

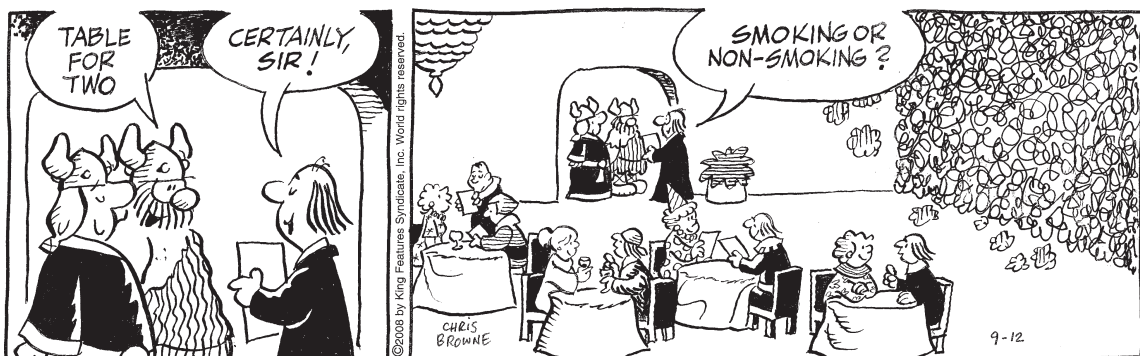
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



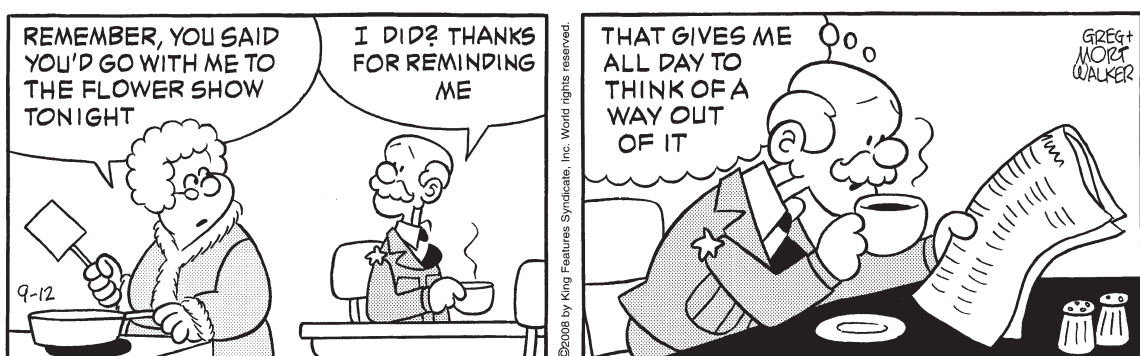
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



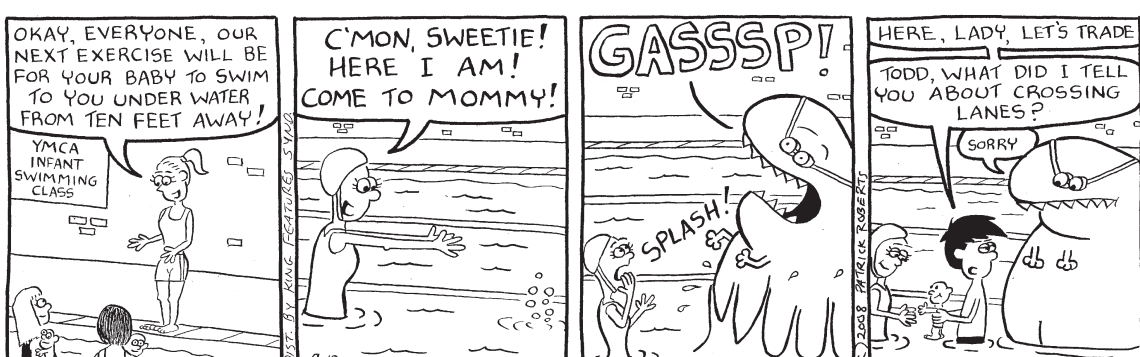
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



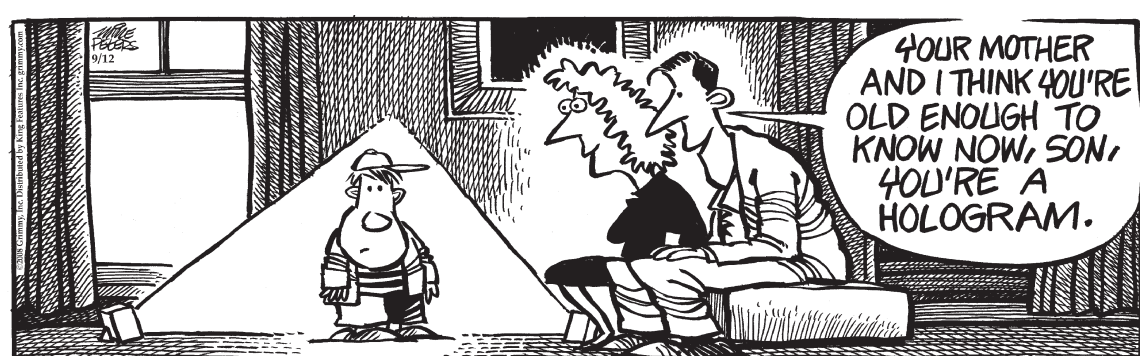
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Cryptoquip

PDTOGFD Y'I SDQN POM OE Z F D E Q P W Q P R Q L O
 JQDJOQYUB ZXOMF XC QPISHUFVQSP FYSKV F YFHP
 TZXELEDF CXQ ZOGUMQN, LFPDO, SPO UQWNV FRE
 FHSKPL ISH VNO NSOLSMP
 Z S M L S M P.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A COUPLE OF ORE-FILLED SHAFTS CONVERGED, DO YOU SUPPOSE YOU'D HAVE A MEETING OF THE MINES?
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals B
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE I'M VERY BAD AT PREPARING LOADS OF CLOTHES FOR LAUNDRY, DO I HAVE SORTCOMINGS?
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals D

Crossword

ACROSS 37 Part of MYOB
 1 Atlanta NBA team
 6 "Chicago" lyricist
 9 Gas stat
 12 Use
 13 Round Table address
 14 Verily
 15 Mississippian area
 16 Screen star
 18 Girl named in "The Raven"
 20 Rescue
 21 Eco-friendly org.
 23 Confucian principle
 24 Leading man?
 25 Deficiency
 27 Mentor
 29 Put on ice
 31 Confound
 35 Ex-NFLer
 Andre, nicknamed "Bad Moon"

DOWN 21 Sprite
 22 Links standard
 24 Actress
 26 Henson amphibian
 28 Dogpatch lad
 30 Speed
 32 Prizefighter
 33 Robitaille of hockey
 34 Historic period
 36 Valencia, e.g.
 38 Use
 39 Miss USA
 40 Beginning
 42 Deadly
 45 Enthusiastic
 46 Billion (Pref.)
 48 Mal de
 50 List-ending abbr.
 51 Sandra or Ruby

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 9-12

Bridge

Your partner opens One Diamond, both sides vulnerable, and the next player bids One Spade. What would you bid with each of the following four hands?

- ♠ KJ7 ♥ A96 ♦ Q83 ♣ AQ74
- ♠ 62 ♥ J8 ♦ KQ952 ♣ KQ63
- ♠ 85 ♥ AQJ4 ♦ Q7 ♣ KJ852
- ♠ A4 ♥ J7 ♦ AQJ62 ♣ KQ102

Bidding Quiz

Your partner opens One Diamond, both sides vul. Three notrump. This is the most descriptive bid you can make. The jump to three notrump, whether an opponent intervenes or not, shows a balanced hand, usually 4-3-3-3, with scattered strength and 16 or 17 high-card points. To that extent, three notrump is a slam try. When the bid is made after a suit overcall by an opponent, the notrump bid also indicates at least one stopper in the opposing suit.

2. Two clubs. Your hand is not quite strong enough for a jump-raise to three diamonds, which would commit your side to game, and is too strong for a simple two-diamond bid, which would not be forcing and could result in missing a game.

In these situations, where your values lie midway between a single and double raise, the best approach is to bid a side suit first, planning to support partner's suit later. This allows your side to stop under game when partner has a minimum opening bid.

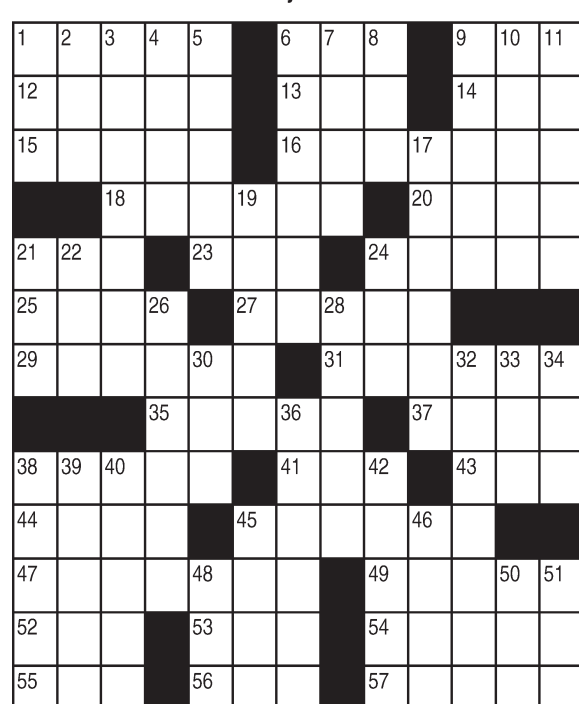
3. Two clubs. Here there is obviously a very good chance for game, but where it lies is at this moment uncertain. The best approach under the circumstances is to try to describe your hand to partner as accurately as possible, and this can best be done by beginning with a two-club response.

You plan to bid hearts at your next turn, and in that way identify a holding of four hearts and at least five clubs. This will hopefully put partner in position to determine the best final contract.

4. Two spades. There is a good chance for slam, but you don't have the values to undertake it unilaterally. The best way to apprise partner of the slam prospects is by means of a cuebid. This indicates first-round spade control and implies good diamond support, which you certainly have.

How the bidding continues depends largely on partner's reaction to the cuebid. If he keeps bidding in minimum terms, you would reluctantly have to settle for less than slam. But if he shows any interest at all, you should not stop short of six.

Tomorrow: A multilayered tale.
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ACROSS 40 Tucker's partner
 42 Place
 6 Transfer
 11 Pretext
 12 George Washington, often
 14 Dawn
 15 Man's hat
 16 Gls' entertainment grp.
 17 Dish
 19 N.E.
 20 Line of fashion?
 22 Caustic solution
 23 Heart of the matter
 24 Glitch
 26 Art lover (Var.)
 28 Evening hour, on a sundial
 30 Teeter-totter quorum
 31 Appoints as a duty
 35 Zero
 39 Info measure

DOWN 1 Reveille, e.g.
 2 Com-mo-tion
 3 Cattle call?
 4 Baby's after-dinner remark?
 5 In any way
 6 Most adroit
 7 Duel tool
 8 Boston entree
 9 Personal unrest
 10 Orpheus, for one
 11 Reason
 13 Photo finish

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 9-13

North dealer.
 Neither side vulnerable.
NORTH
 ♠ A 10 2
 ♥ A 8 3
 ♦ Q
 ♣ K Q 7 6 4 2

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

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

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

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

Opening lead — nine of spades.

A Multilayered Tale

Some deals have a lot more to them than initially meets the eye. Take this rather prosaic-looking hand from a team-of-four contest.

At both tables, North-South reached four hearts on the bidding shown and West led a spade. Both declarers, upon seeing dummy, were annoyed at not having reached what appeared to be an excellent slam in hearts.

At one table, South gave little thought to the play. He won the spade with the ace, drew trumps in four rounds and then attempted to run the clubs. But when the clubs turned out to be divided 4-1, declarer could not come to more than nine tricks, finishing with five hearts, three clubs and a spade for down one.

At the other table, declarer wisely elected not to put all his faith in a favorable club division and instead led a diamond from dummy at trick two. He was planning to ruff a diamond in dummy next and thus secure 10 tricks without having to rely on the club suit.

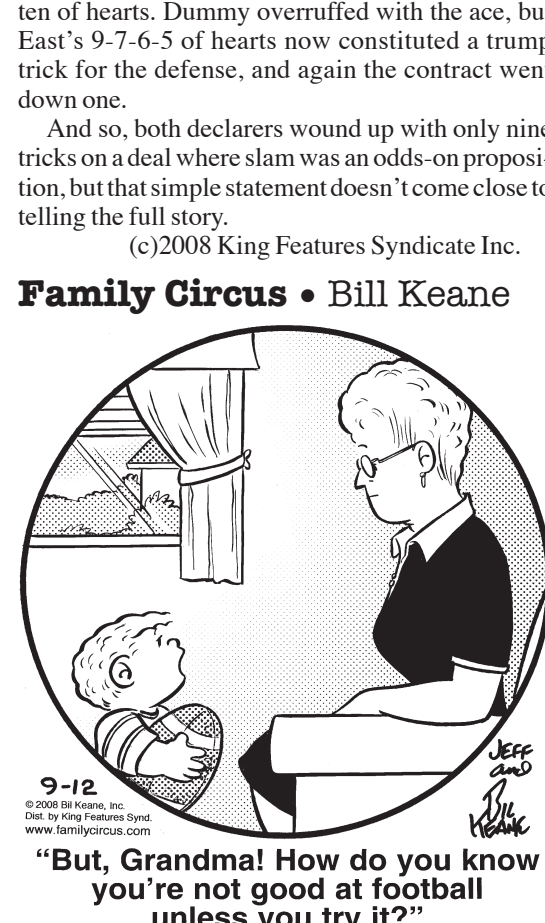
This was certainly a reasonable plan, but an inspired East found the winning counterstroke. After taking the diamond with the ace at trick two, he cashed the K-Q of spades and returned a fourth spade. Declarer was now a goner regardless of what he did.

In practice, South discarded a diamond, whereupon West did his part by ruffing the spade with the ten of hearts. Dummy overruffed with the ace, but East's 9-7-6-5 of hearts now constituted a trump trick for the defense, and again the contract went down one.

And so, both declarers wound up with only nine tricks on a deal where slam was an odds-on proposition, but that simple statement doesn't come close to telling the full story.

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9-12
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