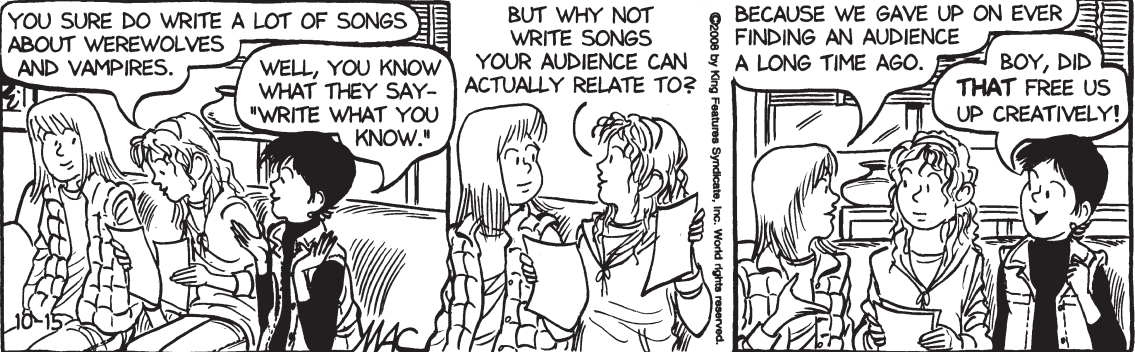


Sally Forth • Greg Howard



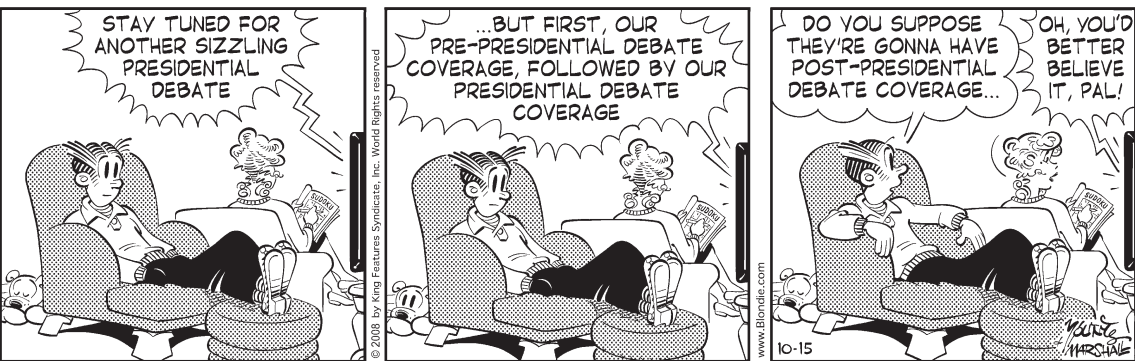
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



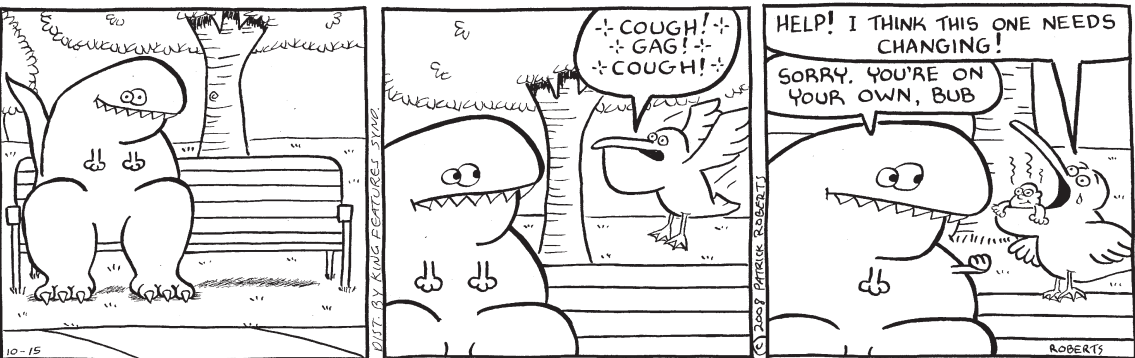
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



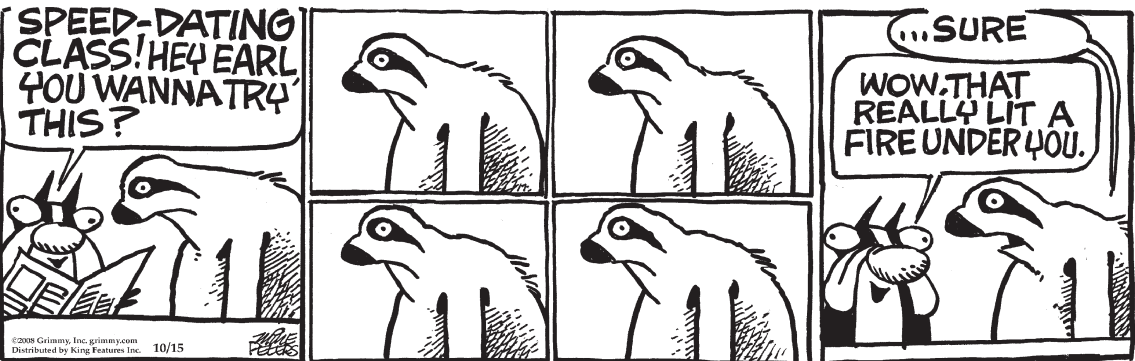
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Cryptoquip

MJ M YL HGLZQMAP YBCBLA
UGYQGR JHZL SAZUR MA LI
IYHT, IZB LMPDC RYI M'L

HYSMAP CDG LZBATR.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE SHORT-ORDER COOK WENT DASHING INTO THE KITCHEN, FRANTICALLY ASKING "WHERE'S THE FRYER?"
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals N

FIBM C VYUSNMCSB DIJDHBM
FJMZ SIB AYSSBUR, J FYNAX
ZCR JS JZ XNB SY SIB
DANDH YV SIB XUCF.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF I AM REMOVING AUTUMN LEAVES FROM KNOLLS IN MY YARD, YOU MIGHT SAY I'M RAKING THE MOUNDS.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals T

Crossword

ACROSS 35 Eightsome DOWN 22 Chow

1 Help a felon 36 Rd. 1 Weaponry down

5 Witnessed 37 Commo- 2 Ocean vessel 23 Couric's employer

8 Korean 38 Jerry Herman 3 Tense 24 Deterioration

12 Went on 41 Expert heroine 4 Chamomile, for one 25 Epoch

13 Hasten 42 Taste the wine 5 Work hours 26 Vagrant

14 Chills and fever 45 Foil 6 "— 27 Parcel of land

15 Periodical 46 "Golconda" painter René 28 Schedule abbr.

17 "An Inconvenient Truth" teller? 48 Set down 9 Enthusiastic 35 Smell

18 Pig's home 49 Past 10 Fool-proof 37 Inert

19 Frequently, in verse 50 Crazy 11 Shoe part 38 Strike from the text

20 Christmas-tree topper, maybe 51 Otherwise 16 Speed 39 October birth-stone

21 Witticism 52 Corral 20 TV alien 40 Oahu souvenirs

22 TV lawyer Stone 53 She 21 A Biblical Mary 41 Senate staffer

23 Coffee additive 54 Set down 22 Chow 42 Old portico

26 At a loss 55 She 23 Couric's employer 43 Reason to scratch

30 Bjorn of tennis 56 Set down 24 Deterioration 44 Laborer

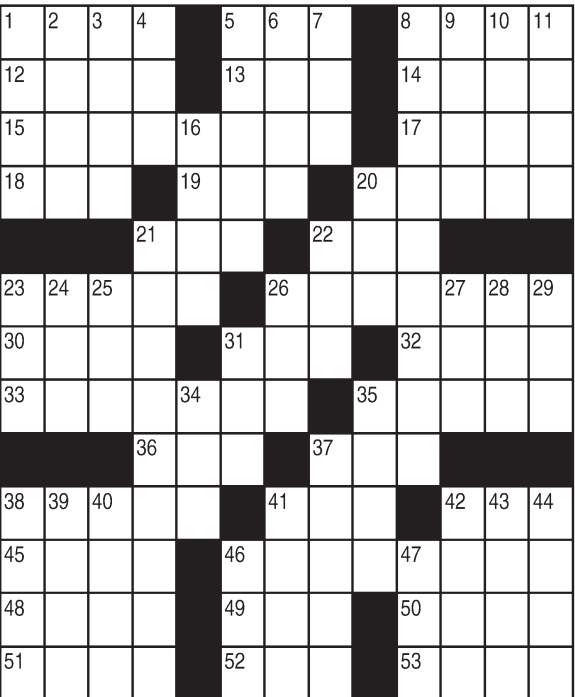
31 Shack 57 Set down 25 Epoch 46 Chart

32 Tittle 58 Set down 26 Vagrant 47 Sort

33 Sports arena 59 Set down 27 Parcel of land

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 10-14



ACROSS 36 Heart line? 2 And others (Lat.) 24 Yes

1 "Cheers" order 38 Switch settings 25 Jon Arbuckle's cat

5 Cleo's slayer 40 Likely 3 Franc replace-ment

8 Look 41 Karma 4 Severity sign

12 Needle case 45 Accommodated 5 Immeasurably deep

13 Prohibit 47 Squat 6 "Erie Canal" mule

14 Incursion 51 Duel tool 7 Iron

15 Grotesque carving 52 Chickpea 8 Traveled around the world?

17 Raised 54 Gangster's gal pal 9 Corsage flower

18 Sailing vessels 55 Time of your life? 10 Told tales

19 Like wet roads 56 Celebrity 11 Whirlpool

21 Sleep phenom 57 Race place 16 Oil cartel

22 Location 58 Tier 20 Tease

23 Gasoline stat 59 Rent 23 Biz deg.

26 Nev. neighbor 60 Set down 24 Yes

28 Jeans material 61 Set down 25 Jon Arbuckle's cat

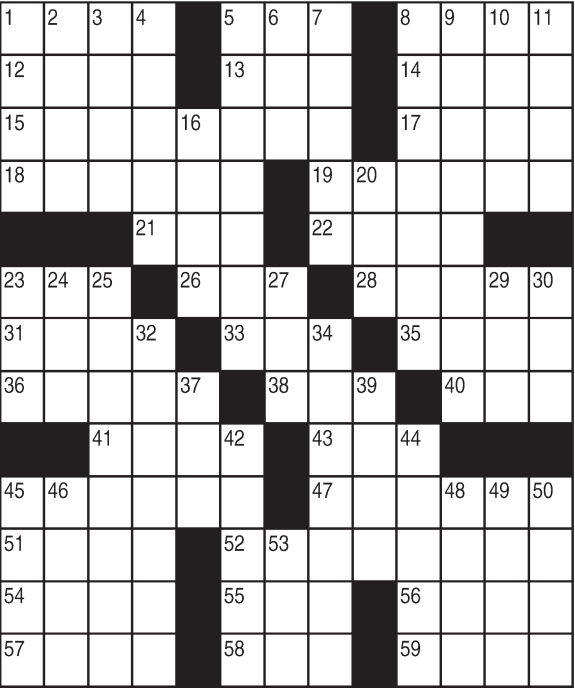
31 Support group? 62 Set down 26 Vagrant

33 Romanian money 63 Set down 27 Parcel of land

35 FDR is on it 64 Set down 28 Schedule abbr.

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 10-15



Bridge

West dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

10 9 8 7 2

7 5 3

A J

A K Q

WEST

A K Q J 4

9 8 4 2

10 6 4

3

EAST

6

6

K 9 8 7 5 3

10 9 6 4 2

SOUTH

5 3

A K Q J 10

Q 2

J 8 7 5

The bidding:

West North East South

Pass 1 ♣ Pass 2 ♥

Pass 2 NT Pass 4 ♥

Opening lead — king of spades.

Necessity: The Mother of Invention

Some contracts that initially appear very easy to play turn out, for one reason or another, to be much tougher than was originally anticipated. In such cases declarer may have to use a little ingenuity to help him get home safely.

Consider the present deal from a rubber-bridge game where South landed in four hearts instead of an ice-cold three notrump (he was trying to score his 150 honors). West started with the K-A of spades, East signaling with the nine of diamonds on the second spade. West then continued with the queen of spades, ruffed by South with the ten.

At this point, the contract seemed very easy to make. But when South next cashed the A-K of trumps and East showed out, the previously promising picture changed drastically. Declarer realized that if he continued with the Q-J of trumps, discarding a spade from dummy, he would then have no way to score the game-going trick with the jack of clubs.

The alternative -- a successful diamond finesse -- seemed highly unlikely under the circumstances, given that West had started with the A-K-Q-J-x of spades and had passed initially.

But our hero, South, was not born yesterday, and found a way out of his difficulties. Faced with the hard reality of the situation, declarer did play the Q-J of trumps, but, on the last trump, he discarded the ace of diamonds from dummy!

The rest of the play was simple enough. South next cashed dummy's A-K-Q of clubs and then exited with the jack of diamonds. East won with the king, but had to yield the last two tricks to South's queen of diamonds and jack of clubs.

And so it was that South, by very good play, made four hearts and scored his 150 honors.

Tomorrow: Unusual defensive play.

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South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

A J 10 8

—

K 6 2

A Q 9 7 6 3

WEST

K 7 6 4 2

J 9 6

J 9 4 3

10

EAST

Q 9 5

K 10 8 4 3 2

—

K J 8 5

SOUTH

3

A Q 7 5

A Q 10 8 7 5

4 2

The bidding:

South West North East

1 ♦ Pass 2 ♣

2 ♦ Pass 2 ♣

3 ♥ Pass 6 ♦

Opening lead — ten of clubs.

Unusual Defensive Play

Occasionally, a defender finds it necessary to make a play that is completely contrary to standard procedure. Unfortunately, since such plays don't come with a warning sign, the opportunity to make the play may pass him by unless he is fully on top of the situation.

For example, consider this deal where it seems that declarer must lose a club trick and a trump trick at six diamonds. However, because of a completely "normal" play made by West at the critical stage, South wound up making the slam.

Declarer started off perfectly by going up with the ace of clubs at trick one. Next he cashed the spade ace and ruffed a spade, then cashed the heart ace and ruffed a heart. He continued by trumping a spade, a heart and dummy's last spade, producing this position:

South then led the heart queen and ruffed with dummy's king as West discarded the spade king. Declarer next led a club, but since West had only trumps left, he was forced to ruff his partner's trick. Even worse, he then had to lead from the J-9-4 into South's A-Q-10, handing declarer the last three tricks and the slam.

Had West been more alert, he would have found the unusual but correct play of trumping the heart queen in the diagramed position, even though dummy would overruff with the king. This would have allowed East to win dummy's club return as West shed his spade king, after which the jack of diamonds would have scored the setting trick.

Tomorrow: Two chances are better than one.

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Family Circus • Bill Keane

