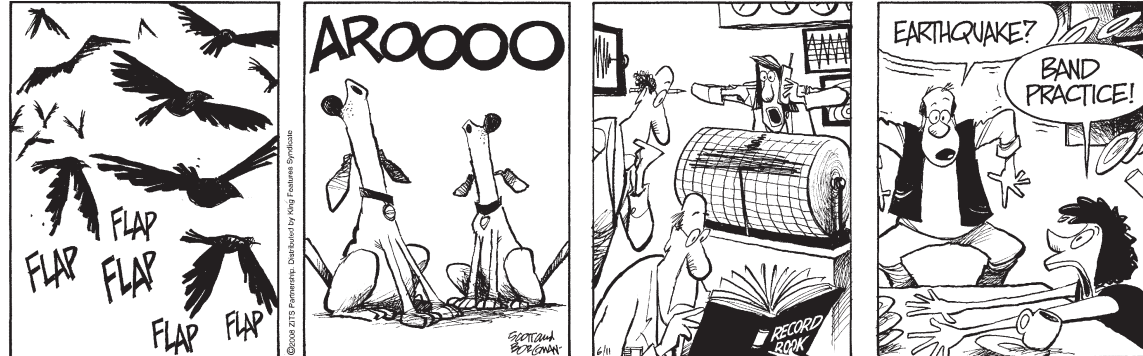


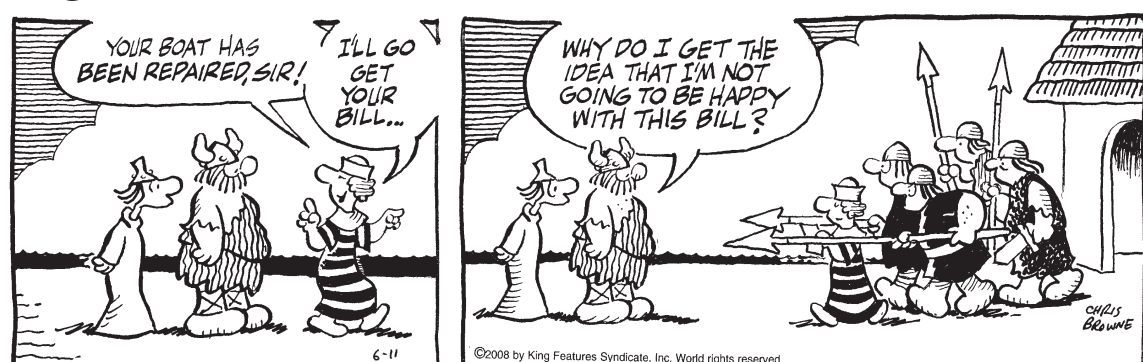
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



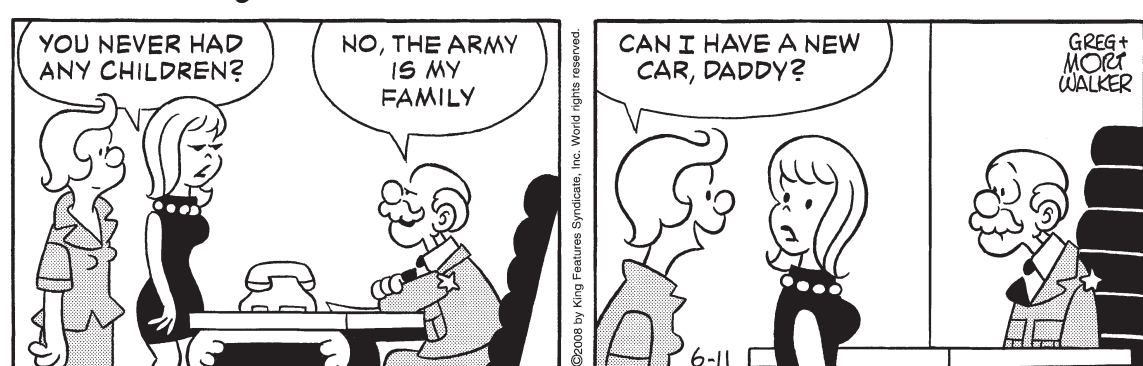
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



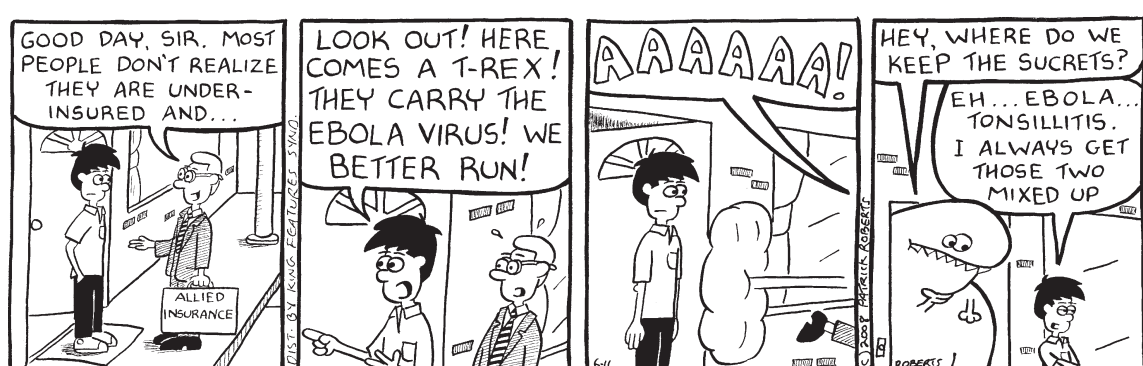
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Cryptoquip

MNJW CDGJPDYA CFAC "VNEC
 JWOEU IDEWV EC GTON VDD
 CNFKI," MDTUY VNFV PJ
 IDEWVJY OKEVEOECG?
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: COALITION FORMED BY A GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO HAD BECOME WEARY OF LEARNING: BORED OF EDUCATION.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals O

VG KZL YVSA HZUAEAI HAAG
 NZ B OLUYQK OZQIA VU
 TAUUIKESBUVB, VI NOBN
 B TOVEEK GVEEK GVEAN?
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN SOMEBODY SAYS "THIS PENCIL POINT IS MUCH TOO SHARP," WOULD THAT BE A POINTED CRITICISM?
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals I

Crossword

- ACROSS**
 1 Desertlike
 5 Mid-March date
 9 Frat-party need
 12 Humdinger
 13 Small salamander
 14 Aye opponent
 15 Quasi-modern place
 17 Blunder
 18 Big Apple sch.
 19 Not merely plump
 21 Square-dance group
 24 "In the Valley of ..."
 25 Shopping center
 26 Hotel staffers
 30 A Gershwin
 31 Geometry finds
 32 Legislation
 33 "Think outside the bun" restaurant
- DOWN**
 1 Priestly garment
 2 Regret
 3 Sick
 4 Pleasing, as tones
 5 Part of the loop
 6 Like the morning lawn
 7 Ram's mate
 8 Ambles
 9 Open spaces under desks
 10 Dumbo's "wings"
 11 Move in a circle
 16 Boy king of Egypt
- 35 Greek cheese**
36 Ancient Roman receptacle
37 Dromedary
38 Picasso or Casals
40 Indian wrap
42 Historic time
43 Sound familiar
48 Zero Sad
50 "Star Wars" princess
51 Bando of baseball
52 Weeps loudly
53 Scratches (out)
- 20 Scrooge's expletive**
21 Leave out
22 "Fame" singer
23 Mouse part
24 Airlane of Israel
26 Author Harte
27 Slithery one
28 Margarine servings
29 Vacillate
31 Soaks up
34 Lubricant
35 Short-coming
37 Shape shifter?
38 Nerd-pack contents
39 Met melody
40 Ignore
41 A very long time
44 Worldwide workers' org.
45 "A mouse!"
46 False story
47 Opener at Vegas?

Solution time: 21 mins.



Yesterday's answer 6-10

Bridge

South dealer.
 East-West vulnerable.
NORTH
 ♠ 9 4
 ♥ J 6 5
 ♦ A Q 7 5
 ♣ J 6 3 2

WEST
 ♠ Q 10 7 6
 ♥ 9 7 2
 ♦ K 10 4 3
 ♣ 8 5

EAST
 ♠ A J 5 3
 ♥ 10 4
 ♦ J 8 2
 ♣ K Q 10 7

SOUTH
 ♠ K 8 2
 ♥ A K Q 8 3
 ♦ 9 6
 ♣ A 9 4

The bidding:
 South 1♥
 West Pass
 North 2♥
 East Pass
 Opening lead — eight of clubs.

Inferior Execution

In many situations, declarer must assume a favorable lie of the opposing cards if he is to make his contract, and then proceed accordingly. In some cases, however, good management as well as good luck may be required.

Take this case where North-South bid aggressively to reach a shaky four-heart contract. After taking East's ten of clubs with the ace, declarer could see that he was going to need a considerable amount of luck to get home safely. Unless he could restrict his losses to two clubs and the ace of spades, the contract would go down. This meant that East had to hold the ace of spades and West the king of diamonds.

So at trick two, declarer crossed to the jack of hearts and led a spade toward his hand, winning with the king after East followed low. A second spade was then taken by West, who returned his remaining club.

East cashed the Q-K of clubs, West discarding a spade, and then led a fourth club. Declarer ruffed with the queen of hearts to prevent West from overruffing, whereupon West got rid of his remaining spade. When South now tried to ruff his last spade in dummy, West ruffed with the nine to set the contract.

In planning to play East for the spade ace and West for the diamond king, declarer had the right idea, but his execution left something to be desired. In order for his plan to work, the diamond finesse had to succeed, so South should have taken that finesse at trick two and then proceeded as before.

This would have left dummy's jack of hearts in position to overruff West on the third round of spades, if that became necessary, and the contract would have been made.

East dealer.
 Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
 ♠ A 6 3
 ♥ J 8 5 2
 ♦ 10 9 2
 ♣ A 7 4

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

EAST
 ♠ Q 10 8 5 4
 ♥ K 10 6 4 3
 ♦ Q
 ♣ 5 2

SOUTH
 ♠ K 9 7
 ♥ A 9
 ♦ A K 8 7 6 3
 ♣ J 10

The bidding:
 East 1NT
 South Pass
 West 1NT
 North 3NT
 Opening lead — king of clubs.

Two Wrongs Make a Right

You may not agree with South's opening notrump bid or North's raise to three, but that's not the point of this story. The play's the thing in this hand, so let's get on with it.

West led the king of clubs. Declarer ducked, and West continued with the queen, dummy playing low again. Another club lead forced the ace, and East had to choose a discard. Now if you were East and saw only dummy's hand and your own, what would you discard at this point?

The winning play is to discard the queen of diamonds! If you do this, nothing can save declarer. He would go down two with normal play.

But if you don't get rid of the queen, South makes the contract. He leads a diamond from dummy at trick four, and, when you play the queen, he lets you hold the trick. As a result, he winds up with five diamond tricks, two spades, a heart and a club.

A very good case can be made for discarding the queen of diamonds. If declarer has the A-K-J, the queen is worthless. If declarer is missing one of these honors, it means that West has the ace, king or jack as a potential entry to his clubs, and the queen once again serves no useful purpose.

When the hand occurred, however, East failed to appreciate the importance of jettisoning the queen of diamonds and discarded the three of hearts instead.

But the fates were kind to him. Declarer, looking neither to the right nor the left, won the first diamond with the king, paying no heed to the appearance of East's queen.

South continued with the ace of diamonds, hoping the jack would fall, but it didn't. Declarer could then do no better than give up a diamond to West's jack to finish down two, thereby proving that two wrongs sometimes make a right.

Family Circus • Bill Keane

