

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

No. 0626

ACROSS

1 Hectic time for JFK

5 Bar of note?

9 Texter's "Hang on a sec"

12 Tightfisted sort

14 Took an Uber, say

15 Top banana

16 Biggest restaurant size that nevertheless is often topped?

19 Logic gate that is only on when neither input is

20 Like many films in teaser trailers

21 Spanish "both"

23 Top banana, for short

24 Ocean-mapping instruments

25 Upper limit that cannot be exceeded

29 Torment

30 Symbol in the Kentucky Derby logo

31 Jazz singer

33 Holders of nets

34 Schlepped

35 SCOTUS head count

36 "Got it"

37 Those for

38 Sing like Sinatra

39 Mickey Mouse

41 Jewelry fasteners

42 ___ will

43 Slangy response to a knock at the door

44 Onetime rap group whose initials spell out a synonym for "Jump Around," appropriately

49 Unresponsive, maybe, for short

51 Current affairs?

53 Polite request

54 Public transport option

55 Popular toys, in a plural form officially discouraged by their maker

56 ___ admin (IT role)

DOWN

1 Group of mutants

2 Expert on cosmos?

3 Expert on the cosmos

4 "To be," in Tijuana

5 Goals for those in a rush, informally

6 Golf great

7 McIlroy

8 Unlikely scenarios, in techspeak

9 Vacillated

10 [WRONG!]

11 Level

12 Two-pronged fastener

13 Was used up

15 Stan's workplace on "American Dad!," for short

17 Places to go in the U.K.

18 Spur

22 Third-generation Japanese American

24 Draped garment

25 Resting place

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12 13 14 15

16 17 18

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24 25 26 27 28

29 30 31 32

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36 37 38

39 40 41 42 43

44 45 46 47 48 49 50

51 52

53 54 55

56 57 58

Puzzle by Spencer Leach

7/31

57 "Look, here's the deal ..."

58 Refuses to

26 Pulitzer-winning poet Aiken

27 "Later, dude!"

28 Prison design that allows one guard to keep watch on all the inmates

30 Chess tactic in which the king and queen are attacked simultaneously by a single piece

32 Itches

34 Personalize for

38 Like offspring in a strictly asexual lineage

40 ___ Nam

41 Likely contact point of an uppercut

43 Self-driving car company started by Google

44 Closes (in)

45 Big name in skin care

46 Some missed-exit maneuvers, informally

47 Poli-___ (certain college major, for short)

48 Smartphone predecessors, for short

50 Second: Abbr.

52 Copy cats?

ANSWER TO THURSDAY'S PUZZLE:

ANODES GODMODE
TUNESIN ARRIVES
BRAPADS WEASELS
ASIA YUKON RIO
TERRAINS SKIT
TINCAN SHIP
TESSA FINEMIST
TUG LPS BAA NEA
STONEPIT TRIKE
PUBS RONALD
OATS WINEBARS
NEO UCONN AGUA
INSIDER TRADING
NOTDONE HOTGLUE
ASSORTS BLEEPS

CAROLYN HAX

Toilet-lid fight causes marital tension



BY CAROLYN HAX
tellme@washpost.com

Dear Carolyn: A somewhat silly disagreement has created tension in our home. I was raised that the proper state to leave a toilet after use is with the lid down. My wife was, too, so it initially wasn't an issue.

However, her many girlfriends apparently never received this training, and they like to leave it with the seat down, lid up. Not sure why this bothers me so, but it does.

I thought it would be awkward to confront them about this, so I ordered some attractive stickers to put on the bottom of the lid that say, "Please close me." Problem solved, I thought, but the sticker tormented my wife. She saw red every time she noticed it and asked many times that I remove it. (I have to give her credit for not taking it off herself.)

I finally relented, so the issue persists. My position is that either she tells them to close the lid when they're done, or I'll go back to the sticker.

I don't know which is worse — my having to live with the lid frequently being left up, or her having to live with the sticker on the lid. Looking for a disinterested third party

LEXIGO®

7-31

Start at the double hexagon. Spell solutions to the clues below by winding your way through the grid. You can backtrack to use letters more than once. Each new word starts with the last letter of the previous word.

L C C N

R A S E R

N C U V

1. Black-eyed ___ (flower) S _ _ _ _

2. Stock car racing league _ _ _ _ _

3. Scoundrel R _ _ _ _

4. Type of beam _ _ _ _ _

5. Deep respect R _ _ _ _ _

SUSAN, NASOAR, RASOAL, LASER, REVERENCE

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to do.

— Bothered

Bothered: Those are my only two choices? Because this is worse: her having to live with your making this everyone else's problem.

That's kind of a mouthful, though. Keyboardful. So how bout just: choosing a toilet as your hill to die on.

There you go. Worse.

It's your hang-up, period. It's not something your wife is doing, besides having friends, or a practice you and your wife disagree on. It's not something your guests are doing to you, or to your marriage, or out of malice or recklessness. It's fairly banal occasional-guest behavior, if suboptimal, that I can wildly guess with confidence most people don't even notice, much less beef over.

So when you offer those lid-up-or-sticker choices, you falsely present the burden as one you and your wife somehow need to distribute evenly between you, as if it's her problem, too, when it's just ... not.

For the record, I know the horror science on droplet velocity and bac-

unlidded flush. So I'm in the lid-down camp. But I will never sticker my lids or stress my household over the behavior of the visiting uninformed.

Why? Because:

— My people are more important.

— Humans are so lavishly gross in so many other ways, that it seems almost cute to fixate on this nearly inconsequential one.

— A toilet is not the hill I want to die on.

If this subject preoccupies you to the extent that you'd reprioritize your thinking, too, if you could, but you can't — and especially if you dwell on other hygiene issues to the point of other relationship tensions — then talk to your doctor.

I'm serious. There is a threshold beyond which a "somewhat silly disagreement" is not one at all, but instead a basic nitpick that has become inflamed into intrusive thoughts. Those are a health issue unto themselves that will wear down your relationships. More important, they just feel bad. They're also likely treatable. If you think you might be there, then get an evaluation and get the help you need.



ROBIN BUCKSON The Detroit News/TNS
Tigers pitcher Tarik Skubal acknowledges the fans as he exits Wednesday's game against the visiting Orioles.

MLB

O's rally to ruin Skubal's possible Detroit farewell

Field Level Media

Jackson Holliday drove in three runs, Colton Cowser knocked in the winning run and visiting Baltimore rallied from a seven-run deficit for a 10-9, 12-inning win, spoiling what may have been Tarik Skubal's last start as a Detroit Tiger.

Skubal recorded his 1,000th career strikeout and shut the Orioles out through the first six innings. The subject of constant trade rumors all season, Skubal departed in the seventh with a six-run lead but the bullpen couldn't hold it. He was charged with three runs and four hits with one walk and six strikeouts.

Marlins 8, Phillies 6: Griffin Conine hit a two-run pinch homer in the eighth inning as Miami completed a three-game sweep of visiting Philadel-

phia after rallying from a six-run deficit.

Giants 16, Brewers 3: Daniel Susac belted the first two home runs of his career and Luis Arraez and Heliot Ramos stroked four hits apiece to help the hosts capture the season series over NL Central-leading Milwaukee.

Royals 4, Twins 0: Randy Dobnak threw seven stellar innings against his former team and Tyler Tolbert homered to help Kansas City post a shutout in Minneapolis.

Astros 7, Angels 4: Yainer Diaz went 4-for-5 with a home run, two RBIs and two runs as Houston rallied from a three-run deficit to complete a three-game sweep in Anaheim, Calif.

Red Sox 4, Athletics 2 (10): Andrew Monasterio capped a three-hit outing with a two-run homer in the top of the 10th inning

in West Sacramento, Calif.

Cardinals 3, Cubs 2 (10): Ivan Herrera capped a three-run rally with a two-run double in the 10th inning in St. Louis.

White Sox 6, Yankees 5 (12): Edgar Quero blooped a walk-off RBI single to center field in the 12th inning after the White Sox bullpen delivered six innings of one-run ball, lifting Chicago to a home victory.

Dodgers 4, Mariners 2: Andy Pages delivered a home run among his three hits, Eric Lauer gave up one hit over six scoreless innings and Los Angeles finished off a victory over visiting Seattle. Lauer (6-5) improved to 5-0 with a 2.96 ERA since joining Los Angeles in May.

Blue Jays 5, Nationals 2: Right-hander Trey Yesavage pitched a strong 6 2/3 innings to win in Washington. Yesavage (5-5) allowed one run and three hits.

Diamondbacks 3, Pirates 0: Eduardo Rodriguez threw eight scoreless innings, and Gabriel Moreno hit a go-ahead two-run home run in Pittsburgh.

Mets 3, Braves 2 (G1): Carson Benge had two hits, including the go-ahead run-scoring double in the seventh inning in New York in the first game of a split double-header.

Braves 1, Mets 0 (G2): Chris Sale and a trio of relievers combined on a two-hitter for visiting Atlanta.

Guardians 6, Reds 1: Kyle Manzardo homered and drove in two runs and Travis Bazzana had two hits, a run and an RBI in Cincinnati.

Padres 5, Rockies 1: Six pitchers combined on a six-hitter, while Jackson Merrill knocked in a run during a three-run fourth inning in San Diego.

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