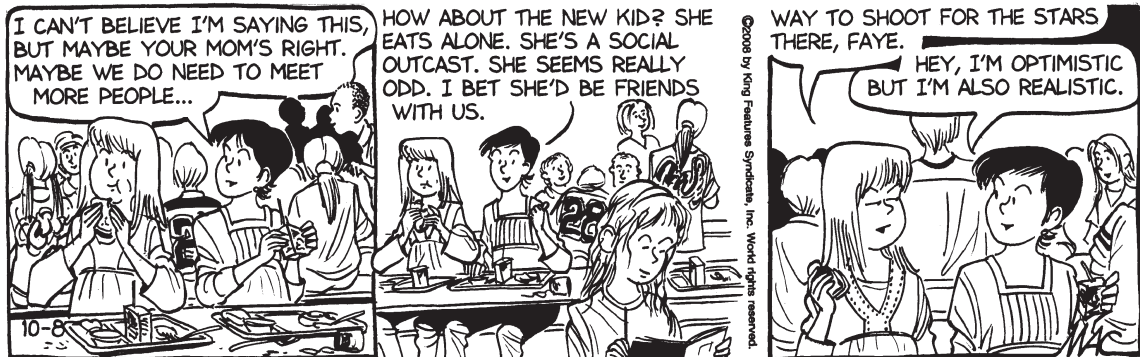
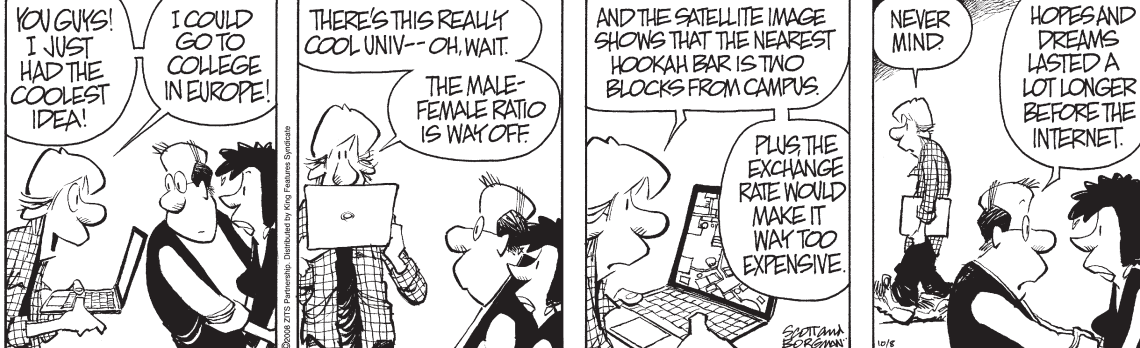


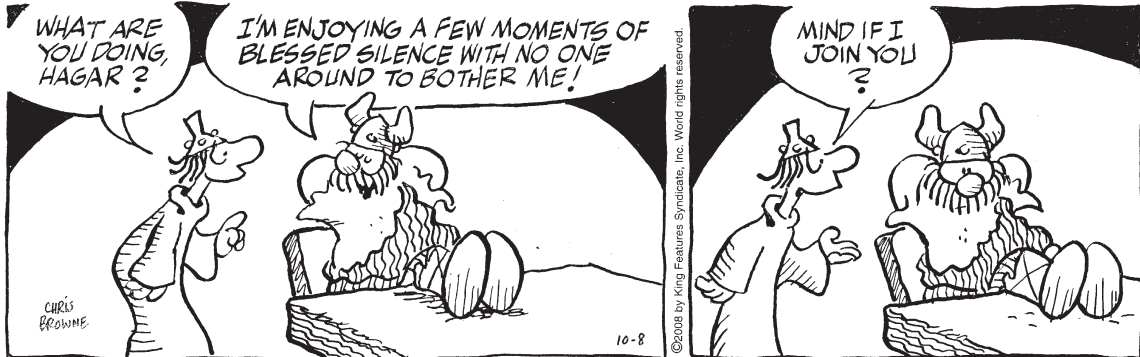
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



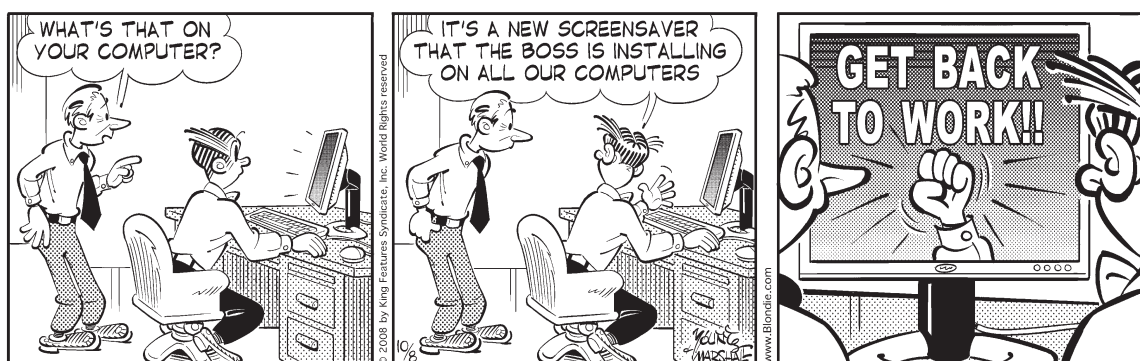
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



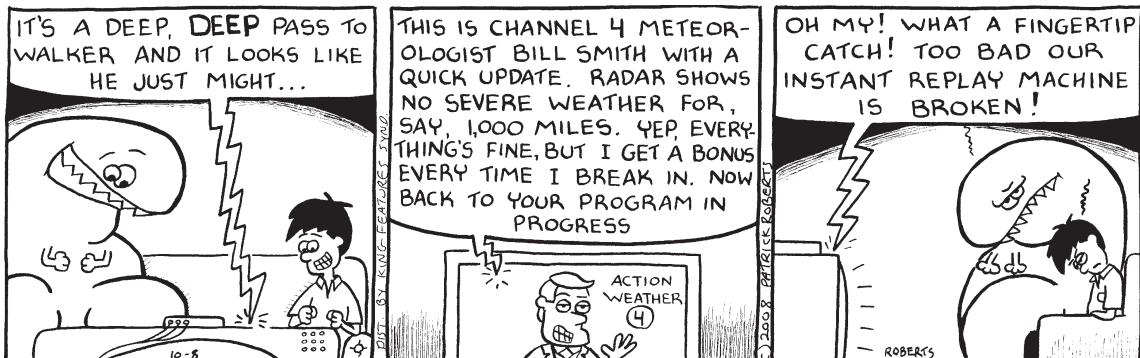
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Cryptoquip

OWBDM GFE'PD SOC TDPDMOU
OCEUB YDPDMOKDT FV O
WUAKSB, GFE'UU ZMFYOYUG
YD WDDUAVK VF ZUOVD.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I WOULD LOVE TO BE A HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMP SOMEDAY, BUT PEOPLE TELL ME IT'S ONLY A FIGHT OF FANCY.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals V

U QLTULYL PIL EGPCTF ILYLV
GUZBGGUJL MKZLV FMVJ.
DPC BPCTF EMD UZ'E QLLI
RD VCTL PK ZGCRQ.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AFTER YOU'VE HAD SEVERAL ADULT BEVERAGES ON A FLIGHT, YOU'LL PROBABLY BE FEELING NO PLANE.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals H

Crossword

ACROSS

33 Jerry Garcia fan

35 Lion's pride?

36 Feeble

37 Autumnal quaff

38 Dramatist Molnar

41 Swindle

42 Satan's field

43 Winter woe

48 Snitch

49 Mess up

50 Squared away

51 War god

52 Urban scurrier

53 Informa-tion provider

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

DOWN

1 Pouch

2 Expert

3 Have

4 Capri-cious

5 Untamed

6 Feast-famine link

7 PC require-ment

8 Boston news-paper

9 Pic to click

10 Roe provider

11 Play-Station maker

16 Cushion

20 Bygone comic

21 Raced Martha

22 Tooth-paste holder

23 Exile isle

24 Mantle

26 Pulpit VIP

27 "Zounds!"

28 Top-notch

29 Active person

31 "Big Brother" host Julie

34 Resides

35 Chopped finely

37 Cape — cheese

38 Greek

39 Always

40 Anger

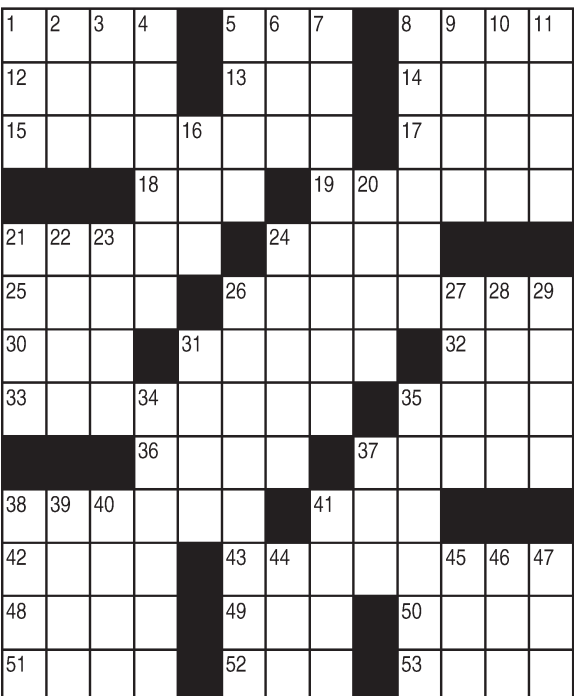
41 Wagon

44 Historic time

45 Eggs

46 Allow

47 "CSI" evidence



ACROSS

1 Cows' chaws

5 Scenery chewer

8 Cinema-tographer Nykvist

12 Sandwich cookie

13 Longoria or Mendes

14 Out of kilter

15 Music lover's buy

17 Egyptian bird

18 Bizarre

19 Solvent derived from

21 Govern-ment overthrow

24 Exploit

25 Lotion additive

28 Colorado ski mecca

30 Pair

33 Moo goo gai pan

34 Tubular pasta

35 Once around the track

36 And so on (Abbr.)

37 Secular

38 Crooked

39 Eventual

41 Burn somewhat

43 Chefs' garb

46 It becomes igneous rock

50 Parlia-ment title

51 Swanson product

54 Drench

55 Rowing need

56 It can be raw

57 Earthen-ware pot

58 Thickness

59 Mop

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

DOWN

1 Couturier

2 Language of

3 Credit card result

4 Origin

5 Coop dweller

6 "Hail, Caesar!"

7 "You Bet Your Life" host

8 "Red — in the Sunset"

9 Rabbit's cousin?

10 Ms. Brocko-vich

11 Wall St. initials

16 Old Olds

22 Eye layer

23 "War of the Worlds" aftermath

25 Idolater's emotion

26 Parcel of land

27 Gunfight site

29 Small measure

31 Pale

32 Make up your mind

34 Blueprint

38 Cattle markings

40 Stinger ingre-dient

42 Parisian pal

43 As well

44 Combine resources

45 Cease

47 Chew persistently

48 Tran-scending (Pref.)

49 Bedouin

52 Actor

53 Parched

ACROSS

1 Cows' chaws

5 Scenery chewer

8 Cinema-tographer Nykvist

12 Sandwich cookie

13 Longoria or Mendes

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Solution time: 21 mins.

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

DOWN

1 Couturier

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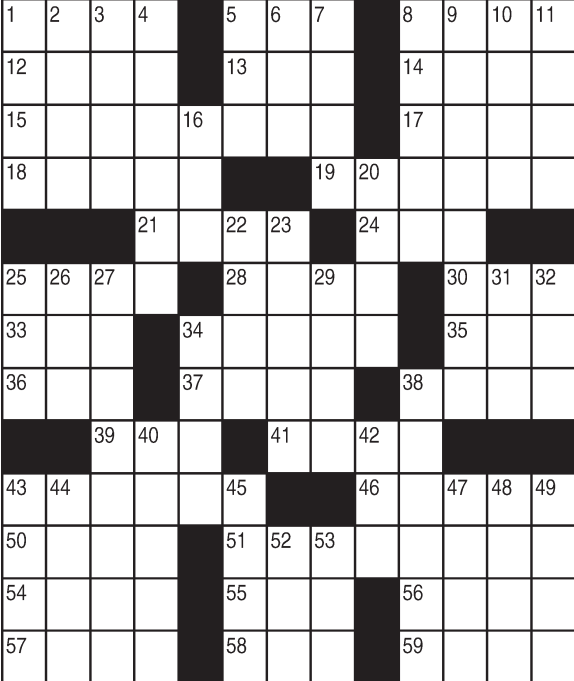
47 Chew persistently

48 Tran-scending (Pref.)

49 Bedouin

52 Actor

53 Parched



Bridge

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ 7 5 4 3

♥ A Q 4

♦ Q J

♣ K Q J 6

WEST

♠ A 9

♥ 8 5

♦ A K 9 7 6 4 3

♣ 9 3

EAST

♠ 10 8 2

♥ 9 7 6 3 2

♦ 5 2

♣ 8 7 5

SOUTH

♠ K Q J 6

♥ K J 10

♦ 10 8

♣ A 10 4 2

South

1 ♠

4 ♣

West

3 ♦

North

4 ♣

East

Pass

Opening lead — king of diamonds.

High-Class Defense

When a player deliberately violates a general principle, he should do so on the basis that blindly following the principle in the particular case at hand is apt to do him more harm than good.

One of the most frequently quoted rules of defensive play is that you must not give declarer a ruff-and-discard. This is certainly a fine general rule, since declarer will often gain a trick when he is handed a ruff-and-discard.

But when a situation arises that justifies playing a suit that dummy and declarer are each out of, the prohibition should be temporarily suspended. In today's deal, West found the ingenious defense necessary to stop what appeared to be an unbeatable contract.

After cashing the K-A of diamonds, and with a third trick certain in the form of the ace of trumps, West had to consider where a fourth trick might come from. The 26 points in view in his own hand and dummy left only 14 points to account for South's opening bid.

It followed that East could not possibly have the king of hearts or ace of clubs, and that the only real chance for a fourth defensive trick lay in the trump suit. Furthermore, he saw that the trick was unlikely to exist naturally but would have to be established.

ACCORDINGLY, WEST LED ANOTHER DIAMOND, KNOWING THAT THE OTHER THREE HANDS WERE OUT OF THE SUIT. WHEN DUMMY RUFFED, EAST OVERRUFFED WITH THE TEN, AND WAS IN TURN OVERRUFFED BY SOUTH'S JACK.

When South then led the queen of spades, West grabbed the ace and led still another diamond. This time, East ruffed with the eight, and there was then no way declarer could prevent West's nine of trumps from becoming the setting trick. West's disregard of the ruff-and-discard bugaboo proved more than declarer could withstand.

Tomorrow: The handwriting on the wall.

East dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ J 7 4

♥ A 10 7 3

♦ A K Q 4

♣ A K

WEST

♠ A 10 9 8 6

♥ K Q 4

♦ J 7 6 3

♣ 9

EAST

♠ 5 2

♥ J 9 8 6

♦ 10

♣ Q 10 8 5 3 2

SOUTH

♠ K Q 3

♥ 5 2

♦ 9 8 5 2

♣ J 7 6 4

East

Pass

South

Pass

West

1 ♠

North

Dble 3 NT

Opening lead — ten of spades.

The Handwriting on the Wall

It is very good practice, as soon as dummy appears, for declarer to size up his overall prospects before making a play from dummy. It is a habit that, if diligently applied, pays huge dividends.

For example, consider this deal where South could count two spade tricks, a heart, three diamonds and two clubs after dummy appeared. This came to eight tricks, and a ninth was available if the diamonds proved to be favorably divided.

But declarer fell from grace when he played low from dummy on the opening spade lead. He won the ten with the king, but ultimately ended up down one when the diamonds broke 4-1. Had he put up dummy's jack on the first trick, he would have made the contract.

After winning the spade in dummy at trick one, South next cashes the A-K of diamonds, learning that West started with J-7-6-3 of that suit. Now a spade to the queen establishes an entry to his hand to take the diamond finesse needed to produce a ninth trick.

True, the probability of finding East with specifically the singleton ten or jack of diamonds is slim (about 6 percent). But a cautious declarer should allow for that possibility by playing dummy's jack on the opening trick because it might eventually do him some good and cannot possibly do him any harm.

When the deal occurred, South, after winning the opening spade lead with the king and cashing the A-K of diamonds, next played the jack of spades, hoping West would win the trick. But West wisely refused to take his ace, and South could then do no better than cash his eight tricks and concede the rest.

Tomorrow: A self-inflicted wound.
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Family Circus • Bill Keane

