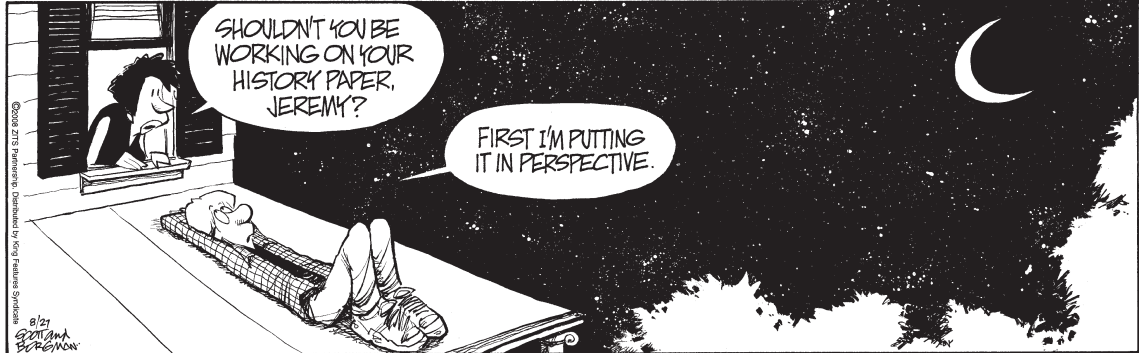


Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



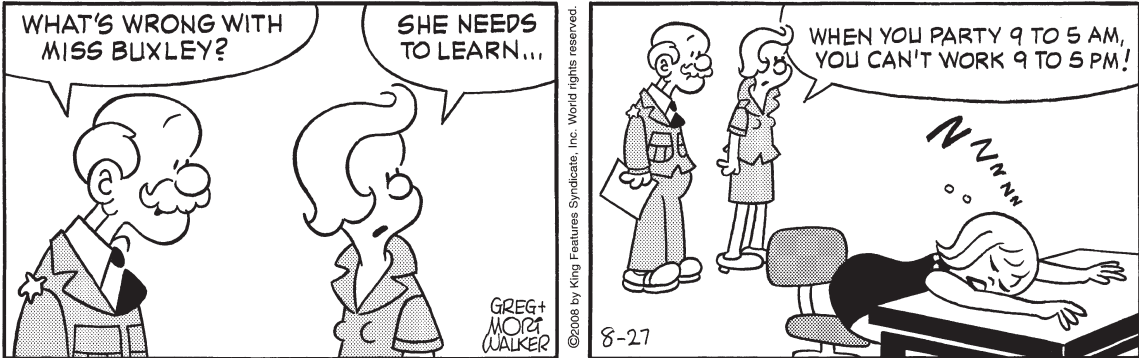
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



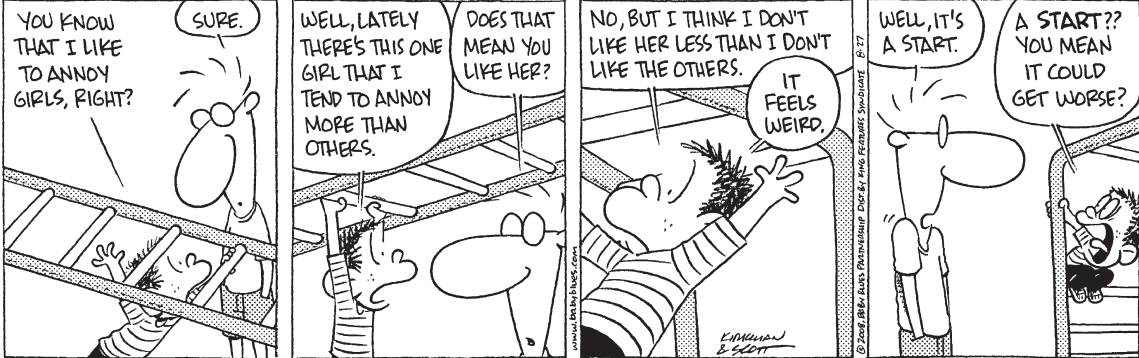
Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



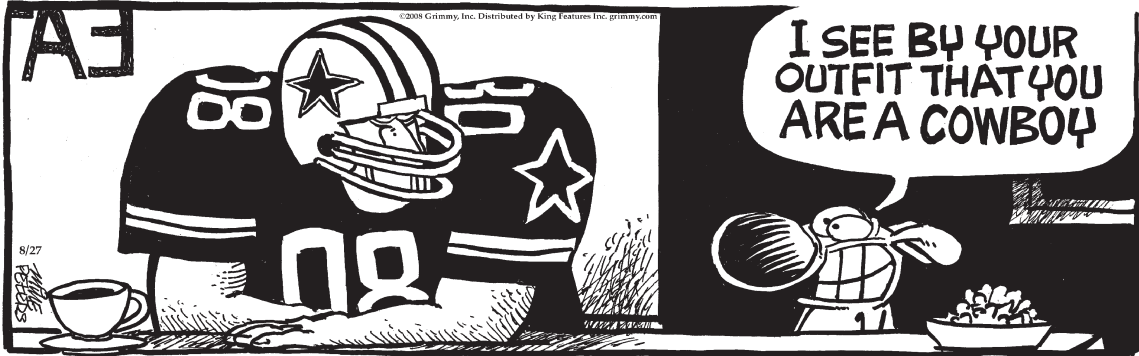
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Cryptoquip

UFPOYI RURPSDFGM SYC  
CRMKOMOIYI MDSOGM,  
ZRMDRGCSZ WR GRMFUPRC DF  
KBUU FBD SUU DWR MDRKM.  
Today's Cryptoquip: WHAT COULD YOU CALL  
A GRASSY YARD IN WHICH THINGS SEEM TO  
PERPETUALLY GO WRONG? MURPHY'S LAWN.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals S

CPAU Z LIT KQ QNKYKUL  
DPSVILPVID PKQ CPVYA YKBA,  
K LIAQQ PA'Q LSKUUKUL  
BSVN TAZS DV TAZS.  
Today's Cryptoquip: LOVING ELEVATORS AND  
DESPISING STAIRS, YESTERDAY HE RESOLVED  
TO PULL OUT ALL THE STEPS.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals Y

Crossword

ACROSS

1 Actor Pitt  
5 Canto  
8 One of the gang  
12 Mark replace-  
ment  
13 Earlier than  
14 River of England  
15 Jacob's brother  
16 Bounces a basket-  
ball  
18 Wilma's daughter  
20 Flooded  
21 De-pressed  
22 Raw rock  
23 Doctrine  
26 Fisher-men's hopes  
30 Expert  
31 Wire measure  
32 High mountain  
33 Talks turkey?  
36 Gauche  
38 Tier  
39 WWE surface

40 Texas  
A&M athlete  
43 Lawrence Welk trade-  
mark  
47 Nitpicks  
49 Count counter-  
part  
50 Cease to exist, old-style  
51 Hearty tree  
52 Old portico  
53 Quite some time  
54 Get nosy  
55 Criterion  
DOWN  
1 Gridlock sound  
22 Lubricate

2 Strata-gem  
3 Speedy steed  
4 Look-alike  
5 Moistened in the morn  
6 Messes up  
7 Main-lander's memento  
8 Spider's creation  
9 Luau dance  
10 Works with  
11 Netting  
17 Zinger  
19 Parcel of land  
22 Lubricate

23 Play-ground pastime  
24 Green, in a sense  
25 Pen point  
26 Serbian city  
27 Fond du —, Wisc.  
28 Wapiti  
29 James Bond, e.g.  
31 Kitten's call  
34 Under-the-table payments  
35 Leopold's partner  
36 Bill  
37 Optimally  
39 Having a persistent odor  
40 Blue hue  
41 — -ho (zealous)  
42 Taunt  
43 Tolerate  
44 Tardy  
45 Cupid's alias  
46 Venetian blind part  
48 Prune

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 8-26

Bridge

South dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ J 4  
♥ A Q 10 5  
♦ A Q 10 6  
♣ 10 8 3

WEST

♠ 8  
♥ J 9 7 4 3  
♦ J 9 5  
♣ Q J 9 4

EAST

♠ 7 5 2  
♥ K 6 2  
♦ K 8 4 3  
♣ A K 7

SOUTH

♠ A K Q 10 9 6 3  
♥ 8  
♦ 7 2  
♣ 6 5 2

The bidding:

South 3 ♠  
West Pass  
North 4 ♠  
East All Pass

Opening lead — queen of clubs.

The law of probabilities

Declarer is often presented with a choice of two lines of play, either of which could be right or wrong depending on how the defenders' cards are divided.

In such cases, declarer should naturally opt for the play that offers the greatest chance of success. While it is true that the right play will occasionally turn out wrong, and the wrong play will occasionally turn out right, over the long haul declarer will surely be better off if he makes the play favored by the percentages.

Here is a typical case. West leads the queen of clubs, which holds, and another club, East taking the A-K. East then returns a trump.

Having lost the first three tricks, South must now decide whether to take a heart finesse or a diamond finesse. Each has an equal chance of winning, so it might seem that one could mentally toss a coin to settle the matter. But actually, there is a clear-cut percentage play.

The proper approach is to win the trump return, lead a heart to the ace, ruff a heart, cross to dummy with a trump and ruff the ten of hearts.

In the actual layout, the king of hearts falls on the ten, so no finesse at all is necessary. Declarer eventually discards his losing diamond on the heart queen and makes four spades.

The advantage in the recommended line of play is really more a matter of common sense than anything else. If declarer relies on a straight finesse in either suit, he has just a 50 percent chance of succeeding. But if he tries to drop the king of hearts by first ruffing two rounds of the suit, he materially increases his chance of success. At the same time, he preserves his 50 percent chance of winning a finesse in diamonds if the heart king does not fall.

East dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ 9 5  
♥ 8 6 2  
♦ 7 4  
♣ A 9 8 7 4 3

WEST

♠ Q J 10 8 3  
♥ J 3  
♦ K 10 5  
♣ Q 10 6

EAST

♠ 7 6 2  
♥ Q 10 9 5 4  
♦ Q 8 6 2  
♣ 5

SOUTH

♠ A K 4  
♥ A K 7  
♦ A J 9 3  
♣ K J 2

The bidding:

East 2 NT  
South 2 NT  
West Pass  
North 3 NT

Opening lead — queen of spades.

Sylvia misapplies a rule

There were a handful of members at the club who stoutly maintained that Sylvia was the worst player they had ever seen.

Of course, most of them realized that this harsh judgment was colored by their own bitter experiences as her partner.

Even so, it was fashionable to refer to Sylvia in this derogatory manner.

Despite her reputation, Sylvia did have her moments of sublime glory. Consider this deal where she was West and led the queen of spades against three notrump.

She was playing with a partner who had beseeched her on numerous occasions, as had so many others, to conserve her high cards during the play.

It was largely for this reason, after declarer had won the spade lead with the king and led the king of clubs followed by the jack, that Sylvia obediently played her ten on the jack!

The purpose in doing this was to conserve her highest card in clubs, the queen!

Declarer had planned to follow low from dummy had Sylvia played the queen, or had she shown out of clubs, since he could assure scoring at least 10 tricks by retaining dummy's ace.

But when Sylvia produced the ten, declarer could not conceive that Sylvia would have the Q-10-x and fail to cover the jack. Accordingly, he went up with the ace, expecting to catch East's queen.

After East showed out on the ace of clubs, declarer, to his utter dismay, finished down two, and Sylvia added still another scalp to her extensive collection.

Tomorrow: Dangerous waters ahead.  
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Family Circus • Bill Keane

