

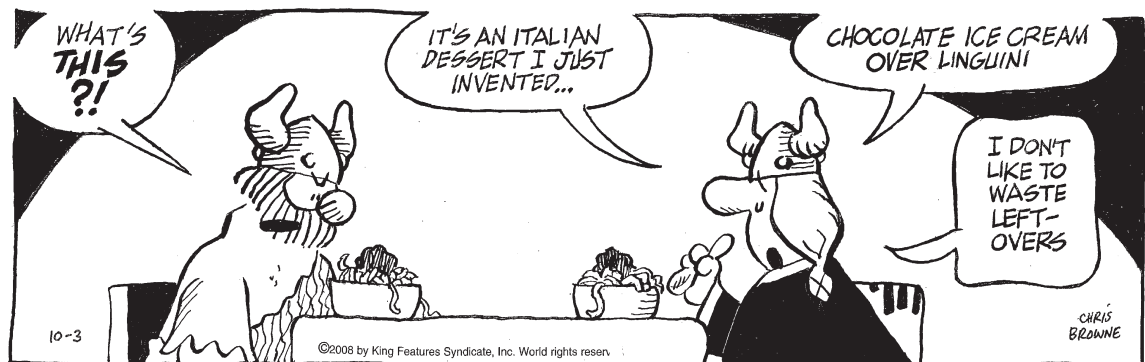
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



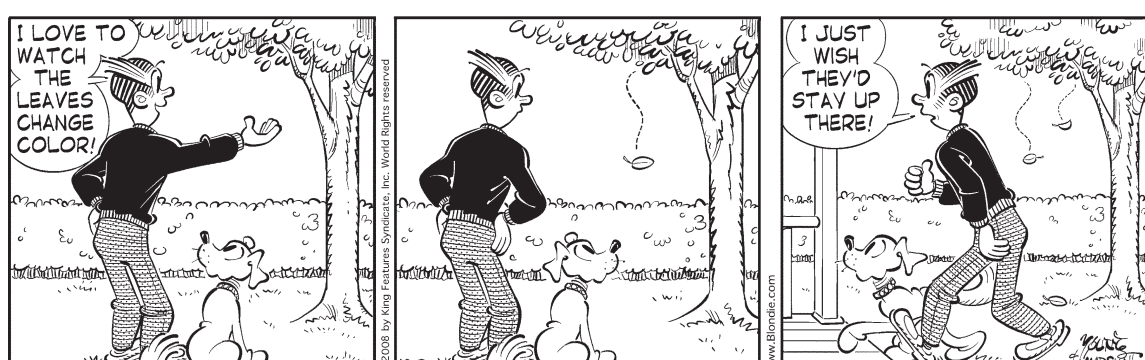
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



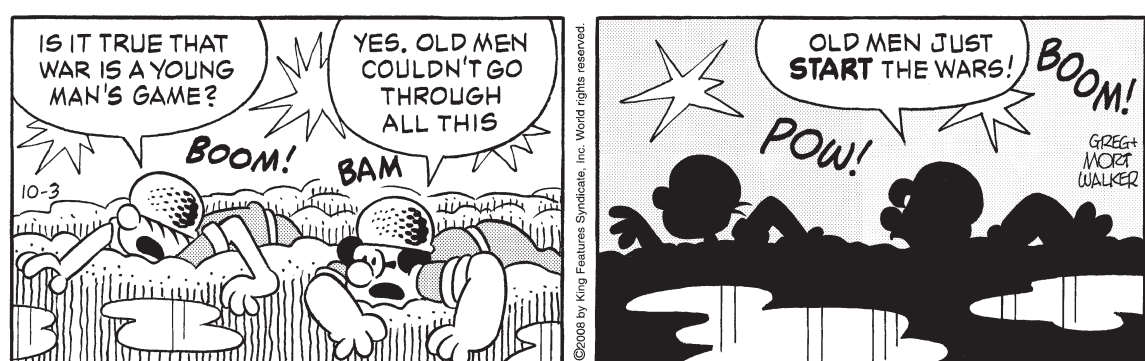
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



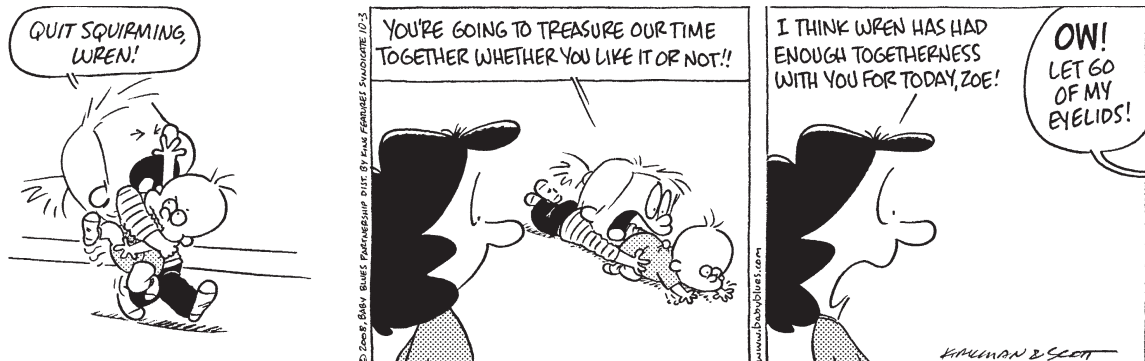
Blondie • Chic Young



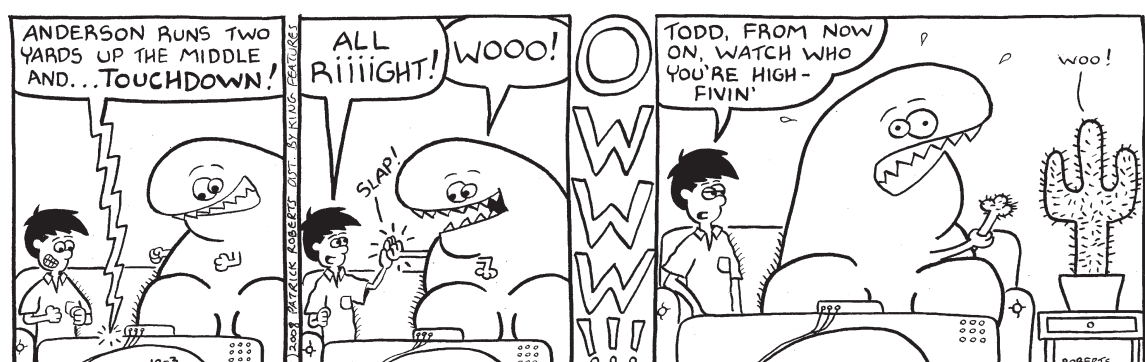
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



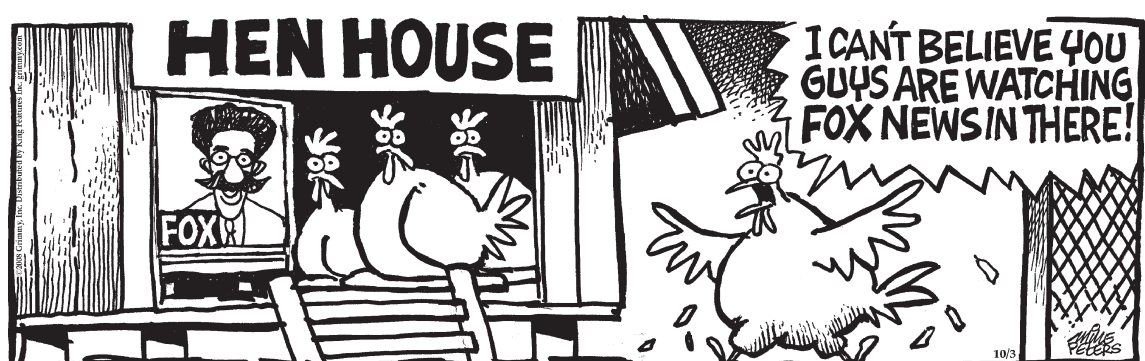
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Cryptoquip

FBVSVUVC K QI KS OI ZVWIHKO IF CXGPSJUGKF GU ZQQSJGXA
 RD FVVMPD GBVGMH, UKCLSXKU M NTMUU GX
 VUVCYIZD MVVWH PIIMKSQ DZJUSIMXUDGE KDMK'U
 TO RV FKOB YTSM HOTCVH. NMTTSL "NJSMKGPS JGLGXA."
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A ROMANTIC COUPLE FROM WARSAW END UP GETTING SEPARATED, YOU MIGHT SAY THEY ARE POLES APART.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals E
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHENEVER I GO IN TO DEPOSIT MY WEEKLY CHECKS, EVERYBODY KEEPS LOOKING AT ME WITH BANK STARES.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals S

Crossword

ACROSS
 1 Mischief-maker
 4 Bird that lays green eggs
 7 Rhino's cousin
 12 Atl. state
 13 PC-sharing setup
 14 Unaccompanied
 15 Greek vowel
 16 Tour de France activity
 18 Hindu title
 19 Apportion
 20 Bustle
 22 "A mouse!"
 23 Rams fans?
 27 Frenzied
 29 Cassandra Peterson's stage name
 31 Belly-button
 34 Arts supporter
 35 Slow passage
 37 Announcer Pardo
 38 Poet Pound

DOWN
 39 Air-pressure meas.
 41 Hearty drink
 45 Hot spot at a spa
 47 Chromosome component
 48 Eco-friendly activity
 52 Hill dweller
 53 Old market place
 54 Afternoon social
 55 Ball-bearing item
 56 "The Planets" composer
 57 Blunder

ACROSS
 58 Storefront sign abbr.
 23 Cowgirl Dale
 24 Minn. neighbor
 25 Before
 26 Frivolous one, in song
 28 Will Smith biopic
 30 Author Buscaglia
 31 Dundee denial
 32 Wood-shaping tool
 33 Kin of alt sp.
 36 Milky gemstone
 37 Main meal
 40 Hotel accommodation
 42 Ire
 43 Central founder
 45 "Begone!"
 46 Culture medium
 48 "Hurray!"
 49 Id counterpart
 50 Army rank (Abbr.)
 51 Decade parts (abbr.)

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 10-3

Bridge

You have the following hand, neither side vulnerable:
 ♠ K92 ♥ 6 ♦ KJ854 ♣ AQ73

1. Your partner opens the bidding with One Club, and you respond One Diamond. Partner rebids Three Clubs. What would you bid now?

2. You open the bidding with One Diamond, and partner responds Two Notrump. When you next bid Three Clubs, partner bids Three Notrump. What would you bid now?

3. Your left-hand opponent opens One Heart, your partner overcalls with One Spade, and your right-hand opponent bids Two Hearts. What would you bid?

4. Your partner opens the bidding with Three Hearts, and the next player passes. What would you bid?

Bidding Quiz

You have the following hand, neither side vulnerable:
 [S] K92 [H] 6 [D] KJ854 [C] AQ73

1. Your partner opens the bidding with One Club, and you respond One Diamond. Partner rebids Three Clubs. What would you bid now?

2. You open the bidding with One Diamond, and partner responds Two Notrump. When you next bid Three Clubs, partner bids Three Notrump. What would you bid now?

3. Your left-hand opponent opens One Heart, your partner overcalls with One Spade, and your right-hand opponent bids Two Hearts. What would you bid?

4. Your partner opens the bidding with Three Hearts, and the next player passes. What would you bid?

1. Four notrump. A grand slam is likely if partner has three aces, and the best way of finding out about this is by using Blackwood. There is little risk attached to the Blackwood bid, since partner is sure to have two or three aces for his jump-bid. If he responds five hearts, showing only two aces, you will bid six clubs.

2. Pass. Your hand may not be ideal for notrump, but there is nowhere else you can go at this point. You have warned partner against notrump by bidding three clubs, and you have to accept his judgment that a nine-trick game in notrump has a better chance of succeeding than an 11-trick game in a minor.

Partner will not be surprised by your singleton heart, as your three-club bid warned him of this possibility.

3. Four spades. You can't bid less if you have any respect for partner's overcalls. Of course, you'd like to have another spade for the jump-raise, but despite this, you must still bid game. You shouldn't worry too much about your trump support, because the one-spade overall virtually guaranteed at least a strong five-card suit.

No good purpose can be served by mentioning either diamonds or clubs. This could easily complicate the issue and lead to the wrong contract. A three-spade bid would also be improper because this would merely invite -- but not force -- partner to bid again.

4. Pass. While your hand is worth an opening bid and would therefore be strong enough to insist on game opposite an opening one-bid, here partner has a hand of less than opening strength; otherwise, he would not have pre-empted. Your lack of heart support also does not help your cause. The probability is that partner will make three hearts or go down one.

East dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ J 5 4
 ♥ A Q 9 3
 ♦ Q 8 6
 ♣ Q 10 9

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

SOUTH
 ♠ Q 9
 ♥ K 7 6
 ♦ A K 5 2
 ♣ A J 8 5

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

Good, Better, Best

The outcome of many contracts is preordained from the time dummy first appears. Declarer may have everything he needs to assure the contract beyond a doubt, or the defenders may be certain to emerge victorious.

The most interesting and instructive deals -- and the ones that present the greatest challenge in the play -- are those where the outcome depends entirely on how well or how badly each side plays.

For example, take the present case where West led the three of spades against three notrump. East won the spade with the ace and returned the seven, South playing the queen. West allowed the queen to hold in order to maintain communication with partner if East gained the lead again.

Declarer thereupon cashed the A-Q-K of diamonds and the A-K-Q of hearts, hoping to find either red suit divided 3-3. However, neither suit broke favorably, leaving South a trick short of his goal and apparently in need of a successful club finesse.

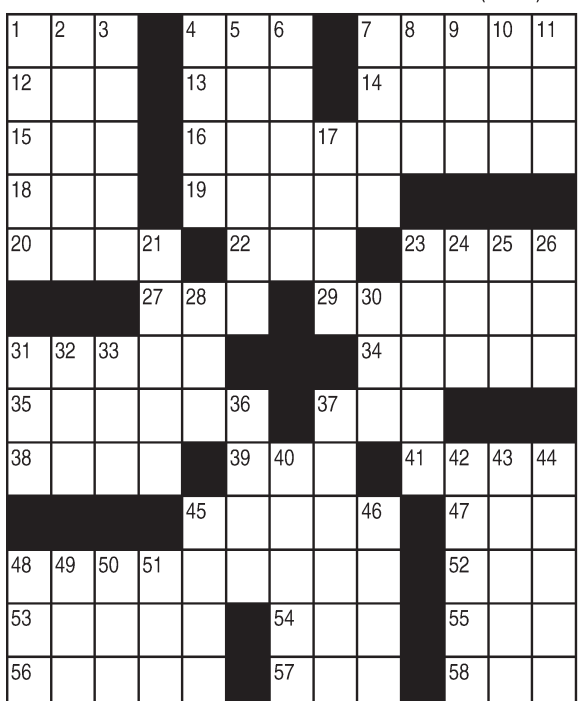
But South was a first-rate declarer and saw a much safer alternative. Instead of attempting the club finesse, he led the jack of spades from dummy! This proved to be exactly the right medicine because, after West cashed three spade tricks, he was forced to return a club from the K-x. As a result, declarer made three notrump.

Well done by declarer, you could easily say, but let's backtrack to trick two when West elected to duck the queen of spades. This was the moment when West unwisely placed his neck on the chopping block and subjected himself to what happened later on.

He should have realized from South's opening notrump bid that there was almost no chance that East would gain the lead again. West should therefore have taken his king and returned a spade at trick three. Had he done that, South would eventually have gone down one.

Family Circus • Bill Keane

"Not that one, Mommy. Last time I wore it I flunked my math test."



ACROSS
 1 Tie up the phone
 4 Somewhat wet
 8 Pace
 12 Be behind, in a way
 13 Eastern potato
 14 Destroy
 15 Head of st.
 16 Relaxation
 17 Aware of
 18 38-Across won eight in '08
 21 Osaka money
 22 Harry's successor
 23 Muslim spirit
 26 Coloration
 27 Margery of rhyme
 30 PBS science show
 31 America's uncle
 32 Tragic
 33 Whatever amount
 34 Mensa stats

DOWN
 35 Picked a target
 36 RV center?
 37 After-hrs. bank
 38 Mark Spitz's record-beater
 45 Between tasks
 46 Architect Saarinen
 47 Hearty brew
 48 Clarinet insert
 49 Speed
 50 Barbie's friend
 51 Lum-moxes
 52 Slave to cross-words?

ACROSS
 20 Supplement, with "out"
 23 "CSI" evidence
 24 Garfield's owner
 25 Wall climber
 26 Possesses
 27 Not well lit
 28 "All the Things You —"
 29 Marry
 31 Wring
 32 It ain't worth a nickel
 34 Call — day
 35 In
 36 Molts
 37 Cook-wear?
 38 Picasso contemporary
 39 Concept
 40 Staff leader?
 41 Many summer-time babies
 42 Michigan, for one
 43 Supplication
 44 Faxed

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 10-4

