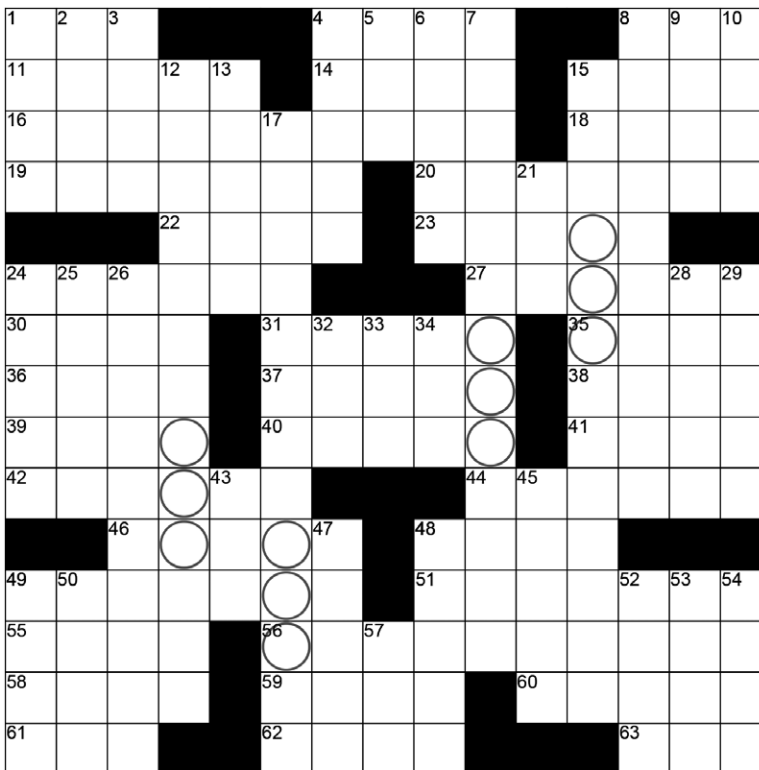


Minor Precipitation

ACROSS

- 1. Gap fillers, of sorts
- 4. Natural ground cover important for permafrost formation, or Homer's beer
- 8. Place for culture?
- 11. "Common" ailments
- 14. Fruit that sounds disgusting
- 15. Delhi wrap
- 16. Ignoring alarm bells?
- 18. Foes of Frodo
- 19. Certain cinematic segues
- 20. Protective sac
- 22. [And just like that!]
- 23. Sets of 52
- 24. Golden Slam winner Graf
- 27. Singers Bonnie and John
- 30. "Slaves of New York" author Janowitz



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- 31. "Reward" for poor service
- 35. Ten Benjamins
- 36. Proof word
- 37. Sculptor Noguchi
- 38. Digs in the woods?
- 39. "Clueless" clapback
- 40. Cagney or Lacey
- 41. Minneapolis representative Ilhan
- 42. He "was here"
- 44. "Better Things" star and creator Adlon
- 46. Lip-___
- 48. Christ the Redeemer donned his jersey in December 2023
- 49. Look onto the street, say
- 51. In a single try
- 55. Way off

- 56. Mom-to-be's party ... or a literal view of the circled letters
- 58. Heights of fashion?
- 59. Verve
- 60. In the know
- 61. Some ER workers
- 62. Overpumped?
- 63. New beginning?

DOWN

- 1. School across the bay from Berkeley, briefly
- 2. "Hi, Jaime!"
- 3. "Ethan Frome" accident vehicle
- 4. "Melancholia" star Kirsten
- 5. Bootmaker that sounds disgusted
- 6. Popped (out)
- 7. Digital figures?

- 8. "Dr. Zhivago" melody
- 9. Rainbows, e.g.
- 10. Cold, north wind of the Alps
- 12. You can make lumpias and chimichangas with them
- 13. Smarten (up)
- 15. "C'mon, take your best shot!"
- 17. Fidget toys that look like eight connected dice
- 21. Landing with tower assistance: Abbr.
- 24. Skirt chaser?
- 25. Ankle bones
- 26. Phishing expeditions
- 28. Like Mandarin and Navajo

- 29. Lotus ___
- 32. Ship equipped to take comprehensive met. obs.
- 33. One-third of XXX?
- 34. TBQH alternative
- 43. Palidromic artist and peace activist
- 45. Wahine's welcome
- 47. Reference signal generation unit in radars
- 48. "The Holdovers" director Alexander
- 49. Saudi royal name
- 50. Southwest wind in Italy
- 52. Scottish Gaelic : ___ :: Catalan : Joan
- 53. "American Gigolo" star Richard
- 54. Hydrox imitator
- 57. Unit of pressure

See page 415 for the answers to this puzzle.

➔ William H. Hooke is former director of the AMS Policy Program. This essay was posted March 129, 2024 on his blog, <https://www.livingontherealworld.org>. In 2010, AMS published his book, *Living on the Real World: How Thinking and Acting Like Meteorologists Will Help Save the Planet*.

Aha! I do indeed have such a pre-existing thought/memory to lean on.

It's the 1960s. I'm an undergraduate physics major at Swarthmore College, and I'm subscribing to the *American Journal of Physics*. In my August 1963 issue I encounter an article entitled "Batting the Ball" by Paul Kirkpatrick. The abstract reads "The velocity vector of a ball struck by a bat is a stated function of the ball and bat velocities, bat orientation, and certain constants. In the light of the equations of the collision, the operation and the consequences of swinging the bat are analyzed, and the role of the constants is discussed."

Utterly fascinating! Physics *rules!* I eagerly shared these insights with my mathematician/statistician father, who had played quite a bit of baseball in his younger days, and was a lifelong, ardent fan. This would be our chance to bond!

"Dad, look at this article, which lists 90+ parameters and actions a batter has to adjust to hit a baseball!"

My father's response was swift—and dismissive: "If I were a pitcher, I'd be sure to send copies of this article to the opposing team."

Hmm. Not quite the response I had expected. Or hoped for. But so spot on. In the 60 years since, I've thought of this incident again and again.

Which brings us back to Daniel Kahneman. His body of work is extraordinarily useful for critiquing the decision-making under uncertainty facing all of us when we are confronted with daily weather information, especially when that information matters most. But what about the implications of this work for anyone contemplating writing a research paper on any subject, or a thought piece of any type—whether an article or book, or a blog post or podcast? Facing so many pitfalls of thinking to avoid, how do we actually move forward? What misplaced pride possibly allows us to imagine we'll be making a positive contribution, instead of adding to the world's already stupefying stock of faulty thinking and misinformation?

Whew! What's a thinker to do? I'll have more in the next *LOTRW* post, but in the meantime,

Your (fast and slow) thoughts, please. ●



Answers to the puzzle on page 409.