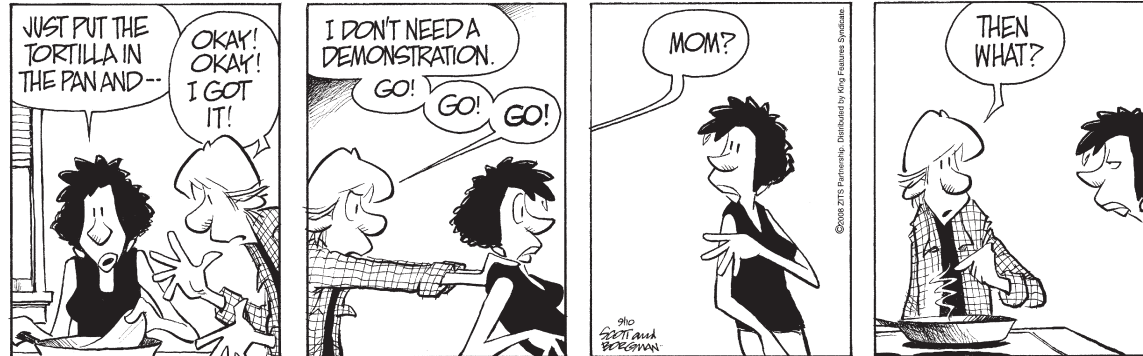


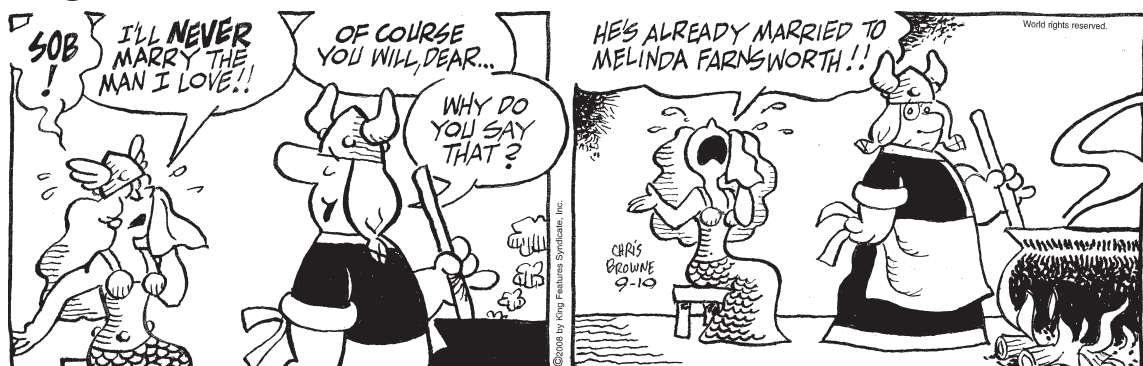
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



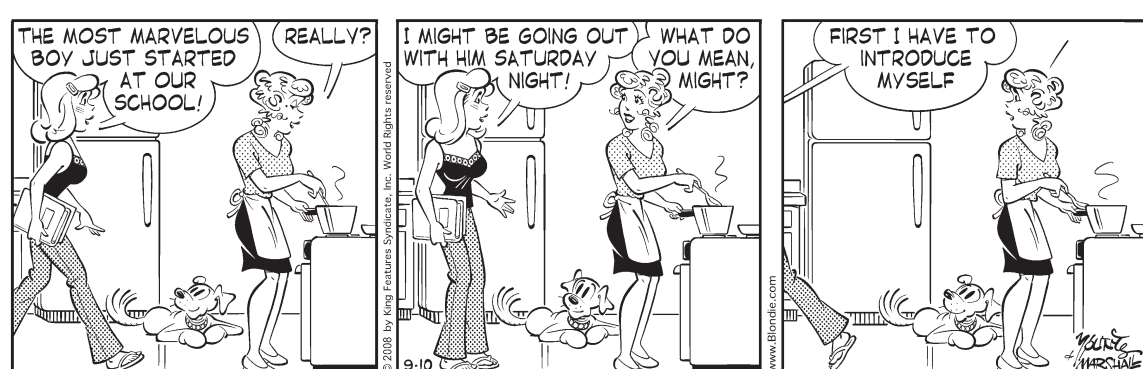
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



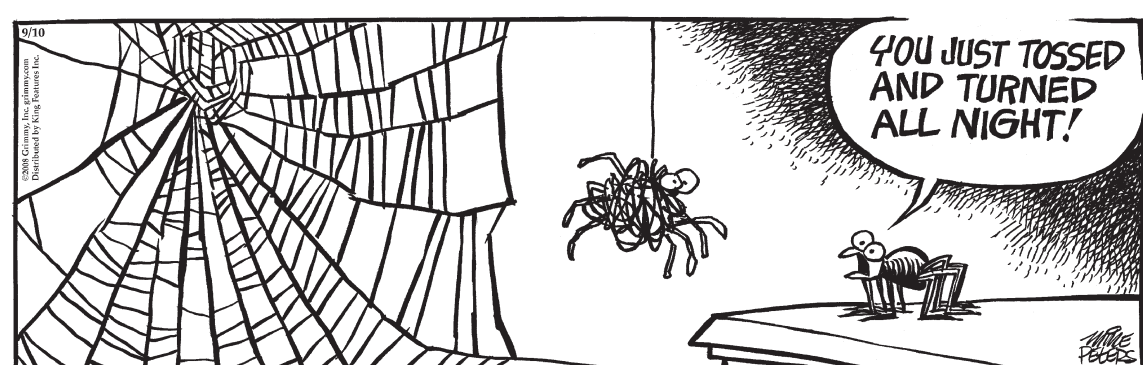
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Cryptoquip

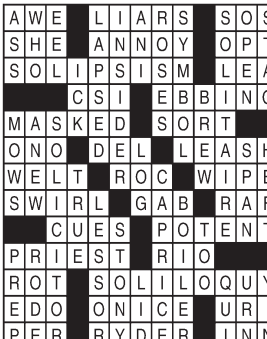
HGDE K SKEFQQV HDEJ JM DTDKELA JATLCMLN XKUHVLE
 JGD UDEJKXJ FSJDP XM BFEV LJTKF L ZAHYGFZKE ZATY
 VDFPX, VMY TMYQU TFQQ KJ MGT JIVLXI L CIXTQ JLAJIA:
 JGD BMBDEJ MS JMMJG.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE SEAMSTRESS, DISPENSING MUCH ADVICE, WAS OFFERING EVERYONE REALLY GREAT PURLS OF WISDOM.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals T

"UMIIQIN FTLC."
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN I FINALLY WENT TO THE DENTIST AFTER SO MANY YEARS, YOU COULD CALL IT THE MOMENT OF TOOTH.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals P

Crossword

- ACROSS**
 1 Wander
 5 Alias abbr.
 8 Wear a rut in the
 12 Ford or Lincoln
 13 Charged bit
 14 Punch
 15 South African city
 17 Franc replacement
 18 Deposit
 19 Hansel and Gretel's trail
 21 Subsequently
 24 Acceptable
 25 MRI fore-runner
 26 Brain's stimulus receptors
 30 Felon's flight
 31 Money
 32 Conclude
 33 Happiness, plus
 35 Partner
- DOWN**
 36 Roof overhang
 37 Long-popular comedian
 38 High-pH chemical
 41 Boar's companion
 42 Cambodian money
 43 Capital of British Columbia
 48 "It Roman-etic?"
 49 Eggs
 50 Fishing gear
 51 Morse symbol
- ACROSS**
 52 Sleep phenom
 53 Dilbert's place
 21 Wheel connector
 22 Herr's wife
 23 Pack down
 24 Spirit in a bottle
 26 Jeff
 5 Ethereal
 6 Japanese pond
 7 Huge boar
 8 False
 9 Grad
 10 Sidewalk edge
 11 Holly-wood clasher
 16 Rowboat need
 20 Colonial sewer
 27 Raise up
 28 Busy with
 29 Mideast gulf
 31 Baby horse
 34 Wellness
 35 "Heavens!"
 37 Witticism
 38 Saharan
 39 Sax-playing Simpson
 40 Kesy and Olin
 41 Con job
 44 "— Got a Secret"
 45 Caviar, essentially
 46 11-Down counterparts
 47 Request

Solution time: 21 mins.



Yesterday's answer 9-9

Bridge

West dealer.
 East-West vulnerable.
NORTH
 ♠ 10 7 3
 ♥ A Q 9 8
 ♦ Q J 5
 ♣ A K J

WEST
 ♠ K Q J 9 4
 ♥ K 7 6 3
 ♦ K 10
 ♣ 9 6

EAST
 ♠ 5
 ♥ 4 2
 ♦ 7 6 4 3 2
 ♣ Q 8 7 5 2

SOUTH
 ♠ A 8 6 2
 ♥ J 10 5
 ♦ A 9 8
 ♣ 10 4 3

The bidding:
 West 1 ♠
 North Dble
 East Pass
 South 1 NT
 Opening lead — king of spades.

Card-Reading

It is usually not difficult to construct an approximate picture of the hand held by a defender who has entered the bidding. The attentive declarer simply brings this picture into focus and proceeds to take advantage of it.

Assume you're in three notrump and West leads the king of spades, which you duck. West continues with the queen, East showing out, and you win with the ace. You lead the J-10-5 of hearts, winning all three finesses, and, after cashing the ace, you are faced with the problem of how to score a ninth trick.

One way would be to attempt a diamond finesse; another would be to return to your hand with a diamond to take a club finesse. But before attempting either finesse, you should try to visualize West's hand. He is known to have started with the K-Q-J-9-x of spades and K-x-x-x of hearts, and -- since he opened the bidding -- he is also sure to have the king of diamonds or queen of clubs, or possibly both.

It is clear that neither finesse is particularly attractive. West may very well have the guarded king of diamonds, in which case you would go down if you finessed in that suit, and East could very well have the queen of clubs, in which case a club finesse would ultimately defeat you.

The proper method of play is to cash the A-K of clubs and, if the queen does not appear, exit from dummy with the ten of spades in an effort to endplay West. This play succeeds whenever West has two or more diamonds, which is surely a juicier prospect than taking a finesse in either minor suit.

In the actual case, both the premise and the promise pay off because, after West cashes his spades, he is forced to lead a diamond from the king and hand you your ninth trick.

Tomorrow: A little white lie.
 (c)2008 King Features Syndicate Inc.

South dealer.
 East-West vulnerable.
NORTH
 ♠ J 3
 ♥ 10 9 4
 ♦ A Q 10 9 6
 ♣ K J 2

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

EAST
 ♠ K Q 9 8 7 5 2
 ♥ 6 3
 ♦ 7 2
 ♣ A Q

SOUTH
 ♠ A 10
 ♥ A Q J 8 5
 ♦ K J 4
 ♣ 9 8 6

The bidding:
 South 1 ♠
 West Pass
 North 2 ♠
 East 2 ♣
 South 3 ♠
 West Pass
 North 3 ♠
 East Pass

Opening lead — six of spades.

A Little White Lie

Generally, it is not a good idea for a defender to falsify his partner. The repercussions from such an action can affect not only the current deal, but future deals as well.

However, there are times when the only way to get partner to do the right thing is to tell a little white lie. This type of falsification is eminently forgivable.

Today's deal provides a case in point. South arrives at four hearts after East has overcalled in spades, and West leads the spade six. East then reviews the prospects of defeating the contract.

He concludes first that if declarer has the A-K-Q of trumps, the defense has no hope. Indeed, if South's trumps are solid, he will probably finish with an overtrick with the help of dummy's diamonds. East therefore credits West with a trump trick, giving the defense four potential winners: one spade, one heart and two clubs.

But taking these four tricks is easier said than done. The trouble is that when West gains the lead with his presumed trump trick, he is very likely to return a spade, since he cannot know that East has the A-Q of clubs sitting over dummy's K-J. Once a spade is returned, East will be unable to score the setting trick with the queen of clubs.

So, to steer West in the right direction, East tells a little fib at trick one. Instead of making the normal play of the spade queen, he puts up the king! South takes the ace, leaving West with the indelible impression that declarer holds the A-Q of spades.

When West subsequently wins the king of hearts, he will therefore look elsewhere for additional tricks, and will most probably shift to a club. East then scores the A-Q, and, much to West's surprise, the queen of spades puts the contract down one.

Tomorrow: One play does it all.
 (c)2008 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Family Circus • Bill Keane

