

Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



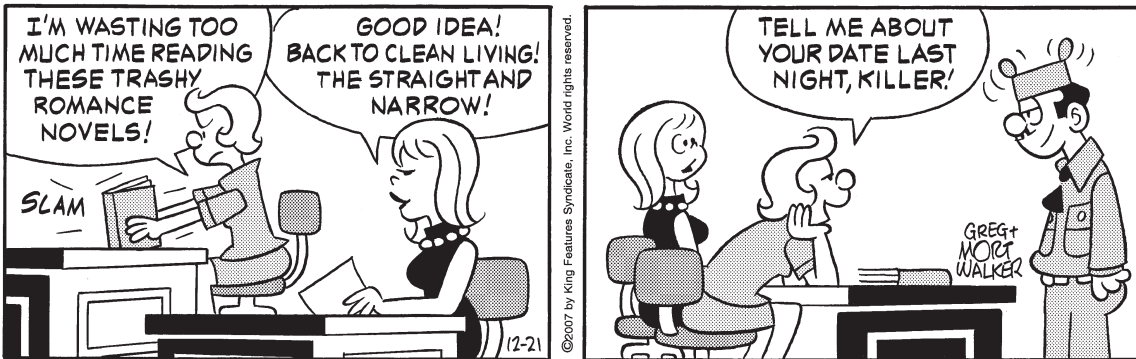
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



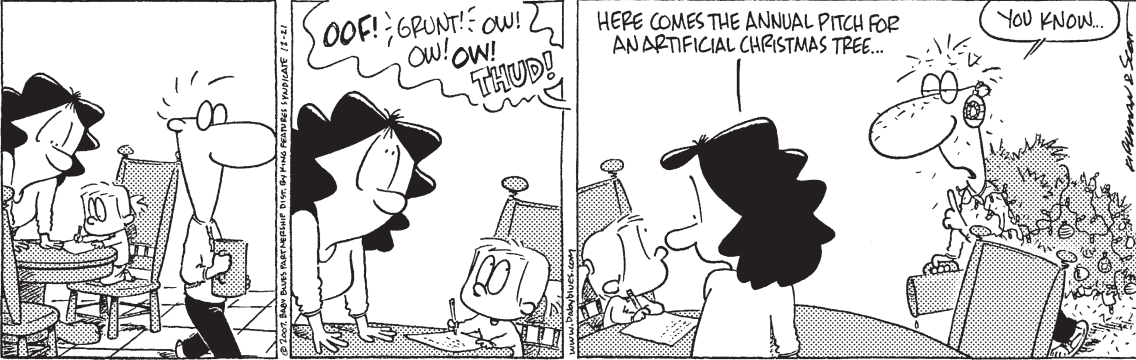
Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Cryptoquip

VXM LWDX HEFM YV MEYUE
UFVKXHKWVKH WAX SFAUXJ
KF NYUG SAFD WDFVL
NYUGTXH: "JYTT FA VF JYTT."
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: YESTERDAY I OVERHEARD SOME NEUROLOGISTS HAVING THEMSELVES A CONCUSSION DISCUSSION.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals R

WE CZV UBPB O RZVQZI
OJM UBJK KZ KSB XPZRBPC
NKZPB, W NVQQZNB CZV
GWXSK PBMBBG CZVPNBTE.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: NEW GAME SHOW IN WHICH CONTESTANTS ARE FORCED TO PICK FROM AMONG PICKLES: "DILL OR NO DILL."
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals Y

Crossword

ACROSS

1 Egos' partner
4 Between assignments
8 Farm measure
12 Old French coin
13 "Piggies"
14 Aerobatic maneuver
15 Fishwives?
17 Source of riches
18 A bit of a shock?
19 100 paisa, in Pakistan
20 With aloofness
22 Bellow
24 Relocate
25 Act of blending
29 Commotion
30 Leaves at the library?
31 Shade provider
32 Romeo's pal

DOWN

34 Sir's
35 Census statistics
36 Late
37 Blueprints
40 Facility
41 Land-lord's due
42 Seller
46 Aware of
47 Soak up some rays
48 Vast expanse
49 Use a teaspoon
50 Sculpture, etc.
51 Number for Noah

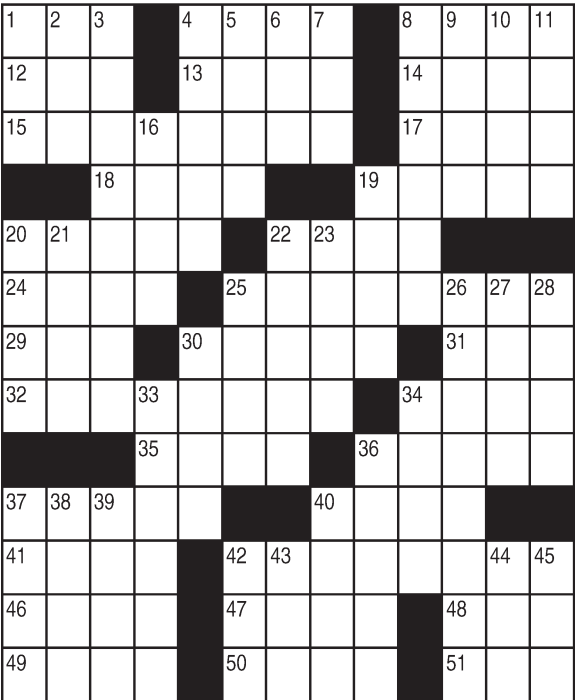
1 Doctrine
2 Female rabbit
3 Victor on Jeff Probst's show
4 European "boot"
5 Stop hesitating
6 Started Ar-tee link
8 Charm
9 Henhouse
10 Took the bus
11 Duel tool
16 Double agent
19 Alger's "before"
20 Mosque VIP

21 "The Da Vinci —"
22 Kelly's co-host
23 Sandwich treat
25 Ending for Kasparov
26 South-west Asia's vicinity
27 Dressed trophy
28 Tube
30 Boxers
33 Synagogue singer
34 Korea-based TV classic
36 Bulletin-board supply
37 Experts
38 Fast time
39 Con
40 Formerly, formerly
42 Biz deg.
43 Audience
44 Fresh
45 Confucian principle

Solution time: 25 mins.

W	O	N	K	B	B	C	M	E	O	W
E	T	U	I	L	O	O	A	Q	U	A
I	T	L	L	A	N	N	N	U	T	S
R	O	L	L	O	N	T	O	N	I	
J	A	C	K	A	N	A	P	E	S	
S	O	P	O	R	N	C	O	P	I	E
P	L	A	Y	S	E	T	B	E	R	N
A	I	R	N	N	E	B	O	D	E	D
T	O	M	F	O	O	L	E	R	Y	
E	L	M	O	M	A	C	R	O	N	
E	A	S	Y	Z	A	P	O	H	I	O
F	L	A	B	E	S	T	T	E	N	D
T	I	N	Y	S	H	Y	T	A	K	E

Yesterday's answer 12-21



ACROSS

1 Fugue composer
5 Network
9 DuPont rival
12 Singer's come-back?
13 "Spam-a-lot" creator
14 Raw rock
15 Grand
16 Squad
17 Castel-laneta who voices Homer
18 Patches
19 Potent stick
20 Embrace
21 Before
23 Ostrich's kin
25 Atlanta athlete
28 Piercing weapon
32 Mountain nymph
33 Throttle
34 KP device
36 Went it alone

DOWN

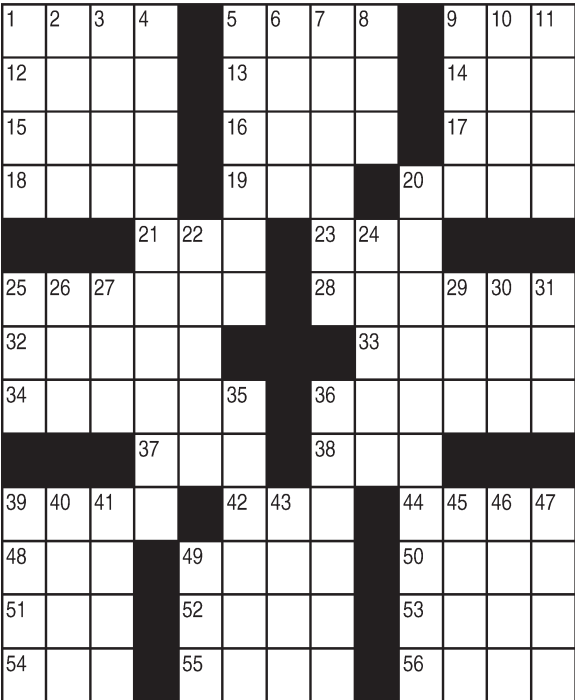
37 Costello or Ferrigno
38 Literary collection
39 Employer
42 Stomach
44 Second-hand
48 A billion years
49 With skill
50 Wander
51 Resort
52 — gin fizz
53 Notion
54 1/6 fl. oz.
55 Juror, theoretically
56 "My Name Is —"

2 Marathon aftereffect
3 Grub
4 Bygone medical courtesy
5 Half a winter-time pair
6 Paradise
7 On the schedule
8 Height of fashion?
9 Old fogey
10 Exam format
11 Travel (one's way)
20 Actor whose character should make 4-Down?

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 12-22



Bridge

1. **You are declarer** with the West hand at Six Diamonds, and North leads the king of clubs. How would you play the hand?

WEST
♠ A 6 5 3
♥ K 10 4 2
♦ K Q 10 7 3
♣ —

EAST
♠ K 10 4 2
♥ A Q 5
♦ A J 9 5 2
♣ A

2. **You are declarer** with the West hand at Four Spades, and North leads the ace of hearts. How would you play the hand?

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

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

Test Your Play

1. The slam is a sure thing regardless of how the cards are divided. Ruff the club, draw trumps, then play the ace and another spade. If North follows low, finesse the ten, thus assuring the contract whether the ten wins or loses. If North produces the jack or queen instead, you win with the king and again can be sure of losing only one spade trick whether South follows or not. If North shows out on the first or second spade lead, the slam remains certain even though there seem to be two spade losers. After cashing both top spades, you next play the A-Q-5 of hearts. First, let's suppose South shows out on the second or third round of hearts. In that case, you take the king and return the ten, discarding a spade from dummy. North wins the trick with the jack, but whatever he returns, you discard dummy's last spade as you ruff in your hand. All you lose is a heart trick. Second, now let's say South follows low when you lead dummy's third heart. This time you finesse the ten. If it wins, you have 12 tricks; if it loses, you also have 12 tricks, because North must return a club, which you ruff after discarding a spade from dummy. You then cash the heart king, discarding dummy's last spade to make the slam. 2. The only danger is that South has the king of diamonds and North the ace of clubs. In that case, if you ruffed the heart, cashed a trump and took a diamond finesse, you could go down one with a club return from South. The best play is to discard a diamond on the ace of hearts! This ensures the contract against any lie. Let's say North shifts to a trump at trick two. You win and play the A-Q of diamonds. If South produces the king, you ruff and have 11 tricks. If South follows low, you discard a club, assuring 10 tricks even if North wins the trick with the king. The diamond discard at trick one creates a position where you are able to take a diamond finesse that can lose only to North, the nondangerous opponent.

South dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

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

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

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

SOUTH
♠ A J 10 8 2
♥ 6 3
♦ A 7 4
♣ A 6 2

The bidding:
South 1 ♠
West 2 ♦
North 3 ♠
East 4 ♥
Opening lead — jack of hearts.

A Tough Nut to Crack

If you'd like to drive your friends crazy, show them this hand and challenge them to make four spades after West's lead of the jack of hearts. Best defense is of course assumed. After they struggle awhile, they may tell you the mission is impossible, since declarer obviously must lose a heart, two diamonds and a club. But the fact is that the contract can be made, even though it does take some fancy doing. Win the heart lead with the ace and return a heart. Let's say East wins with the queen — his play doesn't matter — and returns the queen of diamonds. Win with the ace, cash the K-Q of trumps (on which you play the 10-8 from your hand), then cash the A-K of clubs, producing this position:

North
[S] 9 6 3
[D] 6 5
[C] 7
West
[D] K J 10
[C] Q 10 9
East
[S] 7
[H] K 8 7 4 2
South
[S] A J 2
[D] 7 4
[C] 6

Now play the spade three from dummy and the deuce from your hand! East wins with the seven and is forced to return a heart, on which you discard a club from your hand and a diamond from dummy! East is still on lead and forced to play another heart. This time you ruff the heart in your hand, discarding dummy's last diamond. You can then claim the rest of the tricks, having lost only three tricks all told. That's all there is to it!

Family Circus • Bill Keane

