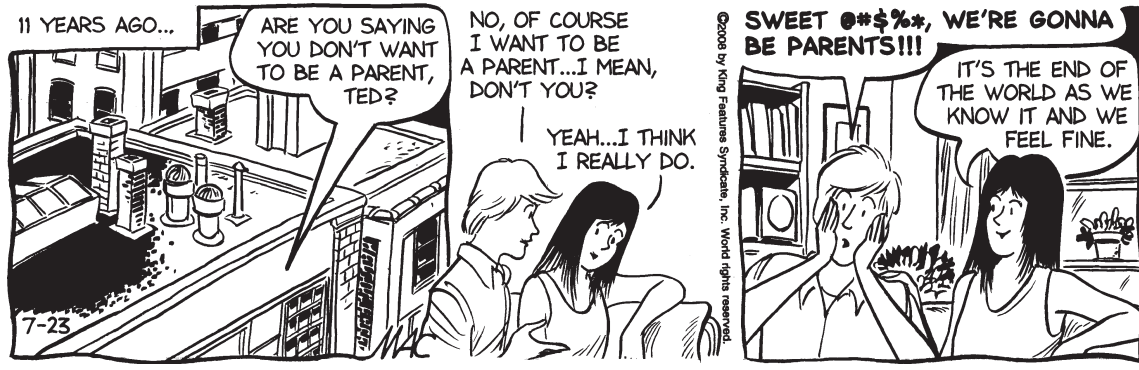
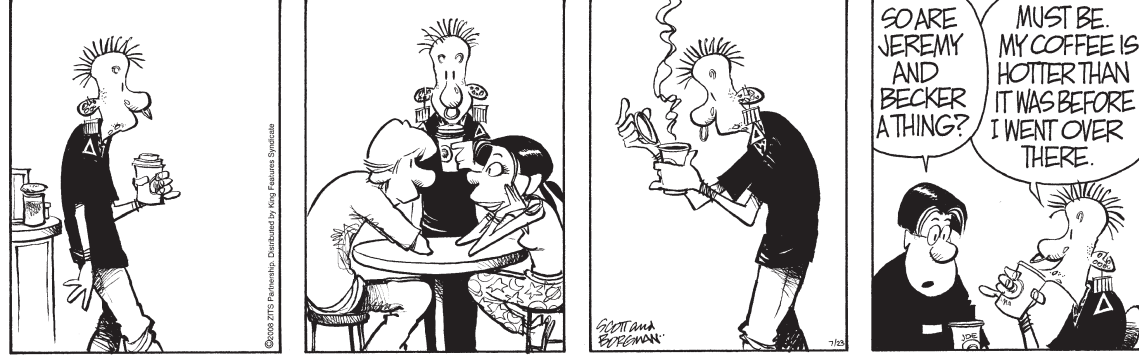


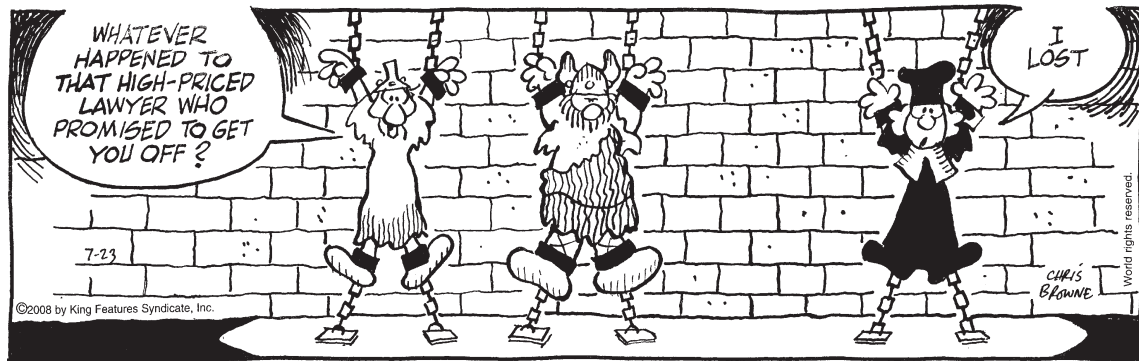
**Sally Forth • Greg Howard**



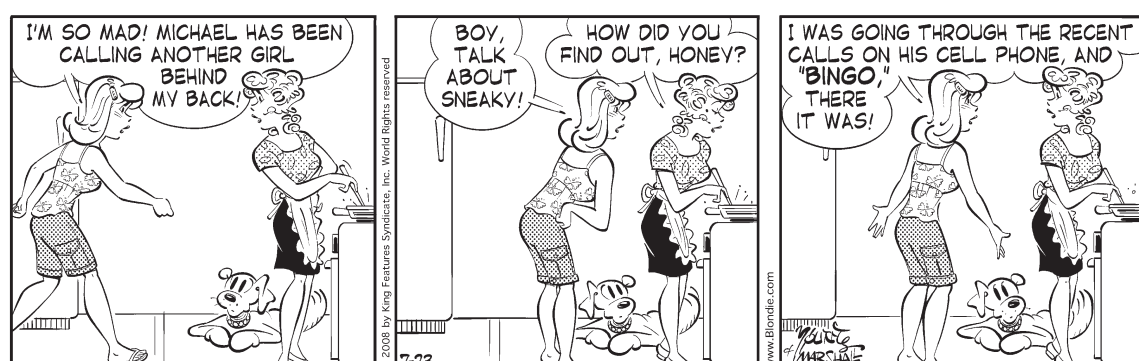
**Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott**



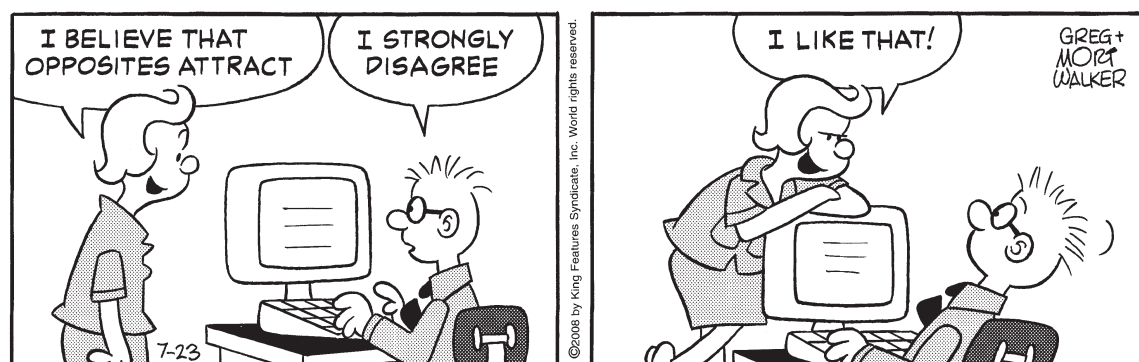
**Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne**



**Blondie • Chic Young**



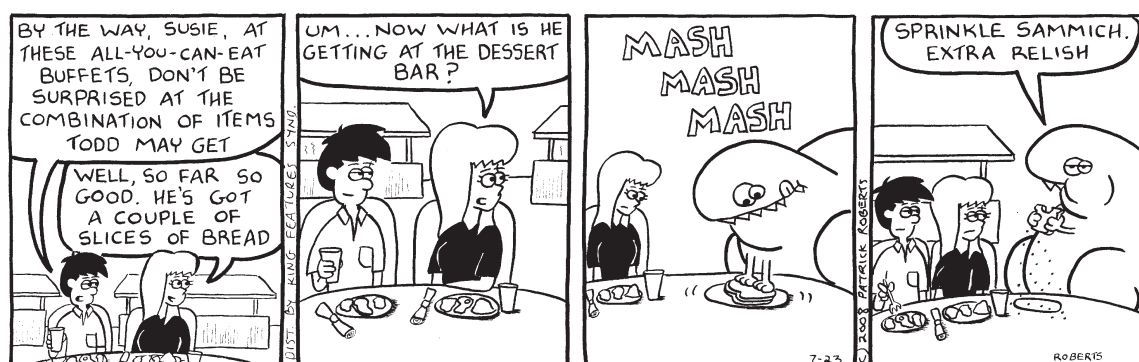
**Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker**



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



**Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts**



**Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters**



**Cryptoquip**

UXYH ZEA'VY ZYIIFHL DS AW Q ZFABZ KFQIB ZBHAZBZ  
 BECYJEQZ DS D BDIDQ JDV, EC Q ITFIEOB EF HQVVACK  
 F BAMMEBY ZEA CFLXS AC VAWB, HETVZ NET OQN  
 JY QVYBBFHL XFC QEUH. AP'O Q FQAOAC Z'BPFB?  
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: FOR ABSORBING STINKY ODORS IN HIS REFRIGERATOR, I KNEW A CYCLIST WHO WOULD USE BIKING SODA.  
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals R  
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN YOU'RE YELLING AT SOMEBODY AT A SALAD BAR, I SUPPOSE YOU MIGHT BE DRESSING HIM DOWN.  
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals I

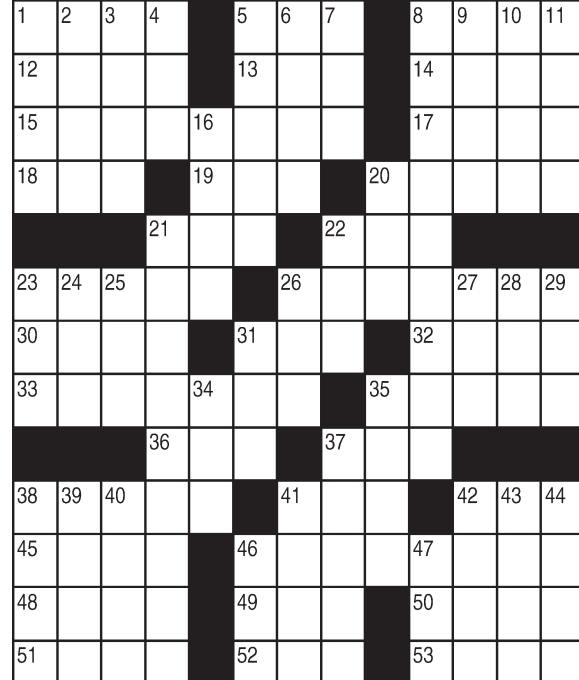
**Crossword**

- ACROSS**  
 1 Oxidation result  
 5 Police officer  
 8 Runs for exercise  
 12 Neighborhood  
 13 Kyoto cummerbund  
 14 Lotion additive  
 15 Scouts' festival  
 17 Carriage  
 18 Clay, now  
 19 Jailer's implement  
 20 Scrub a NASA mission  
 21 Pickle container  
 22 Bikini half  
 23 English composition  
 26 Get back  
 30 Paper quantity  
 31 Get a glimpse of  
 32 Helper  
 33 "Nobody — the Spanish Inquisition!"
- DOWN**  
 1 Eastern prince  
 2 Kazakh-stan river  
 3 Half (Pref.)  
 4 Paper doll's dress feature  
 5 Apple gizmo  
 6 Do what you're told  
 7 Chart format  
 8 New Orleans recipe  
 9 Medley  
 10 No stay-at-home  
 35 "Don Juan" writer  
 36 Sauce source  
 37 Shell-game need  
 38 Seabird of the gannet family  
 41 Snip  
 42 Historic time  
 45 Therefore  
 46 Kingston resident  
 48 Fix a hole  
 49 Cleopatra's slayer  
 50 Midi terminus  
 51 Coaster  
 52 Petrol
- 53 Stereo forerunner**  
**11 Faxed**  
**16 Suitable**  
**20 Curved line**  
**21 Daniel Craig role**  
**22 Spelldown**  
**23 Before**  
**24 Gender**  
**25 Tree fluid**  
**26 In medias —**  
**27 Melody**  
**28 Altar**  
**29 Chaps**  
**31 Pigs' digs**  
**34 Coquettish**  
**35 Alpha follower**  
**37 Some women's shoes**  
**38 Hospital furniture**  
**39 By word of mouth**  
**40 Shrek is one**  
**41 House, to Jose**  
**42 Reverberation**  
**43 Picnic hamperer**  
**44 Domini**  
**46 Binge**  
**47 Tenet**

Solution time: 21 mins.

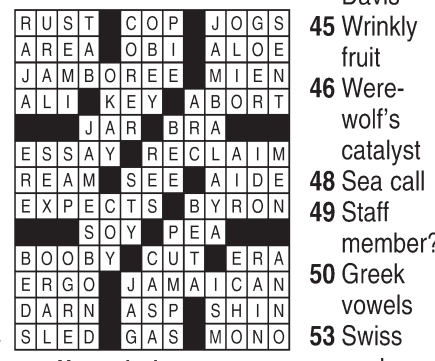


Yesterday's answer 7-22

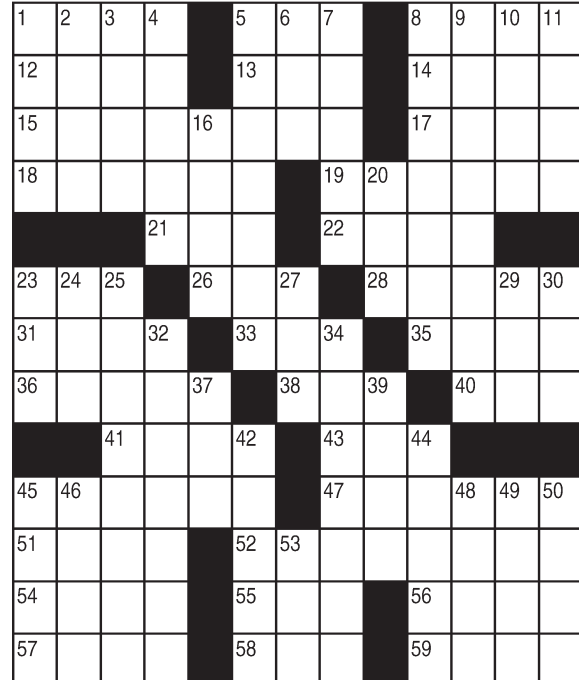


- ACROSS**  
 1 Puncturing tools  
 5 Halves of 23-Across  
 8 Somewhere out there  
 12 Gator's kin  
 13 Old man  
 14 Key —  
 15 Rest a bit  
 17 Eager  
 18 Piano style  
 19 Texas city  
 21 Afternoon affair  
 22 Felons' flights  
 23 Type measures  
 26 Maxwell Smart, e.g.  
 28 Excited  
 31 This and that  
 33 That girl  
 35 Sprint  
 36 Spoke sheepishly?  
 38 Siesta  
 40 Scarlet  
 41 McNally's partner
- DOWN**  
 1 Performances  
 2 Swathe  
 3 Mischievous Norse god  
 4 Bloodhound's clue  
 5 Tombstone inscription  
 6 Autumn abbr.  
 7 Relieve  
 8 Frightened  
 9 Superior, as a restaurant  
 10 Surrounded by  
 11 Give a makeover to
- 16 Attorneys' earnings**  
**20 "That feels good"**  
**23 Recede**  
**24 Bygone bird of New Zealand**  
**25 Ahab's first mate**  
**27 Longing**  
**29 Exploit**  
**30 Third degree**  
**32 Fireplaces**  
**34 Square-root sign**  
**37 "CSI" evidence**  
**39 Petty hoodlum**  
**42 It's left to your accountant**  
**44 Actor Davis**  
**45 Wrinkly fruit**  
**46 Werewolf's catalyst**  
**48 Sea call**  
**49 Staff member?**  
**50 Greek vowels**  
**53 Swiss canton**

Solution time: 21 mins.



Yesterday's answer 7-23



**Bridge**

North dealer.  
 North-South vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
 ♠ K J 4 3  
 ♥ Q 10 5  
 ♦ A 6  
 ♣ K J 8 3

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

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

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

The bidding:  
 North 1♣ East Pass South 1♠ West Pass  
 2♣ Pass 6♣  
 Opening lead — king of diamonds.

**Hook, Line and Sinker**

Every so often a hand arises where there's a distinct disadvantage to being a good player. The expert who sees all and knows all sometimes makes plays that wouldn't occur to a lesser player, and as a result occasionally pays a price for his superior knowledge. The moral is that ignorance is sometimes bliss.

Consider this deal played in a national pair championship. South quickly got to six spades, and West led a diamond, taken by dummy's ace.

Declarer, a well-known expert, played two rounds of trumps and then four rounds of hearts, discarding a diamond from dummy. The diamond discard wasn't important as such, but it was by no means a haphazard play. South had a very shrewd purpose in mind.

Declarer next led a club, and West, also a top-notch player, stepped right up with the ace. That ended the play, and declarer made the slam.

Had West followed low on the club lead, South would have had a difficult guess as to whether to play the king or the jack from dummy.

Whether he would have guessed correctly no one will ever know. In the actual layout, declarer succeeds by playing the king, but if West has the queen and East the ace, the jack is the winning play.

South's method of play would probably have been a waste of time against an inferior West player. Declarer intentionally went out of his way to show West he had started with six spades and four hearts.

By cashing his hearts and discarding a diamond from dummy, South hoped to persuade West that he had started with two diamonds and one club. The actual West swallowed the bait, apparently believing he'd lose his ace unless he took it while he had the chance.

South dealer.  
 North-South vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
 ♠ Q J 10 4  
 ♥ 7 5 4  
 ♦ A J 6  
 ♣ 10 8 3

**WEST**  
 ♠ 6 5 3  
 ♥ Q 10 8 6 2  
 ♦ 5  
 ♣ Q J 7 4

**EAST**  
 ♠ A 9 8 2  
 ♥ J 9 3  
 ♦ K 7 4 2  
 ♣ 9 5

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ K 7  
 ♥ A K  
 ♦ Q 10 9 8 3  
 ♣ A K 6 2

The bidding:  
 South 1♣ West Pass North 1♠ East Pass  
 2 NT Pass 3 NT  
 Opening lead — six of hearts.

**To Win or Not to Win?**

Whether or not to win a trick is often a matter of using good judgment. There is no magic rule that provides a simple answer. You have to deal with each situation, as it arises, on its merits.

Suppose you're East and partner leads a heart against three notrump. Declarer wins your jack with the king and plays the king of spades, West following with the three. Do you win the trick or not?

Many contracts stand or fall on questions of this type, so it pays to be careful in such a situation. West's play of the three shows an odd number of spades -- he would begin to play high-low with an even number -- so you know that West has three spades and South two.

You may therefore feel tempted to duck the king, planning to take the ace on the next round. But if you succumb to this temptation, you will have a lot of explaining to do later on after declarer shifts his attention from spades to diamonds, forcing out your king. South would then finish with nine tricks -- one spade, two hearts, four diamonds and two clubs.

Ducking the king of spades is a futile play, since you know declarer can compel you to take the ace if he wants to, or abandon the suit if it's to his advantage to do so. You shouldn't give declarer this sort of option -- it can do you no good and may do you some harm.

You should therefore take the ace of spades at once and return a heart, hoping partner started with five hearts, in which case you have an excellent chance to defeat the contract. As it happens, if you defend this way, South must go down one.

**Family Circus • Bill Keane**

