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G₂ R₁ A₁ M₁ S₁
 E₁ E₁ O₁ N₁ T₁ K₅ B₃
 O₁ O₁ X₈ K₅ R₁ B₃ W₄
 A₁ I₁ U₁ T₁ B₃ N₁ D₂
 E₁ O₁ P₃ T₁ N₁ C₃ C₃

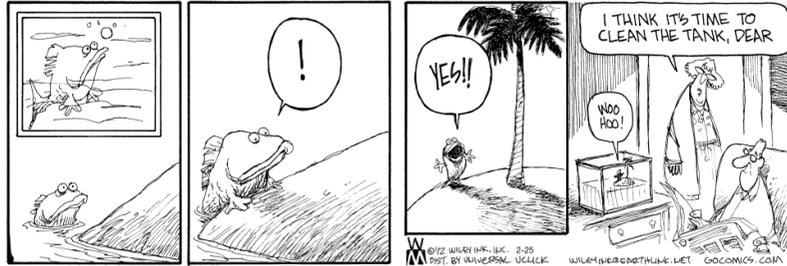
PAR SCORE 160-170
 BEST SCORE 229

FOUR RACK TOTAL
 TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. Finally, 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE™ Players Dictionary 5th Edition.

ANSWER BELOW
 For more information on tournaments and clubs, email NASPA - North American SCRABBLE™ Players Association info@scrabbleplayers.org. Visit our website - www.scrabbleplayers.org. For puzzle inquiries contact scrgrams@gmail.com.

NON SEQUITUR by Wiley



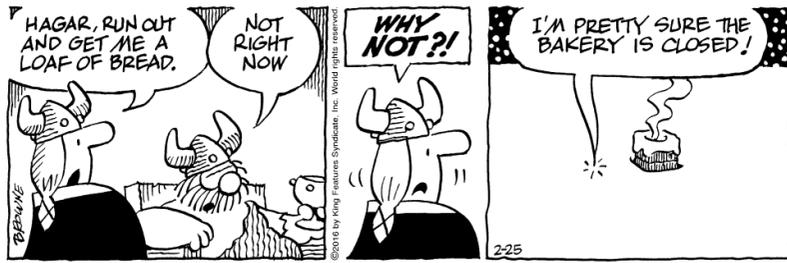
BLONDIE by Dean Young and John Marshall



HI & LOIS by Chance Browne



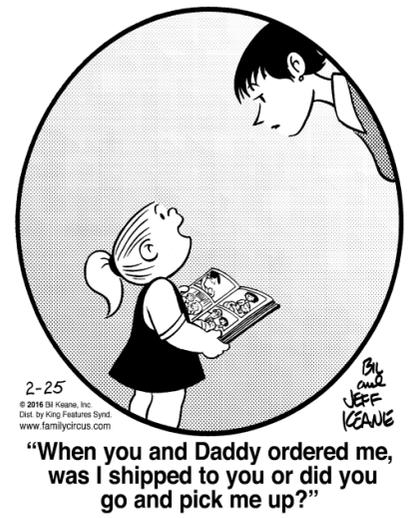
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE by Chris Browne



DENNIS THE MENACE by Hank Ketcham



THE FAMILY CIRCUS by Bill Keane



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

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

WARND
 KOGEK
 WUTOTI
 NNVUEE

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

Ans. here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: DRESS VENOM BENIGN UNLIKE
 Answer: The professor's explanation of infinity seemed like it was — NEVER-ENDING

Crohn's disease often relapses, remits

Dear Dr. Roach: My son always has had problems with his digestive tract, and at age 17 he was diagnosed with Crohn's disease. He was sometimes getting as many as 15 bouts of diarrhea a day. A succession of doctors gave him stronger and stronger drugs. He ended up on Humira. He was not happy about this. He took the drug for about one and a half years, through his freshman year in college. The doctors all told him that he would have to take this drug, with all of its horrific side effects, for the rest of his life. No one in this family does well on drugs. If there is a negative side effect to a drug, we seem to get it. My son, now an independent-thinking 20-year-old college student, stopped taking the Humira cold turkey, without saying anything to anyone. Not the best approach. However, so far so good. No random pain. No more diarrhea than any of us

DR. KEITH ROACH
 TO YOUR GOOD HEALTH

would get after a finals week of all-nighters and a diet of vending-machine food. My question is, How long after stopping the Humira is a relapse likely? Can we see him as being out of the woods? — R.

I have great sympathy for your son, as growing up with a chronic disease is exceedingly frustrating. I often see that adolescents and young adults stop their medications and even doctor visits for a time. This is immediately disastrous in young people with conditions like Type 1 diabetes, where daily medication is necessary for survival. It is disastrous in the long term for people who were born with a condition like HIV infection, where the immune system is gradually destroyed during

the time they aren't taking their medicines, often with no particular symptoms.

In the case of Crohn's disease, it is not so simple. Crohn's usually or often has periods of quiet intermixed with flares of the disease. It may be that the adalimumab (Humira) had induced a remission of the disease, and it's also possible that the past few months would have been a quiet time for the disease even without it.

Unfortunately, it is a virtual certainty that sooner or later your son will need to interact once again with a member of my profession, as Crohn's disease in most people relapses and remits. I would recommend that he see a Crohn's disease expert sooner rather than later, because serious complications can develop while he is not on treatment.

It is certainly true that adalimumab and other treatments for Crohn's disease

have side effects; however, Crohn's disease itself has the potential for life-threatening complications.

Newer agents like adalimumab have far greater benefits than harms for the vast majority. It is not necessarily true that he will need to be on it for the rest of his life, however. Many experts in Crohn's will use less-toxic medications for some people during relatively quiet times of the disease, and restart it only if the disease flares. Finding the right doctor for your son is the key.

Although it is difficult or impossible for a college student, less stress and better food will reduce the likelihood of a flare up.

A support group may be of benefit, and I have long been impressed by the good work of the people at the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America, cfa.org, who can help find one.

Bridge
 by Frank Stewart

Partnership concerns

A club player grumbled to me about his partner's dummy play.

"He not only has issues," the player told me, "he has a lifetime subscription. He loses easy games."

I was shown today's deal. Against 3NT, West led the jack of clubs. Declarer won in dummy and led a diamond to his queen and another diamond. West threw a club, and East took the jack and shifted to the jack of spades: queen, king.

"My partner won the next spade and forced out the ace of diamonds," North said, "but the defense took two more spades for down one."

DIAMONDS

"On the first diamond, my partner must finesse with his ten. If that lost to the jack, he would still make 3NT since West couldn't lead a spade effectively. Declarer would have time to set up the diamonds for nine sure tricks."

North was right, but there was no point in his telling me. Bidding and defensive methods are proper partnership matters, but your partner's dummy play is simply not your concern. If you're unhappy with it, get a new partner.

opens one club. Your partner passes, and the player at your right bids one spade. What do you say?

ANSWER: This position is scary. To overcall INT is possible, but if your partner has nothing, you might get doubled and go down a lot. Still, to stay on the sidelines is questionable, especially at matchpoint scoring. Double — a more flexible call — and hope for the best.

South dealer
 Both sides vulnerable

| | | |
|--------------|--|-------------|
| NORTH | | EAST |
| ♠ 7 5 3 | | ♠ J 10 9 4 |
| ♥ K 10 5 | | ♥ Q 9 6 4 |
| ♦ K 9 5 3 | | ♦ A J 7 |
| ♣ K Q 5 | | ♣ 8 4 |

| |
|--------------|
| SOUTH |
| ♠ A Q |
| ♥ A 7 3 |
| ♦ Q 10 6 4 2 |
| ♣ A 6 3 |

South 1 NT West Pass North 3 NT East All Pass

Opening lead — ♣ J

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The Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

- ACROSS**
- 1 Healed wound
 - 5 Glacial ice mass
 - 10 Part of IHOP
 - 14 Swiss stream
 - 15 Actor Reeves
 - 16 Old Capri cash
 - 17 Glutton
 - 19 Space weapon abbr.
 - 20 Papal vestment
 - 21 Writer O'Flaherty
 - 23 Command to Cujó
 - 24 Promissory notes
 - 27 "The Iceman"
 - 29 Bien Phu
 - 32 City on the San Joaquin
 - 35 Annex
 - 36 Pope's triple crown
 - 37 Yuks
 - 40 Without excuses
 - 43 "A Delicate Balance" playwright
 - 44 Coconut flesh
 - 45 Kiddy
 - 46 Ponderer's phrase
 - 48 Pre-packaged ideologies
 - 49 "The ___ File"
 - 51 Coll. army training
 - 53 Hogan of golf
 - 54 Thompson of "Carrington"
 - 57 Mann or McPherson
 - 61 Homecoming guest
 - 63 Act of reducing expenditures
 - 66 Marquand's detective

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | | | | 15 | | | | | 16 | | | |
| 17 | | | | 18 | | | | | 19 | | | |
| 20 | | | | | | 21 | | | 22 | | 23 | |
| | | 24 | | 25 | 26 | | | 27 | | 28 | | |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | 32 | | 33 | 34 | | | | | |
| 35 | | | | 36 | | | | 37 | | 38 | 39 | |
| 40 | | | 41 | | | | | 42 | | | | |
| 43 | | | | | 44 | | | | 45 | | | |
| | | 46 | | 47 | | | | | 48 | | | |
| 49 | 50 | | | | | | 51 | 52 | | | | |
| 53 | | | 54 | | 55 | 56 | | 57 | 58 | 59 | 60 | |
| 61 | | 62 | | 63 | | 64 | 65 | | | | | |
| 66 | | | | 67 | | | | 68 | | | | |
| 69 | | | | 70 | | | | 71 | | | | |

Visit: ADailyCrossword.com

2/25

- DOWN**
- 1 Palm starch
 - 2 John Dickson or Caleb
 - 3 Carpet measure
 - 4 "___ and Rockin'"
 - 5 Blue hue
 - 6 Neurological test letters
 - 7 Julia of "One from the Heart"
 - 8 Opposing prefix
 - 9 "Serendipity" star John
 - 10 Stevedores' grp.
 - 11 Pre-fab shelters
 - 12 Inherited characteristic
 - 13 Gate locking device
 - 18 ___ volente
 - 22 Godzilla rival
 - 25 VOA group
 - 26 Batting position
 - 28 Land of Lot's descendants
 - 29 Comic Carvey
 - 30 Screen superstar
 - 31 Shell contents
 - 33 Church calendars
 - 34 Wyoming city
 - 36 Fearsome fly
 - 38 Nuclear energy source
 - 39 Boomers aloft
 - 41 Retainers
 - 42 Cookie treat
 - 47 Dances in 4/4 time
 - 48 Frozen hanger
 - 49 44th President of the U.S.
 - 50 Actor Alain
 - 52 Do lacework
 - 55 "Scarface" star
 - 56 Arabian Sea gulf
 - 58 First president of the Sierra Club
 - 59 Sicilian volcano
 - 60 Superlative endings
 - 62 Extinct bird
 - 64 African antelope
 - 65 Asner and Norton

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | B | C | O | H | E | R | E | R | A | S | H | | | | |
| T | A | B | A | N | I | L | I | N | E | P | O | I | | | |
| E | Y | E | R | E | M | I | N | D | S | E | S | P | | | |
| A | O | R | T | A | G | I | T | A | N | O | S | | | | |
| M | U | S | I | C | I | S | L | O | V | E | I | N | | | |
| | | | M | A | C | H | O | E | R | R | I | N | G | | |
| A | D | E | L | E | O | N | S | S | E | N | I | O | | | |
| L | O | M | E | S | A | G | E | S | D | E | M | O | | | |
| D | U | M | A | S | T | I | T | U | S | S | E | W | | | |
| A | G | A | T | H | A | S | T | R | U | T | | | | | |
| | | | S | E | A | R | C | H | O | F | A | W | O | R | D |
| S | C | A | N | D | A | L | V | O | G | U | E | | | | |
| E | L | M | O | R | I | G | A | M | I | E | A | | | | |
| T | A | M | W | A | V | E | L | E | T | E | A | | | | |
| H | M | S | S | T | E | E | P | L | Y | S | L | Y | | | |

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2-24

Scrabble Solution

PAR SCORE 160-170
 TOTAL 622
 RACK 4 = 76
 RACK 3 = 9
 RACK 2 = 81
 RACK 1 = 69

BRAND GRAMS SOLUTION

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ A Q ♥ A 7 3
 ♦ Q 10 6 4 2 ♣ A 6 3. Neither side vulnerable. The dealer, at your left,

BEETLE BAILEY by Mort Walker



SNUFFY SMITH by Fred Lasswell



Conceptis Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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.

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

2-24