SOUTH

♠ A K 2
♥ A 7
♦ A J 5
♣ Q J 10 9 7

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
3 NT	Pass	4 ♣	Pass
6 ♣			

Opening lead — nine of diamonds.

tells me he's executed a smother play (that's what it's called), but I put that person in the same category as those who claim they once held 13 spades. You can't believe everything you hear.

(c)2017 King Features Syndicate Inc.



aries

At this time, you're thinking about your values and what really matters in life. And you're also thinking of money and cash flow. It makes sense.

taurus

With the Sun in your sign, you easily attract fortunate situations and important people to you. Make the most of this!

gemini

Today the Moon is in your sign. At some point, life will seem hard. Don't take this to heart, because these feelings will be gone in an hour. (Whew!)

cancer

Although this is a popular time for you, today you feel a bit withdrawn. That's OK. If someone is critical, don't take it to heart, because these feelings will pass quickly.

leo

You look good in the eyes of bosses, parents and VIPs right now. Today someone older might criticize you. Ignore this, because it's just a fleeting dark cloud on your horizon.

virgo

Don't be discouraged if dealing with authority figures this is tough today. Fortunately, this will be brief. Meanwhile, an unexpected gift might come your way.

libra

You feel like you want to get away "from all this" today. Something might be too much to handle at the moment. By the evening, this feeling is gone.

scorpio

Keep an eye on matters related to inheritances and shared property, because something unexpected might occur. And when it does, authority figures will weigh in with their opinions. Fortunately, this is short-lived.

sagittarius

Because the Moon today is opposite your sign, you will have to go more than halfway when dealing with others. Just be your accommodating, easygoing self.

capricorn

It will be tough to stay on point today, because something unexpected will create a detour for you. Don't let authority figures get you down. It's all OK.

aquarius

This is a mildly accident-prone day for your kids, so be extra vigilant. Meanwhile, a social event could be canceled, which might be disappointing. No worries.

pisces

You're happy to cocoon at home today to take a breather. Don't let an older family member get you down; it's just his or her temporary mood. (It won't last long.)

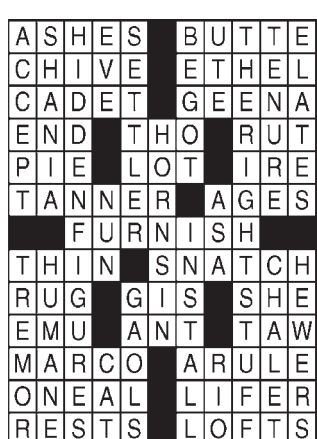
IF YOU WERE BORN TODAY You are a spiritual person who enjoys learning. Security is important to you. Many of you will be a student or teacher this year, because your capacity for research and understanding is at its very best. It's a good time to reflect on the past and plan for the future. This will not tend to be a year of action, but rather a year of waiting and development.
BIRTHDATE OF: Jerry Seinfeld, actor/comedian; Jonathan Toews, hockey player; Michelle Pfeiffer, actress.
(c) 2017 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Crossword/Quote Word Sleuth

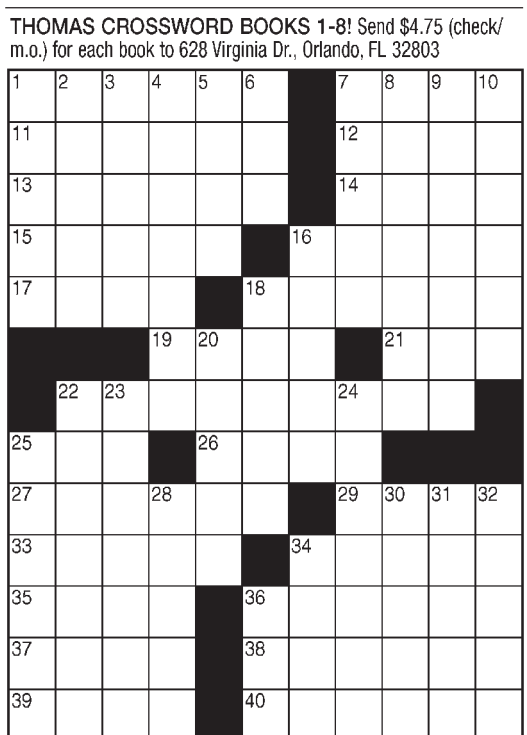
CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 38 Without delay
 - 1 Emerald units
 - 7 Brewing need
 - 11 Showy shrub
 - 12 Aspirin target
 - 13 Made a short hit
 - 14 London lockup
 - 15 Inert gas
 - 16 Like horses
 - 17 Sediment
 - 18 He loved Roxane
 - 19 Balm ingredient
 - 21 Poorly lit
 - 22 Space beside
 - 25 Diamond club
 - 26 Tavern order
 - 27 Comes up
 - 29 Court star Arthur
 - 33 Fancy parties
 - 34 Turn red, maybe
 - 35 Give off
 - 36 Gizmo protector
 - 37 Judy's daughter
- DOWN**
- 1 Plotting group
 - 2 Blue hue
 - 3 Kitchen fixture
 - 4 Charlie Parker
 - 5 Freshman, usually
 - 6 Blue
 - 7 Comics
 - 8 Anthem
 - 9 Bird of myth
 - 10 Rarely
 - 16 Cry of disbelief
 - 18 Hearts
 - 20 Garage jobs
 - 22 Wyoming city
 - 23 Employ
 - 24 Treasonous fellow
 - 25 Edible rings
 - 28 The Evil One
 - 30 Depleted
 - 31 Therefore
 - 32 Door sign
 - 34 Pro —
 - 36 Lobbying org.



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



Difficulty Level ★★★★★

4/29

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

©2017 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WORD SLEUTH • CANADIAN CITIES AND TOWNS

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

Friday's unlisted clue: DOGLEG

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

Saturday's unlisted clue hint: LARGEST CITY

- | | | | |
|----------|----------|------------|----------|
| Calgary | Montreal | Regina | Victoria |
| Edmonton | Oshawa | Saskatoon | Windsor |
| Halifax | Ottawa | St. John's | Winnipeg |
| London | Quebec | Vancouver | |

©2017 King Features, Inc.

4/29

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.

4-29 CRYPTOQUOTE

L N U V J B A Y Y V J Q Y E
A Y W Y U N G L J Q Y T Y F J Z U
G N M Y E N E E Y F A Y E L
T Y F A B U U Z F A W V R V N B L

— W V R J N E Q B O N

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: A RUMOR WILL TRAVEL FASTEST TO THE PLACE WHERE IT WILL CAUSE THE GREATEST HARM.

— GUSTAVO AGRAIT