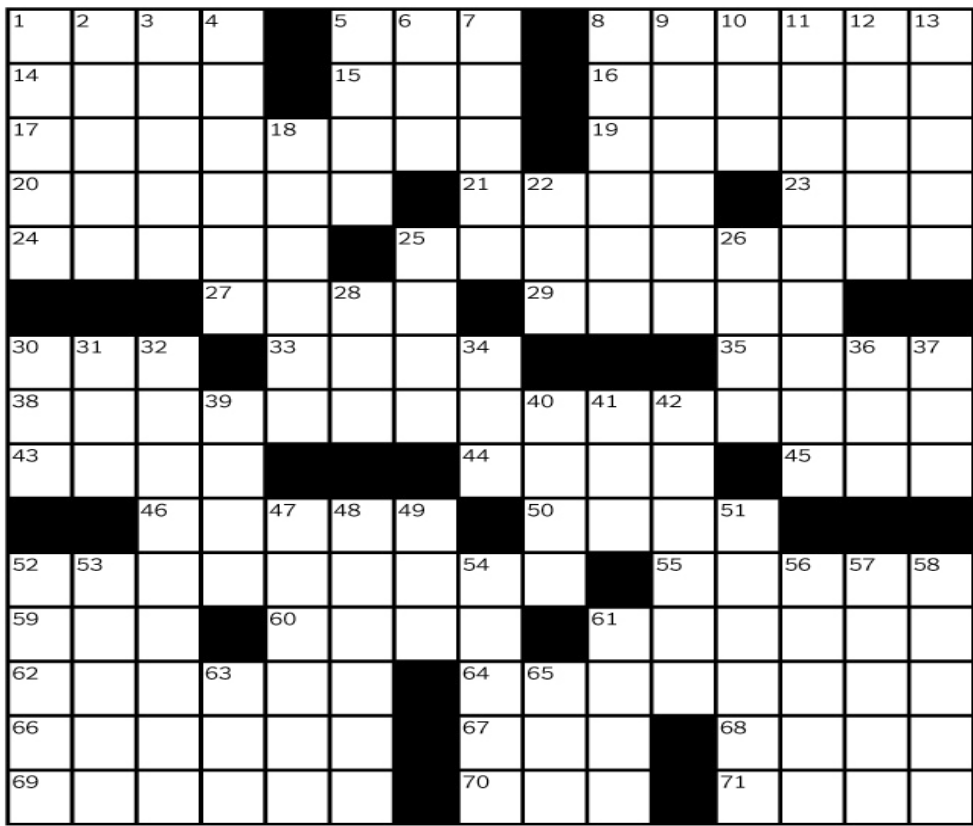


The New York Times crossword



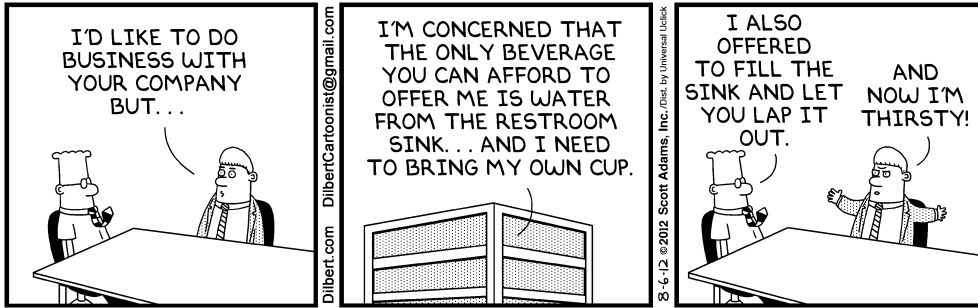
- Across
1 California valley
5 It may be cut by an uppercut
8 Off-mike remarks
14 Counting of the ... (observance after Passover)
15 Prefix with skeleton
16 Totally confused
17 *Staffing level
19 Flu sufferer's quaff
20 Montezuma's people
21 Spout forth, as venom
23 Mid 11th-century year
24 Handed out
25 *Refuse to cooperate
27 Protein-rich bean
29 Revolutionary
killed in his bathtub
30 It's taken before a shot
33 Takeout container size
35 "Axis of evil" member
38 Inviting danger ... the end of which combines with each half of the answer to each asterisked clue
43 Tijuana's peninsula
44 Peak in "The Odyssey"
45 Marked, in a way
46 Name in garden products
50 Singer with lowercase initials
52 *Woodcraft hobbyist's creation
55 Horse of the Year, 1960-64
59 A, in Arles
60 Muddy up
61 Like the Best Picture of 2011
62 Mucho
64 *Toothless mammal
66 Zippo filler
67 Word on Italian street signs
68 "Comin' ___ the Rye"
69 Likkered up
70 Flow back
71 Ref. works sometimes sold with magnifying glasses
22 Fluffy lap dog, for short
25 Violated the "code of silence"
26 Street urchin
28 Yang's opposite
30 Alert for the squad, for short
31 Dockworkers' org.
32 Baton wielder
34 1955 Thunderbird seating capacity
36 Lionel Richie's "You ___"
37 Proof letters
39 Sale locale
40 Part of a chain
41 J.F.K. inits.
42 Tearjerker watcher's item
47 Homophone of 16-Across
48 Walked, with "it"
49 Vote in Parlement
51 Cold dessert
52 Nursery purchases
53 Bidirectional, like a door
54 Work like a dog
56 River of Hades
57 Dummy
58 Others, in Oaxaca
61 Wild guess
63 It has teeth but no mouth
65 Penpoint

Saturday's solution



comics

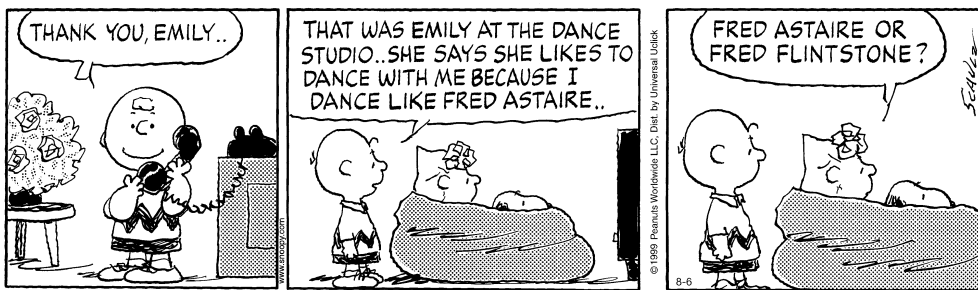
Dilbert



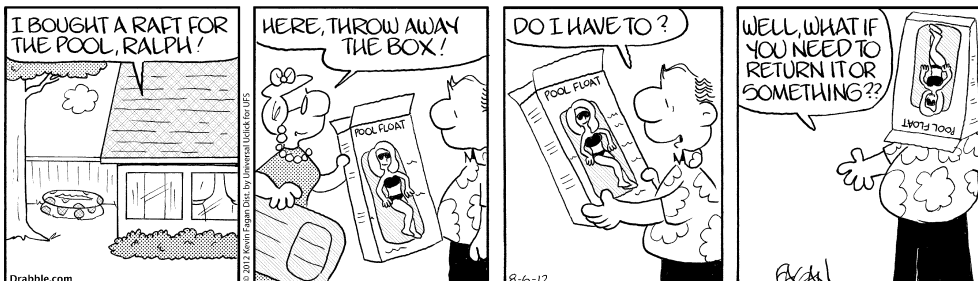
F-minus



Peanuts



Drabble



horoscope



Capricorn (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)
Be persistent when it comes to financial matters, because whatever you touch could turn into gold.



Aquarius (JAN. 20-FEB. 19)
If a project in which you're presently involved has been too loosely woven to be effective, take it upon yourself to do something about it.



Pisces (FEB. 20-MARCH 20)
You're in a unique cycle where ways can be found to increase your earning potential. However, it'll be up to you to utilize your creativity and imagination toward these ends.



Aries (MARCH 21-APRIL 19)
Take advantage of your promotional skills, which are likely to be outstanding: this is especially so if you are trying to advance an issue that you feel strongly about.



Taurus (APRIL 20-MAY 20)
Let your generosity prevail when you see a needy party whom you could easily help if you wanted to.



Gemini (MAY 21-JUNE 20)
Should you get involved in a group endeavor, chances are you'll be a positive catalyst.



Cancer (JUNE 21-JULY 22)
Your instincts to succeed could be more acute than usual, making success for you far more likely once you get a chance to clarify your objectives and motives.



Leo (JULY 23-AUG. 22)
Lady Luck is apt to be kinder to you if you're trying to pull off something major, so don't waste time on trivial pursuits.



Virgo (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)
You should give top priority to developing a second source of income. Chances are you'll be extremely lucky if you apply yourself toward projects of this ilk.



Libra (SEPT. 23-OCT. 23)
Good things could happen if you associate with as many dynamic individuals as you can.



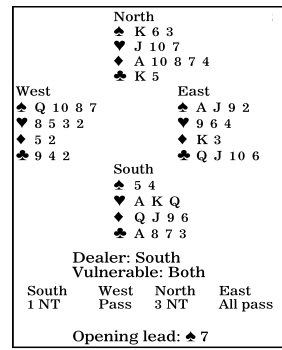
Scorpio (OCT. 24-NOV. 22)
Great rewards could come from situations where you draw upon the resources and/or talents of others rather than just your own.



Sagittarius (NOV. 23-DEC. 21)
Persons with whom you enjoy good social relationships will point you in some interesting directions.

bridge

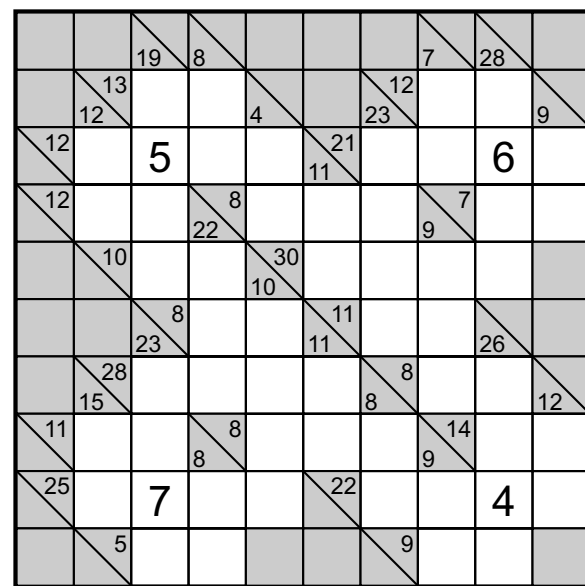
Recently one of my students gave me a New Yorker magazine cartoon by Bruce Eric Kaplan. A lecturer is standing before his audience with "1. Overview" on the screen, and he is saying, "First, I want to give you an overview of what I will tell you over and over again during the entire presentation."



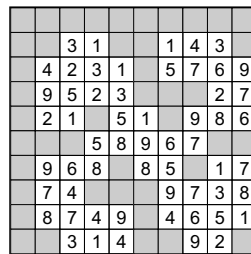
I sometimes worry about that, knowing I have covered some themes several times over the years. But usually I conclude that they are worth repeating because they are so important. This week we will look at significant spot-card plays. How can the defenders defeat three no-trump after West leads the spade seven?

South opens one diamond and North responds one spade, South has no accurate rebid. To defeat this contract, East must use the Rule of Eleven. Seven (the spot card led) from 11 is four. This means that North, East and South have four spades among them higher than the seven. And East can see all four. So, when declarer calls for dummy's three at trick one (there is no hurry to put up the king), East must play his two. In this way, West retains the lead. Another spade play allows the defenders to take the first four tricks. Later, the diamond king is the fifth defensive winner.

kakuro



A Kakuro consists of a playing area of filled and empty cells similar to a crossword puzzle. Some black cells contain a diagonal slash from top left to bottom right with numbers in them, called "the clues". A number in the top right corner relates to an "across" clue and one in the bottom left a "down" clue. The object of a Kakuro is to insert digits from one to nine into the white cells to total the clue associated with it. However no digit can be duplicated in an entry.



Saturday's solution

language tips

BETTER CHINESE

1. 共工 (gòng gōng) Gong Gong

中国古代神话中的天神, 据说是炎帝的后代。他发明了筑堤蓄水的方法, 为发展农业生产做出了重要贡献。关于他的传说, 几乎全部都与水有关, 被称为“水神”。

(zhōng guó gǔ dài shén huà zhōng de tiān shén, jù shuō shì yán dì de hòu dài。 tā fā míng liào zhù dì xù shuǐ de fāng fǎ, wéi fā zhǎn nóng yè shēng chǎn zuò chū le zhòng yào gòng xiàn。 guān yú tā de chuán shuō, jī hū quán bù dōu yǔ shuǐ yǒu guān, bèi chēng wéi "shuǐ shén"。)

Gong Gong is a character in Chinese ancient mythology, who is said to be a descendant of Emperor Yan. He discovered how to build dams and store water, contributing to agriculture development. The legends about him are almost all about water, that's why he is also called the God of Water.

2. 黄河 (huáng hé) The Yellow River

黄河是中国的第二大河, 发源于青海巴颜喀拉山, 中段流经黄土高原地区, 支流带入大量泥沙, 呈黄色, 因而得名。黄河是中华民族的摇篮, 被称为母亲河。

(huáng hé shì zhōng guó de dì èr dà hé, fā yuán yú qīng hǎi bā yán kā lā shān, zhōng duàn liú jīng huáng tǔ gāo yuán dì qū, zhī liú dài rù dà liàng ní shā, chéng huáng sè, yīn ér dé míng。 huáng hé shì zhōng huá mín zú de yāo lán, bèi chēng wéi mǔ qīn hé。)

The Yellow River is the second longest river in China, originating from Bayanhar Mountain of Qinghai Province. It flows past the Loess Plateau, where it collects large quantities of yellow soil, making the water yellow, and thus, it is called the Yellow River. It is the cradle of Chinese civilization, and considered as the mother river of China.

— From Read stories and learn Chinese, by Li Jin and Tian Zhihua. Beijing Language and Culture University Press.

BETTER ENGLISH

用英语聊聊各种夏日皮肤烦恼

苏菲和黛茜是同班同学, 周一碰面时, 黛茜发现苏菲脸红红的, 而且严重脱皮, 于是问她怎么回事。

D: Sophie, what happened to your face?

S: Got sunburned (晒伤). Last weekend I went with my boyfriend to the beach, and I forgot to take my sunscreen lotion (防晒露) with me.

D: No wonder your face is all red and has started peeling (开始脱皮). Sunblock cream (防晒霜) is a must (不可缺少的东西) on such hot summer days. Now all there's left to do is to apply fruit facial mask (水果面膜) to your face. Next time don't forget to wear your sunscreen lotion, and remember to wear a broad brim hat (宽檐帽).

S: I wonder what kind of facial mask can cure my acne (痘痘). It has not stopped growing on my face since summer. How can I get rid of it?

D: I suggest you select a good facial scrub (磨砂洗面奶), and drink more water. Applying a hydrating facial mask (补水面膜) from time to time is even better.

S: Thanks for your advice. I will try it. How come you don't have a problem with your skin during summer? You are so lucky!

D: I wish I was so lucky, but I also have troubles with my skin in summer. You know, I'm a big mosquito magnet (招蚊子的人). I always get mosquito bites. I guess it has something to do with my blood type (血型).

S: Well, in that case, I think you better keep away from perfumes and heavily scented hair sprays (味道浓烈的发胶), which could attract mosquitoes. You can use insect repellent (驱虫水) when needed, but do wash thoroughly (彻底清洗干净) afterward.

D: I guess I must temporarily say goodbye to my dear perfume then.

S: Oh, and avoid wearing black and dark-colored clothing. They attract mosquitoes too.

D: What? Black is my favorite color! I hate summer!

— To learn more expressions, please log on to http://language.chinadaily.com.cn Follow us on weibo at http://weibo.com/language tips

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