

Sally Forth • Greg Howard



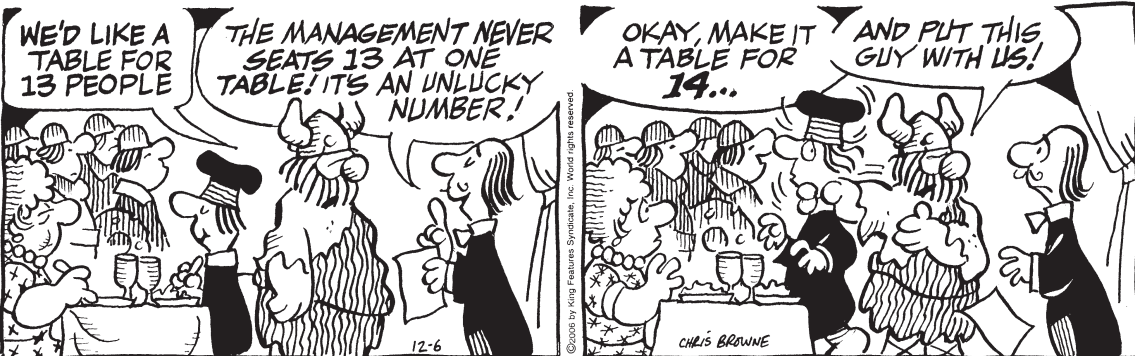
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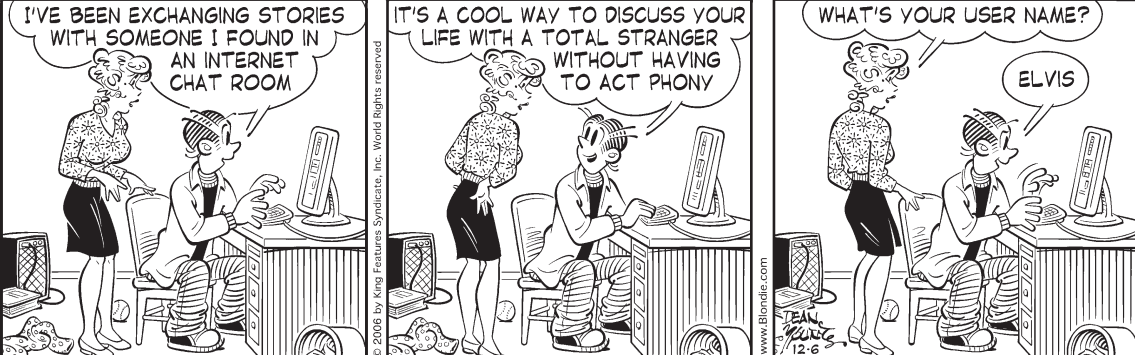
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



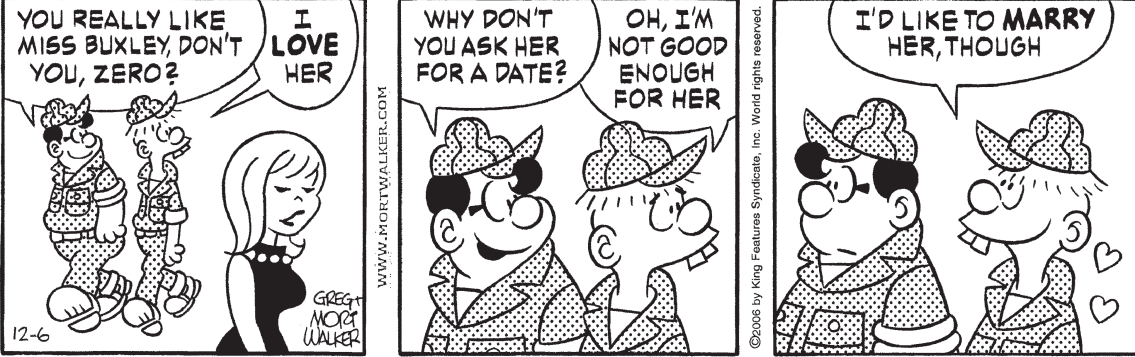
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Cryptoquip

Y I U J D P R E X I P E B W B Y M H R O A K C H R O Y K X O C H
L D Z R Y X Q Y U A A D B J A R A E V F F N M H F L A D F V M D
A P Y F Q H E W , B Y K L A H E W K H M D K M X A O C H M L A M X H . R O
F U Z Z A L U A I Y X X - U K Z Y X K ? W M N O C M E A O H H B E O X X O .
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT WOULD YOU Y E S T E R D A Y ' S C R Y P T O Q U I P : I F A P E R S O N F R O M
CALL A SKUNK TRAPPED INSIDE YOUR CAR T I R E ? I ' D S A Y H E ' S A W H E E L S T I N K E R ! H E L S I N K I A T T E M P T S T O T R I C K Y O U , M I G H T
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals T Y O U C A L L T H A T F I N N - A G L I N G ?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals T T o d a y ' s C r y p t o q u i p C l u e : R e q u a l s H

Crossword

ACROSS

1 Acknowledge
5 Jewel
8 Privation
12 Arrivederci
13 Past
14 Uncontrollable
15 Bear-naise ingredient
17 Say it isn't so
18 Hot tub
19 Emotional pang
21 Ghost costume
24 Aforementioned
25 Chopped
26 Large brass container?
30 Exist
31 "CSI" setting
32 Eggs
33 Moliere's miser
35 Tourney situations
36 Work units

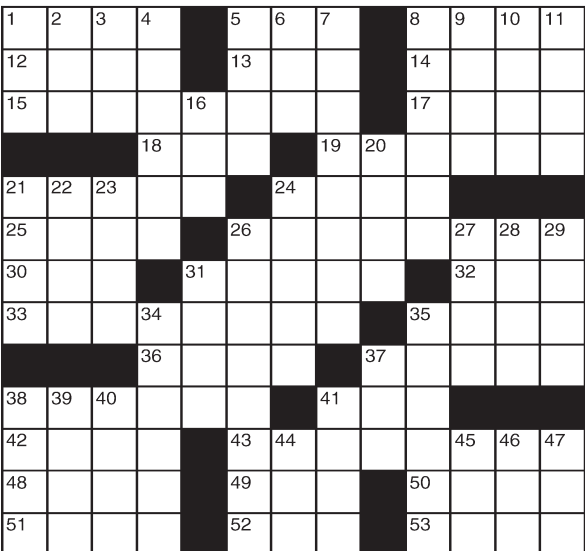
DOWN

1 Performance
2 By way of
3 Rowing tool
4 Decline
5 Enthusiastic, plus
6 "I" strain
7 Billings resident
8 Pretentious
9 Portent
10 Medley component
11 Terrier variety
16 Suitable
20 Sanity
21 Persian leader
22 Argonauts' patron

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 12-5



ACROSS

1 Equivocates
5 Whatever amount
8 Bat a gnat
12 Met melody
13 Whopper
14 Snapshots
15 Unexpected gain
17 Kournikova of tennis
18 Insinuating
19 Elopers aid
21 Pound of verse
24 Energy
25 Stitched
28 Sly look
30 Doctrine
33 Parisian pal
34 Suitors
35 Shell game item
36 Revolver
37 One side of the Urals

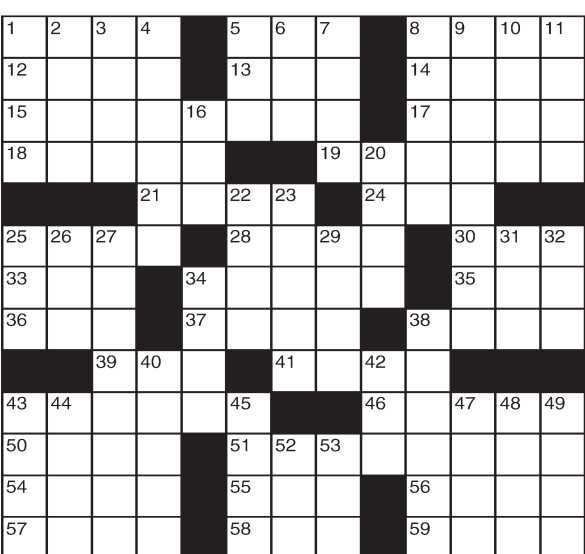
DOWN

1 Equivocates
2 Hibernia
3 Short skirt
4 Turn blue?
5 Carte lead-in
6 Zero
7 Scream
8 One in a black suit?
9 Trachea
10 Dermatologist case
11 Despot
16 Shriner's cap
20 Pinnacle
22 Harts' mates

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 12-6



Family Circus • Bill Keane



Bridge

West dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ 8
♥ Q 6 2
♦ 10 9 5 3
♣ 9 7 5 4 2

WEST

♠ A
♥ J 10 7 3
♦ A K J 6 2
♣ J 8 3

EAST

♠ J 10 9 7
♥ 9 8 5 4
♦ Q 8 4
♣ 10 6

SOUTH

♠ K Q 6 5 4 3 2
♥ A K
♦ 7
♣ A K Q

The bidding:
West 1 ♦ North Pass East Pass South 4 ♠
Opening lead — king of diamonds.

Look Before You Leap

Let's say you have a 65 percent chance of making a contract by adopting a certain line of play. Although this certainly makes you a favorite to succeed, you should not be willing to settle for that chance if there's another method of play that gives you a 75 percent chance.

While it is true that in this instance the more favorable approach will gain in only 10 deals out of every 100, there can be no denying that the closer you can get to 100 percent, the better off you will be, whether your chances rise from poor to fair or from good to excellent.

Getting down to cases, consider this deal where West leads the K-A of diamonds against your four-spade contract. You ruff and play the king of trumps. West takes his ace and plays another diamond, which you ruff. When you now cash the queen of trumps, West shows out, and you must go down one, losing two more trump tricks.

It is, of course, unlucky that the trumps divided 4-1. The normal expectancy is a 3-2 division, which occurs 68 percent of the time. Nevertheless, these odds can be improved upon (by about 6 percent) by leading a low spade from your hand at trick three instead of the king!

In the actual case, this is the winning play because West has the singleton ace. In making this play, though, it is important to recognize that no harm can come from leading a low spade initially regardless of how the opposing spades are divided. If they break 3-2, you will lose two trump tricks whether you start by leading a low spade or the king.

The advantage of the low spade play is that if the spades break 4-1 and the ace is singleton in either opponent's hand — roughly a 6 percent chance — you can gain a trick, and in the actual deal, that makes all the difference.

South dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ 8 6 5
♥ Q 10 7 2
♦ A Q
♣ A 7 6 3

WEST

♠ K Q J 10 7 2
♥ 5
♦ J 9 4
♣ Q 10 5

EAST

♠ 4
♥ 9 6
♦ 10 8 7 5 3 2
♣ J 9 8 4

SOUTH

♠ A 9 3
♥ A K J 8 4 3
♦ K 6
♣ K 2

The bidding:
South 1 ♥ West 2 ♣ North 4 ♥ East Pass
5 NT Pass 5 ♣ Pass
6 ♥ Pass

Opening lead — king of spades.

Two Losers Shrink to One

Assume South gets to six hearts as shown and West leads the spade king. It certainly seems that declarer will lose two spade tricks and go down one, but if he is on his toes, he makes the slam.

South starts by winning the spade lead with the ace and drawing two rounds of trumps.

He then plays the K-A of clubs, ruffs a club, cashes the Q-A of diamonds and leads dummy's last club, the seven.

The stage is now set for the crucial play. Instead of trumping East's jack of clubs, South discards one of his spade losers. He is hoping that West had a six-card spade suit for his pre-emptive jump-overcall, which is the normal expectancy.

And, as hoped, that proves to be precisely the case. East finds himself on lead and, like it or not, is compelled to return a diamond. South thereupon discards his last spade and ruffs in dummy to bring home the slam.

There is nothing remarkable about the way in which declarer accomplished his purpose, nor was he exceptionally lucky to find West with six spades for his overcall and East with the majority of the missing clubs.

The odds greatly favored finding both of these conditions, and all declarer had to do was to take advantage of the probabilities.

Although the winning line of play is really not difficult to formulate and execute, the fact is that many declarers in the given situation might quickly concede down one after they saw the dummy.

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