

Sally Forth • Greg Howard



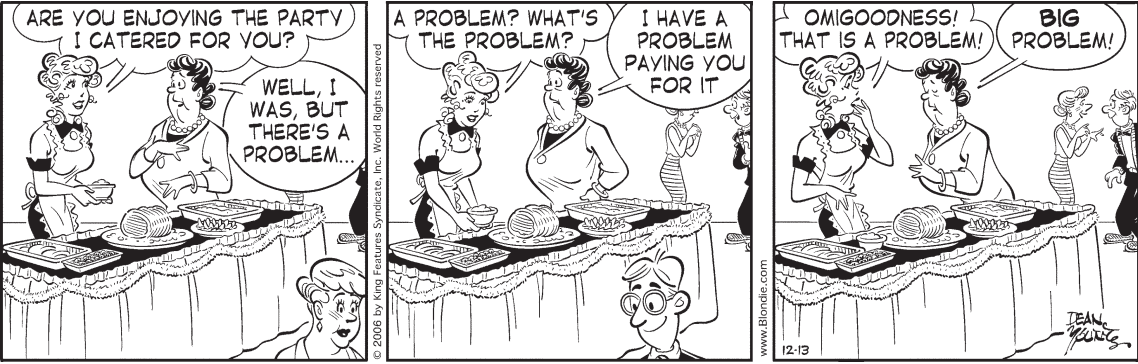
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



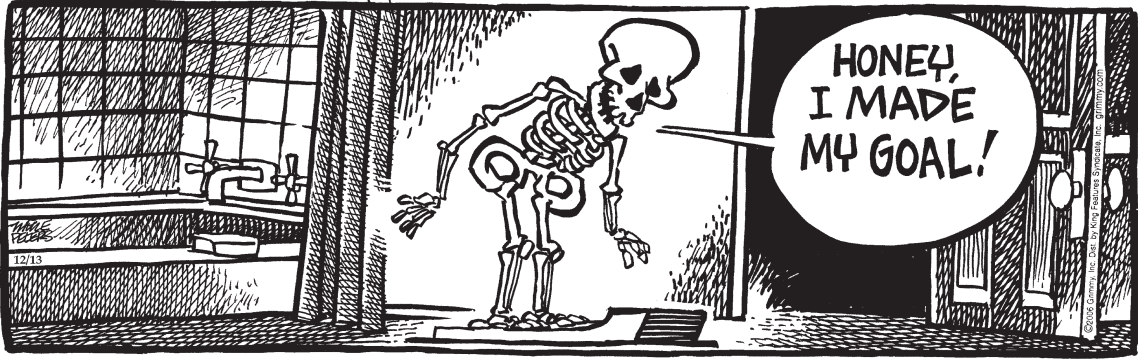
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Cryptoquip

AK FND BXUX MN UDTZ MN  
JXM MN Y HAOOAEJ TYWX,  
FND RUNHYHWF BYEM Y  
RAXLX NK MZX YDLMANE.  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ACTOR FALK HAD BEEN ON A FABULOUS WINNING STREAK, HOPING HIS LUCK WOULDN'T PETER OUT.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals F

AJSQ FBT VISGU TM GIWSQKO  
ODTRMW AKYJ G RKQSI'W  
YBBD, RKNJY FBT VS  
MKOUKQN FBTI MBKWBQ?  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU WERE TO RUSH TO GET TO A BIDDING SALE, YOU PROBABLY WANT A PIECE OF THE AUCTION.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals Y

Crossword

**ACROSS**

1 Lyricist's subject  
5 Burst  
8 Notoriety  
12 Wading bird  
13 Id counterpart  
14 Exam format  
15 Thanksgiving event  
17 Sty cry  
18 Moray, e.g.  
19 Galena, for instance  
20 Goes nowhere  
21 Sauté  
22 Mis' neighbors  
23 Hunter constellation  
26 Servant  
30 Trusty pooch  
31 Gender  
32 Vender off the island  
33 Sub-table flirtation  
35 Pizzazz  
36 Remiss

**DOWN**

1 Luce publication  
2 Reed instrument  
3 String instrument  
4 Superlative ending  
5 Polar explorer  
6 Impolite look  
7 D.C. members  
8 Ottoman short  
9 Met melody  
10 Oodles  
11 B.P.O.E. members  
16 "— Free"  
20 Paulo preceder  
21 1984 Kevin Bacon movie

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

**Yesterdays answer 12-12**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13			14			
15				16			17			
18				19			20			
			21			22				
23	24	25			26			27	28	29
30				31			32			
33				34			35			
			36			37				
38	39	40			41			42	43	44
45				46			47			
48				49			50			
51				52			53			

**ACROSS**

1 Jogging gait  
5 Muppet eagle  
8 Woods' specialty  
12 Head light?  
13 Cravat  
14 Say confidently  
15 Prelude  
17 Apportion  
18 Esteem  
19 Need for libation  
21 Weeding implement  
22 Faxed  
23 Commotion  
26 "CSI" evidence  
28 Use a loom  
31 Relocate  
33 Haley's Oz costume  
35 Epidermis  
36 College boss (Sl.)  
38 "Can't Help Lovin' — Man"

**DOWN**

1 Explorer Heyerdahl  
2 Four-star review  
3 Couturier  
4 Pentateuch  
5 Pupil  
6 Football filler  
7 Holds a session  
8 Street girls  
9 Pass  
10 Reply to "Shall we?"  
11 Guitar neck feature

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

**Yesterdays answer 12-13**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13			14			
15				16			17			
18						19	20			
			21			22				
23	24	25		26		27		28		29
30				31			32		33	34
35				36			37		38	39
			40			41		42		43
44				45			46		47	48
49				50			51		52	53
54				55			56		57	
58				59			60		61	

Family Circus • Bill Keane



Bridge

South dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**

AKQ4  
Q107  
765  
843

**WEST**

873  
8643  
109  
J975

**EAST**

J105  
AJ9  
QJ832  
Q10

**SOUTH**

962  
K52  
AK4  
AK62

The bidding:  
South 1 NT West Pass North 3 NT East All Pass  
Opening lead — ten of diamonds.

A Tactical Defensive Maneuver

If you look at all four hands, it isn't easy to see how declarer can possibly go down in three notrump. He seems certain to score two clubs, two diamonds, a heart and, because of the lucky 3-3 spade division, four spades for a total of nine tricks.

Yet, as reported by the great Australian star Tim Seres, South failed to make the contract. Not only that, but in winding up with only eight tricks, it's hard to prove that declarer did anything really wrong!

West started by leading the diamond ten from his virtually worthless collection, hoping to strike his partner's long suit. As it happened, West was successful in his aim, but this was not the real cause of South's undoing.

Declarer took the diamond lead with the ace and tested the spades by cashing the A-K. Had East woodenly followed suit, there would have been no tale to tell. But when the two top spades were cashed, East followed with the ten and jack!

South naturally assumed that West had both missing spades, so he next led the four of spades to his nine. He then played the king of hearts, hoping the opponent with the ace would win the trick and thereby provide him with an entry to the queen of spades.

But East had not come this far to make things easy for declarer. He did not take his ace, leaving South with no choice but to lead a second round of hearts toward the Q-10. When West followed low, South finessed the ten, losing to East's jack. Not long after that, declarer finished down one.

In summarizing the deal, Seres cited the basic principle of defense that East had followed: When you see that declarer is bound to succeed by normal play, you should look for a way to present him with a losing alternative.

South dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**

1087  
1064  
AJ853  
QJ

**WEST**

963  
K85  
K92  
10985

**EAST**

—  
QJ93  
Q1064  
AK732

**SOUTH**

AKQJ542  
A72  
7  
64

The bidding:  
South 1 Pass West Pass North 1 NT East Dble  
Opening lead — ten of clubs.

South dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**

1087  
1064  
AJ853  
QJ

**WEST**

963  
K85  
K92  
10985

**EAST**

—  
QJ93  
Q1064  
AK732

**SOUTH**

AKQJ542  
A72  
7  
64

The bidding:  
South 1 Pass West Pass North 1 NT East Dble  
Opening lead — ten of clubs.

Win a Lot, Lose a Little

Declarer's objective in most deals is to make the contract, and if — in attempting to reach this goal — he goes down an extra trick while trying to do so, it should not really bother him.

Take this case where South is in four spades and West leads a club. East cashes the A-K of clubs and shifts to the queen of hearts. Declarer ducks the queen but wins the next heart with the ace.

South is now at the crossroads of the hand. He has a heart loser and must formulate a plan to get rid of it. The only way this can be done is to try to establish an extra diamond trick in dummy, which necessitates ruffing three of dummy's diamonds and finding the suit divided 4-3.

There is also another hitch. Dummy's fifth diamond will be of no value if there is no entry to dummy to cash it. For this reason, declarer must adopt a somewhat unusual line of play.

At trick five, he leads a diamond to the ace, then ruffs a diamond high. He next leads the spade deuce and finesses the seven! When this wins, South ruffs another diamond high, then finesses the eight of spades. This is followed by a third diamond ruff high, after which dummy's ten of spades provides the entry to cash the jack of diamonds and make the contract.

It is true that declarer risks going down an extra trick — 100 points — by finessing the spade seven. But it is also true that if the finesse succeeds and the diamonds are divided normally, he scores 620 points for winning the rubber game. Since the finesse can gain a lot and lose only a little, it is clearly the right play.