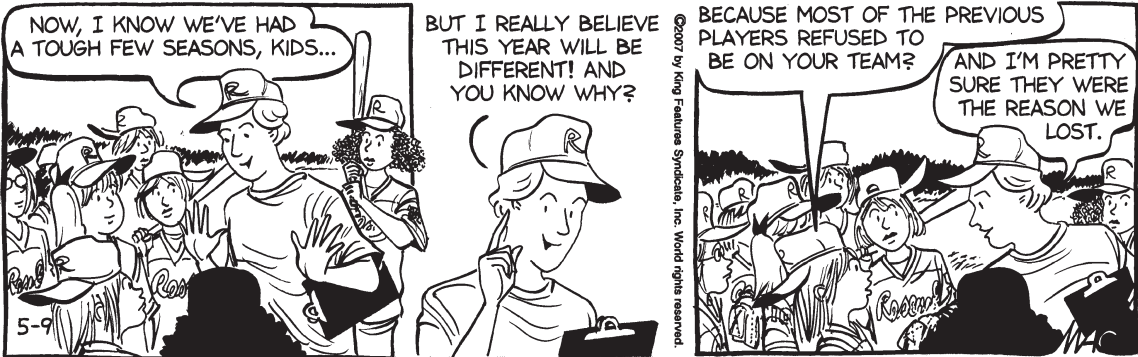


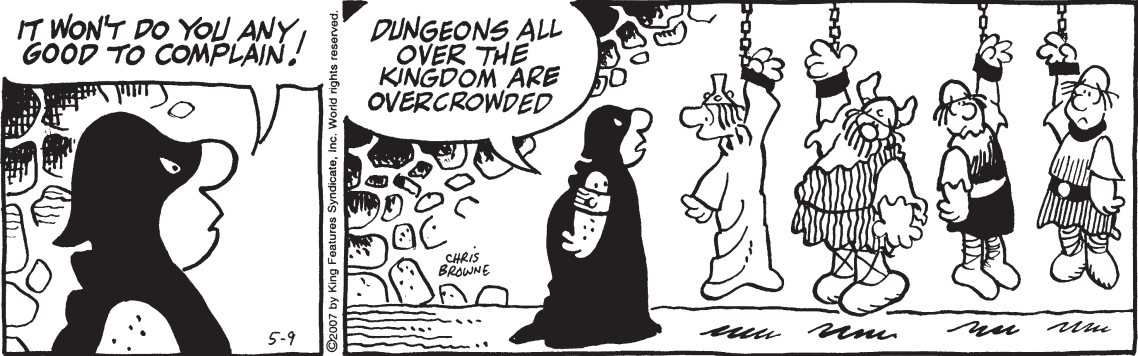
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



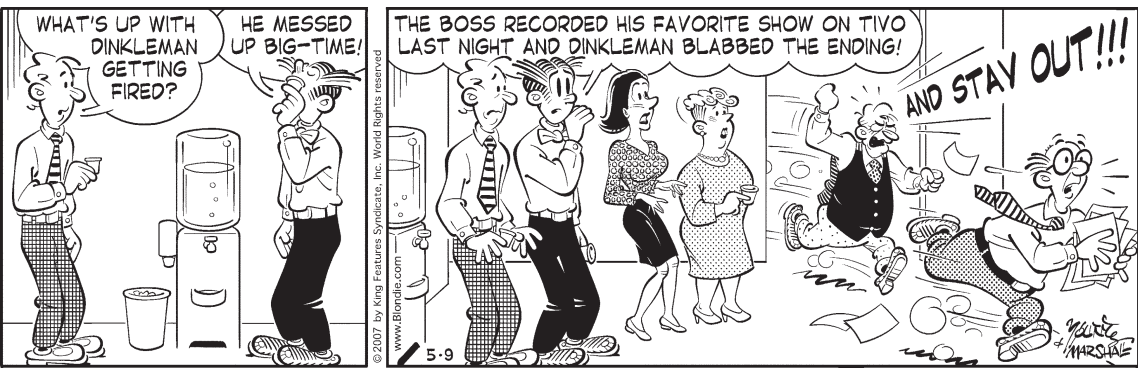
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



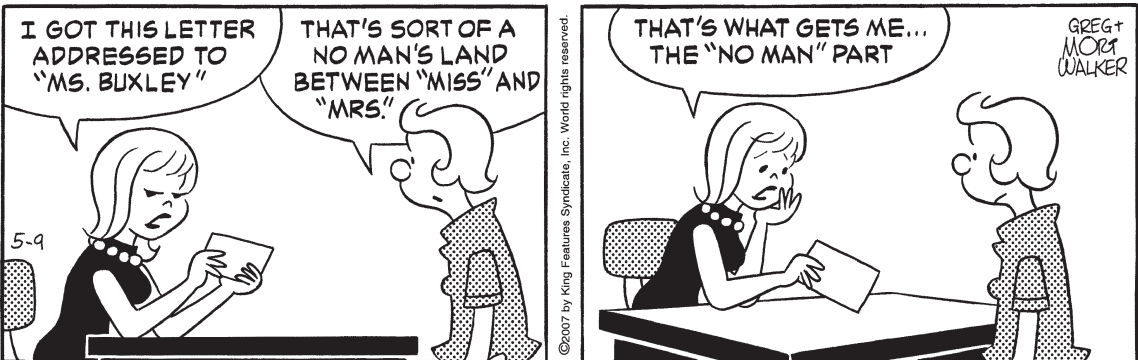
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



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

VFGB VXRW JAXJRA EGCA G
QGDAFXQNA BFGB'N G
DXEEXSNAWQ XM MSEA MXXO?
BFA KGRRXJSEK KXWQCAB.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A RICH FELLOW OWNED A HUGE COUNTRY ESTATE, I GUESS YOU MIGHT SAY HE IS WELL-MANORED.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals P

RK Z KXLZOX LSQZEHV VVEX
Z KZQ SK OSV-PJZORYI
GXMA, AWX HSIJOM GX HZOOXM
LZEI, PJXXQ SK HSYA.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT WOULD PEOPLE NAME A RACEHORSE THAT'S A CONNOISSEUR OF FINE FOOD? THE GALLOPING GOURMET.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals E

Crossword

ACROSS

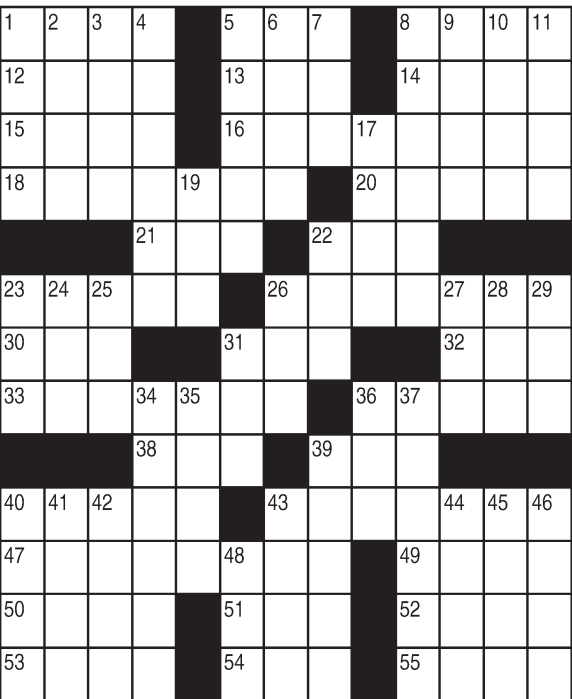
38 TV alien
39 Resumé
40 Dazzles
43 Divided
47 Dead end
49 Actress
50 King of
51 Deluge
52 Send forth
53 Authentic
54 "Of
55 Agents,
60 Blackbird
61 Install, as
62 Heavy
63 Prop for
64 Groucho
65 Aesthetic
66 Buck's
67 "La Cage
68 Bear hair
69 Trans-
70 drain
71 Scent

DOWN

1 Secular
2 Lan-
3 guage of
4 Pakistan
5 Combine
6 resources
7 Listener
8 Monkey
9 suit
10 Orange
11 castoff
12 Combine
13 resources
14 Listener
15 Monkey
16 suit
17 Combine
18 resources
19 Listener
20 Monkey
21 suit
22 Combine
23 resources
24 Listener
25 Monkey
26 suit
27 Combine
28 resources
29 Listener
30 Monkey
31 suit
32 Combine
33 resources
34 Listener
35 Monkey
36 suit
37 Combine
38 resources
39 Listener
40 Monkey
41 suit
42 Combine
43 resources
44 Listener
45 Monkey
46 suit
47 Combine
48 resources
49 Listener
50 Monkey
51 suit
52 Combine
53 resources
54 Listener
55 Monkey
56 suit
57 Combine
58 resources
59 Listener
60 Monkey
61 suit
62 Combine
63 resources
64 Listener
65 Monkey
66 suit
67 Combine
68 resources
69 Listener
70 Monkey
71 suit

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterdays answer 5-8



ACROSS

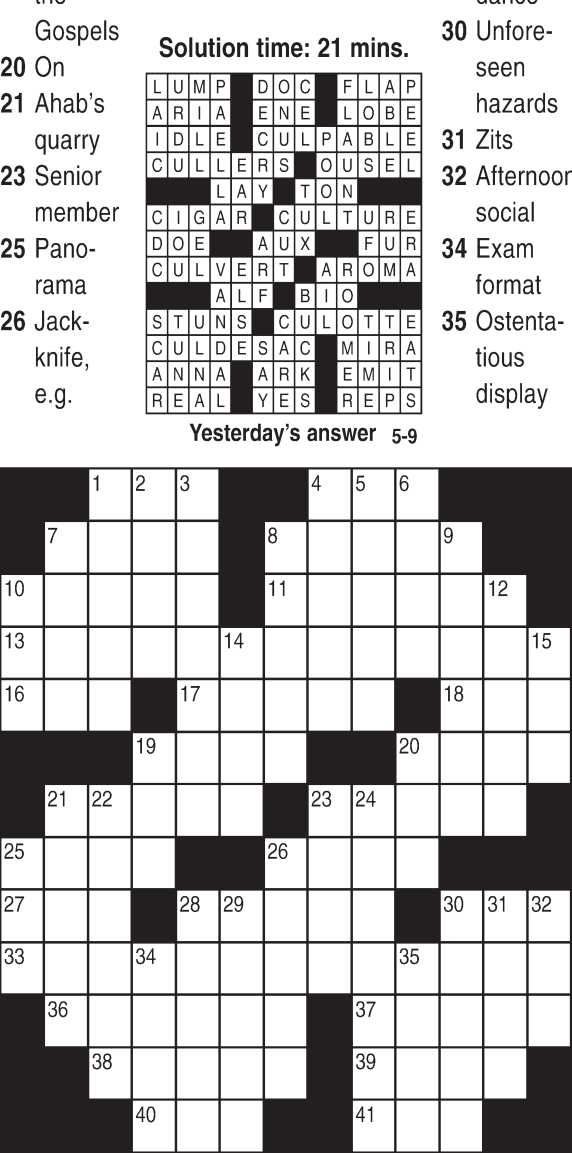
1 Handle
4 Some
7 Urban
8 Tenors'
10 Gallup
11 Celsius
13 Lover's
16 Office-
17 Leading
18 Past
19 One
20 On
21 Ahab's
23 Senior
25 Pano-
26 Jack-
27 Savings-
28 Wagon-
30 Perched
33 Nondis-
36 Leisurely
37 Prince
38 Tear-
39 Incite
40 Meadow
41 Tee
42 preceder
43 encour-
44 agement
45 Sneaker
46 brand
47 Bribe
48 9-Down
49 output
50 Sailor's
51 affirma-
52 tion
53 Mess
54 behind a
55 desk
56 Fireplace
57 Levee
58 Late
59 Namely
60 Role for
61 Barbra
62 Rock
63 Lively
64 dance
65 Unfore-
66 seen
67 hazards
68 Zits
69 Afternoon
70 social
71 Exam
72 format
73 Ostenta-
74 tious
75 display

DOWN

1 Loses
2 Wheel-
3 base
4 terminus
5 Pensive
6 Worries
7 Possibly
8 will
9 Ganges
10 wrap
11 Burg
12 Worship
13 Legisla-
14 tive
15 body
16 Letter
17 before
18 omega
19 LUMP
20 DOC
21 FEN
22 LOBE
23 IDLE
24 CULPABLE
25 CULLERS
26 OUSEL
27 LAY
28 TON
29 CIGAR
30 CULTURE
31 DOE
32 AUX
33 FUR
34 CULVERT
35 AROMA
36 ALF
37 BIO
38 STUNS
39 CULOTTE
40 CULDESAC
41 MIRA
42 ANNA
43 ARK
44 EMIT
45 REAL
46 YES
47 REPS

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterdays answer 5-9



Bridge

South dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ K Q 7
♥ A K 6
♦ A Q J 3 2
♣ 9 6 5

WEST

♠ A 10 8
♥ 10 5 4
♦ 9 7 4
♣ K Q J 8

EAST

♠ J 9 5 4 2
♥ 8 3
♦ K 10 6
♣ 10 3 2

SOUTH

♠ 6 3
♥ A Q J 9 7 2
♦ 8 5
♣ A 7 4

The bidding:

South 1♥
West 2♥
North 2♥
East 4♥
Opening lead — king of clubs.

The Timing Factor

This hand was played in a three-table duplicate. The final contract of four hearts and the opening lead of the king of clubs were the same at each table.

At the first table, declarer won the club lead with the ace, cashed the K-A-Q of trumps and took a diamond finesse. East won with the king and returned a club, where upon West cashed two clubs and the spade ace to set the contract one trick.

At the second table, South took the club ace, drew three rounds of trumps, then led a spade, hoping West would take the ace if he had it. But West played low, dummy's queen winning, and declarer exited from dummy with a club. West won, cashed another club and shifted to a diamond. South had to finesse, and after the jack lost, East's spade re turn again produced a one-trick set.

Essentially, as the hand was played at these two tables, South had to find West with the king of diamonds to make the contract. Bar ring a defensive lapse, they were each headed for defeat if East had that card.

At the third table, South timed his plays so that he would succeed if either the king of diamonds or the ace of spades was favorably placed. He thus gave himself two chances to make the contract instead of just one.

Upon winning the club lead, South immediately led a spade. After West played low and the queen held, South cashed three top trumps and led another spade. West took his ace (otherwise, he would have lost it), and then cashed his Q-J of clubs. When West next shifted to a diamond, declarer went up with the ace and discarded his diamond loser on the spade king to make the contract.

North dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A Q
♥ Q 2
♦ Q 10 8 6 3
♣ J 7 5 2

WEST

♠ J 9 6 4
♥ J 10 9 6 3
♦ 4
♣ K 4 3

EAST

♠ K 10 8 5 3
♥ 8 7 5 4
♦ J
♣ Q 9 8

SOUTH

♠ 7 2
♥ A K
♦ A K 9 7 5 2
♣ A 10 6

The bidding:

North 3♦
East 1♦
South 5♦
West 5♦
Opening lead — jack of hearts.

It's Easy to Self-Destruct

Consider this deal where South twice had the opportunity to make a game. First, he could have bid three hearts at his second turn, inviting North to bid three notrump if he had stoppers in spades and clubs. At that contract, North would have had no difficulty scoring 10 tricks against any lead. But then, having elected to bid five diamonds instead, South should have found the way to score 11 tricks. Unfortunately, he failed that test also. After taking the heart lead with the ace, declarer cashed the ace of trumps and then led a spade to the queen. East won with the king and exited with a heart. Declarer won, crossed to the ace of spades and led a club to the ten, losing to the king. When West returned a club, South could not avoid losing another club trick and finished down one.

Declarer could have assured five diamonds with more careful play. His downfall can be directly attributed to the spade finesse he took at trick three. In fact, had dummy not held the queen of spades, South would probably have found the winning route to 11 tricks without difficulty. After drawing trumps, declarer should have cashed the heart king and then played the A-Q of spades. Regardless of which defender won the trick, South would have been certain to make the contract.

Suppose East has the king of spades, as in the actual deal. He cannot effectively return a heart or a spade, which would allow declarer to discard a club while he ruffed in dummy, so he leads a low club. South ducks this to West, who, upon winning the trick, must yield a ruff-and-discard or return a club, either way handing South the game-going trick.

The outcome is the same if West holds the king of spades. After his forced club return, South cannot lose more than one club trick, and again the contract comes sailing home.

Family Circus • Bill Keane

