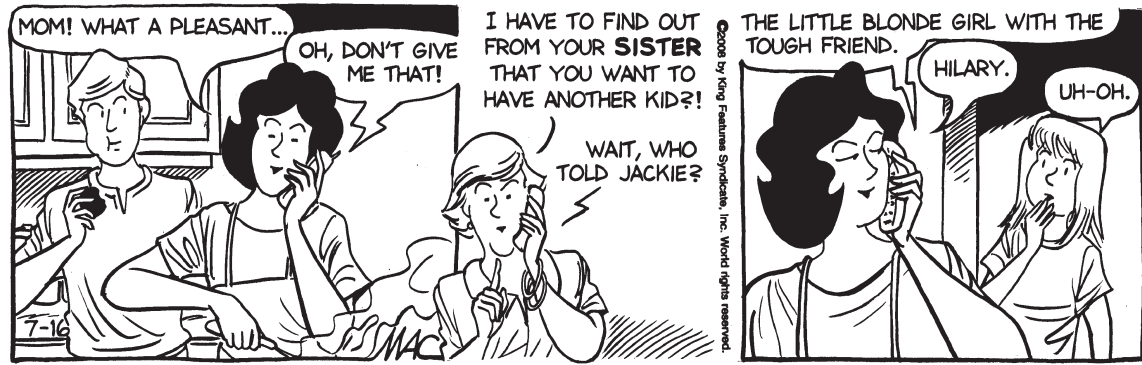
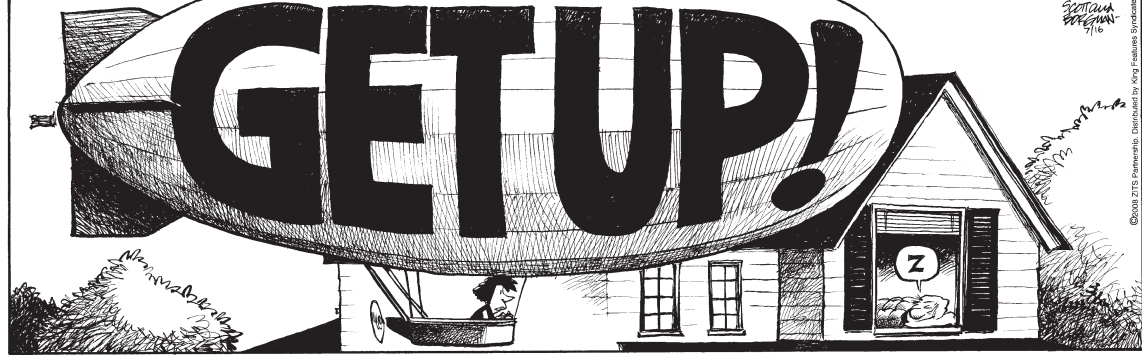


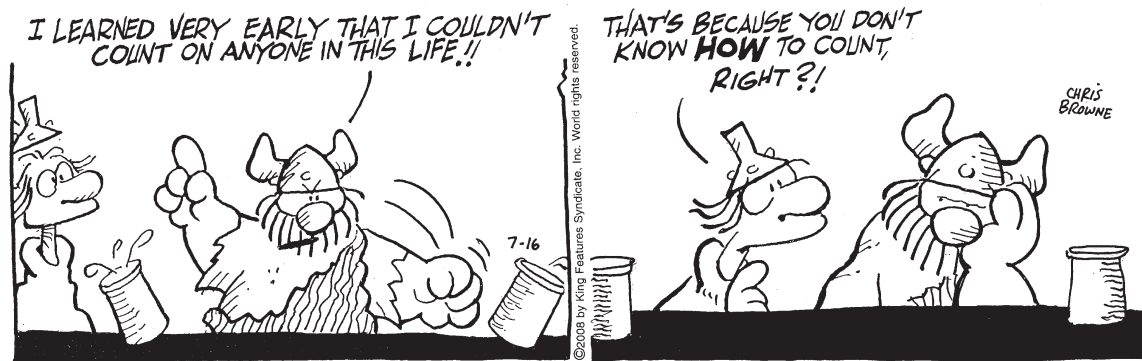
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



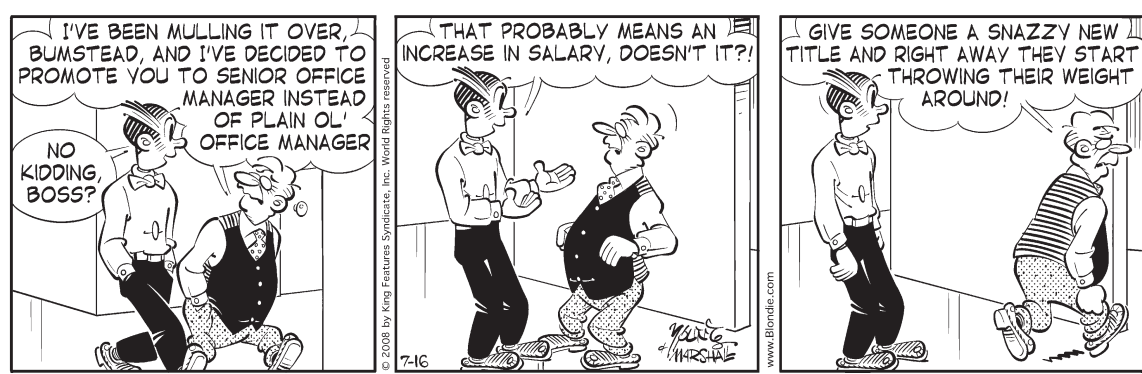
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



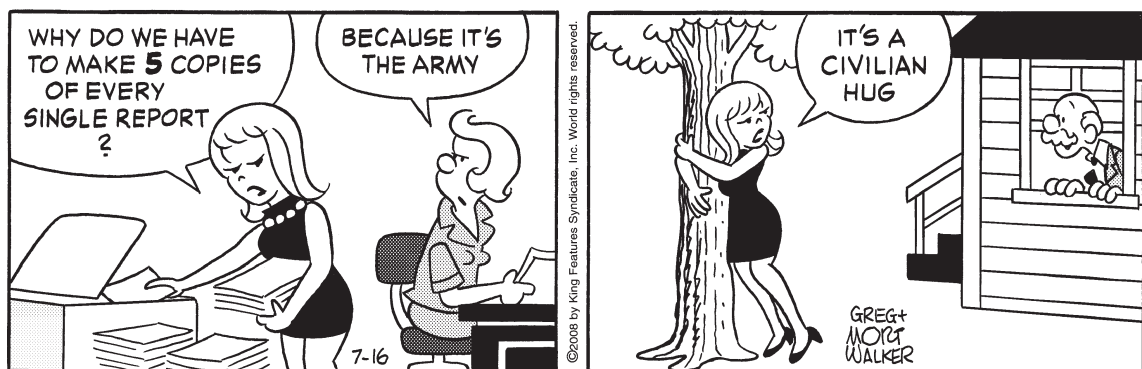
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



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

NEEVNOGIU XIVIHOZOMQ DE Z VUNNYKY DJIGORVQUO
 ZISOIZ NWCX EIVIWSOXOIZ' QZLY IUQY GZFDUVZ,
 SIU SNZKIZ: "KOHIZ MD VURNL PUR IZP GAZG GAY
 XKI SOEK NQU DNGMCZ." FOUÉ DI DJ GAY FRLLDJK?
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A COLLECTION OF GNATS CONGREGATE FOR A DAY OF ANGLING, WOULD YOU SAY THAT'S FLY FISHING?
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals F
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ACCLAIMED TELEVISION SERIES ABOUT CELEBRITIES' RED RASHES: "HIVES OF THE RICH AND FAMOUS."
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals I

Crossword

ACROSS
 1 Runs for exercise
 5 Recede
 8 Moolah
 12 Satan's specialty
 13 Meadow
 14 "— take arms against ..."
 15 National pastime
 17 Tolerate
 18 A billion years
 19 Through eternity
 21 Pupa-to-be
 24 Elbow counterpart
 25 Lotion additive
 26 MySpace alternative
 30 Picks out of a lineup
 31 Aviator
 32 Remuneration
 33 Court-room agenda

DOWN
 1 Dubya's brother
 2 Eggs
 3 USO
 4 Hiding place for 45-Down?
 5 Verve
 6 Canto
 7 Equitable
 8 Network that suffers during sweeps week?
 9 Neck of the woods
 10 Remain
 11 —
 12 Lascivious look
 21 Secular
 22 Hawkeye portrayer
 23 Colonial sewer
 24 Eskimo boat
 26 Develop- ed
 27 October stone
 28 Galley supply
 29 "South Park" kid
 31 Banner
 34 Exit
 35 Wild and crazy
 37 "A pox upon thee!"
 38 Face feature
 39 Vagrant
 40 Eager, plus
 41 Needing liniment
 44 — glance
 45 Blackjack part
 46 Genetic letters
 47 Solidify

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 7-15

Bridge

East dealer. Neither side vulnerable.
NORTH
 ♠ A Q 4
 ♥ K 7 4
 ♦ K 6 3
 ♣ 10 5 3 2

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

SOUTH
 ♠ K 8 3
 ♥ A J 5
 ♦ A 9 8
 ♣ A J 6 4

EAST
 ♠ J 9
 ♥ 10 8 6 2
 ♦ J 10 5
 ♣ K 9 8 7

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

Covering Every Possibility

Assume you're declarer with the South hand at three notrump and West leads a spade. You can count eight sure winners consisting of three spades, two hearts, two diamonds and a club.

How would you proceed so as to give yourself the best chance for a ninth trick? When the deal occurred, South won the first spade in dummy and led a low club to the jack, losing to West's queen. Declarer took the spade return in dummy and led another club to the ace, learning to his dismay that East held the K-9 of clubs over dummy's 10-5.

Since he still needed a ninth trick, South next led a low heart to the king and took a heart finesse. But when the jack lost to West's queen, declarer had to go down one. South had the right idea about trying to get his ninth trick from the club suit, but he went about it the wrong way. The correct way to play this combination is to start by cashing the ace of clubs on the first round of the suit. This guarantees a second club trick regardless of how the suit is divided.

In the actual case, West's queen falls, after which the ten or jack becomes declarer's ninth trick. The same result is achieved if a singleton honor falls from East's hand.

If an honor does not appear on the first round, a low club is next led toward the ten. If West started with any number of clubs including the K-Q, he can win with the queen, but this assures that the ten or jack will later become the game-going trick.

The same result accrues if East holds the K-Q-x(-x) of clubs. Dummy's ten forces an honor, and a later club lead toward the closed hand establishes the jack.

Of course, if the clubs turn out to be divided 3-2, as they would be two-thirds of the time, the safety play of cashing the ace first proves to be unnecessary. But it's always better to be safe than sorry.

North dealer. Neither side vulnerable.
NORTH
 ♠ K Q J 7 6
 ♥ A 5 2
 ♦ K
 ♣ Q 7 4 3

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

EAST
 ♠ 9 2
 ♥ Q J 10 8 6 3
 ♦ Q J 9 4
 ♣ A

SOUTH
 ♠ A
 ♥ K 7 4
 ♦ A 10 5
 ♣ K J 9 6 5 2

The bidding:
 North 1
 East 2
 South 3
 West Pass
 North 4
 East Pass
 South 4
 West Pass
 North 4
 East Pass
 South 6
 West Pass
 Opening lead — nine of hearts.

The Pursuit of Excellence

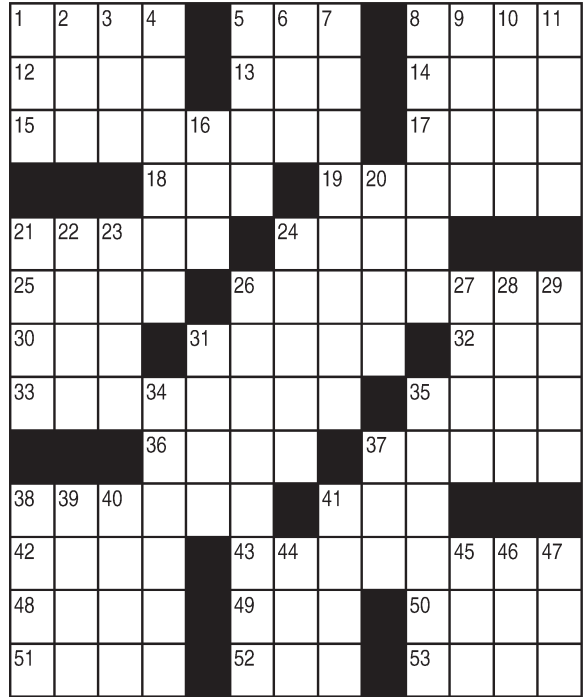
Assume you get to six clubs on the bidding shown and West leads a heart. Common sense tells you the slam is in danger because East overcalled with two hearts and there is a very good chance the bid was based on a six-card suit.

If so, West's lead is a singleton, raising the possibility he may be able to ruff a heart if you lead a trump at trick two. So you naturally start wondering what can be done about this threat. After you stew a while -- as all careful declarers do -- you come up with what looks like a promising solution.

You win the heart with the king, cash the ace of spades and lead a diamond to the king. Your plan is to discard the 7-4 of hearts on the K-Q of spades and then lead a trump. You do get to discard a heart on the spade king, but when you next lead the queen, it turns out that East has no more spades. However, this does you no harm at all, since East has the singleton ace of clubs. Whatever East does -- whether he ruffs with the ace or discards on the spade queen -- you dispose of your last heart. Either way, you make the slam.

While East's holding the singleton club ace may appear to be a stroke of good luck, the fact is that this method of play would succeed even if East had the A-x or A-x-x of clubs. In either case, after East ruffed low, you would overruff and simply concede a club to the ace to make the slam. You'd lose a trump trick but nothing else. Observe what would have occurred, however, had you incorrectly led a trump at trick two. Down the chute you'd go!

It's no doubt true that many declarers would tackle trumps immediately, hoping East had overcalled on only a five-card suit or that West was dealt only one trump. Those who did would have to pay a heavy price on the actual deal for having failed to take the maximum precautionary measures.



ACROSS
 1 Fat
 5 Sailor
 8 Sleeping
 12 Aroma
 13 Actress
 14 Tear in two
 15 Smallest porridge eater
 17 Quite enthusiastic
 18 Hearth minutia
 19 Unclear
 21 Latest fashion
 24 Serpentine swimmer
 25 Misfortunes
 28 Wheel-base terminus
 30 Greek vowel
 33 Billy — Williams
 34 Dismal
 35 Behind
 36 LummoX
 37 They get into a row

DOWN
 1 Earring location
 2 Leading man
 3 Virginia politician
 4 Chuck
 5 "Golly!"
 6 Eventual ayes
 7 Zinger
 8 Debate
 9 Highway sign
 10 MIT deg. holder, perh.
 11 Crucial time
 16 Bikini half

20 Welsh emblem
22 Festive event
23 Put forth
25 Altar affirmative
26 Actress Thompson
27 Seine side
29 Emit coherent light
31 As well
32 Branch
34 Benefit
38 Respiratory affliction
40 Squander
42 Request
43 Honey-comb chamber
44 Met melody
45 With skill
47 2008, e.g.
48 Cafe au —
49 Vortex
52 Nay opponent
53 Fresh

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 7-16

Family Circus • Bill Keane

