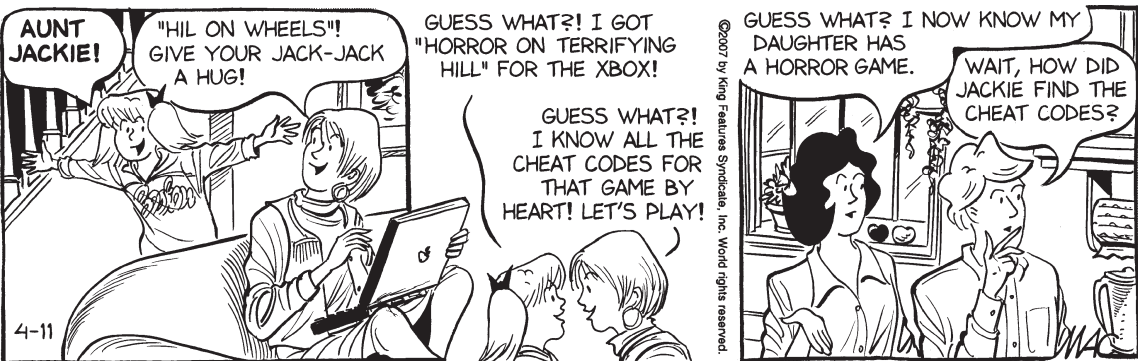
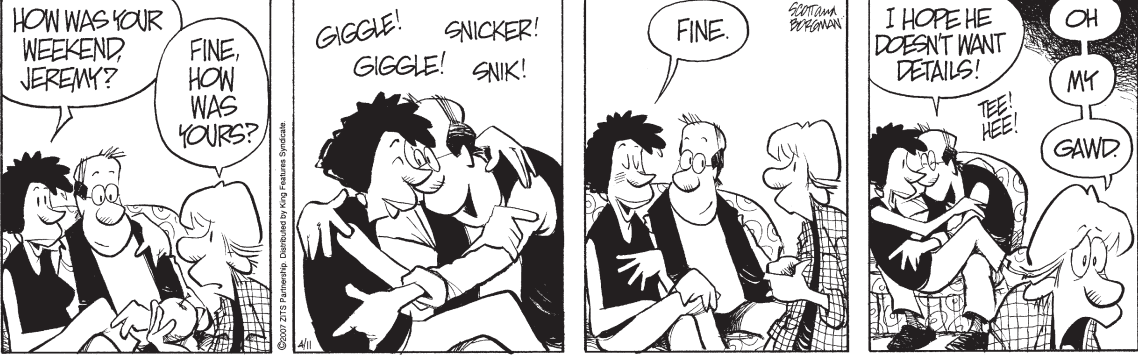


Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



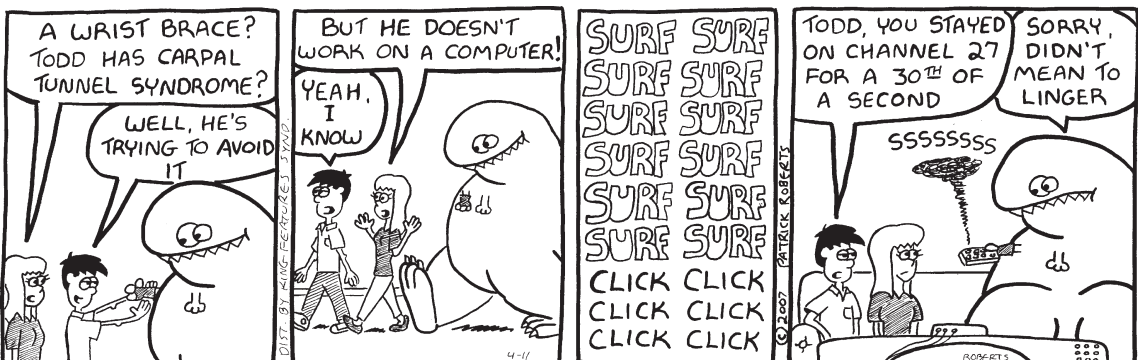
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Cryptoquip

F N W O S M Z B A W W R U W P Z H H M A B K K , Z L T X R M
J B C N J Z N C F A B D K P ' T S I S O D W K I D N R Y A C B A L O Z F D A O A
U I D F N W S F F , O N T N W O N E E A S T X Z F M Z V A C E Q G E Z Q N X J Z
E N E K S J U F A U W P J U M M S R . J Z V A K I F H O N G A G K Y A O .
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU'RE PLANTING SOME CONIFEROUS TREES, IT'S POSSIBLE THAT YOU MIGHT BE A CEDAR SEEDER.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals T
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINGER JOHNNY AND COMIC JIM SHOULD'VE BEGUN A BUSINESS, GIVING IT THE TITLE CASH AND CARRY.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals Z

Crossword

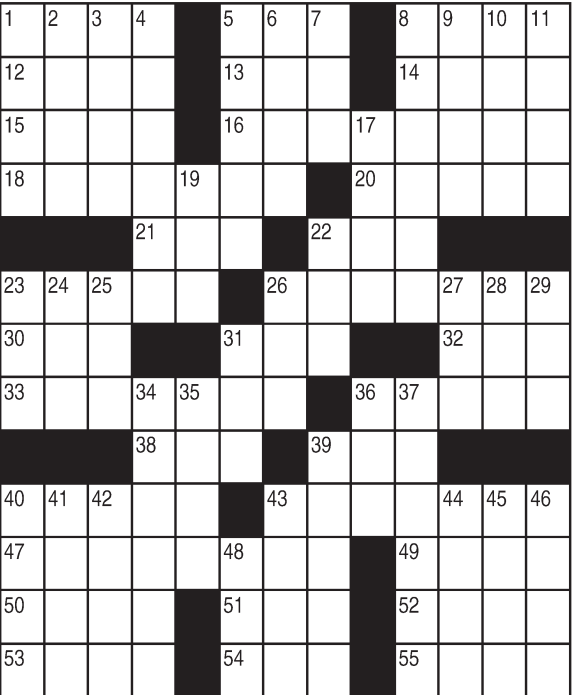
ACROSS 1 Charitable donations 5 Vacillate 8 Stylish 12 Castle protection 13 "Birds — feather ..." 14 Car 15 Gymnast Korbut 16 Shirk work 18 Greasy-spoon waitress, e.g. 20 Travelocity mascot 21 Buddhist sect 22 Lennon's lady 23 Hickory nut 26 Playboy 30 "That's relaxing" 31 Hasten 32 In olden days 33 Old washer attachment 36 Mountaineer's spike 38 Einstein's birthplace 39 Bart, to Homer 40 Remark to the audience 43 Brandy cocktail 47 TV slugfest host 49 Nastase of tennis 50 Calendar abbr. 51 Parisian pal 52 Dweeb 53 "Meet Me — Louis" 54 "Great Expectations" lad 55 Turns right

DOWN 1 Andy's pal 17 "Aqua et — interdictus" 19 Army rank (Abbr.) 22 Have bills 23 Handle roughly 24 Listener 25 Greek X 26 Round Table address 27 Roscoe 28 Id counterpart 29 Director Howard 31 Height of fashion? 34 You can't pin anything on him! 35 Singer Campbell 36 Luau bowlful 37 Diamond period 39 Divest 40 Italian wine region 41 Twirled 42 Enrages 43 Big rig 44 Merri-ment 45 Green land 46 Cincinnati team 48 Space

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 4-10

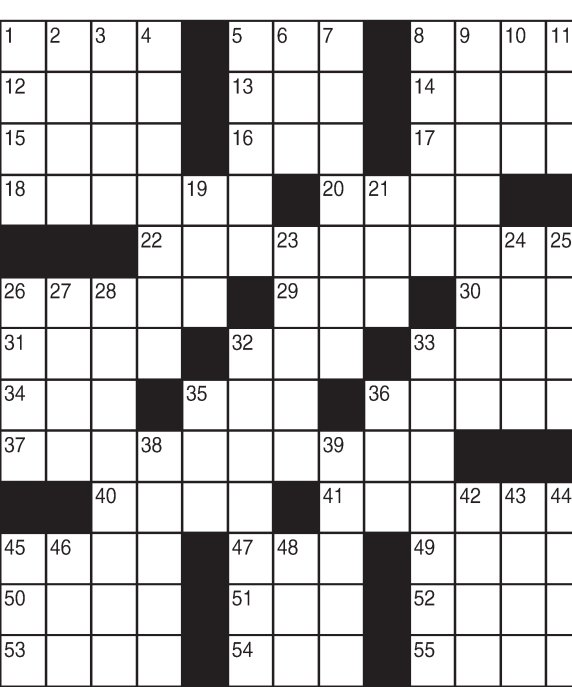


ACROSS 1 Sitarist's rendition 5 Pouch 8 Sedimentary deposit 12 Beige 13 Swelled head 14 Freshly 15 Send forth 16 Lair 17 Start over 18 Man's hat style 20 Campus area 22 Etui's cousin? 26 Invigorating 29 Coop occupant 30 Street address? 31 Tramp's love 32 Pickle container 33 Actress Jessica 34 Whatever amount 35 Pitch 36 Skin 37 1959 Hudson/Day movie 40 Gentle soul 41 Subtlety 45 Raised platform 47 Make a choice 49 Gander 50 Into the sunrise 51 Digits (Abbr.) 52 Capri, e.g. 53 Crazy 54 Actor Ron 55 Geographical septet 19 Sailors' org. 23 "USA Today" feature 24 Spheres 25 Ark skipper 26 Applaud 27 Hindu princess 28 Writer of pastoral pieces 32 Mandible 33 Acids' neutralizers 35 Pig stealer of rhyme 36 Winter ailment 38 Survives 39 Nervous 42 Winning margin, maybe 43 Pop flavor 44 — out a living 45 Society newbie 46 Motorists' grp. 48 Rep. or Dem.

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 4-12



Bridge

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

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

WEST
♠ Q 10 9
♥ J 9 3
♦ 8 5 2
♣ Q 10 6 3

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

SOUTH
♠ A K 6 4 2
♥ A K Q 5
♦ Q 3
♣ 8 4

The bidding:
South 1 ♠
West 2 ♠
North 2 ♠
East 2 ♠

Opening lead — three of clubs.

Opening lead — three of clubs.

One principle that just about every player becomes aware of sooner or later is that, while it is all right for a defender to lead away from an ace on opening lead against a notrump contract, it is bad policy to do so against a suit contract.

This knowledge can be just as useful to a declarer as it is to the defenders. Consider this case where West led a club and declarer, thinking that West might have the ace, played the king. East took the ace and returned a club to West's ten. South later lost a spade and a diamond and so went down one.

Declarer lost the contract on the very first play when he should have played a low club from dummy rather than the king. It is true that West might have had the ace, since there is no law to prevent a player from underleading an ace when the mood so moves him, but the club should have been ducked for an By playing low from dummy South virtually assures the contract. After East wins the trick with the jack, what can he do next?

If he cashes the ace of clubs at trick two, he establishes dummy's king. Declarer's diamond loser can later be discarded on the king, and South loses only two clubs and a spade.

And if East instead shifts to a heart at trick two, South takes the ace, draws two rounds of trumps and cashes the K-Q of hearts, discarding dummy's two remaining clubs.

He then loses a diamond finesse to East's king, but it is only the second trick for the defense. West eventually scores a trump trick, and again the contract is made.

The important point of the deal is that South should plan the play of the hand as a whole from the very outset. He should not allow himself to be sidetracked at trick one by the question of who has the ace of clubs. Which opponent has the ace is a secondary consideration. Making the contract is the first consideration.

West dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 6 3
♥ 9 5 4
♦ J 4
♣ J 10 8 5 3 2

WEST
♠ 2
♥ Q 10 7 6 2
♦ 9 6 2
♣ K 9 7 4

EAST
♠ Q J 10 9 8 4
♥ J 8 3
♦ 5
♣ A Q 6

SOUTH
♠ A K 7 5
♥ A K
♦ A K Q 10 8 7 3
♣ —

The bidding:
West Pass
North Pass
East 2 ♠
South 6 ♦

Opening lead — two of spades.

What Must Be Must Be

One of the greatest thrills you can experience at the bridge table is to bring home a seemingly unmakeable contract through your own ingenuity. And if the contract also happens to be a slam — well, that's just the icing on the cake.

Consider this deal where South leaped directly to six diamonds after East opened with a pre-emptive two-spade bid. The jump to six was certainly a reasonable choice for South, who had no way to find out what his partner's hand looked like. Depending on what North held, the combined hands could have been laydown for a grand slam or, on a really bad day, might not even have produced 11 tricks. South therefore chose the middle road.

West led what was obviously a singleton spade, and, after taking the ace, declarer was left to ponder how he could possibly take care of his two spade losers. Ordinarily, he would next have played the king of spades and then tried to ruff one or both low spades in dummy. But in the actual case, West was virtually sure to trump the king of spades and return a trump, leaving South with only one trump in dummy to ruff his two spade losers.

After giving the matter due thought, the solution — a rather unusual one — came to him. At trick two, instead of playing the king of spades, he led a low spade!

East won with the nine and returned a trump, but he was fighting a losing battle. South went up with the ace and trumped his seven of spades with dummy's jack of diamonds. He then ruffed a club, drew trumps and claimed the rest of the tricks to make the slam.

The solution was easy enough to find once South made the effort to look for it. Necessity, it would seem, is still the mother of invention.

Family Circus • Bill Keane

