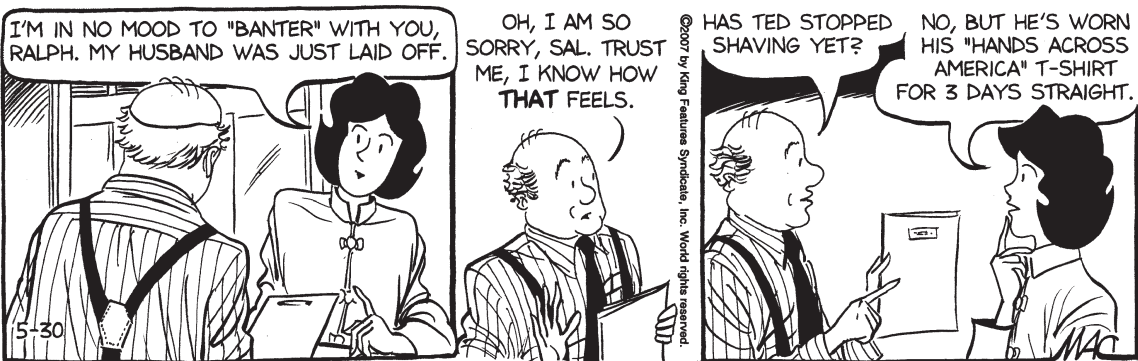


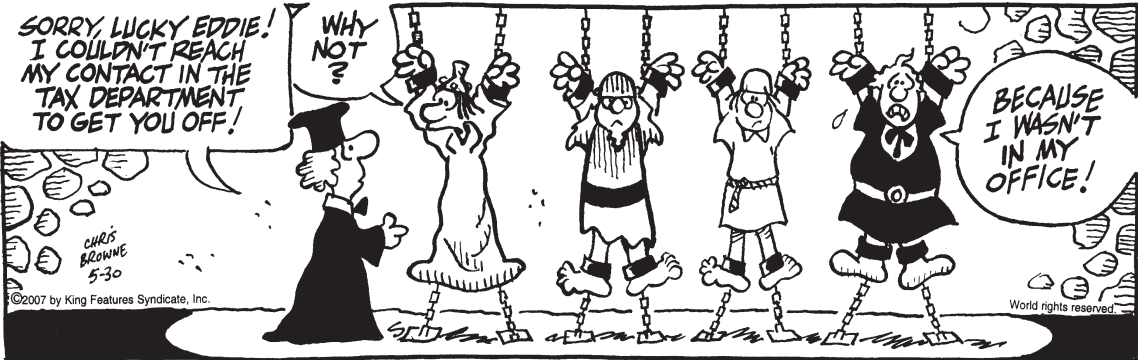
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



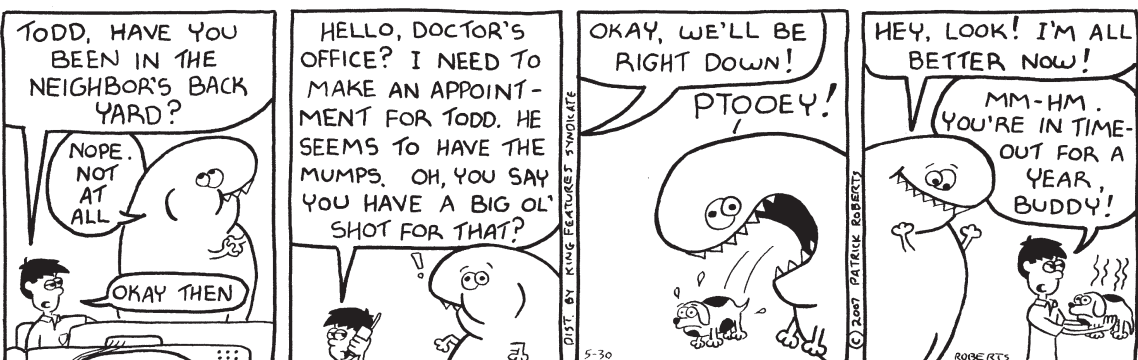
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Cryptoquip

CUBV L CXHJ ROFXVM XW XN SIKHV OYYHXVY FISN, LGROF FR RQOE, QROHJ RMVTO X NRXPP VGIKZ IC NRO WLN FULF CROHJ CKOKGY PIVVYGN TXWY XH GB L DBVJXVM WDEBB? IWYGHMVTO PKRFYG ZXGOS? Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A GUY IS RESTING HIS BARE FEET ON A BARROOM SEAT, YOU MIGHT FIND YOURSELF A TOED STOOL. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A WILD OUTING IS ABOUT TO OCCUR, COULD YOU SAY THAT WOULD BE A PENDING SPREE? Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals T Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals A

Crossword

ACROSS 41 Liver-pool's river 60 Morning moisture 25 Milne bruin 26 Initial stake 27 Out of play 28 Sir's counter-part 29 Coquet-ish glance 30 In the neighbor-hood 31 Once around the track 35 Sartorial woe 38 Kitten's comment 40 Affirma-tive action? 42 Relin-quish 45 Merriment 47 Break suddenly 48 Green land 49 Mix 50 Jewel 51 Savings acronym 52 USO audience 54 A handful

DOWN 1 Ottoman official 4 Braying beast 7 Prejudice 11 "No ifs, ands, or —" 13 Spot on a domino 14 Aware of 15 Cornfield invader 16 — out a living 17 Individ-uals 18 Plant of the cashew family 20 Sentry's call 22 Wrigley product 24 Touch-tone feature 28 No purebred 32 Isolated 33 Author James 34 Paving gunk 36 Greek vowel 37 Startle 39 Arrested

Solution time: 24 mins.

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

Saturday's answer 5-28

Bridge

East dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

WEST

EAST

The bidding:

East Pass 1 Pass 1 Opening lead — queen of clubs.

South 1 Pass 1 NT

West Pass Pass

North 1 Pass 3 NT

A Case of Heart Trouble

Today's deal features a card combination that is commonly misplayed. Let's say declarer wins the club lead with the king and plays the king and another heart. When West shows out, South is in serious trouble. Assuming reasonable defense, the best he can do is score two spades, three hearts, a diamond and two clubs.

But declarer has a lock on the contract if he plays more carefully. He should recognize that three notrump is ice-cold if he can score four heart tricks, and all his thoughts should be concentrated on that one goal.

Since there is no danger of going down if the hearts are divided 3-2, South should ask himself how he can protect against a 4-1 division. If he addresses himself to that possibility, he finds there is a way to play the hearts so as to overcome a holding of four to the Q-10 in either opponent's hand.

As we have seen, leading the king and another heart fails if East has Q-10-x-x. However, the proper way to initiate the suit is to lead a low heart to the ace! If both defenders follow low, South continues with a low heart from dummy, and:

1. If East shows out, South tas the king and leads the nine toward the jack to assure four heart tricks.

2. If East follows low, South plays the nine to guarantee four heart tricks whether the nine wins or loses.

3. If East produces the ten or queen, South wins with the king and returns the nine to assure four heart tricks.

A player who optimistically proceeds on the assumption that a suit will be favorably divided is guilty of negligence and will occasionally have to pay the piper for his carelessness.

Bridge

South dealer. East-West vulnerable.

NORTH

WEST

EAST

The bidding:

South 1 Pass 4 All Pass

West Pass

North 4

East All Pass

Opening lead — queen of clubs.

Try the Impossible

A fine declarer makes not only the contracts he's supposed to make, but also some that appear impossible to make. Whenever a contract seems hopeless on the surface, a conscientious declarer will burrow beneath to see whether a particular distribution of the adverse cards will permit the hand to be made. There may be no solution in some cases, but declarer is duty-bound to look for one. Consider this hand played many years ago by Louis P. Frank, New York attorney. He got to four spades, and West led the queen of clubs. Apparently, two spades, two diamonds and possibly a heart had to be lost. But Frank made the contract, despite the bleak outlook, by adopting a line of play that gave him a chance.

He began by ruffing the club in dummy and finessed the queen of hearts. When the queen held, he ruffed the king of clubs and finessed the jack of hearts. He then cashed the ace of hearts and ruffed his last club, the ace. Now he led dummy's established heart.

If East trumped with the ace, South would have discarded a diamond and made the contract without further ceremony. But East made the more natural play of discarding the eight of diamonds, whereupon Frank discarded a diamond and West ruffed.

West then led the king of diamonds, followed by the jack. Frank ruffed and returned a spade, felling the king and ace together. That was the third and last trick for the defense.

Of course, had West led a diamond initially, Frank would have had no chance. And even after the opening club lead, he had to be lucky to find East with the king of hearts and the hearts divided 3-3, and to get a favorable trump division besides.

But if you don't play for miracles in such hands, they won't happen. You'll also never wind up with your name in the newspaper.

Family Circus • Bill Keane

