

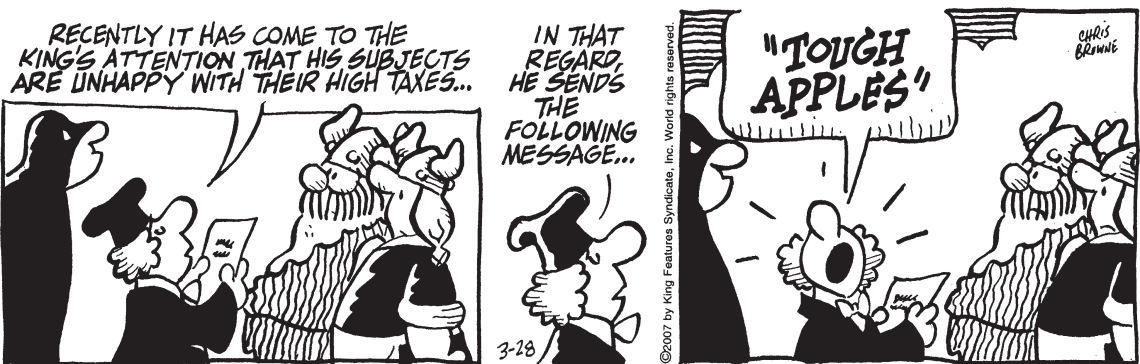
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



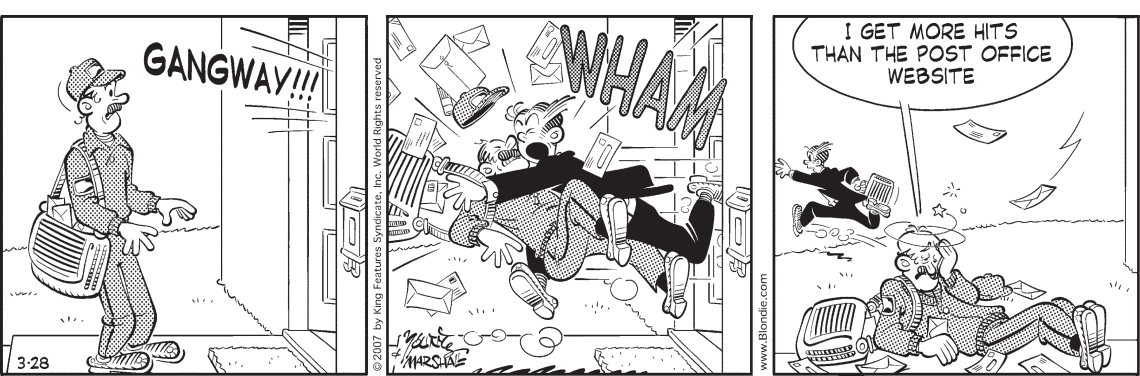
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



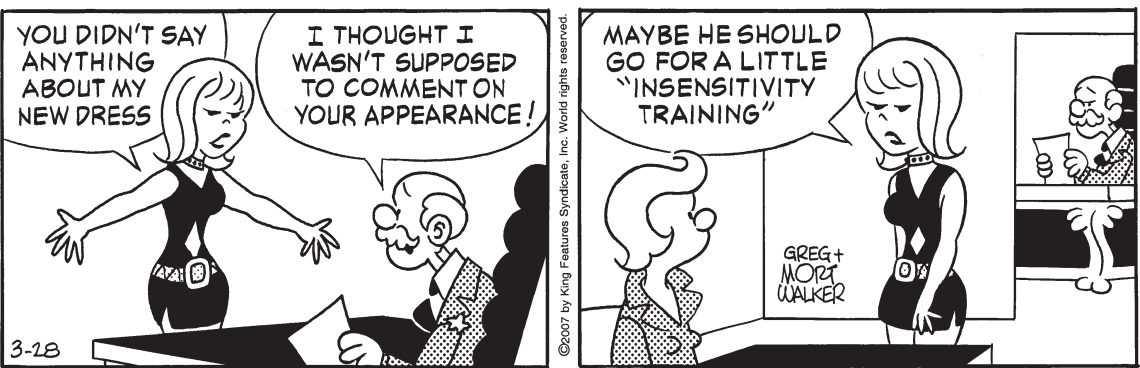
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



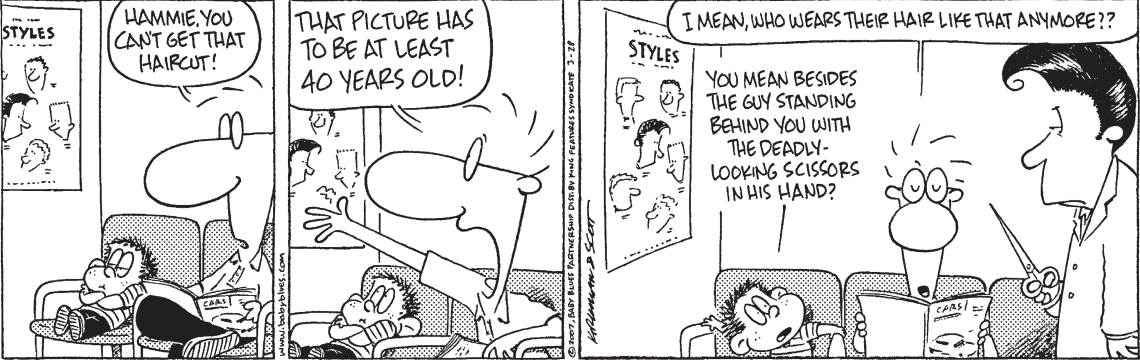
Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters

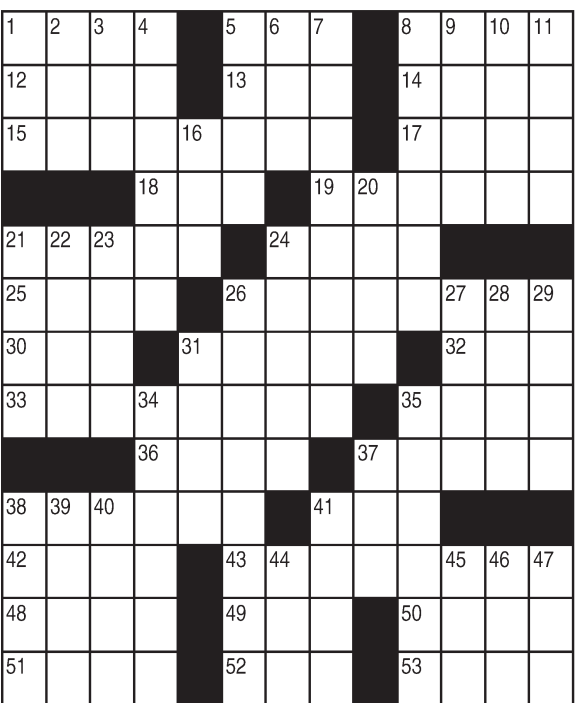


Cryptoquip

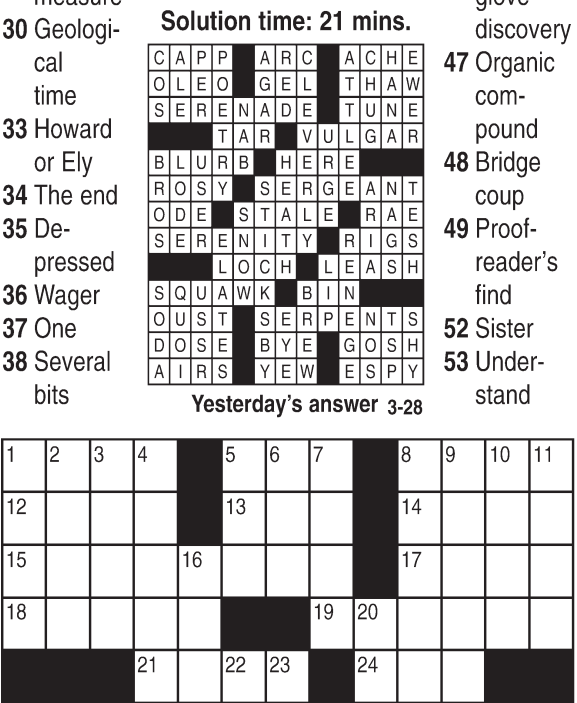
J LBCQ'K HWBZZU GPCJKJOW WXX-ZQELJQ ROL QZRWJ SP Q
KDBK J LPVZE FW CZWWGJQA PGSRLXAC, OWR-RLEGLJLN
JQ KDW KGWWW, FVK J GLJPWK, IAR OL'P KWR
BAHWWE KWQK-BKJOWZU. ROQR IQN SK JLLC CSXL.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN SOMEONE Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I WASN'T REALLY
LEARNS A LOT OF FUNNY QUOTES FROM THE POSITIVE THAT I WOULD BE SLEEPING IN THE
INTERNET, I'D SAY HE'S WELL E-EQUIPPED. TEPEE, BUT I AGREED TENT-ATIVELY.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals T Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals F

Crossword

ACROSS 38 Complain loudly 41 Crib cartoonist 42 Eject 43 Medusa's hair 48 Tablet or tea-spoonful 49 "See ya" 50 "Holy cow!" 51 Ostentation 52 Evergreen type 53 Get a glimpse of
DOWN 1 Lettuce variety 2 Pub order 3 Part of RPM
Solution time: 21 mins.
YESTERDAY'S ANSWER 3-27



ACROSS 39 Lemieux milieu 41 Burn somewhat 43 Alter the shape of 46 Visitor 50 Fired 51 Awkward-looking 54 Marathon fraction 55 Seek restitution 56 Detergent 57 Charon's river 58 Stick with a kick 59 Ticklish Muppet
DOWN 2 Litter's littlest 3 — Romeo 4 Talents 5 Spring-time abbr. 6 Benicio — Toro 7 They last for hours 8 Chocolate source 9 Doubtful 10 Ollie's pal 11 Knight's backup 16 Rage 20 Noah's passengers 22 Related 23 Mary Quant's creations
Solution time: 21 mins.
YESTERDAY'S ANSWER 3-28



Bridge

North dealer. North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
A 7 2
K Q 5
A J 9 3
K 7 4
WEST
J 10 9 8
10 8 6
K 7
A Q 5 2
EAST
6 4 3
J 10
10 8 6 5 4 2
J 9 8
SOUTH
K Q 5
A 9 7 4 3 2
Q
10 6 3
The bidding:
North 1 NT
East Pass
South 3
West Pass
Life Is But an Empty Dream

Dear Mr. Becker: It has been a long time since last wrote you, but you may recall that on several past occasions I sent you hands to support my contention that I am the greatest bridge player in the world.

It is true that my name is not inscribed on any trophies emblematic of national or world supremacy, but it is nonetheless a fact that no player on Earth can equal or exceed my extraordinary feats at the bridge table. The only trouble is that all my wonderful bids and plays occur while I am asleep, the plain, unvarnished truth being that when I am awake I am a very ordinary player.

As proof of my prowess while I am in the Land of Nod, I cite this hand, which I played last night. I was West and had to lead against four hearts.

It might seem impossible to defeat the contract, but I accomplished the feat without even batting an eyelash. I did not fall into the trap of leading the jack of spades, which most players would have done. Instead, I led the queen of clubs!

Now imagine, if you will, being in declarer's shoes at this moment. He naturally thought I had the jack of clubs as well as the queen, so he made the normal play of ducking in dummy. When I next led the deuce, he ducked again, reasoning that with the ten in his own hand, East would be forced to win with the ace.

But my partner won the trick with the jack and returned a club to my ace. I then administered the coup de grace by leading the five of clubs. South discarded a diamond from dummy and my partner, bless him, trumped with the jack. As a result, declarer had to lose a trump trick to my ten and went down one. Cordially yours, Ford E. Winx.

East dealer. North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
10 5 2
A 7 3
Q J 10 8 3
A 6
WEST
K J 9 6 3
J 8 4 2
K
10 8 7
EAST
Q 7
Q 10 6
9 6 4
J 9 5 4 2
SOUTH
A 8 4
K 9 5
A 7 5 2
K Q 3

The bidding:
East Pass
South 1 NT
West Pass
North 3 NT
Opening lead — six of spades.
Insurance to the Nth Degree
You sometimes hear it said that the best players seem to see through the backs of the cards. They don't, of course, but in a very high percentage of deals they do play as though they were looking at both opponents' hands.

For example, take this deal where West led a spade against three notrump. East's queen won the first trick, his spade return was ducked to West's jack, and a third spade was taken by the ace as East discarded a low club.

Declarer had no chance to make the contract without utilizing the diamond suit, where a straightforward finesse was available. But instead of crossing to dummy to attempt the finesse, South played the ace of diamonds at trick four, caught West's king and wound up making five notrump! Had he tried the finesse, he would have gone down one!

The question that naturally arises is how could South possibly have known that the king would fall on the ace? The answer is that he didn't know the king was singleton, but he did know that taking a diamond finesse was the wrong play.

Declarer reasoned that if West had the guarded king, the contract could not be made, since West would cash his two remaining spades for down one. South therefore had to assume that either East had the king of diamonds or West had the singleton king.

The ace-of-diamonds play catered to both possibilities. Had East held the guarded king of diamonds, all that South's safety play would have cost him was the extra 30 points he could have scored by taking a finesse.

But when it is considered that losing a finesse to the singleton king could cost declarer 960 points — 700 points for the rubber, 160 for making five notrump and 100 points for going down one — 30 points was a very small premium to pay for avoiding an unnecessary risk.

Family Circus • Bill Keane

