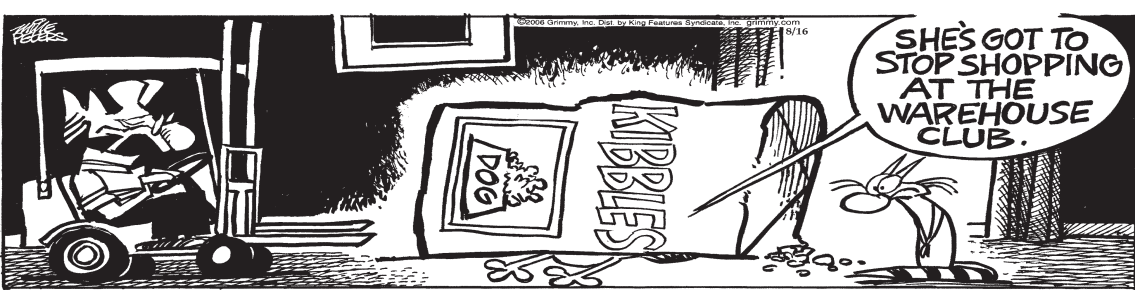


Mother Goose & Grim • Mike Peters (Sample)



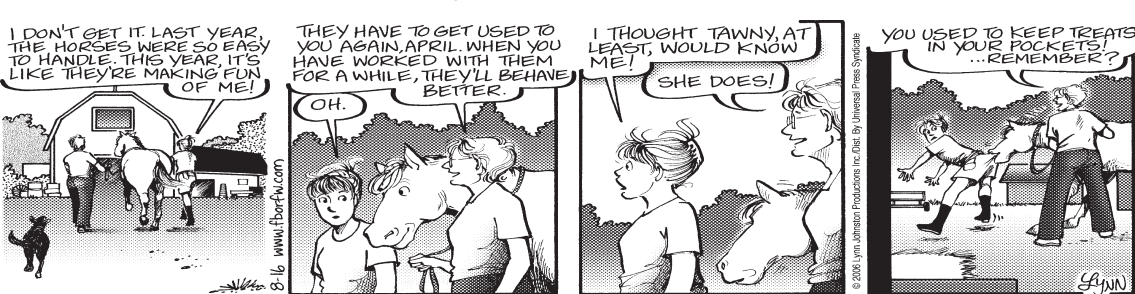
Mutts • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott (Sample)



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Garfield • Jim Davis



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



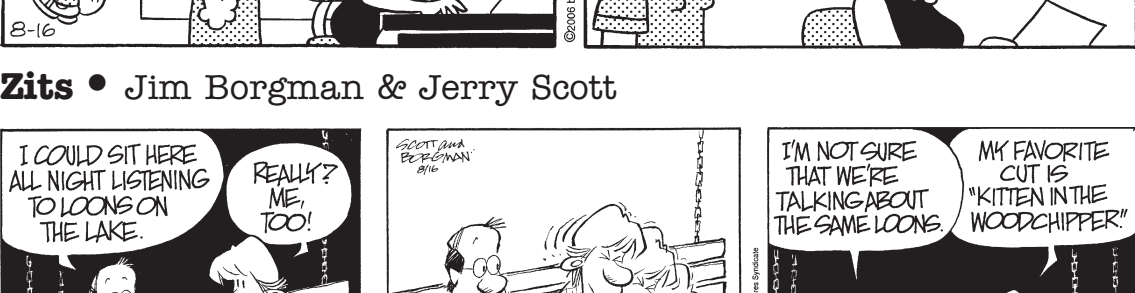
Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Cryptoquip

HYO HYONWPK VN NXWGM | ZH O DYR ESUJZUYOFFR
 PH WZPTVKE BZIOG WOBWZO, | KJTPJEMPK SYJ MZK OTA,
 MXH YO YPN IVAAVQXZHT | Z DYPKK MP AZDMJ WP
 PQHVKE YVN PEO. | O TPOEMPT SH MOWZJ.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF TWO HUNGER STRIKERS ARE RUNNING A FOOTRACE, I RECKON THE FASTER FASTER WILL WIN.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals P

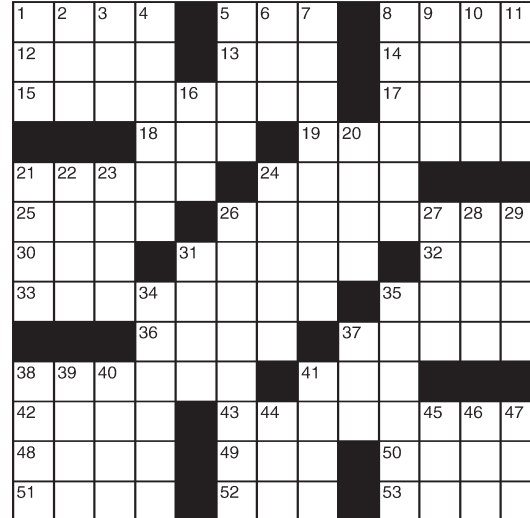
Crossword

- ACROSS**
 1 Plate
 5 Command to Fido
 8 Poker variety
 12 "Unh-unh!"
 13 Paddle, perhaps
 14 Poi base
 15 Comparison
 17 Therefore
 18 — de deux
 19 Reagan predecessor
 21 VCR button
 24 Hibernia
 25 Across
 26 Huge constrictor
 30 Encountered
 31 Portents
 32 Corn spike
 33 Popular word game
- DOWN**
 1 "CSI" proof
 2 Charged bit
 3 Hot tub
 4 Aide
 5 Cranberry areas
 6 Water (Fr.)
 7 People of Athens
 8 Using two outlets
 9 Small pie
 10 Incite
 11 Entry matriarch
 16 Feed-bag morsel
 20 Curved lines

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 8-15

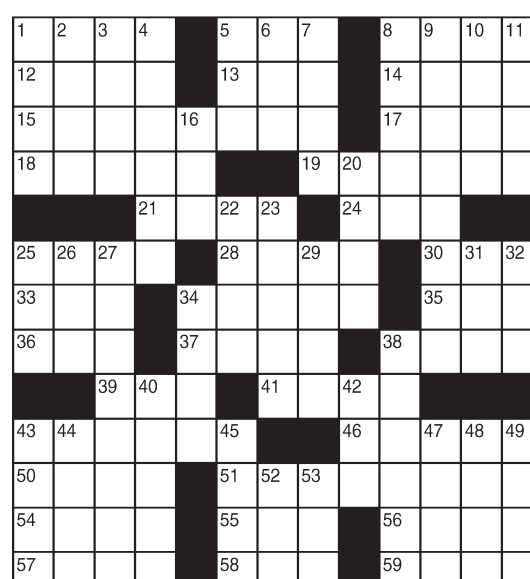


- ACROSS**
 1 Big truck
 5 Story of a lifetime?
 8 Rebuff a masher
 12 Arabian Sea country
 13 Disen-cumber
 14 Ankle-length
 15 Ambulance offering
 17 Capri, e.g.
 18 Bewil-dered
 19 Like some crackers
 21 Har-vester's collection
 24 Lower limb
 25 Insane
 28 Seniors' party
 30 Matter-horn, for one
 33 "The Greatest"
 34 Bounds
 35 Catch sight of
- DOWN**
 1 Parlor piece
 2 Send forth
 3 Pathfinder destination
 4 Bug
 5 Mono-kini's lack
 6 Midafter-noon, on a sundial
 7 Racetrack stats
 8 Say "cheese"
 9 Done at the very end
 10 Wheel-base terminus
 11 Multi-colored
 16 Pitch
- ACROSS**
 36 Tavern
 37 Zits
 38 Whirl
 39 America's Uncle
 41 Entangle-ment
 43 Arrange-ments
 46 Old man
 50 Jog
 51 "No more drinks after this one"
 54 Data, for short
 55 Erstwhile acorn
 56 Dandling locale
 57 Umps
 58 Method
 59 Favorable votes
- DOWN**
 18 Charitable donations
 22 Fuel cartel
 23 Bit of mischief
 25 Apply Brylcreem
 26 Chicken-king link
 27 Before all else
 29 Admitting clients
 31 Floral garland
 32 Corral
 34 Light provider
 38 Thick and compact
 40 Mercury and Saturn
 42 Make up your mind
 43 Commo-tion
 44 Sea eagle
 45 Lento
 47 Sheet of glass
 48 Entreaty
 49 Pub orders
 52 Motorists' org.
 53 Firma-ment

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 8-16



Bridge

North dealer.
 North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ K 6 4
 ♥ A 3 2
 ♦ A 6 3
 ♣ Q 10 8 3

WEST
 ♠ —
 ♥ J 10 7 4
 ♦ J 9 8 5 2
 ♣ A K 5 4

EAST
 ♠ Q 10 9 7 5 3 2
 ♥ 9 8
 ♦ K 7 4
 ♣ 6

SOUTH
 ♠ A J 8
 ♥ K Q 6 5
 ♦ Q 10
 ♣ J 9 7 2

The bidding:
 North 1♣ East 3♣ South 3NT West All Pass
 Opening lead — five of diamonds

The Better Way

In many deals, a favorable result can be achieved simply by going through the motions. Thankfully, for those who appreciate the challenges the game can offer, there are many other deals where going through the motions will not be good enough.

Consider this case from a recent regional team event. Both Souths wound up in three notrump after East had pre-empted in spades, and both Wests led a diamond. Both Easts won with the king and returned a diamond to South's queen.

A low club was then led toward dummy, both Wests rising with the ace and returning a third diamond to establish their suit. It was here that the paths diverged.

At the first table, declarer was certain that West had the king of clubs, since it would have made no sense for him to take the ace on the first club lead rather than allow East the opportunity to win and return a third diamond. Afraid — correctly as it turned out — that West could win the next club lead and cash two diamonds to defeat the contract, South saw no choice but to play the A-K-Q of hearts and hope for a 3-3 split.

After the suit failed to divide evenly, declarer led a spade to the king, took the marked spade finesse, cashed the spade ace and finished down one, losing the last three tricks — a club, a diamond and a heart — to West.

At the second table, South also concluded from West's ace-of-clubs play that leading another club would be fatal. But this declarer saw no advantage in testing the hearts at this point. Instead, he took his three spade tricks first.

Superficially, this might seem to make no difference, but in fact it made all the difference in the world. West had to find three discards on the spades, and after letting go two low clubs, he was without recourse when the third spade was played. In practice, he pitched a heart, handing declarer four heart tricks and the contract. But had he decided to discard a diamond instead, South could then safely have conceded a club without trying the hearts, and the contract would still have been made.

West dealer.
 East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ 10 5
 ♥ A Q 7 4
 ♦ A K 3
 ♣ Q J 8 2

WEST
 ♠ A Q 9 7 3 2
 ♥ K 10 9 6
 ♦ 8
 ♣ A 6

EAST
 ♠ K J 8 4
 ♥ J 5 3 2
 ♦ 10 7 6 5
 ♣ 3

SOUTH
 ♠ 6
 ♥ 8
 ♦ Q J 9 4 2
 ♣ K 10 9 7 5 4

The bidding:
 West 1♣ North Dble East 2♣ South 4♣
 Dble 5♣ Pass Pass
 Opening lead — eight of diamonds.

Isolating a Menace

Assume you're South and get to five clubs doubled on the bidding shown. West leads the eight of diamonds. How should you proceed?

When the deal occurred, declarer won the diamond with the ace and, without giving the matter much thought, led the queen of clubs. West took the queen with the ace and realized that if South had a singleton spade, which seemed likely on the bidding, his only chance of stopping the contract was to put his partner on lead in order to get a diamond return.

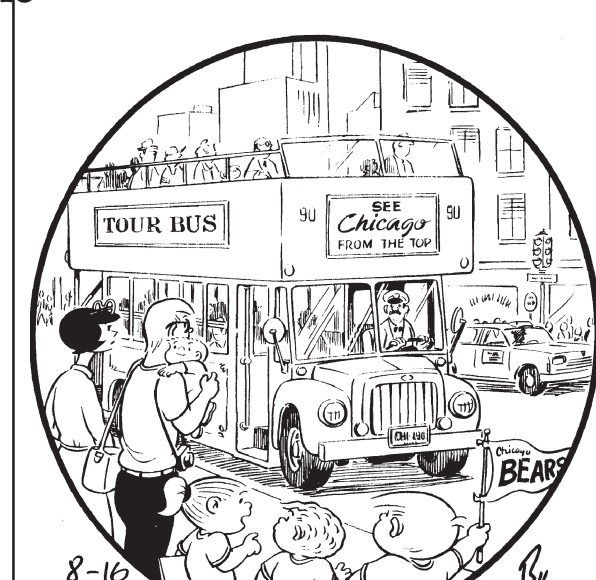
Accordingly, West led a low spade at trick three, refraining from cashing the ace first (which would have handed South the contract). As West hoped, East won with the king and had no trouble diagnosing the reason for his partner's underlead of the ace. He returned a diamond at trick four for West to ruff, and declarer went down one.

South clearly did not give enough consideration to the bidding and the opening lead. West's opening bid and rebid, combined with his double of five clubs, indicated that he had virtually all the missing high cards. It was also practically certain that the opening diamond lead was a singleton.

With all these clues pointing in one direction, declarer should have concentrated all his efforts on making sure that East could not gain the lead to give his partner a diamond ruff.

To achieve that goal, South should have cashed the ace of hearts at trick two and led the queen of hearts at trick three. After East follows low, declarer discards his one and only spade. West wins with the king, but there is no longer any way for him to obtain a diamond ruff. The only other trick West can score is the ace of clubs, and South winds up making the doubled game.

Family Circus • Bill Keane



8-15
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