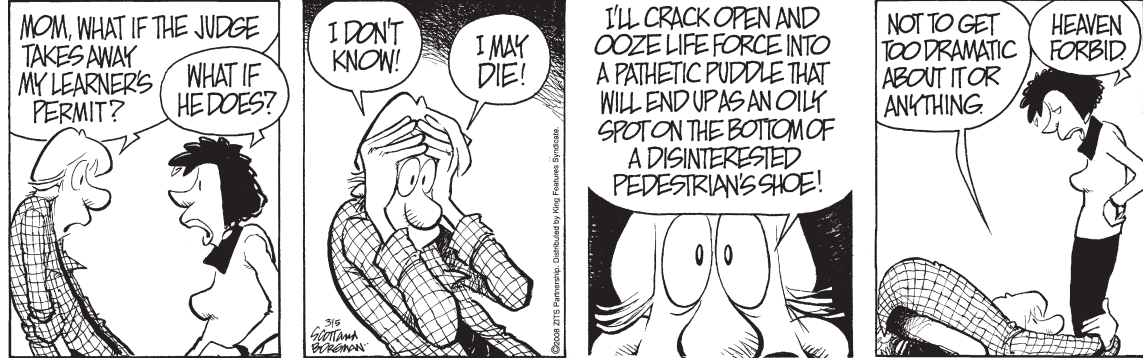


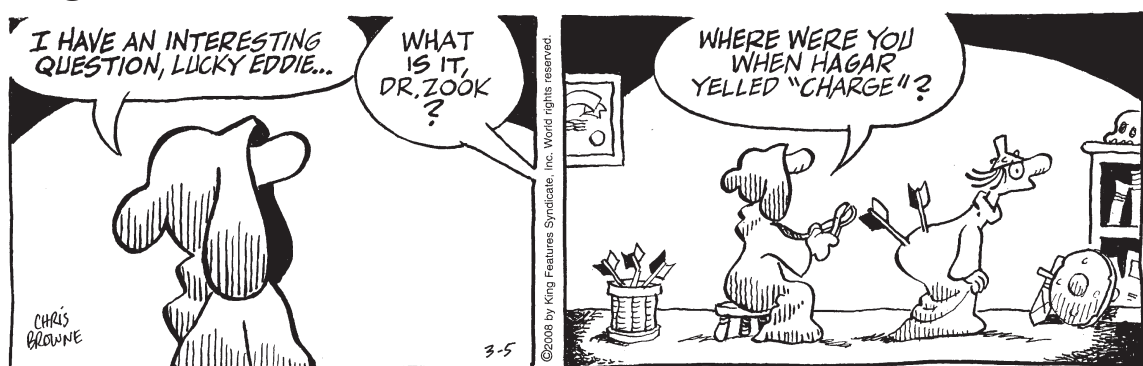
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



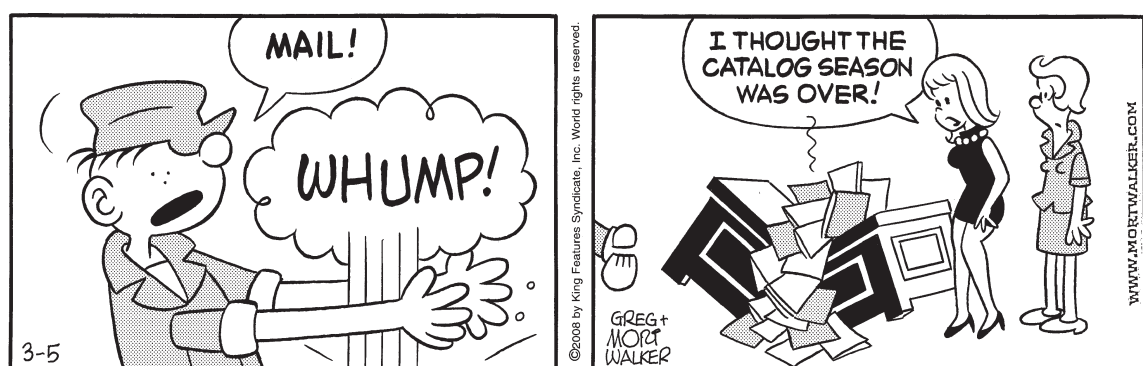
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



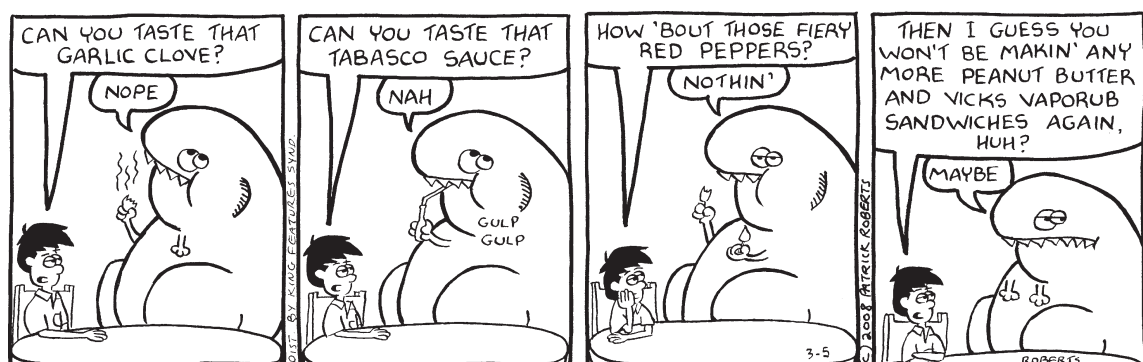
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



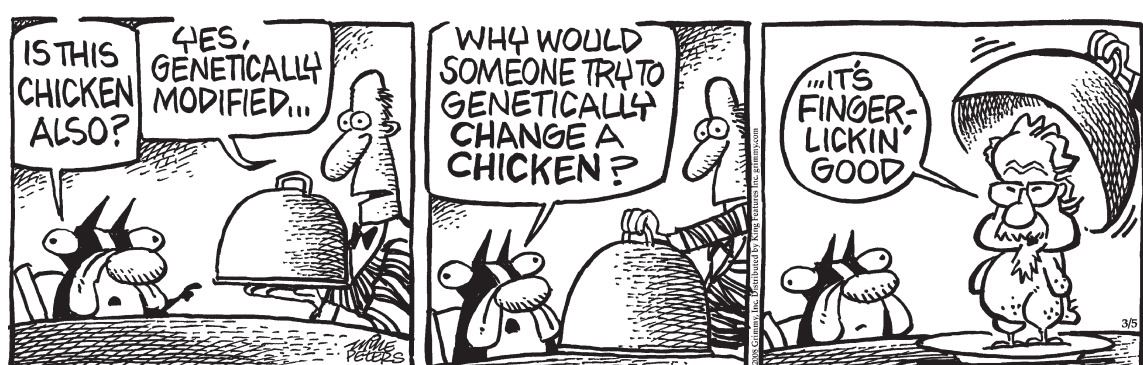
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Cryptoquip

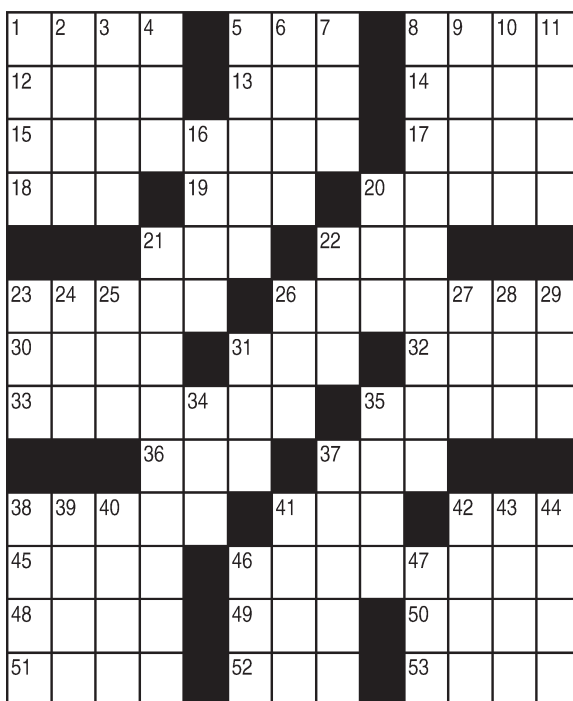
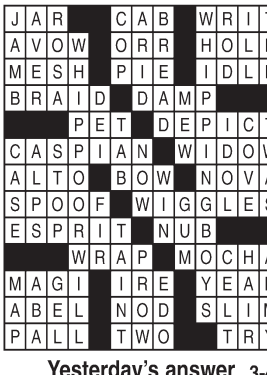
EQJP W GJKKCE CG BJVWP
OJNHJPU YN YPHFJOYSKA
QRBJ, VWSJ QJ'O SJ HWKKJO
W UYUWPHY UJRUCPYH.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A PIANO STUDENT EXECUTES FINGER EXERCISES PERFECTLY, MIGHT YOU SAY HE'S A SCALE MODEL?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals E

WVOA ZVBWC AEEW H
LBNUKGFV PFGC GNA MAGNZC
HOLVWHQZA PV WUNGOQZA.
PKAC UGM'P QA QAGP!
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A FELLOW OF GERMAN DESCENT IS INCREDIBLY HUGE, MAYBE HE'D BE CALLED A TITANIC TEUTONIC.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals G

Crossword

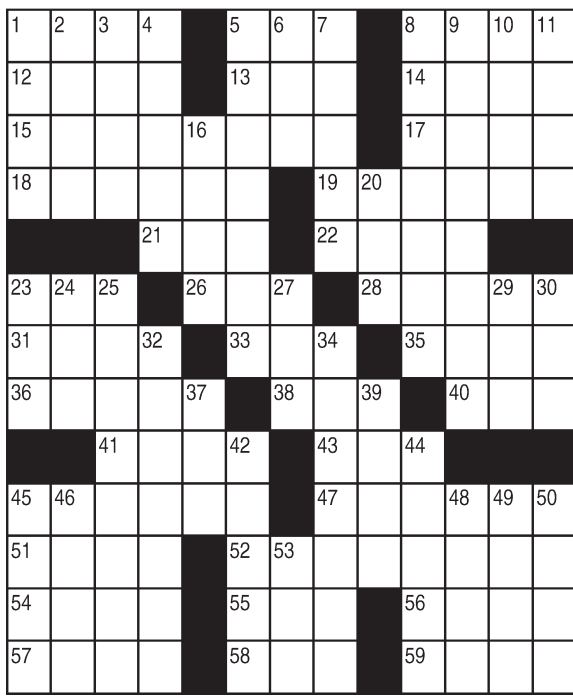
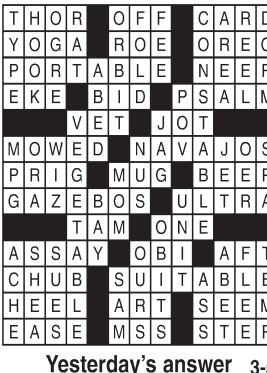
- ACROSS**
1 Hammer wielder of myth
5 Not functioning
8 Texas Hold 'Em item
12 Meditator's practice
13 Fish eggs
14 Hydroxyl
15 Easy to move
17 — do-well
18 Scratch (out)
19 eBay offer
20 Sacred song
21 Dog's doc
22 Write in the margins
23 Cut the lawn
26 Southwest people
30 Overly proper one
31 Oktoberfest souvenir
32 Gridlock sound
33 Summerhouses
- DOWN**
1 Work at the keyboard
2 Worm holder?
3 Shrek, for instance
4 Tattletale
5 Trip around the world?
6 Pleat
7 Retainer
8 Peace-keeping officer
9 Vicinity
10 Rod's partner
11 Coed quarters
12 Sleeping quarters
13 Angle (Abbr.)
14 Questions category
15 Binge
16 Car economy abbr.
- ACROSS**
35 Extreme
36 Scott's hat
37 Inseparable
38 Analyze rock
41 Kimono closer
42 Sternward
45 Mackerel type
46 Apt
48 Command to Rover
49 Illustrations
50 Appear
51 Facility
52 Stack on an ed.'s desk
53 Dance lesson
- DOWN**
24 Man-mouse link
25 Emerald City
26 Greek bigwig
27 Lustrous black
28 "— the fields we go"
29 Resort
31 Oft-tattooed word
34 Hudson, for one
35 Monad
37 Last writes?
38 Rue the run
39 Flushing stadium
40 Seeks damages
41 Partially mine
42 Help a hood
43 Run away
44 Office fill-in
46 "Casa-blanca" pianist
47 Fool

Solution time: 21 mins.



- ACROSS**
1 Quiche recipe necessity
5 "Mayday!"
8 Winged
12 Sheltered
13 Handle clumsily
14 California wine area
15 Ponder
17 Portent
18 Textbook chapter
19 Nero, legend has it
21 Slander
22 Slender
23 Opposite of 26-Across
26 Opposite of 23-Across
28 Use the rink
31 Comestibles
33 LXX divided by V
35 Go no farther
36 Ex-pressed angrily
38 "We are — amused"
- DOWN**
1 Count
2 Collag-ist's need
3 Jewels
4 Tremor
5 Stretchy fabric
6 Feedbag tidbit
7 Bulge
8 Parkas
9 Coat with plastic, e.g.
10 Tarzan's coterie
11 Carry on
16 It may be a proper subject
20 "Undeni-ably"
- ACROSS**
40 Ram's mate
41 Wading bird
43 Cover
45 Awning
47 Czar's proclamations
51 Verve
52 Suggest as a candidate
54 Staff member?
55 Shuffle-board
56 Give as an example
57 Prepared to drive
58 Elevs.
59 Dutch cheese
- DOWN**
23 Vacation-ing
24 Costello or Piniella
25 Hold sway over
27 Victory in
29 Spotted, Tweety-speak
30 Storm center
32 Made into fillets
34 Library array
37 Party bowlful
39 Poly-nesian carving
42 Simul-taneity
44 Choreog-raphy
45 Minimal change
46 Loton additive
48 Put into words
49 Singer James
50 Possibly be
53 Chic no more

Solution time: 21 mins.



Bridge

West dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.
NORTH
AKQ105
874
A7
952
WEST
J43
K92
KJ
AQ1074
EAST
98
5
Q86532
KJ83
SOUTH
762
AQJ1063
1094
6

The bidding:
West North East South
1 1 2 2
3 3 4 4
Opening lead — ace of clubs.

Good partnership defense

Good defense is usually a cooperative effort, with both defenders making use of every inference and scrap of information they have at their disposal. An excellent example of two minds operating on the same wavelength is provided by today's deal.

West led the ace of clubs against four hearts, and East signaled with the eight. Had West now blindly continued with a club, declarer would have had no trouble scoring 11 tricks.

But West reasoned that since East had supported clubs twice during the bidding, South would surely ruff the next club. It would then be a simple matter for declarer, after losing a trick to the heart king, to discard whatever losers he had left on dummy's spades. So at trick two, West shifted to the king of diamonds! This did not figure to cost a trick even if South had the queen, because declarer's diamonds were due to disappear on dummy's spades eventually.

South took the king with the ace and led a trump to the queen, losing to the king. West returned the jack of diamonds, and it was now East's turn to shine.

He reasoned that since West had ignored the club signal at trick one, he must have known declarer had no more clubs. In addition, the unusual diamond lead from the K-J made it clear West was interested in obtaining a diamond ruff. So East overtook the jack with the queen and returned a third diamond, and West trumped with the nine to set the contract one trick.

East-West's excellent defense notwithstanding, South should have made his contract anyway. He should have recognized the danger of an opposing diamond ruff and taken one simple step to prevent it.

Had he ducked West's king of diamonds at trick two, he would have made it impossible for West to reach his partner's hand later, and the contract would have been secured.

North dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
QJ6
873
KQ72
AJ8
WEST
843
J
9854
Q10652
EAST
A5
A109652
J10
973
SOUTH
K10972
KQ4
A63
K4

The bidding:
North East South West
1 1 1 1
2 Pass 2 Pass
Opening lead — jack of hearts.

Rising to the occasion

There are times when declarer is forced to do something that to the casual observer might appear absurd. On closer analysis, however, it may then be seen that the play in question actually offered the best chance for success.

Take this deal where South reached four spades on the bidding shown and West led the jack of hearts. East won with the ace and returned a heart to South's king, ruffed by West. West then shifted to a diamond, taken by dummy's king. (Note that a spade return by West at trick three -- very difficult to find -- would defeat the contract.)

At this point, declarer paused to take stock of the situation. The ace of spades was the only remaining sure loser, but if West got to ruff another heart, the contract would go down one.

East's vulnerable overall strongly suggested that he held the ace of spades. Furthermore, since West had started with only one heart, he was likely to have at least three spades. If so, a trump lead at this stage would allow East to take the ace and give West the killing heart ruff.

South therefore decided that desperate measures were called for. So at trick three, he crossed to the club king, returned a club and finessed the jack! When this held, he cashed the club ace, discarded the heart queen and then led the queen of spades. East rose with the ace and returned a heart, but declarer ruffed high and drew trumps to make his contract.

To get home safely, South had to take a finesse that risked losing a trick he didn't have to lose, and then discard a winner in another suit -- all before he led trumps. But, under the circumstances, this offered the best chance, so what might have seemed absurd at the start proved to be absolutely necessary.

Tomorrow: Charting your course of play.

Family Circus • Bill Keane

