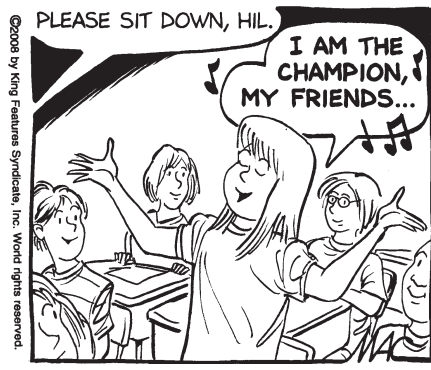
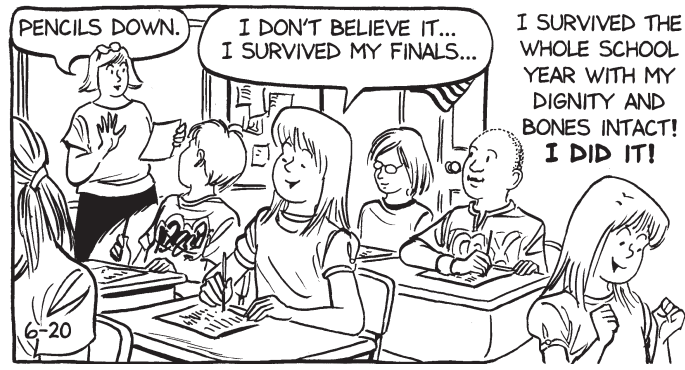
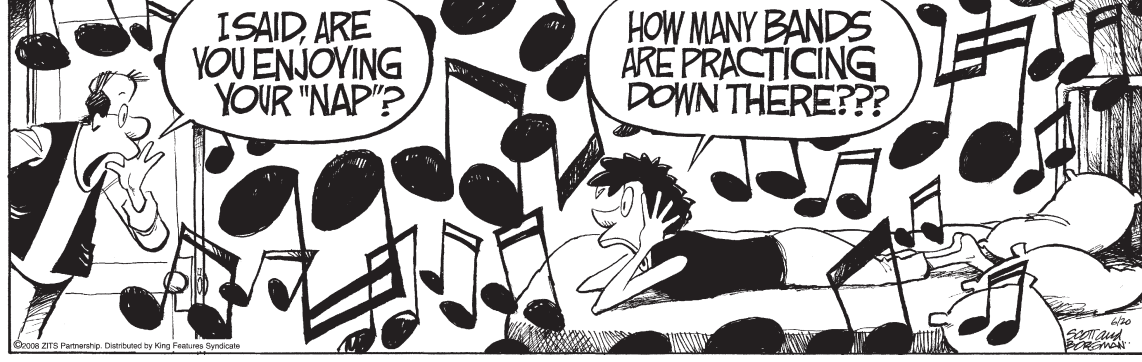


Sally Forth • Greg Howard



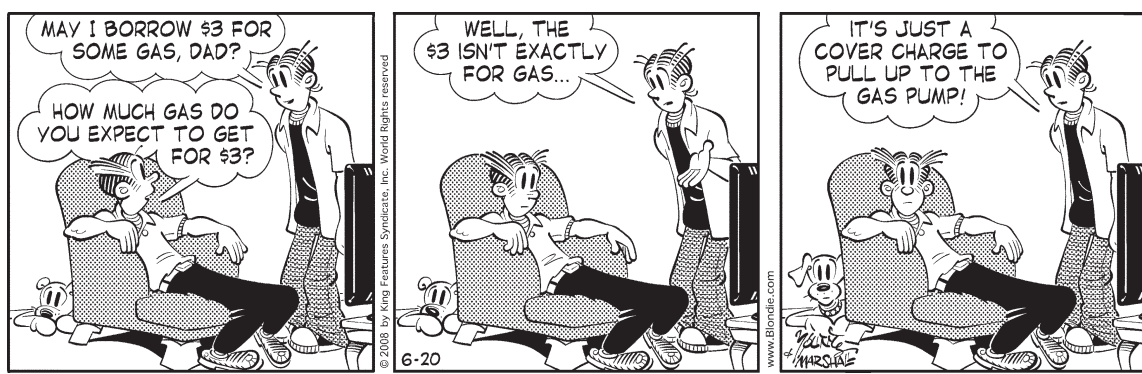
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



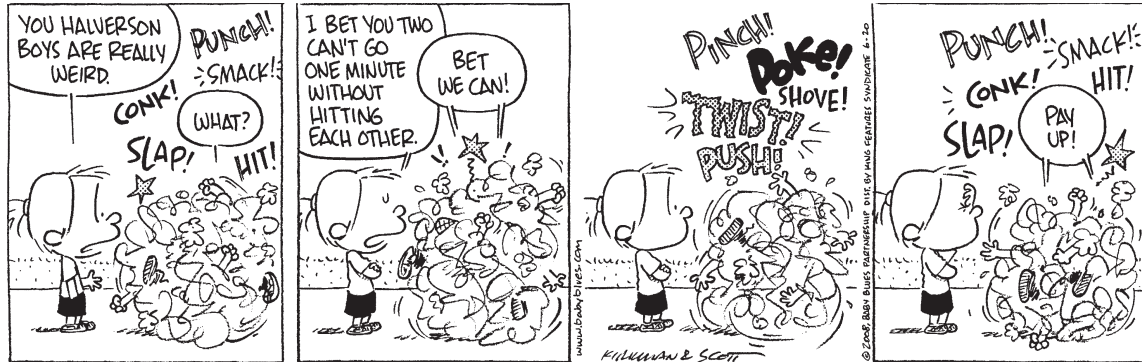
Blondie • Chic Young



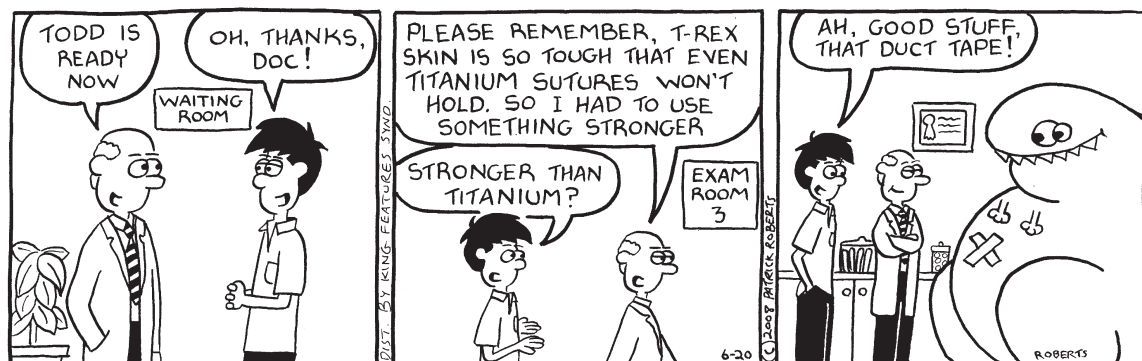
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Cryptoquip

N C D A K Q W Z P D Z F L N C J A O K D K X N V L B W N K F M T ' H E L U N
 O Q I W F Z J N Y H I Z X F K V D N T M B Y E R M T N S H M X B S R S
 C Z G , G K Y O Z D K A Z D Q L K O L U M J K H N T B H W , K Y B N W W
 A O K V P Z I Q X I Q N C E W Q E .
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT COULD YOU CALL A FISH WHO'S ALWAYS WARY AND GUARDED? HERRING ON THE SIDE OF CAUTION.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals E

K ' R W H J L C C N F O M J V L W E N I W .
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: INSTEAD OF SOLVING THESE HARD LOGIC PROBLEMS NOW, WE CHOSE TO SAVE THEM FOR A BRAINY DAY.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals I

Crossword

ACROSS
 1 Strips in the kitchen?
 6 Anger
 9 Electrical unit
 12 Division symbols
 13 "Casablanca" pianist
 14 Born
 15 Prove false
 16 Eye specialist
 18 Setting
 20 Mislay
 21 Parisian pal
 23 Bygone times, in
 24 Actress
 25 Slam-dance
 27 Four-wheeled dud
 29 Spud
 31 Famed Israeli author
 35 Unprofitable, as a situation

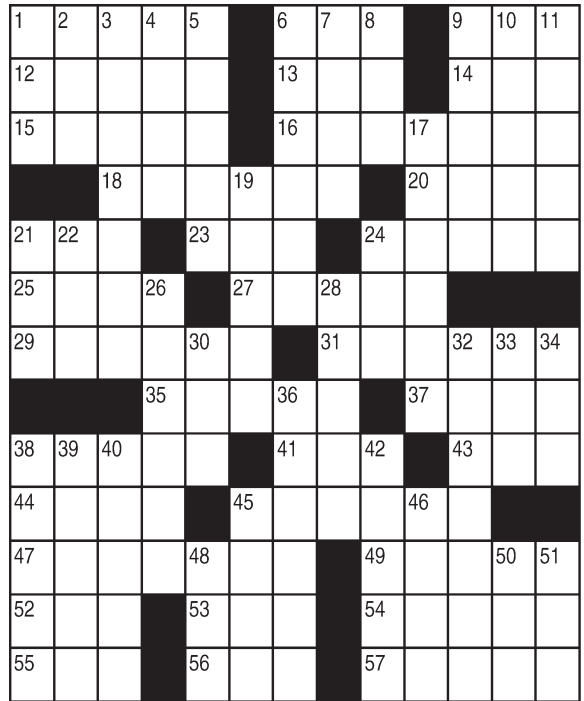
DOWN
 37 Normandy town
 38 Duck
 41 Coquettish
 43 Basketballer
 44 Ming
 45 Antenna
 47 Lance Armstrong, e.g.
 49 The 400
 52 Moray, for one
 53 Conk out
 54 "Star Wars" weapon
 55 Anteceding
 56 Son-gun link
 57 Dissuade

17 Latin American plains
19 Let
21 Pump up the volume
22 Cattle call?
24 Comical DeLuise
26 "Messiah" composer
28 Estate
30 "Piggy"
32 Hair-dresser
33 Slangy suffix
34 Menagerie
36 Summer-time quencher
38 Host
39 Tier
40 "I give up!"
42 Give up
45 "— I didn't know"
46 Wings
48 Altar affirmative
50 Ball-bearing item
51 Mess up

Solution time: 25 mins.

H	A	S	M	A	D	E	S	S	E			
O	P	E	N	A	L	I	G	E	E	K		
O	S	L	O	R	E	S	G	L	E	E		
F	E	L	O	N	Y	C	A	N	A	R	D	
			D	O	H		N	O	W			
C	A	B	S	A	W	A	Y	A	G	A	M	E
A	I	R		R	O	N		R	A	W		
P	L	A	N	K	T	O	N	E	D	G	E	
			D	O	I		E	T	C			
C	A	P	O	T	E		R	O	L	L	O	N
U	R	I	S		U	P	I		A	I	D	A
B	I	T	E		R	O	C		I	R	E	S
E	A	T	S		O	W	E		R	A	S	H

Yesterday's answer 6-20



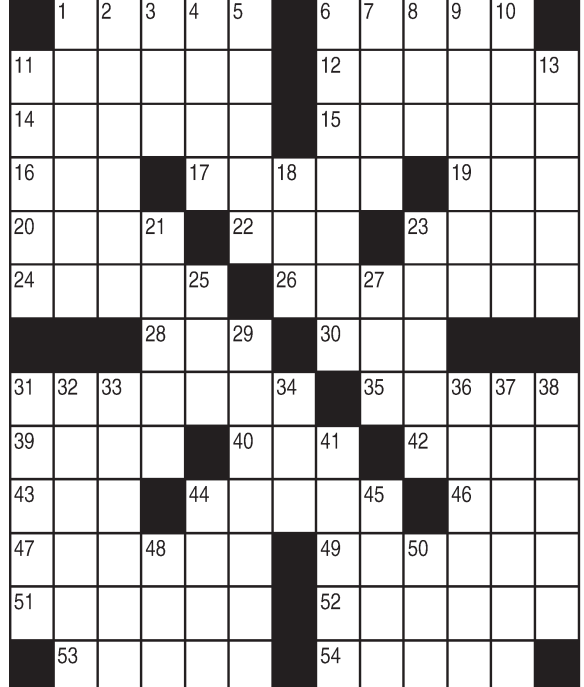
ACROSS
 1 Less ruddy
 6 Postpone
 11 Safe
 12 Skips a phoneme
 14 Long-distance caller?
 15 Goal
 16 Lennon's lady
 17 Attack
 19 Previous night
 20 Dog sled
 22 Honey-comb stuff
 23 Wharf
 24 Bewildered
 26 Cabinet department
 28 Performance
 30 Command to a guard dog
 31 Students at exam time
 35 Must
 39 Pit crew? (Abbr.)
 40 Felon's flight

DOWN
 42 Go bad
 43 Acapulco gold
 44 Withdraw from office
 46 Salt Lake athlete
 47 Paved runway
 49 Sport-fishing prize
 51 Buffet fuel
 52 Pro
 53 Black tea from India
 54 Singer LeAnn
 11 British P.M., 1970-74
 23 Rio Grande feeder
 25 Unreturned serve
 27 Newton fruit
 29 Phone technology, e.g.
 31 Sweetie
 32 Proof-reader's finds
 33 Sports-page data
 34 Muppet eagle
 36 Rug
 37 Private instructors
 38 "— we devils?"
 41 Abbot's head-dress
 44 Carvey or Delany
 45 Cab
 48 "— Miniver"
 50 Rotational meas.

Solution time: 27 mins.

B	A	C	O	N		I	R	E		O	H	M	
O	B	E	L	I		S	A	M		N	E	E	
B	E	L	I	E		O	C	U	L	I	S	T	
			L	O	C	A	L	E		L	O	S	E
A	M	I		E	L	D		D	A	N	E	S	
M	O	S	H		L	E	M	O	N				
P	O	T	A	T	O		A	M	O	S	O	Z	
			N	O	W	I	N		S	T	L	O	
E	L	U	D	E		C	O	Y		Y	A	O	
M	A	N	E		A	E	R	I	A	L			
C	Y	C	L	I		S	T		E	L	I	T	E
E	E	L		D	I	E		L	A	S	E	R	
E	R	E		O	F	A		D	E	T	E	R	

Yesterday's answer 6-21



Bridge

You are South, neither side vulnerable. The bidding has been:

North	East	South	West
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	?	

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

- ♠ KJ74 ♥ 62 ♦ Q85 ♣ Q943
- ♠ K75432 ♥ K ♦ K84 ♣ K72
- ♠ Q863 ♥ 97 ♦ QJ92 ♣ KQ5
- ♠ AQ985 ♥ J83 ♦ KJ ♣ A63
- ♠ KQ962 ♥ Q5 ♦ 76 ♣ AJ86

* * *

Bidding Quiz

You are South, neither side vulnerable. The bidding:

- Four spades. Partner's jump-raise as opener is not forcing, but does constitute a strong invitation to game. The bid promises 16 to 18 points, part of which may be distributional. In addition, partner guarantees four-card trump support. Here you have ample reason to go on to four spades. Your hand is a queen better than a minimum spade response, and you should have a good play for at least 10 tricks.
- Four notrump. A slam is very probable, and the number of tricks you can take will almost surely depend on how many aces partner has. Blackwood is the perfect way to elicit this information.
- Three notrump. Nine tricks at notrump might prove easier to make than 10 tricks at spades. Partner usually corrects to four spades in this sequence because of his distributional values, but occasionally he has a notrump type of hand and will pass.
- Six spades. Since you have well above a minimum opening bid of your own, greatly enhanced by the known spade fit, you are practically sure to have an excellent play for slam. Partner jumped to three spades when, so far as he knew, your spade response might have been based on six points.

The alternative bid is four clubs, intending to contract for at least six spades later on. The chances of a grand slam are slim, though, so it is probably wiser to use the direct method of getting to six. There is not much point in unnecessarily disclosing information to the enemy.

5. Four clubs. Again there is a chance for slam, but whether it can be made depends largely on the makeup of partner's hand, especially with regard to his diamond holding. The four-club bid is a slam try showing first-round control of clubs and interest in a slam; if you were interested only in game, you would bid four spades directly. The final contract depends largely on partner's response to the cuebid.

North dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH		EAST	
♥	Q 7 4 3	♥	J 9 8 2
♦	A 10 7	♦	6 5
♣	A 9 5 2	♣	K 10 8 4
♠	A 6	♠	Q 7 3

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

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	7♥	Pass

Opening lead — ten of clubs.

With a Little Bit of Luck

It goes without saying that an optimistic bidder is sure to encounter more opportunities for brilliant play than a more cautious soul.

Take this case where South discovered via Blackwood that his partner held three aces and then leapt to a grand slam without bothering to ask for kings. A more prudent South probably would have checked for kings and then stopped at six hearts after learning that the diamond king was missing.

Superficially, making 13 tricks appears to depend on a 3-3 division of the opposing spades, about a 36 percent probability. Without the even split, declarer seems certain to lose a diamond trick.

But the fact is that the grand slam is a far better proposition, because it also will succeed whenever either opponent holds four or more spades and the king of diamonds. This additional possibility was not lost on South, who had no trouble bringing in the contract.

Declarer won the opening club lead with the king and drew trumps. He then cashed the ace of clubs and ace of diamonds before running the rest of his trumps. On the last three trumps he discarded dummy's three small diamonds, retaining all four spades on the table opposite the queen of diamonds and A-K-5 of spades in his hand.

In the meantime, East also had to come down to four cards and could not find a safe discard on the last trump. If he discarded a spade, dummy's last spade would become a trick. And if he discarded the king of diamonds instead, South would win the last four tricks with the queen of diamonds and A-K-Q of spades.

Since West would have found himself in the identical predicament had he held the spade length and the diamond king, the grand slam was about a 2-1 favorite. All it required was a pinch of optimism combined with proper technique.

Family Circus • Bill Keane

