Home Country

It's Cow-a-Dunga Time...

Slim Randles

I was studying my card when the guys walked in for coffee.

"What did you get?" asked Doc.

"D-24."

"Just one?"

"Yeah. The boys caught me when I was kinda short, so I only got the one this year."

"They hit me for ten," Doc said. "In E section."

Dud looked at us. "I think E section's a pretty good bet. Especially later in the afternoon. The sun will be over there then. Nice and warm. She's liable to go there."

It's Cow-a-Dunga time again. It was Bill Shaver's idea. He's the music teacher for all three of our schools here, and he needed a way the kids could raise some money for band trips.

"I hear they're using one of Simmons's cows this year," said Dud. "Doc, is there any kind of laxative you can give a cow?"

"How should I know? I'm not a veterinarian. Besides, you know they'll keep her identity a secret until Saturday. They know there are people out there just like you who'd like to doctor that cow."

We all laughed. No one would think of bothering the cow, of course, but we'll all spend at least part of Saturday down in the bleachers at the high school football field keeping an eye on that cow. That's the whole fun of Cow-a-Dunga, of course.

By now, the kids have that acre of grass all crisscrossed with chalk lines, dividing the field up into one-yard squares. Each square sells for a buck. If all the squares sell, that's five grand for the kids. The winner is determined by a cow. On Saturday, a cow will be released onto the field, and watched carefully by a whole bunch of us. When the cow's digestive system causes her to plop a decoration on the field, the lucky holder of that square gets five hundred bucks.

There are, of course, strict rules against arm waving, chowsing noises, horn honking and the application of anything that might sway her toward or away from any particular square.

"I wonder," said Steve, "if there's any rule against using the evil eye. You know, like if she's heading for Doc's block of squares, I could send her a signal to hold it for a while."

"Cheaters never prosper," said Doc.

Brought to you by Slim's new book "A Cowboy's Guide to Growing Up Right." Learn more at http://www.nmsantos.com/Slim/Slim.html.

su|do|ku Solution

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

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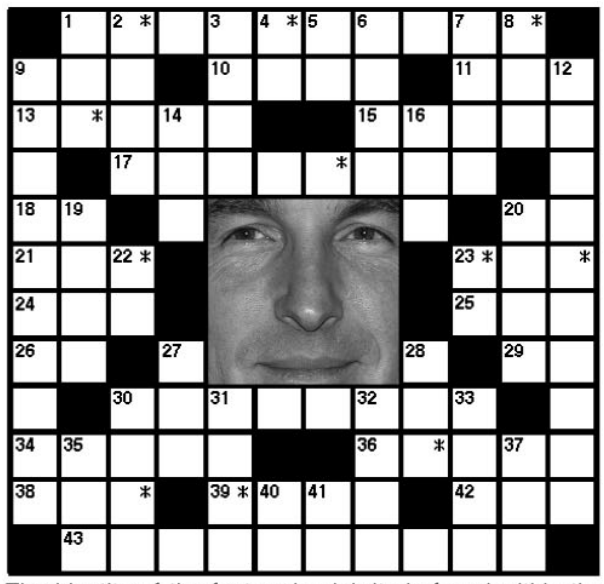

The identity of the featured celebrity is found within the answers in the puzzle. In order to take the TV Challenge, unscramble the letters noted with asterisks within the puzzle.

ACROSS
1. Matthew Perry sitcom (2)
9. "Hollywood Squares" win
10. Mia, for one
11. Suffix for long or strong
13. Loosen
15. "The Biggest __"
17. Ozzie's wife and others
18. "That's __ Raven"
20. "$..! __ Dad Says"
21. Miner's find
23. Don Stark's role on "That '70s Show"
24. __ Thurman
25. Jim Nabors' state of birth: abbr.
26. Prefix for place or play
29. Most-watched series of the 1998-99 season
30. One with a talk show (2)
34. Fill with joy
36. Too heavy
38. Role on "Roseanne"
39. Peter Krause's "Parenthood" role
42. Flying saucer drivers, for short
43. Actor on "CSI" (2)

DOWN
1. Night for "Mike & Molly": abbr.
2. __ IRA; savings for old age
3. Drug addict
4. Actress Ming-__
5. Ed Begley or Lon Chaney: abbr.
6. "Gilligan's Island" actor
7. Eliot __; lead role on "The Untouchables"
8. NNE plus 90 degrees
9. Ben Rappaport's series
12. Donald Glover's role on "Community" (2)
14. Actor McKellen
16. Baseball's Mel
19. "Coffee, Tea __ __?"; 1973 TV movie
20. "The __"; reality series once hosted by Anderson Cooper
22. Initials for a "Green Acres" star
23. Initials for Maude's portrayer
27. "__ Necessarily the News" (1983-90)
28. __ Hunter
30. Russell or Seymour
31. "Man of the __"; 2006 Robin Williams movie
32. "__ Alone"; film about Kevin McCallister
33. Donna or Shanna
35. Fail to keep up
37. Wall and Easy: abbr.
40. Initials for Lillian's sister
41. Actress Ekberg's initials

Solution
Brian Benben

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