

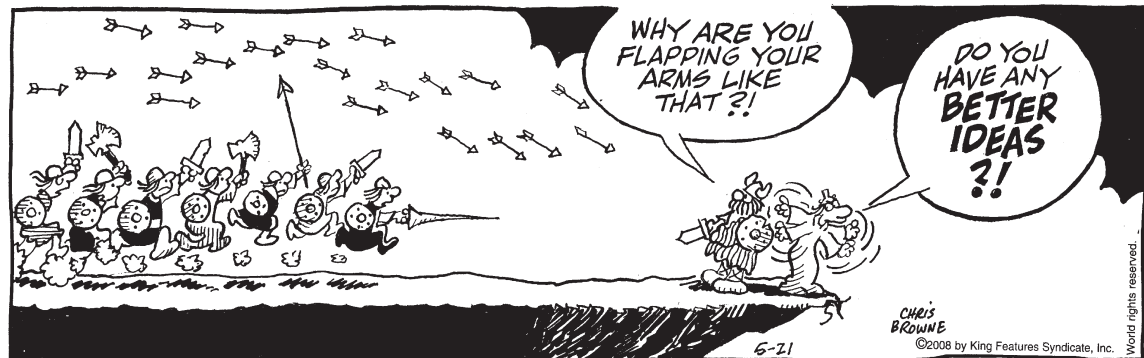
**Sally Forth • Greg Howard**



**Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott**



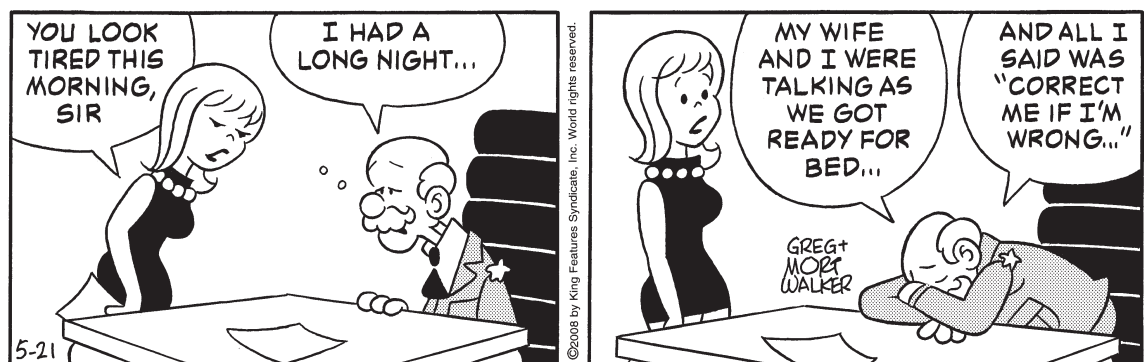
**Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne**



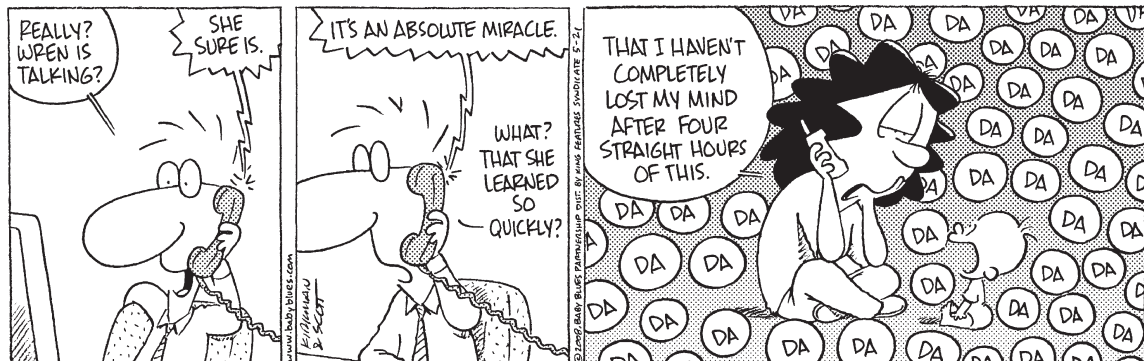
**Blondie • Chic Young**



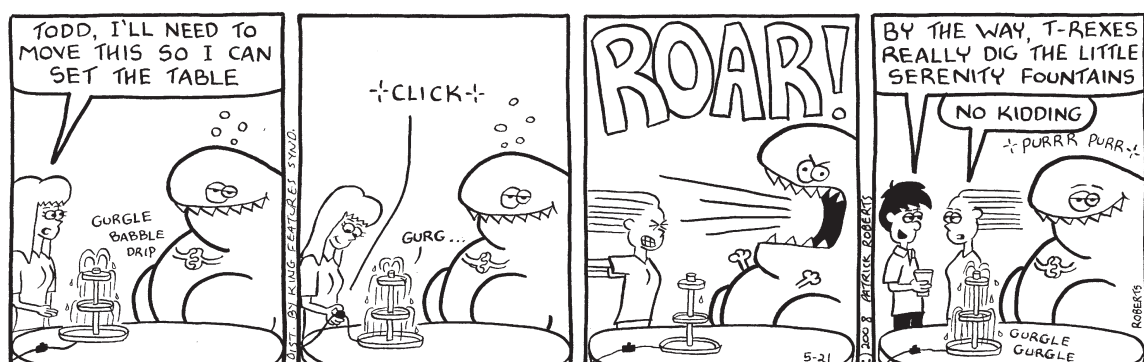
**Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker**



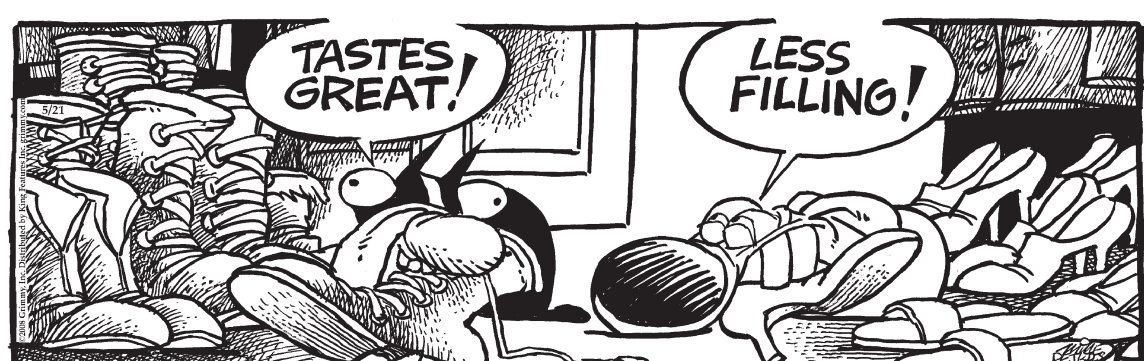
**Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott**



**Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts**



**Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters**



**Cryptoquip**

GKDQTYK JRK AQJKAQJCDCQE YNJCJSY, PXCHPWXYH JBL  
 EKKXX JV TYK Q ZPCBBCEZ WJLRSEYOY JCH SHNKQXBO  
 JVVN, RK ZPQGGKX RCY FXWLWR AKAEWJC. X FKEWL  
 ATNJC-BNCKPY. NJWW XV SHHVWHQJBXJ.  
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AFTER I TOOK THE CRISP GINGER COOKIE OUT OF THE FRIDGE, WOULD YOU SAY IT WAS A COLD SNAP?  
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals T  
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE THE MATHEMATICIAN NEEDED TO USE A GRIPPING TOOL, HE GRABBED HIS MULTI-PLIERS.  
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals L

**Crossword**

- ACROSS**  
 1 Christmas  
 5 Oom follower  
 8 Coaster  
 12 Word-of-mouth  
 13 Equal (Pref.)  
 14 Tortoise's opponent  
 15 Support  
 17 Valhalla  
 18 Compete  
 19 Result  
 21 Family emblem  
 24 "Clan of the Cave Bear" character  
 25 Portent  
 26 Likely loser  
 30 Enthusiast  
 31 "Coal Miner's Daughter" director Michael  
 32 Greek vowel  
 33 Dangerous current  
 35 Be patient  
 36 One of the Gospels
- DOWN**  
 2 Grecian container  
 3 Young fellow  
 4 Evening hour  
 5 Meer-schaum, e.g.  
 6 "— was saying, ..."  
 7 Melon variety  
 8 Rosh Hashanah trumpet  
 9 Store in the hold  
 10 Idle or Roberts  
 11 Body-shop case  
 16 Edge  
 20 Took off
- 21** Bean curd  
**22** Arabian Sea sultanate  
**23** See to  
**24** Playwright Chekhov  
**26** Push skyward  
**27** Cherished  
**28** Ear-related  
**29** Ticket-sales total  
**31** NY Yankee nickname  
**34** Ousts  
**35** Bushy mustache comparison  
**37** Doctor's due  
**38** Harness part  
**39** Church area  
**40** Shading  
**41** Nervous  
**44** "Unh-unh"  
**45** Kinsman, briefly  
**46** Egos' counterparts  
**47** Pair

Solution time: 21 mins.



Yesterday's answer 5-20

**Bridge**

North dealer.  
 North-South vulnerable.  
**NORTH**  
 ♠ A 6 2  
 ♥ A 3  
 ♦ 10 5  
 ♣ A K Q 10 8 3

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

**EAST**  
 ♠ J 10 5  
 ♥ Q 8 6 4 2  
 ♦ —  
 ♣ J 9 6 5 4

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ K 8 3  
 ♥ K 7 5  
 ♦ A K Q 8 4 2  
 ♣ 2

The bidding:  
 North 1 ♣  
 East 1 ♣ Pass  
 South 2 ♠ NT  
 West 3 NT Pass

6 NT  
 Opening lead — jack of hearts.

**All in the State of Mind**

Many contracts fail because the adverse cards are divided in such a way that making the contract is impossible. The contract may be an excellent one -- looking at only the 26 cards held by dummy and declarer -- but if all the critical finesses lose, or the key suits break badly, a disappointing outcome may readily ensue.

All a declarer can do in such cases is to accept the verdict philosophically and go on to the next deal. The true test comes when he can provide against a bad break and neglects to do so. In that case, he has only himself to blame, since he could have controlled the outcome. It is in these instances that the mettle of the first-rate declarer is tested.

Here is an example. Six notrump was an excellent slam to reach and, in fact, was even a conservative venture. The normal expectancy would be to score all 13 tricks if either the diamonds or clubs break normally. A grand-slam undertaking therefore could not be criticized.

But when South won the heart lead with the king and cashed the A-K of clubs, East turned up with five clubs, and when he next played the ace of diamonds, West showed up with all five cards in that suit. Ultimately, South went down two.

Yet, despite his bad luck, declarer was clearly at fault for failing to take the proper precautions to protect a sure small slam.

With so many points at stake, he should have been willing to sacrifice 30 points to ensure making six notrump. At trick two, he should have led a low diamond from his hand toward dummy's ten!

This supercautious play would have guaranteed five diamond tricks regardless of how the suit was divided. If West had all the diamonds, he would score at most one trick, and if East had them all, he would also be limited to one trick. Twelve tricks -- five diamonds, three clubs and the A-K of both majors -- were thus there from the start, provided South availed himself of the surefire safety play.

North dealer.  
 Neither side vulnerable.  
**NORTH**  
 ♠ K 9 8 4  
 ♥ J 10 2  
 ♦ K 6 3  
 ♣ A K 7

**WEST**  
 ♠ 7 6 2  
 ♥ Q 9 8 6 5 3  
 ♦ 5 2  
 ♣ 10 8

**EAST**  
 ♠ A 3  
 ♥ 4  
 ♦ Q J 10 9 8  
 ♣ Q J 9 5 4

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

The bidding:  
 North 1 ♣  
 East 1 ♣ Pass  
 South 1 ♠  
 West 4 ♠ Pass

Opening lead — five of diamonds.

**Cards Always Tell a Story**

There are many deals where declarer appears to have no chance to make his contract as the cards lie. In some of these cases, though, the situation is not quite as hopeless as it might seem. All that is required is that declarer expend a bit of extra effort.

Consider this deal where three notrump would have been the ideal contract, but where North-South reached four spades instead. Declarer won the diamond lead with the ace and played the queen of spades, taken by East with the ace. East returned his singleton heart, but South went up with the ace, drew two more rounds of trump ending in dummy, and then led the jack of hearts, planning to let it ride if East followed low.

But when East discarded a diamond, it appeared declarer would have to lose a trick in each suit and go down one. However, South soon found a way to turn the bad news in hearts to his advantage.

He started by cashing the king of hearts and then the king of diamonds. When West followed suit, his original distribution became an open book. The play to this point had revealed that West started with exactly three spades, six hearts and two diamonds. He therefore had to have precisely two clubs, which in turn gave South a choice of ways to make the contract!

In practice, South cashed the A-K of clubs and led a third club. East won and cashed a diamond, but was then forced to return either a diamond or a club, allowing declarer to discard his heart loser while he ruffed in dummy.

The same result could have been achieved by putting West on lead with a heart after cashing the A-K of clubs, compelling him to return a heart for the fatal ruff-and-discard.

**ACROSS**  
 1 Tibetan monk  
 5 Brooch  
 8 First victim  
 12 Blackbirds  
 13 Buck's mate  
 14 Portrayal  
 15 Personal aura  
 17 River of England  
 18 Strips in the kitchen?  
 19 House-coat of a sort  
 21 Pinion partner  
 24 Architect I.M.  
 25 Diastemata  
 28 Fibs  
 30 Proof abbr.  
 33 Volcano output  
 34 Easter symbol  
 35 E.T.'s craft  
 36 The air up there  
 37 Give a makeover

**DOWN**  
 1 Elia's real name  
 2 Author Seton  
 3 Uncate-gorized (Abbr.)  
 4 John Jacob and kin  
 5 Without delay  
 6 Debtor's letters  
 7 Requirement  
 8 Got up  
 9 Small shop  
 10 Otherwise  
 11 Groucho-like look  
 16 — jiffy

**20** Daisy lead-in  
**22** Hint  
**23** In a way  
**25** Petrol  
**26** Invite  
**27** Bod  
**29** Carbon compound  
**31** Small salamander  
**32** Homer's interjection  
**34** Cereal choice  
**38** Alaska explorer  
**40** Made comfortable  
**42** Performance  
**43** At a distance  
**44** Full of wisdom  
**45** Con game  
**47** Blue hue  
**48** Lather  
**49** Dickens' Uriah  
**52** Kanga's kid  
**53** Mamie's man

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 5-21

**Family Circus • Bill Keane**

