

**Sally Forth • Greg Howard**



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**Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott**



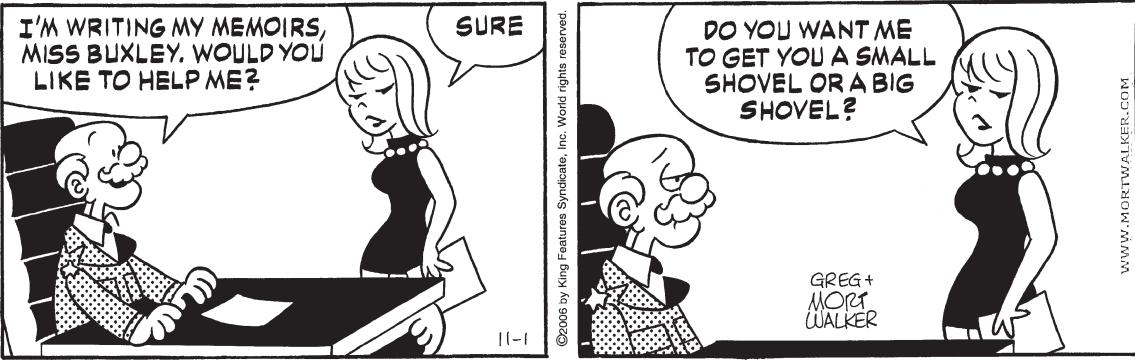
**Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne**



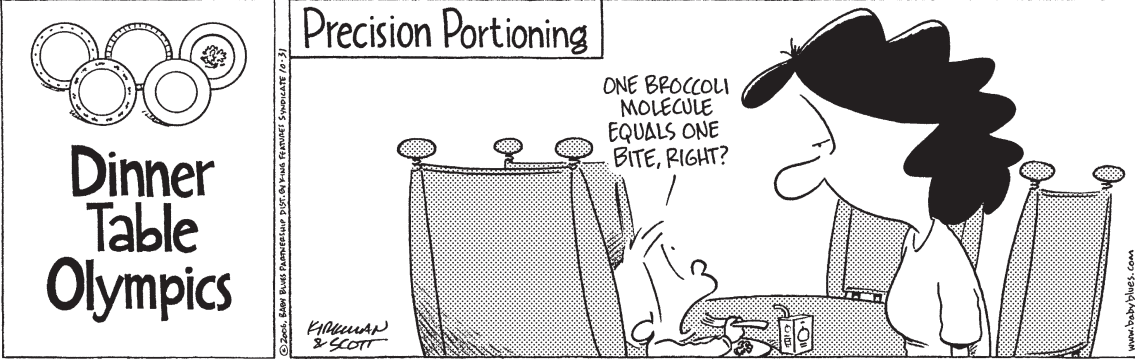
**Blondie • Chic Young**



**Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker**



**Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott**



**Crankshaft • Tom Batiuk and Chuck Ayers**

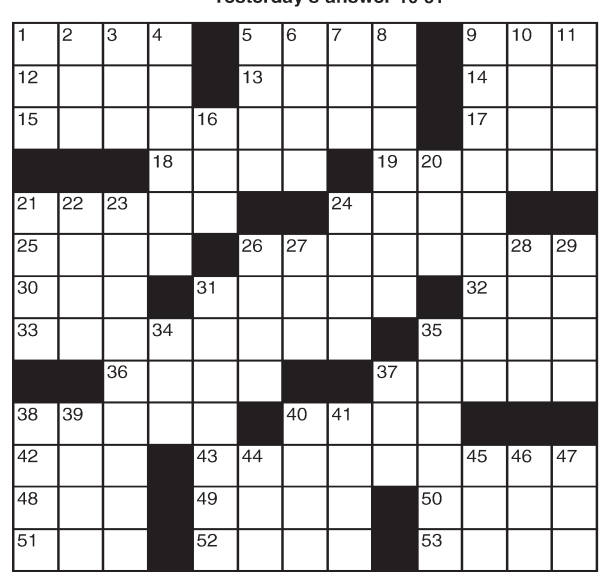


**Cryptoquip**

JMDC NPW REGY KPRD | JMDC NPW REGY KPRD  
 TMDTLK HP NPWZ KJGKK | TMDTLK HP NPWZ KJGKK  
 QECL, G'X KEN HMEH | QECL, G'X KEN HMEH  
 TPWYX QD RPCDN HP QDZC. | TPWYX QD RPCDN HP QDZC.  
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOUR FARMED LAND PRODUCES NO CROP AT ALL, I RECKON SOMEBODY MADE AN ARABLE MISTAKE.  
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals S

**Crossword**

**ACROSS**  
 1 Plumbing problem  
 5 Energizes, with "up"  
 9 Mischief  
 12 Destroy  
 13 Wield a blue pencil  
 14 "The — Daba Honey-moon"  
 15 Certain Londoner  
 17 "Bang!"  
 18 Avant-garde  
 19 Urge  
 21 Sew loosely  
 24 Fine  
 25 Choir member  
 26 Purple shade  
 30 Mainlander's memento  
 31 Rarin' to go  
 32 Gorilla  
 33 D.A.'s opponent  
 35 Kept tabs on  
 36 Cod pieces  
 37 Basilica sections  
 38 "Ya got me"  
 40 Scandinavian city  
 42 "A Chorus Line"  
 43 Mixologist  
 48 "Monty Python" opener  
 49 Grown-up nits  
 50 Meditator's exercise  
 51 Ph. bk. data  
 52 Cheese choice  
 53 Cat call?  
**DOWN**  
 1 Soon to arrive  
 6 Whirlpool  
 7 Chart format  
 8 Picket-line participant  
 9 "Maude": "All in the Family" :: "Mork and Mandy":  
 10 Reed instrument  
 11 Cry loudly  
 16 Before  
 20 Fellow  
 21 Hardly hirsute  
 22 Sheltered  
 23 Rigidity  
 24 Finished  
 26 Young chaps  
 27 Census statistic  
 28 Fencing tool  
 29 Ohio nine  
 31 Elevate  
 34 "Ich bin — Berliner"  
 35 Whom something is named for  
 37 Microbrewery product  
 38 Slay  
 39 Golden rule word  
 40 Killer whale  
 41 Goblet part  
 44 Succor  
 45 Bambi's Aunt Ena, e.g.  
 46 Id counterpart  
 47 Uncultured



**Solution time: 21 mins.**  
 YESTERDAY'S ANSWER 10-31  
 I R M A L A P S L O B  
 R E A L T I M E A T I D E  
 A P P L E P I E R E I N  
 B A S R O T U N D  
 O C C U R L A I R  
 P L O T F I G L E A F  
 S U M T I L E S G A P  
 B A N A N A S M O V E  
 O P E C A U G E R  
 S T A G E S B U S  
 K I N G P E A R T R E E  
 Y E T I U R B A N I T E  
 E R I N N A Y T B A R

**ACROSS**  
 1 "— Impossible"  
 4 Ms. Moore  
 8 Competent  
 12 Ovine comment  
 13 Square  
 14 Cheat at hide-and-seek  
 15 Sort  
 16 Crawly creature  
 18 "Star Trek" genre  
 20 Raw rock  
 21 "Diary of — Housewife"  
 24 Vibes  
 28 Dollar :: cents :: —  
 32 Leeway  
 33 Miss neighbor  
 34 Clark's partner  
 36 "The Greatest"  
 37 Nasty stinger  
 39 Focused  
 41 Trap  
 43 Upper House legislator  
 44 Rock band's need  
 46 Colorado ski mecca  
 50 Roman soldier  
 55 Conductor de Waart  
 56 Malaria symptom  
 57 "It shouldn't happen to —"  
 58 Past  
 59 Frogs' home  
 60 Sulk  
 61 Author Deighton

**DOWN**  
 1 Wading bird  
 2 After-bath application  
 3 H.H. Munro's pseudonym  
 4 What's the point of mathematics?  
 5 Cain's mother  
 6 Lavatory sign  
 7 Grooving on  
 8 Show up  
 9 Spell down  
 10 Started  
 11 — out a living  
 17 Annoy  
 19 Corpulent  
 22 Opposite of "sans"  
 23 Wooden peg  
 25 Bellow  
 26 Beauty spot  
 27 Surrounded by  
 28 Cornfield chatter  
 29 Verve  
 30 Houston acronym  
 31 China (Pref.)  
 35 Odd  
 38 Talked on and on  
 40 Mag. staffers' kin  
 45 Stroller  
 47 Ring out  
 48 Advantage  
 49 Midday  
 50 Upper limit  
 51 Freudian concept  
 52 Sister  
 53 Altar affirmative  
 54 "Alley —"

**Bridge**

North dealer.  
 Both sides vulnerable.  
**NORTH**  
 ♠ 10 9 5  
 ♥ K J 6  
 ♦ 9 5  
 ♣ A K Q J 3  
**WEST**  
 ♠ 8 6 2  
 ♥ 5 3 2  
 ♦ K Q 10 3  
 ♣ 7 6 4  
**EAST**  
 ♠ A 3  
 ♥ Q 9 8 7 4  
 ♦ A 7 6 4 2  
 ♣ 9  
**SOUTH**  
 ♠ K Q J 7 4  
 ♥ A 10  
 ♦ J 8  
 ♣ 10 8 5 2  
 The bidding:  
 North East South West  
 1 ♠ 1 ♥ 1 ♠ 1 ♠  
 2 ♣ Pass 3 ♣ Pass  
 3 ♣ Pass 4 ♣  
 Opening lead — king of diamonds.

**There's Only One Way Out**

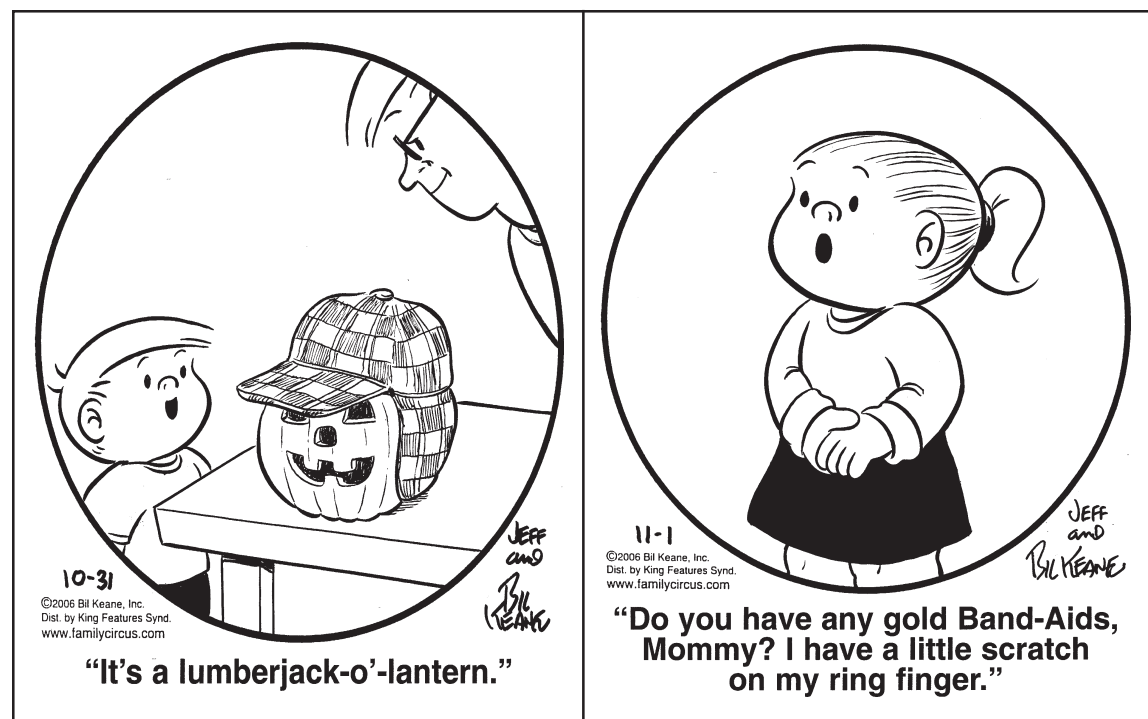
Let's say you're in four spades and West leads the king of diamonds. Everything looks copacetic, since your only losers appear to be two diamonds and a spade. But the outlook changes abruptly when East overtakes the king of diamonds with the ace and returns the nine of clubs, almost certainly a singleton. East is apparently planning to win the first trump lead with the ace, put his partner on lead with a diamond and obtain a club ruff. If this occurs, you will go down, losing two diamonds, a spade and a ruff. So you don your thinking cap to see if there might be a way to extricate yourself from this predicament. The first thing that occurs to you is that if West has the Q-x-x of hearts, you can save the day by playing the A-10 of hearts, finessing the jack and then discarding a diamond on the king. But this method of play is not very promising, considering that East overcalled with one heart. It's virtually a sure thing that East has the queen. And then the solution dawns on you. The thought that East has the queen of hearts suggests there is a way out. So you win the club, cash the A-K of hearts and continue with the jack. When East covers the jack with the queen, you discard the jack of diamonds on it! That's the second trick for the defense, and the only other trick they can get is the ace of spades. The opponents thus end up scoring a diamond, a heart and a spade, instead of two diamonds and a spade, but the all-important difference is that East doesn't get to ruff a club. By substituting one loser for another, you have circumvented defeat.

South dealer.  
 East-West vulnerable.  
**NORTH**  
 ♠ K J  
 ♥ 7 2  
 ♦ Q J 10 8 4  
 ♣ K 6 5 3  
**WEST**  
 ♠ 10 8 5 3  
 ♥ 10 9 8 4  
 ♦ 6 3  
 ♣ 8 4 2  
**EAST**  
 ♠ 9 7 4 2  
 ♥ A 6 3  
 ♦ A 9  
 ♣ A Q 10 7  
**SOUTH**  
 ♠ A Q 6  
 ♥ K Q J 5  
 ♦ K 7 5 2  
 ♣ J 9  
 The bidding:  
 South West North East  
 1 NT Pass 3 NT All Pass  
 Opening lead — ten of hearts.

**Faith, Hope and Charity**

Many plays in bridge are based more on hope than on certainty of success. That is the nature of the game, whether you're declarer or a defender. Consider this deal where South got to three notrump as shown. West led the ten of hearts, and when dummy came down, it was easy for East to conclude that his partner's hand was worthless. East could see 10 points in dummy and 14 in his own hand, so South had to have virtually all of the missing points to account for his opening notrump bid. It was therefore up to East to try to defeat the contract single-handedly, since he could not count on his partner to contribute anything to the defense. Passive defense — winning the heart with the ace and returning a heart — obviously wouldn't do the job, since declarer would force out the ace of diamonds and score at least nine tricks, depending on how many spades and hearts he had. East therefore adopted the only method of defense that offered a chance to sink the contract. He took the heart ace at trick one and returned the club queen at trick two! This combination of plays had the desired effect. Since South had precisely what East was hoping for — the doubleton jack of clubs — declarer now had no way to score nine tricks before East could score five. After taking the club king, South led a low diamond from dummy, whereupon East rose with the ace and cashed three club tricks to put the contract down one. East could have achieved the same result by cashing the club ace at trick two and returning the queen at trick three, which is essentially the same play. But note that if East had chosen to bid his time by ducking the ten-of-hearts lead, or had taken the ace and returned a heart, South would have made at least nine tricks regardless of how East later chose to defend.

**Family Circus • Bill Keane**



11-1  
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 "You have any gold Band-Aids, Mommy? I have a little scratch on my ring finger."