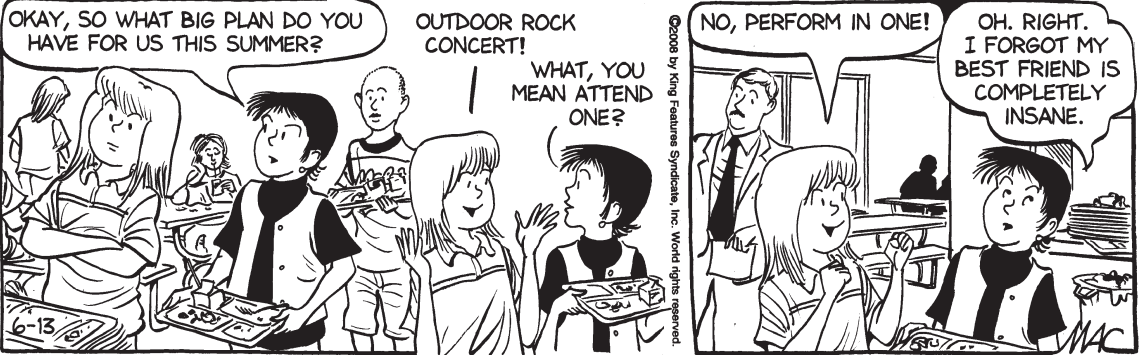


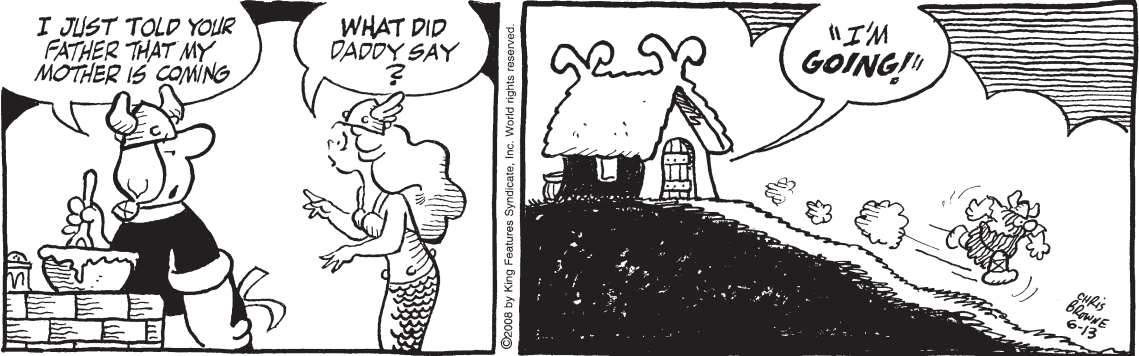
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



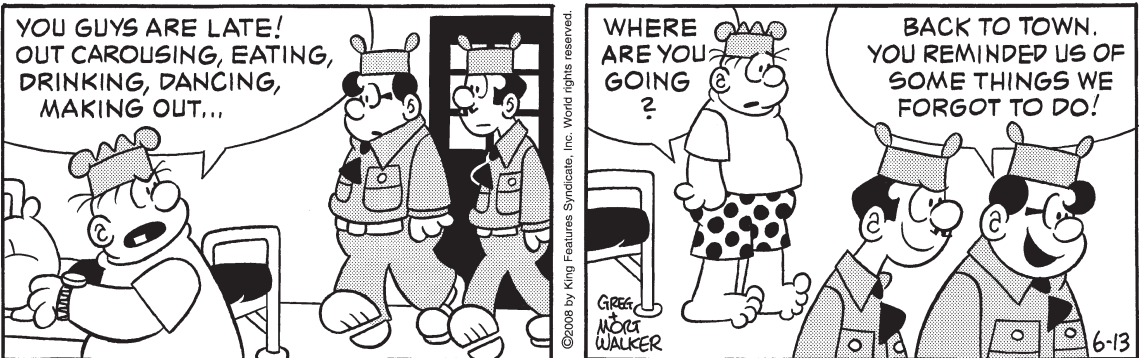
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



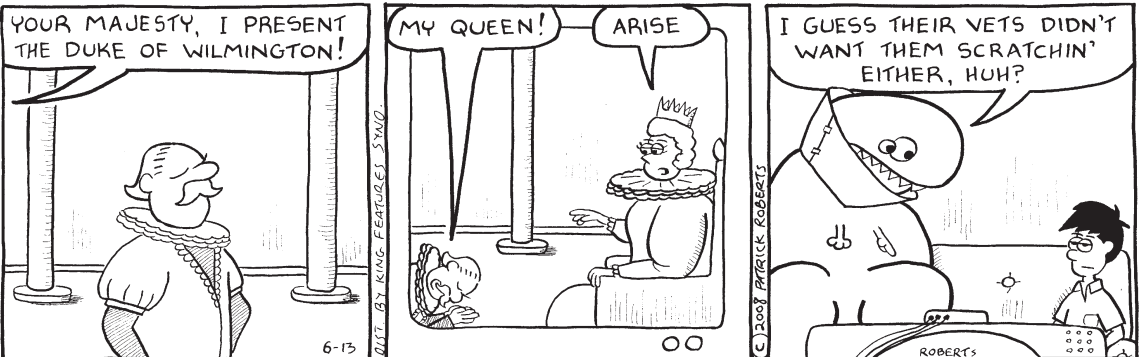
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



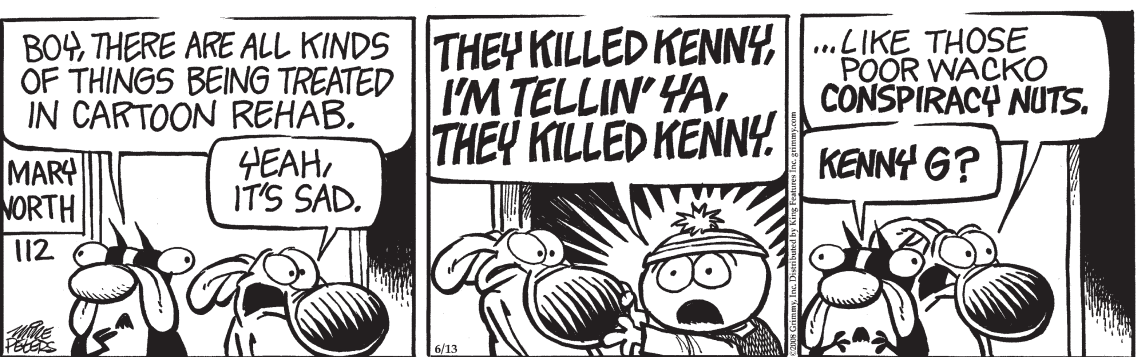
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Cryptoquip

ZCTW XCT CJY UTKRBT LQFVT OWO UPMC JPDWGA JWT
URNTY ZFVC CTN KQNTWV OFTJWTDNMX VNQS RSFDNRPKKI
IJDDJWV HWFICV, XCT VSNQFMFC SPNT PMC
ZTWV UJKH VR XLQFNT RWT. WGQJNQA: QSF UKFPRS UWLA.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AT MY FAMOUS
POETRY SLAM, I MAKE EACH PARTICIPANT
EVENTUALLY TAKE A TURN FOR THE VERSE. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN SHE HAD BECOME
QUITE BORED WITH HER CURRENT GALLANT
KNIGHT, SHE WENT BACK TO SQUIRE ONE.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals W Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals P

Crossword

ACROSS 1 Gorilla 4 Shapely leg 7 Wept 12 Plant prickle 13 A mean Amin 14 Torment 15 Blackbird 16 Trial-use PC programs 18 Govt. agcy. 19 Macho type 20 Melt 22 Edge 23 Avoid 27 Eisenhower 29 Laud 31 With 34- Across, site of central activity 34 See 31-Across 35 Sweethearts 37 Agent 38 Probability

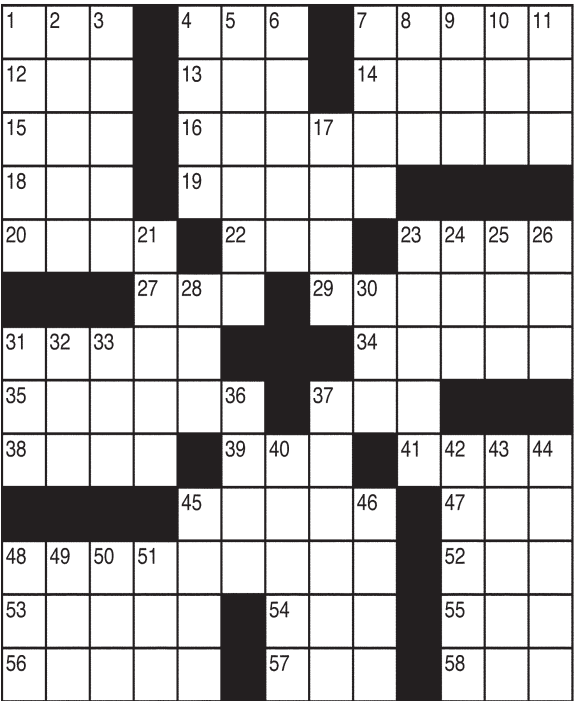
39 Reed or Rawls 41 McNally partner 45 Dismissal 47 Marvin or Majors 48 Skivvies 52 Zsa Zsa's sis 53 Persistent attack 54 Onassis, to pals 55 Corral 56 Nudge 57 Caustic solution 58 Storefront stats

3 "All My Children" role 4 Lillian of silents 5 Stick 6 Florida city 7 "Big Brother" host 8 Uncooked 9 Playwright Levin 10 Mess up 11 Hair color 17 Freeway access 21 Mess under a desk, maybe

23 Lecherous one 24 That guy's 25 "Born in the —" 26 Bottom line 28 Crucial 30 Wardrobe malfunction 31 Personal question? 32 Scuttle 33 Conclude 36 Adagio 37 Sweet 40 Fans call him Shaq 42 Hebrew letter 43 When pigs fly 44 Campus bigwigs 45 Staff 46 Pennsylvania port 48 Work with 49 Zilch 50 Society newbie 51 Id counterpart

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 6-13



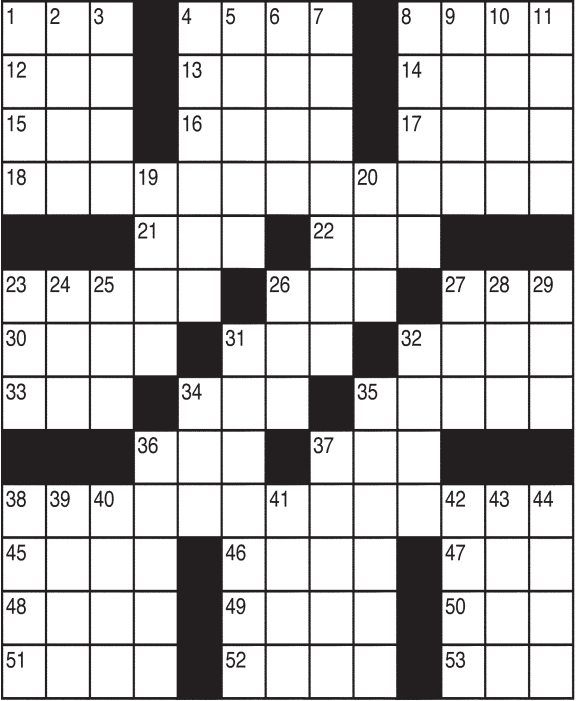
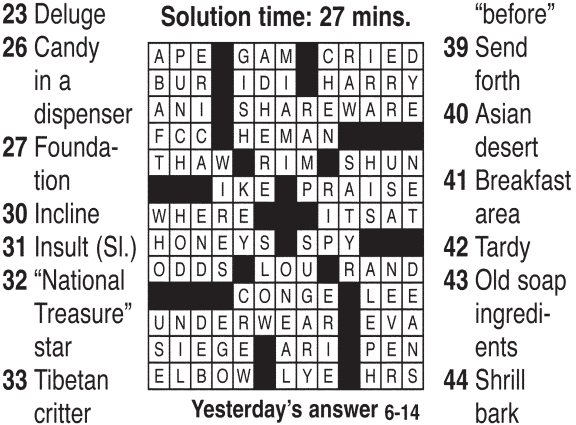
ACROSS 1 Nourished 4 Concocted 8 Frost 12 One in a row? 13 Summer-time desserts 14 Hence 15 1980 Olympics boycotter 16 Tallow source 17 Muumuus' accessories 18 Enrollments 21 Middling grade 22 Wage earner's burden 23 Deluge 26 Candy in a dispenser 27 Foundation 30 Incline 31 Insult (Sl.) 32 "National Treasure" star 33 Tibetan critter

34 Plead 35 Google alternative 36 Drone 37 "Alley —" 38 Daytime TV duo 45 Uncontrolled 46 Protuberance 47 Nay under 48 Scoff 49 Barbie, for one 50 Aviv preceder 51 Use a teaspoon 52 "The — the limit" 53 Kreskin's claim

DOWN 1 Tea time 2 Facility 3 "Some Like It Hot" 4 Wasn't accurate 5 Sharp 6 Antelope's playmate 7 Executors' concerns 8 Spiral 9 Sandwich treat 10 Not "fer" 11 "Friends" role 19 PC symbol

20 Bugs Bunny foe, familiarly 23 Soar 24 Meadow 25 Erstwhile acorn 26 Glutton 27 "Humbug!" 28 Freudian topic 29 — volente 31 Insists on 32 Part of a supersuit 34 Clear the tables 35 Hayseeds 36 One on a long walk 37 "Strange to tell, ..." 38 Alger's "before" 39 Send forth 40 Asian desert 41 Breakfast area 42 Tardy 43 Old soap ingredients 44 Shrill bark

Solution time: 27 mins.



Bridge

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

West	North	East	South
1 ♥	Dble	Pass	?

What would you bid with each of the following five hands?

- ♠ Q852 ♥ — ♦ AQ76 ♣ K9543
- ♠ 52 ♥ QJ43 ♦ 73 ♣ 87642
- ♠ A76 ♥ 643 ♦ K5 ♣ QJ843
- ♠ J8 ♥ Q976 ♦ KJ52 ♣ Q63
- ♠ 953 ♥ AJ82 ♦ QJ7 ♣ KJ5

Bidding Quiz

1. Two hearts. When partner makes a takeout double at his first opportunity, he is assumed to have at least an opening bid with support for the unbid suits. You can therefore treat the situation as if partner had opened the bidding in one of your suits, in which case you would presumably drive to at least a game with the given hand. Eleven high-card points plus a void will normally make a game opposite an opening bid when a known fit exists. Rather than attempt to guess which suit to jump to game in, you should shift the choice of the trump suit back to partner by cuebidding the opponent's suit. You can then raise whichever suit he selects to game at your next turn.

2. Two clubs. A simple suit response to a takeout double promises no values. Partner commanded you to bid by doubling, and your reply merely indicates which suit you prefer. If anything goes wrong as a result of obeying partner's edict, the responsibility is his, not yours.

3. Three clubs. In responding to a takeout double, you must distinguish between a forced response with a poor hand and a hand with promising values. If you were to bid two clubs with this hand, as you did in the preceding problem, partner would have no way of knowing when you had a worthless hand and when you had a good one. A single-jump response is normally made with a good hand (nine to 11 points). The bid is encouraging, but does not force partner to bid again. If you held an even better hand, you would either have to bid game directly or cuebid the opponent's suit, as in the first problem.

4. One notrump. A one-notrump response to a double shows about seven to nine points as well as strength in the opponent's suit. The notrump response is preferred to two diamonds, as the notrump bid is encouraging, while a two-diamond response could be made with no values.

5. Two notrump (invitational). With 12 points facing an opening bid, game is highly likely unless partner has an absolute minimum. The absence of a spade stopper should be no deterrent, as partner is virtually certain to have some spade strength. With your balanced distribution and hearts well stopped, all signs point to game in notrump.

North dealer. East-West vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ Q 8 3
♥ Q 10 5
♦ A 7 3
♣ A J 10 6

WEST

♠ 9 5 2
♥ A K 8 7 6 4
♦ 8 4
♣ 8 3

EAST

♠ 7 6
♥ J 9
♦ J 10 9 6
♣ K Q 9 5 2

SOUTH

♠ A K J 10 4
♥ 3 2
♦ K Q 5 2
♣ 7 4

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♠	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
1 NT	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	Pass

Opening lead — king of hearts.

An Open-Minded Approach

One of the pitfalls a player must learn to avoid is to become overly committed to a particular line of play. The successful declarer knows the virtues of flexibility, and is prepared to alter his plan whenever developments indicate that a better approach is available.

Take this case where West led the K-A and another heart against four spades, East ruffing the third round. After overruffing, South drew three rounds of trumps on which East discarded two clubs. A club finesse then lost to the queen, and East returned the jack of diamonds.

Declarer won with dummy's ace and cashed the K-Q. When the suit failed to divide 3-3, South tried a second club finesse in order to get rid of his losing diamond. But the finesse lost, and East cashed his good diamond for down two.

There's no denying that declarer was unlucky. Had the diamonds split 3-3 or the trumps divided 2-2 after East ruffed the third heart, or had West held a club honor, South would have gotten home safely. Nevertheless, he should have made his game. Although his line of play had many chances to succeed, he failed to adapt to the circumstances he encountered.

Early in the play, he learned that West had started with six hearts and three spades. It was therefore reasonable to assume that East held length in both minor suits.

There was no harm in drawing three rounds of trump and taking a club finesse. But when East won and returned a diamond, South should have taken the trick in his hand and carefully reviewed his options.

In order to retain his diamonds, East had been forced to discard two clubs when the trumps were drawn. So instead of testing the diamonds to see if they would split 3-3, declarer should first have led a club to the ace and ruffed a club. This would have felled East's king, after which a diamond to the ace would have allowed South to collect the club jack for his 10th trick.

Family Circus • Bill Keane

