

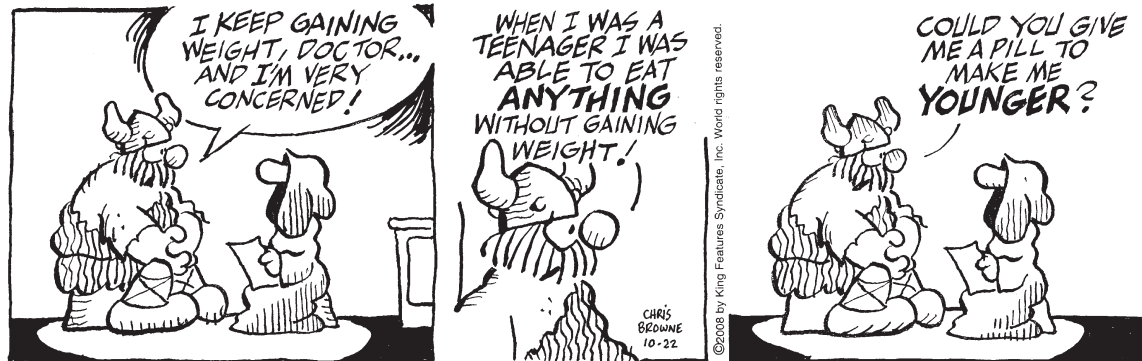
**Sally Forth • Greg Howard**



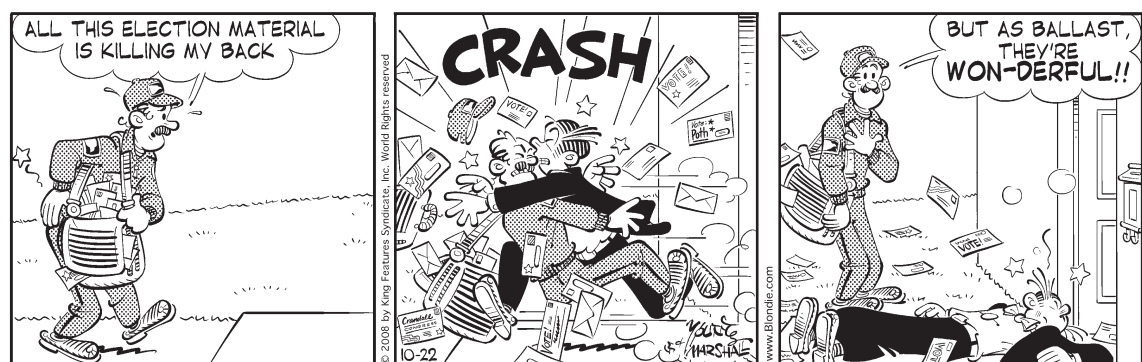
**Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott**



**Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne**



**Blondie • Chic Young**



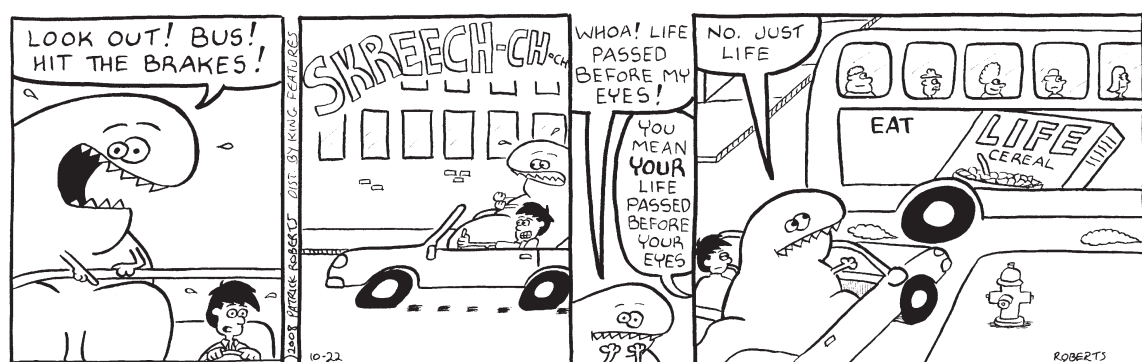
**Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker**



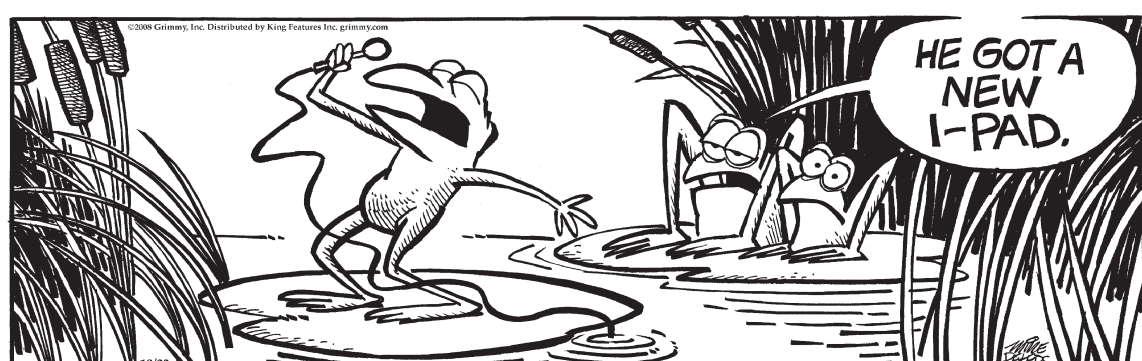
**Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott**



**Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts**



**Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters**



**Cryptoquip**

EU JI EIDFSO VJT J KXCFYURH OYXI R DMWUIB HMRHY DXBUIP  
 EBKRHDF OX YXJB JWXRO RIZ XIZP YUP OMVAZRN, U  
 SHXDEIP OVEIPD, CXRHT EO XWQXHE YX VXRCCN CUAXP  
 WF J DVROOFY WRP?  
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: UPON BUYING SOME YUMMY CAKES AND COOKIES, MY DAUGHTER PROCEEDED TO BRING HOME THE BAKIN'.  
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals T  
 EM QSIHY UI RIZ MSE.  
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF AN INSECT HAD A POWERFUL IMPULSE TO ROAM ABOUT CLOSING THINGS, WOULD IT BE A SHUTTER BUG?  
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals L

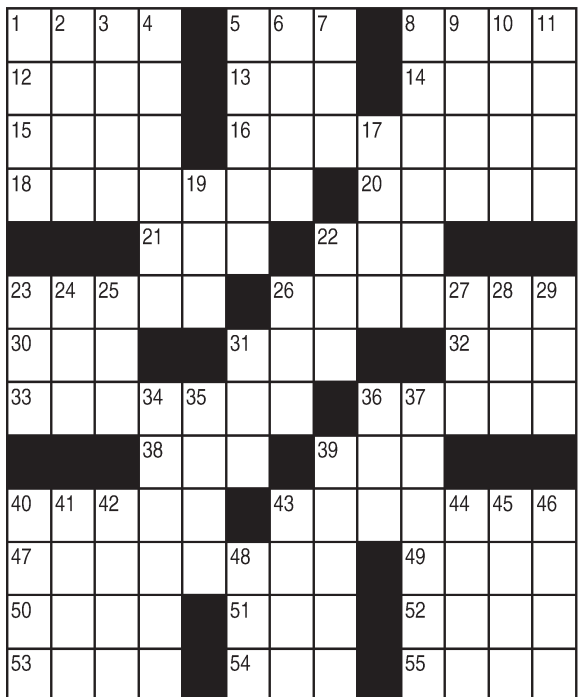
**Crossword**

- ACROSS**  
 1 Body powder  
 5 Heart chart (Abbr.)  
 8 Heavy reading  
 12 — friendly  
 13 That woman  
 14 Mimic  
 15 Boyfriend  
 16 Lincoln biographer  
 18 Bedtime visitor  
 20 Facilitates  
 21 Parched  
 22 Way out there  
 23 Approves  
 26 Happy Gilmore portrayer  
 30 Lair  
 31 Bushy-tailed critter  
 32 Raw rock  
 33 KFC colonel  
 36 Stick in the mud?  
 38 Whatever number
- DOWN**  
 39 Old New Zealand bird  
 40 "A Bell for —"  
 43 Summer footwear  
 47 Dag-wood's specialty  
 49 Coagulate  
 50 "American —"  
 51 West of Hollywood  
 52 "— Named Sue"  
 53 Top-rated  
 54 Schedule abbr.  
 55 Window sheet
- 23** — bodkins!  
**24** Mauna —  
**25** Raggedy doll  
**26** "May-day!"  
**27** High shot  
**28** Before  
**29** Scarlet  
**31** Sauté  
**34** Bounce playfully  
**35** Sufficient, in verse  
**36** A billion years  
**37** Wild and crazy  
**39** "Real Time" moderator  
**40** Europe's neighbor  
**41** Pedestal part  
**42** In due time  
**43** Cicatrix  
**44** Actress Jessica  
**45** Symbol of craziness  
**46** Eyelid woe  
**48** "— little teapot ..."

Solution time: 21 mins.



Yesterday's answer 10-21



- ACROSS**  
 1 Lawn moisture  
 4 Away from ENE  
 7 Pop flavor  
 8 First sign of spring?  
 10 Rags-to-riches author  
 11 Mythical sailor  
 13 One of a bridal quartet  
 16 Hot tub  
 17 Bet both ways  
 18 Chaps  
 19 Extra  
 20 They're often connected  
 21 Wed, commercially  
 23 Maestro Walter  
 25 Prohibits  
 26 Become a member  
 27 Italian article
- DOWN**  
 30 Ever-green type  
 33 A real hum-dinger  
 36 Copies, for short  
 37 Stern or Hayes  
 38 Minimum  
 39 Gripes constantly  
 40 Ram's mate  
 41 Astronaut  
 10 Donkey  
 12 Because of  
 14 Com-mand to Rover  
 15 Type measures
- 28** Disdain  
**3** Tusked African beast  
**19** — Robinson?  
**20** Bradstreet's partner  
**21** Estate home  
**22** Body's hardest substance  
**23** "— Free?"  
**24** Tinnitus effect  
**25** School-kids' carrier  
**26** Support-ing beam  
**28** Soda-shop item  
**29** Selected  
**30** U.N. display  
**31** "... — handsome does?"  
**32** Fun and games  
**34** Duel tool  
**35** Jacob's brother

Solution time: 21 mins.



Yesterday's answer 10-22

**Bridge**

South dealer.  
 Neither side vulnerable.  
**NORTH**  
 ♠ K 4 2  
 ♥ 9 7 4  
 ♦ A J 9 4  
 ♣ A J 5  
**WEST**  
 ♠ J 9 3  
 ♥ Q J 8 5 2  
 ♦ 8 6 5  
 ♣ Q 4  
**EAST**  
 ♠ Q 10 7 6  
 ♥ K 10 3  
 ♦ K 7 2  
 ♣ 8 7 3  
**SOUTH**  
 ♠ A 8 5  
 ♥ A 6  
 ♦ Q 10 3  
 ♣ K 10 9 6 2  
 The bidding:  
 South 1 ♣  
 West Pass  
 North 1 ♦  
 East Pass  
 1 NT  
 Pass  
 3 NT  
 Opening lead — five of hearts.

**The Percentage Factor**

Assume you're declarer at three notrump and West leads a heart. You allow East's king to win the trick, and take the ten-of-hearts return with the ace. How would you continue?

You start with six certain winners -- two spades, a heart, a diamond and two clubs -- so you need three more tricks. There are two different finesses available, either of which would produce the three tricks you need if it succeeded. One is in clubs, the other in diamonds.

The trouble with both of them is that if the finesse you attempt loses, the opponents may be able to cash enough heart tricks to defeat the contract, leaving you with no opportunity to try the other finesse. So the big question is which finesse to take.

The probability of the diamond finesse working is 50-50; if West has the king, you're home, but if East has it, you'll probably go down. Your chance of success is about the same in the club suit, where you have to guess which opponent to finesse for the queen. Moreover, and this is a key consideration, if you successfully guess which finesse to take, you have no intention of trying the other one.

Bearing this in mind, there is a line of play available that can elevate your chances to well above 50 percent. It stems from the fact that when missing the Q-x-x-x of a suit, the queen will be singleton or doubleton about once in every three deals.

Since you are not planning to finesse in both clubs and diamonds, it therefore makes sense to first cash the A-K of clubs to see whether the queen falls. If it doesn't, you still have the diamond finesse in reserve.

The recommended approach will succeed approximately two-thirds of the time, whereas relying on just one finesse wins only about half the time.

Tomorrow: Endplay Charlie.

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

The bidding:  
 North Pass  
 East 1 ♦  
 South 4 ♣  
 West Pass  
 Dble  
 Opening lead — four of diamonds.

**Endplay Charlie**

Once upon a time there lived a bridge player by the name of Endplay Charlie. Of course, there was a very good reason why he was known by this name.

Charlie wasn't much of a player, as bridge players go. He generally bid badly and had to suffer the consequences of this failing. But he was very good when it came to playing the cards.

In particular, he was especially good at executing endplays, and often redeemed poor contracts with his extraordinary aptitude in this area.

Moreover, he was also gifted when it came to defending against endplays. More than anything else, Charlie loathed getting caught in an endplay, and he would go to any lengths to prevent this from happening.

Consider the play he once made on this deal. Holding the East hand, he won the diamond lead with the queen and continued with the ace. Declarer ruffed and played a high trump. Charlie took the ace and returned a trump.

South won in his hand and led the ace of clubs, on which Charlie dropped the king! As a result, declarer lost two heart tricks and went down one.

What would have happened had Charlie played the six of clubs on the ace, as any normal human being would have done? In that case, declarer could have made the contract by following low from dummy on the next club lead, and Charlie would have found himself thoroughly endplayed after taking the king. Whatever he returned, South would score the rest of the tricks.

Many players tried, but they seldom succeeded in endplaying Endplay Charlie!

Tomorrow: Backup plan.  
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**Family Circus • Bill Keane**

