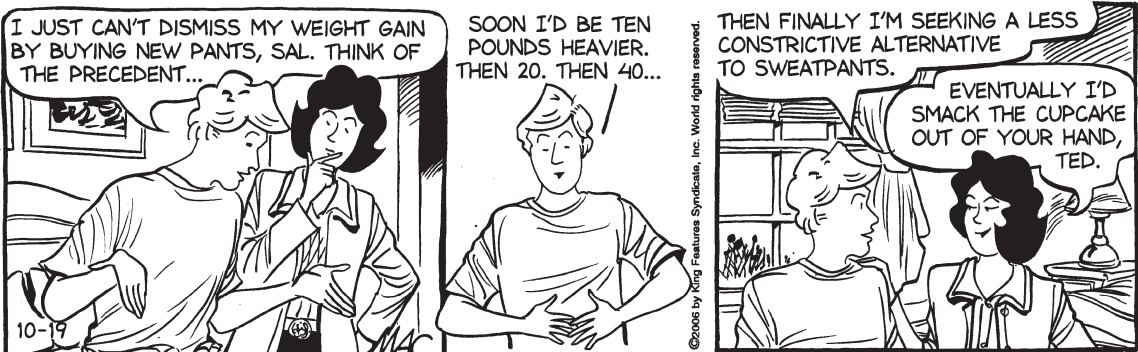
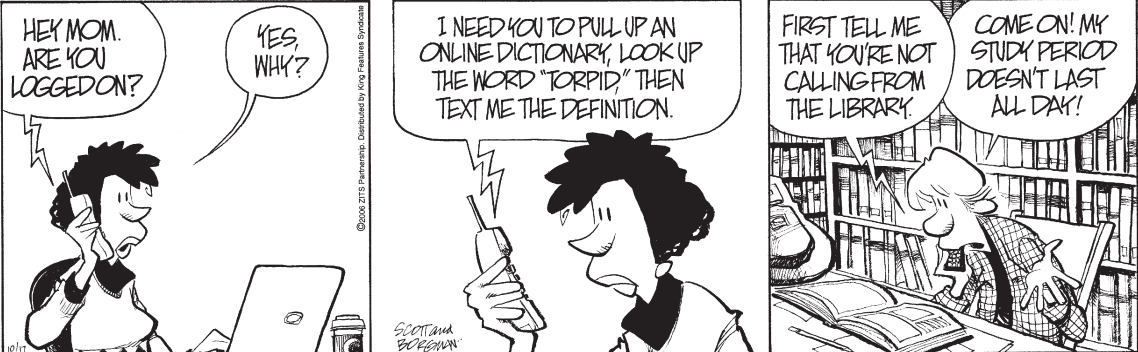


Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



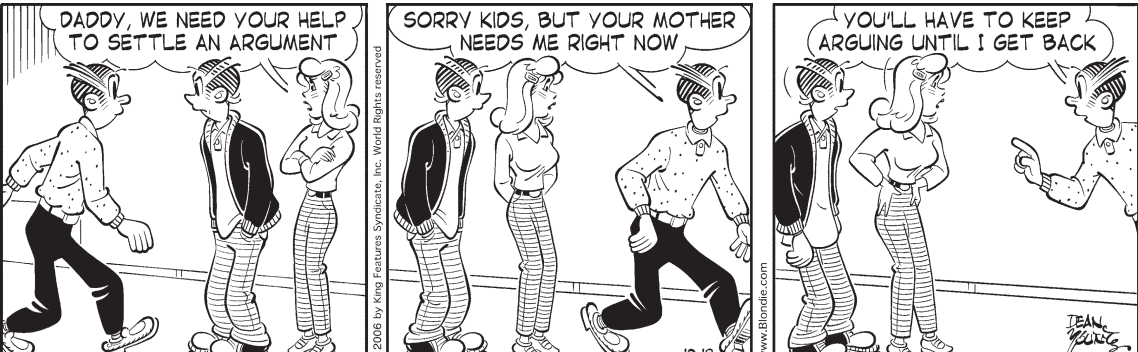
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



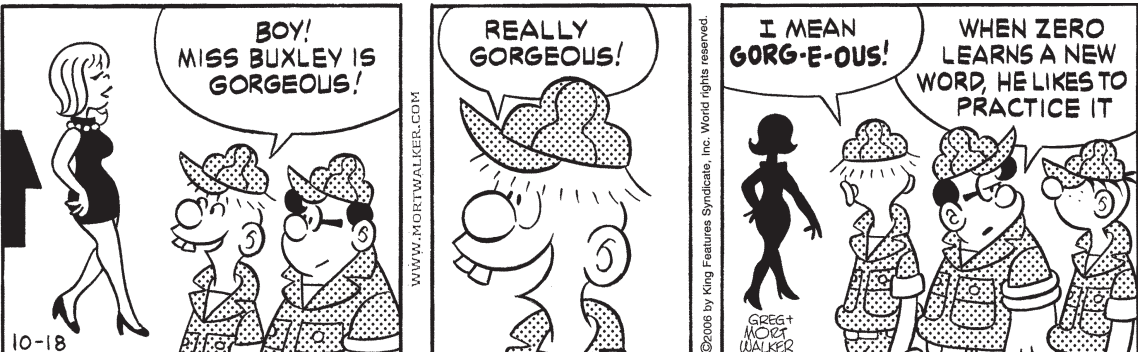
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



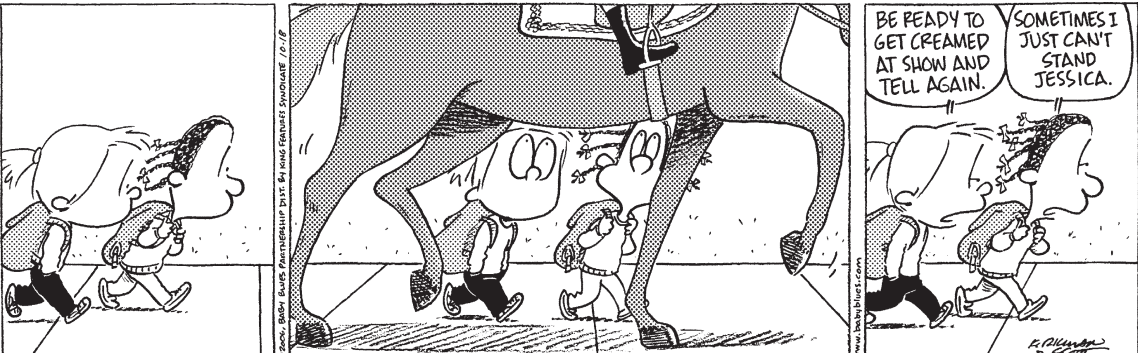
Blondie • Chic Young



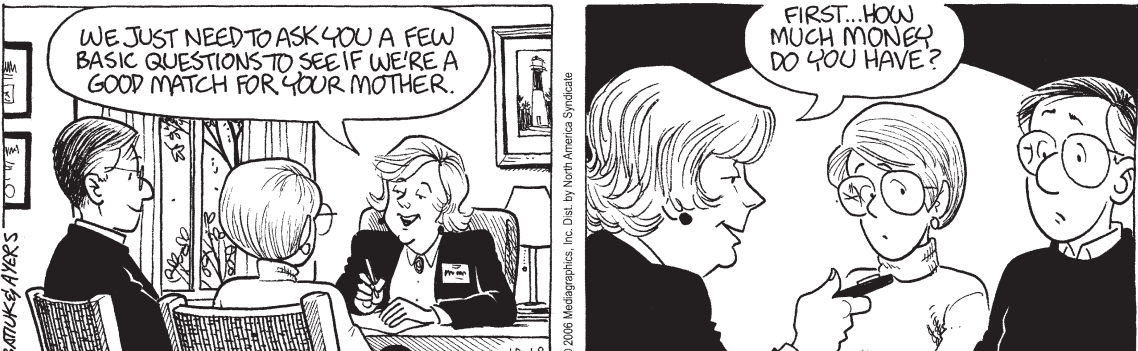
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Crankshaft • Tom Batiuk and Chuck Ayers



Cryptoquip

PVNB TLZNTF HYKKOSLBD IEXYD ISWDSXD IZSBD WO
SYDNSVNT OFN UB DNSXO QXKVIKYQ, E'W
OBZNTCUFF, L PYOWZ HUWW ADKBBO ZAOEXF ZS FDZ WO
SVUS U HUTCYW SOBBNW. NBKYQ NKYQVKYQ NKYQ.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU'RE BUYING CERTAIN EATING UTENSILS, I GUESS YOU'LL HAVE TO FORK OVER THE BUCKS. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN RIDERS COMMUTING TOGETHER USE AN UNDERPASS, I WOULD CALL THAT A CARPOOL TUNNEL.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals T Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals C

Crossword

ACROSS

1 Kermit is one
5 Fashionable
8 End a relationship unceremoniously
12 Ponce de —
13 Praise from a poetaster
14 Recognize
15 Noted brokerage house
17 Artist Bonheur
18 Pompous one
19 Slithery fish
20 Skeletal components
21 Batman portrayer Kilmer
22 AAA job
23 Go on all fours
26 Meet the requirements
30 Tulip-to-be
31 Whammy

DOWN

32 Just standing around
33 Earned a blessing?
35 Proboscis
36 Many millennia
37 Animal with a 35-Across
38 Section of a long poem
41 Spindletop flow
42 Nevertheless, for short
45 Ellipse
46 Music lover's gear
48 Arrive
49 Chart format
50 Vail gear

11 "Jabberwocky" opener
16 Blue hue
20 Constrictor type
21 Bugs
22 Monkey suit
23 Couric's new home
24 Skedaddle
25 Beer kin
26 Proof follow-up
27 Berlin's "What'll —?"
28 Not just a snifle
29 Stiff
31 Chick's mom
34 Menagerie
35 Ledge
37 Played a fiddle flute
38 Gabrielle Chanel
39 Acknowledge
40 Appoint
41 Garfield's pal
42 Youngster
43 Estate recipient
44 Roughly
46 Army rank (Abbr.)
47 Blond shade

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 10-17



ACROSS

1 KFC additive
5 That girl
8 Ostriches' kin
12 Epps of "House"
13 "La Cage — Folles"
14 Org. HQ'd in Brussels
15 Orange juice benefit
17 Family
18 Football team
19 Geological times
21 Mel of Coopers-town
22 Prom transport
23 Type units
26 Moment
28 Eye-lashes
31 Rise
33 Work on the sound-track
35 Surrounded by
36 "Peer Gynt" composer

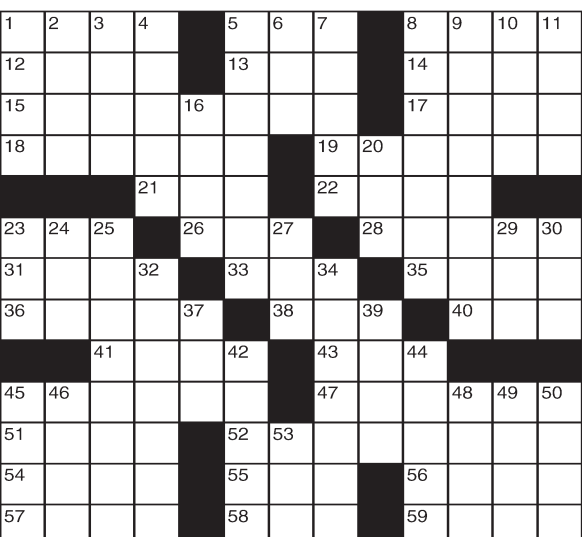
DOWN

1 Threw
2 Old-time actor Jannings
3 Assess
4 Cry from the audience
5 Canonized by V
6 Attila, e.g.
7 Surpass others
8 Expressions of praise
9 1992
10 Hexagonal state
11 Heirs, often

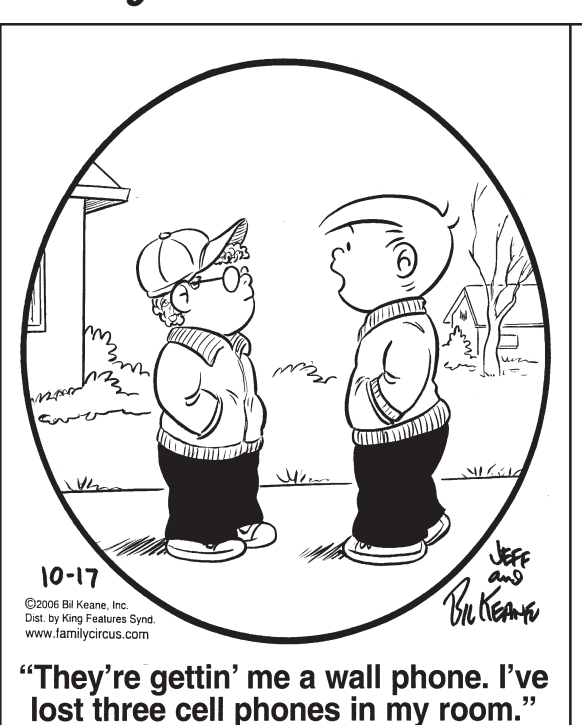
16 Shea squad
20 Snapshot
23 Future bird
24 Neither partner
25 Be just right
27 Prompt
29 XV divided by V
30 Billboards
32 Wigs
34 Separating
37 Hydrogen, for one
39 Secular
42 Annoyances
44 Practical
45 Planets, in poetry
46 Arouse ennui
48 Stuff for 32-Down
49 "Desire Under the —"
50 Card game for three
53 Royal insomnia cause

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 10-18



Family Circus • Bill Keane



Bridge

East dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A Q 6
♥ 8 6 3
♦ J 8 5
♣ A K J 10

WEST

♠ 10 7
♥ A 10 9 4
♦ A K 7 6 4
♣ 8 3

EAST

♠ 2
♥ Q J 5
♦ Q 10 9 3 2
♣ Q 9 5 2

SOUTH

♠ K J 9 8 5 4 3
♥ K 7 2
♦ —
♣ 7 6 4

The bidding:
East Pass 3 ♣ West Pass 4 ♠ North Pass 4 ♠
Opening lead — king of diamonds.

An Extraordinary Play

There are times when the winning play runs so contrary to normal practice that very few declarers would even think of it, much less make the play. Yet, when the play is subsequently examined in the cold light of day, its validity cannot be denied.

Consider this deal where West led the king of diamonds against four spades. South ruffed, played the A-K of trumps, then led a club to the jack, losing to the queen. Back came the queen of hearts, whereupon the defenders collected three heart tricks for down one.

It's not easy to see what declarer could have done to prevent this unlucky outcome, even if you look at all four hands. But the fact is that South could have guaranteed the contract at trick one. Instead of trumping West's opening lead, he should have discarded a club!

Let's say West leads another diamond. South ruffs, cashes the A-K of trumps and plays the A-K of clubs. If East produces the queen, South ruffs, returns to dummy with a trump and discards a heart on the club ten to make the contract. If East does not produce the queen of clubs, South discards a heart and achieves the same result even if West has the queen. Either way, declarer can't lose more than three tricks. There is no question that discarding a club at trick one is a play few declarers would think of. It simply runs too much against the grain. Nevertheless, there can be no denying that the club discard virtually assures a favorable outcome, while trumping the king of diamonds clearly jeopardizes the contract. By discarding on West's king of clubs, South makes sure that East, the dangerous opponent, can never gain the lead for the potentially killing heart shift. From that point on, all roads lead directly to Rome.

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ 9 5
♥ 8 6
♦ A Q J 10 9 4 2
♣ 3 2

WEST

♠ Q 7 4
♥ Q J 10 5 3
♦ 6 3
♣ 7 6 4

EAST

♠ J 10 8 6 2
♥ 9 4 2
♦ K 8
♣ 9 8 5

SOUTH

♠ A K 3
♥ A K 7
♦ 7 5
♣ A K Q J 10

The bidding:
South 2 ♣ West Pass 3 ♦ North 3 ♦ East Pass 4 ♠
6 NT Opening lead — queen of hearts.

It Happened in Dead Man's Gulch

It happened in Dead Man's Gulch many years ago. Twelve good men and true listened attentively to the evidence. It seems that East — in a fit of rage in the middle of a hand — suddenly pulled out his six-shooter and let his partner have it. East was promptly hauled into court before judge and jury and tried for murder.

The facts were not disputed. The defendant (East) told his story, which was confirmed by the two other surviving players as well as two kibitzers.

It was agreed that South got to six no trump as shown. The fact that six diamonds was laydown was not even discussed. The district attorney obviously thought this was irrelevant.

The deceased, a strictly orthodox player, led the queen of hearts. Declarer won with the king and saw that he could not make the slam without dummy's diamonds. So he led a diamond and finessed the queen. The defendant smoothly played the eight, and dummy's queen won the trick! East had come to the conclusion that he could not defeat the contract unless South could be induced to take another diamond finesse. In that case, dummy's diamonds would become useless, and the slam would go down.

It is impossible to state categorically whether East's ingenious play would have succeeded. After the diamond queen held, South cashed five club tricks. The deceased followed to three rounds of clubs, next discarded a heart and then — a diamond!

South immediately led a diamond, but even before he could play the ace and catch East's king, three shots rang out.

If you were in the jury box and had to cast a ballot, how would you vote? Guilty? Or would you say it was justifiable homicide?