

ON THE ROAD AGAIN MOODY BLUES
SPOTLIGHT ON ARTISTS ON TOUR

Vets gear up for 26 nights in white satin

Brian Mansfield
USA TODAY

BACK WITH THE BLUES. The set list for the Moody Blues' upcoming 26-date North American tour launching Thursday in Worcester, Mass., will highlight later material in addition to '60s and '70s favorites such as *Nights in White Satin*, *Ride My See-Saw* and *I'm Just a Singer (in a Rock and Roll Band)*. Singer Justin Hayward, bassist John Lodge and founding drummer Graeme Edge are touring in support of an eight-disc box set, *The Polydor Years 1986-1992*, released in November. "I think it'll influence our show, or certainly the first half of our show," Hayward says. "We'll put more emphasis on things like *Wildest Dreams*, *I Know You're Out There Somewhere* and *The Other Side of Life*."

BYGONE DAYS. The *Polydor Years* box includes two concert recordings, one from Cleveland in 1986, the other a 1992 album made with the Colorado Symphony Orchestra at Red Rocks Amphitheatre near Denver. "It was the idea of a local promoter who assumed we had always worked with orchestras," Hayward says. While the group had used orchestral interludes on 1967's *Days of Future Passed*, which includes signature hit *Nights in White Satin*, those had been recorded separately by classical ensembles, without the band there. Until the Red Rocks show, the Moody Blues had never performed with an orchestra. "It took a lot of organizing and rehearsing," Hayward says, "but it was very fulfilling and a milestone in our career."

BLAME WILE E. COYOTE. Hayward and Lodge joined the group in 1966 during a lineup reshuffling and played their first U.S. shows in 1968. Things didn't al-



"We played second fiddle to Road Runner."

John Lodge, on an interrupted show in the early days

MOODY BLUES
Justin Hayward, left, Graeme Edge and John Lodge launch a North American tour Thursday.

ways go smoothly. In the first seconds of opening number *Tuesday Afternoon* at New York's Fillmore East, the notoriously temperamental Mellotron keyboard went on the fritz, leaving then-keyboardist Mike Pinder trying to repair it while the house ran a psychedelic light show and cartoons to keep the audience engaged. "So we played second fiddle to Road Runner," Lodge says.

AUDIENCES COME PREPARED. At an early show in Philadelphia, then-flute player Ray Thomas made a wrong turn as he took the stage and fell, injuring his leg and breaking his flute. A plea went out to see if anyone had brought

a flute to the show. "Can you believe there was someone in the front row with a flute?" Lodge says. "He passed it up, and Ray played his flute all night."

BEYOND THE BLUES HORIZON. In May, Lodge will release *10,000 Light Years Ago*, his first solo album in 38 years. Hayward has a solo concert special that recently began airing on PBS stations, and he plans a summer solo tour after the Moody Blues run. "I don't think I could do one without the other now," he says. "The solo show is quiet, acoustic, with a couple of wonderful players. You can hear every nuance. That's the perfect balance to the big production that is the Moodies."

Chenoweth provides steam on this train

Star power keeps 'Twentieth' chugging

ON THE TWENTIETH CENTURY ★★★★★
Starring Kristin Chenoweth, Peter Gallagher
American Airlines Theatre

NEW YORK When the Cy Coleman/Betty Comden/Adolph Green musical *On the Twentieth Century* opened on Broadway in February 1978, Kristin Chenoweth was not yet 10 years old. Yet you could easily mistake Roundabout Theatre Company's fizzy, fabulous new revival as a custom Chenoweth vehicle, tailor-made to accommodate her unique combination of talents.

Set in the early '30s, *Century* follows Lily Garland, nee Mildred Plotka, a gawky pianist-turned-glamorous stage star-turned-fussy Hollywood diva, on a luxury coach from Chicago to New York. The role was introduced on Broadway by Madeline Kahn, one of Chenoweth's heroines; months later, after Kahn departed the production, Lily launched the career of Judy Kaye, who impressed critics with her wide, fluid, operatic singing voice and comic prowess.

Chenoweth brings to Lily, along with those requisites, the girlish goofiness, feline sexuality and gleaming, chirping soprano — higher and brighter than Kaye's — that have made her one of her generation's most distinctive musical-theater talents. At 46, Chenoweth lends both an ingenue's exuberance and a knowing wit to production numbers that require her to juggle virtual arias with hyperkinetic dance routines.

Yet while Lily may well be the role of Chenoweth's career, this *Century*, which opened Sunday, is by no means her triumph alone. In this production, directed with giddy virtuosity by Scott Ellis, every player seems perfectly cast — starting with the leading man, Peter Gallagher, whose recent struggle with a sinus infection delayed the opening by a few days.

If Gallagher hadn't made a full



JOAN MARCUS

Oscar (Peter Gallagher) is hoping to work with Lily (Kristin Chenoweth) again.

recovery by a preview performance several nights ago, you certainly couldn't tell. His voice and presence robust, his comic timing flawless, the actor made all the arrogance and desperation of his character — Lily's flamboyant mentor and former lover, the now-bankrupt theater producer Oscar Jaffe — delightfully entertaining.

As Oscar pursues Lily on the train, hoping to convince her to work with him again, his biggest obstacle is her new beau, an aspiring young actor and preening peacock named Bruce Granit. Bruce is played by a hilarious Andy Karl, who last flexed his muscles in the title role of last season's musical *Rocky*. Here Karl applies his athletic prowess to physical comedy, and reveals this particular he-man as an effete buffoon, to sidesplitting effect.

The ever-reliable Mark Linn-Baker and Michael McGrath are predictably winning as Oscar's long-suffering colleagues, and Mary Louise Wilson is given an inspired turn as a pious old lady on board who may be either a tycoon or a lunatic.

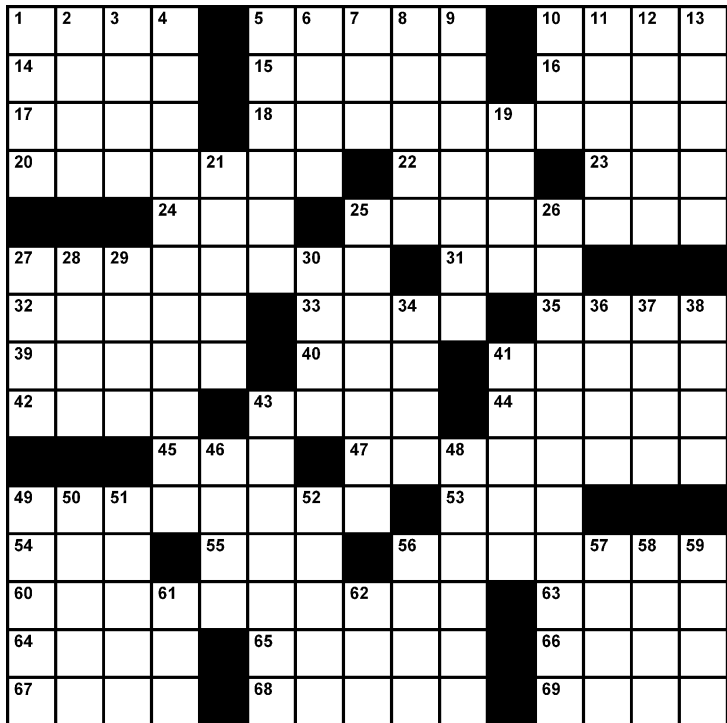
PUZZLES

CROSSWORD

EDITED Timothy Parker
BY Kenneth Holt

SECURITY BLANKET

- ACROSS**
- 1 Guinness of "Star Wars"
 - 5 "The City Without Clocks"
 - 10 Some TV screens
 - 14 Vet's opposite
 - 15 Public square, in ancient Greece
 - 16 Russian city south of Moscow
 - 17 Sainted king
 - 18 Magazine's main article
 - 20 Spanish money
 - 22 "Bad idea"
 - 23 Baseball great Ripken Jr.
 - 24 Beat a retreat
 - 25 All a room will hold
 - 27 Kind of heel
 - 31 Tokyo, formerly
 - 32 Normand of silent movies
 - 33 Rent-a-car option
 - 35 African grassland
 - 39 They'll have the last word
 - 40 Accelerate (with "up")
 - 41 Eagle's home
 - 42 Wind blast
 - 43 Throw ___ loss
 - 44 Compose, as a letter
 - 45 Ability to distinguish pitch
 - 47 Emptied one's bags
 - 49 Jump across
 - 53 Cigar leftover
 - 54 Break a Commandment
 - 55 Come to the rescue of
 - 56 Like a horseshoe
 - 60 Some photographers' models
 - 63 "Run, don't walk" review
- DOWN**
- 1 On the roof of
 - 2 One of Julia's exes
 - 3 Divisions of eons
 - 4 Submission with a submission
 - 5 Available to rent
 - 6 Minds' 'l's'?
 - 7 Ending of some D.C. addresses
 - 8 Madison Square Garden, e.g.
 - 9 Mexican blankets, in Mexico
 - 10 Used car site
 - 11 Iris relatives
 - 12 Clear of vermin
 - 13 With a wink, perhaps
 - 19 A herring



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- 21 Asian weight units
- 25 Whitewash
- 26 Nightclub fee
- 27 Component of urban air
- 28 Perfume that sounds verboten
- 29 Large wading bird
- 30 Root vegetable
- 34 "Terrible" czar
- 36 "CHiPs" actor Estrada
- 37 Dietary, in ads
- 38 Ownership card, in Monopoly
- 41 Afloat
- 43 Goods carried
- 46 Controversial orchard spray
- 48 Admission permits
- 49 "Sesame Street" grouch
- 50 String quartet member
- 51 Accredited messenger
- 52 "Bye bye" in France
- 56 Arm bone
- 57 Prefix with "legal"
- 58 Times to party
- 59 Wet with morning moisture
- 61 Suffix with "employ"
- 62 "Spare" bone

Friday's Answer



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WORD ROUNDUP

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

3/16

- Find and Circle:
- Seven motor vehicles
- Five "Happy Days" characters
- Four words made from A-E-N-M
- Battery ____
- 500 sheets of paper

Friday's answer: HALLOWEEN BATMAN PSYCHO BENJI SHREK ALIEN ROCKY JAWS / WINDOWS EXCEL WORD / MEDIUM SMALL LARGE / EVEN / STAR

QUICKCROSS

By John Wilmes

3/16

Stop on a ____

Nailed the test

... by a ____

... even keel

Actor Paul

Pictorial representation

Arizona city

Barbara of "I Dream of Jeannie"

Friday's Answer

MASH

ALTO

COAL

HERE

QUICKCROSS ON YOUR PHONE mobilegames.usatoday.com

A M B U L A N C E P B

N E R I C H I E E E O H

A L E K J T N S I A T O

M D A P S A R Z C M S W

E I M U E A N U P E I A

V C B M E O Z X C N E R

K A A H F M A N E K J D

B Z N R B M A R I O N V

UP & DOWN WORDS

By David L. Hoyt and Russell L. Hoyt

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1. HEADING

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

OUT

Clues:

- 1. Leaving work, e.g.
- 2. Room with a desk
- 3. Jennifer Aniston in "
- 4. U.S.-Soviet competition
- 5. Speedy sport
- 6. A hiker might carry one
- 7. Be conspicuous

Friday's Answer

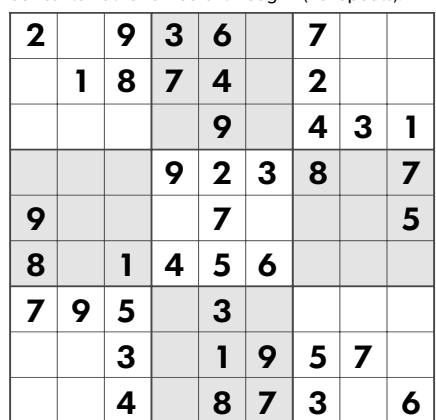
SKEET SHOOTING STAR IN COMMON COLD COLD SHOULDER SHOULDER STRAP

PLAY ONLINE PUZZLES.USATODAY.COM

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SUDOKU

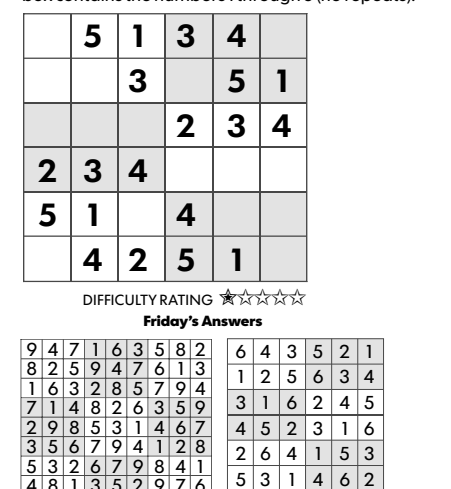
Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 (no repeats).



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Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x2 box contains the numbers 1 through 6 (no repeats).



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TXTPERT-

Across: 1. 62465278, 5. 86337929, 6. 24246, 7. 2469, 10. 9463

Down: 2. 46342626, 3. 627462, 4. 7727, 6. 2539, 8. 464, 9. 929

Today's theme: **Nautical**

1 ad, 2 abc, 3 def, 4 ghi, 5 jkl, 6 mno, 7 pqrs, 8 tuv, 9 wxyz

Use the phone keypad to decode the clues. For example: 2 could be A, B or C... and 5678 could be LOST

Friday's solution

DON'T QUOTE ME

French philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre shares this complaint.

Rearrange the words to complete the quote.

ALWAYS ANYTHING DO LATE THREE TOO WANT

“O'CLOCK IS TOO OR EARLY FOR YOU TO”

Friday's Answer: "A leader takes people where they want to go. A great leader takes people where they don't necessarily want to go but ought to be." - Rosalynn Carter