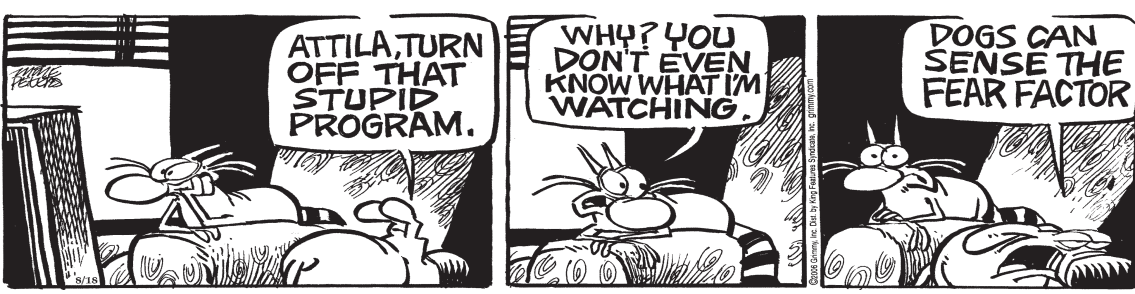
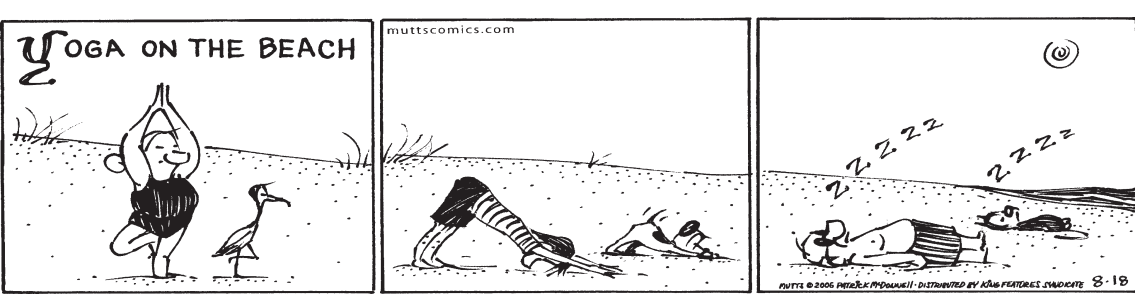


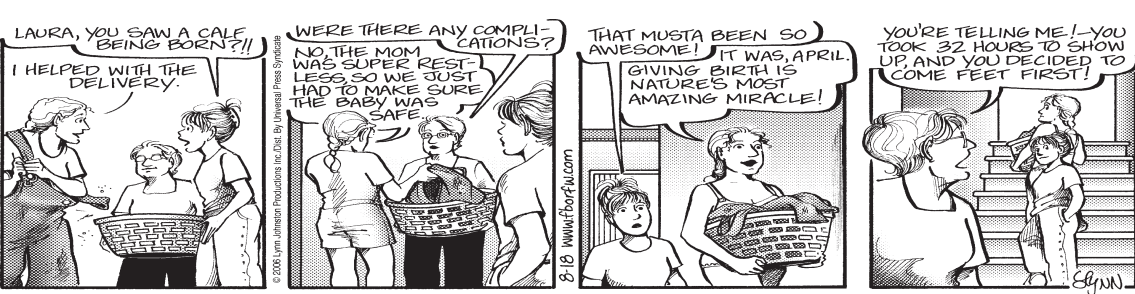
**Mother Goose & Grim** • Mike Peters (Sample)



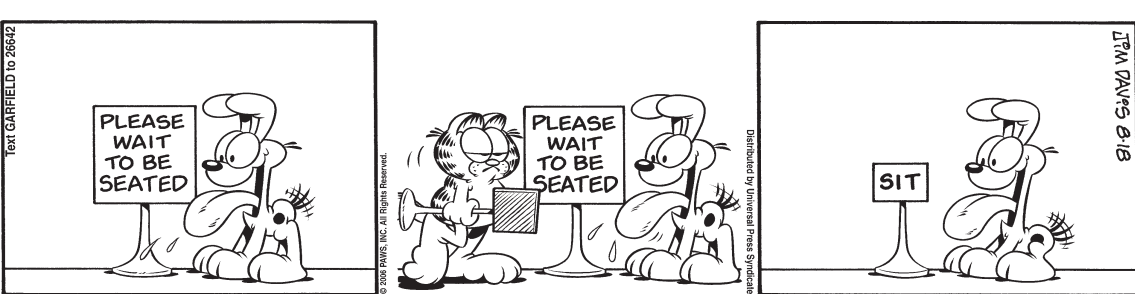
**Mutts** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott (Sample)



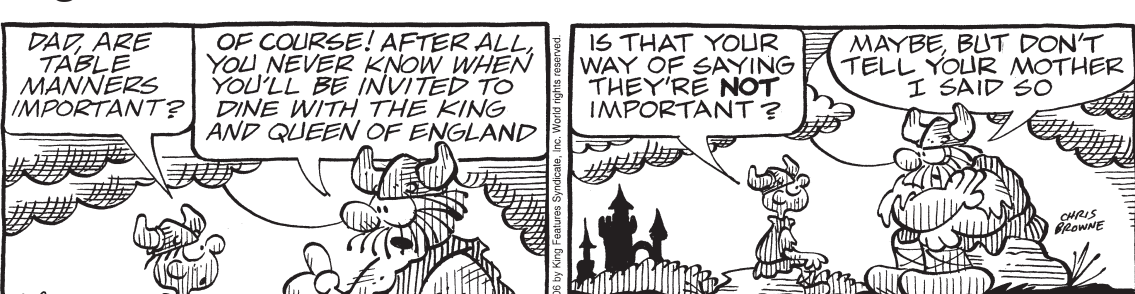
**For Better or Worse** • Lynn Johnston



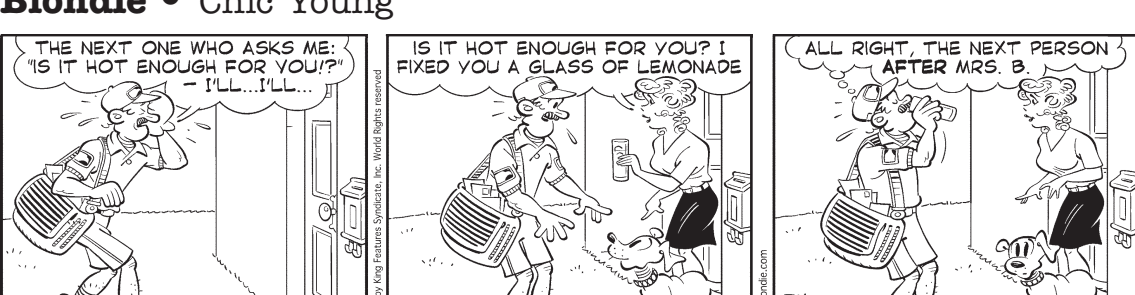
**Garfield** • Jim Davis



**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



**Blondie** • Chic Young



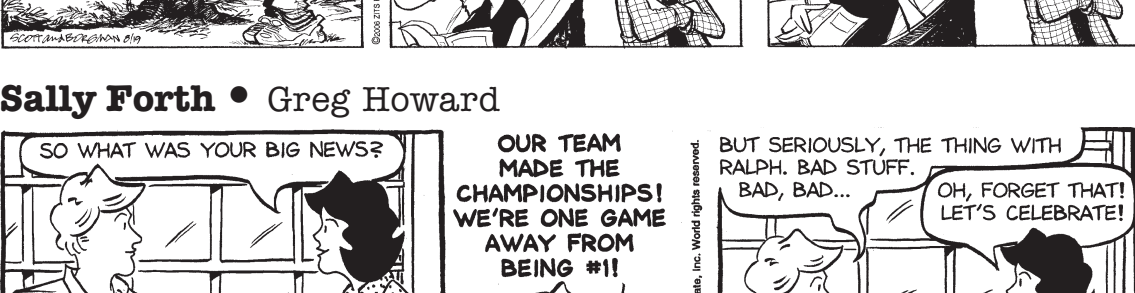
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Cryptoquip**

K T H O H S V L J J N B Y N J K ' J Y Q S Z O X A E E S H H G Q Q A X E  
H C L N O I H Y K F U J C L N K H B A G B U A M X A S O E G U S Z A,  
O S N V H Q, E L K K T B J H F H S H G H A F Y M J O X A Q A X O G O J S O

I H S H R Q J K U K L J V Q I E U R J. S E E G O J A X H Z G F O G X O.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BEING FIRST TO DECIDE ON SOME SPARKLING ORNAMENTAL BITS, I HAD THE PICK OF THE GLITTER. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE PERCUSSIONIST'S EQUIPMENT WAS QUITE PRICEY, BUT THOSE WERE MERELY STATUS CYMBALS.

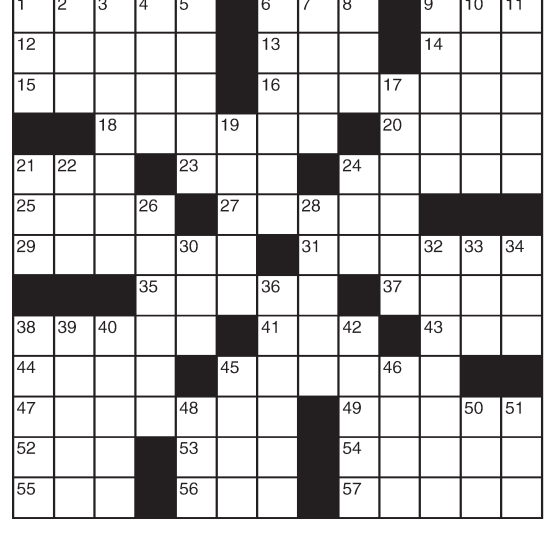
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals H Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals N

**Crossword**

- ACROSS**  
1 Hindu prince  
6 Type squares  
9 Roadie's burden, at times  
12 Humiliate  
13 Without a — (broke)  
14 Standard  
15 More festive  
16 Gandolfini role  
18 Foam  
20 Piccadilly statue  
21 Chart format  
23 Buddhist sect  
24 Access  
25 Writer  
27 Go  
29 Dowa-ger's pet, typically  
31 Mason or Matlock  
35 Mercenary  
37 Asian legume  
38 Aspect  
41 Lettuce variety  
43 Suburb of Mel-bourne  
44 Culture medium  
45 It may fol-low inter-mission  
47 Ruth nickname  
49 Civil dis-turbances  
52 Back talk  
53 Reply (Abbr.)  
54 Cancel  
55 Halves of 6-Across  
56 Wrestling surface  
57 Large, showy flower  
2 Org. of 31-Across  
3 Comic/TV host  
4 In the Red?  
5 Avis competitor  
6 Ancient ascetic  
7 Othello was one  
8 Dine here and there?  
10 Estate house  
11 Tediously dull  
17 Gets more issues  
19 Paris' captive  
21 Energy  
22 Altar affirmative  
24 Mrs. Peron  
26 Part of speech  
28 Apportion  
30 Say it's okay  
32 "Double Fantasy" woman  
33 Storm center  
34 Uncivilized  
36 Confront aggressively  
38 Tall tale  
39 Repeatedly  
40 Bivouacs  
42 Knapsack part  
45 King of Siam's employee  
46 Somme-lier's subject  
48 Cartesian conclusion  
50 Brewer's vat  
51 Crafty

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

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

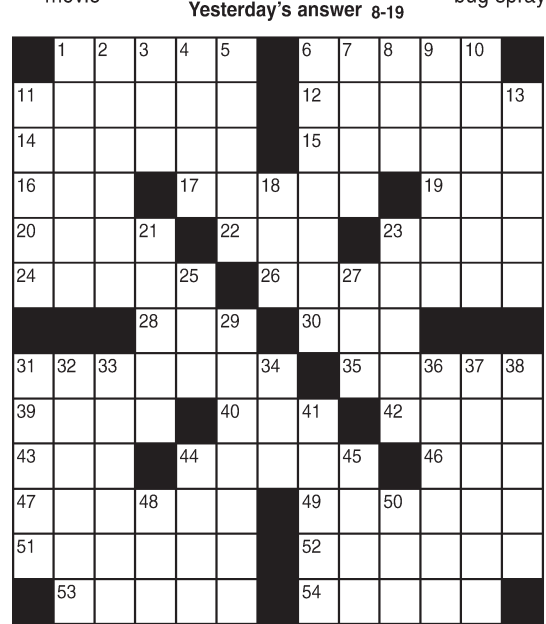


**Yesterday's answer 8-18**

- ACROSS**  
1 "Poppy-cock!"  
6 Finger-paints  
11 Long recliner  
12 Lecher's pastime  
14 Actress  
15 Crick's partner  
16 Blood-group letters  
17 Oil of roses  
19 Airline abbr.  
20 Money-making business  
22 Succumb to gravity  
23 Attracted  
24 High-ranking Turk  
26 Hockey three-some  
28 "What can — for you?"  
30 On pens.  
31 Hoffman movie  
35 Ort  
39 Weaponry  
40 U.K. fliers  
42 War, to Gen.  
43 Sherman  
44 Accordion feature  
46 "The — Daba  
47 Actor Tom  
49 Actress  
51 Bother repeatedly  
52 Start a paragraph  
53 Bivouac array  
54 Second attempt  
1 Psych 101 subject  
2 Beauty shops  
3 That guy  
4 On the briny  
5 Adam and Mae  
6 Dignified older woman  
7 Emulsifying agent  
8 Last (Abbr.)  
9 Nightclub  
10 Made a blanket?  
11 Victor  
13 Nibbles away  
18 Savion Glover specialty  
21 Dilutes  
23 Discard  
25 Navy bigwig (Abbr.)  
27 Dos' neighbors  
29 Up the creek without a paddle?  
31 Ponderosa, e.g.  
32 Biblical peak  
33 Adulterated  
34 Dundee denial  
36 Juice extractor  
37 Pataki's city  
38 Green-house purchase  
41 Dervish  
44 Near-silent "Hey!"  
45 Prong  
48 Actor  
50 Banned bug spray

**Solution time: 27 mins.**

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



**Family Circus** • Bill Keane



**Bridge**

**1. You are declarer with the West hand at Six Diamonds.** North leads the six of trumps. How would you play the hand?  
**West**  
 ♠ A Q  
 ♥ —  
 ♦ A J 10 9 7 4 2  
 ♣ A K 9 8  
**East**  
 ♠ J 9 3  
 ♥ A Q 10 8 2  
 ♦ K Q  
 ♣ 6 5 3

**2. You are declarer with the West hand at Six Hearts.** North leads the king of clubs, which you win with the ace. You play a diamond to dummy's king, both opponents following low, and lead a heart to the queen, South playing the three and North the nine. How would you continue?  
**West**  
 ♠ K J 9 4  
 ♥ A Q J 7 5  
 ♦ J 2  
 ♣ A 3  
**East**  
 ♠ —  
 ♥ 8 6 4 2  
 ♦ A K 8 7 5 3  
 ♣ 10 6 5

**Test Your Play**

1. Win the trump with the queen, lead a spade to the ace and return the queen of spades. This virtually assures the contract, since it enables you to dispose of the 9-8 of clubs on dummy's ace of hearts and jack of spades.

It would be a serious mistake to attempt a spade finesse at trick two. If the queen lost to the king and North led another trump, you'd eventually go down one, losing a club trick as well as the spade trick. The temptation to try a spade finesse should be firmly resisted.

2. By far the best plan is to cash the ace of hearts at this point. If the trumps divide 2-2, the slam is certain even if the diamonds break 4-1. You would continue with a diamond to the ace, ruff a diamond, ruff a spade and then ruff another diamond, establishing dummy's last two diamonds as tricks, with a second spade ruff as the entry. At worst, you'd lose one trick.

Now let's suppose North shows out when you cash the ace of hearts at trick four. In that case, you can still make the contract if the diamonds are divided normally, that is, 3-2. Lead a diamond to the ace, ruff a diamond, ruff a spade and then start running dummy's established diamonds. You lose a trump trick sooner or later to South's king, but that is the only trick you lose.

It would be wrong to attempt a second heart finesse after the first one succeeds, since in the process you would waste a precious entry to dummy that you desperately need to establish the diamond suit. The contract would become unmanageable if South started with three hearts to the king, and you would go down in a slam you could have made.

Tomorrow: Killing two birds with one stone.  
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**West dealer.**  
**North-South vulnerable.**

**NORTH**  
 ♠ Q 8  
 ♥ A 9 3  
 ♦ 9 7 6 2  
 ♣ 10 9 5 4

**WEST**  
 ♠ —  
 ♥ K J 7 6 2  
 ♦ K Q 10 4  
 ♣ K J 8 3

**EAST**  
 ♠ J 10 9 4  
 ♥ 10 5  
 ♦ J 8 5 3  
 ♣ Q 6 2

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ A K 7 6 5 3 2  
 ♥ Q 8 4  
 ♦ A  
 ♣ A 7

**The bidding:**  
**West** 1♥  
**North** Pass  
**East** Pass  
**South** 2♠  
 Opening lead — king of diamonds.

**Killing Two Birds With One Stone**

If you're a careful declarer, you don't always take things for granted. Instead, you assume the worst and try to guard against it. It would be easy to go wrong on this deal; yet, there is really no good reason for falling down on the job.

West leads a diamond against your four-spade contract. There seems to be nothing to the play when dummy appears — you may lose a club and two hearts — but everything else looks solid. However, being extra-careful, you recognize that it's possible to go down if the trumps are divided 4-0. There's one quick way to find out, so you cash the ace of trumps at trick two, and, lo and behold, your worst fears are realized.

You're now sure to lose a club and a spade, which means that the only way to salvage the contract is to reduce your two heart losers to one. The \$64,000 question, therefore, is: How can the hearts be divided so that you lose only one heart trick?

A little thought produces the answer. It is true that West opened the bidding with one heart, but that doesn't necessarily mean he has the K-J-10. East may have the jack or ten, in which case the problem can be solved.

Accordingly, at trick three you lead a spade to the queen and return a low heart. When East follows low, you play the eight. West takes his jack and returns a diamond, which you ruff.

You cash the king of spades, then play the queen of hearts, hoping East started with the doubleton ten. Bull's-eye! It doesn't matter whether West covers the queen or not, since you've managed to kill two birds with one stone and so make the contract.

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