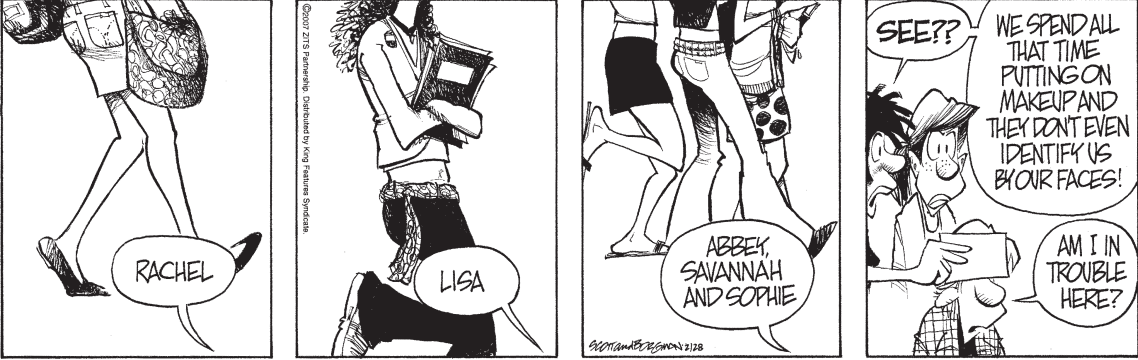


Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



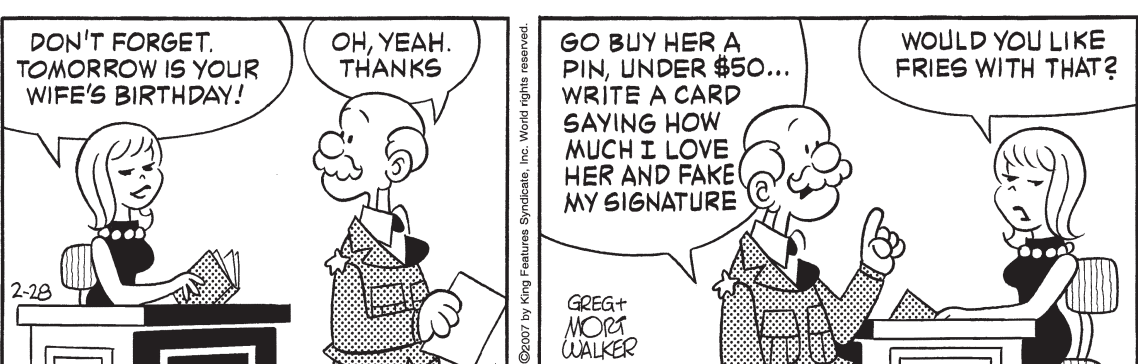
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



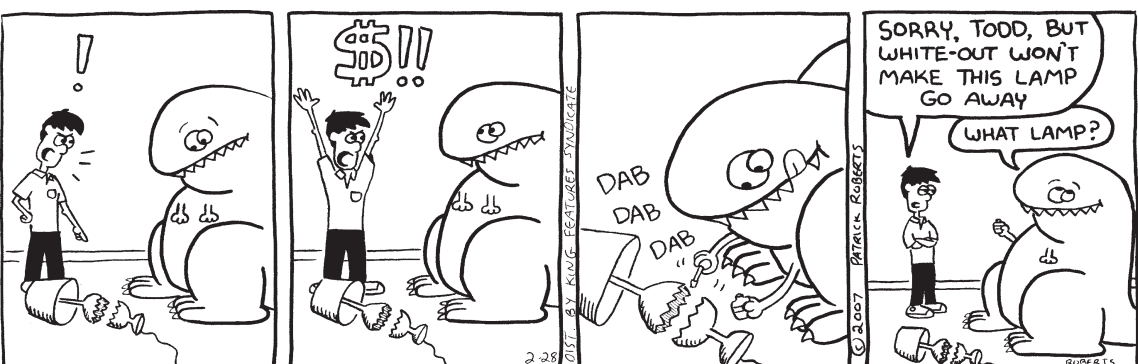
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



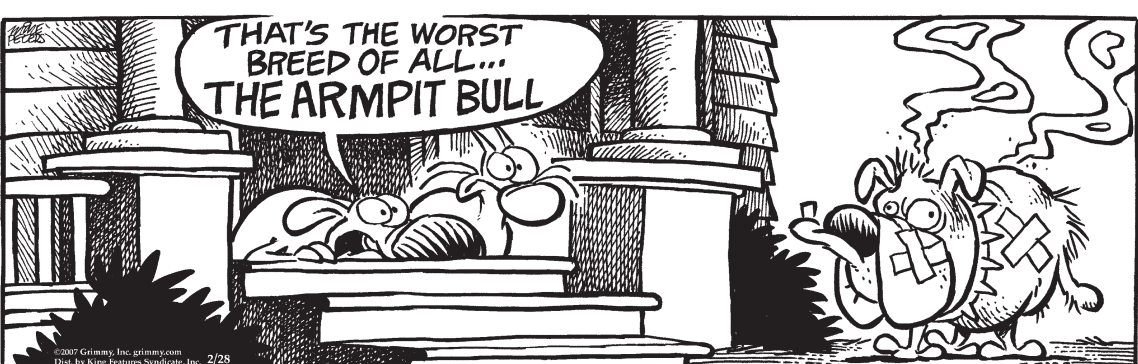
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Cryptoquip

XEOJ PTKQDFUL OMJXUAVTMX | PNCT MWBK PWWQCT  
NDJXJ DMWK F XEDAJFML | INGJJGTU SDIC GI HBGLC XWP  
QANPJ, JD RTDRWT VOIEX | GT HBDXGLM, MWB VGUNL  
NFWW OX F IUFML ROFMD. | SXDGV GL'I ICSWTQ-SKDLCL.  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE THE BRITISH  
CONSERVATIVE WORKED AS A BANK CLERK,  
WOULD YOU SAY HE'S A TORY TELLER?  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals P  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THIS KEYBOARD  
INSTRUMENT COSTS ONLY A THOUSAND BUCKS,  
SO PEOPLE MIGHT CALL IT A GRAND PIANO.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals Y

Crossword

**ACROSS**

1 With 5-Across, non-eaters of quiche?  
5 See 1-Across  
8 Vivacity  
12 Plankton component  
13 Sean Lennon's mom  
14 Pearl Harbor site  
15 "Murder, She Wrote" heroine  
17 Colorless  
18 Corn spike  
19 Pang  
21 Tic  
24 What Citi Field will replace  
25 Diplomacy  
26 Revue segments  
30 Intention  
31 Bakery workers  
32 Historic time

**DOWN**

1 Fliers  
2 Right angle  
3 Candle count  
4 Most updated  
5 Comedian Jay  
6 Compass dir.  
7 Boreal  
8 12-member band  
9 Deserve  
10 Carpet type  
11 Toothpaste holder  
16 Neely of hockey fame  
20 Douses

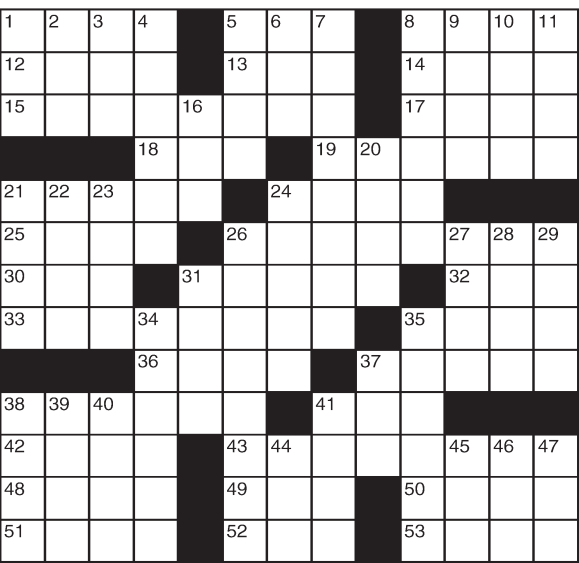
**33** Country singer Wilson  
**35** Desire  
**36** Help a hood  
**37** Home of the brave?  
**38** Fall  
**41** Fix the sound-track  
**42** Dazzle  
**43** Gripped  
**48** Get your second wind  
**49** Wet wriggler  
**50** Car  
**51** Females  
**52** Grant counterpart  
**53** Vegan's no-no

**21** Unescorted  
**22** Twosome  
**23** Pinnacle  
**24** Trap-shooting variation  
**26** Longtime sports-caster Chris  
**27** Pile  
**28** Sea eagle  
**29** Fill till full  
**31** Cold War weapon (Abbr.)  
**34** Mocks  
**35** Online pic transmitter  
**37** Historic boy king  
**38** Venomous vipers  
**39** Beehive State  
**40** Melody  
**41** Take out of context?  
**44** Victory sign  
**45** Shade  
**46** Greek vowel  
**47** Morse morsel

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

ARM	CLARA	ZAP
SHE	RAGES	OLE
HONK	YTOK	NAN
AIR	ANAKIN	
LATINO	LOME	
ONOGS	TODOS	
DONS	EAR	SOOT
INKED	PEG	UZI
ATOM	MASTER	
TABAGO	ALP	
ALE	MONKEY	SEE
CIALI	NIEN	OAR
KON	SALSA	BUG

**Yesterday's answer 2-27**



**ACROSS**

1 Europe's neighbor  
5 Mandible  
8 Bridge  
12 Hourglass filler  
13 Id counterpart  
14 Jason's ship  
15 Breadwinner  
17 Upper House member  
18 More logical  
19 Daytime soaps, e.g.  
21 Doggerel  
24 Altar affirmative  
25 En-grossed  
28 Edge  
30 AAA job  
33 Hockey's Bobby  
34 Aliases  
35 Leading lady?

**DOWN**

1 Snakes  
2 Poet  
3 Part of the loop  
4 Arrival  
5 Clappett patriarch  
6 Time of your life?  
7 Information, e.g.  
8 Dieter's entree  
9 Don King, for one  
10 Taj Mahal city  
11 Starts to fall asleep

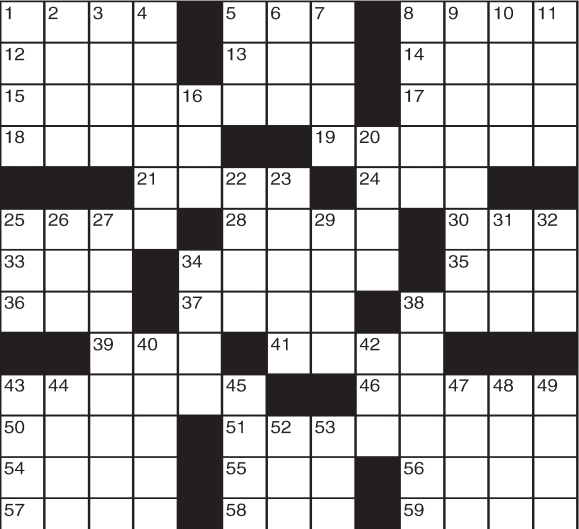
**36** Ultra-modernist  
**37** Eastern potentate  
**38** Actor Pitt  
**39** Repair  
**41** Knighted woman  
**43** Score units  
**46** Similarly  
**50** — podrida  
**51** Max Bialystock, e.g.  
**54** Carriage  
**55** Help  
**56** Leaves  
**57** Skin opening  
**58** Stylish, in the 1960s

**59** Mrs. Shakespeare  
**60** Retirement fund acronym  
**20** Tears  
**22** Con job  
**23** Oppressively damp  
**25** Director Howard  
**26** Exist  
**27** Writer of brief bios  
**29** Antitoxins  
**31** Eggs  
**32** Marry  
**34** Barber-shop call  
**38** Sturgeon caviar  
**40** Foolish  
**42** Crazy  
**43** Circumstance partner  
**44** Medley  
**45** Unwanted e-mail  
**47** PC picture  
**48** Astute  
**49** Gaelic  
**52** Carnival city  
**53** Peculiar

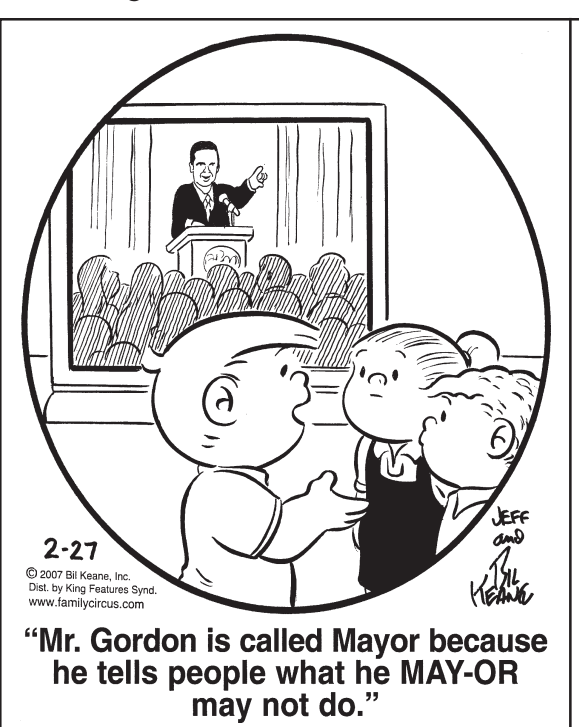
**Solution time: 21 mins.**

REAL	MEN	ZEST
ALGA	ONO	OAHU
FLEET	CHER	DRAB
EAR	TWINGE	
SPASM	SHEA	
TACT	SKETCHES	
AIM	ICERS	ERA
GRETCHEN	WANT	
ABET	TEPEE	
AUTUMN	DUB	
STUN	KVETCHED	
PANT	EEL	AUTO
SHE	LEE	MEAT

**Yesterday's answer 2-28**



Family Circus • Bill Keane



Bridge

North dealer.  
Neither side vulnerable.

**NORTH**

♠ 7  
♥ K 8 7 3  
♦ K Q 2  
♣ A K J 8 2

**WEST**

♠ Q J 8 6 2  
♥ 2  
♦ J 9 5 4  
♣ 10 7 5

**EAST**

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

**SOUTH**

♠ K 9 5  
♥ A Q 10 4  
♦ A 8 6  
♣ Q 9 3

The bidding:  
**North** 1 ♣  
**East** Pass  
**South** 1 ♥  
**West** Pass

Opening lead — queen of spades.

A Psychological Ploy

There are times when a defender must make what is called a "mandatory falsecard." The purpose of the falsecard is to present declarer with an alternative line of play in a position where he could not otherwise go wrong.

Consider today's deal where East won the spade lead with the ace and returned a spade to South's king. With 12 tricks assured if the trumps were divided normally, declarer turned his attention to the heart suit. He planned to follow the standard procedure with this combination: cash the ace and then cross to the king. This would leave him in position to finesse against East's jack if West showed out on the second round.

But when South played the trump ace at trick three, East shrewdly dropped his nine on the trick! This presented declarer with an entirely different way to play the suit, since if East's nine was a singleton it would be possible to overcome West's remaining trumps by continuing with the queen. Then, after East showed out, declarer could finesse against West's jack on the third round.

South realized, of course, that if the missing trumps were actually divided 3-2, the contract was safe regardless of how he continued. He was also aware that East might have dropped the nine from J-9-x-x. After agonizing over his options, declarer finally chose to play the queen, and the slam went While East's play of the nine on the first trump lead was not guaranteed to succeed, the fact remains that if East had woodenly followed suit with the five or six, declarer would have had no choice but to find the winning line of play. That's why the nine is a mandatory falsecard.

South dealer.  
East-West vulnerable.

**NORTH**

♠ Q J 10 9 7  
♥ K J 5  
♦ 9 4 3  
♣ 8 6

**WEST**

♠ 8 5 2  
♥ Q 8 7 4  
♦ 6 5  
♣ J 9 7 3

**EAST**

♠ A K 3  
♥ 9 3 2  
♦ Q J 10 8  
♣ Q 10 2

**SOUTH**

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

The bidding:  
**South** 1 ♠  
**West** Pass  
**North** 1 ♥  
**East** Pass

Opening lead — four of hearts.

Two Different Approaches

The most interesting hands to play are those where the struggle to make or break the contract is so tightly contested that the final outcome depends more on skill than on high cards or distribution. For example, the result of today's hand rests entirely on the expertise of the players. Declarer played low from dummy on the heart lead and won East's nine with the ten. When South then led a spade, East allowed dummy's nine to hold, and from this point on declarer was fighting a losing battle. He continued with a spade at trick three, East winning with the king and shifting to the queen of diamonds. South took the ace and could see that if he led a heart to the king and established the spades, he would have no way to get back to dummy to cash them. He therefore abandoned the suit and tried to get his ninth trick from diamonds instead. But when that suit failed to divide 3-3, he had to go down one. East's fine defensive play at trick two notwithstanding, declarer should have made the contract. He should have anticipated that the defenders might refuse to win the first spade lead and taken steps to deal with that contingency. The correct play is to win the opening trick with the ace of hearts rather than the ten! This creates an extra entry to dummy that can later be utilized if necessary. A spade is then led to the nine. If East ducks, a second spade is played. South wins the diamond return, leads a heart and finesses the jack after West follows low. Another spade lead then establishes the suit, and declarer finishes with 10 tricks. Note that in playing the ace of hearts at trick one, South assumes that West holds the queen. This is confirmed by the Rule of Eleven, which reveals that the nine is the only heart East can have that is higher than the four led by West.

