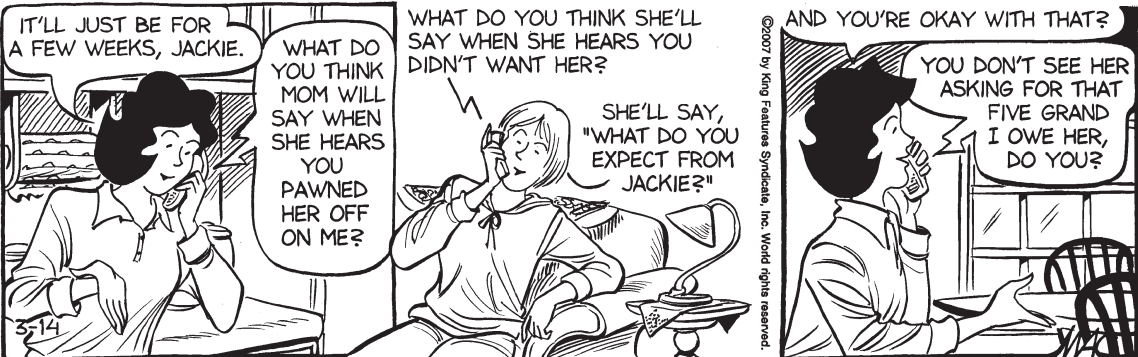


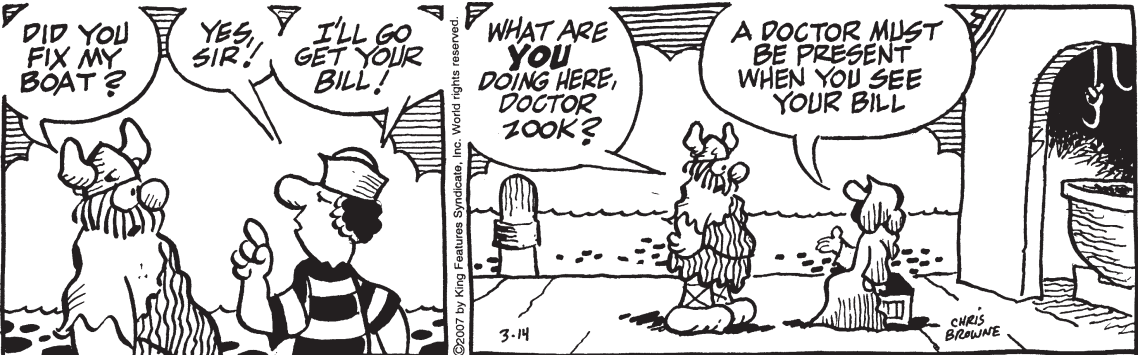
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



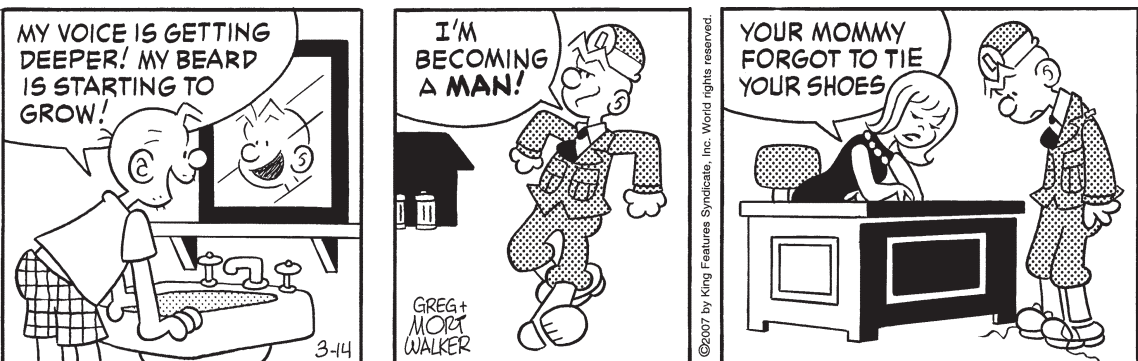
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



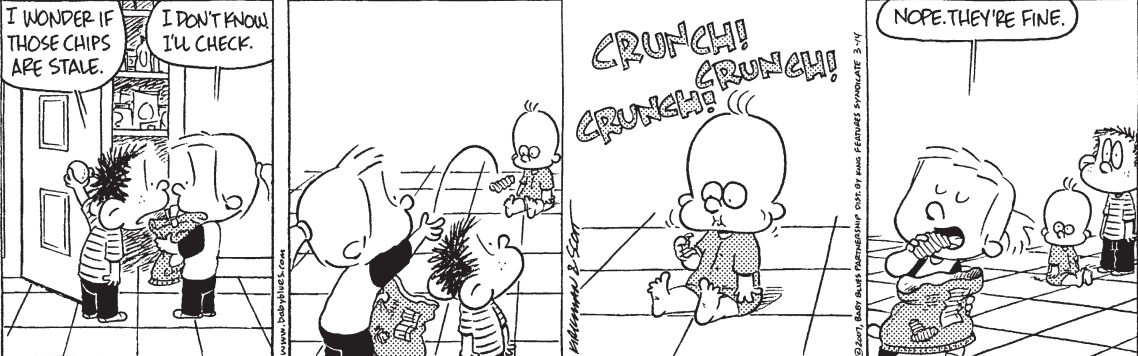
Blondie • Chic Young



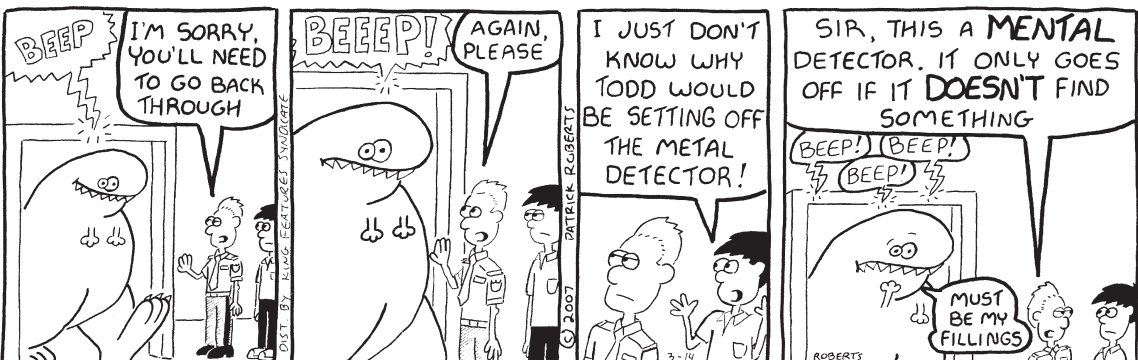
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Cryptoquip

CX XGUJP VTWEYZPN

FNWEYZMKCPN RYZR'P XTUU

GX FZMA RCMA EWZEJP, KG

RYNA VZA Z XCPPTWN VWCEN?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE HIGHEST-RANKING ACCOUNT CHECKER IN THE I.R.S. SHOULD GET THE TITLE OF AUDITOR IN CHIEF.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals F

DQN-PN PNRK NV YLNQL

BRNGVD BCCGKICGH CM DGRR

WGBR GDCBCG MV MCLGW

YMWHRD: "RMCD NV DIBQG."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF FOLKS PURCHASE MERCHANDISE THAT'S FULL OF MANY TINY CRACKS, DO THEY PAY A FISSURE PRICE?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals I

Crossword

ACROSS

1 Bread unit

5 Venusian vessel

8 "Casa-blanca" role

12 Skilled

13 Sister

14 Leak slowly

15 Bean curd

16 Theater-goers' mecca

18 Progress

20 Sports

21 Melody

22 Trinity member

23 Handed out hands

26 Politics' world

30 Coffee dispenser

31 Carton

32 Rink surface

33 "Every-one step aside!"

36 Olympic sleds

38 Scepter

39 Barbie's ex-beau

40 On top of the world?

43 Tee-green connector

47 Piano name

49 Relaxa-tion

50 Ollie's partner

51 Eggs

52 Read bar codes

53 16-Across award

54 "A mouse!"

55 A-number-1

2 Reed instrument

3 —

4 Re lords and vassals

5 Open the door, in a way

6 Rage

7 Lennon's lady

8 Gerbil, for one

9 "The Music Man" locale

10 Despot

11 Singer Alicia

17 MPs' quarry

19 Humor

22 Gender

23 Shoveled

24 Historic time

25 Raggedy one

26 Lad

27 Peruke

28 Expert

29 "Of course"

31 Spoiled

34 Like some old photos

35 Frayed

36 Main-lander's souvenir

37 Turmoil

39 One-person boat

40 "Hey, you!"

41 Sgt. Snorkel's dog

42 Slender

43 Most liked, for short

44 Texas city

45 Pronto, in a memo

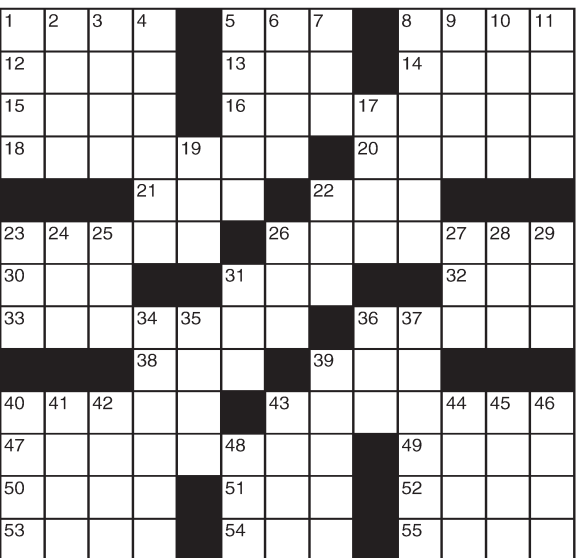
46 Longings

48 Reason to say "Alas"

Solution time: 21 mins.



Yesterday's answer 3-13



ACROSS

1 Third degree?

4 Discoverer's call

7 Soft cheese

8 In accompaniment

10 Fringe benefit

11 Book-store section

13 1978 Kansas hit

16 \$ dispenser

17 —

18 As well

19 Group of quail

20 Cold War weapon (Abbr.)

21 Obey a comma

23 Four-letter words

25 Some are chocolate

26 Baba and MacGraw

27 Mole, maybe

28 Chopping tool

30 Moreover

33 "Hook" star

36 Punish with a fine

37 Scent

38 Long stories

39 Mysterious character

40 Documentarian

41 Early bird?

2 Sword handle

3 "Lakme" composer

4 Island farewell

5 Rundown shack

6 From the start

7 Very dry

8 Anxious

9 Software problem

10 Food safety org.

12 Uppity ones

14 Church area

15 Comedian

19 Clear the tables

20 "Monty Python" intro

21 —

22 New Guinea

23 Bread spread

24 Ticket price, perhaps

25 Hallucination letters

26 Analgesic targets

28 Mournful music

29 Ancient Peruvian

30 Surrounded by

31 Appellation

32 Geneticist's abbr.

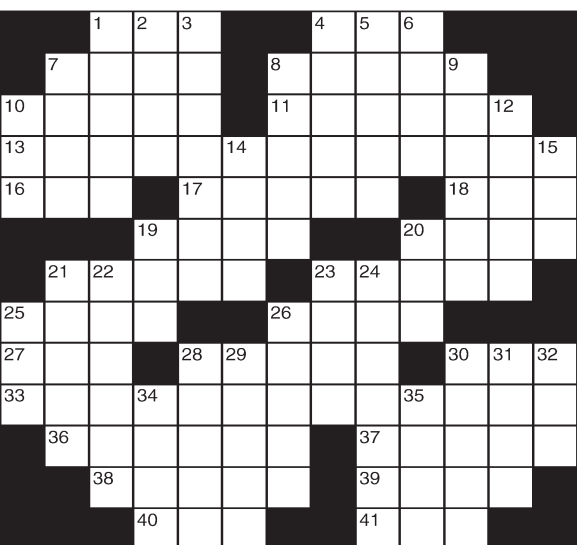
34 Ship-building wood

35 1960s dance

Solution time: 21 mins.



Yesterday's answer 3-14



Family Circus • Bill Keane



Bridge

West dealer.

East-West vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ Q 5

♥ K J 9

♦ A K Q 2

♣ K Q 7 3

WEST

♠ —

♥ 10 7 6 5 2

♦ J 8 6 3

♣ J 10 9 5

EAST

♠ A K 10 8

♥ 8 3

♦ 10 7 4

♣ A 8 4 2

SOUTH

♠ J 9 7 6 4 3 2

♥ A Q 4

♦ 9 5

♣ 6

The bidding:

West Pass

North 1 ♦

East Pass

South 3 NT

Opening lead — jack of clubs.

Forewarned Is Forearmed

Many players seem to regard the trump coup as beyond their capabilities, but there is really no good reason for this. In most cases where the coup can be utilized, declarer learns fairly early in the play that the trumps are stacked against him, and all he has to do is to take a few basic steps to overcome the bad break.

Here is a typical case. West leads a club against four spades, and East takes dummy's queen with the ace and returns a club. Declarer has no need for a discard and also wants to initiate the trumps by leading one from his hand, so he ruffs the club.

When he next plays a low spade to the queen and West shows out, South must find a way to limit East to two trump tricks. The only way this can be done is by means of a trump coup.

So when East takes the queen of spades with the king and returns a club, South ruffs. This is in accordance with the basic principle that to execute a trump coup, you must reduce your own trump length to that of your opponent.

Declarer then leads a low heart to the jack and returns a trump. Let's say East takes the ace — his play doesn't really matter — and returns still another club.

Again South ruffs. This reduces his trump holding to the J-9, which are comfortably ensconced over East's 10-8.

The coup is now ready to be executed. South overtakes the queen of hearts with dummy's king and cashes the A-K-Q of diamonds, discarding his ace of hearts. Dummy's last two cards are a heart and a diamond, and when declarer leads one of them, East's trumps are coupé.

North dealer.

Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A K 10 6 3 2

♥ A Q 8 7 5

♦ A

♣ 3

WEST

♠ J 9 7 5

♥ 2

♦ 10 9 6 4

♣ K 9 8 2

EAST

♠ —

♥ 4

♦ K J 8 7 5 3 2

♣ A J 10 7 6

SOUTH

♠ Q 8 4

♥ K J 10 9 6 3

♦ Q

♣ Q 5 4

The bidding:

North 1 ♠

East 2 ♦

South 4 NT

West 6 ♥

Opening lead — five of spades.

The Slam-Doubling Convention

The biggest swings ordinarily arise in hands where a slam is bid. For example, if South makes exactly six hearts (undoubled) in this deal, he scores 1,430 points, while if he goes down one, he loses 100 points. A 1,530-point swing is not to be sneezed at, so anything the defenders can do to stop a slam is well worth the effort. For this reason, a special convention designed specifically for such critical situations was devised many years ago. According to this convention, the double of a slam by the defender not on lead instructs partner to make an unusual or abnormal opening lead — most often dummy's first-bid suit. It is true that one effect of the convention is that a player sometimes can't double a slam that would go down with normal defense. This is because the double might cause partner to make an abnormal lead and so hand declarer the contract. However, this restriction on doubling usually costs only 50 or 100 points, which is a minor loss, whereas reserving the double for hands that require a particular opening lead might save the defenders as much as 1,000 or 1,500 points. One can therefore hope to profit considerably by employing this convention, while at the same time risking very little. In the present case, for example, if East does not double six hearts and West makes the normal diamond lead, South makes an overtrick and scores 1,460 points. But if East doubles, instructing West not to lead a diamond but to choose an unusual lead, the defenders can defeat the slam. It should not be difficult for West to figure out that the unusual lead in this case is a spade — the suit dummy opened the bidding with. So West leads a spade, East ruffs and cashes a club, and the slam goes down the drain.

