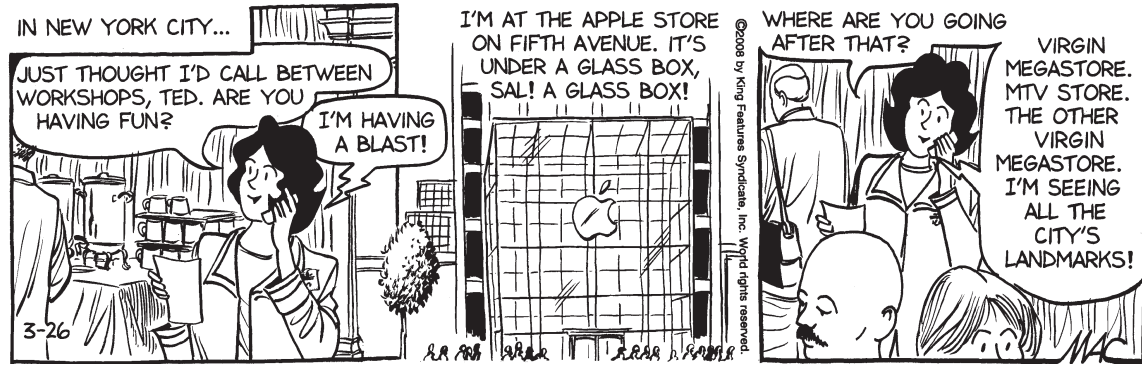
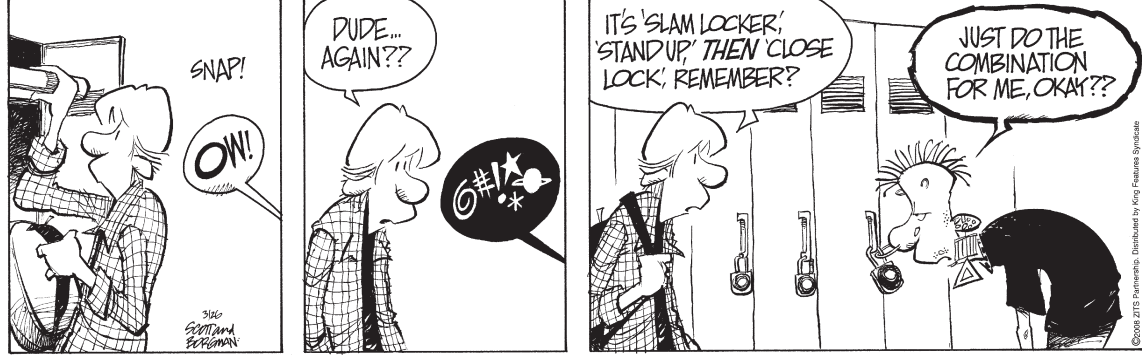


**Sally Forth • Greg Howard**



**Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott**



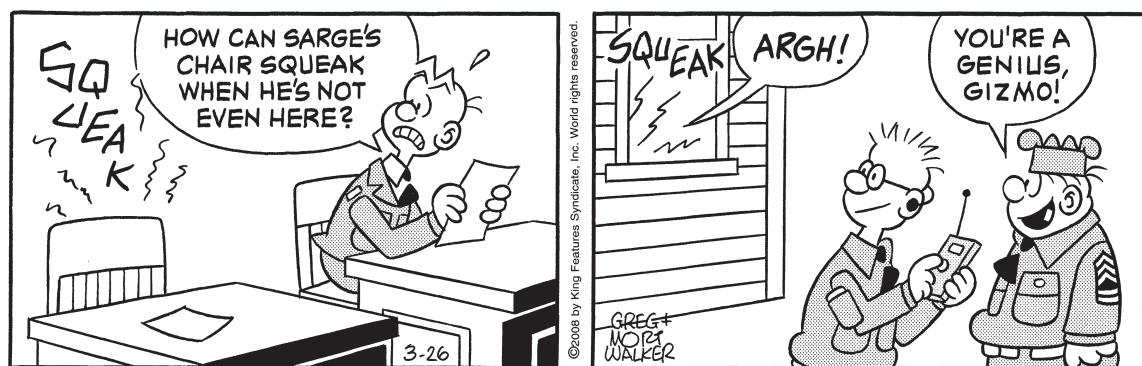
**Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne**



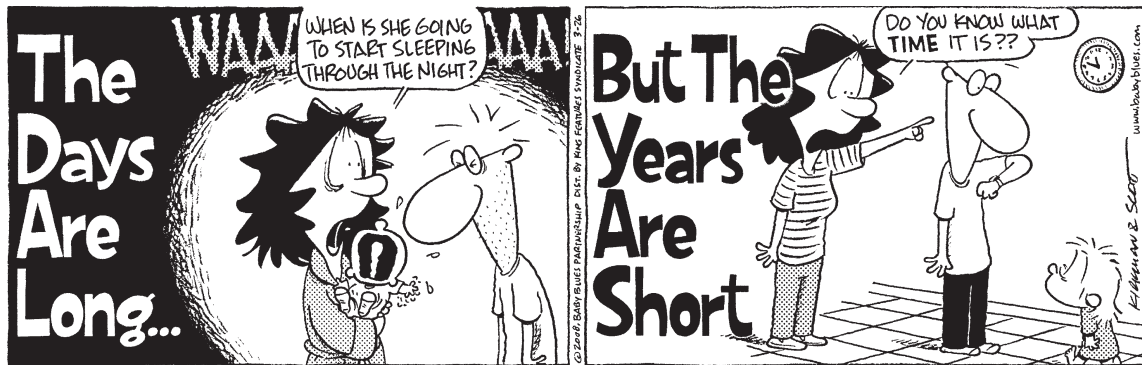
**Blondie • Chic Young**



**Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker**



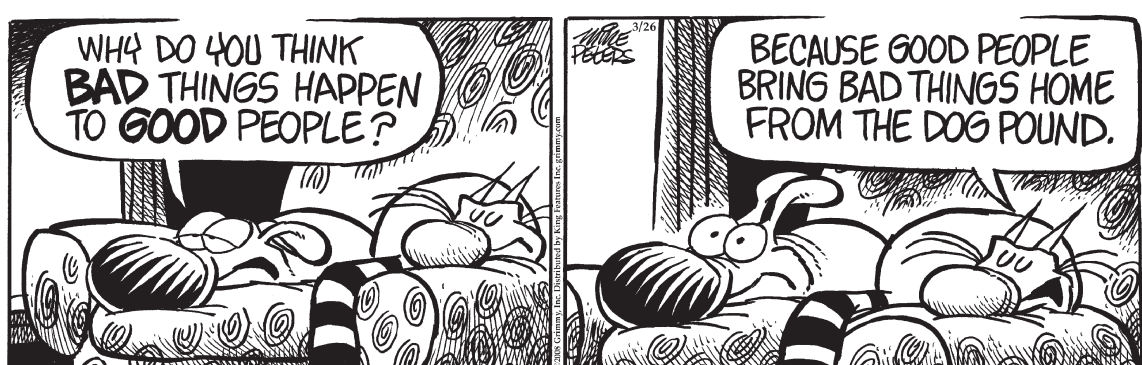
**Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott**



**Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts**



**Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters**



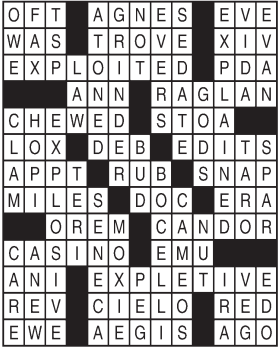
**Cryptoquip**

RK DYM FRNNRUI CUWRCUC KRRVZSN K YZF RZSNWP  
 LP VUWPZU VDGUTI, CF FWKVWC AB GZFY K QZN  
 MPB LFRYG LFURT ZPLLF WIWHFPLSZHR HLBKXSX, GLAIC  
 APBJC VU "KJPBT NPAUT"? FYWX QW RLSX KSC HYWP?  
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: CLASSIC NOVEL ABOUT A BUDDING ACTRESS AND HER INCRIMINATING MISSIVE: "THE STARLET LETTER."  
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals Y  
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF ANY HIPPIES DECIDED TO BECOME BAKERS, DO YOU THINK THEIR MOTTO WOULD BE "FLOUR POWER"?  
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals U

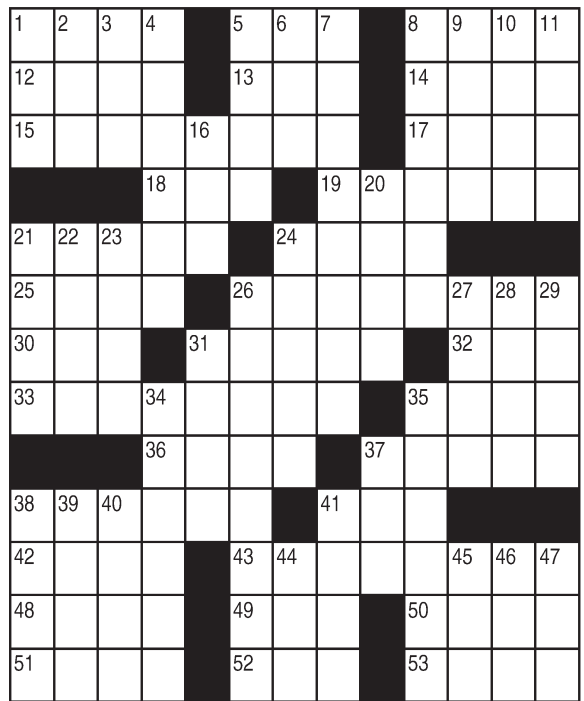
**Crossword**

- ACROSS**
- 1 Over again
  - 5 Only even prime number
  - 8 Invitation abbr.
  - 12 Comical Carvey
  - 13 Tri-umphed
  - 14 Get better
  - 15 Refusing to work
  - 17 Harvard rival
  - 18 A billion years
  - 19 Made lace
  - 21 Plank NYC
  - 24 Former mayor Ed
  - 25 Host device in a TV studio
  - 30 Rotating part
  - 31 Un-escorted
  - 32 Party bowlful
- DOWN**
- 33 Gold rush locale
  - 35 Fashion Singer
  - 36 Osbourne
  - 37 Untrue
  - 38 Aztecs' conqueror
  - 41 Prohibit
  - 42 Sandwich cookie
  - 43 One with an excuse for every-thing
  - 48 Jacob's brother
  - 49 Director Howard
  - 50 Met melody
  - 51 Dunce
  - 52 Flop
  - 53 Penny
  - 11 Begged
  - 16 Scepter
  - 20 Pin-nacle
  - 21 Rear
  - 22 Exam format
  - 23 Bullets
  - 24 Eccentric
  - 26 Major snow-storm
  - 27 "American —"
  - 28 Young-sters
  - 29 Duel tool
  - 31 Wood-shaping implement
  - 34 In
  - 35 Crazed person
  - 37 "Terriff!"
  - 38 Unisex, as dorms
  - 39 Approx-imately
  - 40 Authentic
  - 41 Tie
  - 44 Costello or Ferrigno
  - 45 Anger
  - 46 Relatives
  - 47 Dine on

Solution time: 21 mins.

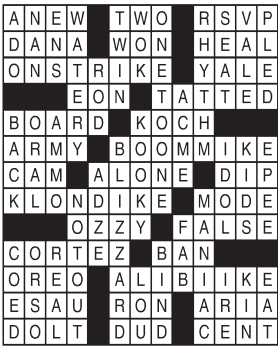


Yesterday's answer 3-25

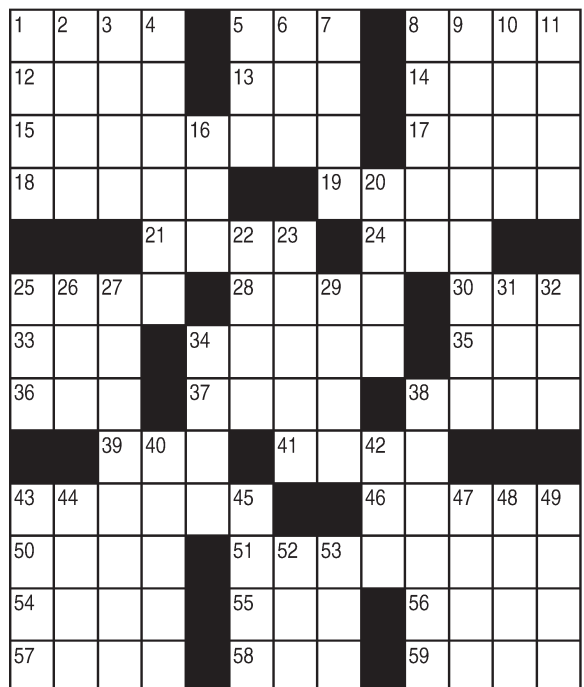


- ACROSS**
- 1 Action word
  - 5 Moreover
  - 8 Lean-to
  - 12 Stench
  - 13 Zodiac cat
  - 14 Site of busy activity
  - 15 Virtually unlimited
  - 17 Valhalla VIP
  - 18 Lieu
  - 19 Judges' props
  - 21 Airplane assignment
  - 24 Shell-game need
  - 25 Right on the map?
  - 28 Lem-ming's cousin
  - 30 "— the Dog"
  - 33 Go schussing
  - 34 New Testament villain
  - 35 Expert
  - 36 Cushion
  - 37 Roughly
  - 38 Data measure
  - 39 Flightless bird
  - 41 Mayberry moppet
  - 43 Man's hat style
  - 46 Winner
  - 50 Oahu garlands
  - 51 Linger briefly
  - 54 Otherwise
  - 55 "Skip to My —"
  - 56 November responsibility
  - 57 Wan
  - 58 Conclu-sion
  - 59 Verve
  - 2 Use a blue pencil
  - 3 Took the bus
  - 4 Chicken serving
  - 5 Matter-horn, for one
  - 6 Born for one
  - 7 Chiming sound
  - 8 Jostle hard
  - 9 Lair
  - 10 Satan's forte
  - 11 Lairs
  - 16 Praiseful poem
  - 20 Mimicked
  - 22 State confidently
  - 23 Human trunk
  - 25 Sixth sense, for short
  - 26 Alias abbr.
  - 27 Onion rings, e.g.
  - 29 Aerobatic maneuver
  - 31 Performance
  - 32 "Golly!"
  - 34 Session with a shrink
  - 38 Do as you're told
  - 40 Saunter, cowboy-style
  - 42 Skating surface
  - 43 Dog's nuisance
  - 44 Grown-up elvers
  - 45 Compe-tent
  - 47 MPs' quarry
  - 48 "I never — man I didn't like"
  - 49 Hammer-head part
  - 52 Charged bit
  - 53 Lemon

Solution time: 21 mins.



Yesterday's answer 3-26



**Bridge**

West dealer. North-South vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
 ♠ Q 9 6 5 3 2  
 ♥ K 9 7 3  
 ♦ 4  
 ♣ 7 2

**WEST**  
 ♠ 10 8 4  
 ♥ Q J 8 5 4  
 ♦ 10 8 6 2  
 ♣ 3

**EAST**  
 ♠ J 7  
 ♥ 10 6 2  
 ♦ 5  
 ♣ K Q J 10 9 6 5

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ A K  
 ♥ A  
 ♦ A K Q J 9 7 3  
 ♣ A 8 4

The bidding:  
 West North East South  
 Pass Pass 4♣ 6♦  
 Opening lead — three of clubs.

**The Agony and the Ecstasy**

Improvisation unquestionably has its place in bridge, but the opportunities for its use are actually few and far between. Consider this deal from a high-class rubber-bridge game many years ago. South's dramatic leap to six diamonds was certainly well-reasoned, even though he lacked 100 percent assurance of success. But the odds heavily favored finding his partner with a singleton or void in clubs, or the ten of diamonds plus the spade queen or heart king. As it happened, though, North showed up with a doubleton club and a singleton low trump, so the contract was in distinct jeopardy. Nevertheless, declarer quickly devised a scheme that gave him a very good chance to make the slam. He won the opening club lead with the ace and cashed the A-K-Q of trumps. He planned to play the ace of hearts and A-K of spades next before intentionally conceding a trump to West's ten. Declarer's willingness to lose a trump trick unnecessarily was surely worth the price, since he would get back two tricks in exchange after West's forced return of either a spade or a heart to dummy's only two high cards. These would in turn provide a parking place for South's two club losers. But unfortunately for declarer, he was facing a foe-man fully worthy of his steel. West had anticipated exactly what South was planning to do, so, when declarer played the A-K-Q of trumps early in the hand, he shrewdly followed with the 6-8-10, retaining the deuce. As a result of West's remarkable foresight, there was now no way for declarer to put him on lead, so the deal ended with South eventually being forced to concede two club tricks to East for down one.

South dealer. East-West vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
 ♠ 6  
 ♥ J 9  
 ♦ A 10 9 2  
 ♣ J 10 9 7 3 2

**WEST**  
 ♠ K 10 7 3  
 ♥ A Q 5  
 ♦ J 6 4 3  
 ♣ K 5

**EAST**  
 ♠ Q J 9 4  
 ♥ 8 6 3 2  
 ♦ K 8 7 5  
 ♣ 6

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

The bidding:  
 South West North East  
 1♣ 4♠ 3♥ 3♣  
 4♣ 4♣ 5♣ 5♣  
 Pass Dble Dble Pass  
 Opening lead — three of spades.

**South Finds the Way**

Appearances can be deceiving. Take this deal where South apparently has a club and two hearts to lose. Of course, it is unlucky that West has the king of clubs and A-Q of hearts positioned behind declarer. But the actual South was unwilling to accept defeat. He played his cards to the hilt and succeeded in making five clubs doubled. Given West's double, declarer concluded that routine play would not get him home safely. So he devised a scheme to get around attempting a finesse in either hearts or clubs -- both of which were likely to lose -- and made the contract on an endplay. West led a spade to East's jack and South's ace. It was obvious to declarer that West could not have the K-Q of spades or he would have led the king. At trick two, South played the queen of diamonds and, when West followed low, put up dummy's ace. Again it was clear that West could not have the K-J of diamonds or even the king, since in either case he would have covered the queen. It thus became evident that West had to have the A-Q of hearts and club king if his bids were to be believed. So a diamond was ruffed and the ace of clubs was cashed preliminary to embarking on a crossruff. Then followed a spade ruff, a diamond ruff, a spade ruff, a diamond ruff and finally the last spade ruff. Nine tricks had been played -- four spades, four diamonds and the ace of clubs -- and declarer was in dummy. West was down to three hearts and the king of clubs. Dummy had two hearts and two trumps, while South had four hearts. Declarer next led a trump, giving West his first trick. All West could then score was his ace of hearts, so declarer made the contract. The finesse, no doubt, is a wonderful weapon. But there is a time and place for its use. When a superior play is available, the finesse takes a back seat.

**Family Circus • Bill Keane**

