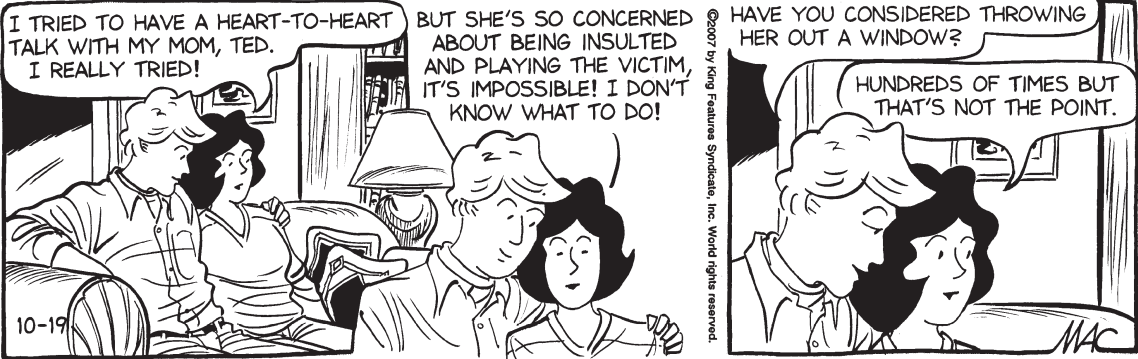
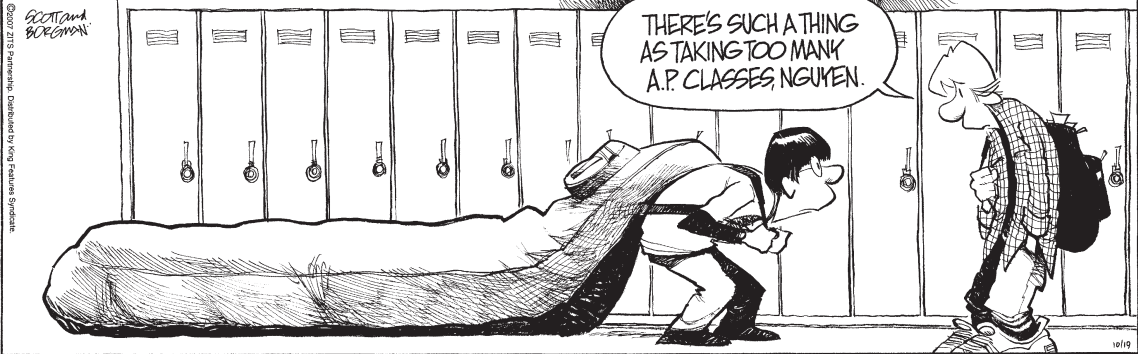


Sally Forth • Greg Howard



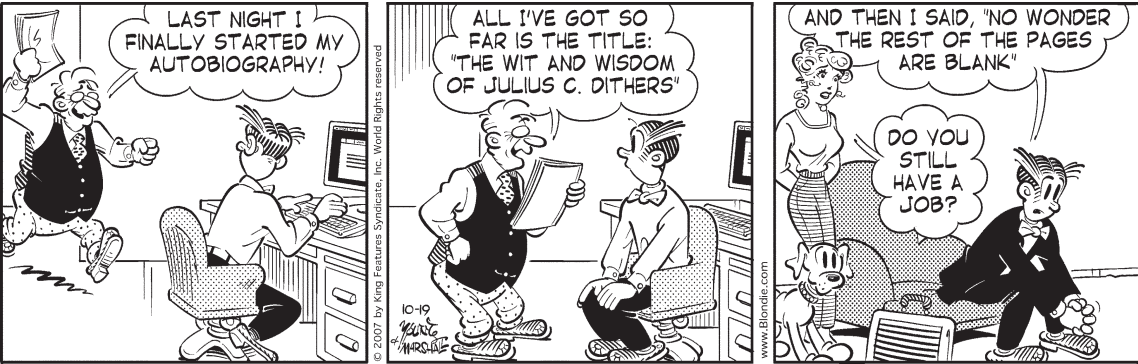
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



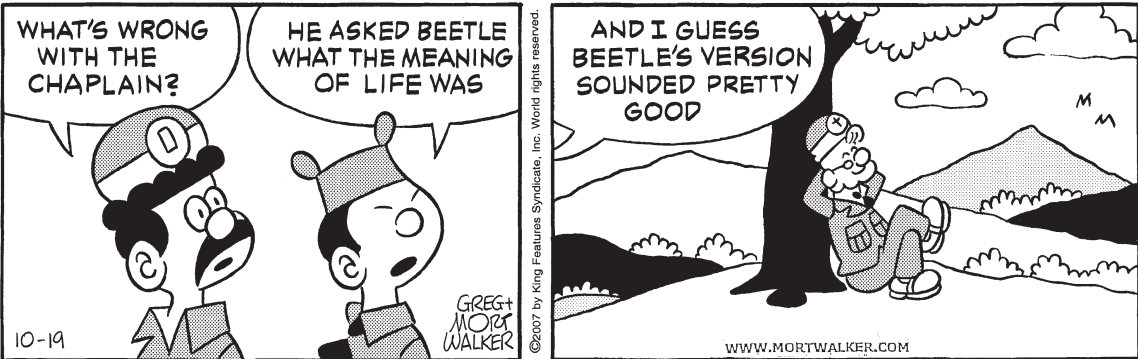
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



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

SVMH XVIPSLIB D GNBV

MNQG PT UGLYDSVYLQSQ SP

UMPONMV D MDMV UPQS-

PTTLOV LQQNV: D QSDHU-VXV.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AT THE OUTDOOR BARBEQUE, I RECKON THE INSECT MOST LIKELY TO BITE YOU COULD BE A MESQUITE-O.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals R

VYKKQVDWF VQNJQWJ

SQWVCPYSCJG E UEVC SEP

QYC QU KEKJP, NDFIC CIEC

TJ E GDVKQVETBJ PESJP?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: TERM DENOTING A HUGE RUSH OF PHILATELISTS TO PROCURE A RARE POST-OFFICE ISSUE: A STAMP-EDE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals T

Crossword

ACROSS

1 Tribute in verse

4 Tranquil

8 MGM mascot

12 Zero star review

13 Out of harm's way

14 Staffer

15 Massive

17 Ferris wheel, for one

18 Islamic leader

19 Succumb to gravity

21 Meadow

22 Glacier

26 Massive

29 Stick with a kick

30 Car need

31 Sculptor's medium

32 Massive

33 Pop

34 Veneman of Dubya's cabinet

35 "— -Tiki"

36 Massive

DOWN

37 Roughly unkempt

39 Carney or Buchwald

40 Catcher's place?

41 Japanese entertainer

45 Crooner Jerry

48 Massive

50 Thought

51 Saharan

52 Something up your sleeve?

53 Tend texts

54 Wit-nesses

55 "Holy mackerell!"

1 30-

2 Across

3 Carvey or Delany

3 Organic compound

4 RV, e.g.

5 Wahine's greeting

6 Roman-ian

7 "Will & Grace" actress

8 Massive

9 Midafter-noon, in a way

10 Peculiar

11 Born

16 One with an easy life?

20 Pretend

23 Rail-like bird

24 Amneris' slave-girl

25 Blueprint

26 Cicatrix

27 Radius' neighbor

28 Throe

29 Stannum

32 Madre-y-padre stores?

33 Silent protest of a sort

35 Crucial

36 Tire patterns

38 Massive

39 Texas A&M athlete

42 Un-escorted

43 Give work to

44 Wile E.'s supplier

45 Compete

46 Augment

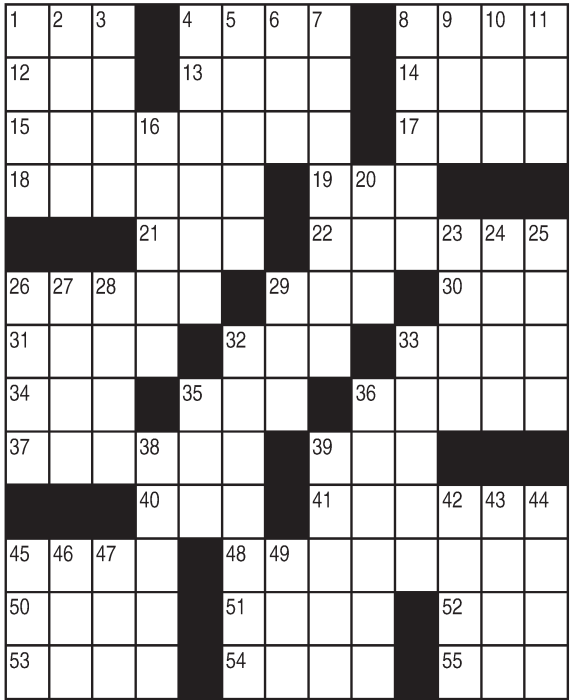
47 Floral ring

49 Anger

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 10-19



ACROSS

1 Parlor furniture

6 Hoi polloi

12 Endeavored

13 Bring out

14 Less lucid

15 Gulf of California feeder

16 Piccadilly statue

17 Actor McGregor

19 Rule, for short

20 Turner or Fey

22 Hiatus

24 "What did I tell you?"

27 At peace

29 Stead

32 Worldwide organization

35 Advan-tage

36 Mark's replace-ment

37 Maiden-named

38 Chance

40 "Star —"

42 Dracula, at times

44 Uncomplicated

DOWN

46 Scored 100

50 Followed orders

52 Flawed

54 Dolman, for one

55 Table linen

56 Sight, smell, et al.

57 Wimble-don's

1 Luminary

2 Ricelike pasta

3 Insert surrepti-tiously

4 Rd.

5 Sing to your sweetie

6 Arizona city

7 In accompa-niment

8 Sermon subject

9 Zodiac stinger

10 Green land

11 Men-only event

12 That girl

18 Some baking ingredi-ents

21 Lemieux milieu

23 Actress MacGraw

24 Seek damages

25 Rem-nant

26 Old enough to vote

28 Becoming one

30 Hydro-carbon suffix

31 Exploit

33 Afternoon get-together

34 Pirouette pivot

39 Grievance

41 Tenth of a series

42 Em-ployer

43 Skilled

45 Summer-time quenchers

47 Poolroom supply

48 Screws up

49 Old Turkish governor

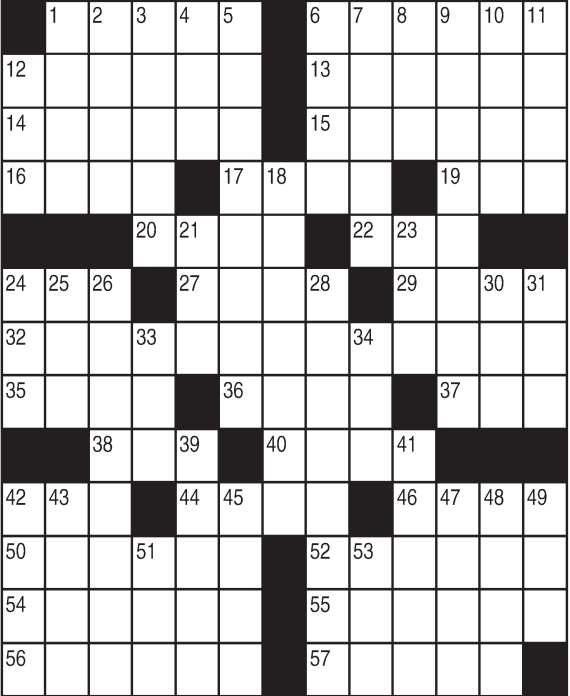
51 "Indeed"

53 Deface

Solution time: 27 mins.



Yesterday's answer 10-20



Bridge

1. You are declarer with the West hand at Three Notrump, and North, who opened the bidding with three spades, leads the queen of spades. How would you play the hand?

West

♠ K 4

♥ A 10 4

♦ K 9 4 2

♣ 10 9 6 3

East

♠ A 7

♥ Q J 6 3

♦ A 7 5

♣ K Q J 2

2. You are declarer with the West hand at Four Hearts, and North leads the heart ten. How would you play the hand?

West

♠ A 8 3

♥ A K 7 4

♦ J 9 5

♣ Q J 10

East

♠ K 9 6

♥ Q 5 2

♦ 8 4

♣ A K 8 5 3

Test Your Play

1. North probably has seven spades and either the club ace or heart king. If he has them both, your cause is hopeless, so you start by assuming he has only one of them.

The key is to eliminate North's entry before his spades become established, and the question is which suit to attack first. Strange as it might seem, the proper approach is not to force out the ace of clubs but to win the spade lead in dummy and finesse the queen of hearts. If North has the king, he is out of the picture, and you later force out South's club ace to make four notrump. If South has the king, the finesse succeeds, and you make at least four notrump.

Thus, it is clearly correct to attack hearts before clubs. If you were to attack clubs first, you would go down whenever South had the ace of clubs and North the king of hearts.

2. Oddly enough, the best play is to let North's ten of hearts win the first trick! This assures the contract if the trumps are divided no worse than 4-2, since you have 10 tricks -- three hearts, two spades and five clubs -- waiting to be cashed after you duck the heart.

If you won the first heart, the contract would be in jeopardy. Suppose, for example, you took the trick and led a diamond, hoping to ruff one later in dummy. The defense would win and play another heart, and if you took this also and played another diamond, the defense would lead a third round of trumps.

If the trumps then turned out to be divided 4-2, you could try to run the clubs in an attempt to dispose of your last diamond on the fourth club. But if the first, second or third club got ruffed by the defender with the fourth trump, he would cash a diamond to put you down one.

East dealer.

Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ K J 7

♥ A J 4

♦ J 6

♣ A 7 6 5 2

WEST

♠ 10 9 8 3

♥ 10 7 5 2

♦ 10 5 4

♣ J 3

EAST

♠ 4 2

♥ 8 6 3

♦ Q 9 8 2

♣ Q 10 9 8

SOUTH

♠ A Q 6 5

♥ K Q 9

♦ A K 7 3

♣ K 4

The bidding:
East Pass South 2 NT West Pass North 6 NT
Opening lead — ten of spades.

Out of the Blue

In selecting his line of play, declarer tries to give himself the maximum chance of making the contract. If there is more than one way to play the hand, he chooses the one that -- mathematically -- offers him the greatest probability of success.

Consider this deal where West leads a spade and declarer can count only 11 sure tricks. The 12th can come from either of two sources. One possibility is to lead the A-K and another club, hoping the opposing clubs are divided 3-3.

The other alternative is to lead a low diamond toward dummy, hoping West has the queen. If he does, declarer makes three diamond tricks instead. In choosing between the two alternatives, South is governed by the law of probabilities. He compares the chance that West was dealt the queen of diamonds (50 percent) with the chance of finding the clubs divided 3-3 (36 percent).

Since the percentages favor attacking diamonds, South wins the spade lead in his hand and leads the diamond three to the jack. East wins with the queen, which is a nasty blow -- but not necessarily fatal.

After winning the diamond, East returns a diamond. South takes the ace and cashes all his spades and hearts, reducing everyone to four cards.

This leaves South with the K-7 of diamonds and K-4 of clubs, while dummy has the A-7-6-5 of clubs. East, however, runs into serious difficulty as the last heart is being cashed. Holding the 9-8 of diamonds and Q-10-9 of clubs, he cannot find a safe discard. Whatever he decides to do, South scores the rest of the tricks, making the slam on a squeeze that was not even contemplated at the outset.

Family Circus • Bill Keane

