

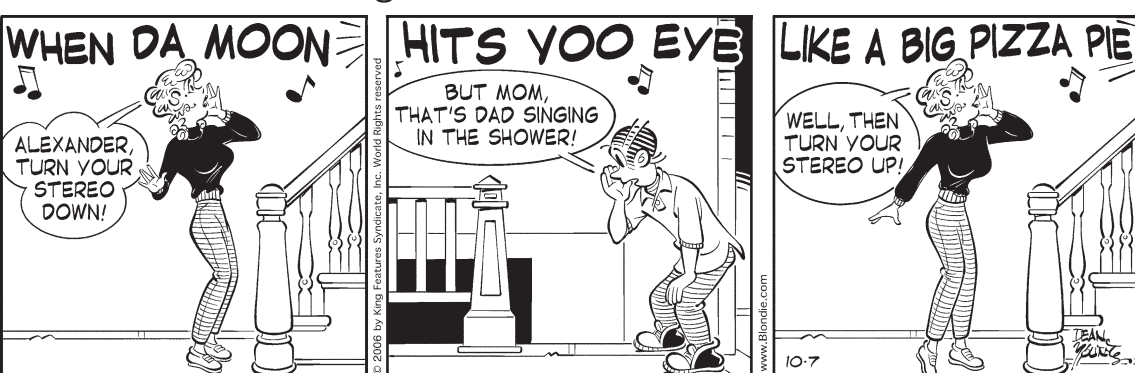
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



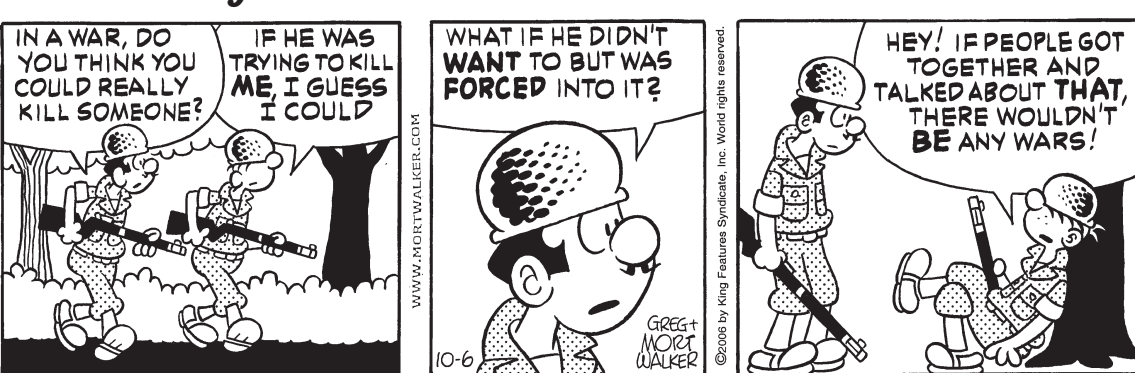
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Blondie • Chic Young



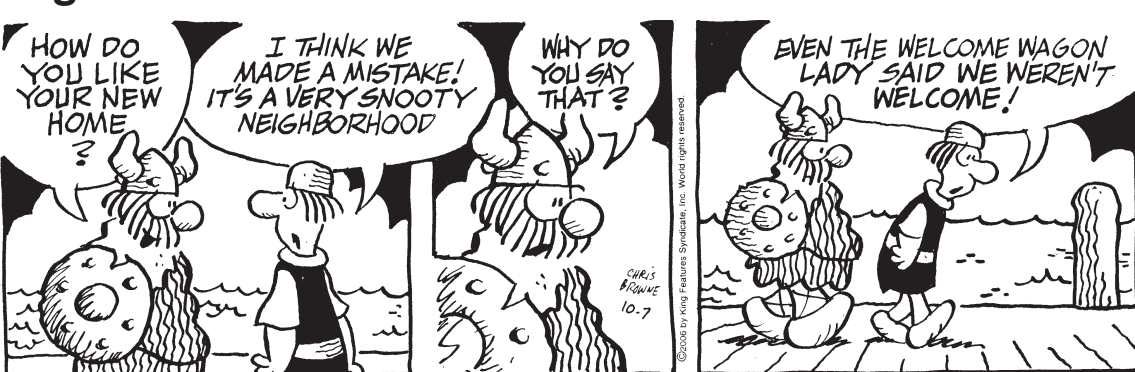
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Cryptoquip

QMV XZKYEJ BZX BZA EHH | BXPV FV VXOPKN PIHOH
 IEGJXV. LE AEG XGWWEXV | ZXCRM KOH RVXPV BX BKRH
 MV LKLF'Q SE QMJEGSM | WKCCHBM BX HKMBHO
 QMV WJEWVJ IMZFFVYX? | ZCXPHOM: CFCNIKWWHO.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A BEACH-DWELLING CRONE IS TIRED OF HER LIFE IN GENERAL, IS SHE A SAND WITCH BORED?
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals D

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE SAILOR WAS WAY OFF COURSE. DO YOU SUPPOSE HE DIDN'T GO THROUGH THE PROPER CHANNELS?
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals E

Crossword

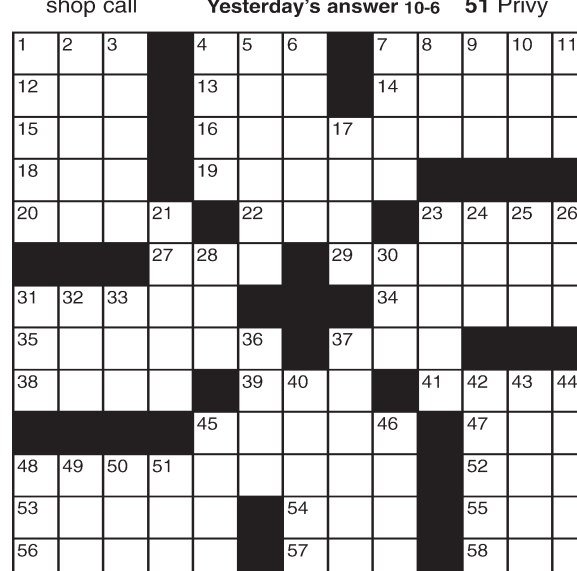
ACROSS
 1 Label
 4 On the other hand
 7 Much, to the maestro
 12 Lubricant
 13 Whatever amount
 14 The little mermaid
 15 "Annabel Lee" writer
 16 Melville sailor
 18 Resembling
 19 Tools for duels
 20 Galvanizing stuff
 22 Smeltery input
 23 Stupid sort
 27 Swindled
 29 Custodian
 31 John Cameron Swayze's watch
 34 Unkempt
 35 It'll get the lead out
 37 Forefront
 38 Barber-shop call

DOWN
 1 November birthstone
 2 Garlic mayonnaise
 3 Accumulate gradually
 4 Innocent one
 5 One-legged stand
 6 Tippecanoe's partner
 7 "The Say Hey Kid"
 8 Scepter topper
 9 Lucy of "Charlie's Angels"
 10 Koppel or Kennedy
 11 In need of repair

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 10-6



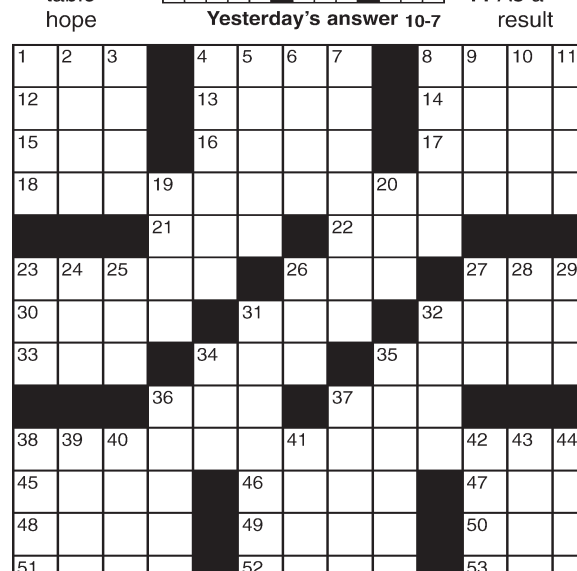
ACROSS
 1 Festive
 4 Actor Brad
 8 Impetuous
 12 Mined-over matter
 13 Hydrox rival
 14 Catch sight of
 15 Torched
 16 "— Lisa"
 17 Out of play
 18 Without cheating
 21 Billboards
 22 — -Mex cuisine
 23 Immobilized
 26 Actor Beatty
 27 Drone
 30 Portrayal
 31 Russian spacecraft
 32 Monologue unit
 33 Peculiar
 34 Rembrandt medium
 35 Crap-table hope

DOWN
 1 What Els' teens are for
 2 Pavarotti tune
 3 Bigfoot's kin
 4 Hair dressing
 5 "Reversal of Fortune" star
 6 Nurse
 7 Counter-top appliance
 8 Brought back
 9 On the briny
 10 Practice pugilism
 11 Stevenson villain
 19 Demolish
 20 Proof abbr.
 23 To and —
 24 Scepter

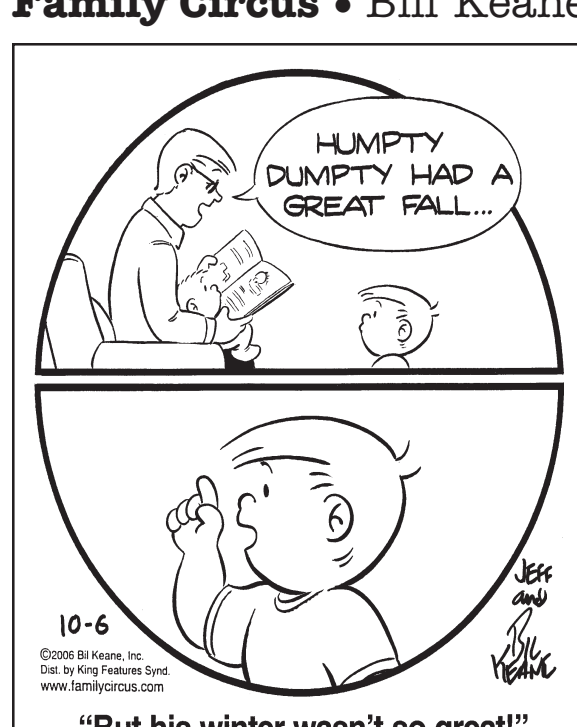
Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 10-7



Family Circus • Bill Keane



Bridge

You are South, neither side vulnerable. The bidding has been:

East	South	West	North
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	?		

What would you bid now with each of the following four hands?

- ♠ KQJ97 ♥ J97 ♦ 5 ♣ K1098
- ♠ K9642 ♥ 7 ♦ AQ65 ♣ Q94
- ♠ 73 ♥ 8632 ♦ AKJ43 ♣ 95
- ♠ A85 ♥ K1073 ♦ 6 ♣ K9762

Bidding Quiz

1. Two spades. A player who passes originally denies the values for an opening bid, but when he has passed a near opening bid, it is sometimes possible for him to immediately identify the maximum pass. One way of doing this is by jump-shifting to another suit. Without a previous pass, the response of one spade would be automatic, since this would be 100 percent forcing. But after you have passed originally, partner can pass your new-suit response. In the given case, because you have a heart fit already established, plus a strong spade suit, the combined hands should offer a very good chance for game. The jump-shift apprises partner of that possibility and gives him a chance to reconsider if he was planning to pass one spade.

2. One spade. You have a maximum pass here also, but because of the heart misfit and the weakness of your spades, you should respond only one spade. Partner's heart bid has reduced the value of your hand, and game prospects are therefore uncertain despite your 11 high-card points. Although the previous hand contained only 10 high-card points, it was much more promising — because of the established heart fit and the powerful spade suit — than this one.

3. Two hearts. Many players might bid two diamonds, not realizing that partner might pass before the heart fit was disclosed. It is better to announce the heart support at once. This is sure to raise the value of partner's hand and might induce him to bid again, while a two-diamond response could leave his values unchanged and cause him to pass.

4. Four hearts. Considering the known heart fit and your attractive 5-4-3-1 distribution, this hand now ranks as a full opening bid. The rule that an opening bid opposite an opening bid means game is therefore applied by going directly to four hearts.

Raise to only three hearts would be excessively cautious. The double raise by a passed hand is merely invitational, not forcing, and you might find yourself left at the post if you bid only three hearts.

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ Q 6 3
 ♥ K 9 7
 ♦ A Q 8 4
 ♣ Q 8 7

WEST
 ♠ 9 8 2
 ♥ J 8 6 4
 ♦ J
 ♣ J 9 6 4 2

EAST
 ♠ 7 5
 ♥ Q 10 5 3
 ♦ 10 7 5 2
 ♣ A 10 3

SOUTH
 ♠ A K J 10 4
 ♥ A 2
 ♦ K 9 6 3
 ♣ K 5

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
6♦			

Opening lead — jack of diamonds.

Super-Sound Detective Work

Here is a fine example of the lengths to which a careful declarer will go to give himself the maximum chance for the contract.

West leads the jack of diamonds against six spades. Declarer sees that the slam is cold if the missing diamonds are divided 3-2. So, from the start, he devotes all his attention to guarding against a 4-1 diamond division. His first step in this direction is to take the opening trick with dummy's ace. This leaves him in a position to finesse against the 10-x-x in either opponent's hand if the suit is divided 4-1. After East follows low, South has no way of knowing which defender, if either, has the remaining three diamonds. Declarer then draws trumps, ending in dummy, and plays a low club. He hopes East has the ace, because, if he does, the contract is certain. When East follows low, South wins with the king, marking East with the ace. Declarer then cashes the K-A of hearts and his last two trumps, bringing about this position:

North — [D] Q 8 4; [C] Q
 West — Immaterial
 East — [D] 10 7 5; [C] A
 South — [D] K 9 6; [C] 5

South now cashes the king of diamonds, thus guarding against West having started with four diamonds. If East shows out, South has a proven finesse against West. But when West shows out, declarer still has things under control. He leads a club, forcing East to win with the ace and return a diamond, whether he likes it or not.