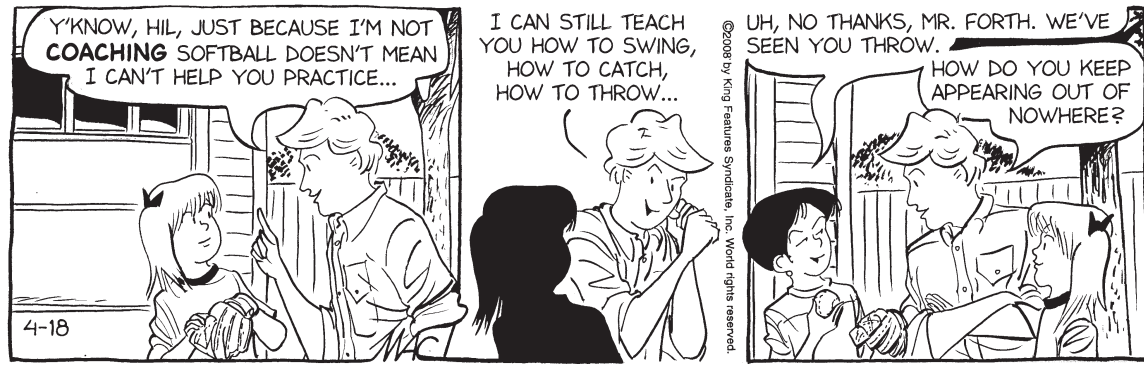


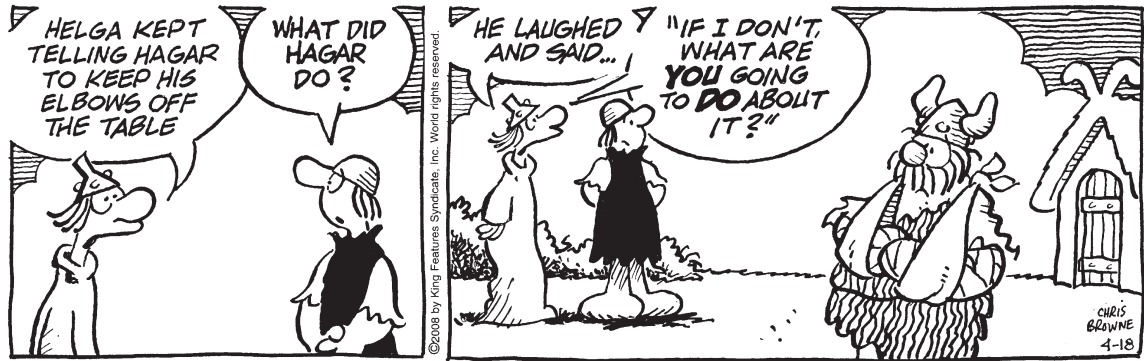
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



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



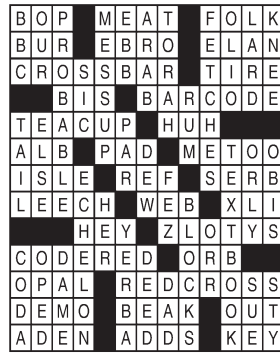
Cryptoquip

QXTTGQDPL NGX CAGTFC VOQG B VHU IMZBGT BG H
 NGXA IZJJEF IRDEF GP ORF YHGIQ IKWL ROHR OHY
 MFZUR, IRZO UGXEC ORF URMNLQ KBTORU, INWKY ZNW
 AFQXEO MF? QZPCN FLLG. UHZ B OHY H YBUIN LHVK?
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: FOR A CLASSIC DELICIOUS MEAL, MIGHT AN INSECT-LOVING CREATURE HAVE SOME MACARONI AND FLEAS?
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals G
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SUPPOSING YOU DROPPED YOUR WAFFLE WHILE ON THE BEACH, WHAT COULD THE RESULT BE? SANDY EGGO.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals Y

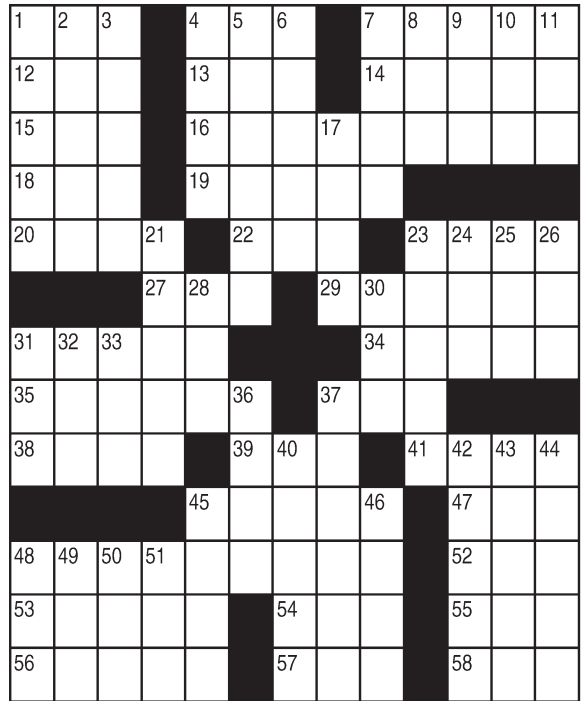
Crossword

- ACROSS**
 1 "Hail, Caesar!"
 4 " 'Tis a pity"
 7 Cavorts
 12 Trail the pack
 13 "Eureka!"
 14 Obliterate
 15 Thickness
 16 Printer grid pattern
 18 Bound
 19 Clear the floor
 20 — and crafts
 22 "Born in the —"
 23 It may be near "Letters"
 27 Upper limit
 29 One of Santa's team
 31 Vast expanse
 34 Without friendliness
 35 Online biz
 37 Mound stat
 38 Harbor structure
- DOWN**
 1 Socially dominant
 2 It's mostly discretion
 3 Land of the Sphinx
 4 Small amounts
 5 Put in an appearance
 6 Beckinsale and Winslet
 7 Harvest
 8 Scrap
 9 Scratch
 10 Omega preceder
 11 Driver's license datum
 17 Honey drink
 21 Pile
 23 Holly-wood trophy
 24 — Beta Kappa
 25 Moray
 26 Parched
 28 Lennon's lady
 30 Melody
 31 Peculiar
 32 Bill's partner?
 33 List-ending abbr.
 36 Brewery need
 37 Philly squad
 40 Eucalyptus eater
 42 Worship
 43 Prized cigar
 44 Some outerwear
 45 Very thin dough (Var.)
 46 Feed the hogs
 48 Poorly lit
 49 Big bother
 50 Prepared
 51 Chapeau

Solution time: 25 mins.

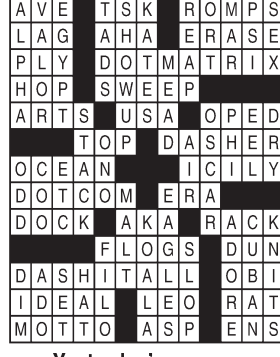


Yesterday's answer 4-18



- ACROSS**
 1 Computer key
 4 Has a bug
 8 Wonderful, in rap slang
 12 Excessively
 13 Glaswegian, e.g.
 14 Auditor's hope
 15 Lob path
 16 Yearn
 17 Fairy tale preposition
 18 Former ingenues, maybe
 21 Work unit
 22 Tall tale
 23 Piece of cutlery
 26 Awful
 27 Not sml. or lge.
 30 Uncomplicated
 31 Bear hair
 32 Skedad-dled
 33 Phys ed
 34 Embrace
 35 Honey-comb compartments
 36 Scull tool
 37 "Caught ya!"
 38 Books, magazines, etc.
 45 Surround-ed by
 46 Enrages
 47 Rooter's yell
 48 "The Immoralist" author
 49 Without one
 50 Exploit
 51 Constellation component
- DOWN**
 1 And (Abbr.)
 2 Ticked off
 3 Imogene of comedy
 4 Have high hopes
 5 Hockey infraction
 6 Yearn
 7 Outstanding
 8 Overly modest
 9 Arizona tribe
 10 Lotion additive
 11 Sawbucks
 19 Challenge
 20 Succor
 23 Frat party need
 24 Aye undoer
 25 Doctrine
 26 Wiretap
 27 Wire measure
 28 Conger
 29 Driller's deg.
 31 Supply
 32 It may be included in the rent
 34 "Bali —"
 35 Sliding dance step
 36 Not so typical
 37 "FoxTrot" cartoonist
 38 Alger's "before"
 39 Send forth
 40 Verdi opera
 41 CSA shade
 42 Authentic
 43 Right on the map
 44 Comical Caroline

Solution time: 27 mins.



Yesterday's answer 4-19

Bridge

Opening-Lead Quiz

You are South, both sides vulnerable. The bidding has been:

East	South	West	North
1 [C]	Pass	1 [H]	Pass
3 [C]	Pass	4 [C]	Pass
5 [C]			

Which card would you choose as your opening lead in each of the following four hands?

- [S] K4 [H] Q987 [D] KJ94 [C] 752
- [S] Q6 [H] J63 [D] J9742 [C] A83
- [S] Q853 [H] 8742 [D] QJ7 [C] 64
- [S] J10972 [H] 5 [D] 9876 [C] K72

1. Two (or five) of clubs. Generally speaking, defense is either active or passive. In some hands you attack to try to achieve the best result; in others you play possum and try to avoid any lead that might cost your side a trick.

Here, the danger of losing a trick by leading anything but a trump is self-evident. Partner cannot have many high cards, so your best chance of defeating the contract lies in letting declarer work out his own salvation.

2. Queen of spades. Here aggressive action is called for. True, the queen of spades appears to be an unorthodox lead, since it is not in combination with the king or jack. Nevertheless, it offers the best prospect of beating the contract.

Basically, your hope is that partner has the king and you can capture three tricks by scoring a spade, a club and a spade ruff. Perhaps the chance of this materializing will prove to be only a pipe dream, but the fact is that no other defense is more attractive. Holding the ace of trumps, which assures that you will regain the lead before trumps can be drawn, it seems sensible to attack boldly in an effort to acquire two more tricks.

3. Queen of diamonds. This time you must depend on partner for tricks, and your best chance is to try to develop a trick or two in diamonds. If partner has the king or ace, you are well on the way to exploiting declarer's most likely weak spot.

The heart situation looks especially bad, and your prime effort should be devoted to establishing your side's diamond tricks before declarer can develop and run dummy's hearts.

4. Five of hearts. There is not much chance of stopping the contract unless you can get a heart ruff. Your main hope -- not unlikely on the bidding -- is that partner has a quick entry of some kind. If so, a heart ruff might easily become the setting trick after you have gained the lead with the king of clubs.

Leading the top card of a sequence is ordinarily very desirable, but in this case, holding the K-x of trumps behind declarer, the singleton lead is more likely to succeed.

South dealer.
 Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
 ♠ 7 6 4 3
 ♥ Q 8
 ♦ Q 9 7 2
 ♣ A J 8

WEST
 ♠ K
 ♥ 9 6 5 3
 ♦ J 10 8 5
 ♣ K 10 9 4

SOUTH
 ♠ A Q J 10
 ♥ A 10 7 4 2
 ♦ A
 ♣ Q 7 6

The bidding:
South 1♥
West Pass
North 1NT
East Pass

Opening lead — jack of diamonds.

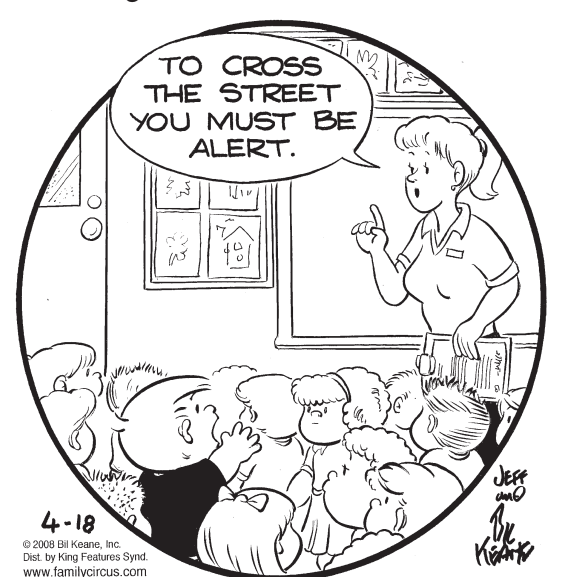
A Diamond in the Rough

Contrary to popular belief, the expert does not have X-ray eyes. Instead he employs built-in antennae that assist him greatly in determining who has what. Take this deal from a match between England and Egypt. When the British were North-South, they got to four spades, and West led a diamond, taken by the ace. South played a heart to the queen, losing to East's king. Back came a trump, the queen losing to the king (proving that South indeed lacked X-ray eyes). West then returned a heart, East's jack forcing the ace. After another round of trumps, declarer ruffed a heart in dummy, and East overruffed. East returned his last trump, and South played a club to the jack, which held. With declarer needing to take the rest of the tricks, the position now was:

North
 [D] Q 9 7
 [C] A 8
 West
 [H] 9
 [D] 10 8
 [C] K 10
 East
 [D] K 6 4
 [C] 5 3
 South
 [S] 10
 [H] 10 7
 [C] Q 7

Declarer led the diamond queen from dummy, compelling East to cover with the king and thus shifting the burden of guarding the diamonds to West. After ruffing, South cashed the 10-7 of hearts, forcing West to relinquish either the ten of diamonds or the ten of clubs. Either discard would allow South to make 10 tricks. Without the queen-of-diamonds lead, however, there would have been no squeeze. At the second table, with Egypt North-South, the contract and lead were exactly the same. Not to be outdone, the Egyptian declarer made his game on the same squeeze. Great minds run in the same direction!

Family Circus • Bill Keane



"Miss McElfresh, how can I get to be one of those 'LERTS'?"