Horoscope

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Swiftly clear up any uncertainty or confusion you face. Know what you are up against, and find a way to eliminate whatever is standing in your way. Be innovative whenever possible.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Take a second look at something you want to pursue. Find out what's required before you commit to anything. Make self-improvement, personal growth and a healthier lifestyle your priorities.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Ask questions, verify information and take care of your responsibilities. You can make a change at home as long as you stay within budget. Think about a sensitive issue before you speak about it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Speak up, ask for input and consider the best way to bring about change. A positive change will improve your mental, physical and financial well-being.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- You are better off observing for now. Tell the truth and keep your promises. If someone lets you down, be ready to take your business elsewhere.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- Do what you can to help others. A kind gesture will mean a lot to someone who is experiencing tough times. A joint venture will change your opinion of a longtime acquaintance.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Evaluate your relationship with anyone you share costs, responsibilities or possessions with, and make adjustments to ensure equality prevails. Honesty will help you move forward without hesitation.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- It's a good time to initiate ideas and plans that will encourage new beginnings. Look for opportunities and be aggressive in your pursuits. Romance is on the rise.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Handle discussions, dealings with institutions and relationships with superiors carefully. Expand your mind, take better care of your health and explore new possibilities. Address change with reason, not with anger.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Be honest with yourself; it will help you see to the changes going on around you. A creative pursuit will ease stress and help you gain perspective.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- You'll be confused about the changes someone is making. Don't hesitate to ask questions, but recognize that interference will only make matters worse.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Confusion will set in if you are gullible or too trusting. Be prepared to make a last-minute change if you see that something is wrong or not turning out as promised. Focus on doing what's right.

Crossword

CROSSWORD

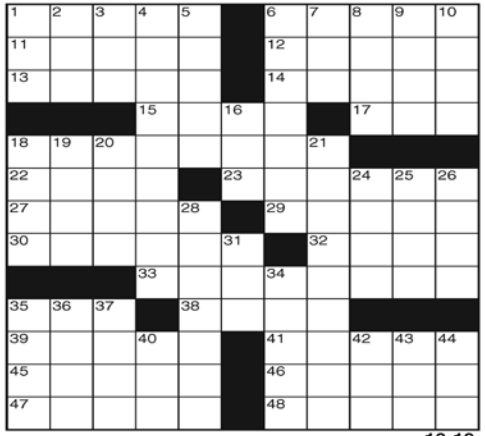
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS
1 Stood up
6 Swiss watch parts
11 Christmas song
12 Dark
13 Burglar's crime
14 Draw out
15 Fling
17 Kitten cry
18 Ridiculously exaggerated
22 Moon goddess
23 Logic
27 Touches on
29 O'Neill forte
30 Former Spanish coin
32 Sink problem
33 Move
35 Horse healer
38 Hotspot offering
39 Bakery come-on
41 Sun-dried brick
45 Chad neighbor
46 Wish granter
47 Berate
48 Wear away

DOWN
1 Play a part
2 Fan's cry
3 Lode material
4 It contains minimal dissolved minerals
5 Pop star John
6 Took a stab
7 Finish
8 Homecoming attendee
9 Paella base
10 Hearty dish
16 Knight's address
18 Thunder sound
19 Garage job, for short
20 Burden
21 Applejack kin
24 Mystery writer Woods
25 Leave out
26 Neck part
28 Cruise worker
31 Boxer Laila
34 No longer a minor
35 Moving trucks
36 Bana of "Troy"
37 Fast food request
40 Brooks of film
42 Music's Yoko
43 Auction action
44 Wide shoe letters

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

Saturday's answer



10-19

Cryptoquote

A X Y D L B A A X R
is L O N G F E L L O W

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.

10-19 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

O X G E G N D O P A K O X G V A B R Q X N C O V A G Q J G C , A M G A K R N D J X O G B , A M G A K N M J D W C X , T D O O W M J O X G X G N B O N C D M Q G B . — U W B J W M W N V A A R K

Saturday's Cryptoquote: REPUTATION IS OFTEN GOT WITHOUT MERIT AND LOST WITHOUT FAULT. — ENGLISH PROVERB

Jumble

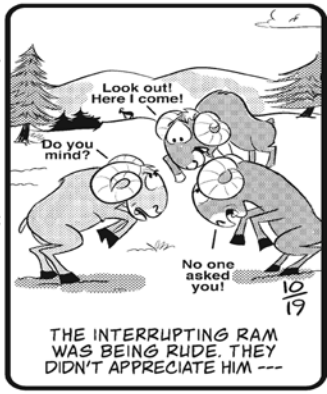
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LRIGL

NRUKT

DYBOON

GRHITB



Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

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

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Answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: CREST KNACK YONDER STEREO
Answer: After so many successful launches, SpaceX revenue was beginning to — SKYROCKET

Alder on Bridge: The robots are too trusting

By Phillip Alder

A couple of weeks ago, I gave Isaac Asimov's first law of robotics: "A robot may not injure a human being or, through inaction, allow a human being to come to harm."

Sometimes I wonder if the robots that play at Bridge Base Online have been similarly programmed. For example, look only at today's West hand. What would you lead against South's contract of seven diamonds?

In the auction, two spades showed 3 ace-king points (2 for an ace and 1 for a king). So, North had an ace and a king or three kings. The snag was that South thought it had to be an ace and a king. So, when North raised diamonds, South, picturing his partner with the spade ace and king-fourth of diamonds, confidently jumped to seven diamonds.

What did the robot lead?

You or I would have tabled the spade ace, hoping that it would win, or, if declarer ruffed, that it wouldn't cost a critical trick. Here, everything would have been fine.

The robot chose the club four! Maybe he was obeying Asimov's law, or perhaps he assumed South had to have a spade void to justify his final bid. However, a grateful declarer took the trick, drew two rounds of trumps from hand, cashed the heart ace, ruffed a heart with the diamond king, discarded his spade on the club king, drew East's last trump and claimed.

Funnily enough, seven diamonds down one would have been only just under average. Almost all pairs played in six hearts, which failed when West took the spade ace and a trump.

10-19-20

North
♠ K 9 4 3
♥ 9
♦ K 9 6 2
♣ K 7 5 3

West
♠ A 8
♥ J 10 6 2
♦ 8 7
♣ Q 10 6 4 2

East
♠ Q J 10 6 5 2
♥ 3
♦ 5 4 3
♣ J 9 8

South
♠ 7
♥ A K Q 8 7 5 4
♦ A Q J 10
♣ A

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: North-South

South	West	North	East
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♦	Pass	5♦	Pass
7♦!	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ??