

Sally Forth • Greg Howard



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Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



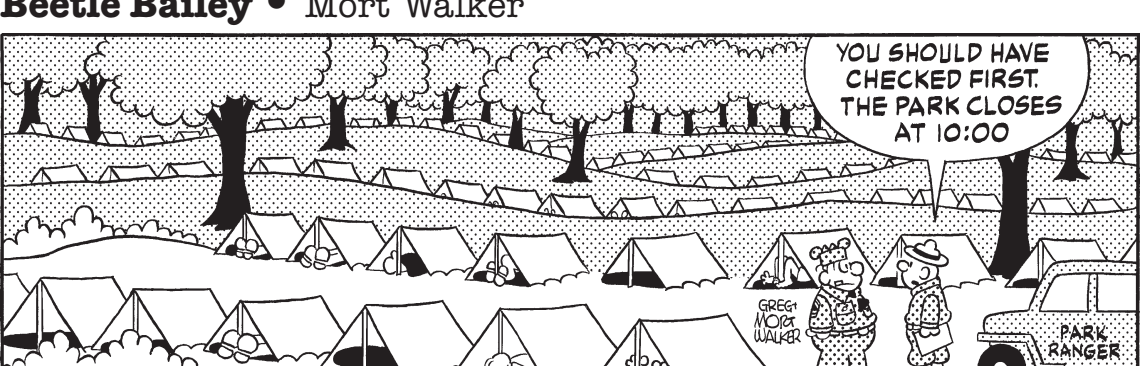
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Cryptoquip

LNIVHD QGBHK VGM LNEI- AIKVEUI DM GUV MY LVDPMVDP
 EVHEBGPW ENDDHD MR USEV, DMU LVDP QIJDUQVMEI
 VH PNUHK VGM MHERPK AEDQXDPI, IVKG UVMIMPIIXU
 KNSVVIHD NQUN PNEB. KVODMYQ KVODMVQ.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A MAGIC-PERFORMING IGUANA SUMMONED UP A SNOWSTORM, IT COULD BE A LIZARD WIZARD BLIZZARD. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals H
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: FATHER LIKED HIS FACT-CHECKING CAREER SO MUCH, HE NAMED HIS SECOND DAUGHTER ALMA NACK. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals T

Crossword

ACROSS
 1 Cambridge sch.
 4 Experts
 8 Kelly or Krupa
 12 401(k) alternative
 13 Allen Ginsberg poem
 14 Eastern potentate
 15 Kit's partner?
 17 Castro's domain
 18 Horse
 19 Wapiti
 21 Zodiac roarer
 22 Dowager's pet, maybe
 26 In the public eye
 29 Plead
 30 Deviate off course
 31 Oklahoma city
 32 Jam ingredient
 33 Roll-call reply
 34 Navy rank (Abbr.)
 35 Saute
 36 Fragrant wood

DOWN
 1 Cinderella's horses, really
 2 War zone
 3 Forbidden (Var.)
 4 Rang up
 5 Wild West show
 6 Hooter
 7 Woody Allen movie
 8 Car-insurance company mascot
 9 Ostrich's kin
 10 Pen point
 11 Geological time
 16 Tended a squeak
 20 Journal
 23 Turned green?
 24 Croft of video-game note

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 12-15

Bridge

You are South, both sides vulnerable. The bidding has been:

East	South	West	North
1 ♠	Dble	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	?		

What would you bid now with each of the following four hands?

- ♠ J3 ♥ AQJ10 ♦ Q64 ♣ AJ85
- ♠ AQ ♥ 932 ♦ AJ7 ♣ AKQJ8
- ♠ 8 ♥ KJ73 ♦ AK84 ♣ AJ92
- ♠ 10 ♥ KQJ4 ♦ KQJ853 ♣ A6

* * *

Bidding Quiz

1. Pass. Your takeout double announced a hand of at least opening-bid values with implied support for the unbid suits. Partner's forced, non-jump response to the double does not promise any strength at all and is often made with a very poor hand. Once the meaning of the double and the response are understood, the doubler can much more easily choose his next action. If he has basically minimum values (13 to 15 points) for his double, he should pass. If he has values beyond a minimum double, he bids again. The hand shown here is highly unlikely to produce a game opposite a forced response. Indeed, it's not even certain that partner will make two hearts, let alone three or four. If partner held promising values (nine points or more), he presumably would have indicated this to you by jumping to three (or four) hearts. Since he failed to do so, your best action by far is to pass.

2. Three notrump. This is admittedly a risky bid, since partner may have no values at all. But you do have eight probable tricks, assuming a spade lead, and it's not overly optimistic to hope that partner has the queen of diamonds or some other useful card. Not every contract is underwritten by Lloyd's; occasionally you have to live dangerously.

3. Three hearts. Game is possible if partner has some modest values, but you must leave the final decision to him, since only he knows exactly how weak or strong he is. It would be too pessimistic to pass two hearts, and too optimistic to go to four hearts on your own. Three is just about right.

4. Four hearts. It would be cowardly to bid less than game, even though you have four potential losers. In the long run, it doesn't pay to assume that partner has absolutely nothing. A raise to only three hearts would be excessively cautious, since partner might pass with a weak hand that included, say, just the king of clubs. The wisest thing to do in such a case is to close your eyes and bid game.

Tomorrow: The battle for trump control. South declarer. East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ J 5
 ♥ K 4
 ♦ A K J 9 6
 ♣ 10 7 5 3

WEST
 ♠ A K 10 7 4
 ♥ J 2
 ♦ 10 5 2
 ♣ K J 6

EAST
 ♠ Q 9 6 3 2
 ♥ 10 7 6 3
 ♦ 8 4
 ♣ 9 4

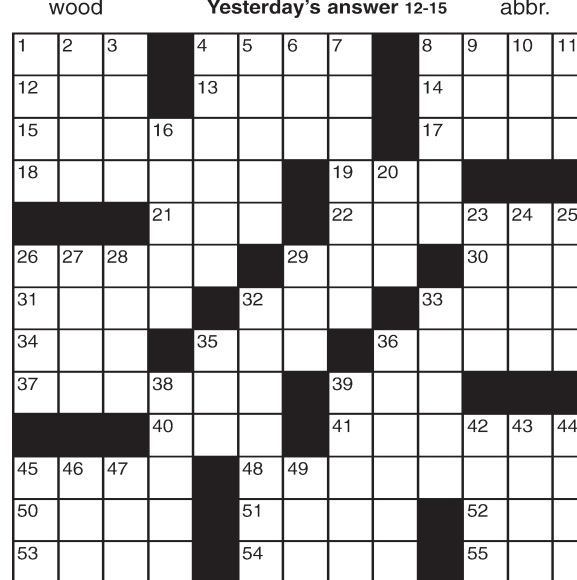
SOUTH
 ♠ 8
 ♥ A Q 9 8 5
 ♦ Q 7 3
 ♣ A Q 8 2

The bidding:
 South 1 ♠
 West 1 ♥
 North 2 ♦
 East Pass
 South 3 ♦
 West Pass
 North 3 ♥
 East Pass

Opening lead — king of spades.

The Battle for Trump Control

Trump management is an integral part of the play of any suit contract. It includes the frequently crucial decision of whether to draw all, some or none of the opposing trumps at the outset. It might also include the question of whether to ruff high, low or not at all in situations where declarer has an opportunity to trump. Take this deal where South mismanaged his trumps and as a result failed to make four hearts. He ruffed West's second spade lead and played the K-Q-A of trumps. When the suit broke 4-2, South next tried to run dummy's diamonds. But East ruffed the third round and returned a spade, forcing declarer to use his last trump. After that, the only trick South could score was the ace of clubs, and he finished down two. The deal illustrates how important it is for declarer to decide at the start how to handle his trumps. In this case, South did not give adequate thought to what he could do to protect against a 4-2 trump break — mathematically 12 percent more likely than a 3-3 division. Had he taken the appropriate measures, he could have assured the contract against both a 3-3 and a 4-2 split. The correct play is to discard a club on the second spade lead! This allows declarer to retain all of his trumps and leaves him in full control. Another spade lead can be ruffed in dummy, after which South cashes the king of hearts, crosses to the queen of diamonds and plays the A-Q of trumps. When the suit fails to divide evenly, he concedes a trump to East's ten and takes the rest of the tricks. The contract is equally certain if West leads a trump or a diamond at trick three. Declarer is sure to score four hearts, five diamonds and the ace of clubs for 10 tricks in all.



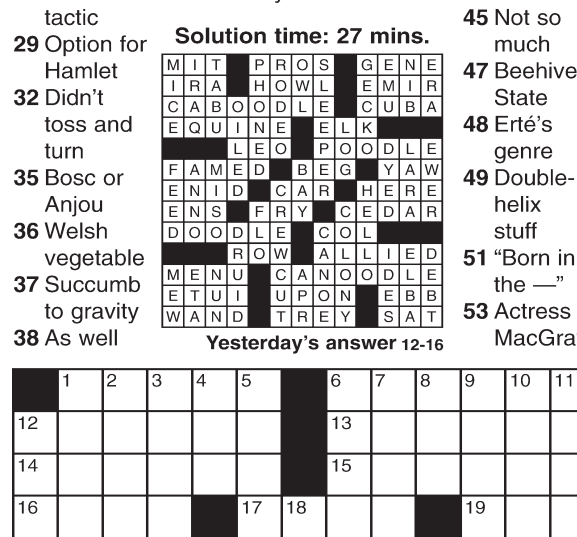
ACROSS
 1 Reagan nickname
 6 Gulf of Oman
 12 Phoenician princess
 13 Anxiety
 14 Classified info?
 15 In layers
 16 Otherwise
 17 Help hoods
 19 — de deux
 20 "¡Quién —!"
 22 Tomé preceder
 24 Bill
 27 Quarterback's tactic
 29 Option for Hamlet
 32 Didn't toss and turn
 35 Bosc or Anjou
 36 Welsh vegetable
 37 Succumb to gravity
 38 As well

DOWN
 1 Two-way
 2 Fancy containers
 3 Carries
 4 IRS employee
 5 Enjoyed oneself greatly
 6 Silent
 7 Ones
 8 Witness
 9 HOV-lane groups
 10 Cruising
 11 Kennedy and Koppel
 12 Lamb's mama
 18 Surround and attack
 21 Likely
 23 —

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 12-16



ACROSS
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Family Circus • Bill Keane

