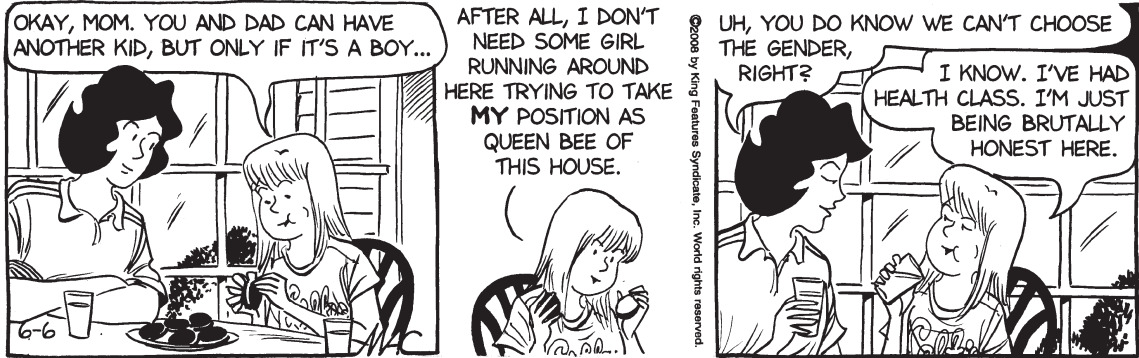


Sally Forth • Greg Howard



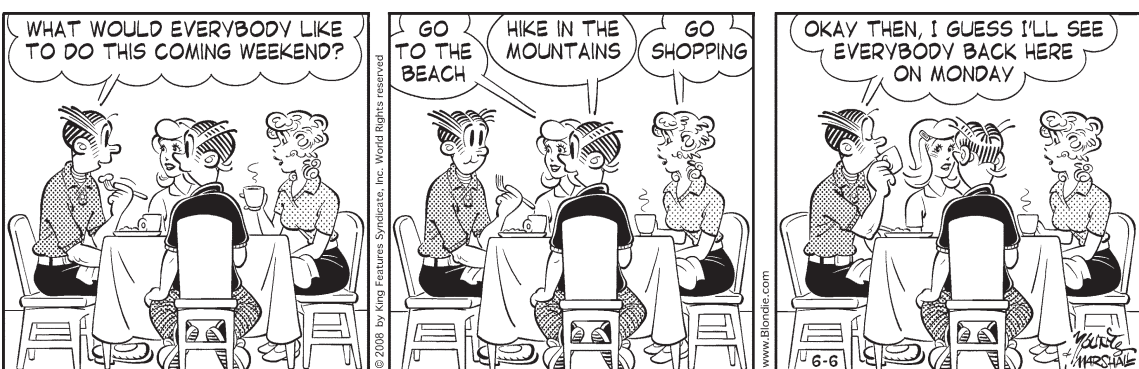
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



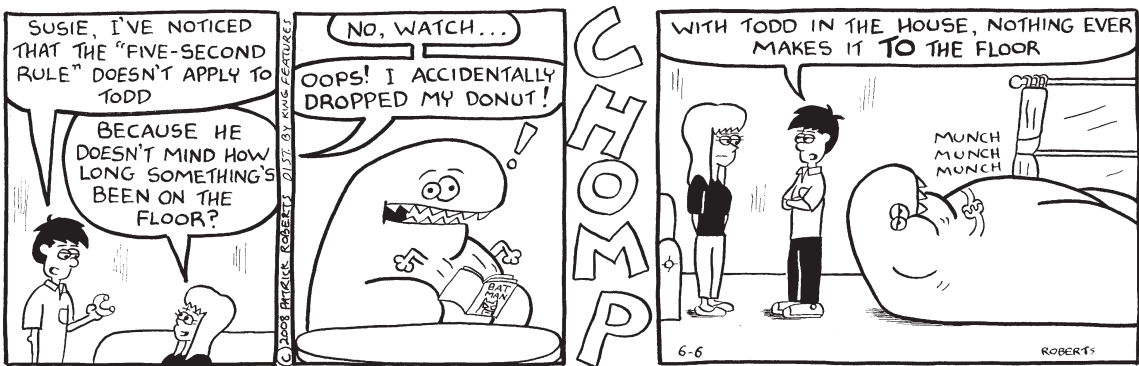
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



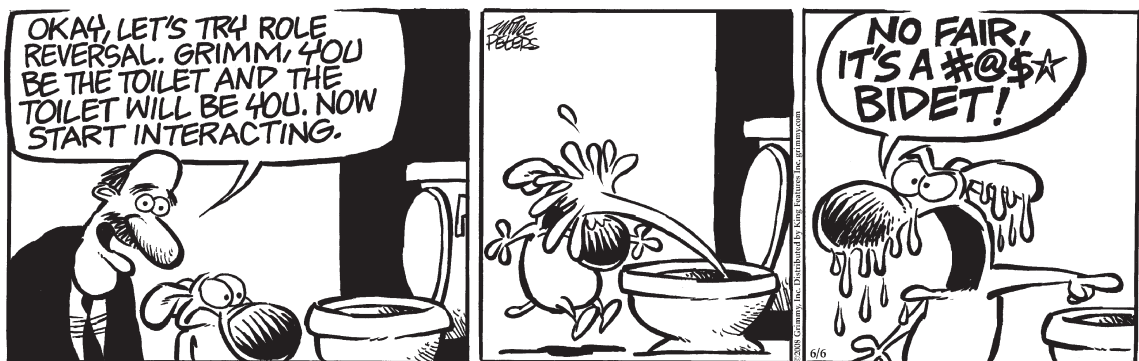
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Cryptoquip

MQYTN K AQOE DBGOGXNB

SGOPQO, LE GODBGRGTDYFD

KJSKEF LKPQF FXOQ DG

ZGAQO KJJ DBQ MOKZQF.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF I POUR SALT ALL OVER MYSELF AND DO A VARIETY ACT, YOU COULD SAY I'M A SEASONED PERFORMER.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals T

TEAV B SBJGPAOAS EGT

ZFIE QEHQ JQFVVBVR VAT

THQIE IGJQ, B THJ GPAOIGZA

TBQE QBIWAO JEGIW.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BEING A VERY THOROUGH WORKER, MY ORTHODONTIST ALWAYS MAKES SURE TO COVER ALL THE BRACES.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals W

Crossword

ACROSS

1 Pick a target

4 Snare

8 Small plateau

12 Buck's mate

13 Tittle

14 Finished

15 Platypus feature

17 Stationery quantity

18 Greet

19 Big do

20 Nebraska city

22 Resumes

24 Teller's partner

25 Soft leather

29 Singer DiFranco

30 Splendid setup

31 Praise in verse

32 Tom Sawyer's pal

34 Puncturing tools

35 Run-down horses

36 Twine fibers

37 Pep

40 Modern money

41 Last writes?

42 Eat

46 Pinball flub

47 Shrek is one

48 Prior night

49 Vortex

50 Therefore

51 Uncivilized

DOWN

1 Toss in

2 Chit notation

3 Fender-bender

4 Leg bone

5 Disturb

6 Pac. alternative

7 Crony

8 Swamp

9 Eternally

10 Member-ship

11 Host

16 "Young Frankenstein" cast member

19 Annoyingly slow

20 Brightly hue

22 Fish

21 Carte

22 Scorches

23 "— See Clearly Now"

25 Sailor's slammer

26 Obsequious one

27 Between tasks

28 Loch —

30 Distant

33 Difficult to disentangle

34 Emanation

36 Fakes out of position

37 Ballot

38 Footnote abbr.

39 Decorate unnecessarily

40 Beige

42 Youngster

43 "This tastes awful"

44 Actress Gardner

45 Ever-green

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 6-6

Bridge

1. You are declarer with the West hand at Four Hearts, and North leads the three of diamonds. South wins with the ace and returns the deuce of diamonds to your king. Assuming that the trumps are divided 2-2, how would you play the hand?

West

♠ 9 5 4

♥ K Q 10 7

♦ K Q

♣ A 6 5 3

East

♠ K 3

♥ A J 9 5 2

♦ 9 6 4

♣ K J 8

2. You are declarer with the West hand at Three Notrump. North leads the six of spades, and you win South's jack with the queen. How would you play the hand?

West

♠ A Q 10

♥ A 10 3

♦ A 10 5

♣ Q 9 8 2

East

♠ 8 4 2

♥ K J 6

♦ Q J 8

♣ K J 10 5

\*\*\*

Test Your Play

1. To assure 10 tricks, draw two rounds of trump, ruff dummy's nine of diamonds and lead a low club. If North follows low, finesse the eight! Even if South wins the eight with the nine or ten, he must hand you the contract, whatever he returns.

Thus, a club return into dummy's K-J will permit you to eventually discard a spade from dummy on your ace of clubs; a spade return would establish dummy's king; and a diamond return would allow you to ruff in your hand and discard a spade from dummy.

If North happens to produce the nine or ten when you lead a low club toward the K-J-8, you simply cover with the jack to create the same impregnable position.

2. The contract is certain if you play correctly. All you have to do to ensure a favorable outcome is to cross to the king of hearts, lead the queen of diamonds and finesse. If the queen loses to the king, North cannot return a spade or a heart without handing you a trick, after which you can guarantee 10 tricks by driving out the ace of clubs. If he returns a diamond or a club instead, you simply establish clubs to assure nine tricks.

If the diamond finesse wins at trick three, you abandon the suit and shift your attention to clubs, forcing out the ace. Again you are sure of at least nine tricks.

If you were to lead a club at trick two, which is tempting, you could wind up with your arm in a sling. South might win with the ace and return a spade, and the contract would then be up for grabs.

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A 5 3

♥ A 9 3 2

♦ Q 7 5 3

♣ A J

WEST

♠ K 2

♥ 10

♦ 10 8 4 2

♣ K Q 10 9 7 5

EAST

♠ J 10 9 8 6 4

♥ J 6

♦ J 6

♣ 8 6 3

SOUTH

♠ Q 7

♥ K Q 8 7 5 4

♦ A K 9

♣ 4 2

The bidding:

South

1 ♥

4 ♥

5 ♥

6 ♥

West

2 ♣

Pass

Pass

Pass

North

3 ♣

4 NT

5 NT

East

Pass

Pass

Pass

Pass

Opening lead — king of clubs.

Just Another Day at the Office

Some players may believe that most of the "fancier" plays in bridge -- squeezes, coups and endplays -- never happen in real life, and that they're concocted merely to keep the likes of yours truly in at least a modest state of employment. But such deals really do occur, as witness this example from a pair event at the 1997 North American Championships.

The deal is typical of the type of endplay hand that is seen in newspaper columns every day. And as if to prove that the players in the contest had been doing their homework, bidding and making the slam via an endplay yielded only a slightly above-average result in the matchpoint scoring, indicating that nearly all the declarers found the winning line of play.

The auction shown was a common one. After West's overcall, North cuebid clubs to show a good hand with heart support, and South leapt to four hearts to indicate better than a minimum opening. When South, in response to Blackwood, turned up with one ace but only two kings, North settled for a small slam.

Declarer won West's club king with the ace, drew trumps in two rounds and tested diamonds. Had the suit divided 3-3, South would have discarded his club loser on dummy's fourth diamond to make the slam. Indeed, declarer would then have run all his trumps in an attempt to make seven on a squeeze if West had the king of spades as well as the club queen.

But when East failed to follow to the third diamond, declarer fell back on the alternate plan of endplaying West. Dummy's fourth diamond was ruffed to deprive West of a safe exit card, and a club was led, forcing West to win with the queen. West then had no choice but to lead a spade from the king or yield a ruff-and-discard by returning a club, and the slam was home -- just like in the newspaper.

Family Circus • Bill Keane

