Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott







Chris Browne Hagar the Horrible •

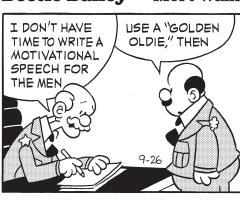


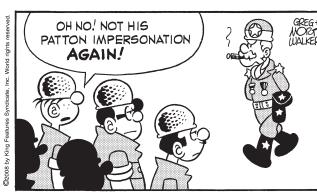






Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker

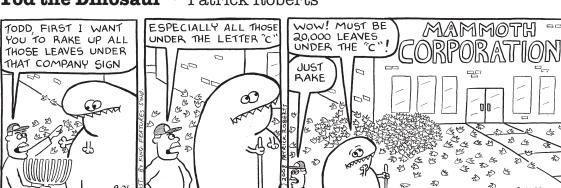




Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Cryptoquip

WFSMFSB FQ ZGQDZKZET ZIAT GDRVOQD UED WKI GVJDA

A V H H Z A A W V E E T R I F E XVQBDAF ONRJ W C E N Q

QIGFA, F'M AIT KT CDNQRZD ROAADHU XVFQ, ED IDRNIDI

RIA QRZ BFWQ NW HIC. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN SOMEONE TYPES CAPITAL LETTERS AN AWFUL LOT, I GUESS YOU MIGHT CALL HIM A SHIFTY PERSON. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals S

UW UOAH WBDA V HDX KWVC. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: FINDING IT EXTREMELY EASY TO SUCCESSFULLY HAIL TAXIS, I'D SAY MY BROTHER HAS THE GIFT OF CAB. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals O

Crossword **DOWN** ACROSS **35** Actress 1 Hot tub

Hayworth 1 Turf 4 Duel tool 36 Sanctify 2 — Beta 37 "Ivanhoe" 8 Vatican VIP author 12 Surprise 40 Gridlock cries

Kappa 3 Pretentious 4 A cube sound 41 Protuberhas ance twelve

42 Maternity-5 Kitten's ward call 6 Away announcement from WSW

odds 17 Collec-46 Bakery tions employee, 7 Scratch 18 Addict at times (out) 19 Haiku, for 47 Archie 8 Spain's Bunker's euro

no.

20 Familycreator 48 Born night activities 49 Flower 22 Castle **50** Fat **51** Coll. protector 24 Met transcript 19 Really

13 Cager's

tactic

14 Satan's

15 Be at

specialty

melody 25 "Full Solution time: 25 mins. House" cast member 29 Corral 30 His work inspired "Cats"

31 Fish eggs 32 Algonquian bigwig 34 Angle

40 Despot 42 Feeling 43 Afternoon 44 Aqt. 45 Meadow Yesterday's answer 9-26

13 14 12 26 27 29 32 33 38 39

42

47

nected

residue

teaspoon

33-Across

recipe

molding

eagle

Yankee

tidy

49 **ACROSS 36** Con-1 Group of sailors **5** Success-

46

37 Peculiar 38 Eternity ful over-**39** Sunup **42** "— got it!" throw 44 Big bash 9 Skilled **12** Four-star **48** Bonfire review 13 Easy gait 49 Use a 14 Shape-

shifter? 50 Neat and 15 Seed coating **51** See 16 Poet Pound 52 Corn

17 Rawls or Reed 53 Curved 18 Quasimodo's 54 Muppet concern 19 Old Olds 55 NY

20 TV's Batman portraver 21 "- Had a Hammer" 23 Doc's org. 25 Very

astringent, as wine 28 Outcome offering

32 Mirror's 33 Crowd, 'tis said

Yesterday's answer 9-27

53

56

52

55

Bridge

20 Spaces

hood

22 Actress

Kelly

23 Bassoon's

cousin

schach

picture

a long

28 Kennedy

Koppel

and

30 Send

33 Blood

forth

line?

36 Plank

37 Use

on one's

Web site

scissors

38 Gabrielle

Chanel

39 Idolaters'

poorly

social

44

11 Lacking

slack

Forge

VIP

22 Meadow

25 Up to,

27 Cole or

Turner

29 Samovar

side

31 Danson

35 Perry

White,

e.g.

36 Scoffed

platform

40 Largest of

41 Caprice

43 Veritas

45 Jason's

ship

46 Stead

47 Prayer

49 Mas-

ending

seur's

provider

the seven

39 Roast

or Turner

30 Sheltered

4 Napoleon 26 "- Blue?"

24 "Likewise"

poetically

20 Valley

48

56 Subject

DOWN

1 Grouch

tional

3 Malefi-

cence

adver-

sary

5 Member

of the

church

slowly

6 Leak

7 Ado

8 Shell-

game

need

petent

9 Com-

nickname 10 Experts

Solution time: 27 mins.

2 Excep-

matter?

recitations

forerunner

11 Differently 34 Postings

9 Finished

10 Seeds

16 Cruising

big

25 Ror-

26 Hello

27 Quite

21 Neighbor-

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

West North East South Pass Pass 2 • Pass What would you bid now with

each of the following four hands? 1. ♠ KJ ♥ 73 ♦ KJ4 ♣ AQJ1064

2. ♠ 864 ♥ AJ2 ♦ 7 ♣ KQ8653 3. ♠ K10 ♥ KQ8 ♦ J7 ♣ ÅJ7632 4. **♦** J7 ♥ A8 ♦ 643 **♣** AQ9732

Bidding Quiz 1. Four diamonds. With better than an opening bid facing

an opening bid, game must be reached, and slam is not out of the question. Three diamonds, though it has the merit of making a three-notrump contract possible, is totally inadequate, since partner may pass. Five diamonds, which is a stronger bid than four diamonds, might induce partner to bid an unmakable slam.

The four-diamond bid is forcing and has the advantage of leaving room for either a four-heart cuebidor a four-not rump (Blackwood) bid by partner. If partner does cue bid in hearts, you should bid six diamonds. Although a four-club bid (forcing) over two diamonds would describe your powerful club suit, it would not show

the excellent diamond support that will make partner take a rosier view of his hand. 2. Pass. In view of partner's weak rebid, all thoughts of getting to game should be dismissed. The rule of thumb that it

takes an opening bid opposite an opening bid to make a game should be applied here. Since partner has made the weakest rebid possible, and your hand amounts to less than an opening bid, it must be assumed that there is no game. When this consideration is added to your lack of support for diamonds. the evidence becomes even more convincing. The only question remaining is where the partscore contract should be played. It is possible that three clubs

might be a better contract than two diamonds, but this is not really worth investigating. A further bid might make matters worse. It's much better to let go of a hot potato. 3. Three notrump. This bid is clear-cut. With 14 high-card points and honor cards in every suit facing an opening bid, the notrump game should be bid without further ado. No

4. Three diamonds. Although your diamond support is nothing to write home about, it is adequate opposite a suit that has been bid twice. The diamond raise encourages partner to bidagain, without compelling him to. Your hand is not good enough to do more than invite partner to continue.

other possibility should be considered.

If he does not go on, the chances are that the best contracthas been reached. It would be incorrect to rebidy our clubs when a fit in diamonds has already been found.

Tomorrow: South has a problem to solve. (c)2008 King Features Syndicate Inc.

West dealer. Both sides vulnerable. NORTH 🕈 A K 7 6 ◆ J 8 3 2 1095 WEST The bidding: Pass

Opening lead queen of hearts South Has a Problem to Solve

One of the chief purposes of a pre-emptive bid is to deprive the opponents of the ability to exchange information at a low level. It is therefore not surprising that a partnership often fails to arrive at its best contract after a pre-emptive bid by the opposition.

Take this case where North-South would have been much better off at three notrump than the inferior contract of five clubs they reached after the

opening three-heart bid by West. Declarer had a lot of work to do to make five clubs. He took the opening heart lead in dummy and returned the club ten, winning the finesse. Another trump finesse disclosed that East had started with three to the king, which in turn meant that South's third heart could not be safely ruffed in dummy. Two diamond losers also appeared certain since West was very likely to have the ace for his vulnerable

three-bid. The outlook was bleak, but declarer found the answer. After drawing East's last trump, he cashed the A-K of spades and ruffed a spade. He then played his last two trumps, reducing himself to the K-x of both red suits. On the last trump, West had to choose a discard from the J-10-9 of hearts and A-10 of diamonds.

If West discarded a heart, South would then play the king and another heart, compelling West to lead a diamond. And if West discarded the ten of diamonds instead, a low diamond play would convert declarer's king into a trick. Either way, the jig was up.

South certainly gets full credit for his excellent play, but West has to get an assist for having made it possible to test declarer's mettle.

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Family Circus • Bill Keane



"If you buy one at double the price, your next one's free.'