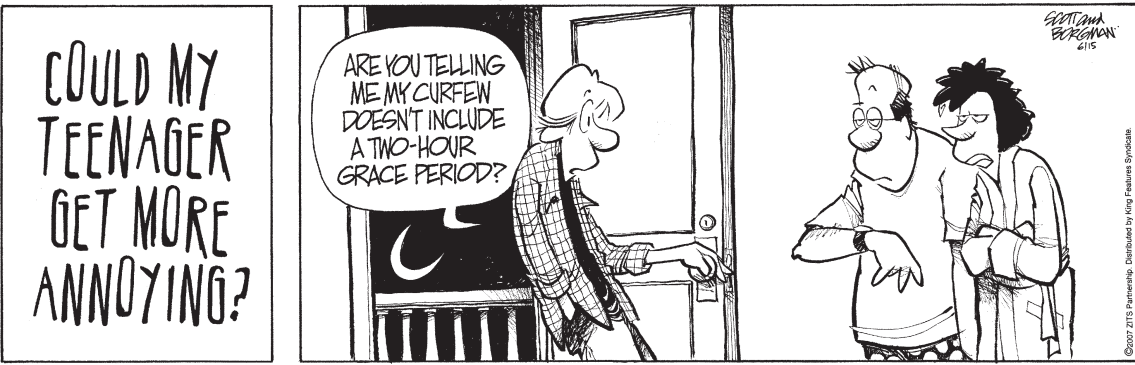


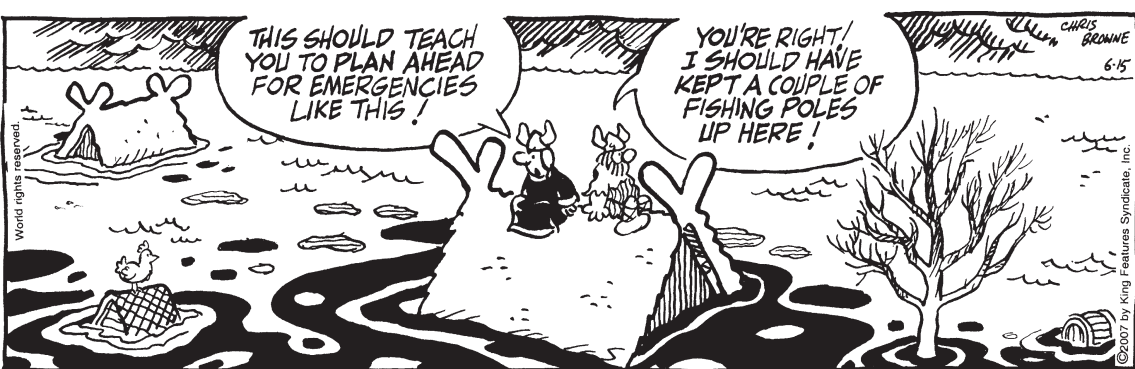
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



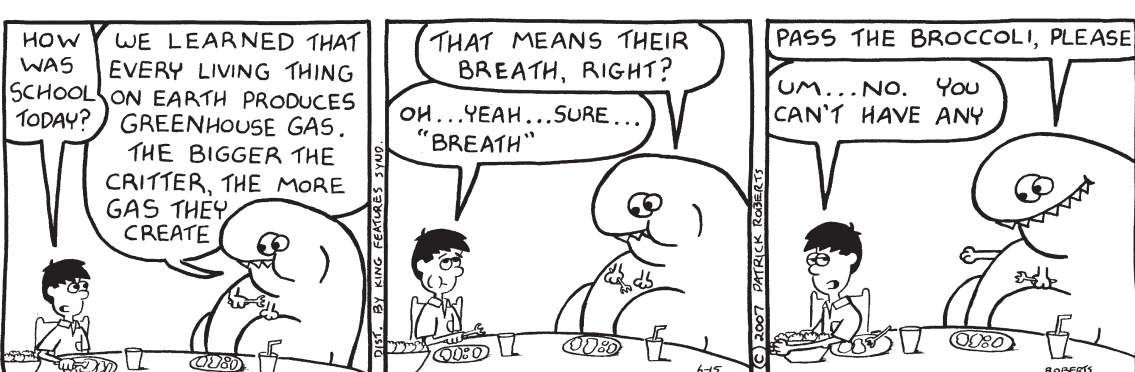
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Cryptoquip

SBG XCQIGMSGQ AOAM'S
IHS GMJHDB YSCWIY JM SBG
ICXRCDG, YJ OS DJS WCQGA

TYLJ NLUNKL YZPL BU BASV
HUTJ Z ILT LJPLKUNLM,
RUXKH BYLO XML Z NZSA

"QGSHQM SJ YCMAGQ."
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A GUY STUBBORNLY REFUSED TO LET GO OF HIS METAL SODA CAN, MIGHT YOU CALL HIM TIN-ACIOUS?

UI VZSK RKSNNLAM?
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE CARPENTER DIDN'T PUT ENOUGH STAMPS ON THE PACKAGE, SO IT GOT MARKED "RETURN TO SANDER."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals D

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals P

Crossword

ACROSS

37 Baltimore news-paper

1 Sphere

4 Mono-kinin's lack

7 Pair

12 Chum

13 Rowing need

14 Comic actor

15 Big

16 Pennants

18 "Flying Down to —"

19 Push

20 Grant's place

22 Ram's ma'am

23 Remark re

27 Corn spike

29 Governor

31 Tease good-naturedly

34 Substantial

35 Tax-payers' fears

DOWN

25 Pismire

26 Pigs' digs

28 Stern-ward

30 Aussie coat of arms

31 Cornfield noise

32 Shade

33 Billboards

36 Svelte

37 Steeples

40 Follows orders

42 Perpendicular, at sea

43 Chuck Woolery's GSN show

44 Be philanthropic

45 Little bits

46 Helper (Abbr.)

48 Yon maiden

49 Massachusetts cape

50 Tatter

51 Before

6 CD- — partner

10 Jam ingredient?

11 Navy rank (Abbr.)

17 24/7

21 Suit

23 Rep

24 Meadow

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 6-15

Bridge

You are declarer with the West hand at Three Notrump, and North leads the four of hearts to South's jack and your king. How would you play the hand?

West

♠ K Q 7 6
♥ A K
♦ Q J 4
♣ 10 9 6 3

East

♠ A 4
♥ 7 5
♦ K 9 6 3 2
♣ A Q J 2

Test Your Play

If you stake the outcome on a club finesse at trick two, the contract is sure to go down if South has the king. He would return a heart, and you would finish with only eight tricks.

You could also fail by attacking diamonds immediately, even though that is a better play than finessing a club. If you led the queen or jack of diamonds at trick two, for example, you would go down if South had something like:

[S] J 9 3 2
[H] J 9 6
[D] A 10 8 7
[C] K 5

The most promising method of play by far is to lead a spade to the ace at trick two and a low diamond from dummy at trick three. If South has the ace, you are sure to make the contract whether he takes the ace or follows low.

If he rises with the ace, you have nine tricks — three spades, two hearts, three diamonds and a club — regardless of how the diamonds are divided. If he does not go up with the ace, you also score nine tricks by turning your attention to clubs after the diamond queen holds. Even if the club finesse fails, you are home, scoring three spades, two hearts, a diamond. The only time the contract goes down by adopting the suggested method of play is when North started with precisely the singleton ace of diamonds and South has the king of clubs, in which event you could make three notrump by leading the four of diamonds from your hand at trick two. As opposed to this one remote possibility — less than a 2 percent chance — it is significantly better to start the diamonds by leading a low one from dummy initially.

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A Q 6 2
♥ Q J 3
♦ K Q 10 7
♣ 5 4

WEST

♠ 9 4
♥ A 7 5
♦ A 9 4
♣ J 10 7 6 2

EAST

♠ J 10 7 3
♥ 9 8 4 2
♦ 8 6 3
♣ Q 9

SOUTH

♠ K 8 5
♥ K 10 6
♦ J 5 2
♣ A K 8 3

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

When to Take and When to Duck

Let's say you're in three notrump and West leads the six of clubs, on which East plays the queen. It is frequently right to duck when you hold the A-K — in order to interfere with enemy communications — but the question is whether it is right to duck in this case (without seeing the East-West cards).

Note that if you duck, you go down one. East plays another club, and you wind up losing three clubs and two aces. But if you win the first club, you make the contract against any defense.

It is easy to prove that taking East's queen is the correct play. You start by assuming that the clubs are divided 5-2, since if they're divided 4-3, you can't be defeated no matter what you do (all you'd lose in that case is two clubs and two aces).

Having credited West with five clubs, you next conclude that he did not lead the six from the J-10-9-6-x, because with that holding he would have led the jack, not the six. East must therefore have specifically the doubleton Q-10 or Q-9 of clubs.

After winning the opening club lead with the king, you force out the ace of diamonds. If East has the ace and returns the nine (or ten) of clubs, you duck and thus assure the contract, since West cannot afford to overtake and return a club into your A-8.

If West has the ace of diamonds (the actual case), you are equally certain of a favorable outcome. You duck the club return — whether it is the jack or the deuce — and in that way also discombobulate the defense.

There is a proper time to refuse a trick and a proper time to win a trick, but when you do one or the other is largely a matter of exercising good judgment.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13				14			
15			16			17				
18			19							
20		21		22			23	24	25	26
		27	28			29	30			
31	32	33					34			
35				36		37				
38				39	40		41	42	43	44
				45			46		47	
48	49	50	51						52	
53						54			55	
56						57			58	

ACROSS

1 Pantheon member

4 Undergoes recession

8 Knockers' noises

12 Onassis, to pals

13 Passel

14 "— Brockovich"

15 Red or Yellow

16 Brazilian rubber

17 Houston acronym

18 Stuck, in a way

21 "A mouse!"

22 Hem's partner

23 Fear greatly

26 Plead

27 "Great Expectations" lad

30 Path for Hope and Crosby

31 Scepter

32 Denomination

33 Still

34 Send quickly

35 Sanctions

36 — Lanka

37 Messy place

38 Making conversation

45 Wimbledon

46 Former filly

47 "All the Things You —"

48 Sheltered

49 State with conviction

50 Through

51 Took off

52 11 p.m. broadcast

53 Pitcher part

54 Crone

55 Desiccate

56 Caviar, basically

57 Consume

58 Carton

59 Shell game prop

60 Unfriendly

61 Score units (Abbr.)

62 Hoffman/Cruise movie

63 Terrier type

64 Calendar abbr.

65 "Do unto —"

66 Saccharine

67 Scatter about

68 Talon

69 Golf target

70 Tied

71 Bestowed

72 Four-star review

73 Carreras solo

74 Paraphernalia

DOWN

1 Long cut

2 Sandwich treat

3 Use an old phone

4 Caught sight of

5 Type of stare

6 Titanic's undoing

7 Wrapped

8 Get more magazines

9 Bedouin

10 Tower city

11 Hosiery woe

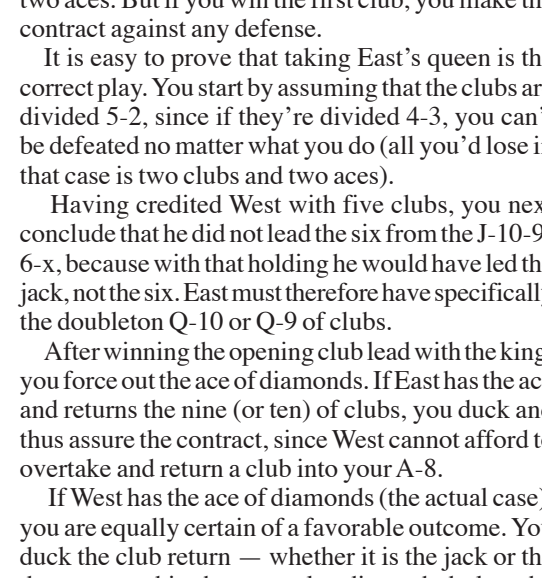
19 Out of play

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 6-16

Family Circus • Bill Keane



6-15
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Family Circus • Bill Keane

“But we can keep Grandma, right?”