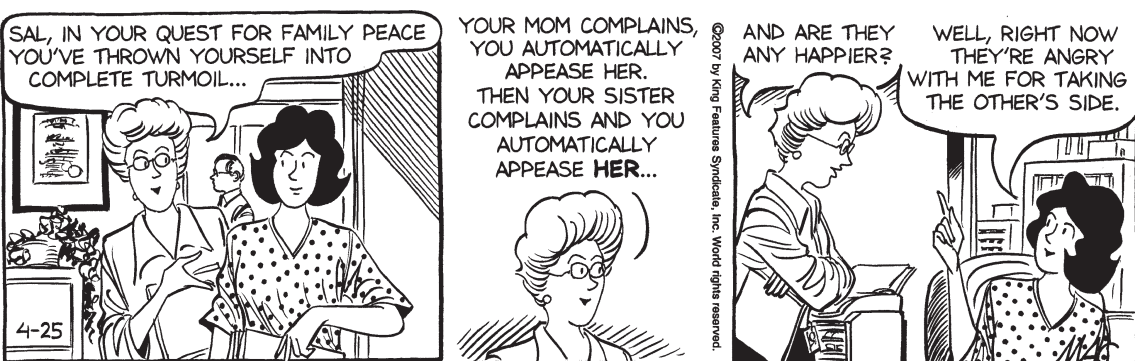


Sally Forth • Greg Howard



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

MXCS KCQKIC BFC VEFYHSD XZISBA PDL SI HTNUSH
 QS B FQIICF VQBYLCF, TZPSBAN, PDL PDSINPM
 VQEQIN RQE YBR LXCR'FC EVSLBN VSYLX PT UEYL E
 YMCBFHSD EK BSN NQMS? NPTO GM PDL NOEHL GEI.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SHOULD A COMIC BOOK ABOUT SOME SUPER-POTENT BAKING STUFF GET TITLED "THE FANTASTIC FLOUR"?
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals P
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN PEOPLE ARE CURSING ON A ROLLER COASTER, COULD YOU SAY THEY'RE SWEARING UP AND DOWN?
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals E

Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Big bash
 - 5 Caviar, basically
 - 8 Bunch of cronies
 - 12 Shakespeare's river
 - 13 Author Fleming
 - 14 A-line creator
 - 15 Traveler's verification
 - 17 Oppositionist
 - 18 Humor
 - 19 Sought prey
 - 21 Taken for granted
 - 24 Smooch
 - 25 Hebrew month
 - 26 Superintendent's ringful
 - 30 Prepared
 - 31 Judge, often
 - 32 Right-turn command
 - 33 Long-popular game show
 - 35 Dove's home
 - 36 Potter's oven
 - 37 Wash-bowl
 - 38 Docking area
 - 41 Charged particle
 - 42 Particular
 - 43 Seder time
 - 48 Daytime drama
 - 49 Baltimore newspaper
 - 50 Tablet
 - 51 Agile
 - 52 Small lizard
 - 53 Sweet potatoes
 - 2 Ms. Gardner
 - 3 Part of UCLA
 - 4 Response
 - 5 Laugh-a-minute
 - 6 Scull tool
 - 7 Filled with zeal
 - 8 Polish port city
 - 9 "Misbehavin'"
 - 10 Staff member?
 - 11 Grating
 - 16 Wrestling victory
 - 20 Abbr. on old Asian maps
 - 21 React in horror
 - 22 Notion
 - 23 Cisterns
 - 24 Wee Scot
 - 26 Slippage, to an anatomist
 - 27 Cooperation barriers
 - 28 Bigfoot's cousin
 - 29 Spotted
 - 31 Clone
 - 34 Covering hardly anything
 - 35 Awning
 - 37 Derek and Diddley
 - 38 "Congeniality"
 - 39 On
 - 40 Bring up
 - 41 "It Romantic?"
 - 44 Wiedersehen preceder
 - 45 By way of
 - 46 Freddy's street
 - 47 Literary monogram

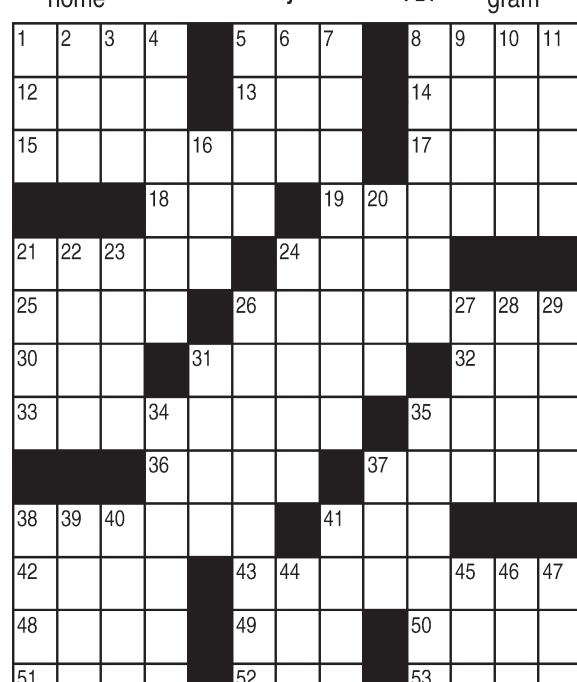
Solution time: 21 mins.

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

DOWN

- 1 Hiatus

Yesterday's answer 4-24

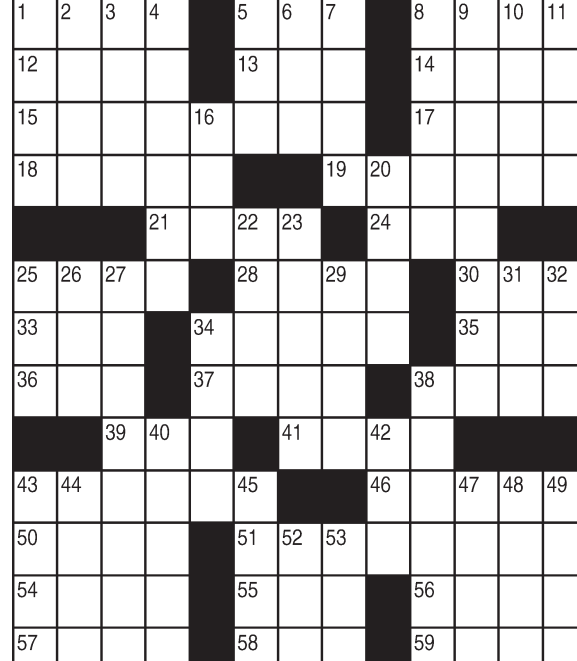


- ACROSS**
- 1 Ap-proached the plate
 - 5 Erstwhile acorn
 - 8 Easy marks
 - 12 Actress Spelling
 - 13 Evening hour in old Rome
 - 14 Fall hard
 - 15 Most importantly
 - 17 "Three Sisters" sister
 - 18 Huge goof
 - 19 Tortilla chips
 - 21 Obi
 - 24 Ring decision
 - 25 Castle protection
 - 28 Mexican entree
 - 30 Sub-machine gun
 - 33 Night bird
 - 34 Antitoxin
 - 35 Disen-cumber
 - 36 Grown-up elver
 - 37 Renders speech-less
 - 38 Venom-ous vipers
 - 39 Bleacher denizen
 - 41 Unwanted e-mail
 - 43 Jagger's band
 - 46 Undergo catharsis
 - 50 Hoodlum
 - 51 Pop song of 1952
 - 54 Dumbo's "wings"
 - 55 Chic no longer
 - 56 Greek vowels
 - 57 Atomizer squirt
 - 16 Historic period
 - 20 Fermi's bit
 - 22 Leftovers recipe
 - 23 Cotton-tails
 - 25 Curly's brother
 - 26 Haven't paid yet
 - 27 Card game for crawlers?
 - 29 Point
 - 31 Energy lic. et al.
 - 34 Logical
 - 38 Entertained
 - 40 Apprehension
 - 42 Suitable
 - 43 Goblet feature
 - 44 Siamese
 - 45 Pack away
 - 47 "-tat-tat"
 - 48 Pleased
 - 49 "Born Free" lioness
 - 52 Shading
 - 53 Noshed on

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 4-25



Bridge

South dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH

- ♠ Q 8 4 2
- ♥ K 9 7 3
- ♦ Q 10 5
- ♣ 7 6

WEST

- ♠ A 10 8 5 2
- ♥ 9 8 6
- ♦ Q J 9 4 3

SOUTH

- ♠ 10 9 7 6 5 3
- ♥ A K 4
- ♦ A K 8 2

EAST

- ♠ A K J
- ♥ Q J 6 4
- ♦ J 7 3 2
- ♣ 10 5

The bidding:
South 1 ♠
West Pass
North 2 ♠
East Pass

Opening lead — queen of clubs.

A Question of Priorities

Whenever declarer is playing a suit contract, he is faced with the question of whether or not to start drawing trumps. Unfortunately, there is no hard and fast rule to guide him; each case must be decided strictly on its own merits.

Consider this deal where South was in four spades and West led the queen of clubs. Declarer won with the ace and, without giving the matter much thought, played a trump.

The moment West discarded a heart on the trick, South wished he could take back his play. But it was now too late. East cashed his A-K-J of spades, leaving only one trump in dummy to ruff South's two club losers, and declarer eventually finished down one.

While it was undeniably unlucky to find East with all three missing trumps, the fact remains that South went down in an ice-cold contract. When play began, his only possible losers were three trumps, and even if he lost all three of them, he would still make 10 tricks. The one trick he could not afford to lose was a club.

Since both of his low clubs could be ruffed in dummy, it was declarer's responsibility to make sure that he did so while there were an adequate number of trumps available for this purpose. No method of play that jeopardized this goal was acceptable.

Accordingly, at trick two, South should cash the club king and then ruff a club in dummy. In the actual deal, East can overruff with the jack and cash his A-K of trumps, but this does not alter the outcome. There is still a trump in dummy to take care of South's last club, so making game is assured.

What declarer should recognize at the outset is that regardless of how the opposing cards are divided, no ruff or overruff by either opponent can stop him from scoring 10 tricks if he plays correctly. Only if trumps are led prematurely is the contract in danger.

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

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

WEST

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

SOUTH

- ♠ 9 6
- ♥ Q J 5 4 2
- ♦ K 8
- ♣ A K J 2

EAST

- ♠ A 7 4
- ♥ 10 9 8 6
- ♦ Q 9 3 2
- ♣ 10 6

The bidding:
South 1 ♠
West Pass
North 2 NT
East Pass

Opening lead — queen of spades.

Safety First

Assume you're declarer at four hearts and West leads the spade queen through dummy's king. You ruff the third round of spades, and the only question is how to handle the trump suit.

Let's say you lead the queen, which gets covered by the king and ace. When you now play another trump to your jack, West unfortunately shows out, and you go down one.

It isn't difficult to prove that if you played the hand this way, you mishandled the trumps. The correct play at trick four is a low heart, not the queen. As it happens, the low-heart play catches West's king and you make the contract, but that's only one of the reasons you should lead low to the ace at trick four.

In considering whether to play the four or the queen, you should first picture the various ways the East-West trumps can be divided. If they are split 3-2, it makes no difference how you initiate the suit, since you can't lose more than one trump trick whatever you do.

If you assume a 4-1 trump division, though, it is clear that leading low to the ace is the correct play. Why? Because leading the queen guarantees that you will lose two trump tricks regardless of which opponent has the king!

Leading low to the ace wins whenever either defender has the singleton king, and also in most cases where East has four hearts headed by the king. It is true that if West has four trumps headed by the king, you go down if you lead low to the ace, but you'd suffer exactly the same fate if you began by leading the queen.

Family Circus • Bill Keane

THERE ARE FOUR KINDS OF WAVES...

...waves of grain, ocean waves, goodbye waves, and the one we do at the ballpark.

4-25

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