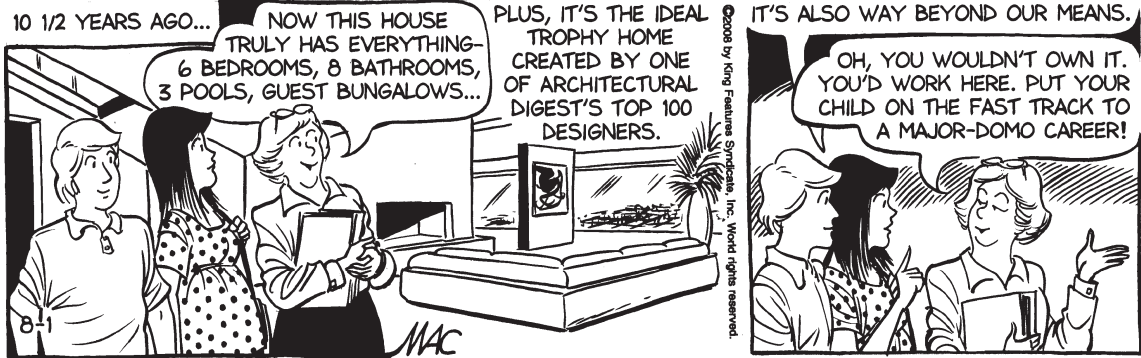


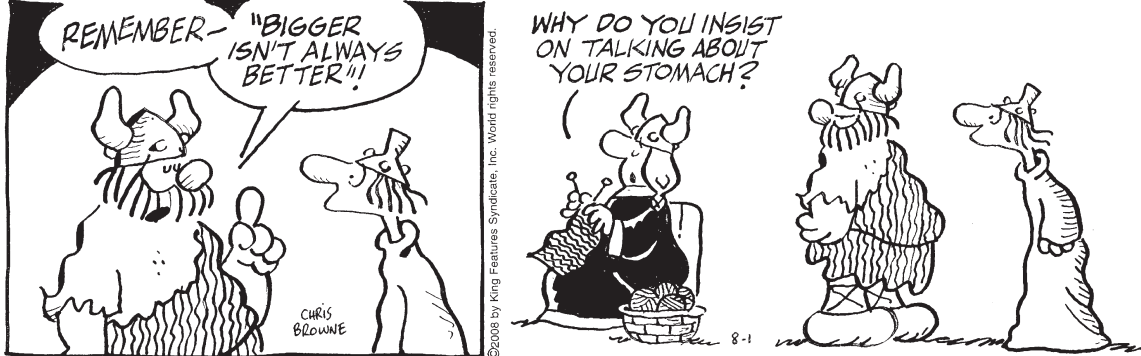
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



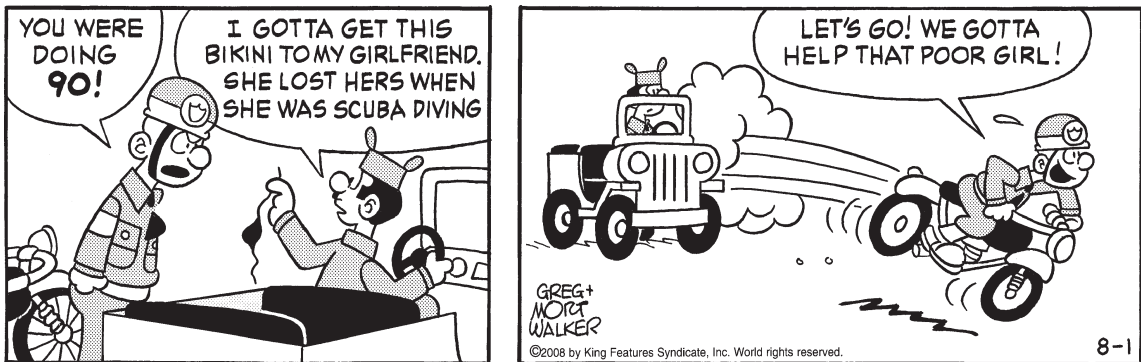
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



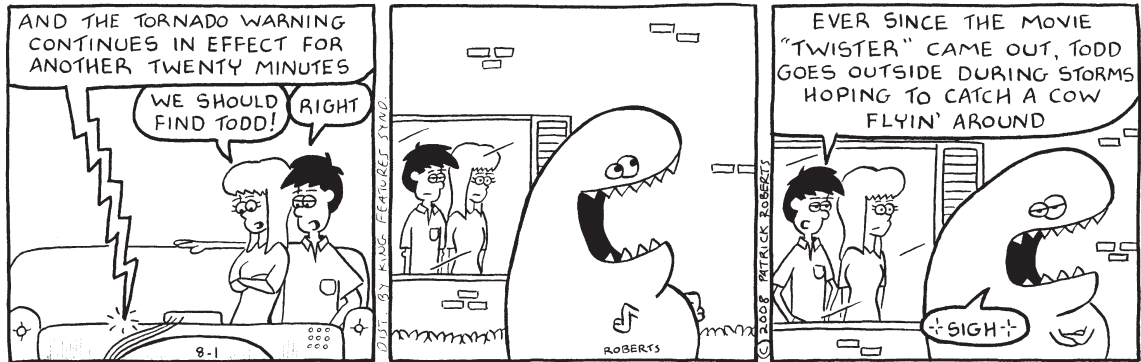
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



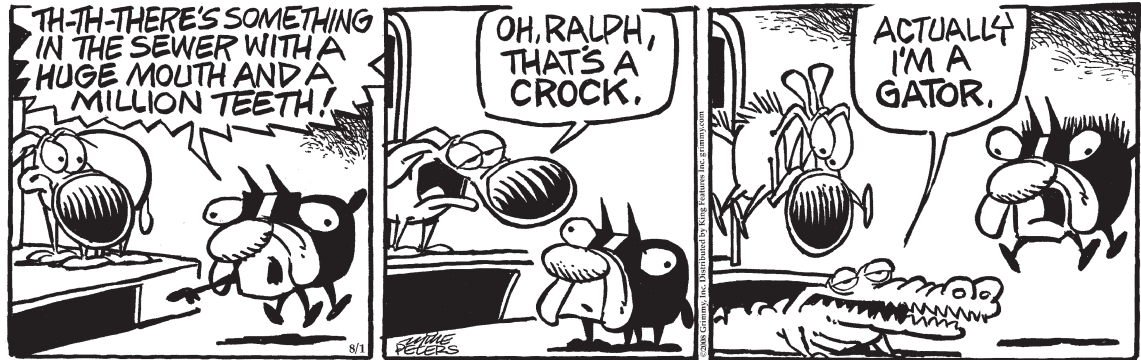
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Cryptoquip

DBIJHWB KFB KTU UGQ
ZMBIBW UE DSBJQ TBSB
ESMBVQW, ZBUZGB FJQ DBNHV
IJGGMVN KFBY WKJGBYJKBW.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: STATEMENT YOU MIGHT HEAR IF A DEVICE SUDDENLY STOPS OPERATING: "DEFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY."
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals P

G RPYM HNCJJAM GDPBJ
RPZADPLV HCJK G OAYGO UOGCZ
PM KCR WNPWANJV UPBOL
DA JCJOAL "OCAM PM ZA."
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE THE TWO OLD PIECES OF BREAD WERE FRIENDS, PEOPLE HAD BEGUN CALLING THEM STALEMATES.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals B

Crossword

ACROSS 1 River structure or Rayburn 8 Got a glimpse of 12 Sapporo sash 13 Finished 14 Give a makeover to 15 BBQ wood 17 Use a teaspoon 18 Wrap, as a flag 19 Clergy counter-part 20 Homeric narrative 22 Hearts, for one 24 Make aspic 25 Cretaceous or Jurassic 29 Time of your life? 30 Refuge 31 Popular card game

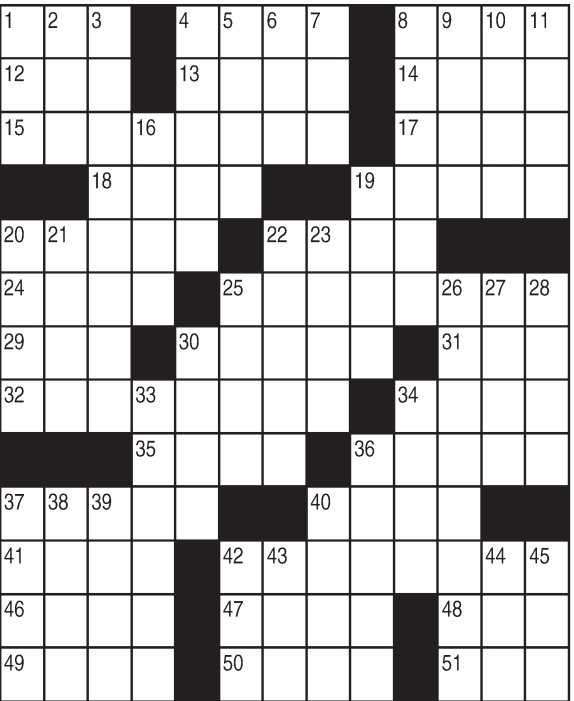
32 Answer-ing machine's info 34 Impale 35 Doppel-ganger 36 "Oh, God" star 37 Trembled 40 Kansas city 41 Frau's mate 42 Crazy (Var.) 46 Incite 47 Neighbor of Sask. 48 Conclusion 49 Santa's sackful 50 Satiated 51 Pair on stage

DOWN 1 Comic DeLuise 2 Honest politician 3 Puts in the wrong folder 4 Pumpkin or cucumber 5 Satan's field 6 Trawler need substitute 7 Prior to 8 Poor cousin 9 Bigfoot's cousin 10 Tend texts 11 Hunky- 16 Campus area 19 Namia's Aslan, e.g.

20 Shiite leader 21 Theater box 22 Early evening 23 Works with 25 Creche trio 26 Not just peeved 27 — instant 28 Corn eaters' castoffs 30 War-monger 33 Mail units 34 Enterprise officer 36 Heidi of TV's "Hotel" 37 Close 38 Medal earner 39 Rampant revelry 40 Ratio phrase 42 PC alternative 43 Right angle 44 Wilde-beest 45 Tokyo, once

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 8-1



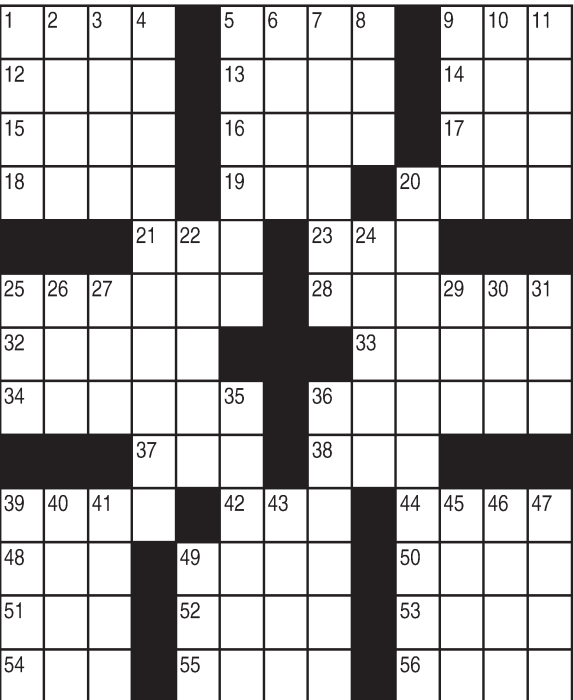
ACROSS 1 Moolah 5 Burglar's booty 9 Pouch 12 One side of the Urals 13 Sea eagle 14 Favorable voter 15 Sail support 16 Lascivious 17 Succor 18 Grand story 19 Scratch the surface 20 Showing signs of age 21 Weed whacker 23 Expert 25 Flaw 28 Spud 32 Join together 33 "Phooey!" 34 Record player? 36 Particular 37 "A Chorus Line" song 38 Volcanic output

39 Mop the deck 42 Kyoto cummerbund 44 "Sports-Center" airer 48 Play-ground game 49 Portent 50 Soothing ointment 51 Id counter-part 52 Sentry's command 53 Lawless portrayal 54 "Married ... With Children" mom 55 Sibling-less

56 Basin accessory 20 Loses one's job 22 Lind-bergh's view 24 Manages somehow 25 Flop 26 Compass pt. 27 "A pox upon thee!" 29 "Eureka!" 30 Skater Babilonia 31 Pussy-cat's partner 35 Royal attendant 36 Delicate 39 Dance lesson 40 Carry on 41 Quite enthusiastic 43 Watson's co-worker 45 Passel 46 Corn recipe 47 Approximate 49 "What have we here?"

Solution time: 27 mins.

Yesterday's answer 8-2



Bridge

You are South, neither side vulnerable. The bidding has been:

North	East	South	West
1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	?	

What would you bid now with each of the following five hands?

- ♠ AJ102 ♥ KQ5 ♦ 742 ♣ 1093
- ♠ KQ75 ♥ 94 ♦ A1072 ♣ Q73
- ♠ AK8642 ♥ Q962 ♦ 53 ♣ 7
- ♠ AK96 ♥ 853 ♦ 742 ♣ Q85
- ♠ AK753 ♥ QJ ♦ 8653 ♣ A4

Bidding Quiz

1. Three hearts. Even though partner's rebid of two hearts puts his hand in the minimum class (13 to 15 points), there is still a chance for game. True, you have only 10 points, which would ordinarily mean there is no game, but your K-Q of hearts should be elevated in value because of their known importance.

The raise to three hearts is not forcing and asks partner to go on to game if he has more than a bare minimum. Partner could have something like: [S] K3 [H] AJ10763 [D] 85 [C] AQ4, in which case game would be an excellent proposition.

2. Two notrump. Here, also, there is a chance for game despite partner's minimum rebid. Again you invite partner to continue -- this time possibly to three notrump -- but he is at liberty to pass if he has nothing extra.

It would be wrong to bid three diamonds, which would force partner to bid again in a situation where game is in doubt.

3. Four hearts. This hand has only nine high-card points, but offers a far better prospect for game than either of the preceding hands. It has lots of playing tricks and distribution, and this is far more important in the long run than high-card points.

The odds are that at least 10 tricks can be made. It is not easy to construct a hand where four tricks could be lost, and this criterion should be substituted for point count in hands where distribution is a prominent factor.

4. Pass. There is little hope of making a game with this hand opposite a minimum opening bid, and the best thing to do is pass. While it is true that your spade response could have been based on a weaker hand, your surplus values are too thin to justify a further bid.

5. Four hearts. It is a bit unusual to jump-raise with only two trumps, but they are of such quality that they can be regarded as more than ample support for a suit that partner has bid twice. Game in notrump should not be considered with so little in the way of stoppers in the minor suits. Hands composed of primary tricks, such as this one, usually play better in a suit contract.

West dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH		EAST	
♠ A K 3	♥ 10 9 8 4 2	♠ J 8	♥ 3
♦ 6 4 2	♣ K 2	♦ K Q J 10 8 7	♣ Q J 7 5

WEST: ♠ Q 10 7 6 4 2, ♥ 7 5, ♦ 5, ♣ 10 8 6 3

SOUTH: ♠ 9 5, ♥ A K Q J 6, ♦ A 9 3, ♣ A 9 4

The bidding: West Pass, North 1 ♥ (1), East 2 ♥, South 3 ♥. Opening lead — king of diamonds.

Tricky But Instructive

B. Jay Becker, former editor of this column, once played in a team-of-four event where the pair he was playing against got to a slam on the strange bidding shown. The declarer struggled through the play but finally gave up the ghost at the finish, losing two diamonds and going down one.

South had a few words to say to North about his opening bid, which, it must be granted, was very much on the light side. Nor could South be blamed for pushing on to six.

When the North-South hands were held by Becker's teammates, North did not open the bidding. East did, however, with a pre-emptive bid of three diamonds. South, Sidney Silodor, overcalled with three hearts, which was raised to four by North.

Here, though, Silodor made six. This was no major triumph, since he had not bid the slam, but it did point up the fact that the North player at the other table, who was in six, could have made it. At both tables, a diamond was led (at one table by East, at the other by West). Two diamond losers seem certain, as there is no side suit that can be established and there are no high cards on which a diamond can be discarded. But Silodor made 12 tricks just the same.

After winning the diamond, Silodor drew two rounds of trump. The K-A of clubs were then cashed, and a club was ruffed in dummy. Next the K-A of spades were led, followed by a third round of spades, on which East showed out. But instead of trumping the spade, South discarded one of his losing diamonds, allowing West to win the trick.

This left West in a hopeless position. Whether he returned a club or a spade, declarer would trump in dummy while discarding his remaining diamond loser. Tricky? Yes. But also instructive.

The point is that declarer should never give up, even in a seemingly impossible contract. If Silodor found the solution when only 30 points were involved, shouldn't his counterpart at the other table have found the answer when a slam was at stake?

Family Circus • Bill Keane

