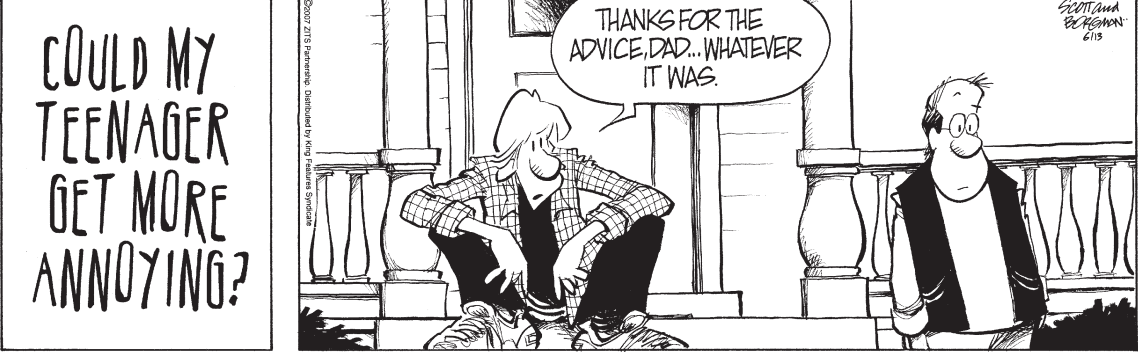


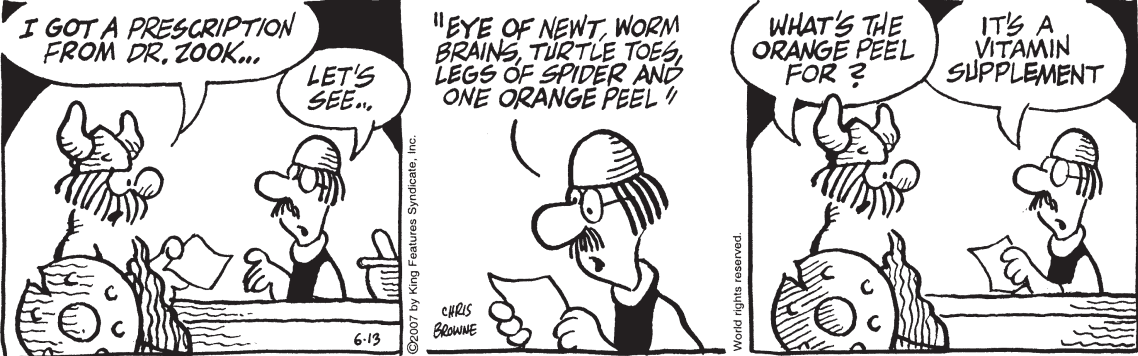
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



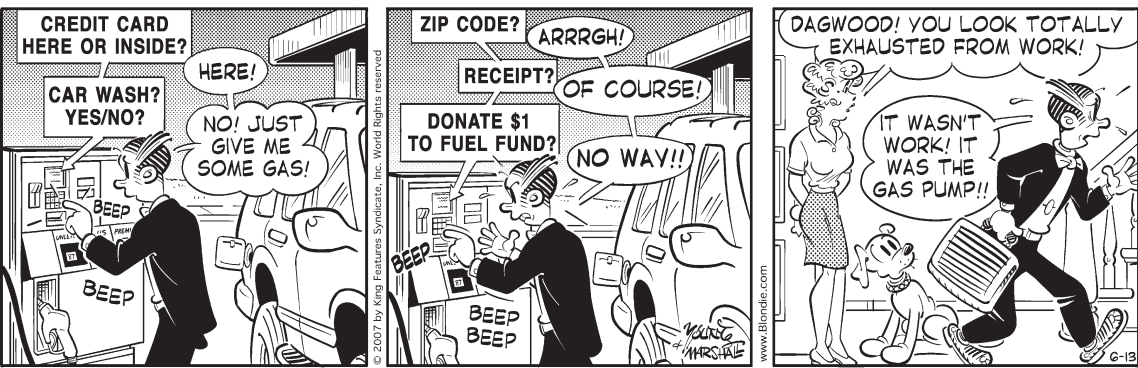
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



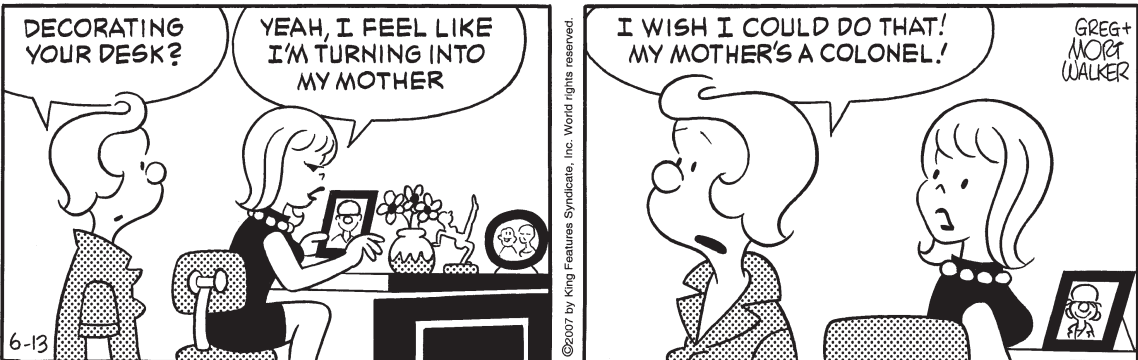
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



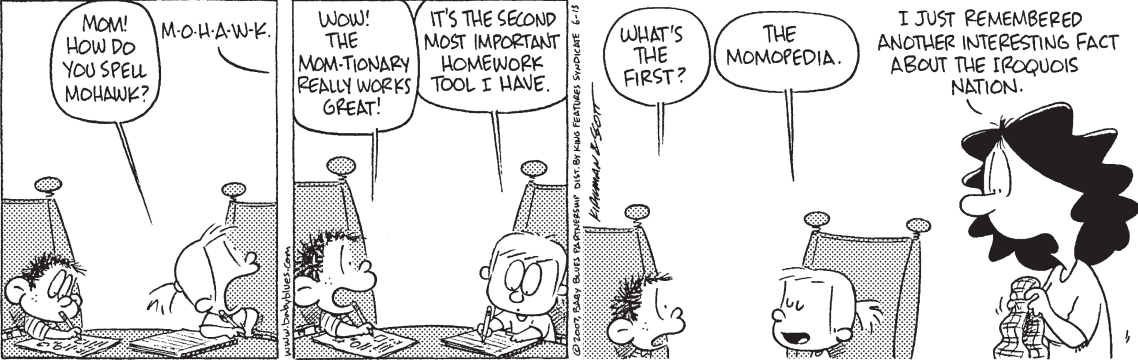
Blondie • Chic Young



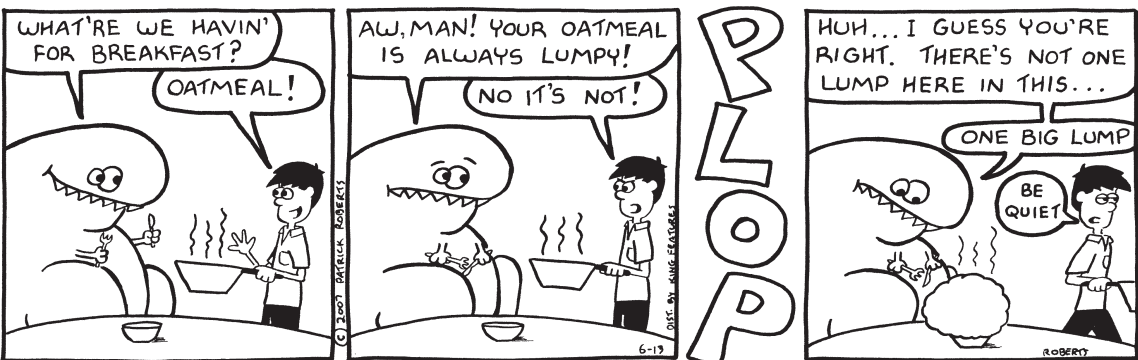
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Cryptoquip

JVWL K HKL'T LWKPZN ECHHUEGLT RUC EWVMH
BYAAHWG VKMY BWPT KZZ EUFNAUR CLWGX SN EWMVWE
HDTTWG DF, NAD HMBVP EGLTGLT, RUC FGTSW EMR
TKN VW'T LAJ GW-FKYPWG. RUC ANXWNO UCW M WCLN.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF I MAKE AN ERROR WHEN A MAN'S
ABOUT THE KIND OF BLOOD SOMEBODY HAS, I NEATLY GROOMED HAIR GETS ALL MUSSUED UP,
RECKON IT COULD BE A TYPE-O TYPO. YOU MIGHT SAY HE'S NOW DE-PARTED.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals H Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals Y

Crossword

ACROSS 37 West Point student 2 "Go, team!" 22 Mischievous deity 23 Roget's compilation 24 Punch's partner 26 Maize 27 — shoe-string 28 Memo 29 Capricorn 31 Easily crumbled 34 Alias abbr. 35 Pub worker 37 Lettuce type 38 How Lindy flew 39 Witticism 40 Telephone inventor 41 Rembrandt's output 44 Weeding implement 45 Exist 46 Fresh 47 Singer Cole

DOWN 1 Variety of nail 5 Mop the decks 9 Paving goo 12 "Othello" villain 13 — Major 14 Coloration 15 Shrink, maybe 17 Historic time 18 Atomizer output 19 Early feeding time 21 Change 24 Scoff 25 Comedian Jay 26 Suitor's task 30 Eisenhower 31 Stocks and — 32 Menagerie 33 Mess 35 Alpha follower 36 Related (to)

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 6-12

Bridge

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

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

WEST
♠ 3
♥ Q 10 5
♦ Q J 10 8 7
♣ J 9 6 2

EAST
♠ Q 7 4
♥ 7 6 2
♦ A 5 3
♣ Q 10 8 7

SOUTH
♠ A K J 10
♥ A J 8
♦ 9 6 2
♣ A K 3

The bidding:
South 2 NT
3 ♠
West Pass
Pass
North 3 ♣
4 ♣
East Pass
Pass

Opening lead — queen of diamonds.

Setting the Stage

Declarer occasionally arrives at a position where it does not matter whether a crucial finesse is successful, because whether it wins or loses, he is certain to make the contract. Consider the present deal where West leads a diamond, dummy's king losing to East's ace. A diamond return is taken by West, who shifts to a club. After taking East's queen with the ace, how should declarer proceed?

The outcome appears to hinge on the location of the two missing queens in spades and hearts. Finesses against both queens are available, since declarer has the A-K-J of both suits. However, South has no way of knowing whether either finesse, if attempted, will win. Then, too, there is the matter that with nine spades in the combined hands, the normal way to play the suit is to cash the A-K and try to drop the queen. It is usually good policy to avoid a finesse or play for a drop if there is an alternative approach that offers a better chance of success. Accordingly, before committing himself in either suit, South first strips dummy's hand and his own of diamonds and clubs. After cashing the ace of trumps, he ruffs a diamond in dummy, then cashes the king of clubs and ruffs a club in dummy.

The stage is now set for the crucial play. Declarer leads a trump and finesses the ten after East follows low. South does not know whether the finesse will succeed, but he does know that, win or lose, he will make the contract.

If the ten wins, as it does in the actual deal, he acquires his 10th trick right away. If the ten loses because West started with Q-x of trumps, the contract is equally certain, because West must yield the game-going trick whatever he returns: A heart return goes right into South's A-J-8, while a diamond or club return allows declarer to ruff in dummy and discard a heart from his hand.

North dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ J 10 2
♥ K 10 9
♦ A K Q 10 3
♣ 8 5

WEST
♠ A K Q 7
♥ 7 6 4 3
♦ 8 5
♣ K 9 2

EAST
♠ 9 6 5 4
♥ 8 2
♦ 7 4 2
♣ 10 7 6 3

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

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

Opening lead — king of spades.

Paradise Found

John Milton's observation that "they also serve who only stand and wait" could well be applied to some occasions in bridge where inaction can be more rewarding than action.

Take this case where South reached four hearts on the sequence shown and West led the K-A-Q of spades, declarer ruffing the third round. South then drew three rounds of trumps, hoping the missing hearts would divide 3-3. But when West turned up with four trumps, declarer was fighting a losing battle. He next attempted a club finesse, which lost to West's king, and South finished down two, losing three spades, a trump and a club.

If South had paid heed to Milton's words, he would have made the contract. All he had to do was to discard a low club on the third round of spades. This simple precautionary measure would have allowed him to get home safely if the missing trumps were divided either 3-3 or 4-2 (84 percent), and he would have wound up scoring the 10 high-card tricks he had started with.

It could be argued in defense of South's play at trick three that he was only doing what came naturally when he won the trick instead of deliberately losing it, but the hard fact is that spontaneity in bridge rarely produces compensating rewards. The aim of the game is to win, and if losing a trick instead of winning it improves one's chances of making the contract, that is the best policy to follow. As another sage once observed, "Haste maketh waste."

Family Circus • Bill Keane

