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BLAIR: TIME TO 'RISE UP' AGAINST BREXIT

Tony Blair has announced his "mission" to persuade Britons to "rise up" and change their minds on Brexit.

The former prime minister said in a speech on Friday that people voted in the referendum "without knowledge of the true terms of Brexit".

He added that he plans to "build support for finding a way out from the present rush over the cliff's edge".

But former Cabinet minister Iain Duncan Smith said Mr Blair's comments were arrogant and utterly undemocratic.

Downing Street has said it is "absolutely committed" to seeing Brexit through.

Prime Minister Theresa May wants to trigger formal Brexit talks by the end of March - a move which was backed in the House of Commons by MPs last week.

Immigration issues

Mr Blair, who was UK prime minister between 1997 and 2007, told the pro-European campaign group Open Britain that those driving a withdrawal from the European Union "always

wanted a hard Brexit".

"Indeed even the term 'Hard Brexit' requires amendment. The policy is now 'Brexit at any cost'," he said.

"Our challenge is to expose relentlessly the actual cost, to show how this decision was based on imperfect knowledge which will now become informed knowledge, to calculate in 'easy to understand' ways how proceeding will cause real damage to the country and its citizens and to build support for finding a way out from the present rush over the cliff's edge."

Mr Blair, who campaigned to Remain in the EU, said that while he accepts the verdict of June's referendum, but would recommend looking again at Brexit when "we have a clear sense of where we're going".

He also claimed the debate is being driven by immigration "which I fully accept is a substantial issue".

"Nonetheless, we



Our challenge is to expose relentlessly the actual cost, to show how this decision was based on imperfect knowledge.... and to build support for finding a way out..." - Tony Blair on Friday

have moved in a few months from a debate about what sort of Brexit involving a balanced consideration of all the different possibilities; to the primacy of one consideration - namely controlling immigration from the EU - without any real discussion as to why and when Brexit doesn't affect the immigration

people most care about."

A government spokesman said the British people had expressed their view very clearly on 23 June, adding: "There will be no second referendum."

Iain Duncan Smith, who was a prominent Leave campaigner, said Mr Blair's comments were arrogant, utterly

undemocratic and showed that the political elite was completely out of touch with the British people.

Supporters of leaving the EU argue it will free up the UK to trade better globally and give the government better control of immigration.

Previously, Mr Blair has called for the views

of the "16 million" people who had backed remaining in the EU not to be ignored.

He has argued that there has to be a way, either "through Parliament, or an election, or possibly through another referendum, in which people express their view".

Rowling takes on Trump AND Morgan

■ Harry Potter creator describes broadcaster's support for President as 'sucking up to the biggest bully in school'

JK Rowling has stepped up her feud with Donald Trump, stating his wild Thursday afternoon press conference was the "scariest thing" she'd ever seen.

In the press conference, Mr Trump lambasted the news media and insisted his administration was running like a "finely-tuned machine".

The Harry Potter author, who has been a regular critic of the Republican president, tweeted afterwards: "Until an hour ago, the scariest thing I'd ever watched was Psycho #TrumpPresser."

Twitter spat

Earlier this week, the author was embroiled in a Twitter spat with Piers Morgan, the British television presenter and vocal Trump supporter.

He called Rowling's work "drivel" and she called him "amoral" after Morgan defended the US government's travel ban during an appearance on HBO's "Real Time with Bill Maher" last Friday.

Morgan faced off with Australian comic Jim Jefferies on the episode during a discussion of the executive order. Morgan said it was "not a Muslim ban," and Jefferies directed an expletive at



MORGAN: 'happy to have a celebrity friend'?

him. Rowling tweeted that it was "satisfying" to hear Jefferies say that.

Jefferies then flipped Morgan the bird adding that Morgan's support of Trump came down to him 'being happy to have a celebrity friend'.

A flurry of tweets between Rowling and Morgan followed, including one in which she quipped: "If you'd only read Harry Potter, you'd know the downside

of sucking up to the biggest bully in school is getting burned alive".

At the Bafta awards on Sunday, Rowling was asked, while on the red carpet, what she thought of the "political situation in the world at the moment".

Rowling replied: "Let's just say it's a very interesting time to be writing a franchise about the rise of a populist maniac".



JK Rowling: not backing down

Testy Trump takes aim at the BEEB

■ President lashes out at BBC reporter in fiery 'fake news' clash

DONALD TRUMP targeted the BBC for a furious slap down this week as he compared the British broadcaster to CNN.

The President, who has been heavily critical of CNN for alleged "fake news", laid into the BBC as he compared the two corporations.

Speaking at a press conference in Washington on Thursday, the President bashed the BBC in an savage blast.

During the hour-long press conference, President Trump criticized the media for their coverage over possible links between the alleged billionaire's

team and Russian officials.

The President then turned on a BBC reporter, Jon Sopel, who attempted to quiz the 70-year-old over his travel ban policy. In the footage, the reporter can be heard saying: "Can I ask you, thank you Mr President."

However Mr Trump quickly cut off the journalist, demanding he revealed what organization he worked for.

After Sopel said he worked for the BBC, the President snapped back: "Here's another beauty."

Leaving many

laughing in the background, the journalist tried biting back as he replied: "Impartial, free and fair."

However as the journalist then tried to then ask the President his question he was interrupted again in a ruthless manner.

Mr Trump fumed: "You're just like CNN."

The President continued to control the interaction before he answered the question, as the reporter described their squabble as "banter".

Mr Trump said: "Wait, wait, wait. I know who you are just wait."

cont/



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Trump: Party girl Tara 'died of natural causes'

cont. from page two

As Mr Trump began to answer the journalist, the BBC reporter was forced to sit back down.

In reply to Sopol's question the President insisted that the controversial travel ban worked exactly as he had planned, before he targeted the judiciary for overturning his executive order.

He said: "We had a very smooth roll out of the travel ban.

"But we had a bad decision, that is the only thing that was wrong with the travel ban. Very bad for the safety and the security of our country."

In his boisterous press conference the President clashed with media several times over fake news in which he blamed journalists for the criticism he has faced.

He said: "There is nobody I have more respect for, well maybe a little bit, than reporters, good reporters. It's very important to me, especially in this position, it's very important.

"I don't mind bad stories, I can handle a bad story better than anybody, as long as it's true."

POLL WATCH

Theresa May continues to be the most popular politician in the UK: 41% of voters approve of her, giving her a net popularity rating of +9. *ComRes/The Independent*

55% of Europeans want an end to migration from majority-Muslim countries, according to a survey of ten EU countries. 47% of British people are in favour of a ban, as are 53% in Germany and 61% in France. Support is lowest in Spain, at 41%. *Chatham House/The Times*

Tara Palmer-Tomkinson died of natural causes and "did not have a brain tumour", her sister has said.

Santa Montefiore posted a series of tweets thanking people for their support in recent days following the death of the socialite at the age of 45.

But the author added that she wanted to "clarify" a few things and referenced a coroner's report released on Wednesday into the death of the former It girl.

She wrote: "I've been so touched by the warm response to Tara's death. Thank you from the whole family. But I'd like to clarify a couple of points.

'dark place'

"Today the coroner's report states that Tara died of natural causes - a perforated ulcer. She did not have a brain

tumour."

Montefiore added that "contrary to some reports, Tara was not the goddaughter of HRH the Prince of Wales".

She wrote: "Tara's good friends & family know that she was in high spirits in her last days. She had plans, trips & had written a moving new song."

The former "It girl" and reality TV star was found dead in her west London flat last week.

Her funeral is due to be held on February 27.

In a statement her family have said: "We would like to thank the many people who have contacted us about Tara following her untimely death. It has been a source of great comfort to know how loved she was by so many people.

"Tara died peacefully in her sleep due to a perforated ulcer and peritonitis.

IRAQ PROBE TO BE CLOSED

An inquiry into allegations of abuse by British troops in Iraq is to be shut down.

Defence Secretary Michael Fallon announced that the Iraq Historic Allegations Team (IHAT) will close this summer, with the 20 or so remaining cases handed to the military police. Set up in 2010, IHAT has considered more than 3,000 cases of misconduct; however, a report last week by the Defence Sub-Committee said many lacked credible evidence. Phil Shiner, a lawyer representing many of the alleged victims, was struck off last week.

Espionage clampdown People who leak state secrets should face harsher penalties, a new report has proposed. Having been asked by ministers to draw up suggestions for

updating the Official Secrets Act, the Law Commission, an independent body, proposed increasing the maximum sentence for the disseminating of official material, from two to 14 years. It also suggested broadening the definition of the crime to include those who obtain or gather information, which could include journalists and charity workers. However, No. 10 insisted that it had no plans to restrict press freedom.

Judges voice concern

42% of judges would leave their job if they had a viable alternative.

74% believe they are underpaid, while 51% are concerned about their personal safety when in court. Just 2% feel valued by the Government. (JAS/The Guardian)



"We will miss Tara very much and will never forget the joy, love and humour she brought to our lives." - **Santa Montefiore**

"Those that knew and were close to Tara knew that there was no retreat to a "dark place" as some have disappointingly sought to suggest. In the last few weeks Tara was happy, positive and making plans for when she recovered her health.

'deeply saddened'

"As usual she had been busy with the friends and family she loved, and who loved her in return. She was in communication with her family and others of whom she was fond over her final weekend and had spent a lot of her time recording music

and playing the piano in her apartment - a sure sign that she was happy and feeling good.

"Tara's funeral will be on the February 27. This will be a private moment for family and close friends to grieve and we would ask that our privacy at this time is respected. We will miss Tara very much and will never forget the joy, love and humour she brought to our lives."

Last year, she revealed her fear of dying after being diagnosed with a non-malignant brain tumour.

After finding out about the growth in

her pituitary gland, she later spoke about also suffering with an autoimmune disease that caused tiredness, joint pain and acute anaemia.

In what is believed to be one of her last interviews, she told about her quest to "make her family proud again".

Following the news of her sudden death, her close friends the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall were among the first to pay tribute.

Charles and Camilla said they were "deeply saddened and our thoughts are so much with the family".

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News From Britain

Lackluster Corbyn edging closer to Labour exit, insiders say

■ Tories 'can hardly believe their luck' at the dismal performance of Opposition leader

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn is rumored to be considering resigning after a string of setbacks that have left his approval languishing at a dismal -40.

As one political commentator put it this week: "After nearly a century as the party of government or opposition, Labour is in the throes of an existential crisis. Its MPs are out of step with its members. Its members are out of step with its voters. Worst of all, its voters are out of step with each other."

'final provocation'

On the big issues of Brexit and immigration, the party's Remainers in the big cities are at odds with the Leavers of the Midlands and the North. But the most important factor in Labour's mess seems to be Corbyn himself, who has struggled to inspire leadership within the party, hone a clear message or even take advantage of division within the ruling Conservative party.

For many Labour loyalists, Corbyn's tweet last week was the "final provocation", said Adam

Boulton in *The Sunday Times*. After running a dismal campaign to stay in the EU during the referendum, and after ordering his own MPs to ensure that the Brexit Bill passed by a massive 494 to 122 margin, he had the temerity to tweet: "Real fight starts now."

"Whipping his party into voting with Theresa May is pretty much the only concerted action he has taken as leader.

"Given the number of Labour MPs who rebelled, he didn't even do that effectively."

Eighty MPs have sat in his shadow cabinet since the general election; nowadays, he doesn't even bother sacking the rebels. "The latest batch resigned instead."

In the past few weeks, "something has shifted", said John Harris in *The Guardian*. "I know once-passionate Corbyn supporters who are now racked with doubt about the man they once believed in, and about his handling of such a watershed political moment."

"It is no exaggeration to say that the Tories can hardly believe their luck when they see what is happening to

the opposition," said Matthew d'Ancona in *The Guardian*. One of the PM's closest allies told me: "I sometimes rub my eyes and think I'm dreaming." But it cannot last forever. It was revealed last week that Labour's pollsters have been running focus groups on two shadow ministers – Rebecca Long-Bailey and Angela Rayner – apparently to identify a new leader from the party's Corbynite wing.

By contrast, Labour's moderates seem worryingly unprepared for Corbyn's inevitable exit. The likes of Chuka Umunna, Stella Creasy, Rachel Reeves and Keir Starmer are talented, but "utterly lacking" in planning, focus and the "rage for victory".

The Tories also need to get planning, said Juliet Samuel in *The Daily Telegraph*. At some point, Corbyn will leave the scene. "When he does, many on the Right will be shocked to discover an uncomfortable fact: much of Britain is solidly left-wing." They should use the Corbyn era as a "window of opportunity" to head off a Labour revival.



LABOUR LEADER JEREMY CORBYN: Planning an exit?

It wasn't all bad...

A woman whose 147-year-old wedding dress went missing has been reunited with the family heirloom. When Tess Newall, (pictured, right) a 29-year-old set designer, got married in her hometown of Morham, East Lothian, last year, she wore a lace dress made by her great-great-grandmother in 1870. She then took it to be dry-cleaned in Edinburgh; but when she went to pick it up, she discovered the firm had gone bankrupt, and the dress was said to have been lost. Newall posted an appeal on Facebook, where it was shared 284,000 times. The dress was eventually found on the shuttered shop's floor, and was returned to her this week.



Waitrose is to become the first European company to use lorries fuelled by renewable biomethane gas. The supermarket is buying ten of the lorries, which run entirely on the gas – a byproduct of rotting vegetable matter and other food waste. Already in use in the US,

they can run for up to 500 miles at a time, and emit 70% less carbon dioxide than diesel lorries. Argos has also placed an order, and two local authorities, including Leeds City Council, have shown interest.

A hoard of lost Bob Marley recordings have been discovered in the basement of a London hotel. The 13 reel-to-reel tapes were

found in a run-down hotel where Marley and his band stayed during their European tours in the 1970s. Featuring live recordings of London and Paris shows from that era, the tapes had suffered so much water damage that they were feared to be ruined beyond repair. But after a year of painstaking work by sound technician Martin Nichols, using the latest techniques, the reels have been restored.



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TROUBLE IN THE TUBE: the offending ad

London Mayor feels the heat from Khloe in a leotard

LONDON MAYOR Sadiq Khan was under pressure this week to ban a Tube poster featuring Khloe Kardashian in a leotard just months after tightening Transport for London's rules on advertising.

Critics called on the Mayor to remove Protein World's image starring the reality TV star - and sister of Kim - amid concerns it could cause confidence issues among young women.

The same company came under fire for its "Are you beach body ready?" poster which provoked a huge backlash when it appeared two years ago.

Mr Khan, a father of two teenage daughters, announced last summer that adverts which put Londoners under pressure to conform to an unhealthy or unrealistic body image were to be banned from the transport network.

He set up an advertising steering

group to help decide if adverts were appropriate for display but it emerged this week that it is only meeting for the first time later this week - eight months on.

Transport for London (TfL) Transport for London is the local government body responsible for the transport system in Greater London. TfL said the advert featuring reality TV star Ms Kardashian would not be covered by the ban, which does not include all images of people in their underwear or swimming gear.

The six-month Protein World campaign, which features the model striking a variety of poses while dressed in a revealing gym leotard, centres around the company's 30-day weight-loss challenge which claims to be for women who want to feel "more confident and comfortable" in their own skin or "show their ex what he's missing".

Britain's youngest Euromillions winner drops plans to sue lottery bosses for 'ruining her life'

■ Jane Park says her newly accumulated wealth made her life 'ten times worse'

Britain's youngest Euromillions winner has dropped her plans to take legal action against lottery bosses for "ruining her life".

Jane Park, who won £1m at the age of 17, threatened to sue bosses for negligence and argued someone of her age should not have been allowed to win so much money. Ms Park, now 21, argued 18 should be the minimum age to win.

The teenage millionaire, from Edinburgh, has now backtracked over plans to take legal action. Ms Park said she had already achieved her goal of raising awareness for the age limit to be raised.

'ridiculous amount'

After being asked whether she planned to sue on the popular daytime TV talk show Loose Women on Wednesday, Ms Park said:

"No. What I said was me phoning up the lottery and saying, 'I think 16 is too young, you should up the age to 18', they were never going to be like, 'Jane that's great advice, we'll up our age'.

"So what I did was, I'd only spoke to a lawyer, I was just wanting to seek legal advice just to get my point across, get it out there.

"But because it has gone so far already, I won't even have to go any further, I feel like I have been listened to now and people are



"I have material things but apart from that my life is empty." - Jane Park

actually listening to the difficulties."

Before winning the lottery, Ms Park, who now owns two properties, worked as an admin temp for £8 an hour and lived in a small flat with her mum in Edinburgh.

Appearing on BBC's Victoria Derbyshire Show on Thursday, Ms Park said winning the lottery had been a very stressful experience at times.

"I never realised I would've felt at times like I'd ruined my life when I was 17. Now I get days when I get these feelings and I think I wish I'd never even won it," she said.

"It was a ridiculous amount to have at such a young age with no guidance... I wish I didn't have the stress and pressure at such a young age."

Ms Park said it was difficult to constantly feel obliged to give those close to you money when they are struggling. Despite being unhappy at times, she said she did not want to give her hefty windfall away because she wanted to have children in

the future and be able to provide for both them and her wider family.

'duty of care'

This echoes her comments over the weekend where she said she had become tired of consumption as it failed to offer long-term genuine happiness or satisfaction. She said winning the lottery had made her life "ten times worse" and it sometimes felt like it had "ruined" her life altogether.

Despite the fact that Camelot, which runs EuroMillions in the UK, appointed an adviser to help Ms Park deal with her newly accumulated wealth, she told Sunday People it was family advice that helped her keep tabs on her spending.

"People look at me and think, 'I wish I had her lifestyle, I wish I had her money'. But they don't realise the extent of my stress. I have material things but apart from that my life is empty. What is my purpose in life?"

A spokesperson for Camelot told The Independent: "Camelot

takes its duty of care to winners very seriously and all major winners are offered support and advice for as long as they wish. That support is tailored to each winner's situation and circumstances - and for younger winners, their age will obviously be an important factor in the advice and support offered.

"Following her win, Jane received extensive support from Camelot," it continued.

"A dedicated winners' adviser visited Jane at home to pay out her prize, arrange private banking and support her through the publicity when she chose to share news of her win. An independent financial and legal panel was set up shortly after her win and we put Jane in touch with another winner who won at the same age, to share their experience and help Jane adjust to the win.

"We keep in contact with all major winners for as long as they wish and have been in touch with Jane from time to time since her win to offer ongoing support."

Health & Fitness

BREAKING NEWS: there are no naughty foods!

■ Good news people: enjoy your chocolate and alcohol - in moderation!

This weeks blog from thebodycamp.com was written at one of my favorite so called "naughty" food cafés in America - the amazing @theyogurtshoppe - a cool place to enjoy a pure, American classic dessert. As I eat this lovely, creamy ice cream, I feel very, very happy!

There are a few various reasons for my happiness....

Not just the three different flavors, (Jennifer's home made peanut butter, chocolate fudge brownie and salted caramel) with all the chocolate nuggets spread around the large tub and a massive chocolate brownie sat on top of it. No I feel happy

because of the following five key rules I keep in mind, which guests learn at thebodycamp's home base in Ibiza....

1. "I understand that it is unhealthy to link shame to eating"

When we associate the feeling of shame with what we are eating, we may invite different ways of dealing with this to enter our mind. Therefore the recommended way to deal with food is enjoy all "naughty" food in small portions and in moderation.

2. "I have already earned this naughty extra sugar or simple carbs this morning with a workout"

When we learn to workout before we enjoy simple sugars/ chocolates and processed dead foods such as bread, cereals and pasta, we simply put the body back into balance and ensure that we do not store fat as easily when we go and enjoy it.

3. "When I don't have this type of high sugar food all the time or only sometimes - it tastes fantastic!"

When we limit or decide to only have these treats once a while, they suddenly have a bigger impact on our taste buds and we appreciate them more - so does our waist line!

4. "I am highly conscious



GO AHEAD, INDULGE...just don't overdo it.

of the "naughty" foods that make me want more of he same."

When we become conscious of the foods which we want more and more of (such as biscuits, chocolates, breads etc.) we can then put measures into place where we gain control over these tricky situations e.g. asking at the restaurant that they only bring only one small piece of bread for a starter, instead a large plate of different breads.

5. "There is no such food as a bad food"

When we realize that not even a chocolate bar is a bad food and that its how many bars of chocolate that you consume which can make us unhealthy (same with alcohol).

I have just finished my yogurt and this blog! Remember, No food is bad! It's all about simply how much you have of that food. If you overload yourself with chocolate,

pasta and breads, of course there will be consequences. However in moderation, and especially when they are earned with a workout - you will ensure your body stays in balance for longer and you will be able to enjoy even more "naughty" foods as you grow older.

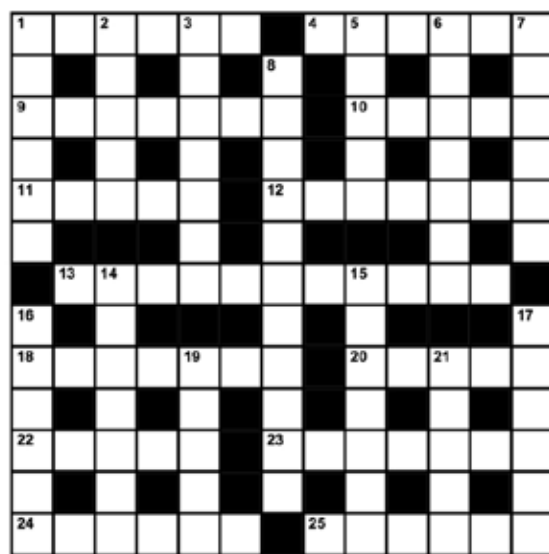
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The British Weekly Crossword by Myles Mellor. #264

Across

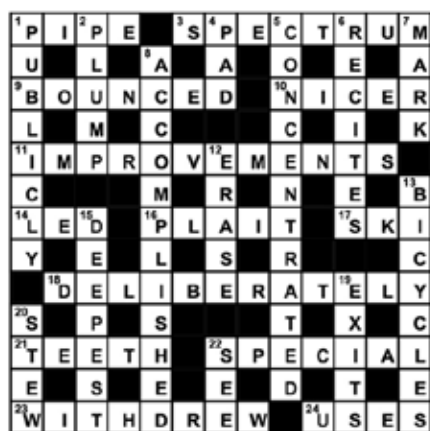
- 1 Sweet stuff (6)
- 4 Lots and lots (6)
- 9 Feeling of high admiration (7)
- 10 Point of concern (5)
- 11 Type of whale (5)
- 12 Bid (7)
- 13 Handed down (11)
- 18 Some carriers (7)
- 20 Government official (5)
- 22 Symbols of hardness (5)
- 23 In a miserly way (7)
- 24 Breakfast item (6)
- 25 It's "in" in kitchens (6)



Down

- 1 Just out (6)
- 2 Ahead of the ___ (trendy) (5)
- 3 Conscience-stricken (7)
- 5 Precipice (5)
- 6 European nation (7)
- 7 Unwavering (6)
- 8 Chance (11)
- 14 Type of roulette (7)
- 15 It ain't apples! (7)
- 16 Began (6)
- 17 Hung around (6)
- 19 Sprays (5)
- 21 Small role to play (5)

Solution to Puzzle #263

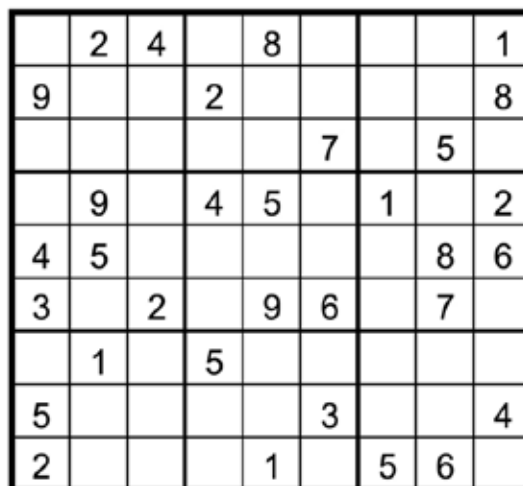


The British Weekly Sudoku by Myles Mellor & Susan Flanagan #264

SUDOKU by Myles Mellor and Susan Flanagan

Each Sudoku puzzle consists of a 9X9 grid that has been subdivided into nine smaller grids of 3X3 squares. To solve the puzzle each row, column and box must contain each of the numbers 1 to 9. Puzzles come in three grades: easy, medium and difficult.

Level: Medium



Solution to Sudoku #263



Meet A Member: James Longman

Meet James Longman from London who moved to LA 1 year ago to pursue Television Producing on the Late, Late show with James Corden

Was there a particular reason you chose LA?

I have been working in comedy TV for several years on such shows as Friday Night Project, Big Brother's Big Mouth, Alan Carr Chatty Man and Never Mind The Buzzcocks but got offered a role producing the guest comedy segments on The Late Late Show with James Corden. I have always wanted to work in the US and this was too good an opportunity to turn down. My job is to come up with ideas for and to produce sketches with celebs like Matt Damon, Ryan Reynolds, Renee Zellweger, Ice Cube and Zach Galifianakis to name a few.

What do you miss most

from home?

Other than the standard things (friends, family), I am a huge West Ham fan, so I miss going to matches to watch us (lose) every week. On March 4th, I am putting on a screening of the new West Ham documentary called 'Iron Men' about the move from the Boleyn Ground to The Olympic Stadium. The film is great, and I thought the screening is a brilliant opportunity to bring sports fans together to share in the passion and the ups and downs of supporting a team. It should appeal to anyone who loves sport/passion, or anyone who loves documentary.

What was your first impression of LA and has it changed since? If so why?

It felt quite daunting at first but now I'm getting to know the areas, it feels more manageable and welcoming. I used to zip around on a scooter in

London, so needing a car was a new experience. Other than people trying to kill me on the roads, I'm starting to feel more settled.

What do you find the biggest difference is living here versus London?

In London, my work was always very social, and people would be out lots of nights during the week. As there isn't an amazing commuting system here like the tube, you can't just jump on the train after a few beers. It's such a driving culture here. Everyone here is also a lot more clean living - when I first started at work, I suggested us all going out and one of the guys agreed and said he was organizing a hike! That wasn't quite what I meant. Often I will go to a Comedy club and the majority of people are sat there with water - you'd get kicked out of a comedy club in London

for that!

Do you have a hidden gem in LA that you want to share with us?

I'm not a huge baseball fan but I walked past a tiny LA Dodgers shop on Hyperion in Los Feliz the other day. Just a small room full of knick knacks and curiosities. I'm not even sure it was a store as it wasn't open but it looked like something out of time. I've just tried to find it on Google and can't - that's how hidden it is!

Food wise, my wife and I love Mare on Melrose (and soon to be in our neck of the wood, Los Feliz too) - have to queue but they serve you with toasted cheese sarnies as you wait - win-win! And the tacos out here have been a game changer for me...

What would you suggest to others who are thinking about making the move here?

There are a lot of minor annoyances moving country - Little Britain's "computer says no" is never more relevant than here: the banking system feels antiquated (who still gets paid in cheques?!), getting a car, this weird credit rating they are hung up on, have I mentioned people will try and kill you on the road? But once you get past all of that, the weather is great and you're never more than 3 hours from the beach/ski-ing in the mountains/hanging by the pool in the desert/hiking up hills. Career wise, LA makes you feel like things can happen. It's exciting.

Lots of our members join our group Brits in LA seeking out words of wisdom - what is the best piece of advice you've been given?

Try and not be too British. It's not generally in our nature to be direct, overly



IN THE THICK OF IT: James with Bryan Cranston

confident and outgoing, so you have to really push yourself. You don't need to be arrogant but you should believe in what you can do, and then do it (or at least try to and valiantly fail).

Lastly, how can we find out more about you?

Are you working on anything at the moment? The Late Late Show is on Monday to Fridays on CBS and you can obviously subscribe to

our channel on youtube. I am currently working on a feature script for a horror film after we made a short which got into the BFI London Film festival. Also, if you are keen to go to the Iron Men Screening on March the 4th (and don't mind West Ham/football fans!), please drop me a line on longers1@gmail.com or follow me on twitter at [@longers1](https://twitter.com/longers1). I tweet a lot of nonsense but mainly bits from my show/film/TV and sport.



Tom Jones is courting Priscilla Presley – ex-wife of his old friend Elvis. The Welsh crooner, 76, was spotted dining at a Hollywood restaurant with Presley, 71. Elvis fans noted that Jones (pictured left, with Presley), whose wife Linda died last year, was wearing blue suede shoes. Their mutual friend Tony Christie, 73, confirmed the romance, saying: "It's really lovely, you should have somebody in your old age."



Brits In LA



Toscars almost upon us.....!

Told you it was going to rain some more!

And seems like it will be another wet weekend! I remember reading a report a few years back in which scientists suggested weekday pollution (caused mainly by commuter traffic) could cause a build up to a rotten Saturday and Sunday. I doubt anyone would contest the fact that Los Angeles roads are congested, so is traffic the modern raindance?

It seems lots of you are planning trips abroad, as not only have we had several requests for our **Air New Zealand** discount codes but we have had an influx of enquiries on how to renew your British passport. In the good old days you could send it all off to the embassy in Washington D.C. The Foreign Office have now streamlined the application process so that all British nationals

apply through the UK offices. Having used both the old and new systems you will be delighted to hear that not only is the current procedure faster but it is actually slightly cheaper too! Visit us at www.Britsin.LA for our "How to" guide and make sure you do it in plenty of time before your summer holidays. No procrastinating! And for those Air New Zealand discount codes, email ANZCodes@britin.la.

There is an awful lot of fun stuff going on within our Brits in LA community - The 24th Annual Queen Mary Scots Festival (February 18-19th) in Long Beach is proving to be a popular choice for a lot of you - make sure to look out for fellow Brits in LA Members, Lorne Cousin and Kieron Elliot who will be playing bagpipes and serving up Single Malt Scotch accordingly - Goldstar have great



deals on tickets, ranging from Complimentary to \$10, details can be found online at: www.tinyurl.com/Goldstar-Scots.

Footie fans in general and West Ham fans in particular will want to check out a complimentary screening from this week's Meet A Member James Longman of Iron Men coming up on March 4th.

He has asked us to extend an invitation to you all, which may interest the three West Ham fans amongst you, (my mum being one of them!) Email him at longers1@gmail.com for further details.

And finally...one of the highlights of our social calendar, the 10th Annual Toscars are just a few sleeps away. On this



page you can see some of the posters for our all-so-clever parodies of the Best Picture nominees. The participants won't let anyone rain on their parade (Feb. 22nd forecast is currently 50/50). But precipitation is part and parcel of Oscar/Toscar season; but that never

deters the Hollywood hopefuls when there is a shiny gold award up for grabs. There are only a few tickets left - this event will sell out so visit www.thetoscars.com to get yours today!

Cheers!
Eileen



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Former “Potter” actress bares it all for Playboy!

One of the stars of Harry Potter has stripped off for Playboy...and I'm not talking about her rich boyfriend!

British actress Scarlett Byrne revealed all in the famous, erm, organ's first naked issue since its nudity ban was abolished.

Ooh-er!

For those of you that don't follow such things, there was something of a stir in the world of publishing when it was recently announced the august mag was planning to feature nudity in its pages once more, despite banning naked images a year ago. And Potter actress Scarlett is one of the first ladies to strip off in the March/April issue.

The 26-year-old, who played Slytherin student Pansy Parkinson in the sixth, seventh and eighth Harry Potter films, showed off her booty in a sultry snap from the mag, which she reposted on Twitter.

The brunette held a silk shirt around her waist while she looked over her shoulder.

That isn't all Scarlett – who also appeared in *The Vampire Diaries* – has contributed to the new issue of *Playboy*.

The London-born babe also wrote an essay advocating the Free The Nipple campaign, speaking “about the importance of owning female sexuality and



“RECLAIMING WHO WE ARE” said Cooper Hefner, with his fiancée, actress Scarlett Byrne

the double standards that still exist between women and men”.

Scarlett wouldn't have had to try too hard to get into the pages of the saucy publication. Miss Byrne just happens to be engaged to Hugh Hefner's son and the chief creative officer of *Playboy*, Cooper Hefner. The pair got engaged in 2015 and Scarlett spends a lot of her time at the *Playboy* Mansion, judging by her Instagram profile.

Cooper was the one to announce the decision to overturn *Playboy*'s nudity ban, with the 25-year-old saying: “I'll be the first to admit that the way in which the magazine portrayed nudity was dated, but removing it entirely was a mistake.

“Nudity was never the problem because nudity isn't a problem. Today we're taking

our identity back and reclaiming who we are.”

Reaction to *Playboy*'s nudity revival has been mixed, with debates sparking over whether it is sexist and exploitative of women.

A long list of stars have posed nude for *Playboy*, including Pamela Anderson, Kate Moss and Daisy Lowe.

Adele: rolling in the dosh!

Singer Adele is seriously ‘Rolling in the Dosh’ according to reports that state she was raking it in during her sold-out world tour last year, getting about half a million PER GIG when she performed 107 dates across Europe and America between February and December.

Oo-er!

The jaw-dropping figures come courtesy of the latest accounts filed by her firm, Remedy Touring, of which she is the sole director. And the Sun reported that the 28-year-old British star's company made a profit of \$13.5 million between October 2015 and April 2016.

Such huge sums place the ‘Hello’ songstress right up there among the elite of the wealthiest musicians in the world. This sort of dosh is normally reserved for icons like Madonna, Bruce Springsteen, U2 and the Rolling Stones.

“Given this was Adele's first-ever world tour her earnings really are incredible,” a source said.

“If you break it down then she was making more than half a million every single night. The latest accounts just go up until April, when she was only a few months into the tour, which make it all the more astounding.

“Adele was selling out arena after arena every



PLENTY OF GREEN: Adele's money-spinning tour has put her among music's elite earners

night so her income would definitely have shot up at the same rate throughout the rest of the year.”

Meanwhile, it's been claimed that the star has decided to take a lengthy break from the music industry when she wraps up her *Adele Live* tour later this year.

The superstar is reportedly planning to have another child with her husband Simon Konecki, 42, the father of her four-year-old son Angelo.

The couple – who have been together for five years – got engaged in October during Adele's world

tour and she revealed at the Grammy Awards that they had secretly wed, when she referred to Simon as her “husband”, during her acceptance speech for Album of the Year.

Adele said: “Grammys, I appreciate it, the Academy, I love you, my manager, my husband and my son – you're the only reason I do it.”

And Adele proved herself a class act – yet again – by paying tribute to Beyoncé, whom she beat out for Record of the Year.

“I can't possibly accept this award,” Adele said. “I'm very humbled and very grateful and gracious, but my life is Beyoncé.”

The *Lemonade* album, Beyoncé, was so monumental, and so well thought out, and so beautiful and soul-bearing. And we all got to see another side of you that you don't always let us see, and we appreciate that. And all us artists adore you. You are our light.”

Generous, humble and coining it...gotta love Adele!

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Stargazing with Annie Shaw



ARIES: If life at work is not all it could be look at the positive side of things. As we move into the end of the month the planet of luck Jupiter will open new doors which you will enjoy opening. Your boss Mars is visiting you and sending good vibrations.

TAURUS: Your emotions are probably in a mess currently. It is more than likely a past situation that has brought things up and this will be resolved for your highest good if you take action soonest. Do not make work your sole purpose.

GEMINI: Take time out (maybe with a trusted friend) and figure out what direction you need to follow in your personal life for the best long-term outcome. You are making decisions based on past situations, this is a fruitless decision.

CANCER: Just when you thought all was settled from the past something (or someone) can turn up on your doorstep. Should this be the case, when in doubt do nothing. If you know what you should do, go for it.

LEO: You may be involved in a family drama, if so and it is your problem quickly take control. If this is an ongoing situation it can cause you to feel stressed out, to say the least. You will feel better midweek.

VIRGO: Because everything in life is a lesson and you may be looking for help to guide you through this period, look back at how far you have come since mid-last year, when you do life will seem sweeter.

LIBRA: Mars the planet of fire is sitting opposite you in Aries and this is going to lift your spirits next week. With this energy behind you much can be achieved. Though life can be trying at times you have the stamina to move through it with grace.

SCORPIO: The sun in your cousin sign Pisces later in the week will soften things up a lot. Your thoughts are likely on romance and finances. By the end of the month life is looking better all round. Have faith in another who seems to have let you down.

SAGITTARIUS: Your boss Jupiter is moving backwards. This will bring up some unfinished business for you. Be cautious in word and deed and do not put your foot in your mouth if you want to avoid further problems. On the upside positive energy will abound.

CAPRICORN: The sun soon to enter Pisces will assist you to get the job done. These next couple of weeks will open space to complete a long-overdue job or project. Along with this comes news of a cash flow improvement. You will also be lucky, so buy that lottery ticket.

AQUARIUS: You are probably feeling like a break away from work after a hectic birthday month. If you can take time to go away for a few days great...if not even a day away will refresh you. Then you will start your personal new year on a positive note.

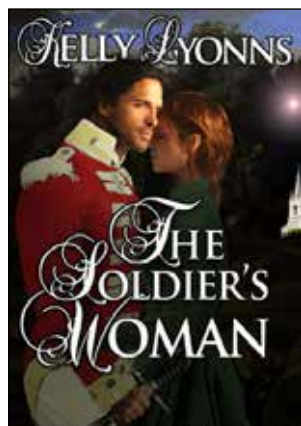
PISCES: Jupiter will be assisting you all through the next month to help get your life on track in whatever area it needs to be fixed. Your family is much on your mind and will be fine by the end of the month. Try to not stress too much over things. Happy Birthday!

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The Soldier's Woman: paranormal romance

■ Exclusive interview with author Kelly Lyonns, discussing her new novel, set in Napoleonic Lisbon



"This book is really a culmination of a transition in my life from freelance environmental scientist with my own business to creative writer," says *The Soldier's Woman* author Kelly Lyonns.

"The original idea must have sprung up about 2010. This romantic scene popped into my head...this smoke filled room in a war somewhere with her standing in front

of some children with a pistol ready to defend them. A few of those original elements have survived into the final story."

The Soldier's Woman is the first book in the Bladewood Legacy series. Colonel Maximilian Bladewood is used to giving orders and having them obeyed. Charlotte Everslea seeks artefacts related to the paranormal. She accidentally saves Max's life. It's Napoleonic Portugal, and Bladewood is trapped behind enemy lines. He finds Charlotte infuriating. She wants to rescue some children. Max has to make sure they evade Napoleon's army. Is it love or madness?

"Researching is one of my skills honed

during my years as a scientist," says Lyonns. "Google was my first port of call looking for archives. Places like the British Museum, regional museums, auction sites which dealt with historical antiques, re-enactor sites were all troves of information. My local library also had historical books relevant to the era."

Lyonns says she became "a total history bore" about the Iberian Peninsula wars. "I drove my family to tears listening to why there was a horse shortage, and about the tradition of shaving mules in Portugal. Oh and that was before I started researching how long riding habits were and what sort of material and dyes they used in manufacture.

I've even watched the YouTube videos of re-enactors on their holidays about Europe or riding events. Then I looked into agricultural practices in rural Portugal in the late 1700s to early 1800s so I knew what Maximilian and Charlotte would be offered for lunch by peasants in Portugal. Uniforms, muskets, pistols, horse saddles, boots, regimental colours, maps... anything really, that let me get closer to the area around Lisbon in the years 1808 through to 1815."

Lyonns also toured the area around Lisbon trying to superimpose the historical maps onto present day cities. *The Soldier's Woman* is her first novel. Previous works have been scientific. She also

writes science fiction. Lyonns says she didn't start reading romance until her late twenties.

"A friend had left some books for safe keeping and there were some historical romances amongst them. Where had this genre been all my life? Once I read some Stephanie Laurens, Mary Jo Putney and Amanda Quick I was hooked on Regency romance. But it was the paranormal Regency romances of Amanda Quick that fascinated me."

Lyonns is currently writing the second book of the Bladewood Legacy series, *The Sailor's Lass*. The second Bladewood brother, easy-going Arthur Bladewood, an officer in the British Navy, is about to run into



Book Corner with Gabrielle Pantera

trouble in northern France with the psychic Susanna Greyson.

Lyonns is based in the subtropical city of Brisbane, Australia. She was born in Finland.

The Soldier's Woman
(Novel from the
Bladewood Legacy
book 1) by Kelly
Lyonns. Trade
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BW Sport

ZLAT-TRICK!

EUROPA LEAGUE: Ibrahimovich unstoppable again as United cruise to first leg lead

Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored a hat-trick as Manchester United hammered St Etienne 3-0 to open up a commanding Europa League last-32 lead against Saint-Etienne Thursday night.

Ibrahimovic's deflected free-kick wrong-footed goalkeeper Stephane Ruffier and dribbled over the line for the opener, and he tapped home from close range after

good work from Marcus Rashford, as well as adding a late penalty.

Saint-Etienne caused United problems on the break in the first 45 minutes, particularly with Romain Hamouma's pace, while Henri Saivet and Nolan Roux both clipped efforts narrowly off target.

Ruffier's double save denied Juan Mata and Anthony Martial forced

the visiting goalkeeper into sharp saves, while Paul Pogba headed against the crossbar from close range.

The two sides meet for the second leg on Wednesday, 22 February.

There were question marks over the signing of veteran striker Ibrahimovic on a free transfer from Paris St-Germain in the summer, but the Swede has



PRODIGIOUS OUTPUT: Even at 35, Ibra can't stop scoring for Manchester United

responded by taking his tally to 23 for the season.

The 35-year-old former Juventus, Barcelona and AC Milan man has now netted 17 career hat-tricks. It was his first since joining United, his second in European competition and his third against Saint-Etienne.

"Every time I have played against Saint-Etienne, with hard work there has been a couple of goals," Ibrahimovic said after the game. "I have scored a couple of goals

tonight and hopefully I can do the same next week."

The Ligue 1 side will be pleased to see the back of Ibrahimovic when he retires having scored 17 times against them during his career.

Ibrahimovic has 11 titles and three domestic cups to his name, but a major European trophy remains missing from his illustrious CV.

Like Ibrahimovic, United have never won this competition, but the

result keeps alive their hopes of a cup treble this season. They face Blackburn in the FA Cup fifth round on Sunday and Southampton in the EFL Cup final the following week.

In his first season at Old Trafford, Jose Mourinho's side are just two points off a Champions League spot in the league, but triumph in the Europa League would give them an automatic passage through to Europe's elite club competition.

Wenger 'ready to stand down' at season's end

■ Bayern humiliation the decider, say Arsenal insiders

Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger is expected to step down as manager when his contract runs out at the end of the season.

Gunners officials had expected Wenger to sign a new contract, but Wednesday night's 5-1 defeat to Bayern Munich in the UEFA Champions League is thought to have convinced the Frenchman that now is the time to walk away, according to John Cross of the *Daily Mirror*.

Wenger has been in charge of Arsenal since 1996, but Cross has indicated he is now ready to "make a clean break from the club." Cross also noted how Wenger, 67, won't assume a role on the Arsenal board.

It would mean a complete severing of the ties between the Gunners and their most successful manager.

Cross has indicated Arsenal's decision-makers have been preparing for the possibility Wenger

will walk away: "They have already made discreet enquiries about potential replacements, and unless Wenger has a remarkable change of heart he will walk away when his £8million-a-year contract expires this summer."

The chief names among the likely replacements include Juventus chief Massimiliano Allegri and AS Monaco man Leonardo Jardim. Significantly, Cross also indicated Wenger will not influence the club's search for a replacement: "The board's high regard for Wenger means they will tap into his knowledge, but he will not be asked to nominate his successor."

Allegri and Jardim are two highly touted names, but it would still take a special manager to replace the man who has won three Premier League titles and six FA Cups at Arsenal.

However, two of those cups are the only trophies Wenger has

to show for his efforts since 2005, and Cross pointed out how the manager's future continues to divide the club's frustrated supporters: "The manager's position has become so divisive, mass fighting broke out between Arsenal fans in the Allianz Arena after the final whistle."

There is a growing belief Wenger won't sign the two-year deal that's been put in front of him. According to one source, "Wenger is understood to have spoken to Arsenal chief executive Ivan Gazidis on Thursday, and the 67-year-old was assured that the club have no intention of withdrawing their offer of a two-year contract extension worth £16m."

A change may ultimately be best for both Arsenal and Wenger, especially as animosity from the stands has grown over the manager's inability to capture a fourth league title or win in Europe.



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11.45am Man City v Monaco

11.45am B. Leverkusen v At. Madrid

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