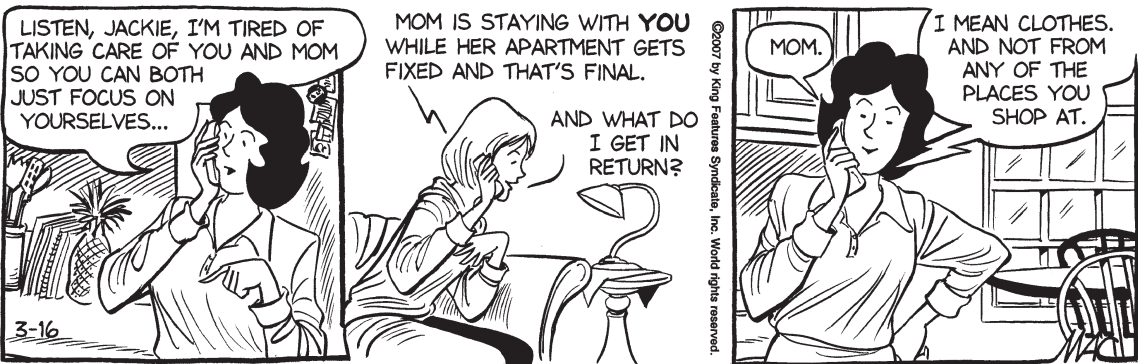


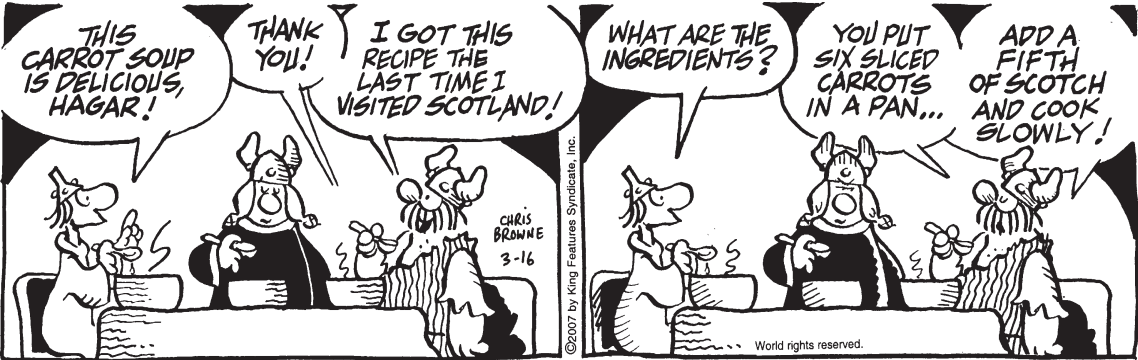
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



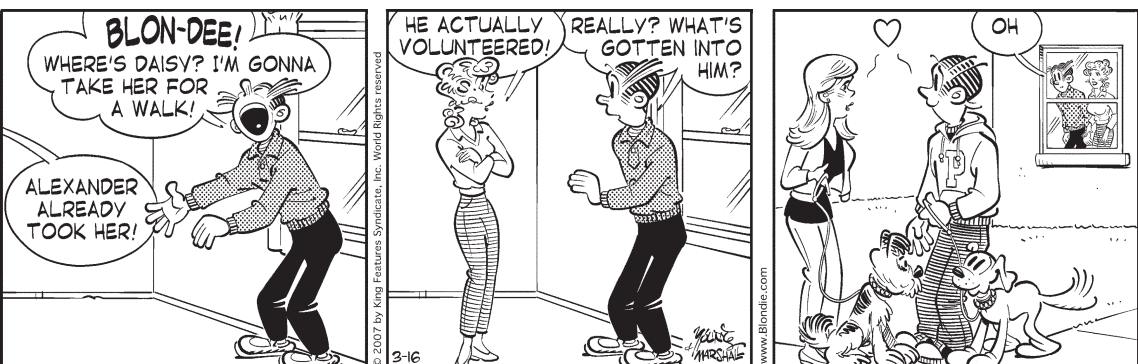
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



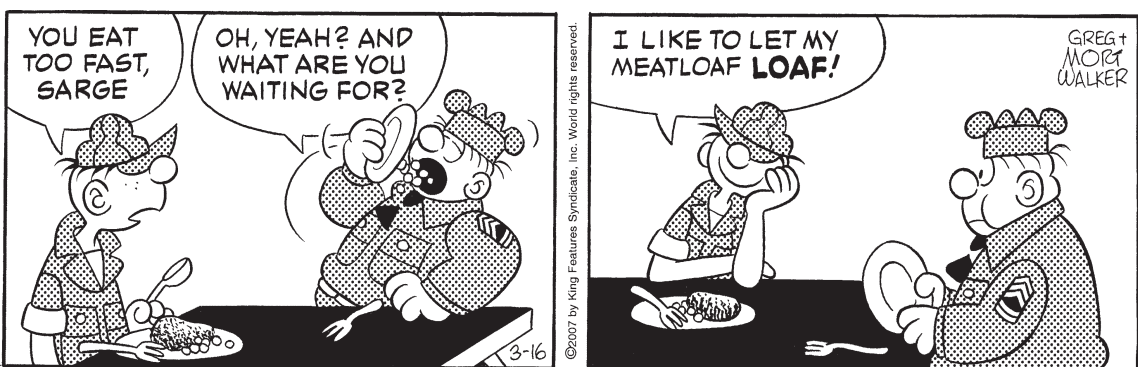
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



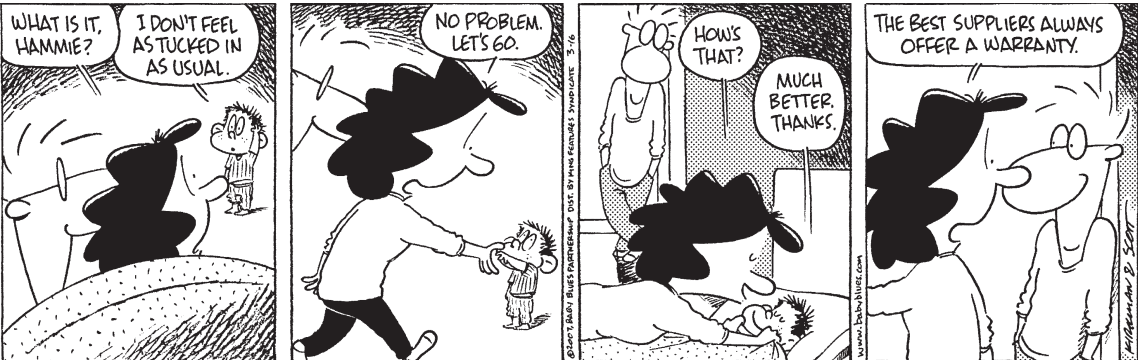
Blondie • Chic Young



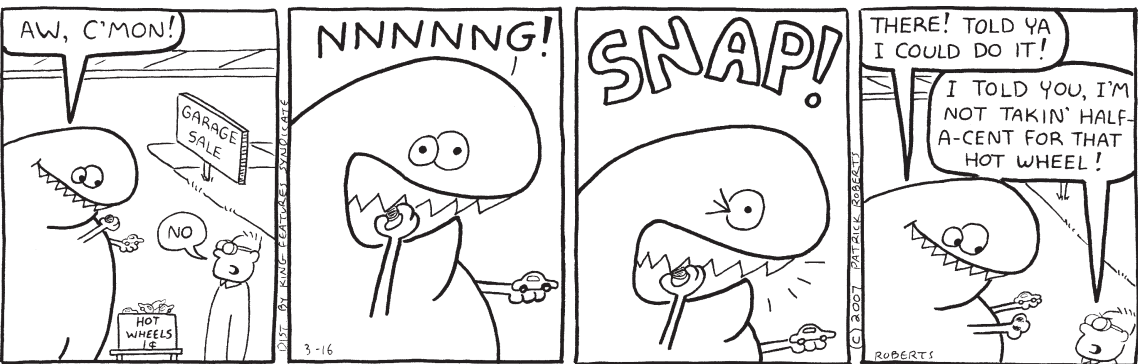
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



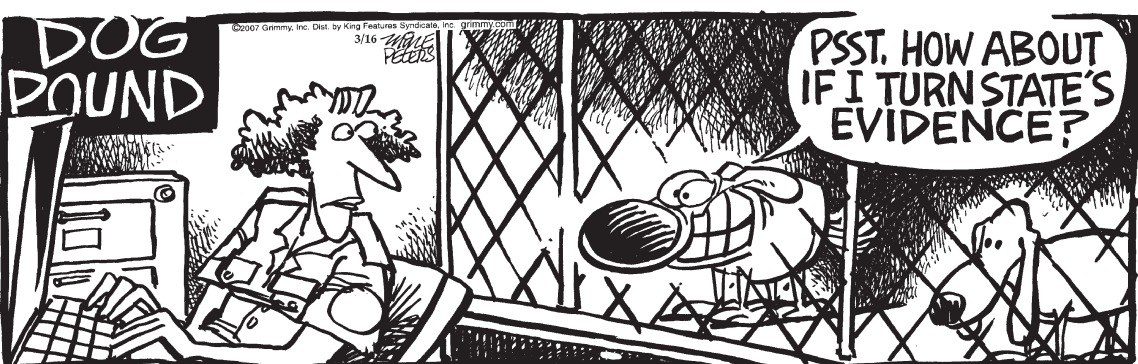
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Cryptoquip

RFMK QAIJK IUTRUT QICBXG

UC XMJNNW SJUBFSAN BG

J QJACM, QGANE WGA

QJNN BFJB SUEMN-UBW?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF TWO PEOPLE GET WEAK IN DIFFERENT WAYS, DO YOU SUPPOSE THEY SPEAK A DIFFERENT LANGUAGE?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals Y

LR K MCFGKLR RCV XIFS

UWQWFQ, GTC LPZKGLCRG

MKQQLCU KFC UIPCGLPCU

SRIVR KU XIRSCFU TIRSCFU.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN CUBAN BIGWIG CASTRO IS REALLY FAITHFUL TO A CAUSE, COULD YOU CALL THAT FIDEL-ITY?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals A

Crossword

ACROSS

1 Princess' sleep ruiner

4 Injury

8 Bread

12 Joan of —

13 Chills and fever

14 Bohemian

15 Self-indulgent

17 Tide type

18 "Exodus" author

19 Trap

20 Change the clock

22 Capri, e.g.

24 Mined-over matter

25 Unintended occurrence

29 Football filler

30 Figure of speech

31 Vast expanse

32 Dweller

34 Read quickly

DOWN

1 Launch site

2 Prior to

3 Finger pointers

4 Become fed up

5 Census stats

6 Hosiery woe

7 Bumped into

8 Preserved

9 Vicinity

10 Luminary

11 Advertise strongly

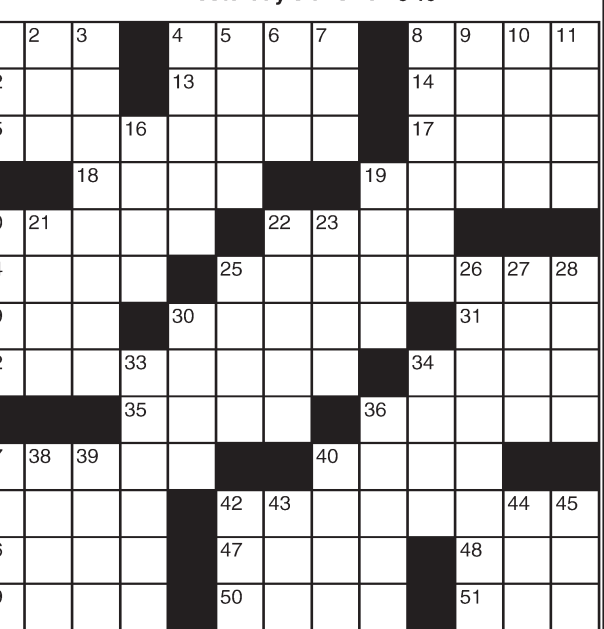
16 Belligerent deity

19 Post-diet

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 3-16



ACROSS

1 Basilica section

5 Tony of golf lore

9 Conk out

12 Hee-haw

13 Valhalla VIP

14 Squid squirt

15 Traditional tales

16 Barber-shop call

17 Compass pt.

18 Grand-scale tale

19 Wilde-beest

20 Talk a blue streak?

21 Mimic

23 Expert

25 Time for an egg roll

28 Refuse to go underground?

32 Impede

33 Less friendly

34 Knight's neighbor, at the start

DOWN

1 Competent

2 Stage item

3 Rani's wrapper

4 Visually appealing one

5 More drawn-out

6 Paradise

7 Skirmishes

8 Pismire

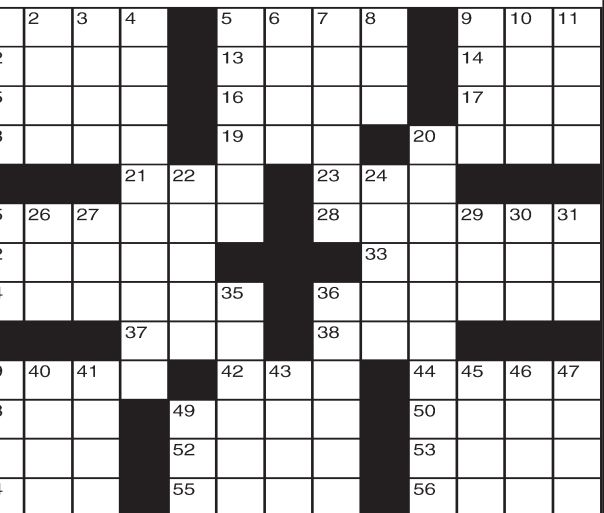
9 "— et mon droit"

10 B&B's

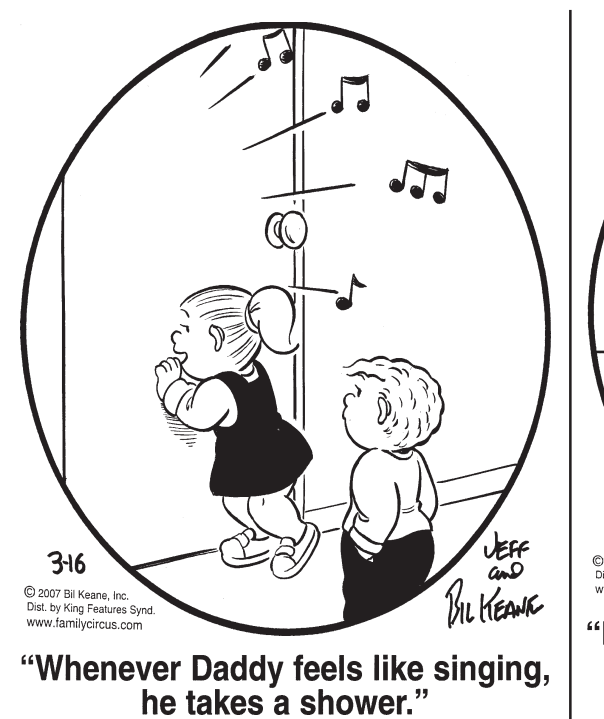
Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 3-17



Family Circus • Bill Keane



Bridge

1. You are declarer with the West hand at Six Hearts, and North leads the five of spades. How would you play the hand?

West

♠ A J 7

♥ A K Q J 9 4

♦ 10 8 7 4

♣ —

East

♠ —

♥ 8 7 5 2

♦ A 9 5 3

♣ A 9 8 4 3

2. You are declarer with the West hand at Three Notrump, and North leads the five of hearts. South covers the eight with the ten, and you win with the queen. How would you play the hand?

West

♠ Q J 9 3

♥ A Q 4

♦ A

♣ K Q J 10 8

East

♠ 10

♥ J 9 8

♦ Q J 10 9 8 4

♣ A 5 3

Test Your Play

1. There is very little chance of making the slam unless the missing clubs are divided 4-4, so you should plan from the start to establish the club nine as your 12th trick.

Trump the spade lead in dummy, ruff a club, cash the ace of hearts, trump the jack of spades, ruff another club, trump the ace of spades and ruff a third round of clubs.

Draw trumps, lead a diamond to the ace and cash the ace of clubs, discarding a diamond. If both opponents follow to the ace of clubs, cash the nine and discard another diamond. Then congratulate yourself on a fine performance in making a poor slam contract, as you were a 2-1 underdog when play began.

2. You start with eight tricks, and the problem is to find a ninth. Oddly enough, you are sure to make the contract — regardless of how the adverse cards are divided — if you invoke a very unusual play.

Let's first suppose you tried to establish your ninth trick by leading a low spade to dummy's ten at trick two. You would go down if South won the spade and returned a heart, and it turned out that North started with five hearts to the king and the remaining spade honor.

This outcome can be avoided if you play the ace of diamonds at trick two, cash three club tricks ending in dummy, then lead the queen of diamonds and discard the ace of hearts!

Once you do this, the contract is ice-cold. The defense cannot avoid either putting you in dummy with a heart or a diamond to cash nine tricks, or putting you in your hand to achieve the same result with your clubs and spades. You give away a trick by discarding the ace of hearts, but it comes back with interest. The only tricks you can lose on this line of play are two spades, a diamond and a heart.

South dealer.

Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ K 9 5 4 3

♥ K 9 2

♦ A 10 4

♣ Q 7

WEST

♠ Q J 6

♥ J 5

♦ J 9 7 2

♣ 10 9 8 4

EAST

♠ —

♥ Q 10 7 6

♦ Q 8 5 3

♣ J 6 5 3 2

SOUTH

♠ A 10 8 7 2

♥ A 8 4 3

♦ K 6

♣ A K

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
6 ♠			

Opening lead — ten of clubs.

The Vanishing Trick

The skillful magician who can make things disappear right in front of your eyes has his bridge counterpart in the skillful declarer who can make a seemingly sure loser vanish into thin air.

Consider this deal where South arrived at six spades, a contract that required only a 2-1 trump division — a 78 percent probability — to be laydown. However, after he won the opening club lead and cashed the ace of spades, he suddenly found himself faced with two apparently certain losers, one in trumps and the other in hearts. Undaunted, South proceeded to demonstrate that things are not always as they seem. At trick three he led a spade to the king, then cashed the ace of clubs and K-A of diamonds and ruffed a diamond. Next came the ace of hearts and a heart to the king. The stage was now set for what declarer hoped would be a successful denouement. Having stripped the diamonds and clubs from his combined hands, and with two small hearts remaining in his hand opposite one in the dummy, he now exited with a spade. West won with the queen, but found himself in a most unhappy situation. Since he had no hearts, he had to return a club or a diamond. This allowed declarer to discard dummy's heart loser while he trumped in his hand, and the slam was made. It is true that this line of play required West to have no more than two hearts, but once the trumps divided 3-0, that was South's only legitimate chance. He therefore methodically went about the necessary preliminary preparations for the endplay on the assumption that his efforts would be rewarded. And then, poof, the heart loser simply disappeared.

