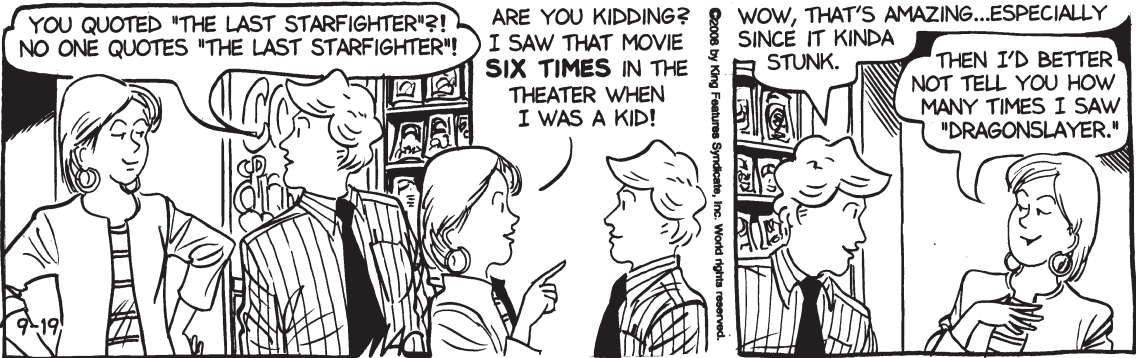
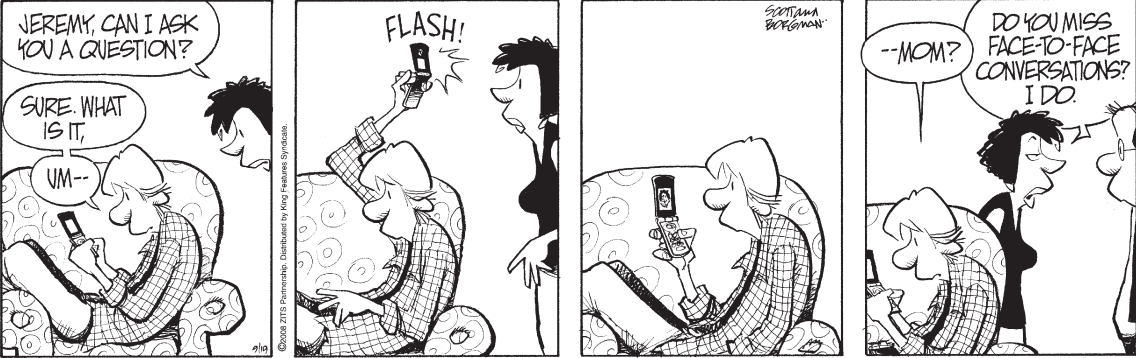


Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



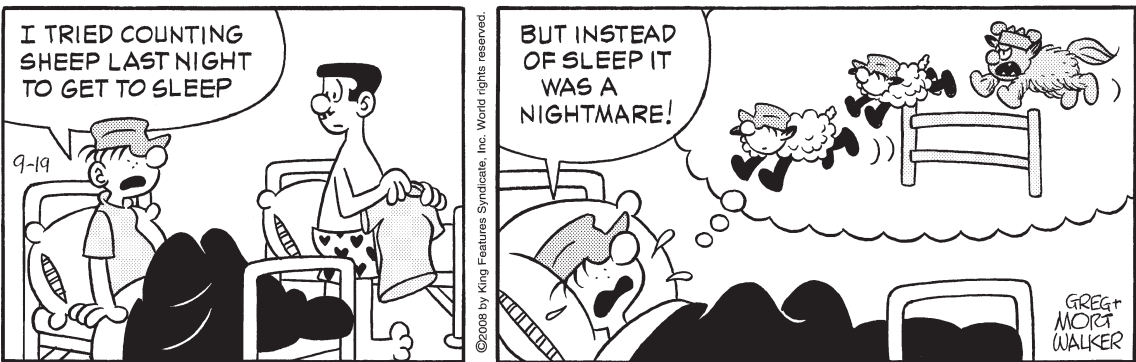
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



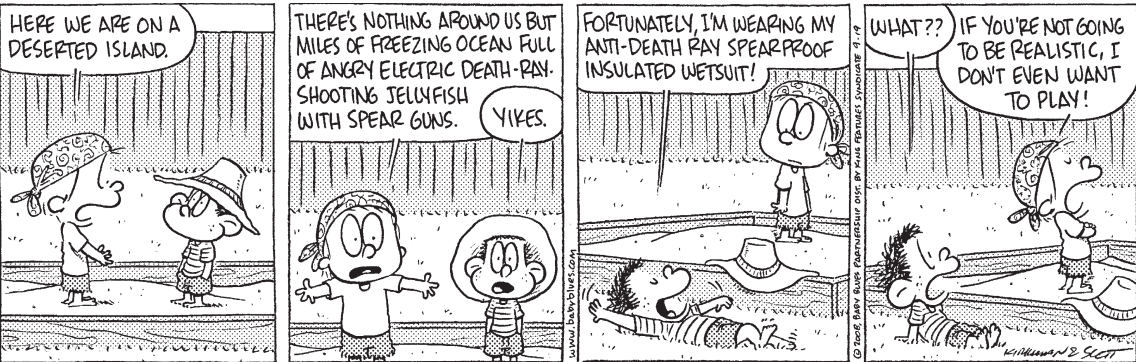
Blondie • Chic Young



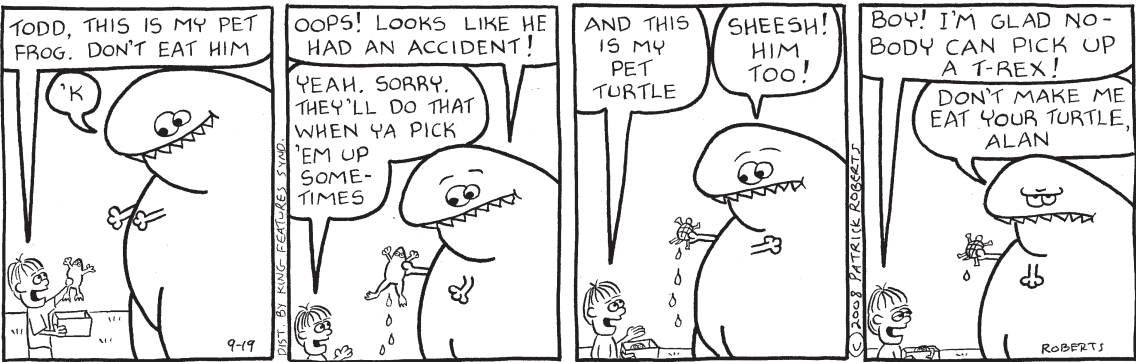
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Cryptoquip

CIPXP BQZX V DLPOPL
XNGKDCGLP SHPL DQVUCVUM.
V MGPXX ZSG NSGKB XQZ
V'HP IQB Q NIQUMP SO QLC.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THAT WAS A VERY FASCINATING BIT OF TRIVIA YOU DIVULGED. IT'LL BE A TOUGH FACT TO FOLLOW!
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals R

BKUOB RAIQG DFKEA D ZKEMW
SDOQ WOIT SOAC ACY
DFOTOAZ AK BCDMWY QKIUR:
"TOAATY UKIGCOM' DMMOY."
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THESE DAYS I PREFER SCULPTURE OVER PAINTING. I GUESS YOU COULD SAY I'VE HAD A CHANGE OF ART.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals T

Crossword

ACROSS

1 Taxi
4 Dismiss flies
8 Ovine remarks
12 Whatever number
13 Nullify
14 Fairy tale monster
15 Midriff bulge
17 The Eternal City
18 Tied after two scores
19 Hot tub
21 Eyelid woe
22 Alluring one
26 Wish granter, maybe
29 Lustrous black
30 Greek mountain
31 Yoked beasts
32 Coquett-ish
33 Epidermis

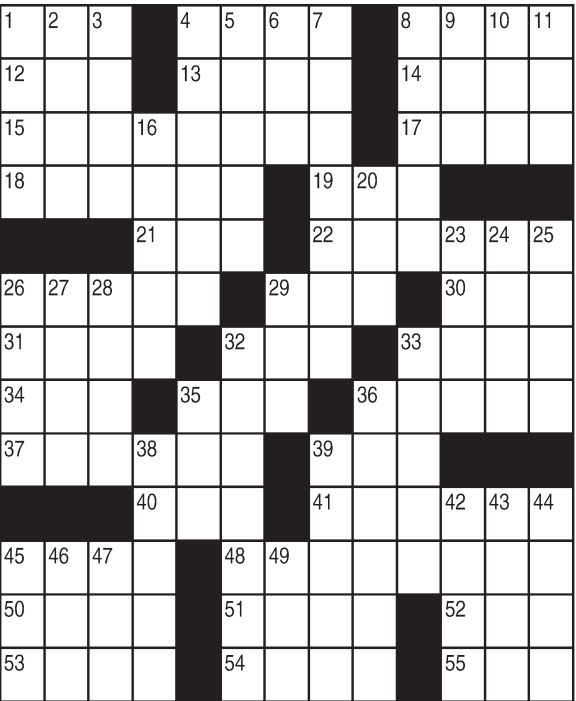
DOWN

34 Chances, for short
35 Journal
36 Insolence
37 Crusted entree
39 Half a Vegas pair
40 "— the ramparts ..."
41 Van Gogh painting
45 Favorable votes
48 Eccentric
50 Angry
51 Beige
52 Brian of rock music
53 Sound of contentment
54 Utters vessel
55 Kreskin's claim
DOWN
1 Mafia bigwig
2 Auth. unknown
3 Info measure
4 Slender and sleek
5 Yuletide plant
6 Lubricate
7 Eventful journey
8 Shoddy merchandise
9 Past
10 Branch
11 Witness

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 9-19



ACROSS

1 Draft in an apartment
6 Pleistocene period
12 Snatch money
13 One who isn't greedy
14 Brace
15 Highway blight
16 Bamako's country
17 Farmer, at times
19 Curvy character
20 Burn somewhat
22 Standard
24 Mag. staffers
27 Largest of the seven
29 Actor Neeson
32 Nail red-handed
35 Home of Oberlin
36 Dover —
37 Artesian article

DOWN

38 Caustic solution
40 Check for proof of age
42 — out a living
44 Animation critter
46 Norway's capital
50 Relents
52 Candle fat
54 Happen to
55 Urge on
56 Sought out a J.P.
57 Deles' undoers

DOWN

2 Carbon compound
3 Jellied entree
4 Old French coin
5 Stress
6 Capri or Wight
7 Twitter
8 Corrode
9 Through street
10 The Bee —
11 Blunders
12 Spinning meas.
18 Ven- ezuelan river
21 "Har-rumph!"

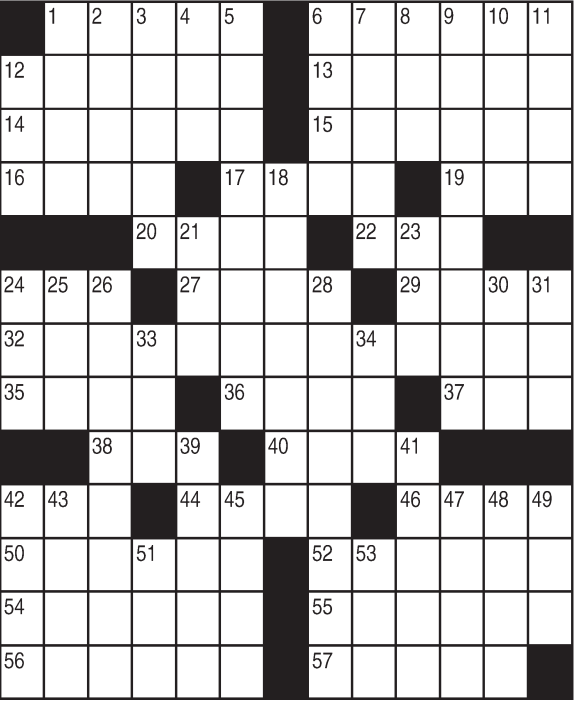
DOWN

23 Oktoberfest order
24 Green, in a sense
25 Doo follower
26 Heel type
28 Lost continent
30 Expert
31 Peaks (Abbr.)
33 Reluctant to commit
34 That girl
39 Debussy piece
41 Sweet (Ital.)
42 North Sea feeder
43 Carina
45 News-paper pg.
47 Skirt feature, maybe
48 Oodles
49 Have bills
51 Try the tea
53 Pismire

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 9-20



Bridge

You are West, defending against Four Hearts, South having bid one heart, North two hearts and South four hearts. When you lead the eight of diamonds, your partner wins with the ace, South playing the six, and returns the three, South playing the king — which you ruff. What would you do now?

North
♠ Q 5
♥ K J 8
♦ 9 5 4 2
♣ Q J 7 3

West
♠ 10 9 7 3
♥ 9 4 2
♦ 8
♣ K 10 9 6 2

Test Your Defensive Play

You are West, defending against Four Hearts, South having bid one heart, North two hearts and South four hearts. When you lead the eight of diamonds, your partner wins with the ace, South playing the six, and returns the three, South playing the king - which you ruff. What would you do now?

If you have faith in partner, you should return a low club. You should assume that East read your diamond lead as a singleton and expected you to ruff the diamond return at trick two.

Under these circumstances, East's lead of the three, rather than any old diamond, has a special meaning. It is a suit-preference signal indicating that he wants you to return a club rather than a spade at trick three. Had partner wanted a spade return, he would have led a high diamond instead. (If partner had no preference, he would return a medium-sized diamond.)

Declarer's hand probably looks something like:

[S]	AK 8 4
[H]	AQ 10 5 3
[D]	KQ 6
[C]	8

in which case South goes down one if you return a club, but makes the contract if you return a spade.

It is true that leading a club away from the king at trick three, with dummy holding Q-J-7-3, looks very unappetizing. But, assuming that East is familiar with standard suit-preference signals and does not play his cards idly, it is clearly the right play.

If it turns out that partner has the spade ace and not the club ace -- or neither ace -- and declarer makes the contract as a result of your club return, you can always show your partner this column to teach him the error of his ways.

Tomorrow: Harry Grumble.

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

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

WEST		SOUTH
♠ Q 10		♠ 5 2
♥ K 10 8 6 3		♥ A 9 4
♦ 10 9 5 3		♦ AK Q 8 6 2
♣ K 6		♣ A J

The bidding:
South 1 ♦
3 NT
West Pass
North 1 ♣
East Pass

Opening lead — six of hearts.

Harry Grumble

Let's first imagine you're an average bridge player. Then let's stretch your imagination further and assume there's a national championship in progress at a nearby convention center. Since you've never seen the experts play, you decide to go there to see for yourself whether these sharks are as good as they're cracked up to be.

You get there bright and early one day and sit down alongside Harry Grumble (South), an expert who's said to be almost as good as he thinks he is.

On the very first hand, he gets to three notrump as shown. Maybe you wouldn't have bid his hand the same way, but, when dummy appears, you realize that our hero has somehow stumbled into the best contract.

Grumble ducks two rounds of hearts and wins the third one with the ace. Since that's what you'd have done, you are not particularly impressed. But when he next leads a spade to the king, you start to wonder why in the world he did this rather than run his diamonds first.

You get no time to consider the question, because Grumble leads a diamond from dummy and plays low after East produces the jack! This proves to be another lucky shot, because he winds up making three notrump, whereas he would have gone down had he tried to run the diamonds by leading them from his hand, or had he not ducked East's jack.

When you go home and study the hand, you realize it was more than just blind luck that induced Grumble to choose this line of play, and that maybe he knows a thing or two more about the game than your regular crowd does. It kind of makes you think.

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Family Circus • Bill Keane

