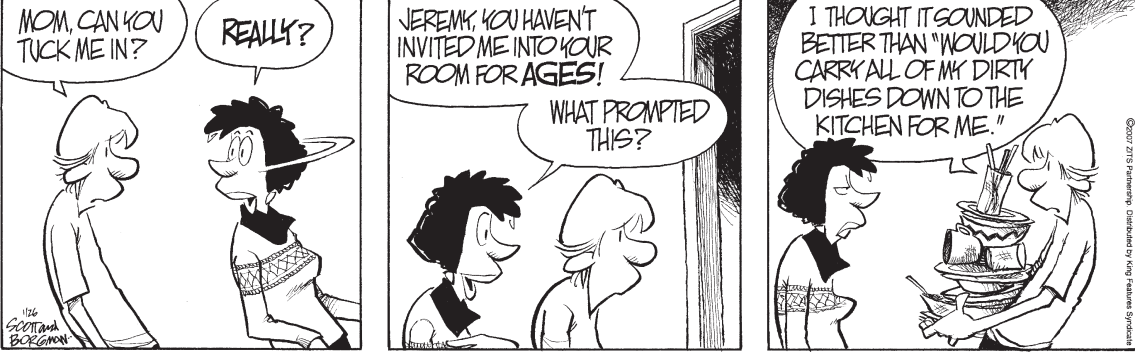


Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



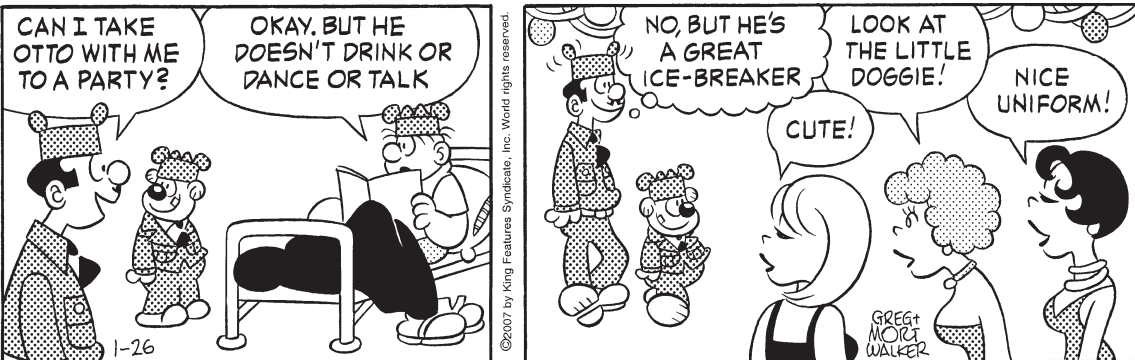
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



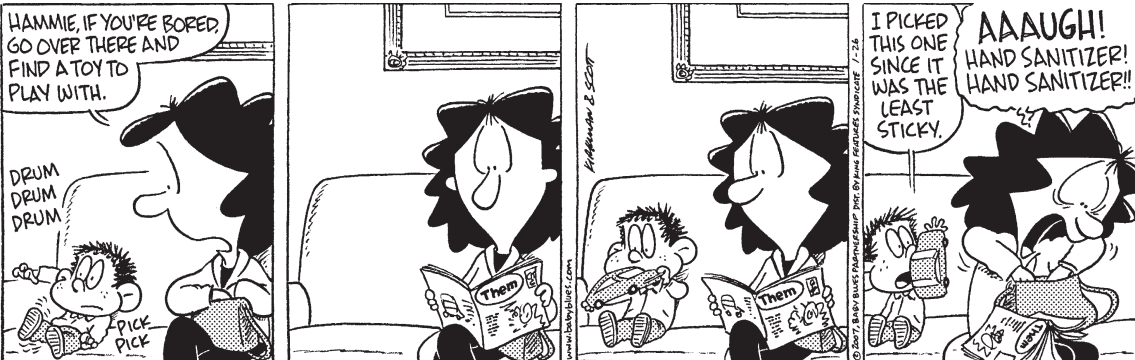
Blondie • Chic Young



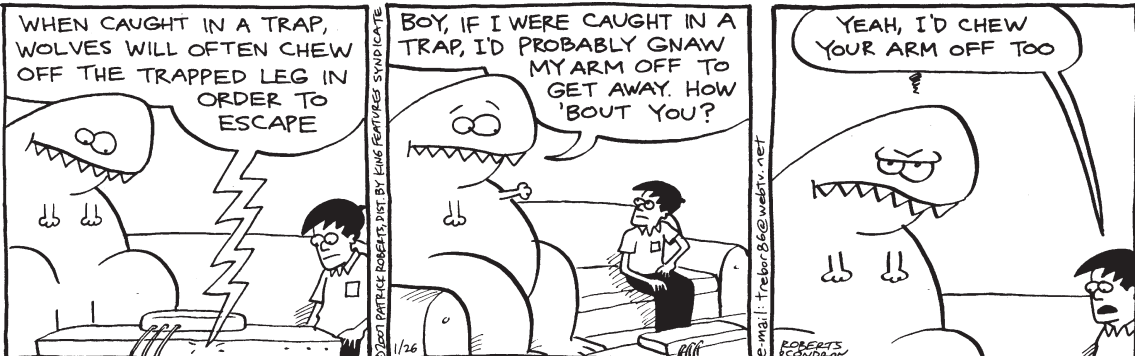
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



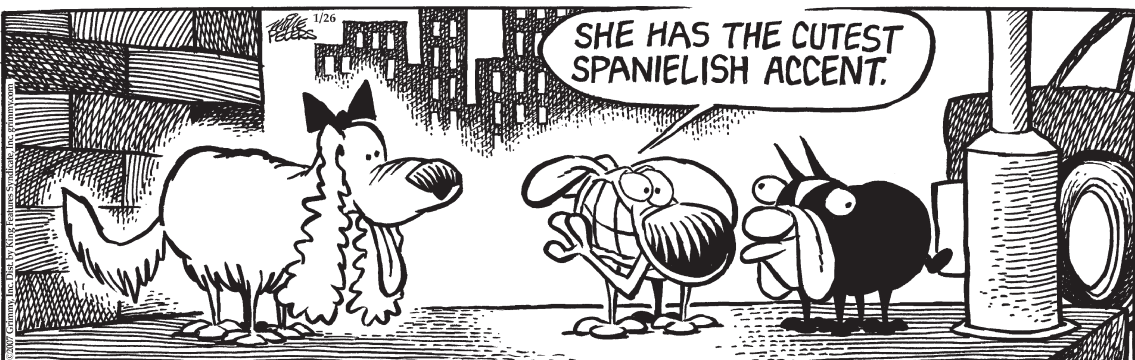
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Cryptoquip

JHQSE C VCTGHHM VNCTCVGFT

QROMZ C JNFGRGHMF GH

RNCTXFM RHBFGNOMZ YF

EQYYFE "NHMFT ROBXRHM"?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU PERSUADE SOMEONE TO SHED A FEW EXTRA POUNDS, COULD THEY CLAIM IT WAS A DIET COAX?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals O

ACJV N LNFNHTVJ ITFATF TY

MQGTVF MX CTM N INYJINRR,

UXWRS GXW NVNRGHJ CTY

JSTMXQTR YMNVIJ?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WOULD A CARTOON CHARACTER USING A WHETSTONE TO SHARPEN SOMETHING BE DUBBED "HONER SIMPSON"?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals S

Crossword

ACROSS

1 Lingerie buy

4 Moreover

7 Blue Grotto locale

12 Felon's flight

13 Floral ring

14 Playful water critter

15 Lawyers' org.

16 Adapt

18 "Survivor" network

19 Gertrude or Ben

20 Osculate

22 Wood-shaping tool

23 Any day now

27 Jam ingredient?

29 Pile up

31 Cole Porter topic

34 Gather greedily

35 Speak aggressively to

DOWN

37 Some-where out there

38 Penn or Connery

39 Coloration

41 DMV call

45 Money

47 Meadow

48 Weird Al Yankovic prop

52 Squid squirt

53 Teeming throng

54 To and —

55 Pirouette pivot

56 So far

57 Deviate off course

58 Em halves

1 Roulette bet

2 Synagogue VIP

3 Accumulate

4 "Oh, woel!"

5 Honey basis

6 Cut into cubes

7 Nickel, e.g.

8 \$ dispenser

9 "Harper Valley —"

10 On a pension (Abbr.)

11 Anger

17 Judy's daughter

21 Offspring

23 Disdain

24 Man-mouse link

25 "— Town"

26 Actor Beatty

28 Beast of burden

30 Half a dance

31 — de deux

32 Expert

33 GE merger co.

36 Sound of dull impact

37 Man's hat style

40 Make one

42 High society

43 Noble gas

44 Accepts

45 Worry

46 Frosty's makeup

48 "Eureka!"

49 Lettuce variety

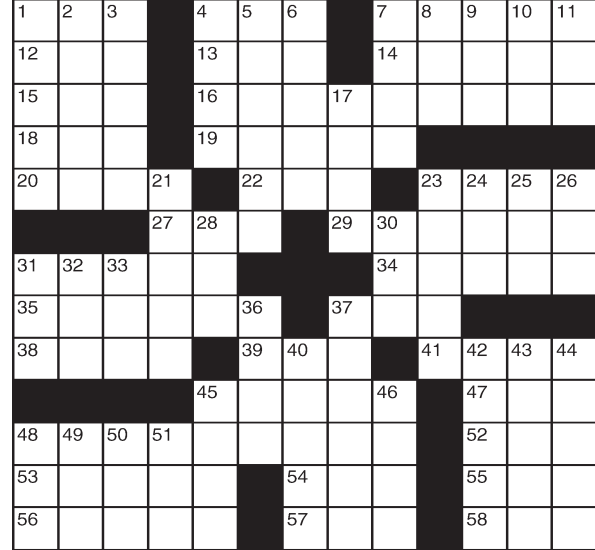
50 Shout

51 Praise in verse

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 1-26



ACROSS

1 Tackle moguls

4 React in horror

8 Stupefy

12 Symbol of intrigue

13 The third man

14 Eastern bigwig

15 Mimic

16 Loblolly, e.g.

17 Profits

18 Mr. Jinks' prey

21 "Platoon" setting

22 Ruby, for one

23 Glitch

26 A handful

27 Carte lead-in

31 Building block name

31 Pantheon member

32 Resorts international

33 Verily

34 Erstwhile TV network

DOWN

35 Stagger

36 Melody

37 Sailor

38 Mardi Gras music

45 Particular

46 Enthusiastic

47 Vast expanse

48 Dermatologist's case

49 Appellation

50 Actor McKellen

51 Roe provider

52 Historic slave Scott

53 Aviate

2 Military cap

3 Wild goat

4 Rich cake

5 James — Garfield

6 Witnessed

7 Tried to get into a frat

8 Durable pants material

9 NYSE counterpart

10 Tubular pasta

11 Gaelic

19 Data

20 Morning moisture

23 See

26-Down

24 Born

25 Khan title

26 Animal often described as

23-Down

27 Spring mo.

28 Fond du —, Wisc.

29 Blond shade

31 "Easter Parade" star

32 Pred. counterpart

34 Slapstick missile

35 Stuck

36 Picked a target

37 Travelocity mascot

38 "Buenos —"

39 Desire

40 Lucy Lawless role

41 Culture medium

42 "Yeah, right!"

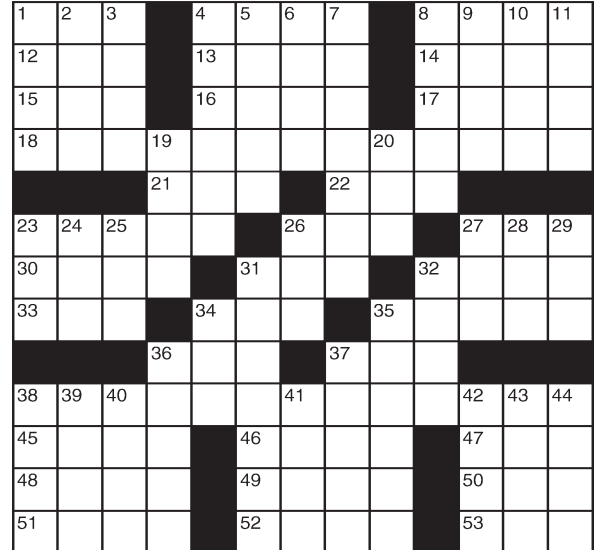
43 Ardor

44 Wild and crazy

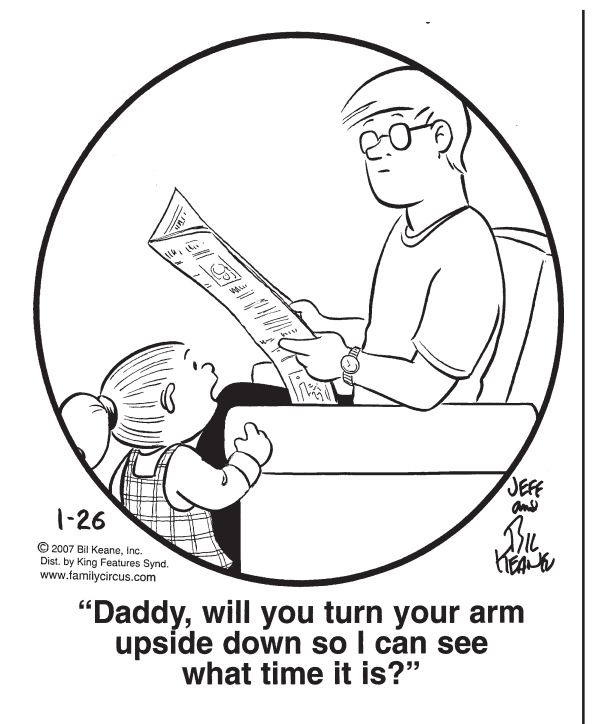
Solution time: 27 mins.



Yesterday's answer 1-27



Family Circus • Bill Keane



Bridge

1. ♠K93 ♥AKJ2 ♦QJ8 ♣964

2. ♠AKQ9874 ♥J6 ♦62 ♣83

3. ♠AJ98 ♥9 ♦KQJ10 ♣QJ74

4. ♠AQ6 ♥AQ8 ♦KJ93 ♣985

Bidding Quiz

1. One heart. Although the hand is notrump-oriented and many players would respond two notrump, it is better to bid one heart. This is in keeping with the general principle that it is easier to make game in a major suit than in notrump if you have a combined holding of eight cards in the suit. Since partner may have four hearts, this possibility should be explored.

If partner doesn't support hearts, you can bid notrump at your next turn.

2. Four spades. You'd hardly want to play this hand at any contract other than four spades, so you might as well bid it at once.

The leap to four indicates that your trumps are strong enough to justify a game in spades opposite a normal opening bid. Four spades is not a slam try. If you had potential slam values, you'd start by bidding one or two spades.

3. One diamond. You might consider responding one spade, hoping to find a major-suit fit, but when you have a hand with which you plan to make more than one bid, it is better to bid four-card suits "up the line." This gives you maximum space to operate in while you try to determine where the best game or slam contract lies. You do plan to bid spades at your next turn if partner bids one heart over one diamond.

When you bid spades at your second turn, partner will know you have only four of them and will have a better idea of how to continue. You plan to show your club support later if the bidding develops favorably, thus pinpointing your shortness in hearts.

4. Three notrump. This is a picture bid showing 16 or 17 points, nearly always 4-3-3-3 distribution and strength in the unbid suits. In effect, the leap to three notrump indicates the values for an opening notrump bid.

There is not much point in responding one diamond when a different bid is available that, in one fell swoop, perfectly describes your hand. The opening bidder is free to go on or not, as he sees fit, knowing that the hand opposite him contains the values for an opening notrump bid.

North dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

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

WEST		SOUTH	
♠ A Q 9 5 4	♥ J 7	♠ K 6 3	♥ A 9 8
♦ 9 6 3 2	♣ 10 4	♦ A 10 5	♣ K 7 6 2

The bidding:
North 1 ♦ East Pass South 2 NT West Pass
3 NT Opening lead — ten of clubs.

Instinctive Plays May Be Costly

Certain plays seem so natural that they are often made without the slightest pause for thought. The trouble is that every once in a while, the "automatic" play is incorrect because of the special circumstances presented by a particular deal.

Consider this case where a serendipitous opening lead by West started declarer down an unhappy road to oblivion. Convinced that South had the king of spades for his two-notrump bid, West decided — correctly, as it turned out — not to lead that suit, opting instead for the neutral lead of the ten of clubs.

The ten was covered by the jack, queen and king, leaving South with only eight sure tricks. Since it seemed likely that West had led a club from a combination that included the 10-9, South next led a club to dummy's eight. But when East produced the nine and returned the jack of spades, the roof caved in. When the dust settled, the contract was down two.

South certainly can't be criticized for assuming that West had the nine of clubs — the opening lead of an unsupported ten, especially against notrump, is highly unusual. Nevertheless, the fact remains that he could have guarded against the possibility that East held the nine.

His error came at trick one when, instead of mechanically covering the ten of clubs with the jack, he should have followed low. Then, after East also played low, he should have allowed the ten to hold the trick!

The advantage of this play is that if West has another club, whether it is the nine or not, an extra club trick is assured, while at the same time East can never gain the lead for the potentially killing spade shift.

Only if West's ten of clubs is a singleton is the contract still in danger. But in that case, covering with the jack wouldn't solve the problem either.

