

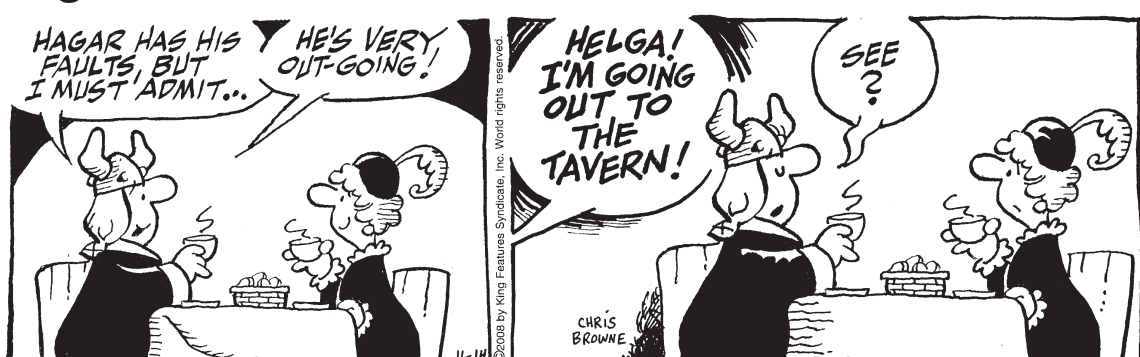
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



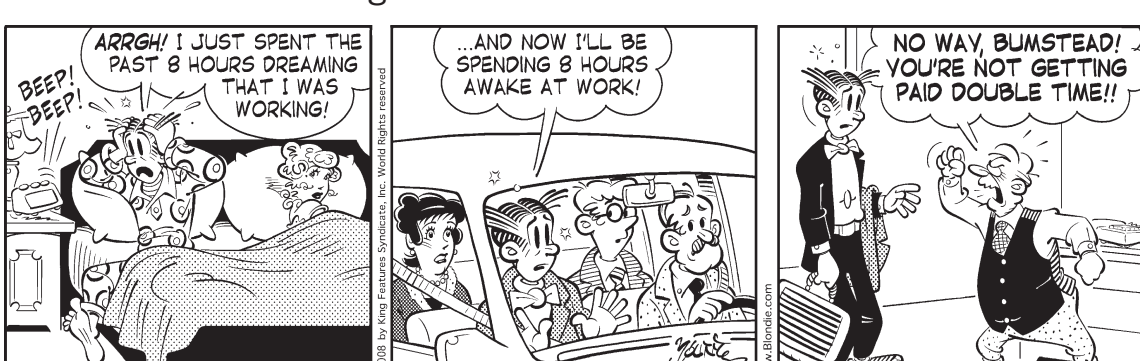
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



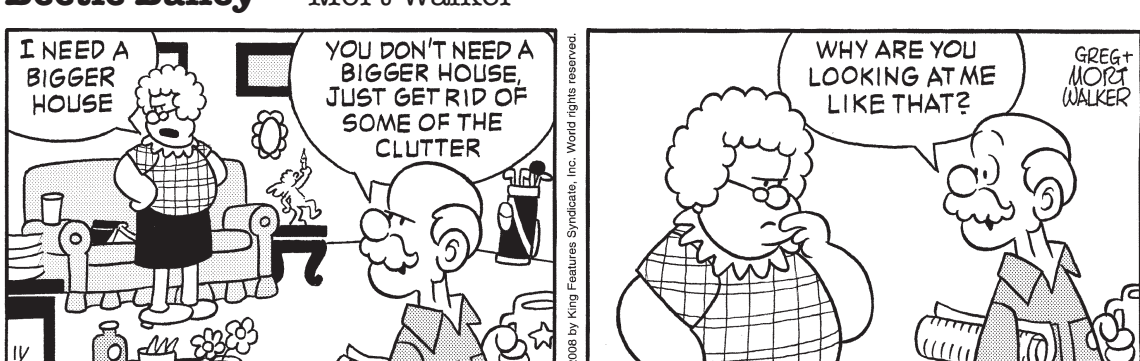
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



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

KVUURKX L UXZKRF MK SWQB SEJXI FEJ GQXX Q
 RUXZLSMFV WZXW IRVWLFMK' WHDW-GQXEYHK, MJDQYF
 HXPMQIX ... QRVIN GRV KLG RKOKYQDK ENBKU MKYOKI
 PX'K MF SPX NMHXZ'K KXLS? QB VQYBHKM? NYJHB VQJUGW.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WE TRY HARD NEVER YESTERDAY'S CRYPTOQUIP: SUPPOSE A PERSON IS
 TO PEEVE OUR PARENTS. AFTER ALL, WE WOULDNT WANT TO RUFFLE ANY FATHERS. OPERATING GREG LOUGANIS' VEHICLE ...
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals S COULD YOU SAY HE'S IN THE DIVER'S SEAT?
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals T

Crossword

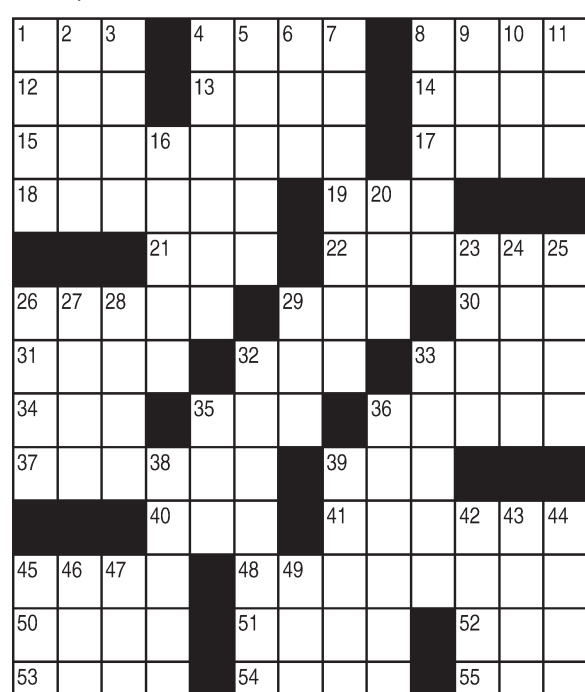
ACROSS 37 Got real
 1 Swiffer ancestor
 4 Surround-ed by
 8 Staff leader?
 12 In days past
 13 Loutish one
 14 Groucho-esque look
 15 Loyal
 17 Unctuous
 18 Foursome
 19 Scatter seeds
 21 Unfriendly
 22 George Hamilton trademark
 26 Oddball
 29 Lustrous black
 30 Greek vowel
 31 Radius neighbor
 32 Un-opened rose
 33 Pirates' beverage
 34 Spelling contest
 35 Mrs. Al Bundy
 36 Ends a relationship with

DOWN 20 Chic no longer
 23 Expression
 24 On
 25 No Derby winners
 26 Long sandwiches
 27 Entreaty
 28 From the start
 29 Moonshine container
 32 Adorn gaudily
 33 Labor camp
 35 Dispensable candy
 36 Straight-forward
 38 Overly soft and liquid
 39 Craze
 42 Boast
 43 Building-block name
 44 Watched
 45 Watch chain
 46 Leading lady?
 47 Gun the engine
 49 Mimic

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 11-14



ACROSS 37 Blackjack component
 1 Bourbon-based beverage
 6 Con-cludes
 12 Gold-based compound
 13 Cruise ships
 14 Attack verbally
 15 Gets up
 16 Caffeine-laced nut
 17 Addict
 19 Caught off base
 20 "Alfa, Bravo, Charlie, ..." end
 22 Move a rowboat
 24 Commer-cials
 27 Horatio Alger's "before"
 29 Multi-colored
 32 In the catbird seat
 35 Boot attachment
 36 Ship-building wood

DOWN 1 2007 Ellen Page movie
 2 Kazakh-stan river
 3 South American capital
 4 Zeta follower
 5 Peevish
 6 Other-wise
 7 Explosive compound
 8 "CSI" evidence
 9 Monterey miss
 10 Pakistan language
 11 "Hey, you!"
 12 Request
 18 Imply
 21 Swiss canton
 23 Unoriginal one

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 11-15

Bridge

Your right-hand opponent deals and opens One Heart, neither side vulnerable. What would you bid with each of the following five hands?

- ♠K9 ♥K83 ♦QJ743 ♣AK6
- ♠A7 ♥J7642 ♦A83 ♣KJ5
- ♠KJ53 ♥7 ♦AKJ842 ♣A9
- ♠KQJ8752 ♥4 ♦6 ♣AQJ3
- ♠AKJ96 ♥75 ♦AQ4 ♣K62

* * *

Bidding Quiz

- One notrump. This is the most descriptive bid that can be made in that it shows one or two stoppers in the opener's suit, balanced distribution and essentially the same point count as an opening notrump bid.
 A double would tend to show interest in a suit contract, and would create a rebid problem if partner responded in either spades or clubs. Two diamonds, the other possibility, should be avoided with such a weak suit.
- Pass. Although this hand would constitute an opening bid as dealer, you should no longer want to say anything after East opens one heart, your best suit. There is no reason to rescue your opponent, who is, for the moment, in the frying pan, and place yourself in the fire by entering the fray with potentially no safe place to land.
- Double. An overall of two diamonds would be inadequate on two counts. First, while it is true that an overall on the two-level is usually based on a hand of opening strength, there are limits as to how good an overall can be. A 16-point hand with 4-1-6-2 distribution rates well beyond a minimum opening bid, and an overall, even on the two-level, does not do the hand justice.
 Secondly, there is the possibility of missing a game in spades if partner happens to have four or more cards in that suit. The double may uncover the spade fit, whereas a two-diamond bid might easily lose the opportunity to find it.
- Four spades. The leap to game has both offensive and defensive advantages. From the offensive standpoint, partner does not need much for 10 tricks to be made with spades as trump. As a defensive measure, the four-spade bid makes it very difficult for the opponents to exchange information and may prevent them from reaching their best contract.
- Double. An overall on the one-level generally indicates a strong suit and about nine to 16 points. For this reason, an overall of one spade on this 17-point hand would be misleading to partner. The best way to show the extra strength is to double first and then bid spades at your next turn.
 Tomorrow: Every card played tells a story.
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South dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠K Q 10 7
 ♥10 6 2
 ♦A K 4
 ♣Q 6 5

WEST
 ♠9 6 2
 ♥K Q 9 5 3
 ♦6
 ♣K J 8 4

EAST
 ♠8 5 4 3
 ♥J 4
 ♦Q J 9 7 3
 ♣10 2

SOUTH
 ♠A J
 ♥A 8 7
 ♦10 8 5 2
 ♣A 9 7 3

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	1 ♥	1 ♠	Pass
1 NT	Pass	3 NT	Pass

Opening lead — five of hearts.

Every Card Played Tells a Story

On many deals where there is no clear-cut line of play, declarer has to feel his way along until he learns more about the opposing distribution. If all goes well, he may eventually acquire enough knowledge about the lie of the opposing cards to bring about a successful resolution.

Consider this deal where South ended in three notrump after West had overcalled with one heart. Declarer allowed East's jack to hold the first trick, then took the heart continuation with the ace, learning in the process that West had started with no more than five hearts for his overall.

At this stage, South could count eight sure tricks -- four spades, a heart, two diamonds and a club -- but it was not apparent where the ninth might come from. Putting that problem on the back burner for the moment, declarer cashed four spades, discarding a heart and a club while West let go of a club.

South now turned his attention to diamonds, cashing the A-K. Had West dropped the jack or queen under one of the top diamonds, declarer would have led a diamond toward the ten as the best chance to set up his ninth trick, hoping East had started with Q-x-x-x or J-x-x-x.

When West discarded a club on the second diamond, though, the plan to set up an extra diamond trick went up in smoke. But this development opened up another possibility, and declarer was quick to exploit it.

At trick nine, he led the heart ten from dummy, allowing West to collect three heart tricks. This left declarer with the Q-6 of clubs in dummy opposite his A-9, and West on lead with the K-J. When West exited with the jack and dummy's queen held, the contract came sailing home.

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Family Circus • Bill Keane

