

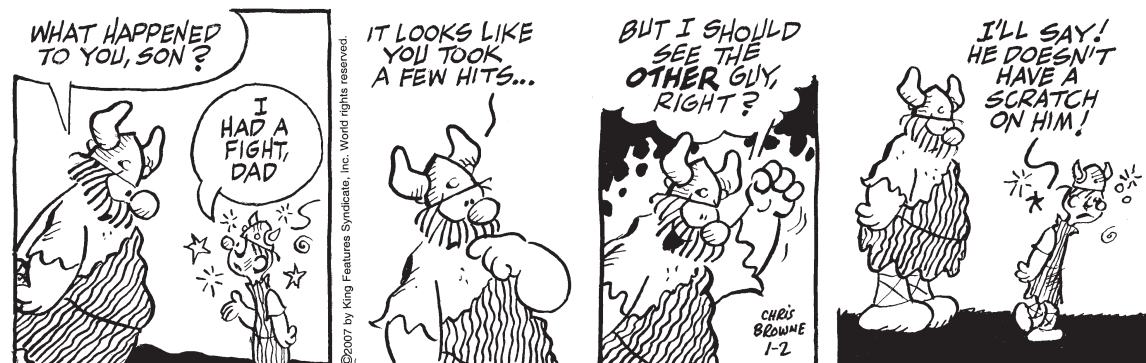
**Sally Forth • Greg Howard**



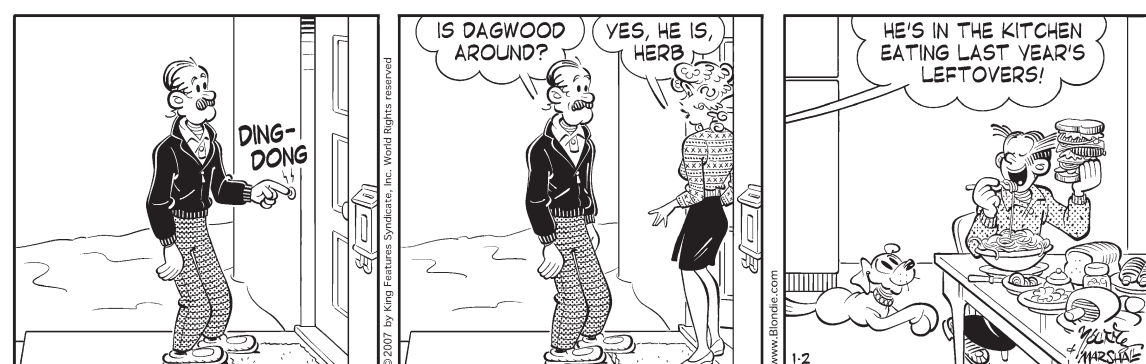
**Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott**



**Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne**



**Blondie • Chic Young**



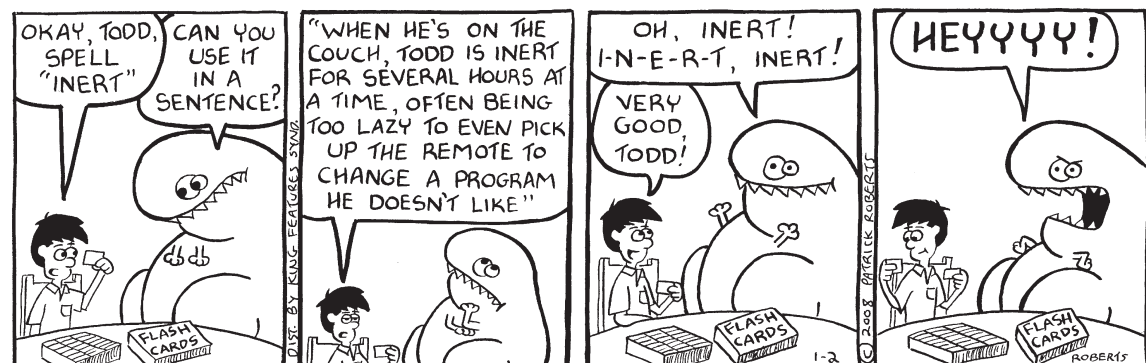
**Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker**



**Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott**



**Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts**



**Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters**



**Cryptoquip**

JM IBQ MIBQJN YQDPURDGI  
 NER EKPI XDDG E YNCPUVUEG,  
 ND'R YQIXEXKC YQEVJUVD  
 IERUPIG HDRUVUGD.  
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE I KNEW I WAS LOSING THE CONDIMENT-POURING COMPETITION, I REALLY HAD TO PLAY KETCHUP.  
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals H

ZYCP H RIUCAYCAJ NXPXYCR  
 YXR RBYJJQXPV, FJCR YXR  
 VAHFIH EXJP JIENXE  
 XPBQIFC H BHUC HPF VJZP?  
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF OUR FOURTH PRESIDENT HAD ALSO BEEN A PHYSICIAN, HE'D PROBABLY PRACTICE MADISON MEDICINE.  
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals S

**Crossword**

- ACROSS**
- 1 He raised Cain
  - 5 Tabby like a butterfly
  - 8 Move "— and the Tramp"
  - 13 Mess up Puerto
  - 14 Sleeplessness
  - 17 Addict
  - 18 Margarine square
  - 19 Whim
  - 21 Moving
  - 24 Genesis name
  - 25 Detail, for short
  - 26 Weather-proof, in a way
  - 30 Beach-goer's shade
  - 31 "West Side Story" role
  - 32 Nourished
  - 33 Crazy-ness
  - 35 Pull
  - 36 Common queries, online
- DOWN**
- 1 — Baba
  - 2 Quarter-back
  - 3 Billboards
  - 4 Near-sighted
  - 5 Penny
  - 6 Onassis, familiarly
  - 7 Farce
  - 8 Thrifty
  - 9 Sax-playing
  - 10 Bakery worker, at times
  - 11 Super-conservative
  - 16 Ruin the veneer
  - 20 Water, in Oaxaca
  - 21 Italian wine district
  - 22 Bridge
  - 23 Saw-bucks
  - 24 Fits of peevishness
  - 26 Wickedness
  - 27 Roundish hairstyle
  - 28 Afternoon socials
  - 29 Ford car
  - 31 Body study (Abbr.)
  - 34 Out of the way
  - 35 St. George's victim
  - 37 — Beta Kappa
  - 38 Mid-month date
  - 39 Exploding star
  - 40 Whirl
  - 41 On the briny
  - 44 Born
  - 45 Scot's refusal
  - 46 Playwright
  - 47 Cleo's slayer

Solution time: 21 mins.



Yesterday's answer 1-11

**Bridge**

West dealer.  
 Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
 ♠ 6 2  
 ♥ A K Q  
 ♦ J 3 2  
 ♣ K 8 7 6 5

**WEST**  
 ♠ J 7 3  
 ♥ —  
 ♦ Q 4  
 ♣ A Q J 10 9 4 3 2

**EAST**  
 ♠ A 5 4  
 ♥ 10 9 8 7 5 4 3 2  
 ♦ A 5  
 ♣ —

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ K Q 10 9 8  
 ♥ J 6  
 ♦ K 10 9 8 7 6  
 ♣ —

The bidding:  
 West 3♣ Pass  
 North 3♥ Dble Pass  
 East 3♥ Pass  
 South 3NT Pass  
 Opening lead — ace of clubs.

Dear Mr. Becker: I am taking the liberty of writing to you even though I am primarily a devotee and practitioner of the ancient and honorable game of gin rummy, a game in which I can state, with all modesty, that there is no one who can hold a candle to me.

I realize, of course, that you write only about bridge, and that you may know nothing and care even less about gin, but I had an experience on the accompanying bridge hand which might be of interest to you.

As you can see from the bidding (I was South), I am no greenhorn at the game, and my play, I may add, also leaves little to be desired. In fact, if I ever decided to put my mind to the game, there is no doubt that you would soon be out of a job.

I was merely wondering -- and that is why I am writing you -- whether it is possible that I had overlooked any angle in this hand where I went down at three notrump.

West led the A-Q of clubs, and I would have had a very easy time making three notrump except that the player on my right threw away the ace of diamonds and ace of spades on the first two tricks!

No matter how I figure it, I don't see how I can now make this hand. If East had discarded just one ace, I would have gotten home with nine tricks, but two of them were just too much for me. Is there anything I could have done to make the contract? Sincerely yours, Joe Blow.

Dear Mr. Blow: Not a thing. You were up against superhuman defense. Apparently East is also a gin player, so my guess is that he threw away his aces in order to retain his other combinations.

Once he did this, there was nothing you could do to alter the outcome. Cordially yours, SB

South dealer.  
 Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
 ♠ A 4  
 ♥ K 10 5  
 ♦ A 8 7 2  
 ♣ 9 8 4 3

**WEST**  
 ♠ J 9 3 2  
 ♥ Q 8 3  
 ♦ J 9  
 ♣ K Q J 5

**EAST**  
 ♠ 10 8 7 6  
 ♥ 6 2  
 ♦ Q 10 4 3  
 ♣ A 10 6

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ K O 5  
 ♥ A J 9 7 4  
 ♦ K 6 5  
 ♣ 7 2

The bidding:  
 South 1♥  
 West 2♦  
 North 2♥  
 East 3♥  
 Pass  
 Opening lead — king of clubs.

**A Nonconfrontational Solution**

Players who relish trying to guess the location of a missing queen are welcome to the pleasure, but most people would be just as happy to avoid it. Oddly enough, avoiding the guess altogether is sometimes the best way to resolve the problem. Consider this case where South is in four hearts. He sees at once that he must lose two clubs and a diamond, so the outcome hinges on whether he loses a trick to the queen of hearts. In the actual deal, if declarer is smart enough to finesse against West for the missing lady, he will make the contract. But in the absence of a peek into an opponent's hand, it appears that South will have to guess which opponent to finesse for the queen. In this case, however, the best way to solve the problem is to ignore it entirely! The opponents start by leading three rounds of clubs, declarer ruffing the third. South then cashes the A-K-Q of spades, discarding a diamond from dummy. This is followed at this point, five tricks remain to be played. Declarer has the A-J-9-7 of hearts and a low diamond, while dummy has the K-10-5 of hearts, a diamond and a club. The last club is led from dummy and ruffed, after which South leads his losing diamond. It doesn't matter which defender wins this trick. With the A-J-9 of hearts in his hand opposite dummy's K-10-5, the queen is bound to be trapped regardless of which opponent leads next. It is true that if East has the fourth club, West will be in position to overruff when dummy's last club is led. In that case, declarer will be forced to guess which opponent has the queen of hearts after East follows. The advantage of the recommended approach is that if East started with only three clubs, South is certain to get home safely no matter who has the trump queen.

**Family Circus • Bill Keane**



"Oh, boy! Does this mean we don't have to be good anymore?"