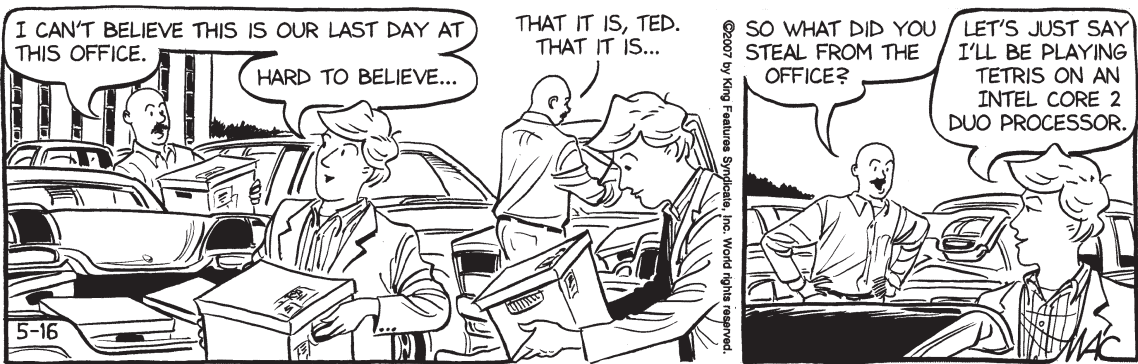
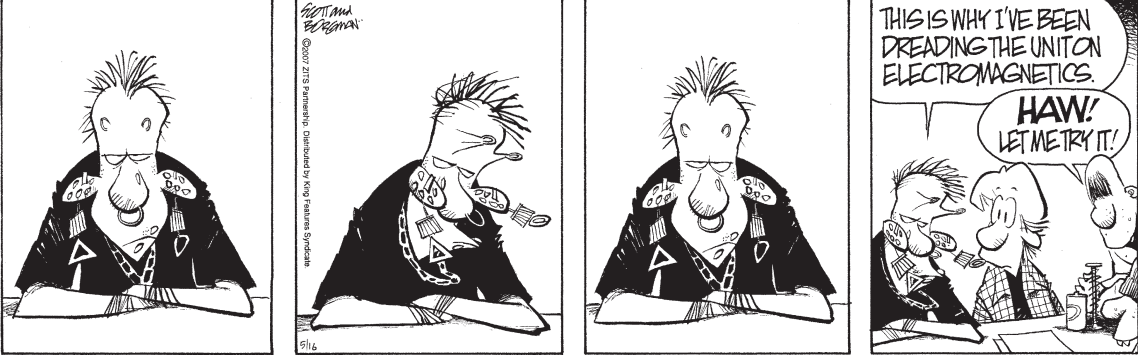


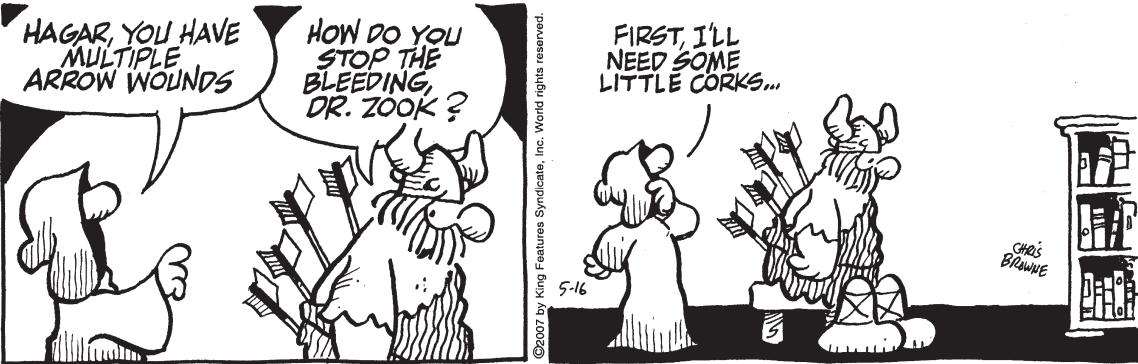
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



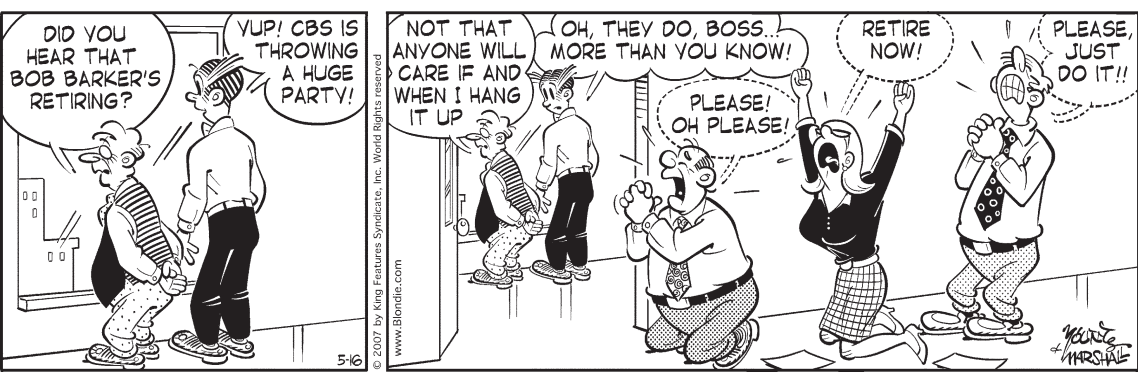
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



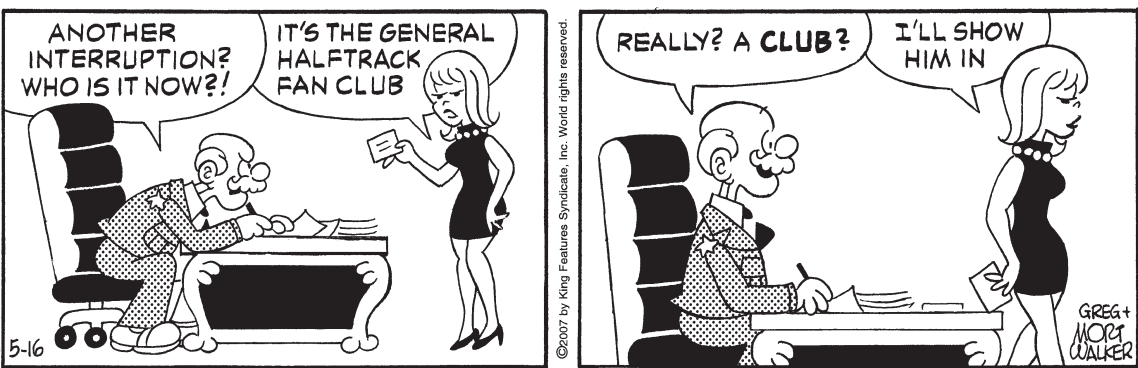
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



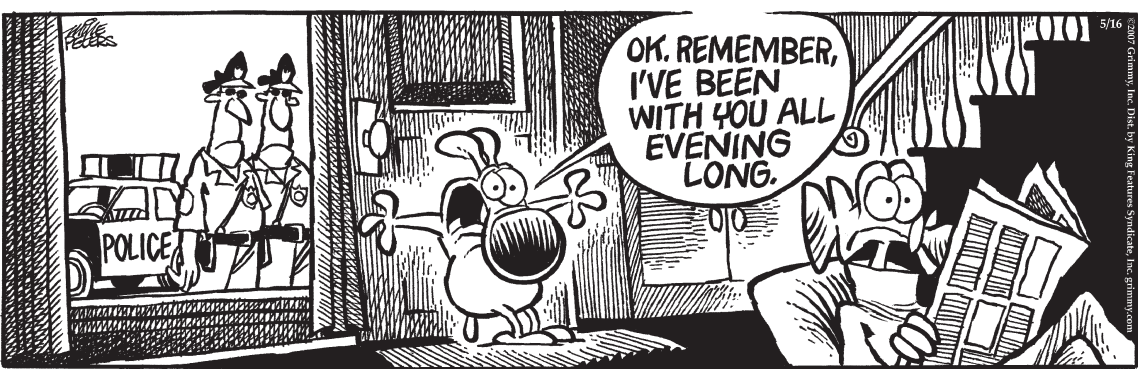
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Cryptoquip

JUPL ARV ZQPPM KRLZJQGMPQ
XQEPL PLMUVKGXKMGBXEEA,
RLP BRVEF KVWWRKPMUXM
ARV UPQXEF UXQREF.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A CHURCH PASTOR IS VERY FRIENDLY AND GREGARIOUS, I'D HAVE TO SAY HE'S A PEOPLE PARSON.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals Y

UGZCDM OKLKDYQE JYGOYKW
BD UKO NCLRKO TGJRKY
IOBVKLY, JUK OKIBOYKW
"NKGZK BDQE VFJY TKMFD."
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN YOU GREET SONGWRITER ARLEN ENTHUSIASTICALLY, ONE COULD SUPPOSE THAT YOU HERALD HAROLD.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals O

Crossword

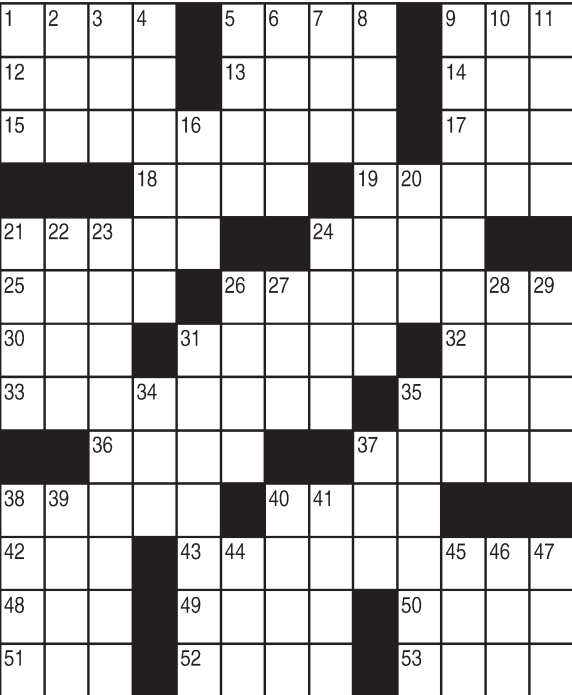
ACROSS 37 Arise 5 Confront 24 Medical types 26 Sense 27 Author Deighton 28 Hum-dinger 29 On 31 "A Streetcar Named Desire" role 34 Before 35 "The Taking of — One Two Three" 37 Petrol 38 Hardy cabbage 39 Quite some time 40 Enthusiastic 41 Newspaper page 44 Bad hair-piece 45 "A Chorus Line" song 46 Mel of Coopers-town 47 Driving site

DOWN 1 Society newbie 2 401(k) alternative 3 Sermon subject 4 Lebanon trees 5 Initial stake 11 Prospector's dream 16 Mischievous tyke 20 "Exodus" figure 21 Pekoe et al. 22 Lump raised by a blow 23 Secretary of war, 1899-1904

Solution time: 21 mins.

OP	AL	AM	GL	OW
CALL	ER	ID	RO	PE
TRI	AN	GLE	UK	ES
	MO	O	AD	DI
AT	LA	S	B	LO
PS	I	DE	IS	MA
TR	I	D	E	N
	SA	T	E	V
AR	RO	Y	O	LE
DA	UB	T	R	IN
SE	ER	L	IT	DO

Yesterday's answer 5-15



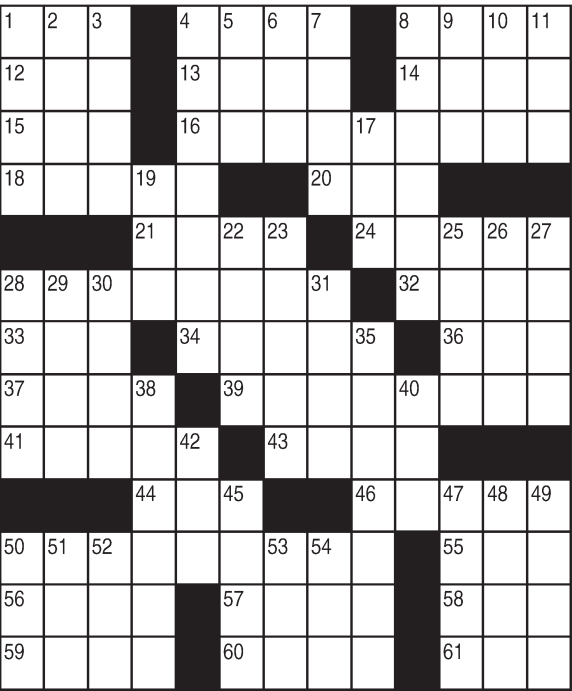
ACROSS 44 Tums target 46 Implied 50 Chairs, tables, etc. 55 Lennon's lady 56 Sicilian spouter 57 Distant potentate 58 Legislation 59 Fervor 60 Grad rags? 61 Common-est word 11 Exist 17 Melody 19 Airline letters 22 Wall Street optimist

DOWN 1 "Monty Python" opener 4 Returned 8 Arizona city 12 Regret 13 Lotion additive 14 Eastern potentate 15 \$ dispenser 16 John Hancock 18 Resigns 20 Dead heat 21 "Dragnet" star 24 Perch 28 Green 32 A bit blue 33 Volente lead-in 34 Eat loudly 36 WWII general Arnold 37 Many millennia 39 Bond 41 Anticipate 43 Staff member

Solution time: 21 mins.

DIS	C	FL	AB	B	AG
ER	I	E	A	I	D
B	A	N	D	I	C
	A	M	E	N	R
T	W	E	R	P	D
E	E	L	S	F	L
A	L	I	B	E	E
S	T	H	E	L	E
	U	R	A	L	G
K	A	R	E	N	G
A	G	O	C	R	A
L	E	O	H	U	G
E	S	T	E	G	A

Yesterday's answer 5-16



Bridge

South dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 10 6 3
♥ K Q 7 2
♦ Q 6 4
♣ Q J 10

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

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

SOUTH
♠ K J
♥ A J 10 9 4
♦ K 3
♣ A 9 6 2

The bidding:
South 1♥ Pass 4♥
West Dble 1♠
North Redble 2♥
East Pass Pass

Opening lead — six of hearts.

A Fight to the Bitter End

Let's say you get to four hearts on the bidding shown and West leads a trump. It's certainly not hard to figure out where the missing high cards are. You're looking at 26 high-card points, so there's a good chance that West, for his double, has all the missing points.

It might therefore seem that you must lose two spades, a diamond and a club and go down one. However, if you give the situation further thought, a ray of hope emerges. You can probably endplay West if the cards are divided the way you think they are.

Accordingly, you win the trump lead with the nine, play the jack of trumps to the queen, lead the queen of clubs and finesse. As expected, West takes his king and returns a club. You win with the ten and overtake the jack with the ace as both defenders follow suit.

You now have West over a barrel. You carefully refrain from cashing the nine of clubs and, instead, lead the three of diamonds. West follows low — he would hand you the contract if he went up with the ace — and dummy's queen wins the trick. You then return to your hand with a trump, cash the club nine, discarding a diamond from dummy, and exit with the king of diamonds.

West wins with the ace, but is a dead pigeon. If he returns a diamond, you ruff in dummy and discard the jack of spades, while if he returns a spade, he likewise presents you with your 10th trick.

The deal illustrates that if you know where the opponents' high cards are, you can sometimes convert a losing cause into a winning one.

North dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ Q 9 7 2
♥ A Q J 8
♦ A K J 7
♣ 5

WEST
♠ A 5
♥ 10 3
♦ Q 8 3 2
♣ J 8 7 3 2

EAST
♠ 3
♥ K 6 4 2
♦ 10 9 4
♣ A K Q 10 6

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

The bidding:
North 1♦ Dble
East 2♣ 4♣
South Pass 4♠
West 3♣

Opening lead — three of clubs.

Super-Duper Defense

It's not easy to figure out how South went down one in this deal after a club lead. But the fact is that he did go down — as we shall presently see.

North's double of three clubs was for takeout, indicating values well above a minimum opening bid. South's voluntary four-spade bid was therefore fully justified.

East won the opening club lead with the queen and concluded that the defense's prospect of scoring four tricks was not very bright. He could expect to win a heart trick eventually, but to count on West for two trump tricks was not very realistic in view of South's four-spade bid.

East therefore decided that his only real chance to stop the contract was to return a heart into dummy's A-Q-J-8, creating the impression that he had a singleton heart. Accordingly, he shifted to the six of hearts at trick two. Declarer took West's ten with the jack and led a trump to the king, won by West with the ace.

West returned a heart, and South, afraid East was about to ruff, finessed the queen. East won with the king and returned a heart. When West ruffed, South — to his utter amazement — found himself down one, having lost a club, a spade, a heart and a heart ruff. East's shrewd defense had done him in.

It goes to show that even contracts that appear to be ironclad can have weak spots that can be exploited by imaginative defense.

Family Circus • Bill Keane

