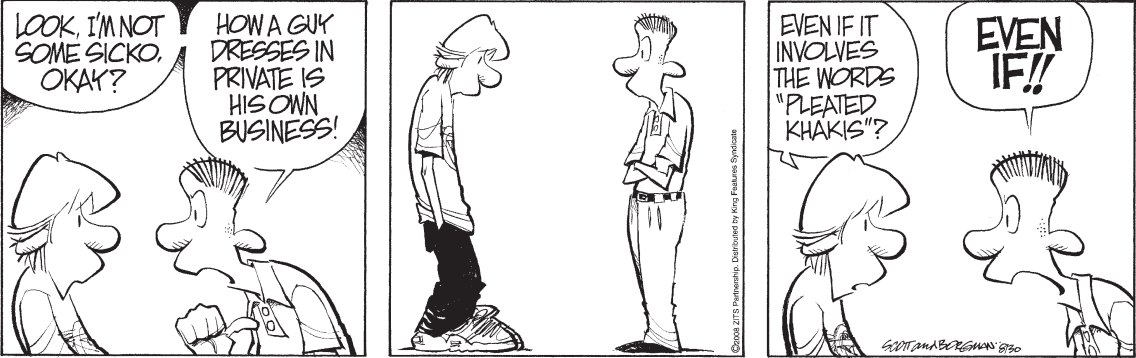


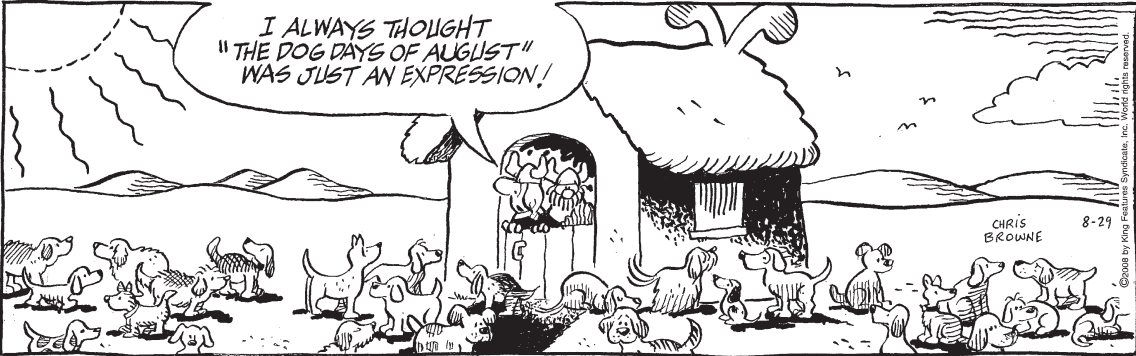
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



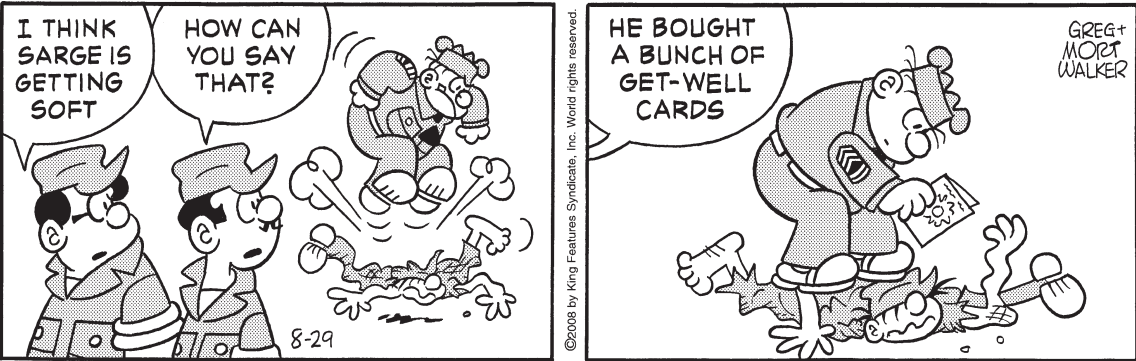
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



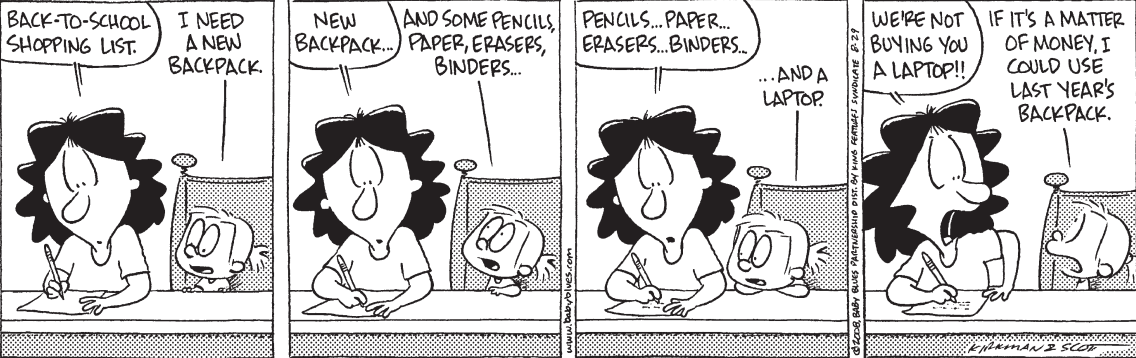
Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



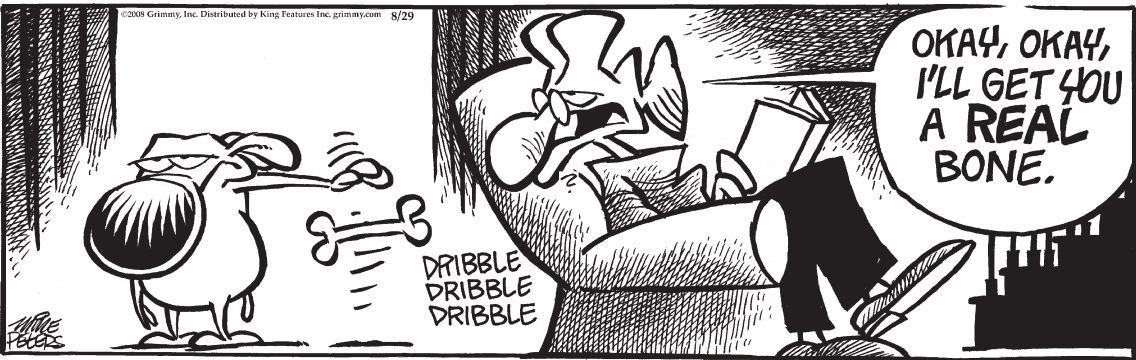
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Cryptoquip

H NHZOJSPJZ OGPPQSC KQI

BHIPJSJZI QSPR PKJQZ

NRZZJIORSTQSC DQSI QI SR

TRGDP BQVQSC KQI SHQVI.

Today's Cryptoquip: IF YOU PURCHASE IMPERFECT MERCHANDISE YOU OUGHT TO GET A REFUND — OR SOMETHING TO THAT DEFECT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals G

SJYC L VHCOHBOKHCKXO

ZYVHNYX NKUUYA HB ERXYO,

SHEFA IHE XLI JY'X BYLFFI

ZYCO HEO HU XJLRY?

Today's Cryptoquip: A CARPENTER PUTTING HIS FASTENERS INTO THEIR CORRESPONDING BINS IS NO DOUBT FILING HIS NAILS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals E

Crossword

ACROSS

1 Journey segment

4 Bay at the moon

8 Disappear gradually

12 Past

13 — vera

14 News-paper pg.

15 Overhead item in a TV studio

17 Second-hand

18 Trial recording

19 Sports venue

20 With cunning

22 A-number-1

24 Prompted

25 Bad news for com-muters

29 Carte lead-in

30 Taco topping

31 High-arc shot

32 Toll road

34 Amor-phous sci-fi villain

35 Melodies

36 Over-throws

37 In two places at once?

40 Shapely legs

41 Gloomy

42 Light-weight motor-cycle

46 Aware of

47 Condo, e.g.

48 Feedbag tidbit

49 Pack away

50 Get a glimpse of

51 Big Apple letters

DOWN

1 Rocky Horror's home

2 Id coun-terpart

3 Big name in rubber

4 Tending to emote

5 Medley

6 Stir-fry skillet

7 "My Name Is Earl" star

8 July holiday

9 Basilica area

10 Paula of the Food Network

11 Icelandic tales

16 Pinochle tactic

19 On the briny

20 "Get lost!"

21 Humdinger

22 Abruptly refuses

23 Gaelic

25 Equitable

26 Mirage

27 Former surgeon general

28 Undergoes recession

30 Skewer

33 Preju-diced

34 Flop on stage

36 Spiteful

37 Big bothers

38 — l'Eveque

39 Jam ingredi-ent?

40 Clench

42 Outstand-ing

43 Office holders

44 Jay-el connector

45 List-end-ing abbr.

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 8-29

Bridge

Test your play

1. You are declarer with the West hand at Four Hearts, and North leads the jack of diamonds. Assuming trumps are divided no worse than 3-1, how would you play the hand? West [S] J 5 3 — [H] A J 9 6 2 — [D] A Q 7 — [C] A Q East [S] Q 7 4 2 — [H] K Q 10 4 — [D] K 4 — [C] J 10 8 3

2. You are declarer with the West hand at Three Notrump. North leads the five of hearts, on which South plays the jack. How would you play the hand? West [S] A 9 4 — [H] K Q 7 — [D] K 10 8 3 — [C] J 10 5 East [S] K J — [H] 8 4 2 — [D] A 9 4 — [C] A K 9 6 3

1. Win the jack of diamonds with the king and draw the defenders' trumps. Next cash the A-Q of diamonds, discarding a club from dummy. Then, to assure the contract, you play the A-Q of clubs!

The defender who wins the queen of clubs with the king must either return a spade -- in which case you lose only two spade tricks -- or concede a ruff-and-discard by returning a diamond or a club.

The tempting club finesse should be deliberately avoided because, if it fails, a club return might well result in your losing three spade tricks and the contract.

There is no reason to incur such a risk when you have a sure thing by playing otherwise.

Of course, if you run into a 4-0 trump division (a 10 percent possibility), your best chance would lie in eventually attempting the club finesse.

But if the trumps are divided 2-2 or 3-1, the suggested line of play is 100 percent certain to succeed.

2. Assuming North has heart length, the only threat to the contract is if North has five hearts headed by the ace and South has the club queen.

In that case, you will go down if you win the first heart and the club finesse subsequently loses to South, who then returns his remaining heart.

To keep this from happening, you should refuse to win the first heart.

South can't harm you by shifting to another suit, so let's assume he returns a heart.

North can win and continue hearts, but now if the club finesse loses, North cannot regain the lead, so you are sure to finish with at least nine tricks.

Note that if North started with only four hearts, you can never lose more than four tricks — three hearts and a club — no matter how you or the defenders proceed.

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ Q 9 8 5 3

♥ A 4

♦ A J 6

♣ 6 5 2

WEST

♠ 6

♥ J 9 8 5

♦ 10 9 7 4 2

♣ K 9 3

EAST

♠ 10 2

♥ Q 10 2

♦ K Q 5 3

♣ J 10 8 7

SOUTH

♠ A K J 7 4

♥ K 7 6 3

♦ 8

♣ A Q 4

The bidding:

South

1 ♠

4 NT

6 ♠

West

Pass

Pass

Pass

North

3 ♠

5 ♥

East

Pass

Pass

Pass

Opening lead — ten of diamonds.

Slow and steady wins the race

Assume you're declarer at six spades and West leads the ten of diamonds, which you win with the ace. How would you play the hand?

At first glance, it appears that making the slam depends entirely on a successful club finesse -- a straightforward 50-50 proposition. If East has the king, you make six; if West has it, you go down one. However, if you take the proper preliminary steps, you can improve your chances to about 75 percent.

The proper method of play, after taking the ace of diamonds, is to draw two rounds of trump ending in dummy and then ruff a diamond. Next come the A-K of hearts and a heart ruff, followed by a second diamond ruff.

At this point, the dummy has no more diamonds or hearts, and the only red card in your hand is the heart seven, which you now lead. When West follows suit with the jack, the slam becomes an absolute certainty.

Instead of trumping in dummy, which seems the normal thing to do, you discard one of dummy's clubs! This leaves West on lead in a no-win situation. If he returns a club, it is into your A-Q, while if he leads a diamond, it allows you to discard a second club from dummy while ruffing in your hand. Either way, you score the rest of the tricks.

The recommended approach assures the contract whenever West started with the majority of the missing hearts, which will occur roughly half the time. Failing that, you still have the club finesse in reserve, giving you two chances to make the slam instead of just one.

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Family Circus • Bill Keane

