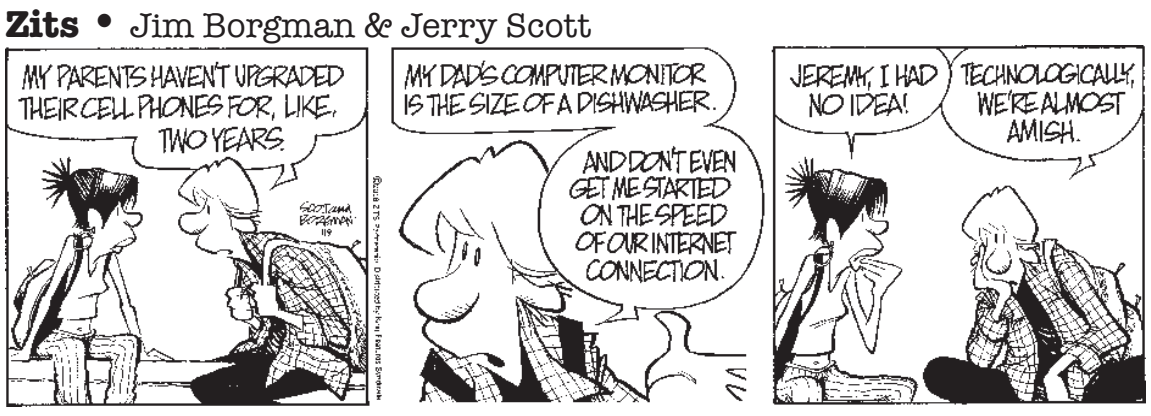
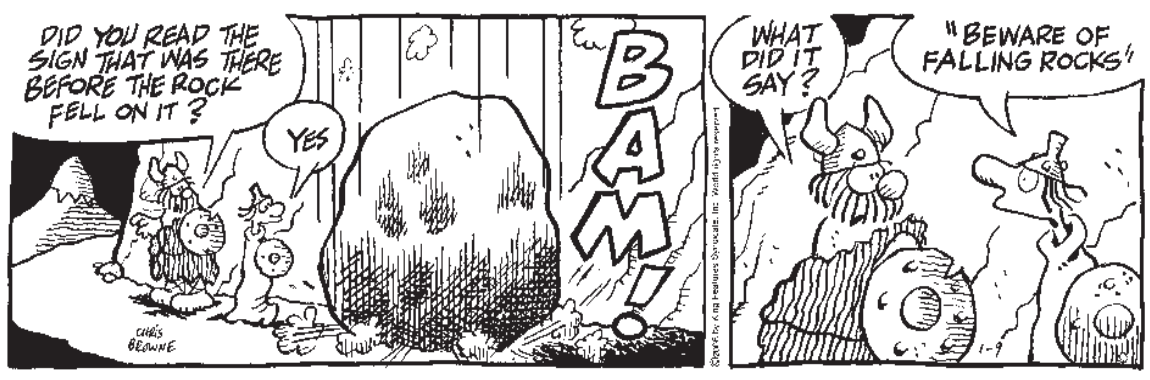
## Sally Forth • Greg Howard

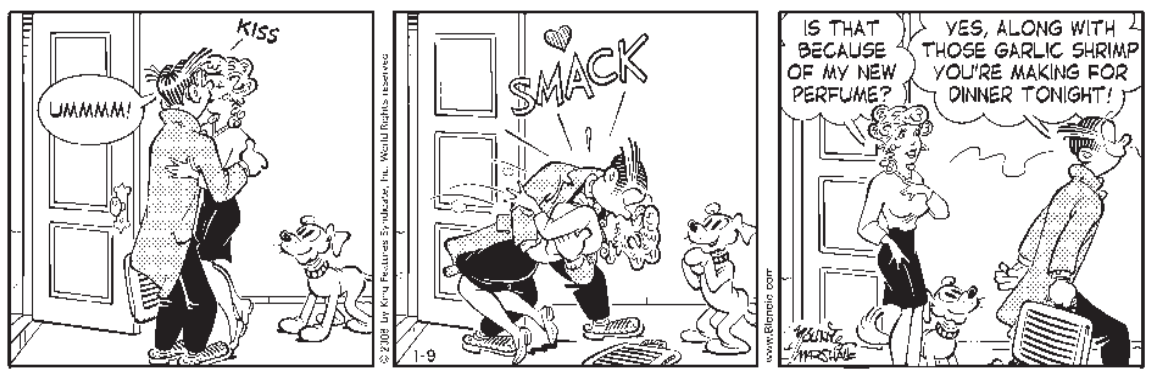
## Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



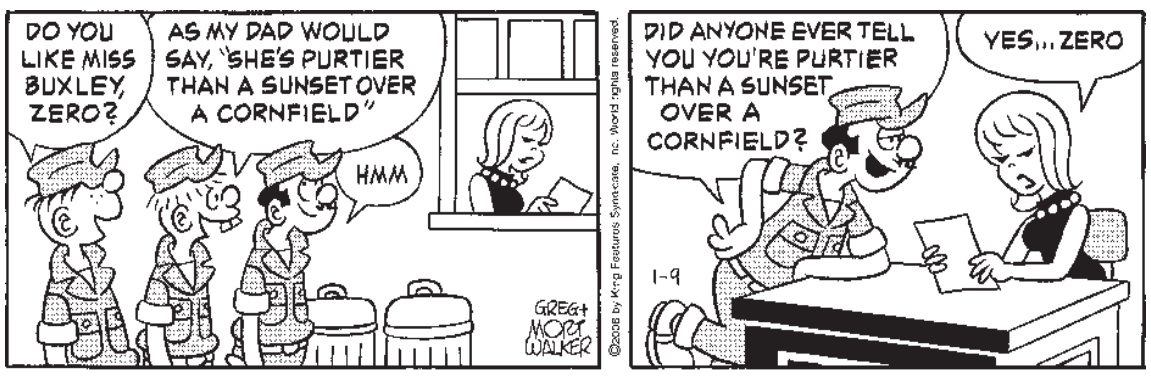

## Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne




## Blondie • Chic Young

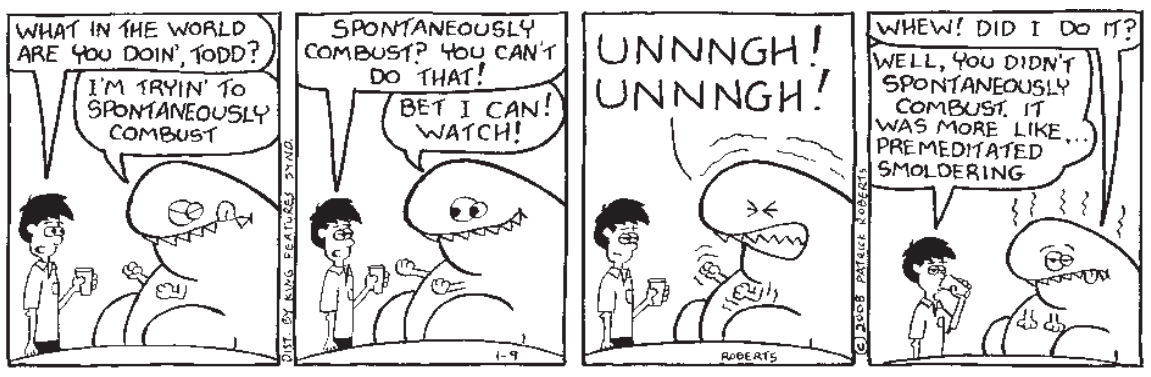



## Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker




## Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

## Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts




## Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters

## Cryptoquip

MANJ CWKZND-FGJ TD LAN RDNNJ BGJLNDJ RTNC LT G ZNBK, ZTNC AN FQJOA TJ G CQWND ANDT CGJZMKOA?

**Yesterday's Cryptoquip:** I EXPECT THAT IF A LION OR TIGER LIKED A MIXER IN ITS DRINKS, IT MIGHT PREFER A CAT-A-TONIC.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals O

IADS E UTRDWKS CJ VDTTCIWKS'Z FKESC KZ UEGTV WTEB CJ ZAEJF, ICRTG VCR ZEV KB'Z CRB CW BRSE?

**Yesterday's Cryptoquip:** WHEN SPIDER-MAN OR THE GREEN LANTERN GOES TO A DELI, DOES HE MUNCH ON A SUPER HERO SANDWICH?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals Y

## Crossword

**ACROSS**
1 Information
5 English channel?
8 Pear or apple
12 Jacob's brother
13 Mound stat
14 Footnote abbr.
15 Tonic
17 "The Da Vinci —"
18 Mr. Sajak
19 Frequently, in verse
20 Flock in flight
21 Use a crowbar
22 Miler Sebastian
23 Yeltsin's successor
26 Reckless travel
30 Grand-scale tale
31 Annoy
32 PC picture
33 Stopped the ball carrier
35 Massage
36 Nosh
37 Leprechauns' dance
38 Failed the white-glove test
41 Grumpy friend?
42 Foolish one
45 Sea eagle
46 Walleye
48 Culture medium
49 Noah's craft
50 Bigfoot's cousin
51 Stamina
52 "Of course"
53 It's right on the map

**DOWN**
1 Portrayer of Wood, Todd and Wonka
2 One side of the Urals
3 Diplomacy
4 Diving bird
5 Strong and heavy
6 Very dry, as champagne
7 Upper limit
8 "My Fair Lady" colonel
9 Reed instrument
10 Calf-length
11 Paradise
16 Early hours
20 Tofu provider
21 They're a striking group
22 "Friends" cast member
23 Favorite
24 "— lazy river, ..."
25 Spasm
26 Clampett patriarch
27 Lemieux milieu
28 — good deed
29 Conclusion
31 Old soldier
34 Deposit
35 Punt
37 Athletes
38 Option from Howie Mandel
39 Incite
40 Unseen problem
41 Tragic
42 Vicinity
43 Collections
44 Sexy skirt feature
46 Remuneration
47 Storm center

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

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

Yesterday's answer 1-8

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 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 | | | |

**ACROSS**
1 Coin aperture
5 — de deux
8 Shrek is one
12 Top-rated
13 Coffee shop vessel
14 Lakeside structure
15 Casino game
17 Blueprint
18 Add, in a way
19 Coral rings
21 Noon, on a sundial
22 Meds measure
23 Recede
26 Fresh
28 Subway
31 Do mailroom work
33 Raring to go
35 Poker variety
36 Far-from-the-city area
38 Monokini's lack
40 Tackle's teammate
41 Beaks
43 Piercing tool
45 Infraction
47 Continues
51 On the — (unfriendly)
52 Brunch order
54 Aware of
55 Massachusetts cape
56 Porter's "Let's —"
57 Acute
58 Crucial
59 Pouches

**DOWN**
1 Ganges garment
2 Crazy one
3 Burden
4 Old communications machine
5 Caulking materials
6 Illustrations
7 "Slammin' Sammy" of golf
8 Battles
9 Big name in razors
10 Authentic
11 Sea flock
16 Ireland
20 Infamous peeper
23 Language suffix
24 Carton
25 Woman with dark hair
27 Symbol of intrigue
29 Scoot
30 Peculiar
32 Only crime defined in the Constitution
34 "Hamlet," for one
37 Telly option
39 MPs' quarry
42 Jolt
44 West Yorkshire city
45 Volume
46 Mysterious character
48 Old portico
49 Ear-related
50 Profits
53 Larry's pal

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

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

Yesterday's answer 1-9

## Bridge

South dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

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

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

**EAST**
♠ 10 8 3
♥ 7 6 4 2
♦ J 6
♣ 9 8 6 3

**SOUTH**
♠ K Q J 6
♥ A 9 3
♦ 7 2
♣ K 10 5 4

The bidding:

| South | West | North | East |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 ♣ | 1 ♦ | 1 ♥ | Pass |
| 1 ♠ | 2 ♦ | 4 ♠ | |

Opening lead — king of diamonds.

### Search-and-Discovery Mission

A cursory glance at today's deal might easily lead one to conclude that South is certain to make four spades. With the opposing trumps divided 3-2, it appears he cannot lose more than the ace of spades and two diamonds.

Yet, when the deal occurred, declarer failed to make the contract. And, what's more, there was absolutely nothing he could do about it!

West began by cashing the K-A of diamonds, then stopped to consider where his side might pick up another trick in addition to his ace of spades. It was obvious that East could not hold the ace of hearts, king of clubs or any top spade, since South had to have all of those cards for his opening bid.

West therefore decided that his only hope was to try to promote an extra trick in the trump suit. Accordingly, at trick three he continued with the nine of diamonds, knowing full well that he was presenting declarer with the opportunity for a ruff-and-discard, normally the bane of all defenders.

Dummy trumped, but East did his part by ruffing with the ten, forcing South to overruff with the jack. Declarer then crossed to dummy with a club and led a spade to the queen, losing to the ace.

West thereupon returned another diamond, ruffed by East with the eight. Declarer could now choose his own poison, as either East's eight or West's nine would score the setting trick.

Of course, had West adopted a more passive approach by returning anything but a diamond at trick three, declarer would have made his game easily. But West worked out what was needed to defeat the contract and then put his plan into action even though this meant defying the old ruff-and-discard bugaboo.

North dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**
♠ K Q J 6 2
♥ A Q 9 3
♦ A J
♣ 6 2

**WEST**
♠ 8 7 3
♥ J 10 6 4
♦ 9 6 4
♣ Q J 10

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

**SOUTH**
♠ 4
♥ K 8 7 5 2
♦ K Q 10 7
♣ A K 9

The bidding:

| North | East | South | West |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 ♠ | Pass | 2 ♥ | Pass |
| 4 ♥ | Pass | 4 NT | Pass |
| 5 ♥ | Pass | 6 ♥ | |

Opening lead — queen of clubs.

### The Art of Slam Bidding

What is it that puts a player on notice that there may be a slam? The answer to this question is certainly of much more than ordinary importance.

If a slam is made but not bid, the slam bonus -- 500 or 750 points -- is lost. If a slam is bid but not made, a game is lost in addition to the undertrick penalty.

Point count sometimes tells the tale. If both hands are balanced, 33 high-card points are usually needed. When distribution enters the picture, the slam can frequently be made with fewer points -- provided there are adequate side-suit controls in the form of aces, voids or single tons together with a strong trump holding. In general, a slam should be bid when there is at least an even chance of making it.

Another good guide to the possibility of a slam stems from the all-important rule that an opening bid facing an opening bid normally yields a game. Extending this principle to slam bidding, an "opening bid plus" facing an "opening bid plus" is likely to produce a slam. A "plus" is usually an extra king or ace above an opening bid. Distributional values may also be considered as pluses.

Note how South appraises today's hand after North opens the bidding with one spade and then jumps to four hearts. With a full opening bid of his own, increased greatly in value by the strong heart fit indicated by North's jump-raise, South has the requisite opening bid plus. North must also be assumed to have extra values for his leap to four hearts. Four notrump is merely a precautionary measure to make sure the opponents don't hold two aces.

The slam is made by playing the trumps carefully. The only threat to the contract is if one defender has all four trumps. If East has them, not even a doctor can help declarer, but if West has them, his trumps can be trapped by cashing the king first.

## Family Circus • Bill Keane

"There'll always be prayer in schools as long as there are tests."