

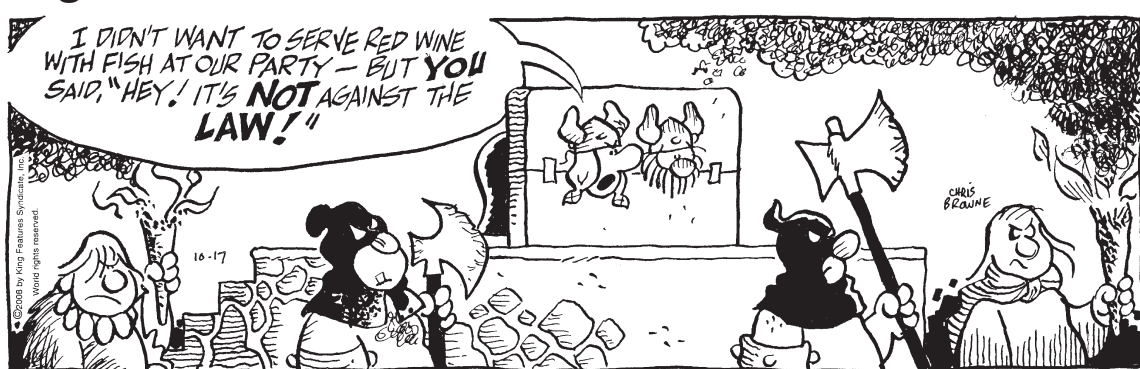
**Sally Forth • Greg Howard**



**Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott**



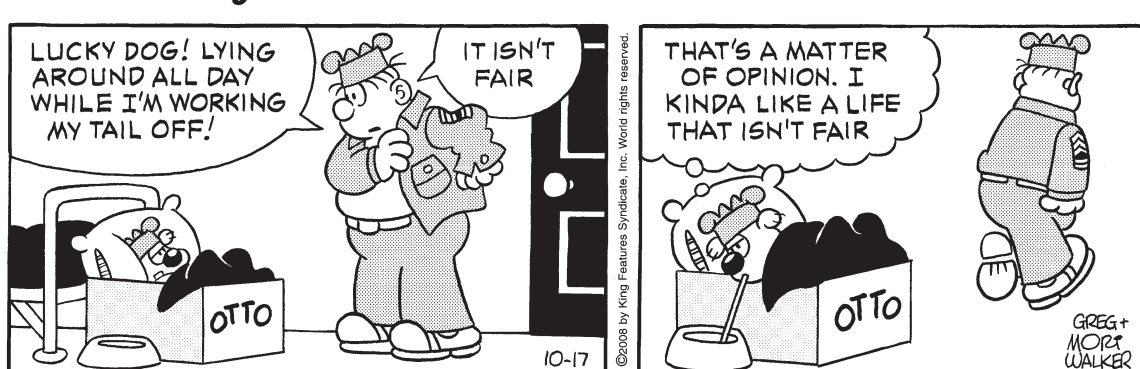
**Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne**



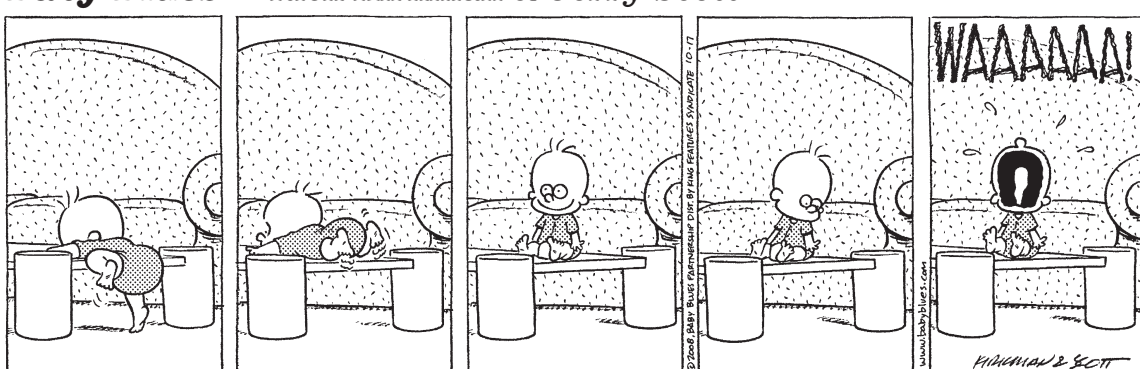
**Blondie • Chic Young**



**Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker**



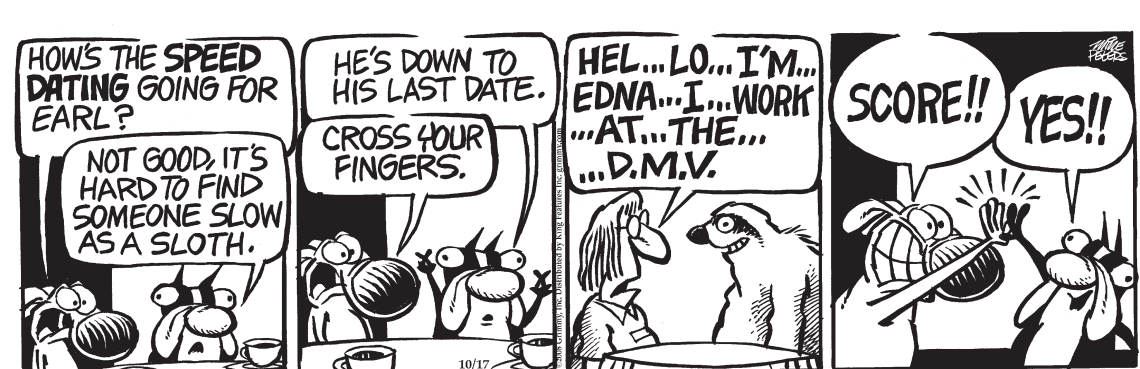
**Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott**



**Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts**



**Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters**



**Cryptoquip**

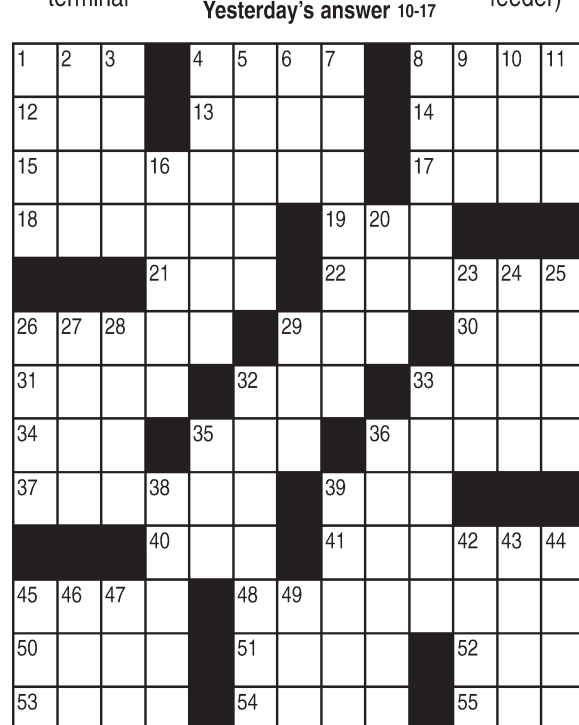
CESGV UQQRJP CS WX B LDTDQUAC LDFX F RVUUV  
 YPUX LQAZCHG, WX JGRPBLQV UIFU F ABEIUBQE YUVLD IFX  
 ZVRGN "XQY HBQYUN LG WDDQ NYBQE: "UID TNYUVRDL  
 CHBCWGN QE XQYV HBGUE!"  
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MANY ENGINEERS WHO WERE PASSIONATE HOCKEY AFICIONADOS WERE FOUND TRYING TO MAKE A FAST PUCK.  
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals S  
 BY FAJFCY WLBEIU."  
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AFTER LOOKING AT MY UGLY BOOKCASE, MY NEIGHBOR CRIED "YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF YOUR SHELF!"  
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals T

**Crossword**

**ACROSS**  
 1 Rotation stat  
 4 Squabbles  
 8 Head light?  
 12 Foreman foe  
 13 Black, in verse  
 14 Smell pepper  
 15 Hot pepper  
 17 November responsibility  
 18 Tail  
 19 Infinitesimal  
 21 — de- France  
 22 Heap  
 26 Malt shop orders  
 29 Favoring  
 30 Tolstoy or Delibes  
 31 String instruments  
 32 Go up and down  
 33 Founder  
 34 Shape shifter?  
 35 Driver's license datum  
 36 Battery terminal

**DOWN**  
 37 White who played Steve Urkel  
 39 Historic period  
 40 Girl  
 41 Those with no chance for parole  
 45 Kermit, for one  
 48 Window blind  
 50 Contemporary coin  
 51 Iowa city  
 52 Sch. org.  
 53 Noggin  
 54 Mysterious character

**DOWN**  
 1 Malay prince  
 2 Blueprint  
 3 "Got —?"  
 4 Drives away  
 5 Overweight  
 6 Triumphed often  
 7 Spiel, often  
 8 Hut  
 9 Big bother  
 10 Sodom evacuee  
 11 Raw rock  
 16 Wanted-poster info  
 20 Listener  
 23 Hodge-podge  
 24 Hang  
 25 Oxen's burden  
 26 N. in a sentence  
 27 Gumbo need  
 28 Transaction  
 29 "Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader?" network  
 32 Glass vessel used to create a vacuum  
 33 Glitch  
 35 Red or Black  
 36 Melodic  
 38 Incite  
 39 Actress Barkin  
 42 Glimpse  
 43 Ceremony  
 44 Membership  
 45 Calendar abbr.  
 46 Regret  
 47 Man-mouse link  
 49 — Dar'ya (Aral Sea feeder)



**Bridge**

**You are South, both sides vulnerable. The bidding has been:**

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
1 ♦	Pass	Pass	?

**What would you bid with each of the following five hands?**

- ♠ 853 ♥ KJ72 ♦ AJ10 ♣ K96
- ♠ KQ9 ♥ QJ4 ♦ AQ6 ♣ K1072
- ♠ J87 ♥ KJ854 ♦ 3 ♣ KJ86
- ♠ J64 ♥ AK9 ♦ KQ9874 ♣ 10
- ♠ AJ8 ♥ AKQ86 ♦ 52 ♣ KQ7

\* \* \*

**Bidding Quiz**

- One notrump. When the bidding is on the verge of dying at a low level, you are permitted to make bids you would ordinarily not make in any other position. Such bids in the so-called balancing seat often don't have their normal meaning. The player in the balancing seat has an obligation not to sell out cheaply if there is a reasonable way to compete for the contract. If he does elect to compete, whatever action he takes must tentatively be regarded as suspect. The one-notrump bid in this sequence indicates about 11 to 14 points rather than the 15 to 18 you would be expected to hold if you bid one notrump directly over the opening bidder.
- Double. If you were in second position, you would overcall with one notrump, but in the balancing seat you are much too strong for that action. Partner would think you had a much flimsier hand, such as in the first problem. The way to show real opening notrump values in the balancing position is by doubling and then bidding notrump at your next turn to complete the description of your hand.
- One heart. This isn't much of a hand, but it is better to bid than to pass. Partner probably has 10 or more points, which gives your side a shot at a partscore that would be lost if you threw in the sponge prematurely. Because you are in the balancing seat, partner should not become overly enthusiastic about your bid.
- Pass. The opponents couldn't be in a worse spot, and it's not wise to help them out by competing. West will probably go down a trick or two, and you may wind up with a respectable plus. Besides, partner probably doesn't have much, since he's marked with diamond shortness and failed to bid over one diamond.
- Double. Here you have values with which you would act in any position, and these can best be shown by doubling and then bidding hearts. An immediate jump to two hearts would suggest a strong hand interested only in hearts, but this hand may well play better in notrump or spades, if partner is so inclined.

Tomorrow: The battle for trump control.  
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South dealer. North-South vulnerable.

<b>NORTH</b>			
♠	9 6 4		
♥	7 6 3		
♦	9 8 5 4		
♣	9 7 2		

<b>WEST</b>			
♠	J 5 3 2		
♥	8 2		
♦	10 7 2		
♣	Q J 10 4		

<b>EAST</b>			
♠	A		
♥	Q J 10 9 4		
♦	6 3		
♣	K 8 6 5 3		

<b>SOUTH</b>			
♠	K Q 10 8 7		
♥	A K 5		
♦	A K Q J		
♣	A		

The bidding:

<b>South</b>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>
2 ♠ *	Pass	3 ♣ **	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	3 ♣ ***	Pass
4 ♣	Pass	3 ♣	Pass

\* strong, artificial \*\* negative  
 \*\*\* 0-3 points  
 Opening lead — queen of clubs.

**The Battle for Trump Control**

Trump control is extremely important in the play of suit contracts. Many contracts fail when declarer loses control of trumps before he can cash all his winners. Consider this deal where South failed to make four spades because he lost control of the trump suit. He won the club lead with the ace and played the king of spades. East took the ace and returned a club, ruffed by South. When declarer next played the queen of spades, he learned that West had started with four to the jack and found himself in a hopeless position. At this point, South had the 10-8 of trumps, West the J-5, and dummy the nine. If South led a trump, West would take the jack and play a third round of clubs to force out declarer's last trump. If South discarded his heart loser instead of ruffing, West would play still another club to defeat the contract. Declarer did as well as he could when he abandoned further trump leads and played four rounds of diamonds. West ruffed, and South finished down one, losing three trump tricks and a heart. South would have made four spades had he exercised better control of trumps. His first three plays were certainly reasonable, but instead of cashing the queen of trumps at trick four (when he had the Q-10-8), he should have led the eight! If the trumps were divided 3-2, he would easily make 10 tricks, but, more importantly, if they were divided 4-1, he would also make 10 tricks. Thus, in the actual case, if West won the trump eight with the jack at trick four and returned a club, declarer would simply discard a heart to assure the contract. Dummy's nine of trumps would then stand guard against another club lead, while any other return would also allow South to score 10 tricks.

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**ACROSS**

40 Yuletide refrain  
 42 Apply lightly  
 6 Bahamas capital  
 12 Bun seed  
 13 Conditions of hatred  
 14 Pay  
 15 Majority sentiment  
 16 Initial stake  
 17 Memo acronym  
 19 Curvy character  
 20 Grand story  
 22 Anderson's "High —"  
 24 Erstwhile acorn  
 27 Vaccine type  
 29 "Typee" sequel  
 32 Useless gift  
 35 Apiece  
 36 Ms. Moore  
 37 Trawler gear  
 38 St. Bernard's burden

41 Ostrich's kin  
 5 Good as new  
 6 PBS science show  
 7 Take as one's own  
 8 Pack quantity  
 9 Metropolis VIP  
 10 Andy's buddy  
 11 Ltr. deliverers  
 12 Hot tub  
 18 Type of triangle  
 21 "The Raven" versifier

23 La-la lead-in  
 24 Have debts  
 25 "Eureka!"  
 26 Rebate  
 28 Summer-time quaff  
 30 Inseparable  
 31 Mel of Coopers-town  
 33 Commonest English word  
 34 Chart format  
 39 Automaton  
 41 Woodshop machine  
 42 Hunky — melody  
 45 Arizona city  
 47 Stubborn one  
 48 "How sweet —!"  
 49 Neptune's realm  
 51 Actor McBride  
 53 Potential syrup

**Solution time: 27 mins.**

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

**Yesterday's answer 10-18**

**Family Circus • Bill Keane**

