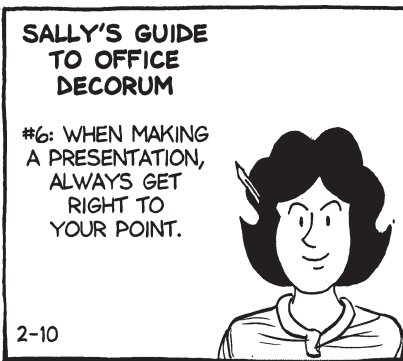


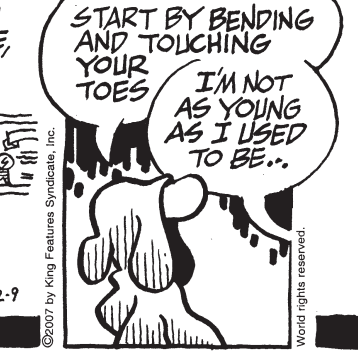
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



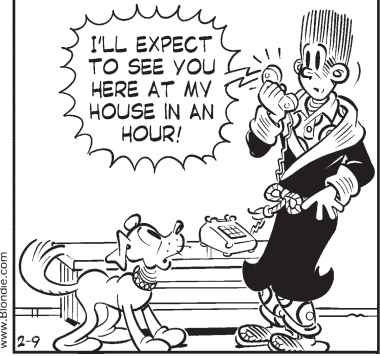
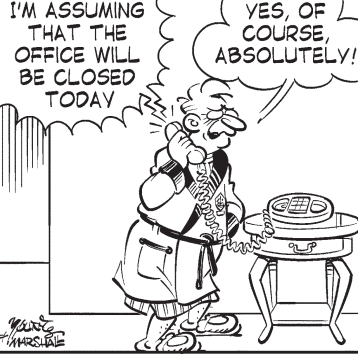
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



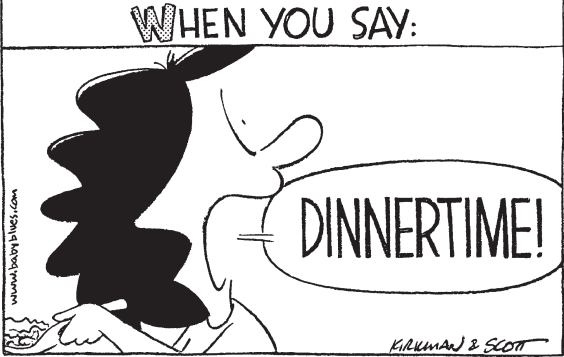
Blondie • Chic Young



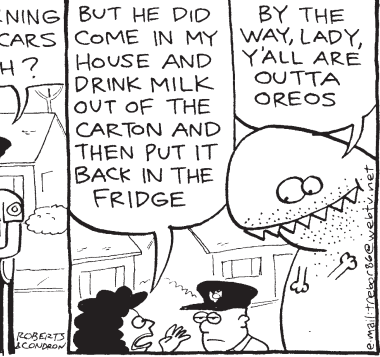
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Cryptoquip

KUQD ARSHA AWXLJBP FRQL
 JUHDEL UBOUBYBWPX, OQROPO
 SHEUJ LBX UQ CQARSQ
 B KHPPX-DHPPX CHPPX
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: DOCUMENTARY FILM CONCERNING TREES AND SHRUBBERY WITH GRAND FOLIAGE: "IT'S A WONDERFUL LEAF."
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals P

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 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals P

Crossword

ACROSS
 1 Way back when
 4 Nerdy sort
 8 Morass
 12 Yuletide beverage
 13 Plankton component
 14 Radius' neighbor
 15 Puccini opera
 17 List-ending abbr.
 18 "Tristram Shandy" author
 19 "Undeniably" — the fields we go"
 21 — the fields we go"
 22 Pipe-bowl residue
 26 Friars' tribute
 29 Sermon subject
 30 Dinner for Dobbin
 31 "Grapes of Wrath" type
 32 Legume holder
 33 Stupefy

DOWN
 1 Picnic troop
 2 Joint-inflammation illness
 3 Shrek, e.g.
 4 Fish-eating seabird
 5 Doyen
 6 Id
 7 Chirping grass-hopper
 8 Search
 9 Last (Abbr.)
 10 Literary collection
 11 Cowboy's sweetie item
 16 Got up

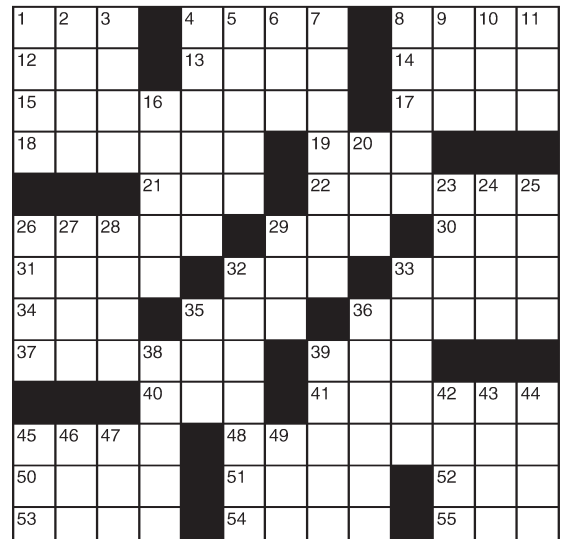
ACROSS
 34 Branch the engine
 35 Rev the engine
 36 Wept
 37 Dancer's partner
 39 For example
 40 Parisian pal
 41 Necktie
 45 State
 48 Carelessly put together
 50 Story teller
 51 Rent
 52 The girl
 53 Compassion
 54 Cushy
 55 Ball-bearing item

DOWN
 20 A billion years
 23 Type of Oriental cuisine
 24 Hang out in the hammock
 25 Black — Susans
 26 Kerouac's place
 27 Gumbo ingredient
 28 Intentions
 29 Bart, to Homer
 32 Shunners of the colloquial, maybe
 33 Wood nymph
 35 Jewel
 36 Rug
 38 Houdini or Truman
 39 Muffler
 42 Expansive
 43 Arthur of tennis
 44 Biblical pronoun
 45 Matterhorn, for one
 46 Half of XIV
 47 Nosh
 49 Privy

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 2-9



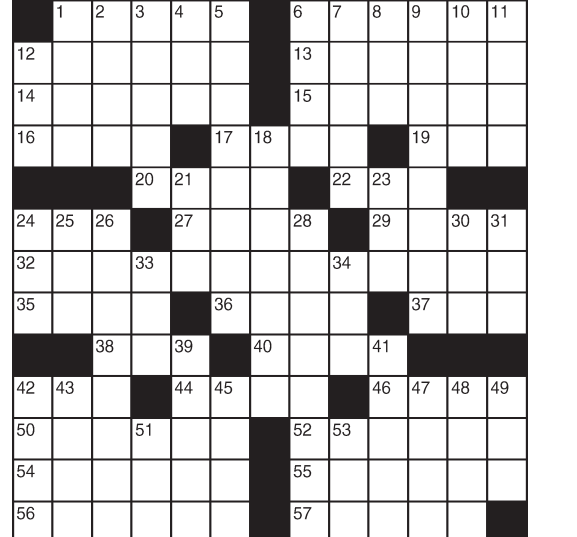
ACROSS
 1 Butler
 6 Eisenhower
 12 Yea
 13 Archimedes' outcry
 14 Dog
 15 Panacea
 16 Catchall abbr.
 17 Arrived
 19 Biz abbr.
 20 French actor
 22 Pouch
 24 NAFTA signatory
 27 Owl's perch
 29 Worm, often
 32 Lack of leniency
 35 PC picture
 36 Pianist Peter
 37 Westheimer topic
 38 Hosp. supply
 40 Distort

DOWN
 1 Summer-time pest
 2 Karenina
 3 Erected
 4 Computer arrangement
 5 November event
 6 Abound
 7 Regulations
 8 Spoon-bender
 9 Acapulco
 10 Related
 11 DEA officer
 12 Expert
 18 Meandering
 21 Elev.
 23 "Boston Legal" org.

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 2-10



Bridge

You are South in each of the following bidding sequences, and in each case the question is whether your partner's last bid shows a minimum opening bid (13 to 15 points), an intermediate opening bid (16 to 18 points) or a very strong opening bid (19 or more points). If you think North has indeterminate values that might lie in either of two ranges, classify this ambiguous.

	North	South
1.	1 ♠	2 ♥
2.	1 ♠	1 ♠
3.	1 ♠	2 ♥
4.	1 ♠	1 ♥
5.	1 ♠	1 ♠
6.	2 ♠	1 NT

1. Minimum. Since your heart response on the two-level promised 10 or more points, partner cannot be in the 16-18 range, because he would have jumped to four hearts rather than raise to three. His three-heart bid is not forcing.

2. Intermediate. With a minimum opening bid, partner would raise to two spades; with a maximum, he would jump to four. Three spades is highly encouraging but not forcing, and can be passed with a bare six or seven points.

3. Intermediate. Partner's voluntary climb to the three-level in a new suit shows well above a minimum opening bid. With a 13- to 15-point hand, he would either rebid two spades, raise you to three hearts or possibly bid two notrump. Three diamonds is 100 percent forcing.

4. Ambiguous. Partner may have anywhere from 12 to 18 points, and there is no way of telling how many he has at this juncture. He cannot have 19 or more, as he would have jumped to two spades rather than bid just one, which is not forcing.

5. Intermediate. Two hearts is a "reverse" bid and shows roughly 17 to 19 points. The reason for this is that your spade response may be based on only six points, and partner, by bidding two hearts, may force you to the three-level if you prefer clubs to hearts and cannot rebid two spades. By bidding in this manner, partner implies that he holds the extra strength necessary to make a nine-trick contract feasible.

6. Intermediate. Partner's jump rebid shows 16 to 18 points, at least a six-card spade suit, and is not forcing.

East dealer.
 North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ K 7 3
 ♥ J 4
 ♦ J 5 4 2
 ♣ 10 8 7 6

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

EAST
 ♠ 5 2
 ♥ 9 8 6 5 2
 ♦ 10 8 3
 ♣ J 9 3

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

The bidding:
 East Pass South 2 NT West 3 ♠ North 3 NT
 Opening lead — queen of spades.

If you look at all four hands, it seems South can't make three notrump. After West leads a spade, declarer has only eight top tricks; if he tries for a ninth by taking a finesse in either red suit, West wins and cashes his remaining spades to defeat the contract. But South made three notrump, and, what's more, there was nothing the defenders could do about it. The key to the winning line of play was West's three-spade bid, which came back to haunt him later on. Declarer started by ducking the spade queen, then took the jack continuation with the king. The A-K-Q of clubs were cashed, West discarding a heart and a diamond, and a fourth club was led to the ten, on which West discarded a spade. South had eight sure tricks at this point; had he tried either the heart or diamond finesse, he would have gone down one after West won and cashed three more spades. However, acting on the assumption that West had both red kings for his three-spade bid, declarer next led a diamond to the ace, producing this position:

North
 [S] 7
 [H] J 4
 [D] J 5 4

West
 [S] A 9 6
 [H] K 10
 [D] K

East
 [H] 9 8 6 5
 [D] 10 8

South
 [H] A Q 7
 [D] Q 6
 [C] 4

When the club four was now cashed, West had no satisfactory reply. Since a discard in either red suit would immediately prove fatal, he elected to let go of a spade.

South thereupon exited with a low diamond, and West was a goner. After taking the king and cashing two spades, he had to concede the last two tricks to declarer's ace of hearts and queen of diamonds.

Family Circus • Bill Keane

