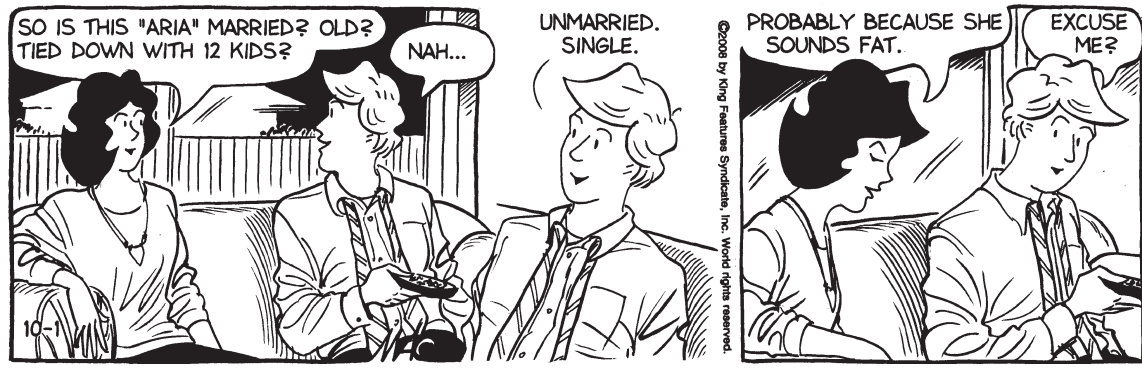
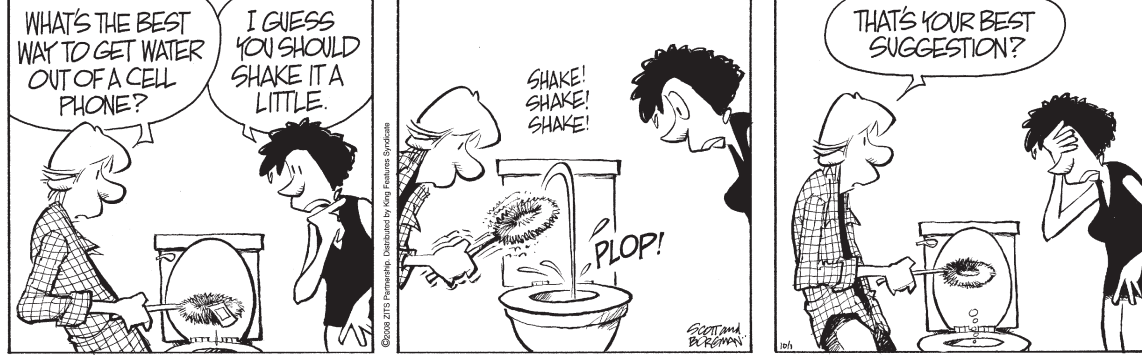


Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



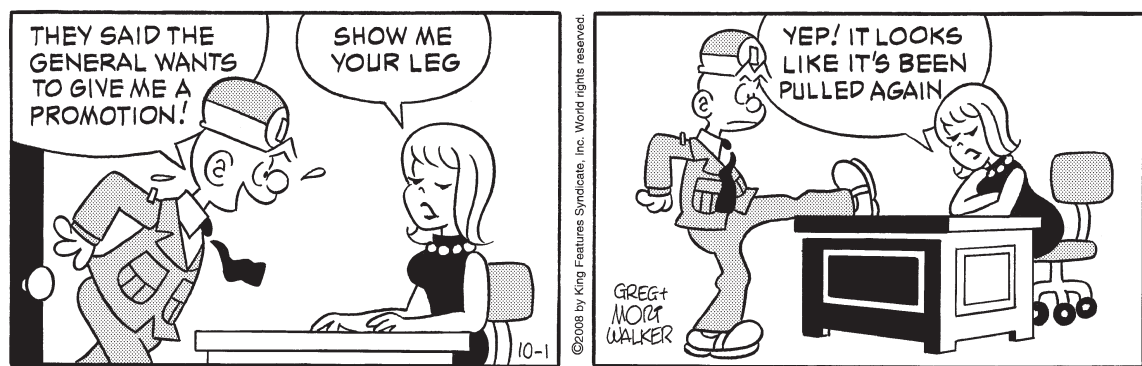
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



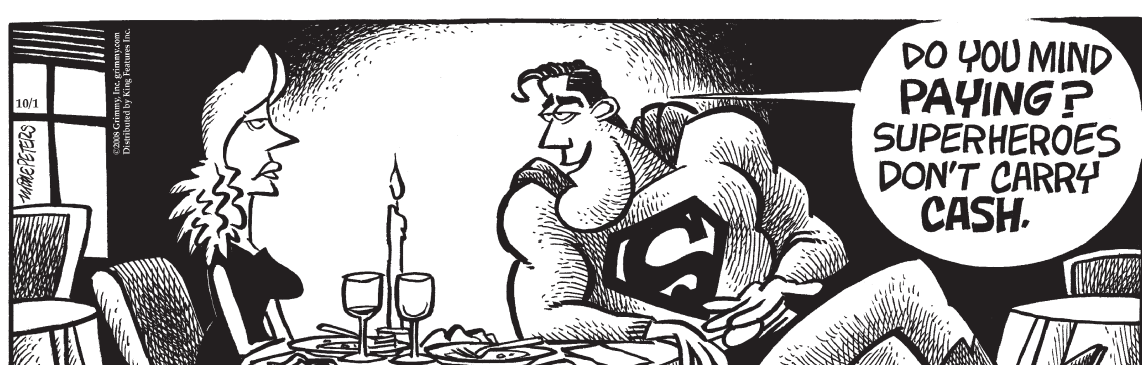
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



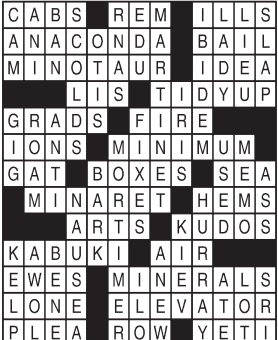
Cryptoquip

QEJY TFA'WJ YJRW JYFAUE QYVXO Q HSCD PXHQJ PKX VS
 CF WAY RWFAYH PY CEJ WRQ, NSLX ECEVEQH NCQDN, VWX
 P WJBLFY TFA'WJ QPCPEY VQEHSO EN OXQPJ VS DS
 OCWJRLPYU HPOCRYBJ.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: COMING-OF-AGE COMEDY FLICK ABOUT SOME CATS THAT ARE IMPISH AND PLAYFUL: "FRISKY BUSINESS."
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals N
 YKHH NXQL QWXQP.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN YOU'RE NEAR ENOUGH TO RUN AROUND IN THE RAW, I RECKON YOU'RE WITHIN STREAKING DISTANCE.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals S

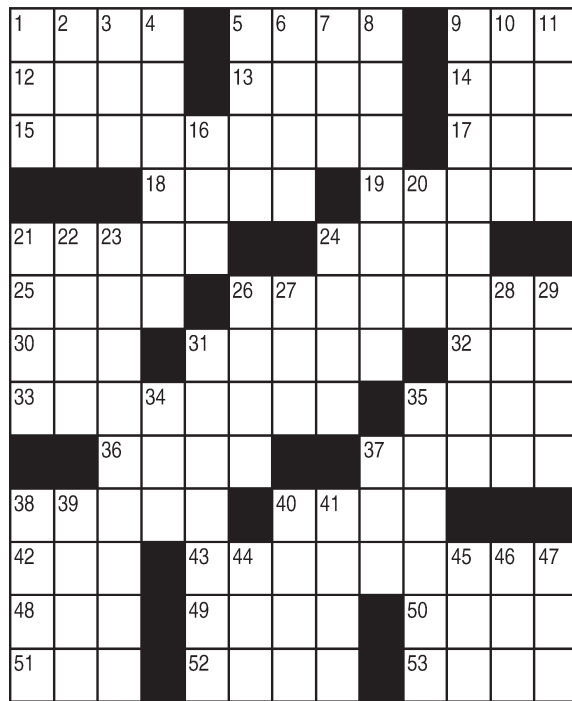
Crossword

- ACROSS**
 1 Hardly exciting
 5 Moist
 9 Society new-comer
 12 Grooving on
 13 Lotion additive
 14 Under the weather
 15 Retail-chain founder
 17 — Zedong
 18 Sandwich cookie
 19 Representative
 21 Mis-behave
 24 Soon, in verse
 25 Comedian Sahl
 26 "You Send Me" singer
 30 World-wide workers' grp.
 31 Strange
 32 Churchill's gesture
 33 Golf legend
- DOWN**
 1 Insult
 2 Geneti-cist's abbr.
 3 \$ dis-penser
 4 Withdraw the lake
 5 Earnhardt of NASCAR
 6 Saxo- phone range
 7 Cattle call?
 8 Sinner's self-abase-ment
 9 Melo-dramatic paper-back of yore
 10 Verve
 11 Ror-schach picture
- 35 Sense**
 36 Hairless
 37 Vends
 38 Dreaded bacterium
 40 Take to the lake
 42 Moving truck
 43 British officer with an epony-mous belt
 48 — out a living
 49 Verifiable
 50 Approach
 51 In medias —
 52 Holly-wood locations
 53 Safe-cracker
- 16 Dadaist**
 Jean
 20 Stickum
 21 Writer Kingsley
 22 Pop flavor
 23 Brass instru-ments
 24 Sur- rounded by
 26 Progeny
 27 Coach Par-seghian
 28 Carina
 29 Morays, e.g.
 31 Signs up
 34 Bando of baseball
 35 Crime
 37 Round Table address
 38 Eternally
 39 Birthday party must-have
 40 Pornog-raphy
 41 Lincoln and Vigoda
 44 Exist
 45 Teeny
 46 Gripe constantly
 47 Work unit

Solution time: 21 mins.

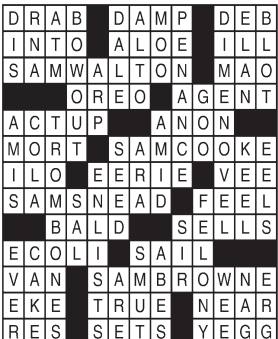


Yesterday's answer 9-30

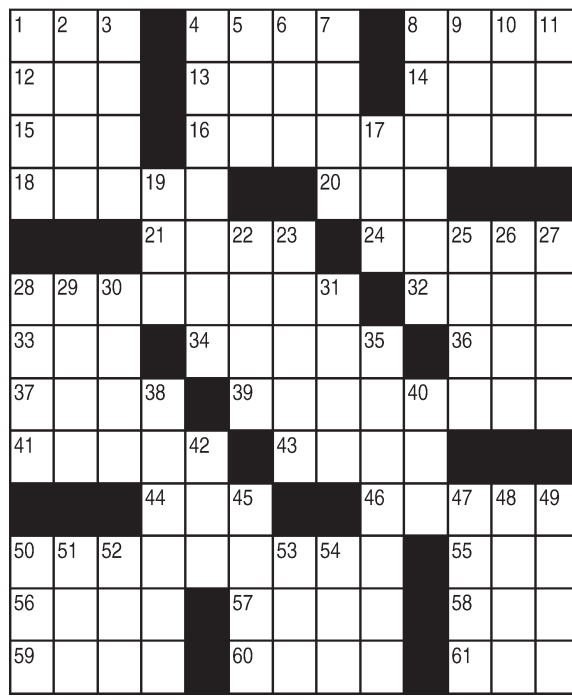


- ACROSS**
 1 Automaton, for short
 4 Siestas
 8 Do as you're told
 12 "— Town"
 13 October birthstone
 14 Base runner's goal
 15 Expert
 16 Persistent
 18 Wheat bundle
 20 Court
 21 Freeway exit
 24 Knighted women
 28 Courteous
 32 Shaving mishap
 33 Conger, for one
 34 Portrayals
 36 Lanka lead-in
 37 Creche trio
 39 Roomy
 41 Viewpoint
 43 Use a teaspoon
- DOWN**
 3 Shade provider
 4 "You cheated!"
 5 Mimic
 6 Zero-star review
 7 Cabbage salad
 8 Buckeye
 9 Halloween cry
 10 Ostrich's cousin
 11 "Of somewhat course"
 17 Massachusetts cape
 19 Joan of —
 22 Bovine conversation
- 44 Comedian**
 Caesar
 46 Pepé Le Pew, e.g.
 50 Having a huge appetite
 55 Brooch review
 56 Pizzeria fixture
 57 Mediocre
 58 Inseparable
 59 Greet silently
 60 Burn somewhat
 61 Fresh
- 23 Tooth**
 tissues
 25 Soybean paste
 26 Beige
 27 Vail equipment
 28 Lapidary's wares
 29 Authentic
 30 Agar source
 31 Member-ship
 35 Cut
 38 Mad
 40 Annoy
 42 —
 45 Platter
 47 Atop
 48 Morning hour
 49 Recognized
 50 Solemn promise
 51 Eggs
 52 Gun the engine
 53 Sound of awe
 54 "Born in the —"

Solution time: 21 mins.



Yesterday's answer 10-1



Bridge

South dealer.
 North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
 ♠ 7 6 4
 ♥ A 5 3
 ♦ K J
 ♣ A 10 8 7 2
WEST
 ♠ K Q 10 9 8
 ♥ K Q 10
 ♦ 10 7 5
 ♣ 6 3
EAST
 ♠ 5 3
 ♥ J 9 8 4
 ♦ 9 6 4 3 2
 ♣ K 4
SOUTH
 ♠ A J 2
 ♥ 7 6 2
 ♦ A Q 8
 ♣ Q J 9 5

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

The Fine Art of Falsecarding

The great majority of falsecards repeat themselves in varying forms and are well-known to experienced players. Occasionally, though, a situation arises that presents the opportunity for a relatively rare falsecard. Consider this case where an inspired falsecard enabled declarer to make a contract that would otherwise have been defeated.

West led the king of spades, and it was obvious to South that the contract was safe if West had the king of clubs. In that case, a successful finesse would yield five club tricks and allow him to make at least four notrump. But if East had the king of clubs, the contract could be in jeopardy.

South saw that if he took the spade king with the ace and tried the club finesse, he could be defeated by a spade return if the finesse lost. He likewise realized that if he ducked the first spade by playing the deuce on the king, West would surely shift to another suit after receiving a discouraging signal from East.

In the actual deal, had South followed low to the first trick, West would no doubt have shifted to the king of hearts, and whatever declarer did from that point on, he would inevitably have gone down.

So, fully cognizant both of the danger of playing the ace of spades and the futility of following with the deuce, South found a third alternative: Instead of playing either the ace or deuce, he played the jack!

This falsecard produced the intended effect. West naturally assumed that South had the A-J alone and so continued with the queen. Declarer won, led the queen of clubs and finessed.

East took the king but was stymied. He had no more spades to lead, and whatever else he returned, declarer had nine tricks.

Note that even if East had had another spade, South would still have been on solid ground, since in that case West would have had only two more spades to cash.

Tomorrow: A killing defensive maneuver.
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South dealer.
 Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
 ♠ 6 5
 ♥ J 10 8 2
 ♦ Q 5
 ♣ Q J 10 7 3
WEST
 ♠ Q J 10 9 8 3
 ♥ 7 5
 ♦ A 9 6
 ♣ 6 4
EAST
 ♠ 7 4 2
 ♥ K 6 3
 ♦ K 10 8 7 4 2
 ♣ A
SOUTH
 ♠ A K
 ♥ A Q 9 4
 ♦ J 3
 ♣ K 9 8 5 2

The bidding:
 South 1♠ West 1♣ North 2♣ East 2♦
 2♥ Pass 3♥
 Opening lead — ace of diamonds.

A Killing Defensive Maneuver

This deal was played in a team-of-four match. At both tables the final contract was four hearts played by South, but at one table the contract was made, while at the other it was defeated.

At the first table, West led the ace of diamonds and continued the suit when East signaled with the eight. East took his king and shifted to a spade.

Declarer won with the ace, cashed the king, then played a club to the ten. East took his ace, but had no safe exit card. A trump return would allow South to win in dummy and trap East's king via a finesse, while a spade or diamond return would allow declarer to ruff in dummy and take two trump finesses. So South made four hearts.

At the second table, the A-K of diamonds were also cashed, but here East found the way to stop the contract. He was not concerned with whether West had a spade trick, because he saw an ironclad way of scoring the setting trick himself with the king of hearts.

Accordingly, at trick three, he cashed the ace of clubs. Then he led a spade. South was powerless against this thoughtful defense, which left him with no means of getting to dummy to take the heart finesse. He knew that if he led a club toward dummy, it would be ruffed, so he played the ace of hearts in the hope of catching the singleton king. When the monarch failed to fall, he had to settle for down one.

East had appraised the situation accurately. He reasoned, from the bidding and play, that declarer's distribution was almost surely 2-4-2-5, in which case South could not prevent him from scoring a trump trick if he cashed the club ace before exiting with a spade.

Defending in this manner could not do his side any harm, but the failure to cash the ace of clubs first could, as it did at the first table, cost the contract.

Tomorrow: The power of positive thinking.

Family Circus • Bill Keane

