

## A 4-letter synonym for MERDE

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A terrible blow. My subscription to the NY Times has become irrevocably screwed up, and now I get no newspaper delivered, and finally I have gotten them to stop billing me for the unarriving paper, but I have yet to rev up my stamina to make the necessary phone call/s that might, if I can get past the electronic menu, get them to start up my subscription. I want a truce, a no-blame treaty, and I want my NYTimes on my front porch every morning. But it isn't happening yet.

That, however, is not my terrible blow. The blow is this: that this morning I said goodbye to my overnight guest, put on my coat and gloves and hat and boots, and went out to buy the NY Times, maybe a 2-mile drive to the drugstore. I bought their last copy, and also bought some cough drops, because it is that time of year, and a brand new EnerGel pen for doing the NY Times crossword puzzle, something I have sorely missed during my weeks without it.

And when I got home, I opened up my new pen, poured a fresh cup of coffee, and opened up the NY Times...and WWWAAAHHH there is no maagzone section in it. Hence, no crossword puzzle.

Okay, I have the international news, and the Arts and Leisure section, and The News of the Week in Review, and I have Sports, even though I don't really care about the Patriots any more after last week's game. But I do. not. have. the. puzzle. Abd this is a devastating blow.

I am thinking of going back to bed, even though it is 11 AM. Yes, I am that sad.

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