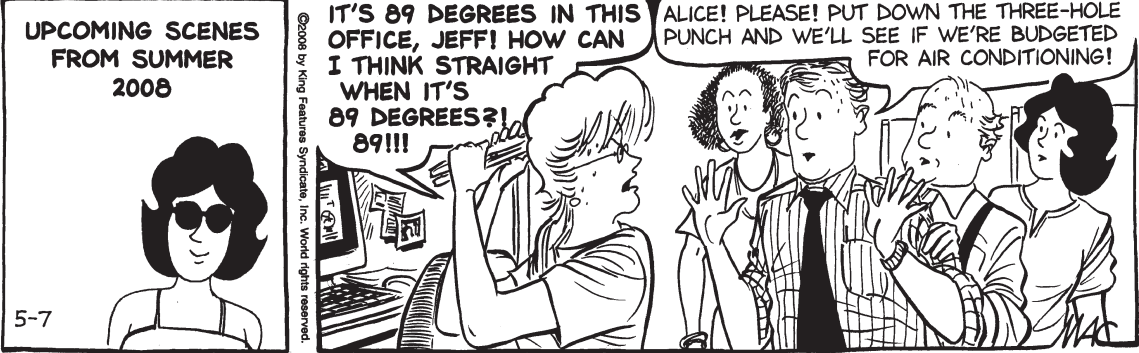


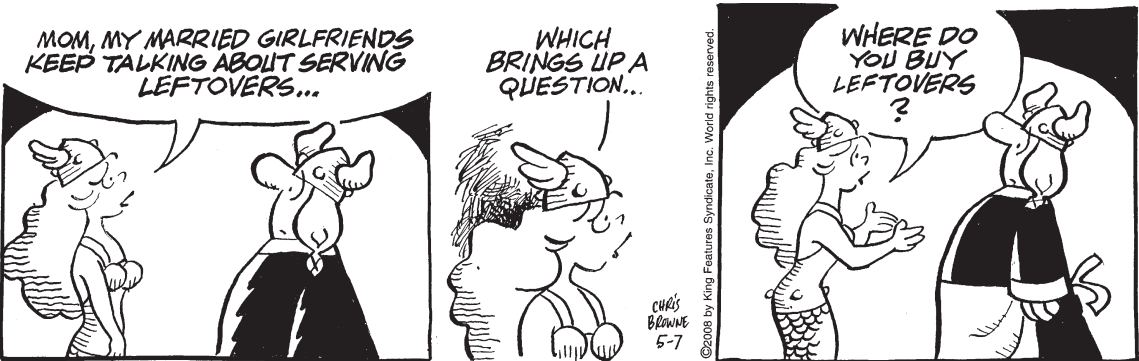
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



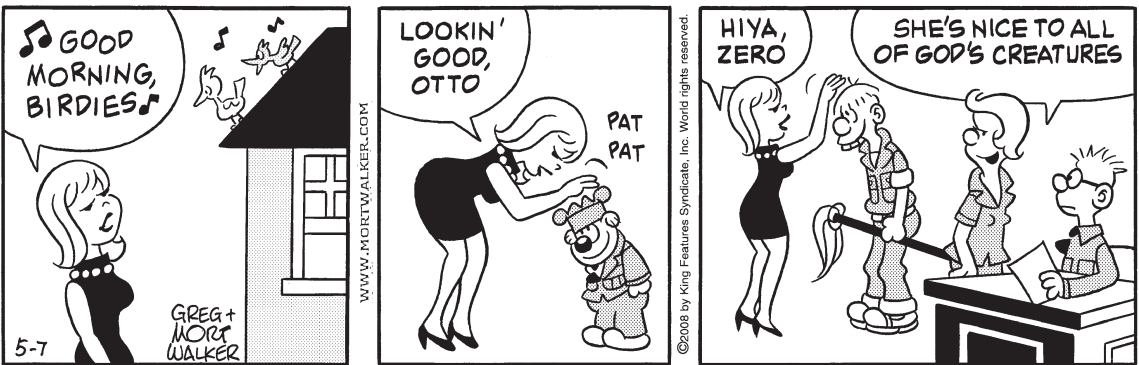
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



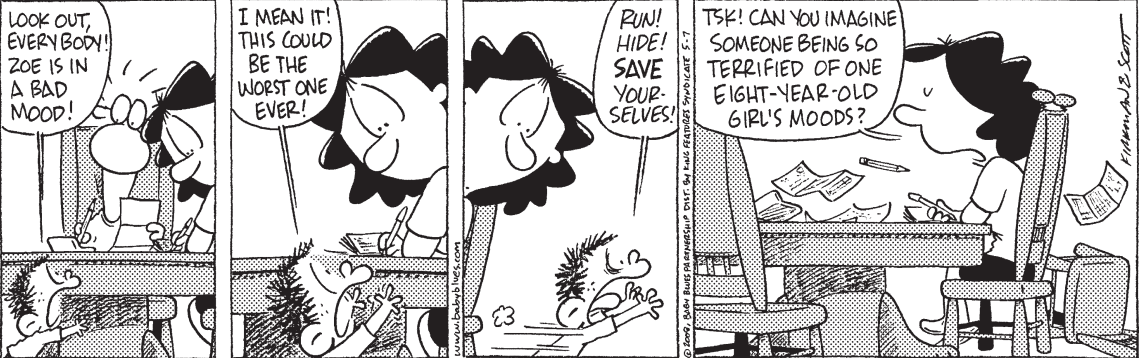
Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Cryptoquip

OA C KCZ OR DCXJ CWX OR

FJIE RSIOSKE JWAQIBJX, C

ZQTKX NCFJ SQ RCE SNC'S

OS'R RTLJI-ODLQRJX.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE MY DAUGHTER ENJOYS MAKING JALAPENOS BURST, I RECKON SHE'D BE CALLED A PEPPER POPPER.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals S

EWJP BWJBQUJAJP X

EQIQJHQJ-OQXU-WGC CUQEEQC

RXUTGO AJ RAJHQUHATQ:

'X HQQJXPQU AJ PGWIQE.'

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A LAW IS MADE AND IS VERY STRICTLY ENFORCED, I WOULD HAVE TO SAY THAT IT'S SUPER-IMPOSED.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals E

Crossword

ACROSS

1 Army vehicle

5 Sternward

8 Cornfield invader

12 British river

13 Legislation

14 Emanation

15 Cereal choice

16 Infielder's concern

18 More healthy

20 Dangerous gas

21 "— Town"

22 Handheld secretary

23 Mansfield or Meadows

26 Mallet, e.g.

30 Altar affirmative

31 Talk incessantly

32 Have debts

33 Cad

36 Queued (up)

38 DDE's opponent

39 Newton flavor

40 It's from the heart

43 1-Down, e.g.

47 Flatfish

49 Unctuous

50 Culture medium

51 Dine on

52 Post-bout garb

53 Exceptional

54 Distorted

55 Mound stats

DOWN

1 Apple bigwig

19 Payable

22 Burst

2 Franc replacer

3 Birthright barterer

4 Triangular streamer

5 "Rags to riches" author

6 Jamie of "M*A*S*H"

7 Deuce

8 Area of ancient Palestine

9 Paul of "Knocked Up"

10 Sandwich cookie

11 Caution

17 Language of Pakistan

19 Payable

22 Burst

23 Derrick boom

24 Commotion

25 Addressee

26 Standard

27 Actor Cheadle

28 Ram's mate

29 Roulette bet

31 "Absolutely"

34 Character

35 College head

36 Actress Lucy

37 Shun

39 Age many people dread becoming

40 Somewhere out there

41 Gymnast Korbut

42 Bellow

43 Phobia

44 A-line creator

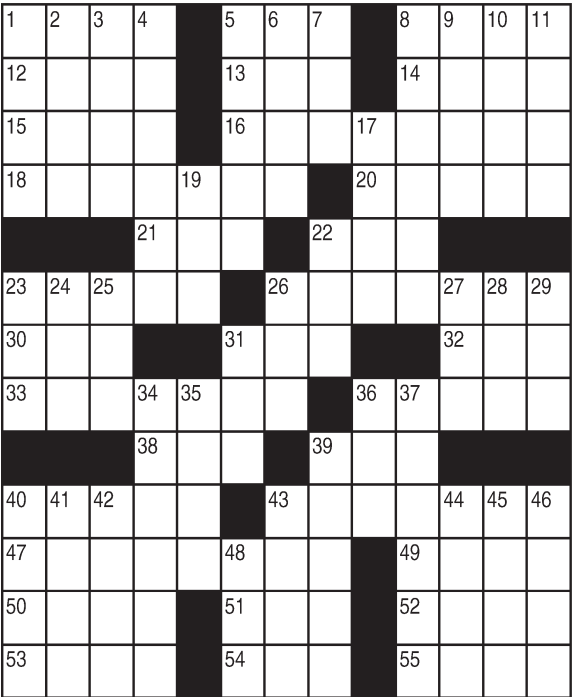
45 Exile isle

46 Deli loaves

48 Morning moisture

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 5-6



ACROSS

1 Height of fashion?

4 Wield a needle

7 Antitoxins

8 Melodies

10 Slip-on garment

11 "Sleepy Hollow" storyteller

13 Definitively

16 — out a living

17 Resembling

18 Stipend

19 Unable to hold any more

20 Undressed

21 Fisherman's basket

23 Hosiery shade

25 Lotion additive

26 "Dragnet" star

27 "Terrific"

28 Garlic mayonnaise

30 Comic Leno

33 Bit of folklore

36 Caught

37 Land of the Rising Sun

38 Covered in dirt

39 Tarzan's clique

40 "Of course"

41 Homer Simpson's neighbor

DOWN

1 Therefore

2 Canal zone

3 Rhesus monkey

4 Cruises the Net

5 Ballad

6 Dam

7 Fondered

8 Re ocean motion

9 Grab suddenly

10 Pirouette pivot

12 Open area in a forest

14 Invalid

15 Caustic solution

19 Retainer

20 Gist

21 Talons

22 Getting dressed (in)

23 He got the point across to his son

24 Côte d'Ivoire city

25 Fore and —

26 "Toy Story" cowboy

28 Lofty home

29 Express-lane tally

30 Made fun of

31 "Sad to say, ..."

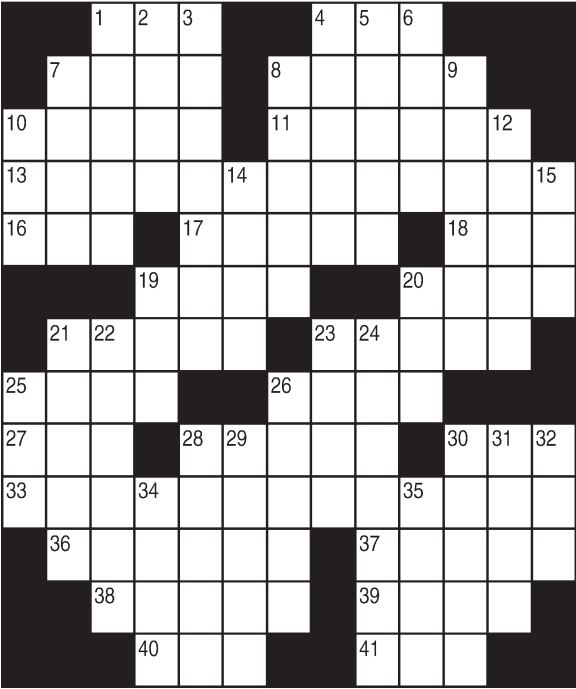
32 Longing

34 Grant or Elves

35 Recording

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 5-7



Bridge

East dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

7 4

10 6 5

8 6 5

A K Q 4 2

WEST

K 10 5

J 3

K J 9 3 2

J 9 7

EAST

J 9 8 2

Q 9 7 4 2

Q 10 7

3

SOUTH

A Q 6 3

A K 8

A 4

10 8 6 5

The bidding:

East Pass

South 1 NT

West Pass

North 3 NT

Opening lead — three of diamonds.

Two Birds With One Stone

Assume you're declarer at three notrump and West leads the three of diamonds. You allow East's queen to win the first trick and take the next diamond with the ace.

At first glance, there seems to be nothing at all to the play, since it appears you have five club tricks, two hearts, a spade and a diamond. But when you play the A-K of clubs and East discards a heart on the second club, you suddenly realize you have a genuine problem. Although leading the queen of clubs would drop West's jack, your ten (or any other club you have remaining) blocks the suit and stops you from collecting dummy's fifth club.

When the deal occurred, South cashed the queen of clubs at this point and then led a spade to the queen in an attempt to score his ninth trick. But West took the queen with his king and cashed three diamonds to set the contract.

In electing to try the spade finesse, South missed the opportunity for an unusual play that would more or less have assured the contract. After cashing the first two clubs, his best chance by far was to lead True, this allows West to cash three diamond tricks, but it also enables declarer to unblock the club suit, thus restoring his club winners to five and his overall trick total to nine. In effect, the diamond lead from dummy at trick five kills two birds with one stone.

The only risk involved in leading the diamond at trick five is that West might have started with six diamonds -- percentage-wise an unlikely possibility. Furthermore, in this particular case, where West's opening lead of the three was presumably his fourth-best diamond, West can't have more than five diamonds, so the recommended play is virtually certain to succeed.

North dealer. East-West vulnerable.

NORTH

K 5 4

K J 2

Q 6 3

A 10 7 5

WEST

Q J 10 2

Q

9 8 5

K J 6 4 3

EAST

A 7 6

10 8 6 3

10 7 2

Q 9 2

SOUTH

9 8 3

A 9 7 5 4

A K J 4

8

The bidding:

North 1

East Pass

South 1 NT

West Pass

Opening lead — queen of spades.

General Rules Do Have Exceptions

In bridge, there are literally hundreds of "general rules" a player may follow during either the bidding or play. However, as the word "general" implies, there are exceptions to virtually every rule, so a player who follows rules blindly is sure to be disappointed every once in a while. Consider this deal where the defenders took the first three spade tricks and switched to a diamond. Declarer won in his hand and had to decide how to avoid a trump loser.

South was well-acquainted with the standard procedure when holding eight cards in a suit missing the queen -- cash one top honor and then take a finesse. This guards against the possibility of losing a first-round finesse to the singleton queen.

He therefore cashed the ace of hearts at trick five, felling West's queen. However, East then could not be stopped from scoring a trump trick with the ten, and the contract went down one. Ironically, declarer would have suffered the same fate if East had started with the singleton queen.

In failing to make the contract, South had overlooked an exception to the rule. Before attacking trumps, he should have realized that if he cashed the ace and the queen was singleton in either hand, he would automatically acquire a trump loser and therefore fail in his mission.

For this reason, he should have started by leading low toward dummy, intending to finesse the jack if West followed low. This would bring in the suit without loss if West had two or three hearts including the queen.

But it would likewise succeed if West -- as in the actual deal -- had the singleton queen. In that case, it would become a simple matter to take the queen with the king, cash the jack and then finesse the nine to avoid a trump loser.

Family Circus • Bill Keane

