

Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



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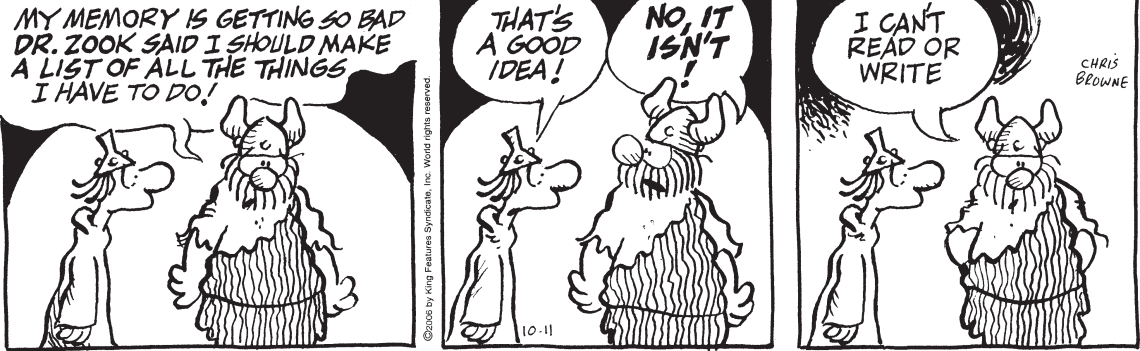
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



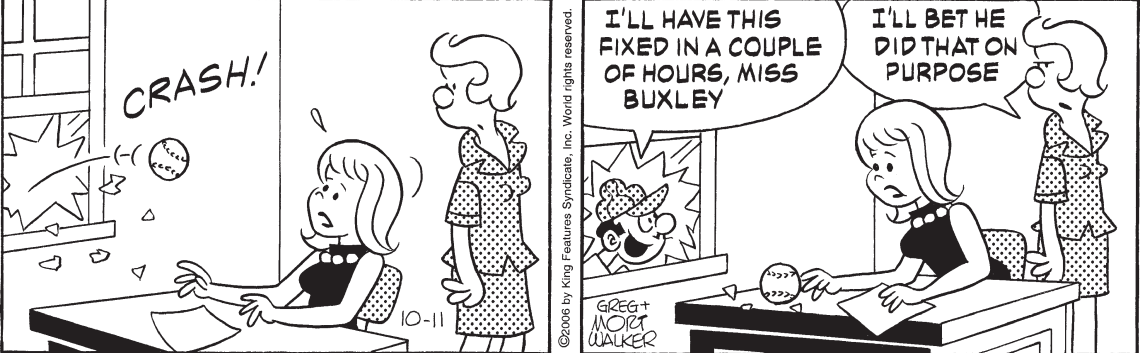
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



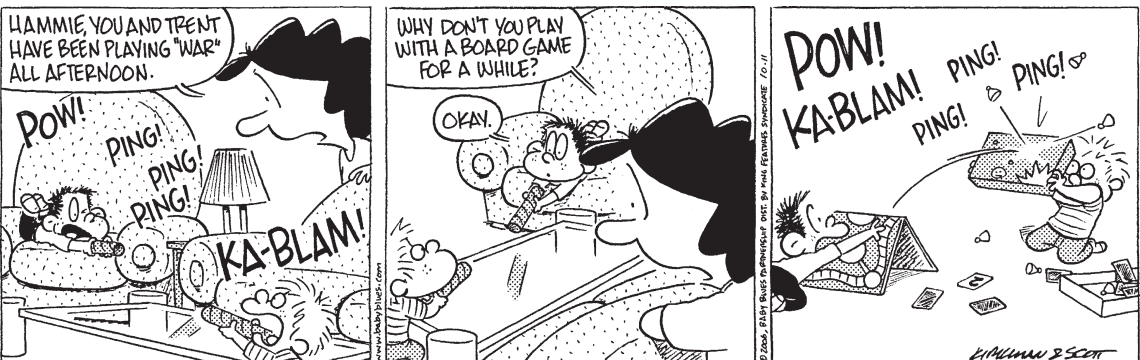
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Cryptoquip

KYMJDQMIA NCDIALI

AYDMQ LI VDJ LCQ AVYMM-

KDMNM LGARDA, ZGA DA

QDQI'A RDA AVM ZDCC.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A GYMNAST TUMBLES A BIT TOO FAR ON THE FLOOR, YOU MIGHT SAY HE BOUNDS OUT OF BOUNDS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals D

ON MKX IRLQH AK FKGQ

TKKFOHC EQGOTQD, MKX

DIKXFE EQNOHOAQFM

VQFKHC AK R NRH TFXV.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: PRESIDENT CLINTON TRIED ON HIS OLD THREE-PIECE OUTFIT, BUT IT DIDN'T FIT THE BILL.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals Y

Crossword

ACROSS

1 Dieter's target

5 Legume

8 On

12 Building-block name

13 High-arc shot

14 Theater box

15 Theirs is a perfect world

17 Hardy cabbage

18 Use a crowbar

19 Wall Street dealer

21 Crowd quorum

24 Emulate Columbus

25 Estate recipient

26 Found a use for

30 Double-crosser

31 Foolish

32 Water (Fr.)

33 Chopsticks, e.g.

35 Section

DOWN

1 Winter ailment

2 Permit

3 In olden times

16 Rage

20 Arouse

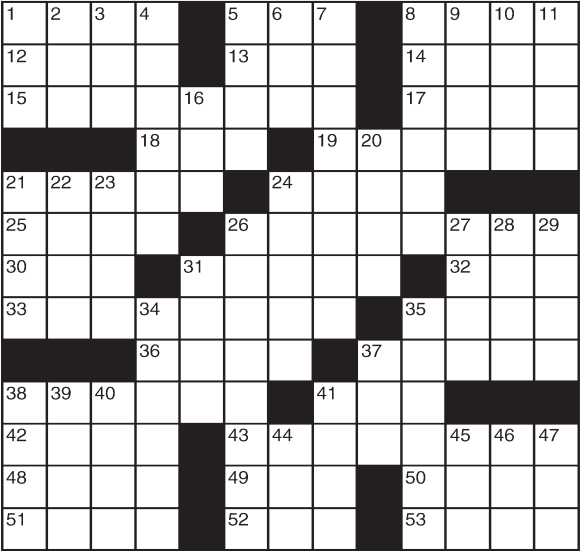
16-Down

21 From one end to t'other

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 10-10



ACROSS

1 Charitable donations

5 Suitable

8 Cattle

12 Christmas refrain

13 Crucial

14 Earring location

15 Weapon resembling a small ax

17 Largest of the seven

18 Overact

19 Surpass

21 Formerly, formerly

24 CSA

25 Hardly hirsute

28 PBS science series

30 On in years

33 Salt Lake tribe

34 Happy companion?

35 Court

36 Longing

37 Last writes?

DOWN

1 Initial stake

2 Weaving apparatus

3 Note from a co-worker

4 On the schedule

5 Alias (Abbr.)

6 Church seat

7 Youngster

8 Location

9 Pasadena event

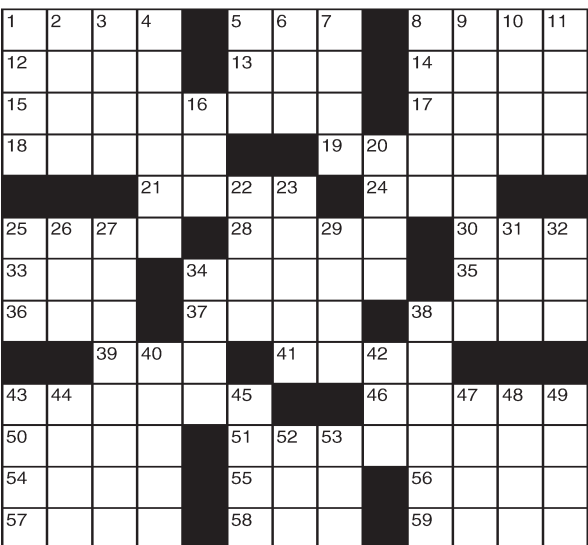
10 Stage statuette

11 Conked out

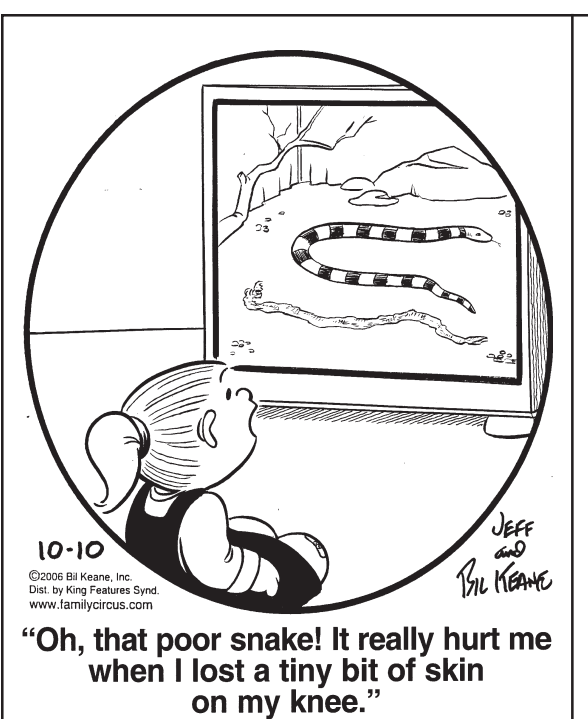
Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 10-11



Family Circus • Bill Keane



Bridge

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ K Q 10 3

♥ J 4

♦ 10 7 2

♣ K Q 9 6

WEST

♠ 9 4 2

♥ 9 7 5 2

♦ K J 8 4

♣ 5 3

EAST

♠ J 8 7 5

♥ A 6

♦ A 9 6 3

♣ 8 7 2

SOUTH

♠ A 6

♥ K Q 10 8 3

♦ Q 5

♣ A J 10 4

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥	Pass

Opening lead — four of diamonds.

The Bidding Tells the Tale

Assume you're East, defending against four hearts reached in the manner shown. Partner leads a diamond, which you win with the ace, and you return a diamond to partner's king. Partner continues with the jack, and declarer ruffs.

South plays a low heart to dummy's jack, and it is at this point that the outcome hangs in the balance. If you take the ace, declarer makes the contract; if you duck, he goes down one.

Let's say you win the jack with the ace, as most players would do. If you return a diamond, declarer ruffs in dummy and scores the rest of the tricks; if you return anything else, declarer like wise makes the rest.

Now let's assume you duck the jack of hearts, as you should. What can South then do to bring home the contract? If he leads another trump, you win with the ace and return your last diamond. If declarer ruffs, he will have only one trump left to West's two and must go down one. If South discards on the fourth diamond, he goes down that much sooner.

How can you tell that ducking the jack of hearts is the right play? Well, you can't be certain it will beat the contract, but all the evidence points in that direction.

The main clue lies in the bidding. South is unlikely to have six hearts, because he would be more inclined to rebid a six-card major suit at his second turn than name a minor suit.

Once you credit South with only five hearts — which means West has four — you are sure to beat the contract by refusing to win the first heart.

Tomorrow: The magic number.

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South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ K Q 5

♥ A 5

♦ A Q 10 9 2

♣ K 6 3

WEST

♠ 8 4

♥ 10 9 8 6 4 3

♦ 6

♣ J 9 7 2

EAST

♠ 10 9 6 3 2

♥ J 7

♦ J 8 7 4

♣ 8 5

SOUTH

♠ A J 7

♥ K Q 2

♦ K 5 3

♣ A Q 10 4

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♦	Pass
2 NT	Pass	7 NT	Pass

Opening lead — ten of hearts.

The Magic Number

There are not many activities in life where knowing how to count to 13 is as important as it is in bridge. In fact, it's often said that counting to 13 is really the name of the game. Here's an example that provides proof for any doubting Thomases.

Declarer won the heart lead with dummy's ace and could count 12 top tricks — three in each suit. The 13th would have to come from either diamonds or clubs, and South knew the odds were very good that one suit or the other would provide him with the extra trick he was looking for. But rather than just proceed on the assumption that one of the two suits would be favorably divided, South found a way to overcome the possibility that both suits would break badly.

His first step was to cash the K-Q of hearts, discarding a diamond from dummy. This revealed that West had started with six hearts. Declarer then led the A-K-Q of clubs, hoping the jack would fall, but discovered instead that West had begun with four clubs to the jack.

To complete the picture of West's hand before he tackled the diamonds, South next cashed the ace of spades and led a spade to the queen, noting that West followed to both spades.

With 12 of West's 13 cards thus fully accounted for, it was now a simple matter to cash the diamond ace, lead dummy's ten and, after East played low, let the ten ride. A diamond to the king, followed by a spade to dummy's king, allowed South to score the queen of diamonds for his 13th trick.

Observe that if South had played any two of his three top diamonds earlier in the hand, as many players might have done, he would not have made the grand slam. By utilizing the magic number 13 from the outset, South wound up plus 2,220 points instead of minus 100. Tomorrow: Delicate declarer play.

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