

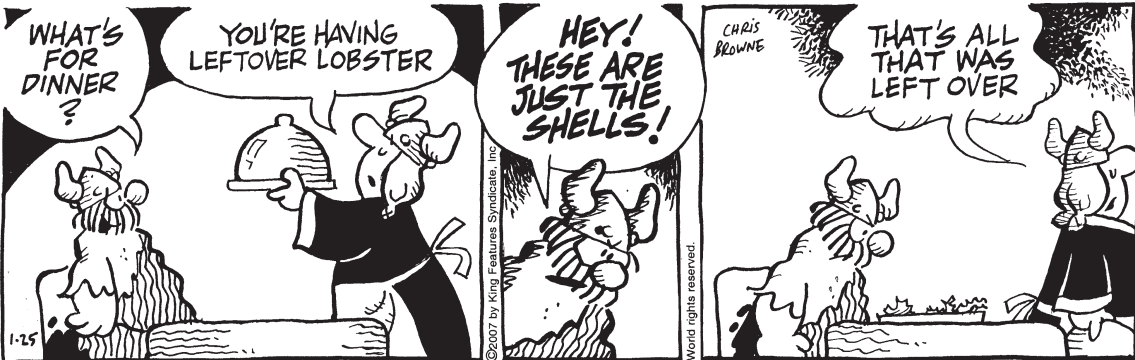
**Sally Forth • Greg Howard**



**Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott**



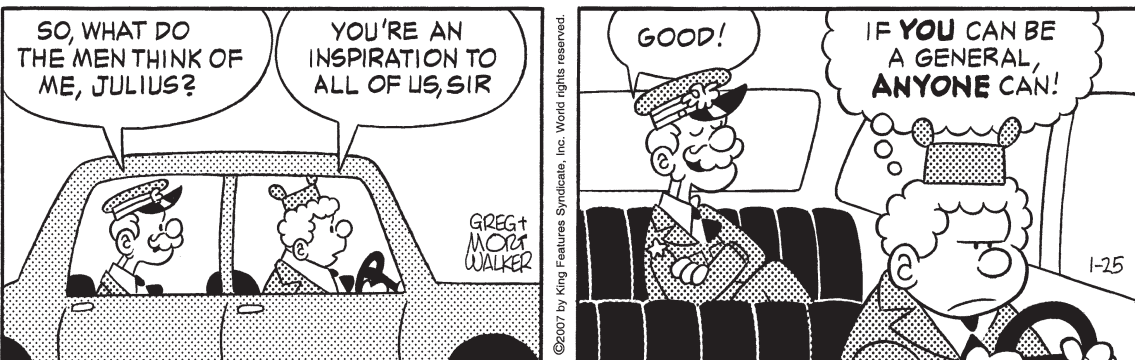
**Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne**



**Blondie • Chic Young**



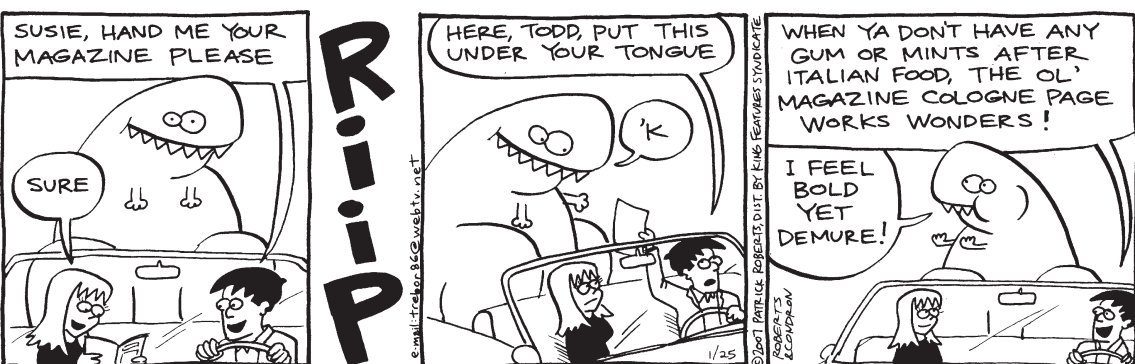
**Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker**



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



**Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts**



**Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters**



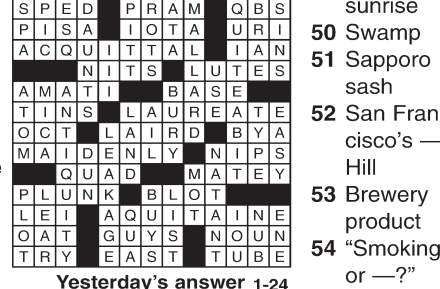
**Cryptoquip**

KXND KQYIO MQY SNII N | AH JFY XNZEYCGN EFRNFWN  
 FGOFQJUGUR FPNI EQJ N | MF EONG C HNS NKMZC  
 WYUSX QE AGDSQF AGWIGURA? | XFYWGE, BFYQG MONJ BQCAR  
 DXP WJNOM WJYUSX. | AM SCE C GANM BFCK?  
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU HAPPENED TO BREW YOUR COFFEE TWICE, WOULD THAT GET YOU A TICKET FOR DOUBLE PERKING?  
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals A  
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT WOULD YOU CALL A MIDMORNING MEAL FOR A BUNCH OF SITCOM SIBLINGS? THE BRADY BRUNCH.  
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals I

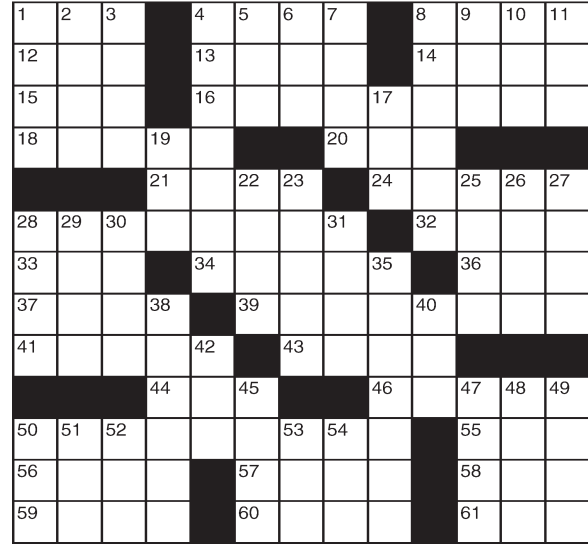
**Crossword**

- ACROSS**  
 1 Winter ailment  
 4 Low voice  
 8 Cheer  
 12 Part of UCLA  
 13 Leave out  
 14 Apiece  
 15 Indivisible  
 16 Waterloo loser  
 18 Heron's cousin  
 20 Future bloom  
 21 Young fellows  
 24 Mortise's mate  
 28 Ritual conflagrations  
 32 Garden implement  
 33 Exist  
 34 Forum tongue  
 36 —med  
 37 High- or low-follower  
 39 Nitwit  
 41 Nonsense  
 43 Thumbs down, NASA-style
- DOWN**  
 2 Protracted  
 5 Addict  
 6 Ragtag and  
 7 I love, in 34-Across  
 8 Sermon subject  
 9 Impale  
 10 Library patron  
 11 Scull tool  
 12 Autumn mo.  
 13 Common-est  
 14 English word  
 15 Deposit  
 16 Sprite  
 17 Unexciting  
 18 Ice mass  
 19 Protracted  
 20 Attack  
 21 Scuff

Solution time: 21 mins.



Yesterday's answer 1-24

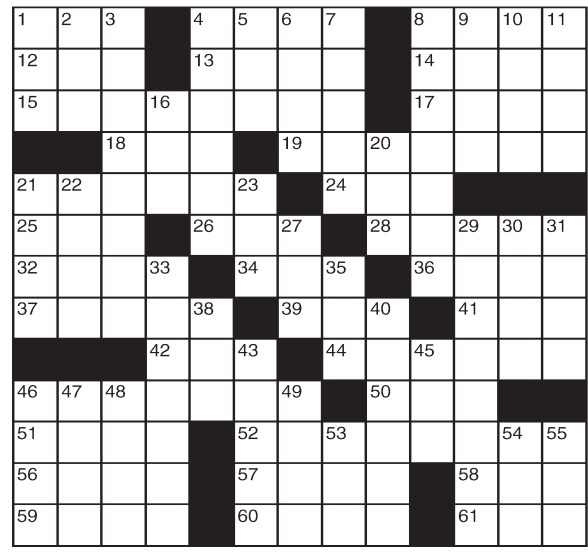


- ACROSS**  
 1 Snow White's pal  
 4 Oxidation effect  
 8 Capri is one  
 12 Zsa Zsa's sister  
 13 Malaria symptom  
 14 Bleak, in Hollywood  
 15 Kind of monk or monkey  
 17 Queen of the Nile  
 18 Lanka preceder  
 19 Boring  
 21 Book-binder's supply  
 24 Historic boy king  
 25 Portrayer of 17-Across  
 26 Eminem's genre  
 28 Adorns  
 32 Dogfight participants  
 34 Bankroll  
 36 Logical
- DOWN**  
 1 Calendar abbr.  
 2 Eggs  
 3 Overturned  
 4 More suggestive  
 5 Reaction to castor oil  
 6 Be apropos for  
 7 Doctrine  
 8 Spurs on  
 9 Unaccompanied  
 10 Stead  
 11 Piccadilly statue  
 16 Samovar  
 20 Flop  
 21 Bridge coup  
 22 Elite alternative  
 23 2004 horror film  
 27 La —, Bolivia  
 29 Room  
 30 Entanglement  
 31 Wields a needle  
 33 Arid  
 35 Pooch  
 38 In the thick of  
 40 Gives a speech  
 43 Walked the floor  
 45 Historic time  
 46 Magical power  
 47 Leading man  
 48 Inlet  
 49 Former filly  
 53 Wrestling win  
 54 Ultra-modernist  
 55 "Casa-blanca" pianist

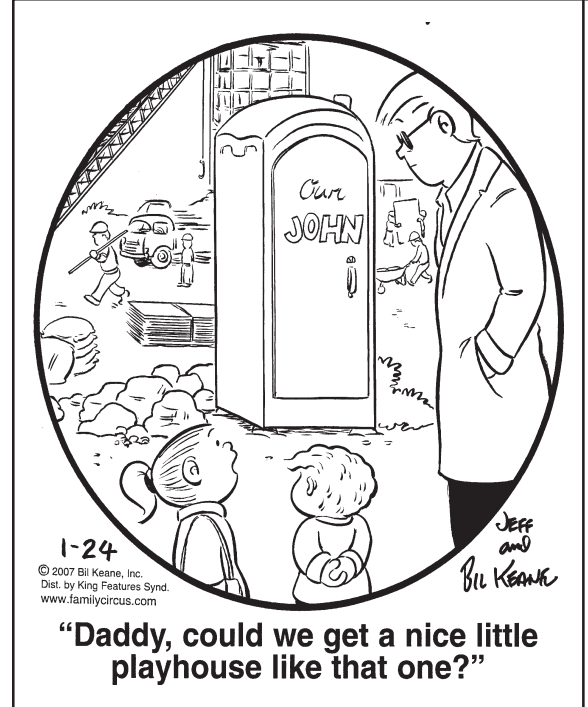
Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 1-25



**Family Circus • Bill Keane**



**Bridge**

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
 ♠ 10 9 3  
 ♥ A 9 5  
 ♦ J 6 4  
 ♣ J 9 7 2

**WEST**  
 ♠ 7 4  
 ♥ J 8 6 3  
 ♦ 9 7 5 3  
 ♣ K 8 5

**EAST**  
 ♠ A 8  
 ♥ K 10 7 2  
 ♦ Q 10 8 4  
 ♣ Q 10 6 4

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ K Q J 6 5 2  
 ♥ Q 4  
 ♦ A K 2  
 ♣ A 3

The bidding:  
 South 1 ♠  
 West Pass  
 North 1 NT  
 East Pass

Opening lead — three of diamonds.

A Comprehensive Diagnosis

The best way of approaching the play of most suit contracts is to start by counting losers. Applying this rule to the present case, you note that there is a loser in each suit. Since losing four tricks means down one, you naturally look for a way to save one of those tricks.

The most obvious way of attempting to pick up a trick is to put up dummy's jack of diamonds on the opening lead, hoping West has led away from the queen. Unfortunately, East produces the queen, which you win with the ace.

The next step is to try to develop an extra heart trick where only one presently exists. If you succeed, you might eventually be able to get rid of one of your minor-suit losers on dummy's ace of hearts. However, the extra heart trick can be gained only by leading a heart from dummy toward your queen, and this requires first getting there to make the play.

Accordingly, you lead the five of spades to the nine at trick two. East takes the ace and returns a diamond. You win with the king and lead the six of spades to the ten, noting with satisfaction that both opponents follow suit.

Now comes the low heart from dummy. East takes the king, cashes a diamond and switches to a club. You win with the ace, cash the queen of hearts, lead your carefully preserved deuce of trumps to the three and then discard your club loser on the ace of hearts to bring in the contract.

The entire procedure requires careful planning and a moderate amount of luck. Making four spades is far from certain at the start, since the outcome depends on how the adverse cards are divided, but by playing in the recommended fashion, you at least give yourself a chance for the contract.

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
 ♠ A J 3  
 ♥ J 10 8 7  
 ♦ A K 6 2  
 ♣ 6 4

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

**EAST**  
 ♠ 10 6 4  
 ♥ A 5 2  
 ♦ 9 7 4 3  
 ♣ J 7 2

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ K Q 9 5  
 ♥ K Q 9 4  
 ♦ 8  
 ♣ A Q 9 5

The bidding:  
 South 1 ♠  
 West Pass  
 North 3 ♠  
 East Pass  
 South 4 ♠ NT  
 West Pass  
 North 5 ♠  
 East Pass

Opening lead — queen of diamonds.

Now You See It ...  
 At first glance, it might seem that South must go down one in six hearts, since the club finesse on which the slam appears to depend is destined to fail. But appearances can sometimes be deceiving. With correct play, the contract can be made without doing anything particularly fancy.

Declarer wins the diamond lead with the ace and cashes the king, discarding a club. He then ruffs a diamond with the queen of hearts and returns the heart four to dummy's seven. Let's assume East takes the ace (whether he wins or not doesn't matter) and returns a club.

South goes up with the ace, leads the heart nine to the ten and ruffs dummy's last diamond with his last trump, the king. A spade is then led to the jack and the J-8 of trumps are cashed, drawing East's last two trumps as declarer discards the Q-9 of clubs.

At this point, South's last three cards are all spades, and he simply cashes them to make the slam. The potential club loser, more imaginary than real, turns out to be a mirage.

The method of play utilized here is called a dummy reversal. Instead of trumping his losers in dummy, which is what declarer usually does, he reverses the procedure and trumps dummy's losers in his hand. In effect, dummy becomes declarer and declarer becomes dummy.

In this deal specifically, South plays the hand as though he is declarer with the North cards at six hearts and East's opening lead is a diamond. The fact that he is physically seated South rather than North should not deter him from adopting what is clearly the best line of play.