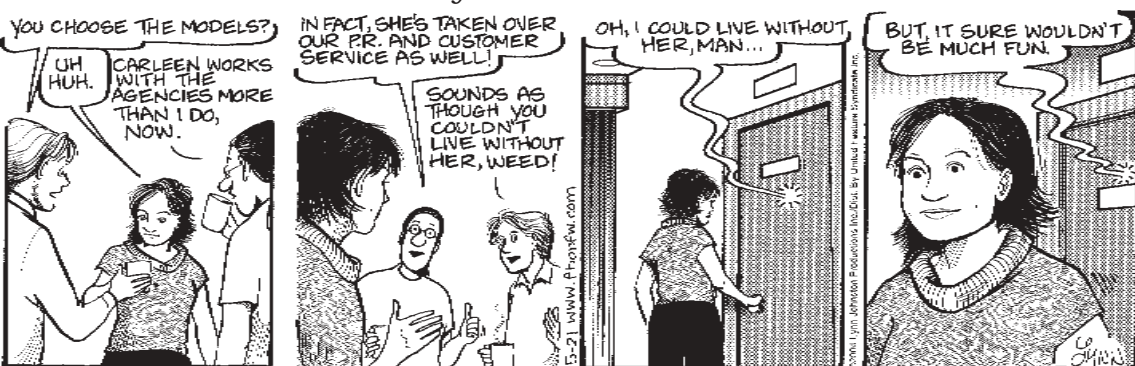
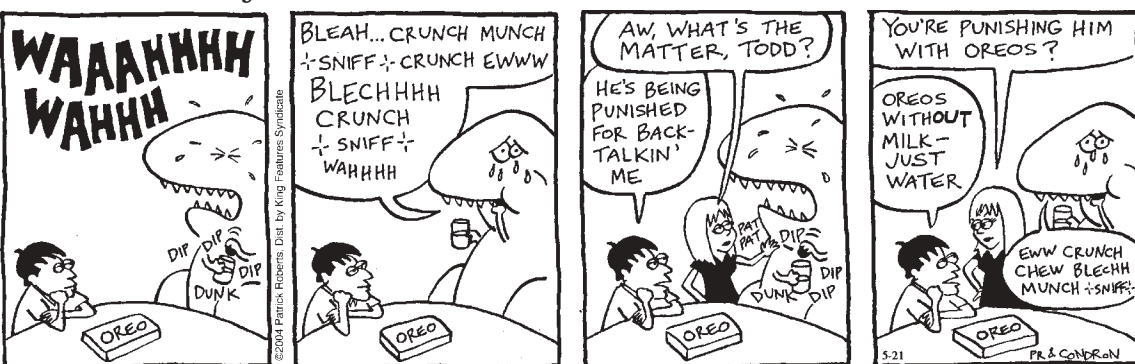


**For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston**



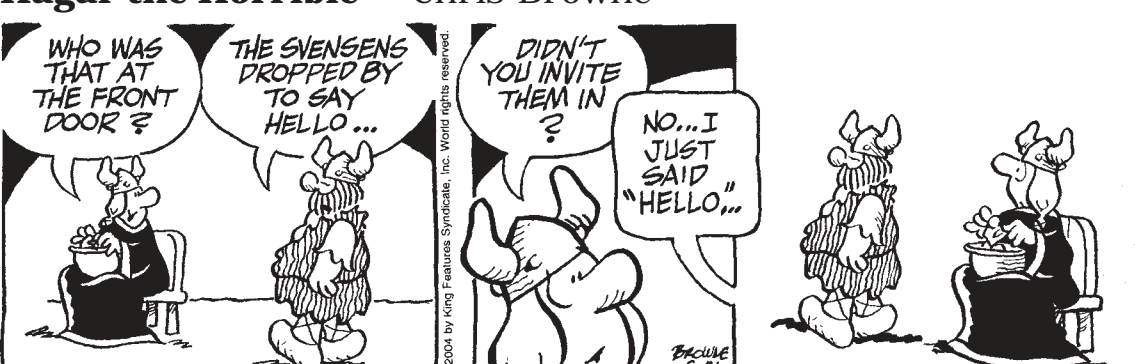
**Geech • Jerry Bittle**



**Garfield • Jim Davis**



**Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne**



**Blondie • Chic Young**



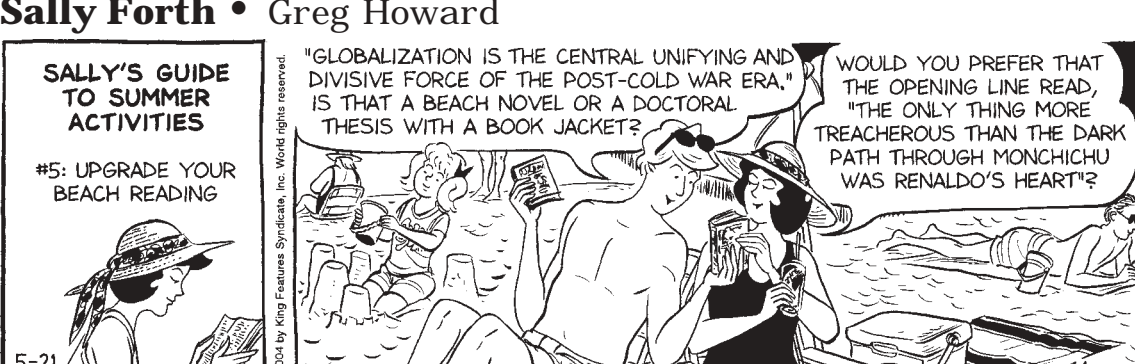
**Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker**



**Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott**



**Sally Forth • Greg Howard**



**Cryptoquip**

TGBZ X FMW'J JGXIQT PJ  
 O U V FDN SW NU  
 W POKNQNWPMDQ DOCM  
 OBPZF YXR, WQM  
 NH VAZDVT, CNMQ ZPVZ  
 APFGR YVXPA RGXR  
 AVTM OZ V ZDVOH NU  
 ZPNSFPZ?  
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A CRAFTSMAN CONSTRUCTS A BEAUTIFUL MANTEL, SHOULD HE BE SHELF-SATISFIED?  
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals E

OU V FDN SW NU  
 W POKNQNWPMDQ DOCM  
 NH VAZDVT, CNMQ ZPVZ  
 AVTM OZ V ZDVOH NU  
 ZPNSFPZ?  
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A GUY'S SHADOW IS BEING CAST, YOU MIGHT CLAIM THAT HE'S BESIDE HIMSELF.  
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals T

**Crossword**

- ACROSS**  
 1 Lawyers' org.  
 4 Frenzied  
 7 James or Jackson  
 12 Actor Beatty  
 13 Unclose, in verse  
 14 Forcefully  
 15 Mai — (cocktail)  
 17 Arthur Miller play  
 18 "Rocks"  
 19 Word on an otherwise blank page  
 20 Drink heartily  
 22 More, to Manuel  
 23 Pull an all-nighter  
 27 Filch  
 29 Thoroughgoing  
 31 Judicial raiments  
 34 Tool for 18-Across  
 35 Very nearly  
 37 Cretan peak
- DOWN**  
 2 Delray or Myrtle  
 3 Farewell  
 4 Complain  
 5 Self-confidence  
 6 Triangular area  
 7 Blue birds  
 8 Type squares  
 9 — Paulo  
 10 Sermon topic  
 11 Halves of 8-Down  
 17 Arizona city  
 21 Dabchick  
 23 Conceal  
 24 Director Howard  
 25 Calendar abbr.
- 38** Apportion  
**39** Hostel  
**41** Kentucky fort  
**45** Hag  
**47** Mimic  
**48** Sinatra classic  
**52** Still or Affleck  
**53** "A Visit From St. Nicholas" poet  
**54** Noshed  
**55** Plata partner  
**56** Foretell  
**57** "Of course!"  
**58** Illegalize
- 26** Range abbr.  
**28** Columbus sch.  
**30** Inc., in the U.K.  
**31** Battering device  
**32** Flamenco cheer  
**33** Lunch-counter order  
**36** Grow weary  
**37** Belonging from birth  
**40** Never!  
**42** Business bigwig  
**43** Phantom's bailiwick  
**44** Inert gas  
**45** "Moon-struck" star  
**46** Spuds' buds  
**48** "I — Camera"  
**49** Boudreau of baseball  
**50** Journal  
**51** Play about Capote

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

BYE	COPS	LOGS
OTL	LURE	OBOE
OPERATOR	CITE	
VIM	AVIATOR	
CHAMPS	EAT	
OAT	SOP	MONKS
BLOC	YEW	RANI
SORRY	NAB	RED
EEL	DEGREE	
EQUATOR	ASA	
BUNT	DICTATOR	
RADO	GORE	OFF
ODOR	ETON	RAD

Yesterday's answer 5-21

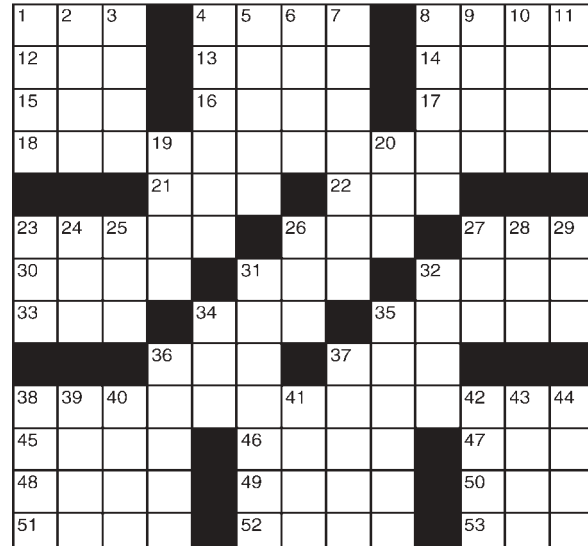


- ACROSS**  
 1 Hot tub  
 4 Shake-speare, e.g.  
 8 Noise of thunder  
 12 Rotating piece  
 13 Pennsylvania port  
 14 Start from scratch  
 15 Gorilla  
 16 Saucer-shaped bell  
 17 It takes the cake  
 18 Raffle occurrence  
 21 — moment  
 22 Conclusion  
 23 "I dunno yet"  
 26 Prepared  
 27 Cattle call  
 30 Mid-month date  
 31 Wife of Saturn  
 32 Gilpin of "Frasier"  
 33 Ply a paddle  
 34 Web victim
- DOWN**  
 1 Cicatrix  
 2 One of the Three Bears  
 3 Congregational cry  
 4 "Scat!"  
 5 Bakery temptation  
 6 Orange coat  
 7 Grads get them  
 8 Throng  
 9 Jeans-maker  
 10 Mideast port  
 11 Vintage video game  
 19 Claim  
 20 Formicary dweller
- 35** Actor Davenport  
**36** Coquettish  
**37** Tailor's goal  
**38** It takes two  
**45** Eastern potentate  
**46** Glazier's sheet  
**47** Part of UCLA  
**48** Mediocre  
**49** Wading bird  
**50** Matter-horn, e.g.  
**51** Look for keywords  
**52** Curtain-call group  
**53** Beatnik's interjection
- 23** Former spacecraft  
**24** Difficulty  
**25** Archery-bow wood  
**26** Austin Powers, e.g.  
**27** "Little Women" woman  
**28** Tramcar contents  
**29** Unctuous stuff  
**31** Lofty  
**32** Compassion  
**34** Adversary  
**35** Most pleasant  
**36** Unalterable disk  
**37** French  
**22-Across**  
**38** "Touched by an Angel" role  
**39** Uncontrollable  
**40** Unless (Lat.)  
**41** Rum cake  
**42** Untalkative one  
**43** Kinks' song  
**44** "Sports-Center" venue

**Solution time: 27 mins.**

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

Yesterday's answer 5-22



**Bridge**

**1. You, West, are in Six Spades, and North leads the king of clubs. How would you play the hand?**

**West**  
 ♠ A Q J 10 9 8  
 ♥ A Q J  
 ♦ A Q J  
 ♣ 6

**East**  
 ♠ 5 2  
 ♥ K 10 8  
 ♦ 9 7 4  
 ♣ A J 8 4 3

**2. You, West, are declarer at Six Hearts, and North leads the queen of spades. How would you play the hand? (Assume that the trumps are divided 3-2.)**

**West**  
 ♠ A K  
 ♥ K Q J 5  
 ♦ A 9 8 6 2  
 ♣ A Q

**East**  
 ♠ 7  
 ♥ A 10 9 3  
 ♦ K J 10 4  
 ♣ 9 6 5 3

**Test Your Play**

1. You have only two entries to dummy, so you will be able to take only two finesses. The question, therefore, is whether it is better, after taking the ace of clubs, to finesse in trumps or diamonds. It is true that South might have either king, and to that extent either finesse has a 50-50 chance of winning. But insofar as making the contract is concerned, you are much better off trying the diamond finesse.

If South has the king of diamonds, your worries are over, because your next move will be to play the ace and another trump, planning to repeat the diamond finesse later. If the early diamond finesse loses, you can still get home safely if South started with the singleton or doubleton king of spades.

The decisive factor is that the early trump finesse does not necessarily make the slam even if it succeeds, because South might have four or five trumps to the king, while the diamond finesse virtually guarantees the slam if South has the king.

2. Draw three rounds of trumps and cash the ace of spades, discarding a club from dummy. Then play a diamond to the king, and if both opponents follow suit, the contract is assured. Continue with the jack and, if South follows low, finesse.

If the jack wins, you make at least 12 tricks, while if it loses, the slam is still certain, since North must next either return a club into your A-Q or hand you a ruff-and-discard. If South shows out on the jack of diamonds, you are still in good shape. Simply win the jack with the ace and concede a diamond to North, forcing him to make a losing return.

North dealer.  
 Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
 ♠ A K 2  
 ♥ A Q 8 4  
 ♦ A 10 9 8  
 ♣ A J

**WEST**  
 ♠ 10 9 8 4  
 ♥ 7 5  
 ♦ 5 4 2  
 ♣ 10 7 6 3

**EAST**  
 ♠ Q 6 5 3  
 ♥ 6 3  
 ♦ K J 7  
 ♣ 9 5 4 2

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ J 7  
 ♥ K J 10 9 2  
 ♦ Q 6 3  
 ♣ K Q 8

The bidding:  
 North 2 NT  
 East Pass  
 South 3♥  
 West Pass

Opening lead — ten of spades.

**Card Combinations**

The study of card combinations is a project that yields dividends time and time again. For example, consider the North-South diamond holding in today's deal, and let's say that in a given case — not necessarily this one — your aim is to avoid losing more than one trick in the suit.

One method of play is to lead low to the ace and return the ten. If East follows low, you can let the ten ride or go up with the queen. If East has the jack, playing low on the ten wins, but if he has the king, the queen is the winning play. Whether you are successful depends on how good a guesser you are.

Another approach is to lead a low diamond from the closed hand and finesse dummy's eight. If the eight loses to the jack, you later try another finesse, hoping your right-hand opponent was not dealt the king and jack.

The second method of play is much better than the first because there is about a 75 percent chance that East does not hold both honors, while if you play the ace followed by the ten, your chances will not be nearly as good as that.

Even so, you shouldn't blindly choose the second line of play, for there might be other factors to consider. In the present case, for instance, you can improve your prospects even further by adopting a third line of play. Accordingly, you win the spade lead with the ace, draw trumps, cash the king of spades and ruff a spade. Next you cash the A-K-Q of clubs and lead a low diamond to the eight.

East takes the jack, but even if he has the king, the slam is home. Because you have taken the precaution of eliminating the side suits before tackling diamonds, there is nothing he can do to stop you from scoring the rest of the tricks.

**Family Circus • Bill Keane**

