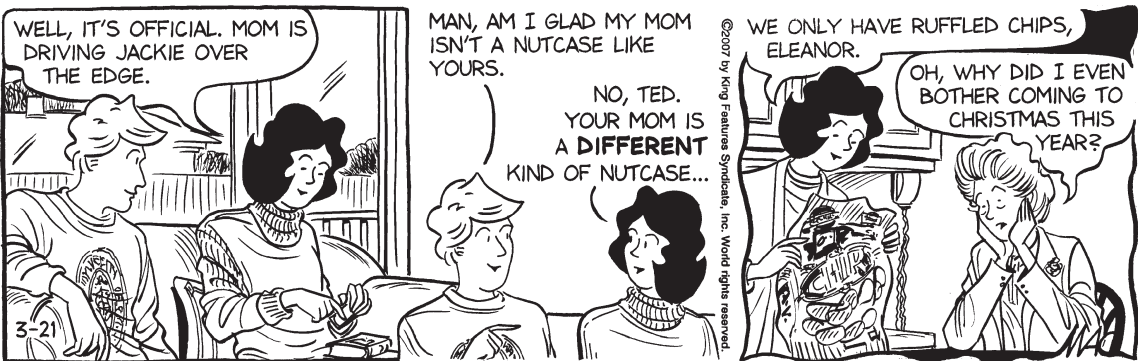


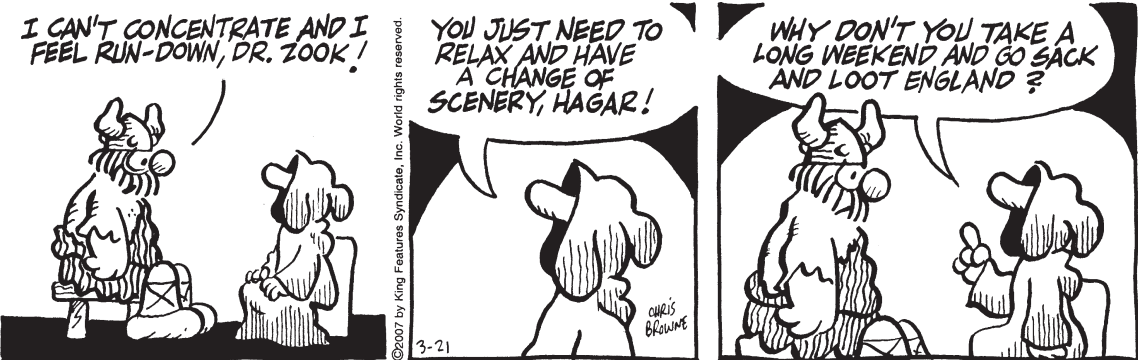
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



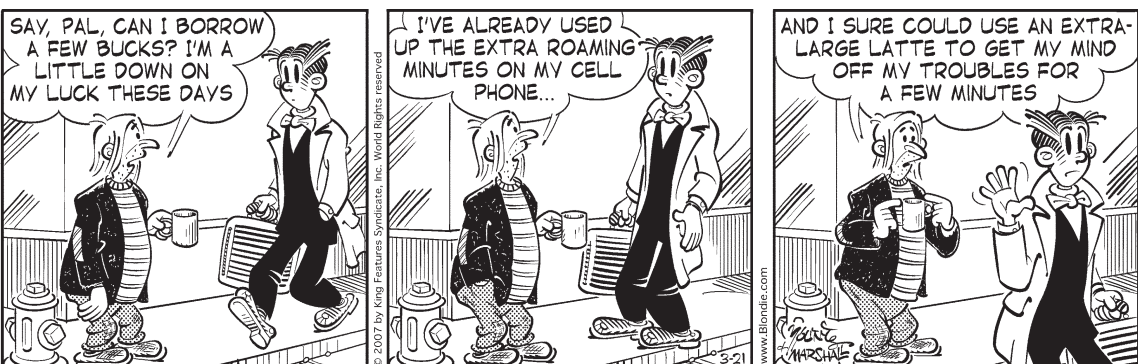
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



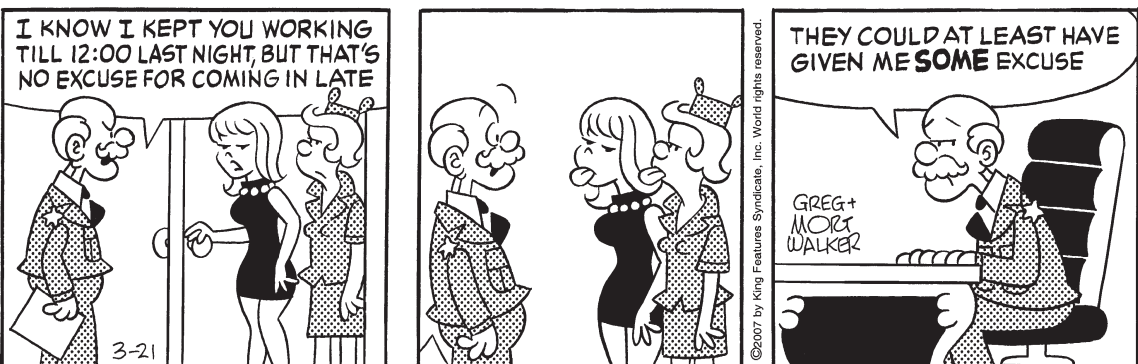
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



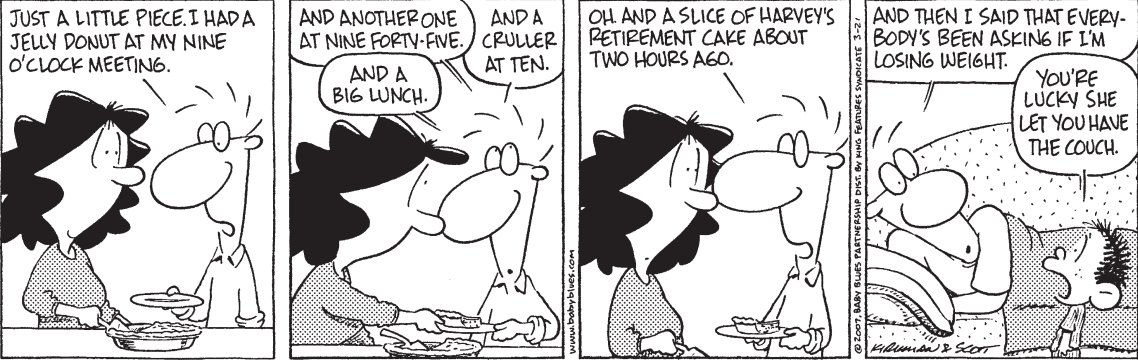
Blondie • Chic Young



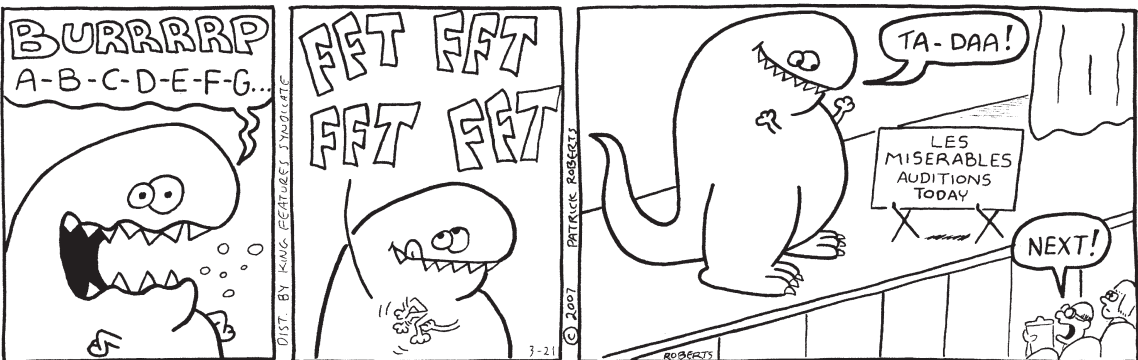
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



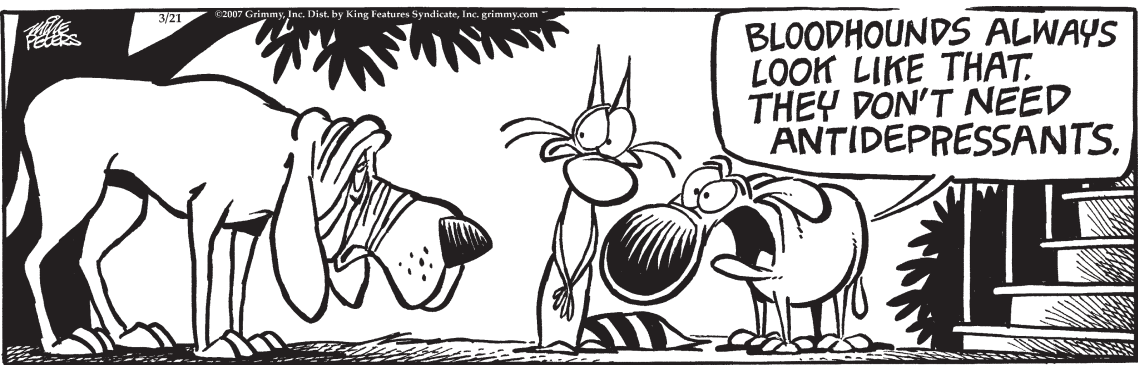
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Cryptoquip

WU K "TNHWS ONNP" DEM CUDL HYWLIS DS HWDLIS DL
VGTG XSNVS UNT RKEFGWSD LI LCWDZC FSM FJLCYWY,
OWR UNNP, VOKF ANECP OG QIJ ZIJOM LFQ UY'L KJOO
HG AKCCGP? UTMGT FEAX. IK ZIS-LCYWS-FCDIS.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A BANK Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A "ROBIN HOOD" GUY
BIGWIG WINS A CHESS TOURNAMENT, I WERE KNOWN FOR SAUTEING HIS FOOD, WHAT
SUPPOSE HE ISSUES A CASHIER'S CHECKMATE. COULD HE BE CALLED? FRYER TUCK.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals F Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals Y

Crossword

ACROSS

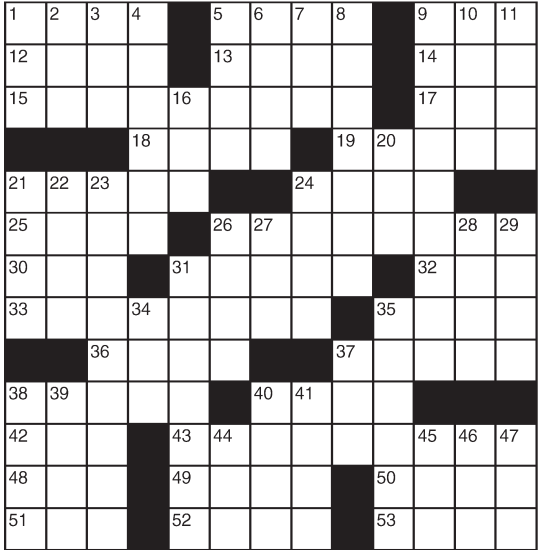
1 Actress Jessica
5 "Zounds!"
9 "Ulalume" writer
12 Slender
13 Wedding shower?
14 Felon's flight
15 Warehouse carriers
17 \$ dispenser
18 Dryer buildup
19 Tersely cogent
21 Benefits
24 Hoedown seating
25 Oodles
26 Apes
30 Sea urchin eggs, at a sushi bar
31 Strength
32 Ostrich's kin
33 Rendered ineffective
35 Period

DOWN

1 TV alien
2 Writer Buscaglia
11 Tube trophy
16 Fleur-de-
20 Mid-western st.
21 Poker variety
22 Top-notch

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterdays answer 3-20



ACROSS

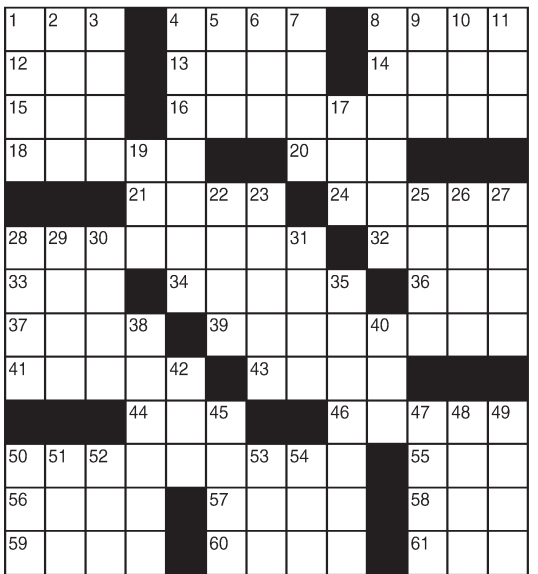
1 PC alternative
4 Brat's stocking stuffer
8 Fool
12 Sapporo sash
13 Desire
14 Small bit
15 Vast expanse
16 Johnny's waiting place?
18 Sailing vessel
20 Put into words
21 Accompanying
24 Radio dial
28 Freedom of access
32 Fancy spread
33 Super-man foe Luthor
34 Wooden shoe
36 Take to court
37 Sketch
39 Symbol of deadness
41 Poisonous plant

DOWN

1 Rolling stone's lack
2 First victim
3 Farewell
4 Canine teeth
5 Scrap
6 Khan title
7 Stamina, slangily
8 Do some cleaning
9 Court
10 Judge Lance
11 Pitch
17 Nosh
19 Possess
22 Loathsome sort
23 Vagabonds
25 Houston acronym
26 Needle case
27 Stagger
28 Auto-maker Ransom Eli
29 Indiana city
30 Diploma hurdle
31 Castle
35 Bar for swingers?
38 Seal's cousin
40 To the degree
42 Law enforcer
45 Boast
47 Competent
48 Gets a glimpse of
49 Tend texts
50 The buck stops here
51 Scull need
52 Discoverer's call
53 Gershwin or Levin
54 Speed

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterdays answer 3-21



Family Circus • Bill Keane



Bridge

East dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A Q 6
♥ 8 3
♦ 7 5 2
♣ A J 9 5 3

WEST

♠ 9 5 3
♥ J 9 7 6 2
♦ 10 8 3
♣ 7 6

SOUTH

♠ K J 10
♥ K 10 5
♦ A Q 6 4
♣ K 8 4

EAST

♠ 8 7 4 2
♥ A Q 4
♦ K J 9
♣ Q 10 2

The bidding:
East Pass
South 1 NT
West Pass
North 3 NT
Opening lead — six of hearts.

Point, Counterpoint

Point count can sometimes be used to find the most effective defense. Take this case where West leads a heart against three notrump.

The normal play for East to make with A-Q-x in his partner's led suit would be to win with the ace and return the queen. This is in keeping with the usual practice of playing "third-hand high." But observe what happens in the actual deal if East blindly follows this principle. Declarer allows East's queen to hold the second trick, then wins the next heart with the king. South then cashes the club king and leads a club to the jack. East wins with the queen, but does not have a heart to return, so declarer makes his contract, scoring four clubs, three spades, a heart and a diamond.

This outcome is not likely to occur if East plays the queen of hearts on the first trick rather than the ace. South will almost surely take the queen with the king, fearing that West may have started with A-J-x-x of hearts. In that case, if South ducks the first heart, he will lose the first five heart tricks after East returns a heart at trick two. Once South takes his king at trick one, he is a goner.

The best he can do is score eight tricks. Whenever East gains the lead, he can play the ace and another heart to defeat the contract.

In general, the play of the queen from A-Q-x on partner's lead against notrump is correct for the reasons cited. But in the given case, East knows declarer has the king of hearts and should want to force him to win the trick.

The location of the king of hearts is known because East is looking at 11 points in dummy and 12 points in his own hand. Since there are only 17 points left for South and West to hold, it is impossible for West to have a king, as this would leave declarer with less than 15 points. Finally, even if South cheated by a point or two during the bidding and lacked the king of hearts, no harm would come from playing the queen first. After the queen held, the ace and another heart would sink the contract.

North dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ 10 7 5 2
♥ Q 4
♦ A K J 4
♣ K J 10

WEST

♠ 4
♥ 9 7 6 3 2
♦ 10 7 5 2
♣ 9 7 6

EAST

♠ K 9 6 3
♥ A 8 5
♦ 8 3
♣ 8 5 4 2

SOUTH

♠ A Q J 8
♥ K J 10
♦ Q 9 6
♣ A Q 3

The bidding:
North 1♦
East Pass
South 2♣
West Pass
North 5♦
East Pass
South 6♣
West Pass
Opening lead — three of hearts.

The Step-By-Step Approach

No one could possibly memorize the best way of dealing with every card combination that can arise to plague a declarer. Fortunately, the answer to most such problems can be figured out at the table. Simple logic will provide the right solution in almost every case.

Consider this deal where West leads a heart against six spades. East takes the ace and returns a heart to dummy's queen.

South must avoid a trump loser to make the slam. There is no good reason to postpone playing trumps, so declarer leads one from dummy, planning to finesse.

But which spade should he lead from dummy? The proper play is the deuce, not the ten. This is because East might have the singleton king, in which case the ten lead would establish West's nine as a trick.

After South leads the deuce and wins with the queen, presumably marking East with the king, he returns to dummy with a club in order to repeat the spade finesse.

But this time South should lead the ten from dummy, not the five.

The ten is led in order to guard against the possibility that East might have started with four trumps instead of just two or three.

Once South leads the ten, he makes the slam whether East covers with the king or not. But if South makes the mistake of leading the five from dummy and finessing the jack, he will then have to lose a trump trick to East's K-9 and go down one.

