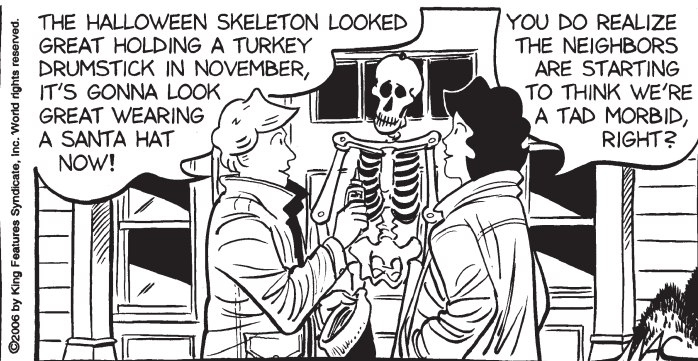
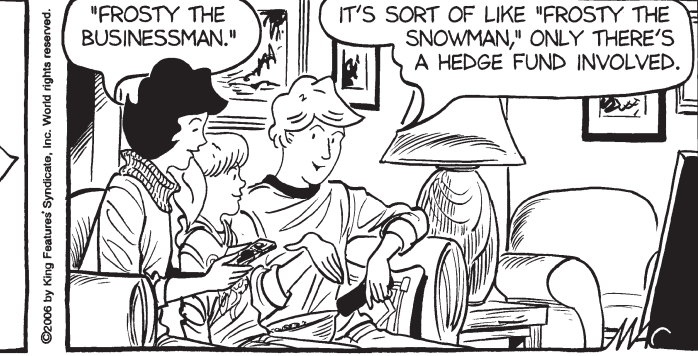


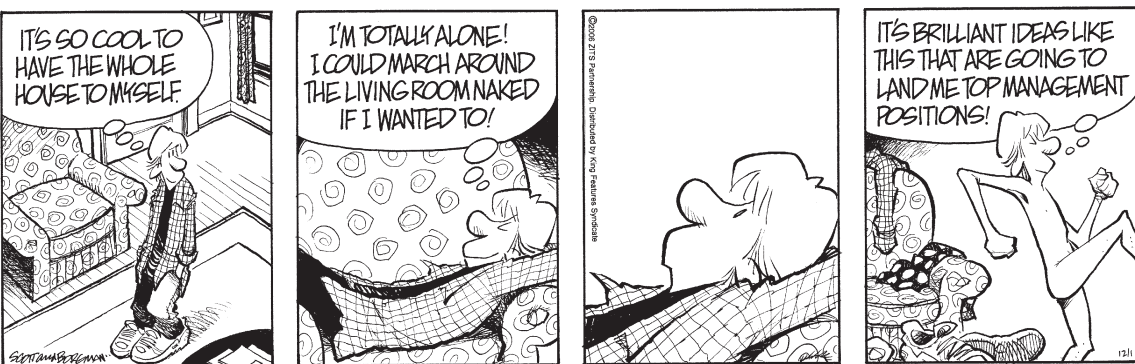
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



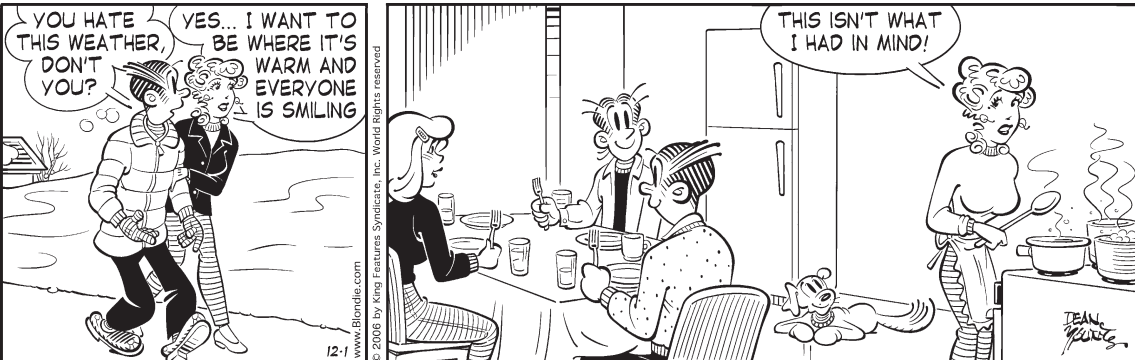
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



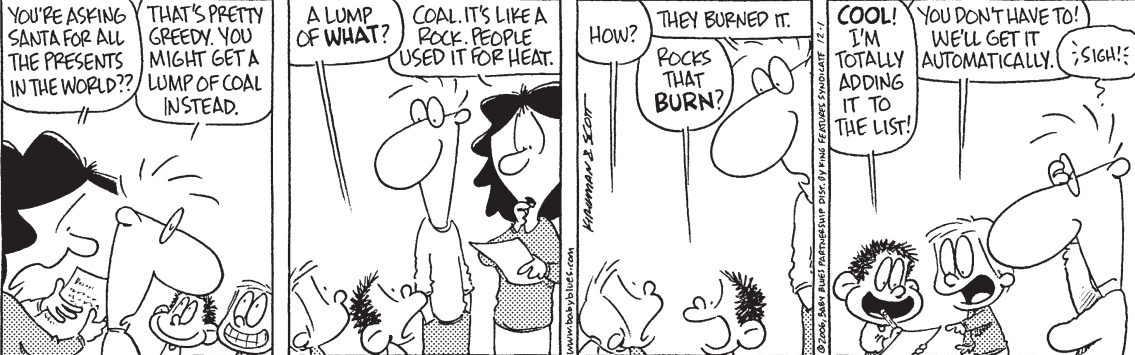
Blondie • Chic Young



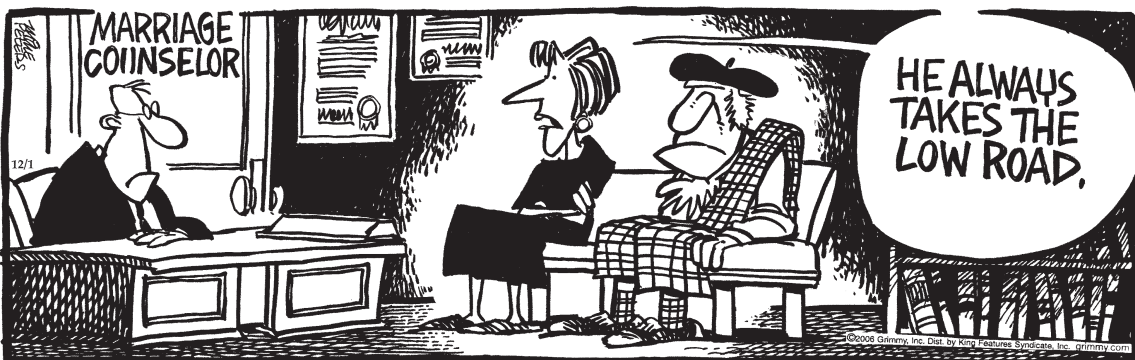
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Cryptoquip

HQ WZW CIJAW Z ASGYVF YFGO AZLGZOG TA VZLLCORGR
RI IFW ZAW WSNUQ UTZU SZ VFCOJG C YZBWZQS
TV GIJFWA'U HZYV TVZWR BGJTLGO, T BGVWZO SFCS'A
IN UZSFR IJU IC SU. C BGSBCTOTOJ ZBRGB.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A CHORAL CONCERT IS WELL UNDER WAY, I GUESS YOU COULD SAY THAT IT'S IN FULL SING.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals D
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MY DAD FOUND A NICKEL SO OLD AND DIRTY THAT HE COULDN'T MAKE HEADS OR TAILS OUT OF IT.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals T

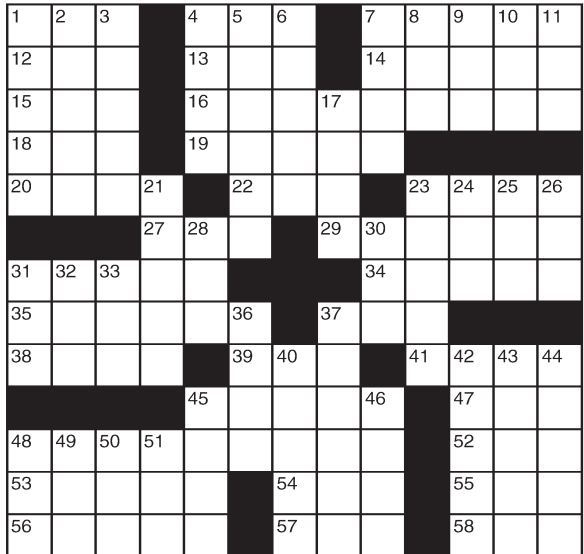
Crossword

ACROSS
1 Answer, "Jeopardy!"-style
4 Bakes or Blanc
7 Bakery lure
12 Speedometer abbr.
13 Do some downsizing
14 Tropical tree resin
15 Shell-game need
16 Popular pasta
18 Albanian money
19 Reservation residence
20 Make a long story short
22 Queue after Q
23 Notion
27 Chapeau
29 Heavenly band
31 Arts supporter
34 Treat for Homer Simpson
35 Disperse in small droplets
37 Canto prece
38 Use a teaspoon
39 Scull need
41 Ooze slowly
45 Kate's sitcom pal
47 Quilters' get-together
48 16-Across' mates
52 Raw rock
53 Song of yesteryear
54 Swiss peak
55 Pinch
56 Tasteless
57 Thither
58 "Of course"
61 More than enough
62 Bullock-Reeves movie
63 Uniform color
64 Sail support
65 Pro
66 Bounds
67 Rue the run
68 Baby shad
69 Make a choice
70 Tumbler's surface
71 Frazier foe
72 Jazz saxophonist Stan
73 "... — finest hour"
74 Pedestal occupants
75 Cacophony
76 Perfume-label word
77 Performance
78 Elev.
79 Keatsian opus
80 Tee prece
81 Likely
82 — Lanka
83 "J'Accuse" writer
84 S.O.S. competitor
85 Soothe
86 Black board?
87 Goose-bump raising noises
88 Sleeping
89 "Stump the Schwab" network
90 Horde
91 Blueprint addition
92 Oklahoma city
93 Stannum

Solution time: 25 mins.

ESP DASH SWAP
LEA AGUY PALO
LASTWORD OREO
SON FRITTER
DOWNEY FALL
IDO DAY KICKY
DORM MAP TUNA
ORDER KIT SEW
DOC TASSEL
TAXI CAB ROW
AURA BUZZWORD
GNAT AREA RID
STYE LYNN DOT

Yesterday's answer 12-1

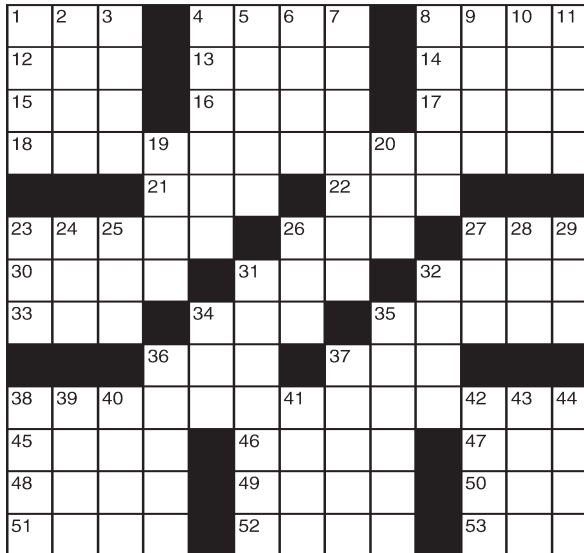


ACROSS
1 Energy
4 Deeds
8 Tournament situations
12 Historic time
13 Perfectly
14 Went by train
15 Erstwhile garment
16 Shake in the grass?
17 Plankton component
18 Bear or tiger, e.g.
21 Moreover
22 Old soap ingredient
23 Plait
26 Ball-bearing item
27 Started
30 Deserve
31 Protrude
32 Garr or Hatcher
33 Qty.
34 Mustache enhancer
35 Cognizant
36 Height of fashion?
37 In olden days
38 Campbell's offering
45 "American —"
46 Unyielding
47 Massage venue
48 Tide type
49 Minimal change
50 Journal
51 Remnants
52 Renders dumb-founded
53 Inseparable
61 Miles of movies
62 Mideast nation
63 Amahl's night visitors
64 Nearby
65 Might
66 Post-bath application
67 Ingenue
68 Pair
69 Egg inwards
70 Advantage
71 Burn somewhat
72 Primary
73 Favorable vote
74 Arthur or Lillie
75 Aries
76 Illustrations
77 Monkey suit
78 Grazing land
79 Blow it
80 Conk out
81 Montego Bay site
82 Duos
83 Soggy
84 Feds
85 Lends a hand
86 Unscorted
87 Tarzan's transport
88 Paradise
89 Egg on
90 Cauldron concoction
91 Scandinavian city
92 Fairy-tale preposition
93 Senate staffer

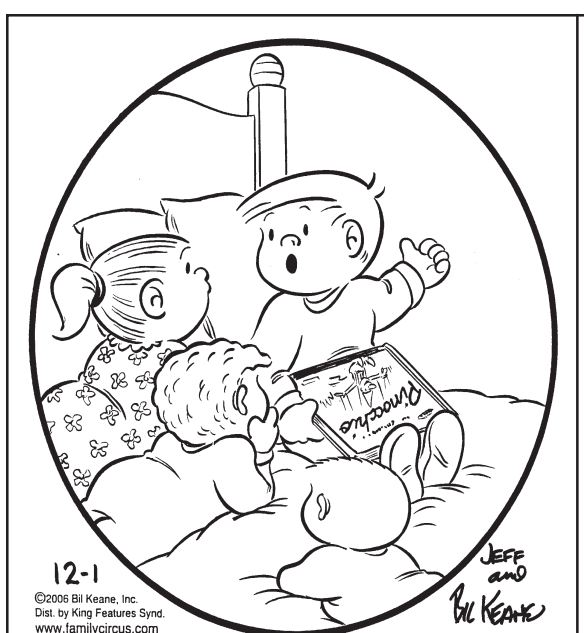
Solution time: 27 mins.

ASK MEL AROMA
MPH AXE COPAL
PEA SPAGHETTI
LEK TEPEE
EDIT RST IDEA
HAT ZODIAC
EASEL DONUT
SPRITZ BEL
STIR OAR SEEP
ALLIE BEE
MEATBALLS ORE
OLDIE ALP NIP
BLAND YON YES

Yesterday's answer 12-2



Family Circus • Bill Keane



Bridge

You are declarer with the West hand at Seven Notrump. North leads the jack of hearts, which you win with the queen as South follows low.

How would you play the hand?

West
♠ AKQ2
♥ 32
♦ AKQ3
♣ AKQ
East
♠ 6543
♥ AKQ
♦ 2
♣ 65432

Test Your Play

If either the spades or the clubs are divided 3-2, you have 13 tricks, so you start by assuming that both suits are divided unfavorably — that is, 4-1 or 5-0.

The contract cannot be defeated — no matter how the cards are divided — if you play properly. You might have to execute a squeeze, but to accomplish it you must be careful to cash your tricks in the right order. You start by playing the A-K of spades and A-K of clubs. When you do, you might discover (1) that one opponent has both of these suits guarded or (2) that each opponent has one suit guarded.

In case No. 1, the squeeze is executed by simply cashing the A-K-Q of diamonds, queen of clubs and A-K of hearts, ending in dummy. As these cards are cashed, you discard a diamond from your hand and a spade and a club from dummy, leaving this position:

West — [S] Q2
East — [S] 6; [C] 6

The opponent with both black suits guarded is down to two cards also and was forced to unguard one of those suits when the last heart was cashed. Whether he relinquished a club or a spade, that discard was fatal.

In case No. 2, you cash both black queens, followed by the A-K of hearts to bring about this position:

West — [D] AKQ3
East — [S] 6; [D] 2; [C] 65

By now the squeeze (called a double squeeze because both opponents feel the pinch) has already been effected. The opponent with the spade guard could not keep more than three diamonds, and the opponent with the club guard likewise could not keep more than three diamonds. The A-K-Q-3 of diamonds therefore win the last four tricks.

Of course, if either opponent relinquishes his guard in either black suit, you would discard the three of diamonds on the established club or spade before cashing the A-K-Q of diamonds.

North dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A J 3
♥ A Q 9 8 7
♦ Q
♣ 8 7 6 5

WEST
♠ Q 8 7 4
♥ 10 6 3
♦ K J 8 5 3 2
♣ —

SOUTH
♠ 6
♥ 5 2
♦ A 9 7 4
♣ A Q J 10 4 2

The bidding:
North 1♥
1♣
3♣
Pass
East 1♠
3♠
5♠
South 2♣
5♣
6♣
West 2♦
5♦
Opening lead — four of spades.

A Synthetic Trump Finesse

Maintaining control over trumps is vital in the play of many suit contracts. This hand required delicate treatment by declarer to bring home his slam.

West led a spade, taken by dummy's ace. Declarer then played a club to the queen, on which West showed out. South realized from the bidding that he would be unable to ruff his diamonds successfully in dummy, so he led a heart and finessed the queen, hoping to establish that suit in order to dispose of his diamond losers.

The finesse lost to the king, and East returned the ten of diamonds. South took the ace and, proceeding according to plan, played a heart to the ace and ruffed a heart. If he had ruffed a diamond first, or taken a second club finesse after crossing to the ace of hearts, he would have been defeated.

When the hearts turned out to be divided 3-3, South ruffed a diamond in dummy. At this point, dummy had two good hearts, two trumps and the J-3 of spades, while East had the K-9 of clubs and four spades.

South still had to take a club finesse to pick up East's K-9 but couldn't afford to lead one of dummy's trumps to do so. Instead, he led one of dummy's hearts, which amounted to taking a trump finesse if East chose to ruff.

East was now faced with a Hobson's choice. If he ruffed the heart, declarer would overruff, draw another round of trumps, then ruff a diamond and discard his other diamond on the last heart.

If East didn't ruff the heart, South would discard a diamond and lead another heart. Whether East ruffed at this point would again make no difference. East's king of clubs was bound to be trapped either on this trick or the next one.

So South made the slam as a result of his thoughtful play. By establishing dummy's hearts, he was able to finesse in trumps without actually leading them.

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