

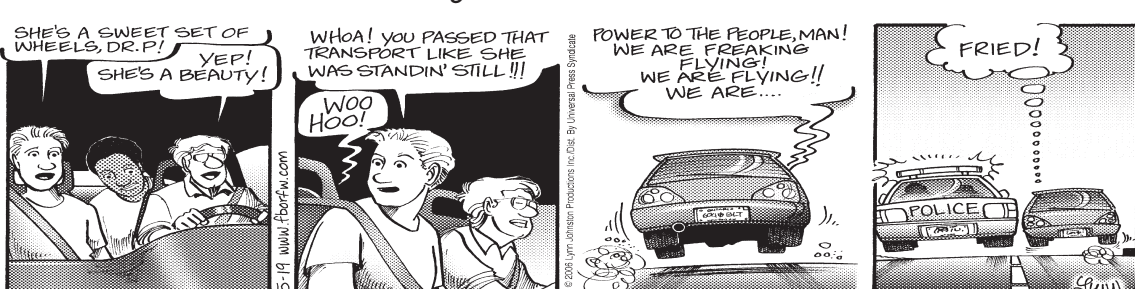
**Retail • Norm Feuti (Sample)**



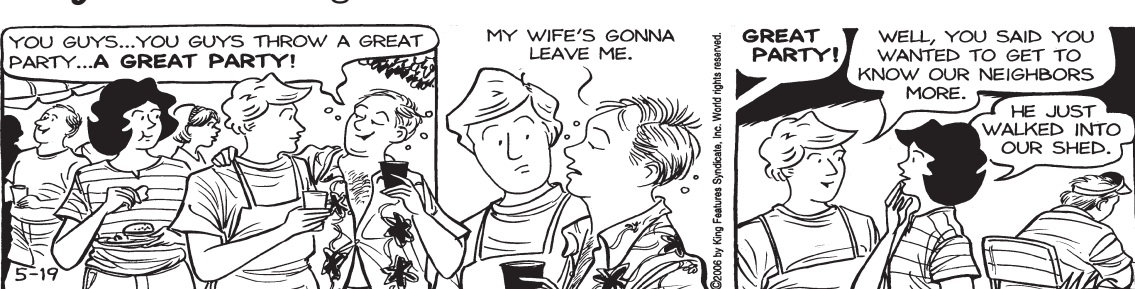
**Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott (Sample)**



**For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston**



**Sally Forth • Greg Howard**



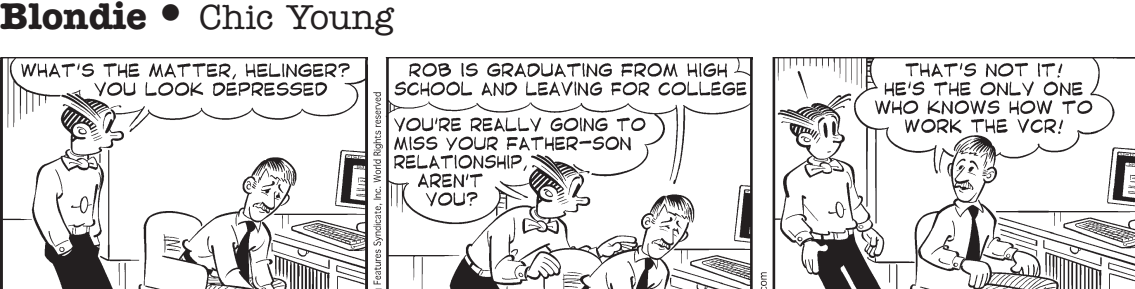
**Garfield • Jim Davis**



**Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne**



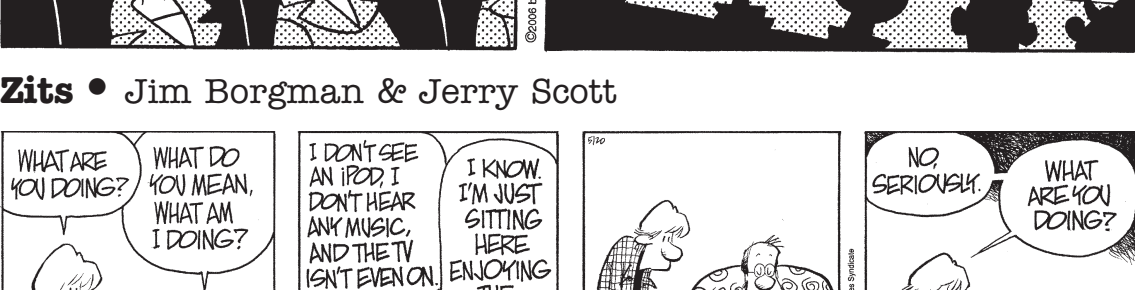
**Blondie • Chic Young**



**Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker**



**Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott**



**Cryptoquip**

LU B UAWK LQ UPHLSK PGP RAI PMGUU EIU RAJR  
 OBADLGVHBAHM UAWHLGQWFP OCFIRAGDH KJO FGOGDH  
 L QVOOWQP LD FLKCD EMCF GRO UGEI? KIUU,  
 KW WS B CWOOLSK QOAPP. FJQNI J UGRUI NGR.  
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: EVERYONE ARRIVED IN LARGE NUMBERS TO SEE THE NEW HUGE MURAL. IT WAS A VERY BIG DRAW. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A FROG IS FEELING PARTICULARLY FROLICSOME, I SUPPOSE IT MIGHT GO ON A HOPPING SPREE.  
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals I Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals D

**Crossword**

**ACROSS**  
 1 Pouch  
 4 Wager  
 7 Sundance offering  
 12 Poorly  
 13 In the style of  
 14 Due (to)  
 15 Old French coin  
 16 Waving over  
 18 Massachusetts cape  
 19 Duck  
 20 Building-block name  
 22 Curvy character  
 23 Not barefoot  
 27 Riddle's punch line, often  
 29 Give support to  
 31 Where the elated walk  
 34 Partners  
 35 Prolific  
 37 Scoundrel  
 38 Abound

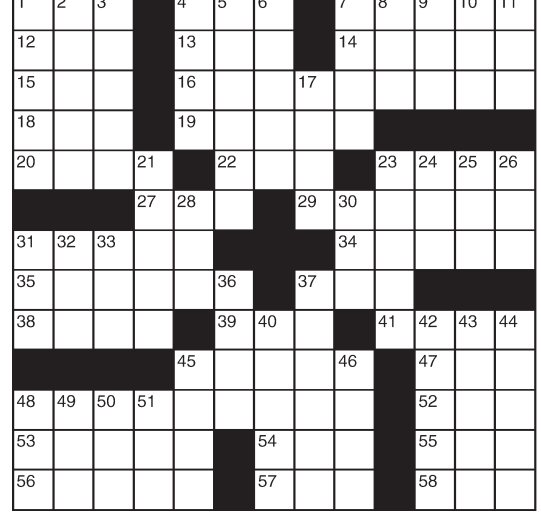
**DOWN**  
 1 Twine  
 2 Unaccompanied  
 3 Adhered  
 4 Ali —  
 5 Football team  
 6 Mexican entrees  
 7 Disposition  
 8 Have  
 9 Half of XIV  
 10 B&B  
 11 Early bird?  
 17 Smooch  
 21 Poppy self  
 23 Eat greedily

**39** Noted NCAA coach  
**41** Datum  
**45** Soprano  
**47** Postal word  
**48** Computation  
**52** Anger  
**53** Use  
**54** Halloween shout  
**55** West of Hollywood  
**56** Minimal change  
**57** Em halves  
**58** Hirt and Gore

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

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

Yesterday's answer 5-19



**ACROSS**  
 1 TV alien  
 4 Grouch  
 8 Symbol of 41-Down  
 12 Rocky peak  
 13 Old Italian bread  
 14 Andy's pal  
 15 Lennon's lady  
 16 Ellipse  
 17 Pop  
 18 Frank recipe  
 21 Either T in AT&T  
 22 Chic no longer  
 23 Details  
 26 Moo goo gai pan  
 27 Turn on the water-works  
 30 Milne bruin  
 31 Crib  
 32 Diner's card  
 33 Longing  
 34 Choke  
 35 The EWings' home  
 36 Pack away

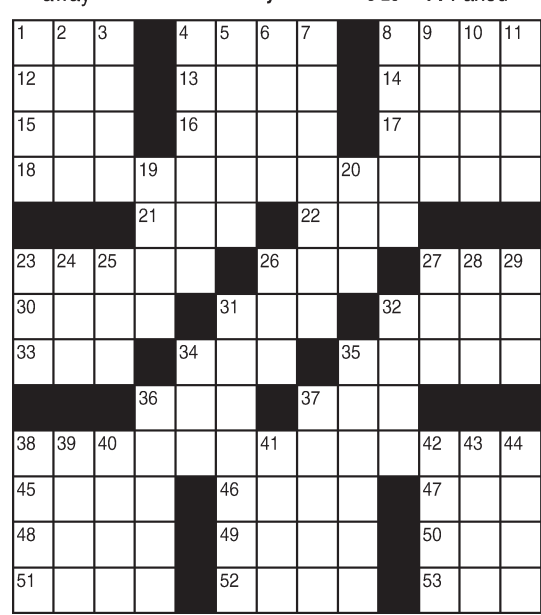
**DOWN**  
 1 Covering  
 2 Actress Anderson  
 3 Potential prince?  
 4 They may be beside themselves  
 5 Competitor  
 6 Speedy steed  
 7 Increase rapidly  
 8 Lacks  
 9 Beyond control  
 10 Took the train  
 11 11th-grade exam (Abbr.)

**19** Pruritus  
**20** Diving bird  
**23** Agent  
**24** "Ulalume" writer  
**25** A very long time  
**26** Alopecia concealer  
**27** West-heimer topic  
**28** — roll  
**29** Clear the tables  
**31** Soaking spot  
**32** Media mogul Griffin  
**34** Roscoe  
**35** Cave dwellers of folklore  
**36** Thames county  
**37** Brilliance  
**38** Fair share, maybe  
**39** Evangelist Roberts  
**40** Pool occupant?  
**41** Green acres  
**42** Vortex  
**43** Libertine  
**44** Faxed

**Solution time: 27 mins.**

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

Yesterday's answer 5-20



**Family Circus • Bill Keane**



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**Bridge — Bidding Quiz**

You are South and have the following hand, both sides vulnerable:  
 ♠ 10 ♥ AKQ93 ♦ A82 ♣ AK104

**1. The bidding has gone:**

South	West	North	East
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
?			

What would you bid now?

**2. The bidding has gone:**

South	West	North	East
1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
?			

What would you bid now?

**3. The bidding has gone:**

East	South	West	North
3 ♠	Dble	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	?		

\*\*\*

1. Four diamonds. You might feel tempted to simply bid four hearts because partner might not have much of a hand, given his bidding so far. However, it costs you nothing to make a slam try by bidding four diamonds. Partner does not need much for 12 tricks to materialize. Thus, he might have as little as [S] 953 [H] J1062 [D] KQ74 [C] 73, in which case you'd certainly want to be in six.

2. Three notrump. Things are no longer as promising as they were when you opened the bidding. Partner probably has six spades, but the fact that he has lots of spades doesn't add anything to your values. Furthermore, partner may have no more than six or seven points, although his strength is unlimited at this point. You therefore try to put a stop to the auction by bidding three notrump, and leave the rest to partner.

3. Pass. The purpose of East's pre-emptive bid is to make things tough for you, and he certainly has succeeded here with his opening three-spade bid. There are three main actions you can consider under the circumstances, and any of them could prove right or wrong. One is to pass, which is admittedly conservative. Another is to bid four spades, inviting partner to bid a slam. The third possibility is to raise four hearts to five. There is no clear-cut answer, but the conservative view will probably work out best in the long run.

Tomorrow: A crucial decision.  
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North dealer.  
 Neither side vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
 —  
 ♥ AKJ10984  
 ♦ 1072  
 ♣ J73

**WEST**  
 ♠ QJ1085  
 ♥ Q72  
 ♦ 63  
 ♣ 854

**EAST**  
 ♠ 76432  
 ♥ 5  
 ♦ 9854  
 ♣ 1092

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ AK9  
 ♥ 63  
 ♦ AKQJ  
 ♣ AKQ6

The bidding:  
 North East South West  
 4 ♥ Pass 4 NT Pass  
 5 ♣ Pass 5 NT Pass  
 6 ♦ Pass 7 NT  
 Opening lead — queen of spades.

**A Crucial Decision**

Some hands stand or fall on one key decision, and declarer is best advised in such cases to delay that decision until the last possible moment. South failed to do that in this deal when he impetuously went down in an ice-cold grand slam.

West led the queen of spades, and it was immediately apparent to declarer that the outcome would hinge on how he fared in hearts.

Having learned that with nine cards of a suit missing four to the queen, it was better to play for the drop of the queen rather than attempt a finesse. South won the spade lead and all too hastily cashed the A-K of hearts to go down one, losing a spade trick at the end.

Declarer was extremely remiss when he plunged headlong into tackling the hearts in this fashion. With 12 sure tricks in sight — two spades, two hearts, four diamonds and four clubs — there was no need to make the crucial decision in hearts so early in the play.

Upon winning the spade lead with the king, he should have played a heart to the ace and then cashed four clubs and the A-K-Q of diamonds to produce this position:

North	[H] KJ109
West	[S] J10
	[H] Q7
East	[S] 764
	[D] 9
South	[S] A9
	[H] 6
	[D] J

The lead of the jack of diamonds at this point would have destroyed West.

Whatever he discarded, South would score the rest of the tricks. Guessing whether or not to finesse in hearts would not have entered the picture at all.  
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