

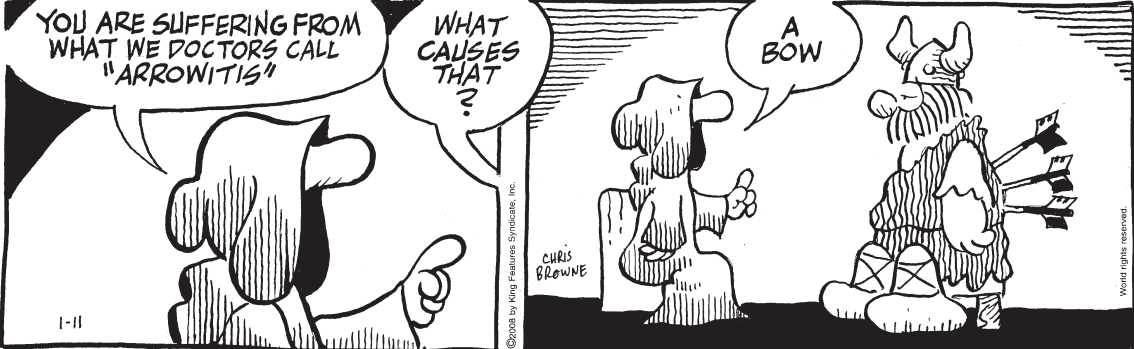
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



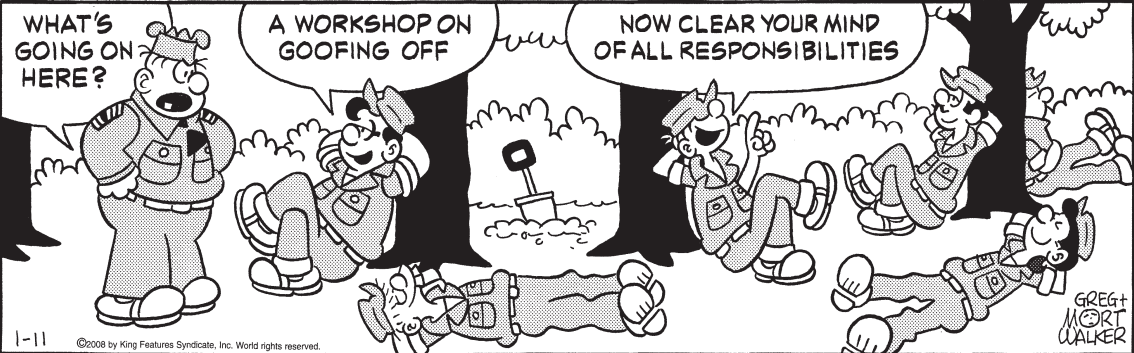
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



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

BGR XRN HUDSRBV OSCQ FORPFCSJ T FZGAABSFZ SF
RXKLCKR ZLDG BRCCSFQR IVSMSCJ T BTFW MGZSLAG,
BRYHSXO. VUL ZSOGB HYV S SDTJSCG PCG LPOAI
HGR NYH Y KRF VUL BYLXB. LTAA SW T DOFFGA LTV.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: OLD SITCOM ABOUT A YESTERDAY'S CRYPTOQUIP: THE NEW SOCIETY
FAMILY GUY WHO'S AN UNMATCHED PRO AT GIRL ENDURED MUCH TERRIBLE TEASING.
LANDSCAPING: "FATHER MOWS BEST." YOU MIGHT SAY SHE WAS A DEB YOU TAUNT.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals U Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals S

Crossword

ACROSS 1 Picnic invader 4 Move spirally 8 Italy's silhouette 12 Tarzan's son 13 Bound 14 Gifford's successor 15 Seles contemporary 17 As well 18 Growths of bamboo 19 Neutral color 21 Perform 22 "Dream-girls" Oscar winner 26 Keep tabs on 29 Gender 30 Lamb's dam 31 "Be still" set 33 Encounter 34 Savings-plan acronym 35 Send immediately

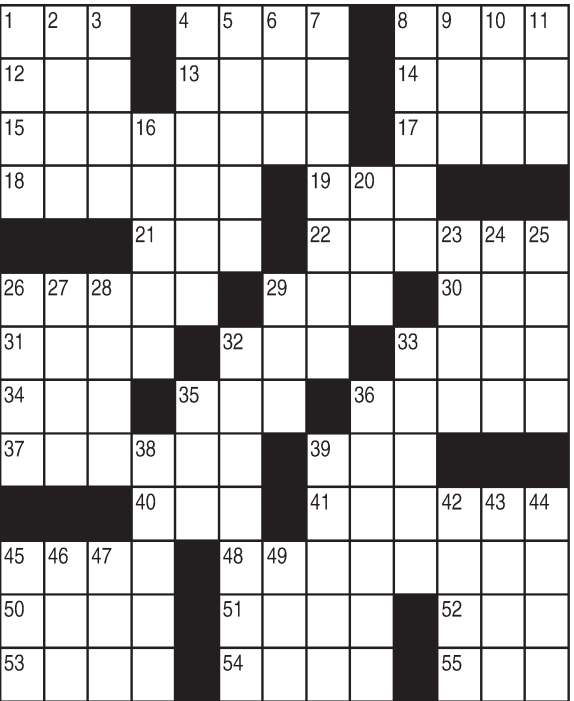
36 They get in the whey 37 "Alias" star 39 U.K. fliers 40 McKinley's first lady 41 Under the wire 45 Tar's bars? 48 First name of 15-, 22-, and 37-Across 50 "That hurts!" 51 Jason's ship 52 To and — 53 Help a hood 54 Fit snugly inside

55 "Absolutely" 56 "Absolutely" 57 "Absolutely" 58 "Absolutely" 59 "Absolutely" 60 "Absolutely" 61 "Absolutely" 62 "Absolutely" 63 "Absolutely" 64 "Absolutely" 65 "Absolutely" 66 "Absolutely" 67 "Absolutely" 68 "Absolutely" 69 "Absolutely" 70 "Absolutely" 71 "Absolutely" 72 "Absolutely" 73 "Absolutely" 74 "Absolutely" 75 "Absolutely" 76 "Absolutely" 77 "Absolutely" 78 "Absolutely" 79 "Absolutely" 80 "Absolutely" 81 "Absolutely" 82 "Absolutely" 83 "Absolutely" 84 "Absolutely" 85 "Absolutely" 86 "Absolutely" 87 "Absolutely" 88 "Absolutely" 89 "Absolutely" 90 "Absolutely" 91 "Absolutely" 92 "Absolutely" 93 "Absolutely" 94 "Absolutely" 95 "Absolutely" 96 "Absolutely" 97 "Absolutely" 98 "Absolutely" 99 "Absolutely" 100 "Absolutely"

DOWN 1 Basic learning 2 Ham's dad 3 Proof-reader's find 4 Minor problem 5 Leavening agent 6 Snitch paraging word 8 Maverick's lack 9 Tin Man's need 10 Photo — 11 Confucian principle 16 Insect

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 1-11



ACROSS 1 Realty statistic 6 Catchphrase 12 Shocked 13 Only U.S. capital sharing no letters with its state 14 Nap 15 Incense 16 French bridge 17 Canoodle 19 Bushy clump 20 Verdi masterpiece 22 The girl 24 Eggs 27 Klingon aboard the Enterprise 29 Somewhere out there 32 Produce purchase 35 Storybook villain 36 Suitable 37 Blazed a trail

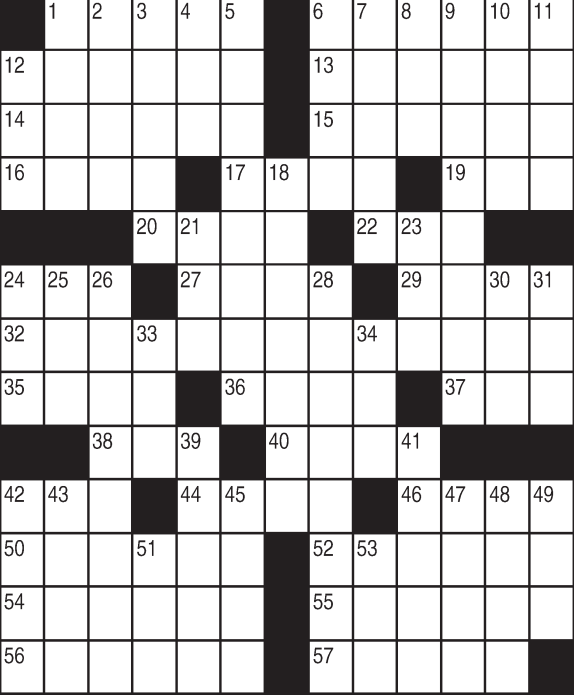
38 Modern-day evidence 40 "Zounds!" 42 Potok's "My Name Is Asher —" 44 Measures, in music 46 Kind of hairdo 50 Gamer's picture 52 Having a nimbus 54 Minimum 55 Dump 56 Shackles' site 57 Pastoral work

2 "Big Brother" host 3 Selassie wor-shipper 4 "Guinness Book" suffix 5 Tie 6 Detail, for short 7 Sausages, often 8 "— the fields we go" 9 Appreciative 10 Golden Fleece craft 11 Requirement 12 Cleo's slayer

18 Before 21 Jima preceder 23 Chapeau 24 Discoverer's cry 25 What couch potatoes do 26 First beast in the dictionary 28 Harmonic arrangement 30 Expert 31 Roulette bet 33 Lair 34 Afternoon get-together 39 Humiliate 41 Waste time 42 Tibetan monk 43 Squared 45 Decoupage, et al. 47 Ninny 48 Verifiable 49 Strange 51 — 53 Moreover

Solution time: 27 mins.

Yesterday's answer 1-12



Bridge Test Your Play

1. You are declarer with the West hand at Six Hearts, and North leads the queen of diamonds. How would you play the hand?

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

East [S] J 8 3 [H] K 10 7 4 [D] 5 [C] Q 10 6 4 2

2. You are declarer with the West hand at Three Notrump, and North leads the queen of diamonds, South playing the seven. How would you play the hand?

West [S] 8 5 4 3 [H] 6 4 [D] A 3 [C] 8 6 5 3 2

East [S] A Q 7 [H] A K Q 7 3 [D] 8 5 [C] A K Q

1. You are sure to make the contract -- even if you lose a trump trick -- provided the clubs are divided 2-2 or 3-1, since you can eventually discard your spade loser on dummy's fifth club. The same is true if the clubs are divided 4-0 and North has all four of them, since in that case you can trap his jack and thus get home safely. The only real danger, therefore, is that South has the J-9-8-5 of clubs, so you should plan the play on that basis. Once you consign four clubs to South and none to North, it follows that North is far more likely to be longer in trumps than South. Accordingly, at trick two you should play the ace of hearts, planning to continue with a heart and finesse the ten. This method of play makes it extremely unlikely that the slam will fail. 2. Let's assume you duck the diamond queen and North continues with the six to South's king. You win with the ace, and the question is whether it is better to lead a spade to the queen at trick three or cash the A-K-Q of hearts in the hope that the opposing hearts are divided 3-3. There is no doubt that, percentage-wise, the winning play is to rely on the spade finesse rather than a 3-3 heart division. In the long run, North will be dealt the king of spades 50 percent of the time, while the hearts will divide evenly only 36 percent of the time, so the spade finesse is significantly better. It is only fair to add that in situations like this, the right play sometimes turns out to be wrong, and the wrong play sometimes succeeds. Even so, over the long haul, it is much better to go with the odds.

North dealer. East-West vulnerable.

NORTH ♠ 6 ♥ K J 8 2 ♦ J 9 3 ♣ A K J 10 5

WEST ♠ J 10 7 4 3 ♥ 5 ♦ A 7 6 2 ♣ 9 6 2

EAST ♠ A Q 9 5 2 ♥ A 4 3 ♦ K Q ♣ 8 7 3

SOUTH ♠ K 8 ♥ A Q 10 7 6 ♦ 10 8 5 4 ♣ Q 4

The bidding: North 1 ♠, East 1 ♠, South 2 ♠, West 2 ♠. Opening lead — jack of spades.

A Backward Defensive Play

Assume you hold the East hand and are defending against four hearts. You win the opening spade lead with the ace as declarer follows with the eight. How do you continue?

To defeat the contract, your side needs to take three more tricks. You must therefore construct a lie of the cards that will allow you Looking at dummy, it is obvious that your side will not get another spade trick, nor will you take any club tricks. Furthermore, there is an excellent chance that dummy's clubs will furnish South with five tricks, regardless. Although partner might have the ace of hearts, that will not really help your cause. In that case, the ace of diamonds would have to be in South's hand, which would limit the defense to no more than three tricks -- a spade, a heart and a diamond. Consequently, that possibility must be dismissed, leaving you with just one hope -- that partner has the ace of diamonds.

Once this conclusion is reached, the only problem remaining is how to cash three diamond tricks before declarer can discard his diamond losers. You can lead the K-Q of diamonds, but unless partner overtakes the second diamond with the ace and gives you a ruff, a third diamond trick will not be forthcoming. However, partner is not likely to find this play without peeking into your hand.

To alert him to the necessity of overtaking the second diamond, something unusual must be done. So, contrary to normal procedure, you lead the queen of diamonds first, followed by the king.

Partner should have no trouble deciphering the meaning of these plays. Since you have played your diamonds in reverse order -- which you would not do with three or more cards in the suit -- he should overtake the king with the ace and return a diamond to deliver the killing blow.

Family Circus • Bill Keane

