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FLTEC7B6211068

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662266

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FA000801

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Horoscope

FOR THURSDAY

ARIES (March 21-April 19) This is a curious day, because there are two very different influences at play for you. On one hand, relations with co-workers and people related to your health care or even your pet might be difficult today. Everyone is cool or standoffish. Nevertheless, you're keen to work and be productive! (Go figure.) Tonight: Cooperate.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Romantic relationships as well as relations with your kids might be strained today. Therefore, don't make a big deal about anything. Keep things cool. However, your physical energy is pumped, which bodes well for physical athletics and competitive sports. You've got this! Tonight: Work.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Although you have energy to make improvements at home today, this is a poor day to ask for permission or approval from authority figures, including parents, bosses, VIPs and even the police. This is because your relations with others might be strained. Be low-key and polite. Tonight: Socialize!

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Today you have lots of mental energy, which you can use to accomplish tasks at work or apply to sales, marketing, teaching, acting and working in general. You also might use this energy to improve your health. Nevertheless, relations with siblings, relatives and daily contacts are strained. Steady as she goes. Tonight: Cocoon.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) When it comes to financial matters today, you will make the first step because you feel confident and energetic. Nevertheless, someone else might think you're being pushy. (And perhaps you are.) Either way, go with your energy and begin activities related to inheritances, taxes, debt and shared property. Tonight: Interesting conversations.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Today the Moon is in your sign dancing with Mars, which makes you independent and ready to play a leadership role. This is why others might follow your direction. Having said that, your relations with partners and close friends are a bit testy today. Smile and be patient. Tonight: Check your belongings.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Today you are best served by working alone or behind the scenes. You have the energy to get things done but you might not be keen about cooperating with others. You might feel annoyed with someone. Keep things simple. Work alone. Tonight: You win!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You are a willful, self-disciplined sign. Today in particular, you'll be confident about calling the shots and leading groups or teams and friends to achieve mutual goals. Nevertheless, relations with romantic partners and kids might be a tad brusque. (Be aware of this and be softer.) Tonight: Enjoy solitude.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You make an excellent impression on others today, especially professionally speaking or doing anything related to your job, career or activities within your community. However, relations with family members might be strained. (You can't win 'em all.) Tonight: Be friendly.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Visions of travelling somewhere might spark your imagination today. "I have to get away from all this." Explore exciting possibilities quietly, because relations with siblings, relatives and neighbors are not ideal today. Keep your dreams to yourself. Packing tropical? Tonight: You're admired.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) When it comes to discussions about inheritances, shared property, taxes or debt, you will defend your best interests today. You might feel challenged by a friend or a professional; however, you know your rights. Ideally, you might postpone disputes and haggling for another day. Tonight: Explore!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Today your attention will be on your most personal relationships. You will certainly express yourself vigorously, because issues are important to you today. Admittedly, conflicts with others might arise. Therefore, know what your objective is and stick to what you want to achieve. Be tactful. Tonight: Check your finances.

2025 KING FEATURES SYNDICATE

THURSDAY, APRIL 10 BRIDGE

When to draw trump

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ K Q 9 8
♥ 7 3
♦ A Q 6 4
♣ Q 10 5

WEST

♠ 7 4 3 2
♥ J 8 5 4
♦ J 10 8 5
♣ 4

EAST

♠ 5
♥ 10 9 6 2
♦ K 9 7 2
♣ K J 9 7

SOUTH

♠ A J 10 6
♥ A K Q
♦ 3
♣ A 8 6 3 2

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	1 ♦	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
6 ♠			

Opening lead — jack of diamonds.

Most deals are played in a suit contract, and the outcome frequently depends on how wisely declarer utilizes his trumps. There is always the question of whether to draw the opposing trumps at once, or, if not, exactly when to do so. Unfortunately, there is no hard-and-fast rule that governs every situation, and declarer is best advised to follow whatever the circumstances dictate.

For example, take this deal where West leads a diamond against six

spades. One way of proceeding is to win with the ace and start to draw trump, playing for a normal 3-2 division, and then hope to lose only one club trick.

In the actual deal, this method of play founders quickly. There would be no way to make the slam once South played two rounds of trump.

But declarer can make the contract by adopting a superior line of play. He wins the diamond lead with the ace and cashes the A-K-Q of hearts, discarding a club from dummy. Then he plays the ace and another club.

East wins but can do nothing to stop the slam. Even if East returns a trump, South cannot be prevented from ruffing his three remaining clubs in dummy, and dummy's three remaining diamonds in his hand. All told, South scores seven trump tricks, three hearts, a diamond and a club to finish with 12 tricks.

It may be argued that it is risky to play the A-K-Q of hearts before drawing trump, as either defender might ruff one of the hearts. But this is only about a 1-in-5 possibility, and there is no other approach that comes close to offering as good a chance. The best you can do in bridge is to follow the most promising line of play, and playing three rounds of hearts at the outset conforms to that principle.

Tomorrow: Combinations and percentages.
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SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★★★

4/10

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Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★★

4/9

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