Horoscope

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Be open to suggestions, but don't get involved in something that isn't budget-friendly. Trying to please others or being generous with your time or money will cause undue stress and limit your chance to advance.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Take a strong position if you want to get things done your way. A passionate approach will help bring about positive change. A discussion with a friend or relative will be enlightening. A romantic gesture will make your day.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Take care of unfinished domestic business. Aim to take better care of your health and well-being. You will be taken advantage of if you are too unsuspecting.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Follow through with your plans. You can negotiate, take care of pending problems, sign contracts and make personal changes that will enhance your reputation, position or job prospects. Romance is favored.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Don't make decisions under duress. Ask questions, consider others' motives and trust the facts. Handle pressing money matters with care. Joint ventures will lead to legal entanglements.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- Take care of unfinished business. A change to how you earn money or handle your financial affairs will be profitable. A chance to reconnect with someone will be eye-opening. Romance is favored.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Put your professional responsibilities first. Leave no room for error, and be prepared to make adjustments to maintain a good rapport with your peers and superiors. A partnership will change the way you live.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Your ideas will lead to opportunities. Discuss your plans with someone who shares your concerns and interests. A romantic gesture will encourage a loved one to speak up about his or her intentions.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Keep your thoughts and emotions to yourself. Refuse to let anyone take advantage of you. Concentrate on whatever will benefit you the most. Be secretive regarding your plans.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Stand up for your rights and make a difference. Your strength and courage will be recognized and appreciated. Romance is on the rise.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Don't be lured down the wrong path. Emotions will run high if you can't come to terms with what's right. Find alternative ways to use your skills.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Trust and believe in what you are capable of doing. Make changes to improve your life and emotional well-being. Personal growth will open doors to new beginnings. Love and romance are in the stars.

Crossword

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

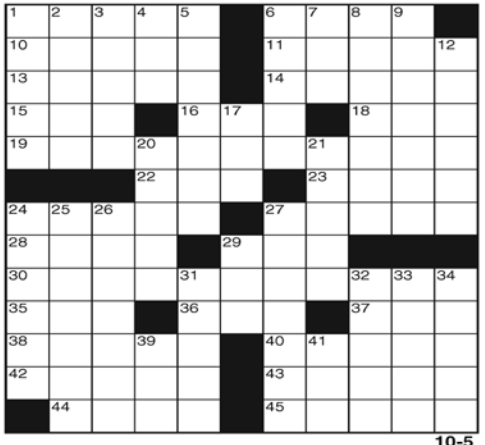
1 Flexes
6 Ask for divine help
10 Poor sport's cry
11 Peruvian peaks
13 Less polite
14 Egypt's Anwar
15 Use a spade
16 Good times
18 Stretch of years
19 One who rips through pages
22 Early auto
23 Gum flavor
24 Deadly
27 Ties up
28 Without repairs
29 Visibility lessener
30 Pep rally participant
35 Playground game
36 Owned by us
37 "Exodus" hero
38 Nebraska city
40 Merchandise
42 Twin of Romulus
43 Wonderland visitor
44 Red-ink amount
45 Signs a lease

DOWN

1 Flock makeup
2 Outfit
3 Prod into action
4 Conk out
5 Fruit-filled pastry
6 Out of style
7 Gene messenger
8 Included
9 Like some bonuses
12 Kicks off
17 Old hand
20 Make blank
21 Friendly señorita
24 Element
25 Red-faced
26 Reason for overtime
27 South African conflict begun in 1899
29 Winter ailment
31 Comic tribute
32 "Mack the Knife" singer Bobby
33 Put up
34 Gets up
39 Wheel part
41 Pub drink

	S	A	N	S		F	A	U	N	
R	O	G	E	T		A	L	L	O	T
E	N	E	R	O		T	A	S	T	E
G	O	N	D	O	L	A		T	I	E
A	R	T		G	A	L	L	E	O	N
L	A	S	S	E	S		U	R	N	S
			A	S	S	E	T			
S	C	A	R		O	N	E	I	D	A
C	R	U	I	S	E	R		M	I	I
O	A	R		T	R	A	W	L	E	R
O	Z	O	N	E		G	R	A	T	E
P	E	R	O	N		E	A	T	E	R
	D	A	R	T		S	P	E	D	

Saturday's answer



10-5

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.

10-5 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

Z A K Y S S N U L A D A X Y Q Y U A I

H S H S U A Q A D U N Q I H P H I A I

H S X V Q X N D A . Z A D U Y S I

U N T A U M A Q V S U H G U M A A S I .

— Z N N I Q N Z Z H G D N S

Saturday's Cryptoquote: A MAN IS KNOWN BY THE COMPANY THAT KEEPS HIM ON AFTER RETIREMENT AGE. — SOURCE OBSCURE

Jumble

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

FSULH

WORFN

TOMONI

CILATI

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

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: HOTLY TAKEN ROTATE INWARD
Answer: They had returned, and everyone agreed that the Apollo 11 astronauts were — DOWN TO EARTH

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Alder on Bridge: The robots make weird opening leads

By Phillip Alder

To start today, look only at the West hand. What would you lead against one no-trump doubled?

Those of you who play regularly at Bridge Base Online with the robots will have noticed that in particular their opening leads are unusual. A minor-suit singleton against a no-trump contract is not uncommon. They would do so much better to lead fourth-highest from the longest and strongest, or top of touching honors. Perhaps they don't because they may injure a human bridge player!

South upgraded his hand for the aces and kings. (The Kaplan-Rubens hand evaluation method rates this hand as worth 15.15 points.) I like West's double in preference to a bid showing a spade-minor two-suiter.

You would expect West to lead the club king. Declarer can win that and play a heart, but the defenders take one spade, two hearts and four clubs for down one. Plus 200 would have been a top for East-West in an online duplicate.

However, at the table, West led the heart ace. No problem; surely the robot shifted to the club king. No -- it led the diamond eight: nine, 10, ace.

Declarer played a heart, and finally West turned to clubs, but South won, played a heart to the jack and ran the diamond jack when East played low. Now South had seven tricks: two hearts, four diamonds and one club. Plus 180 was a top for North-South.

10-05-20

North
♠ Q 5 3
♥ Q J 7 5
♦ J 9 7 3
♣ 9 7

West
♠ A J 9 4 2
♥ A K
♦ 8
♣ K Q J 8 6

East
♠ 8 7
♥ 10 9 2
♦ Q 10 5 4
♣ 10 4 3 2

South
♠ K 10 6
♥ 8 6 4 3
♦ A K 6 2
♣ A 5

Dealer: East
Vulnerable: Both

South	West	North	East
			Pass
1NT	Dbl.	All Pass	

Opening lead: ??