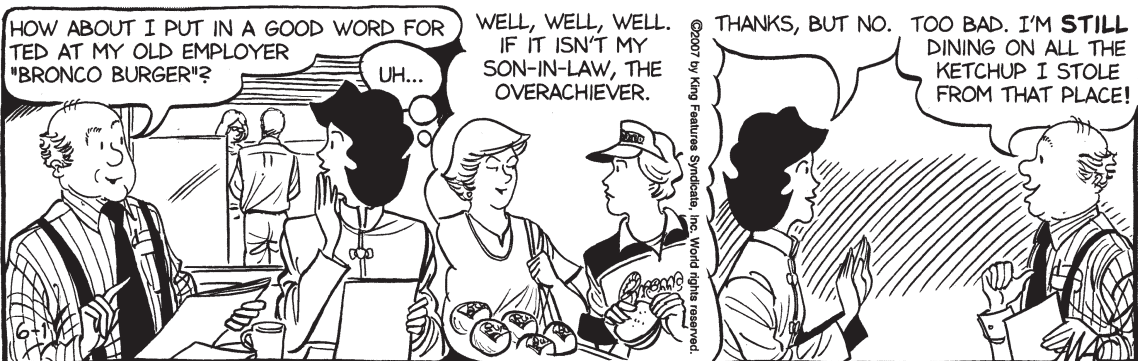


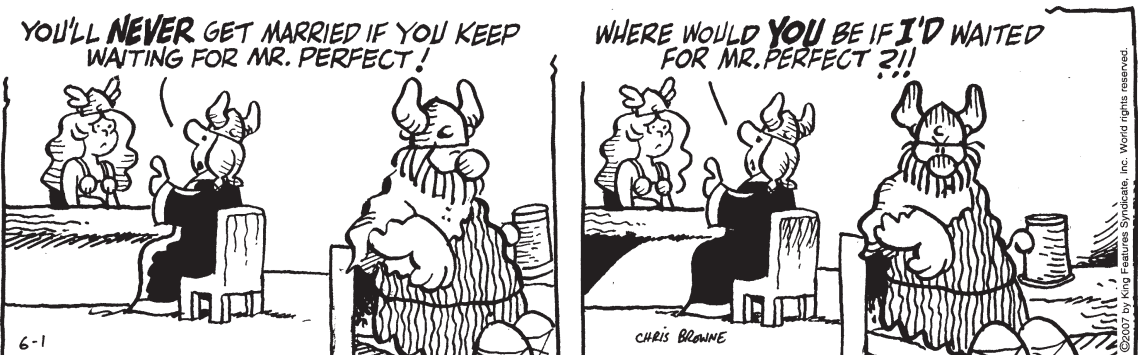
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



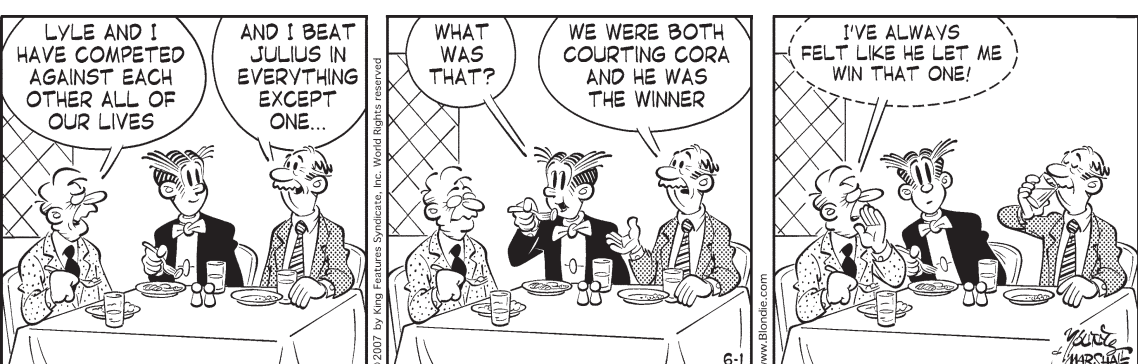
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



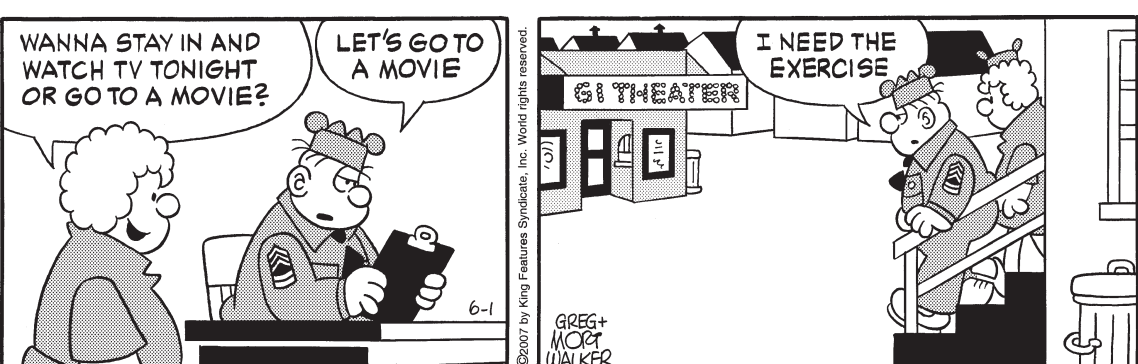
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



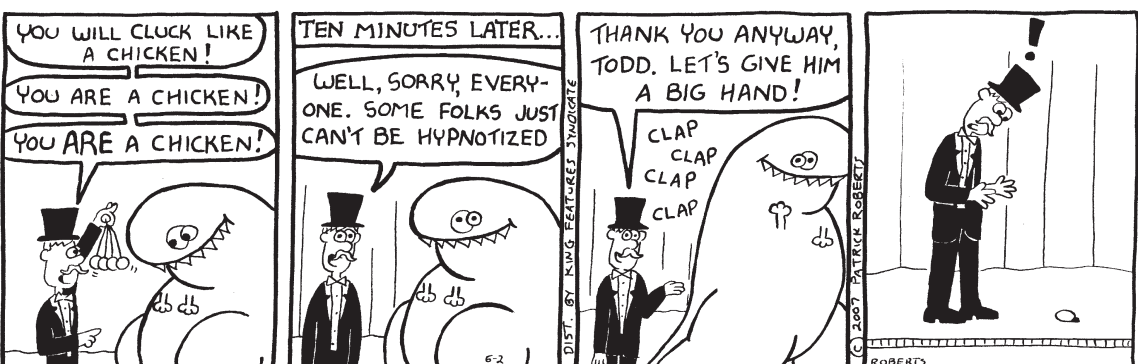
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Cryptoquip

E YWEQHZMKWLQHS ZUZZQKH

OUAP QH E TKKCQHS

EWUE LQSOM YU TEAAUP

MOU CQMTUOH MOQHC.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN WILD ANIMALS ARE VERY MANNERLY, SHOULD YOU SAY THEY'RE ON THEIR BEAST BEHAVIOR?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals S

FDH RQBFL QKVQTB

BQAHU BCIH LCCI MCL VDQF

DQU GHZCIH DJB MQACIJFH

UHHBHLF, RLHQZD IHKGQ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: A BRAINSTORMING SESSION HELD IN A COOKING AREA MIGHT BE CALLED THE KITCHEN THINK.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals T

Crossword

ACROSS

1 Possessed

4 Charitable donations

8 Earth

12 Exist

13 Throb

14 Busy with

15 Tongue

17 Leftovers

18 Prey on the mind

19 Prior night

21 Lepidopterist's prop

22 Duration

26 For all to hear

29 Whammy

30 "7 Faces of Dr. —"

31 Conks on the noggin

32 Blackguard

33 Hamilton foe

34 Scratch (out)

35 Vagrant

36 Major-ette's staff

37 Hang around

39 Chap

40 Peculiar

41 Ducked a big wedding

45 Fly high

48 Dull, tedious

50 Overly proper one

51 Falco of "The Sopranos"

52 Paid player

53 Competent

54 Burpee buy

55 Bribe

DOWN

1 Head light

2 Speedy steed

3 Hide-aways

4 Mis-treated

5 Minimum

6 Periodical, for short

7 Pittsburgh athlete

8 Vamp

9 Inseparable

10 "—"

11 Realtor's offering

12 Dish

13 Trumpet

14 First victim

15 Trickster god

16 Tournament

17 Drone

18 Spoils

19 Sluggish body of water

20 Cot

21 Distended

22 Overeat

23 Aladdin's ally

24 Energizes, with "up"

25 Modern-day money

26 Let fall

27 Resort

28 Scepter topper

29 Be below par

30 Honor in verse

Solution time: 25 mins.

MOHR OPEC HOP
EPEE KAYO IKE
TALLORDR GIN
ALPACA ASHEN
IT ALLOW
BALD DUO LIRA
EGO IDO REP
DOWN NIP WEST
BINGO HA
PLEBE PORTIA
YEA SHORTHAND
LAM TIRE ORSO
ENS SPYR LOTS

Yesterday's answer 6-1

Bridge

You are South, both sides vulnerable. The bidding has gone:

North	East	South	West
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	?	

What would you now bid with each of the following four hands?

1. ♠AJ86 ♥Q5 ♦AJ9 ♣Q643

2. ♠Q8643 ♥95 ♦J3 ♣KJ72

3. ♠AKJ543 ♥Q963 ♦94 ♣7

4. ♠KQJ9842 ♥A ♦J7 ♣865

Bidding Quiz

1. Three notrump. With a sound opening bid facing an opening bid, a game contract must be reached. Given your balanced distribution and all-around strength, notrump appears the most feasible game. If partner's distribution is such that he prefers a suit contract, your hand is sufficiently flexible to support such an effort. The important thing is to avoid bidding only two notrump or raising to three clubs, either of which would permit partner to pass with a minimum opening bid. Invitational bids of this sort are reserved strictly for hands where there is doubt whether a game should be reached. In this case no such doubt should exist. 2. Pass. At the other end of the spectrum are those hands where the previous bidding indicates game is very unlikely. Partner's two-club rebid may be based on minimum values or a moderately good hand, but even in the latter case, your hand is nothing to get excited about. Partner's failure to jump to two notrump wipes out any chance of a notrump game, while a game in clubs is too remote to be seriously considered. A raise to three clubs might easily result in getting the partnership too high. 3. Four hearts. You should be perfectly willing to play in a game at hearts, and you can get that message across to partner by jumping to game in that suit. It is not necessary to rebid your excellent spade suit, since a heart contract is surely playable whether partner has spade support or not. Rebidding spades can only confuse the issue. You can also jump to three hearts, provided your partnership plays that bid as forcing. 4. Four spades. Lacking a satisfactory fit for either of partner's suits, and holding a powerful suit that requires no support from partner, you can deliver both messages in one fell swoop by leaping to four spades. The four-spade bid is mildly invitational to slam, a contract you should not fear if partner decides to carry on.

South dealer.

Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

♠A 9 2

♥Q 10 7 5

♦J 4

♣Q J 10 3

WEST

♠Q J 10 8 7 4 3

♥J 4

♦A K 6

♣5

EAST

♠5

♥K 9 8 3 2

♦10 9 7 5 3 2

♣7

SOUTH

♠K 6

♥A 6

♦Q 8

♣A K 9 8 6 4 2

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1♠	3♣	4♣	Pass
5♣			

Opening lead — king of diamonds.

The Visualization Factor

There are times when declarer faces a problem that seems impossible to solve. Fortunately, some of these problems have ingenious solutions. Consider this case where you're in five clubs and West leads the K-A of diamonds, then shifts to the queen of spades. It certainly seems you must lose a heart trick and go down one. But if you're in the habit of not giving up easily, you put on your thinking cap as tightly as you can and come up with a possible solution. To begin with, you're aware that West's three-spade bid was pre-emptive and not a strength-showing bid. He would have bid either one spade or doubled had he held a strong hand with lots of spades. You therefore decide — especially since West has already turned up with the A-K of diamonds — that he cannot have the king of hearts and proceed accordingly. After winning the spade queen with the king, you play six rounds of trumps to produce this position:

North

[S] A 9

[H] Q 10

West

[S] J 10

[H] J 4

East

[H] K 9 8

[D] 10

South

[S] 6

[H] A 6

[C] 9

You now play your last trump, hoping West has the jack of hearts. If he has it, you've got him over a barrel. This proves to be your lucky day because West, who can't afford to part with a spade, is forced to discard his four of hearts. You thereupon discard dummy's nine of spades, lead a spade to the ace and play the queen of hearts. It doesn't matter whether East covers or not; either way you avoid a heart loser and so make five clubs.

Family Circus • Bill Keane