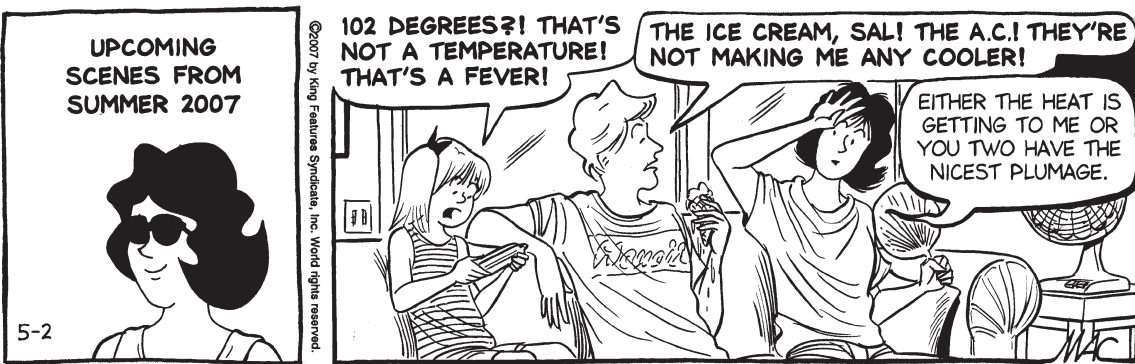
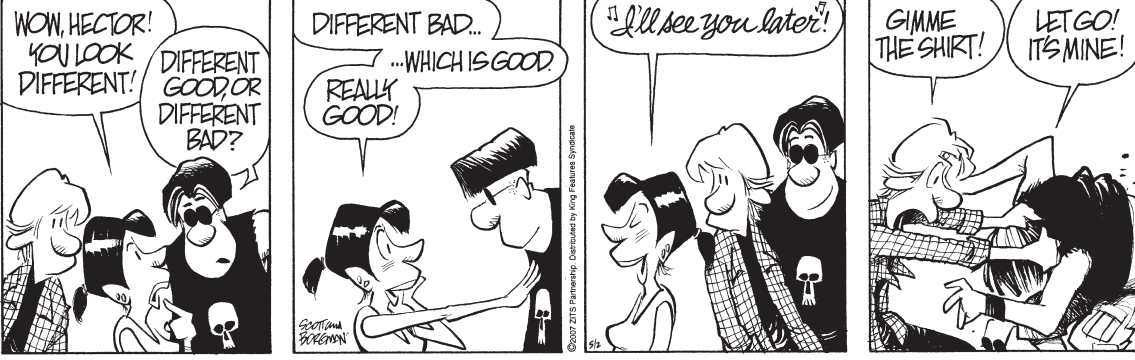


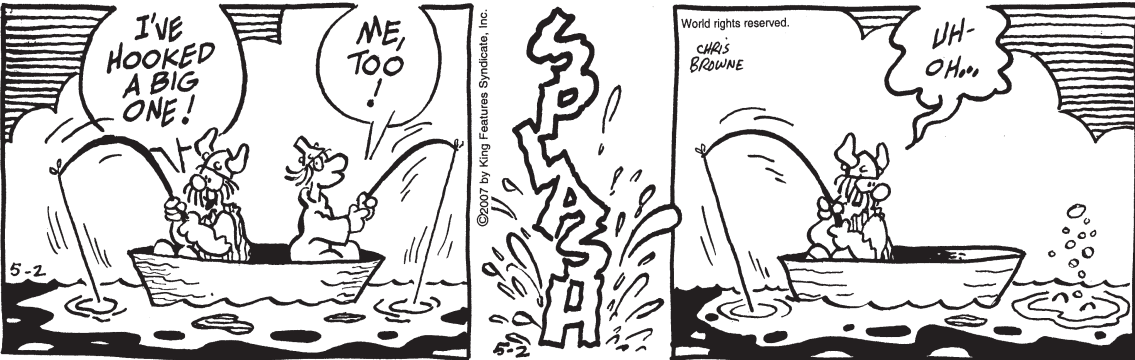
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



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

VYSR UVQ ELB EQILRS D KNU BEWN PXRO FUEO N PFXLCXKT
 QR BPQISD WRA DUWCU PURO BEUQL JLFXXLQURO
 DKWCCLRB, VQNP A K SQKPS W V W J N F L R N B W Q Q P ?
 DWX UYSX'CS EQMLR' QMSR?
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF SOMEBODY DETONATED EXPLOSIVES BY YOU, I EXPECT THAT MIGHT HAVE A BLASTING EFFECT ON YOU.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals P

“OXXKCTL, XQK VWURN.”
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN TWO BIG BOVINES PUT ON GLOVES AND START SPARRING, WOULD PEOPLE SAY THEY'RE BOXIN' OXEN?
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals W

Crossword

ACROSS
 1 Pay attention
 5 Actor McBride
 8 Faux pas
 12 Gymnast Korbut
 13 "2001" computer
 14— list (agenda)
 15 Words from 26-Down
 17 Rock partner
 18 Blue
 19 Before
 20 Photocopier's ancestor
 21 Malicious
 22 Diving bird
 23 Godzilla's bailiwick
 26 Experience
 30 October birthstone
 31 London hrs.
 32 "The Cosby Show" son

DOWN
 16 Legume
 20 Pie filling?
 21 Words from 26-Down
 22 Pismire
 23 Profession
 24 Gorilla
 25 Crony
 26 Diamond boss
 27 Greek P
 28 Earth (Prefix)
 29 "Alley —"
 31 Pistol
 34 Nevertheless
 35 Tart-tasting
 37 Utter impulsively
 38 Golfer's warning
 39 Pedestal occupant
 40 Sailors
 41 Colt or filly
 42 Stolen goods
 43 Modern money
 44 Particular
 46 Verily
 47 Schedule abbr.

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 5-1

ACROSS
 1 One of the Three Bears
 5 Humor
 8 Ardor
 12 Oscar-night clashes
 13 Expert
 14 "That hurts!"
 15 Great elation
 17 Soft cheese
 18 Usher elsewhere
 19 Soloist's elegy
 21 To the degree
 22 Trade
 23 Rushmore face
 26 Scale member
 28 Feudal figure
 31 Praise to the heavens
 33 "Golly!"
 35 Ms. Turner
 36 Went wan

DOWN
 38 Mischievous tyke
 40 Enthusiast
 41 Newspaper page
 43 "Wham!"
 45 "Scat!"
 47 Canine coating
 51 Cow-headed goddess
 52 Mrs. Orpheus
 54 "The Producers" chorus member
 55 In favor of
 56 Messes up
 57 Air from a pair

ACROSS
 10 Low-pH
 11 Yon folks
 16 Feedbag fill
 20 He gives a hoot
 23 Jungfrau, for one
 24 Sheepish remark
 25 Extol
 27 Mainlander's memento
 29 Wildebeest
 30 Cause corrosion
 32 Passbook plus
 34 Napoleon or Nero
 37 Lair
 39 Small horse
 42 Ocean nadirs
 44 Tested the waters
 45 Tie
 46 Jacob's twin
 48 Muck
 49 Beige
 50 Not so much
 53 Spoonbender Geller

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 5-2

Bridge

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

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

WEST
 ♠ 6 3 2
 ♥ A 10 5
 ♦ 9 4 2
 ♣ A J 9 3

EAST
 ♠ —
 ♥ K Q J 9 7 6 2
 ♦ J 5
 ♣ K 10 8 7

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

The bidding:
 South 1 ♠
 West Pass
 North 2 ♠
 East 4 ♠
 Dble Pass
 Opening lead — ace of hearts.

Things Are Tough All Over

Bridge is a tough game at times, and nowhere is this more evident than in top-flight team matches where the players' failings can later be microscopically analyzed.

Examine this deal played in a Life Masters team championship. The bidding was spirited, and South wound up as declarer at five spades. East could have made five hearts by guessing the location of the queen of clubs.

West led the ace of hearts, on which East played the six. After lengthy deliberation, West continued with a heart. He was reluctant to play the ace of clubs because he was afraid declarer had the king.

This fear proved to be fatal, since declarer eventually discarded two clubs on dummy's diamonds to make five spades for a score of 450 points.

It can be argued that West should have led the ace of clubs on the basis that, even if South had the king, East might still get a diamond trick and defeat the contract. But the fact remains that in West's considered judgment, seeing only dummy's hand and his own, a heart continuation was best.

Naturally, the North-South pair felt they had much the best of the deal since they had prevented East-West from making five hearts and had also scored a game that could have been defeated.

However, it turned out that their team actually lost points on the deal! Their teammates at the other table, holding the East-West cards, bid four hearts and then doubled four spades when South bid it.

Not only that, but West also led the ace and another heart. As a result, South made four spades doubled with an overtrick for a score of 690 points and a net gain of 240 points on the deal. Both Wests suffered from heart failure!

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ K 7
 ♥ A Q 6 5
 ♦ 10 8 4 2
 ♣ A 5 4

WEST
 ♠ J 10
 ♥ J 9 3 2
 ♦ Q 7 6
 ♣ Q 8 7 3

EAST
 ♠ Q 9 6 5 4 2
 ♥ K 10 8 7
 ♦ —
 ♣ 10 9 6

SOUTH
 ♠ A 8 3
 ♥ 4
 ♦ A K J 9 5 3
 ♣ K J 2

The bidding:
 South 1 ♠
 West Pass
 North 3 ♠
 East 4 NT
 Opening lead — jack of spades.

Cool Head Prevails

Sometimes the easiest-looking contracts turn into an unexpected struggle because of a bad break in a key suit. When this occurs, declarer should carefully reorganize his thoughts and try to find a way to overcome his misfortune.

Take this deal where South had good reason to expect that making six diamonds would be a piece of cake. With a little luck, in fact, he had a chance to score all 13 tricks.

However, the prognosis changed sharply when South, after winning the spade lead with the ace, cashed the ace of diamonds and East showed out. There was now a real danger of losing both a club trick and a trump trick and going down one.

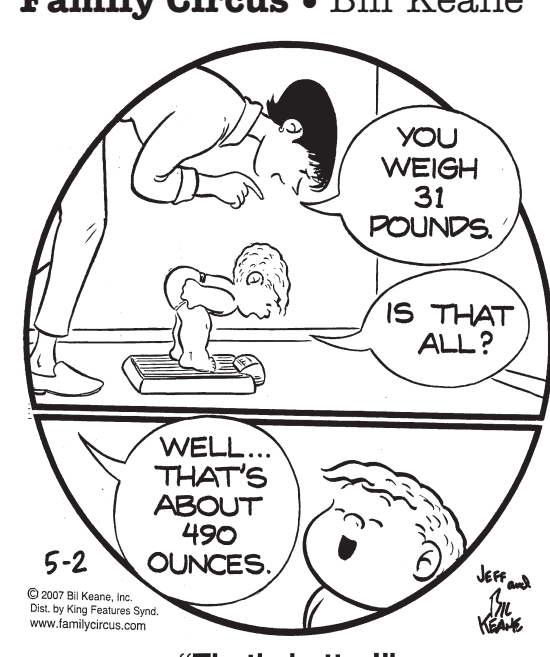
Declarer could have staked the outcome on a finesse in either clubs or hearts, but instead he adopted a method of play designed to elevate his chances far beyond that.

At trick three, he cashed the king of diamonds, then led a heart to the ace and ruffed a heart. A spade to the king was followed by another heart ruff. Had the king of hearts fallen anywhere along the line, the contract would have been assured.

When the king did not appear, South continued by ruffing his last spade in dummy as West discarded the jack of hearts. Declarer next ruffed the queen of hearts, giving West the option of overruffing or discarding a club. Not anxious to take the lead, West chose to discard a club.

Unfortunately for West, his hand was now an open book. Having already shown out of hearts and spades, his last four cards were known to consist of three clubs and the queen of trumps. Accordingly, South now led his last trump, putting West on lead, and his forced club return handed declarer the contract.

Family Circus • Bill Keane



5-2
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