

PRESS ROOM BANTER

Thoughts from an Oakland ballgame



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It took a chilly, introspective Tuesday evening in Oakland to learn that being alone is not synonymous with being lonely.

I had purchased one ticket for the second game of the As-Mariners series just two days prior on a spring break whim. I'd never seen an M's game by myself before.

Waiting by myself for the Fremont train in the smelly Berkeley BART station, among throngs of boisterous As fans laughing and conversing, I began to regret my whimsy.

Who goes to a baseball

game by himself, I wondered. It's a social event by nature; the slow pace of the game lends to conversation and company. What would I do in the half-innings of inactivity? What are all those people with their friends and their jokes going to think of me, alone in a sea of camaraderie?

These questions ran through my mind as I boarded the train. I found a seat near the window and gazed at the sun setting over the Oakland skyline.

The train arrived, and I took the long walk down the corridor between the BART station and the Oakland Coliseum. Not content with my third-deck seat, I snuck past an usher during the national anthem and found a seat in the first deck, parallel with the left-fielder on the third-base line.

After falling behind one run early, the M's grabbed the lead for good in the third on a three-run homer from left fielder Mike Morse. I stood up and clapped while the surrounding fans groaned and booed the lone Mariners fan.

As the game wore on and the As fell even further behind, fans streamed for the exits. The sun faded into the hills beyond the stadium,

and those remaining in the park bundled up with blankets and heavy coats.

Lying in bed later that night, I reflected on my initial hesitancy at the Berkeley BART station. The game ended up being fun as hell.

I enjoyed analyzing the pitching and fielding of the players without the distraction of my friends. I liked texting my dad and friends watching from home. Sure, there's plenty to recommend about going to the ballpark with your buddies, but the experience of going to a ballgame by oneself is both vastly different and similarly enjoyable.

My hesitance, I think, stemmed from my perception of the stigmas attached to attending an event alone.

In a vacuum, doing things alone is no big deal. But in my mind, I didn't want to be the abstract archetype of a friendless loner. Those weren't the actual circumstances, but my idea of what it meant to go to a baseball game by myself made me feel as if they were.

It's much lonelier to succumb to your personal insecurities, I figured.

With that thought, I turned out my lamp, laid my head down on my pillow and fell asleep, content as I'd ever been. ■

W. TENNIS: Cal gives chance for Duranteau to play tennis

FROM BACK

about yourself and fight against some bad habits that you have."

As her love of tennis grew, Alice never thought about being a doctor. She was actually turned off from the medical field when she was young because her parents were busy with work. She didn't understand why she couldn't see them more often.

"Early in my life, I was a little pissed at my parents," Alice says. "I was hearing about my friends spending time, going to the movies or going somewhere with their parents, and I never went out with my family."

At age 16, Alice realized that her parents were as passionate about medicine as she was about tennis. Alice's frustration turned to admiration. She realized that she wanted to help people like her parents.

However, she couldn't do both in France. Becoming a doctor there can take up to 10 years, but the first two are medicine only — she would have

had to give up tennis. Alice wasn't ready to give up her lifelong love of tennis just yet. In order to pursue both tennis and medicine simultaneously, she had to come to America.

While Alice was looking for schools, she was drawn to Cal due to its strong academics. During her trip to Cal, Alice met other international players who helped make her feel comfortable.

Alice saw how other European players were able to balance rigorous academics with ambitious athletic goals. And when Cal offered her a scholarship, Alice's decision was easy.

"How could you even say no?" Alice says about coming to Berkeley. "It's very inspiring here. They teach you how to go for your dreams and see things bigger."

Now that Alice is at Cal, she's found pursuing both of her dreams to be both challenging and rewarding.

Tennis begins for Alice at 7:45 a.m. every morning for conditioning and weights. She then has class during the middle of the day before tennis practice from 2-6 p.m. She then heads to the Student Learning Center to study with her tutors. She often doesn't get home until late at night.

During fall and spring semesters, Alice doesn't have the four-hour blocks of free time to fit in the necessary labs she needs for her biology major. She can't take all the classes she needs to be on pace to graduate.

So Alice has to take summer classes, giving up opportunities to be back in France with her family over the break. Last year, she went through a seven-month stretch which she didn't go back home.

When she did go back home, it was a brief 10-day visit.

The roles between Alice and her parents are now switched — Alice is the one working so hard and so long that she can never be at home with her family.

But despite the long separation, her parents understand.

"We are happy if Alice is fulfilling her project," Lise says. "We have no philosophy besides this belief: you are the sole person who knows what you like, what you need and what you wish — so do it."

In Berkeley, Alice is doing it. Despite the difficulty, she knows the long journey will pay dividends for her in the end.

"I tell myself it's worth it," Alice says. "Because I'm going to do something with it." ■

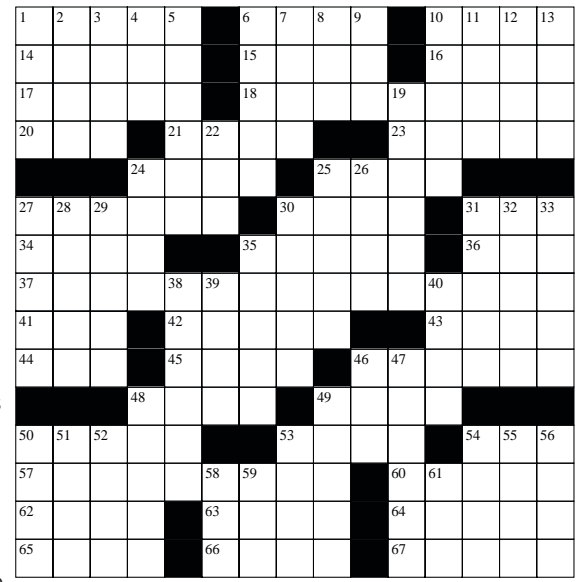
PUZZLES

ACROSS

1. Esteem
6. Malayan boat
10. Orient
14. Tolerate
15. Rowers' needs
16. Pi times radius squared
17. Irish ___
18. Slowpoke
20. Charge
21. Connects
23. Single
24. Group of animals
25. Somme srta.
27. Untroubled
30. Set off on a voyage
31. Jacuzzi
34. Jacket type
35. ___ acid
36. Up to the time that, for short
37. 1977 Bancroft/MaLaine movie
41. Rose Kennedy's youngest
42. Metal containers
43. Before: pref.
44. Alternative words
45. Blackthorn
46. Man of the cloth
48. Hammer part
49. Civil wrong
50. Dazzling display
53. Desertlike
54. New Testament bk.
57. Non-strenuous pastime
60. Leave out
62. Multitude
63. Sign
64. Adamant refusal
65. Makes a choice
66. Difficult situation
67. Minute

DOWN

1. 1/8 and 3/8
2. Acting award
3. Four and five
4. Poet's composition
5. Lease signer
6. Sat for an artist
7. Vermin



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

PREVIOUS ANSWERS

M	O	G	U	L	F	E	W	E	R	B	O	B	
A	C	U	T	E	A	R	O	M	A	A	L	I	
C	H	E	E	S	E	C	A	K	E	S	R	I	D
O	R	S	S	I	T	S	R	H	I	N	O	S	
N	E	S	T	E	R	E	D	G	E	R	S		
A	N	E	W	A	E	R	A	T	E	D			
T	A	S	K	S	R	U	I	N	S	O	D	E	
A	G	U	E	M	E	A	N	T	B	R	I	E	
F	I	R	H	E	A	R	T	P	O	M	E	S	
T	O	P	C	O	A	T	Y	A	R	N			
R	A	N	T	H	E	G	E	N	D	E	R		
S	H	I	L	O	H	G	E	R	E	A	R	A	
H	I	S	R	E	A	R	R	A	N	G	I	N	G
O	R	E	E	A	T	E	R	E	E	R	I	E	
W	E	D	E	D	I	T	S	R	E	Y	E	S	

website). In this kind of puzzle, we'll give you a box with some information, but no instructions. Figuring out what to do is the hardest part. Each puzzle will have a TITLE. The title usually indicates the theme of the puzzle or provides a clue about how to manipulate the information you've been given.

Solving the puzzle requires extracting an ANSWER from the given information. The answer will be a single English word. It should become clear when you've found the answer. Sometimes you may think you need to consult external information; that's okay, no resource is off-limits when solving. When you think you know the answer, check it on our website.

USE CITIES

- Sustain
- Book Club
- Amuse
- Annotations
- Athletes
- Owner
- Salute
- Diagnoses
- Leotard

<https://www.facebook.com/CalPuzzlers>

by The Campus League of Puzzlers

Solution to NOT ALWAYS TOTALLY OBVIOUS:

The first letters of the words in the puzzle title spell NATO, cluing the NATO phonetic alphabet (where alpha=A, bravo=B, etc.). Each of the trivia clues has multiple answers, but only one answer contains a word that is in the phonetic alphabet. The answers are (in the order the clues were given): Sierra Nevadas, Oscar the Grouch, Adriana Lima, Echo, MIKE, November. Taking the letters represented by these words gives the answer SOLEMN.

Congratulations to Matt W., Aaron, and Shang, who were the first three to submit the correct answer to last week's puzzle on our website (<http://puzzle.berkeley.edu>).

The 2013 Berkeley Mystery Hunt is coming up on Sunday, May 5th. The hunt is a 12 hour puzzle solving competition based on the MIT Mystery Hunt. Teams of up to 10 try to solve puzzles as fast as they can to ultimately locate an item of interest hidden somewhere on campus. If you and your friends like puzzles, start getting together your team. No previous puzzling experience necessary! For more information, or to register, visit our website.

This column is another in our series of "game puzzles". (You can find an archive of past columns on our

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