#### Mother Goose & Grim • Mike Peters (Sample) GRIMM. 400 JUST CAME I FORGOT THERE'S OUT OF THE BATHROOM, WHAT ARE YOU GOING A TWO-DRINK MINIMUM, BACK IN FOR ?

**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



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ACROSS	<b>37</b> Pick a	2 "Music	20 Roadie's
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II" villain	47 Erstwhile	all	25 Yule
12 Caviar	acorn	5 Lose a	quaff
base	48 Culture	staring	26 Eviscerate
13 Shaving	medium	contest	27 Filch
cream	49 Russian	6 Connors	28 Swelled
additive	city	competitor	head
14 Verdi	50 Brewery	7 Oozing	29 Watch
opera	product	8 Greek	chain
15 Have bills	51 Apportion	conso-	31 Lincoln
16 Paddock	52 Capone	nant	successor
parent	foe	9 Take on	32 Shangri-
17 Beseech	53 Conden-	10 Hebrew	La monk
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23 Fool	head's	19 Eccentric-	36 Sleep
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indicator			<b>37</b> Chasm
<b>27</b> Ump	Solution tim	e: 27 mins.	38 Wander

# Bridge

**1. You are declarer** with the West hand at Three Notrump. North leads the K-Q of clubs, which you duck, and then the jack, on which South shows out. How would you play the hand?

West	East
KJ105	<b>•</b> Q 8 2
AK8	♥Q 6 5 4
AQ	◆ J 7 4 3
•A942	<b>*</b> 86
<b>X</b> 7 <b>X X</b>	1/1 /1 XX7

You are declarer with the West 2. hand at Four Hearts, and North leads the five of hearts. You win South's nine and return a high heart. North takes the ace and returns the heart eight, which you win, South having discarded two diamonds. How would you play the hand?

West	East
<b>♠</b> K 10	🛧 J 7 5
♥KQJ1043	♥762
◆ K 6	◆ A 4
🛧 J 8 6	🕈 A K 10 9 3
ale ale ale	

#### **Test Your Play**

1. If North has the ace of spades, you cannot make the contract, so you must assume South has the ace.

However, it would be wrong to lead a spade at this point because South would win and most likely return a diamond. You would then be faced with the critical question of whether to take the diamond finesse or rely on a 3-3 heart break instead - and you would have no way of knowing which to do.

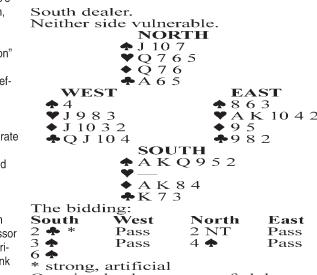
You can avoid this dilemma by first cashing the A-K-Q of hearts. If the suit divides 3-3, you cash the fourth heart and then force out the ace of spades to assure nine tricks. If the hearts turn out to be divided 4-2, you can then fall back on the diamond finesse to try to make the contract. By testing the hearts before attacking spades, you give yourself two chances to succeed instead of just one.

2. There is a possibility of scoring the rest of the tricks by taking a club finesse, but there is also the possibility of going down if the finesse loses to the queen and South returns a spade, putting you in position to lose two spade tricks.

You can guarantee the contract against any lie of the cards by crossing to dummy with a diamond and leading a low spade toward your hand. Let's assume South follows low and you lose the ten to the queen.

This is no great hardship because whatever North returns, you win and next force out the ace of spades, establishing dummy's jack as a trick on which you can discard a club. The most you can lose with this approach is a heart and two spades.

> Tomorrow: A little effort goes a long way. (c)2006 King Features Syndicate Inc.



Opening lead — queen of clubs.

#### A Little Effort Goes a Long Way

Assume you are declarer at six spades and West

leads the queen of clubs. How would you play the hand? If you don't give the matter much thought, you might

win the club, draw trumps and eventually end up down

Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



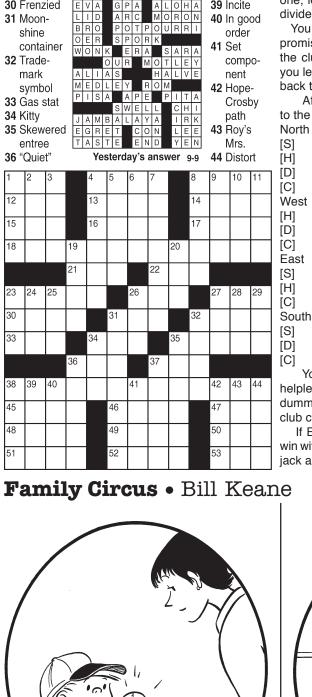
Sally Forth • Greg Howard





# Cryptoquip

FNOUI UJ MLURL EJ	JI GRF'VW VWTYJMH	
BJYIGLEJYIY ERZGIXX	"SFDABWEWVVG IJMM" KSJBW	/
QIRNFIX LIFFIY UJ NJ EVV	RM TCXVTA, GRF CTG EW	
X U Y I X : "M E V V E Q N B Z I O I ." Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A NEW ENGLANDER MAKES A RANDOM SCRIBBLING, COULD YOU CALL THAT A YANKEE DOODLE? Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals E	X T A J M H T X K T J M V J Y W . Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MOVIE IN WHICH AN UNDERHANDED ACTRESS BECOMES HEMMED IN ON ALL SIDES: "WALL ABOUT EVE." Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals R	©: Dis WV



one, losing a club and a diamond when the diamonds divide 4-2 rather than 3-3.

You can make the slam, however, if you follow a more promising but less obvious line of play. After winning the club with the king and playing the ace of trumps, you lead a diamond to the gueen and another diamond back to the ace.

After both opponents follow suit, you lead a trump to the ten, producing this position:

J Q 7 6 5 7 A 6	
J 9 8 J 10 J 10 4	
8 A K 10 4 2 9 8	
K Q 9 5 K 8 7 3	

You now lead dummy's last diamond, and East is helpless. If he ruffs, you follow low and later discard dummy's club loser on the king of diamonds. Your third club can then be ruffed in dummy.

If East discards instead of ruffing the diamond, you win with the king, ruff the eight of diamonds with dummy's jack and later lose only a club to make the slam.



"I want this one to last a long time, so I won't let it get near any bats."



"It's a small cut, so I think it'll only need one gaw."