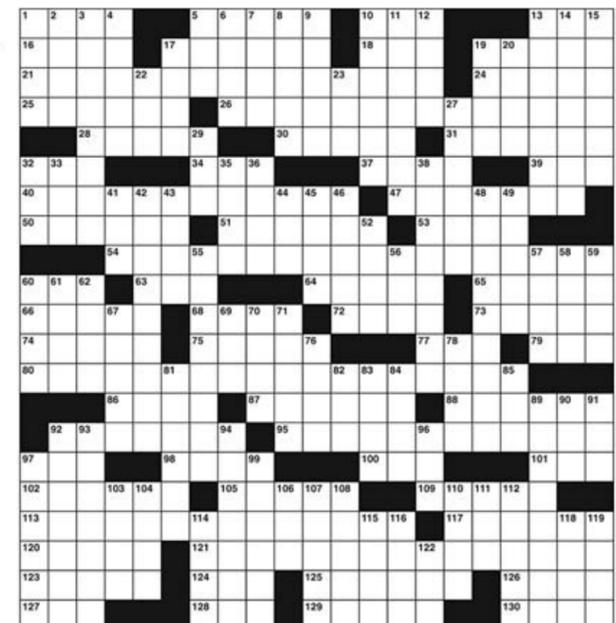




Scratch pad

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Bye at Wimbledon
 - 5 Bonnie who sang "Nick of Time"
 - 10 Needle holder
 - 13 Pop star with the fragrance Miami Glow
 - 16 Scientist Pavlov
 - 17 Move unsteadily
 - 18 Ike's charge during W.W. II
 - 19 What King was king of
 - 21 *Shrink who's always changing his diagnosis?
 - 24 Piece in early Indian chess sets
 - 25 Grasp
 - 26 **What ballet patrons dine on?
 - 28 One side of a childish debate ... or a phonetic hint to the answers to the four starred clues
 - 30 Take care of
 - 31 Lipton rival
 - 32 30 Rock's location
 - 34 Bend
 - 37 Arias, typically
 - 39 Aerosol sound
 - 40 *Oregon State's mascot played by actress Arthur?
 - 47 Festoon
 - 50 Pick in class
 - 51 Assuming it's even possible
 - 53 Cross, with "off"
- DOWN**
- 2 **A deal on Afro wigs?
 - 6 Commercial lead-in to Balls or Caps
 - 63 "Couldn't be"
 - 64 Not so awesome
 - 65 Court positions
 - 66 In need of a cracker, perhaps
 - 68 Listen to Christmas carolers?
 - 72 Slipshod
 - 73 Overlook
 - 74 Multiple-choice options
 - 75 Justice Kagan
 - 77 Post-op locale
 - 79 Cold War-era territory: Abbr.
 - 80 *How actor Bill feels about houseguests?
 - 86 Hersher of the 1980s-'90s Dodgers (marijuana)
 - 87 Cannabis
 - 88 Chicago suburb
 - 92 Removes from a can?
 - 95 **Find cake or Jell-O in the back of the fridge?
 - 97 Hunger
 - 98 Drawbridge locale
 - 100 The Spartans of the N.C.A.A.
 - 101 PBS benefactor
 - 102 And other stuff
 - 105 Misconstrue, as words
 - 109 Other side of a childish debate ... or a phonetic hint to the answers to the four double-starred clues
 - 113 *Fall colors?
 - 117 Talk down?
- ACROSS**
- 120 Yawfest
 - 121 **Question from El Al security?
 - 123 Like lightning rounds
 - 124 Tear-stained, e.g.
 - 125 Investigate, as a cold case
 - 126 Pianist Gilels
 - 127 "Woo-hoo!"
 - 128 Half of a classic Mad magazine feature
 - 129 County of Salem, Mass.
 - 130 High
- DOWN**
- 1 Small scrap
 - 2 New Balance competitor
 - 3 Employing strategy
 - 4 Pyramid crosses
 - 5 Rubbish
 - 6 Cause of some impulsive behavior, for short
 - 7 It might begin with a "What if ...?"
 - 8 Beach walkers
 - 9 Mere vestige
 - 10 They may have you going the wrong way
 - 11 Announcer's cry after a field goal
 - 12 What knows the drill, for short?
 - 13 It has a variety of locks and pins
 - 14 Like buffalo meat vis-a-vis beef and pork
 - 15 Vegas casino with the mascot Lucky the Leprechaun
 - 17 Show piece
- ACROSS**
- 19 French cheese
 - 20 Miss
 - 22 ESPN's McEachern a.k.a. the Voice of Poker
 - 23 Edible entry at a county fair
 - 27 Social welfare grp. with a Peace Prize
 - 29 Neighbor of a " - " key
 - 32 30 Rock grp.
 - 33 Pro's position
 - 35 Check
 - 36 Brunch spot
 - 38 "Fire away!"
 - 41 Dress at the altar
 - 42 PC part of interest to audiophiles
 - 43 Author Seton
 - 44 Kick back
 - 45 First name in long jumps
 - 46 Open again, as a keg
 - 48 Sounds of fall?
 - 49 Odette's counterpart in "Swan Lake"
 - 52 QB Tony
 - 55 "Over my dead body!"
 - 56 Prefix with realism
 - 57 London jazz duo?
 - 58 Sudden turns
 - 59 Belgian river to the North Sea
 - 60 Play for a fool
 - 61 Restaurant chain founded by a celebrity chef
 - 62 Febreze target
 - 67 Goo
 - 69 Greeting on el telefono
 - 70 Supercharges, with "up"
 - 71 Get one's hands on some dough?



- 76 Alternative to Soave
- 78 Nominative, e.g.
- 81 Administrative worker on a ship
- 82 Smoke
- 83 Bank asset that's frozen?
- 84 Google
- 85 Rap shouts
- 89 Casino activity with numbered balls
- 90 Dander
- 91 Part of a flight plan, for short
- 92 Pig with pigtailed
- 93 Body of science?
- 94 Kaplan course for H.S. students
- 96 Hwy. violation
- 97 Like bread dough and beer
- 99 Looney Tunes bird
- 103 Play the siren to
- 104 Chatted with, in a way
- 106 Emotionally distant
- 107 Arsenal
- 108 Aigis
- 110 Where capri pants stop
- 111 No. 2s at college
- 112 Inhumane types
- 114 Lumber-mill equipment
- 115 Hover craft?
- 116 Brood
- 118 Film character who says, "I'd just as soon kiss a Wookiee!"
- 119 Some pipe joints
- 122 King of old Rome



People look at a Batmobile during a ceremony posthumously honoring Batman creator Bob Kane with the 2,562nd star on The Hollywood Walk of Fame in Hollywood, California on Oct 21. (AFP)

odds 'n' ends Asterix back

PARIS: Asterix and his friend Obelix tackle the leak of top secret Roman information with a strong dose of humour in the hugely anticipated new volume of their adventures, released Thursday in France and abroad.

After their last escapade in Scotland, the boisterous Gauls are back in their homeland in "Asterix and the Missing Scroll", teaming up with a reporter inspired by WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange to battle their favourite Roman foes.

The 36th edition in the hugely successful comic book series, which features the adventures of an indomitable tribe of Gauls resisting Roman occupation, came out in Paris, London, Madrid, Montreal and Cape Town, with further releases planned later in other countries.

Four million copies have been printed — half in French and the rest in foreign languages.

At the start of the story, Julius Caesar is on the verge of publishing his famous "Commentaries on the Gallic War", with one chapter devoted to his continual yet ever-unsuccessful quest to conquer Asterix's small village.

But that's not to the liking of his deceitful advisor Libellus Blockbustus, a tiny, balding man whose physical traits are strangely similar to those of French advertising magnate Jacques Seguela.

Caesar agrees to take out the offending chapter, but there is a leak and a scribe hands the bombshell to Confoundtheirpolitix — a passionate blond reporter — who travels to Gaul from Rome and passes it on to Asterix.

The comic book is full of winks and nods to modern technology, such as the blue birds in the forest reminiscent of the Twitter symbol, and gags abound.

When Confoundtheirpolitix arrives, the village of indomitable Gauls is all shook up by the latest horoscope in the "Condatum Echo" — the only part of the newspaper they are interested in.

The ageing Geriatrix has been told he will make new conquests, to the fury of his young wife.

Meanwhile greedy Obelix — who likes nothing more than a good fight with the Romans — falls into near-shock when the horoscope says he must avoid conflict and reduce his boar intake.

Before the global release, writer Jean-Yves Ferri told AFP he felt like he'd been "caught in a whirlwind."

"It's a more ambitious theme than the last book," he said, adding it took him a year-and-a-half to finish it.

The new adventures come two years after the Gallic duo re-emerged from an eight-year absence in "Asterix and the Picts", which took them to ancient Scotland for the first time and sold over 5.4 million copies in 15 countries.

The Asterix series — created by illustrator Albert Uderzo and writer Rene Goscinny in 1959 — is a bestseller in the comic book world, with some 365 million copies sold worldwide.

Over the years, Asterix and Obelix have met Cleopatra, drunk tea with the English, taken part in the Olympic Games and eaten countless roast boar.

With the help of a druid-brewed magic potion that gives them superhuman strength, they have also taken great pleasure in beating up scores of Romans.

The series has been adapted into live-action films and is the inspiration for a popular theme park, Parc Asterix, outside Paris.

It has always been a hugely intimate affair and Uderzo, now 88, took over the writing after Goscinny died in 1977. (AFP)

Conceptis Sudoku Challenger

The grid must be so completed that every row, column and 3x3 box has every digit from 1 to 9 inclusive.

By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★

Answer to yesterday's puzzle

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

Difficulty Level ★

contract bridge

By Steve Becker

Step-by-Step Reasoning

North dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 10 7 4
♥ K Q J
♦ A K Q 10 3
♣ A 2

WEST
♥ A 8 3
♠ 10 8 6 4 3
♦ 9 5
♣ J 7 6

EAST
♥ K J 9 2
♠ A 5
♦ J 6 2
♣ 10 9 5 4

SOUTH
♦ Q 6 5
♥ 9 7 2
♠ 8 7 4
♣ K Q 8 3

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
3 NT

Opening lead four of hearts.

A defender should assume, as a matter of course, that the contract he's defending against can be defeated. If he does not cultivate this attitude as a regular habit, many opportunities to defeat opposing contracts will pass him by.

Let's say you're East on this deal and partner leads the heart four against three notrump. Should you take the ace or withhold it? If you do take the ace, is it better to return a heart, or should you shift to another suit? If you do shift, should it be to a spade or a club?

To find the answers to these ques-

Word by Word

Day (يوم) Youm

The longest day has an end.
Le atwal al ayam nehaya.

Numbers لأطول الأيام نهاية

7014 Seven thousand and fourteen.

٧٠١٤ Sabat alaaf wa arbaata ashar.

Tomorrow: A question of entries.