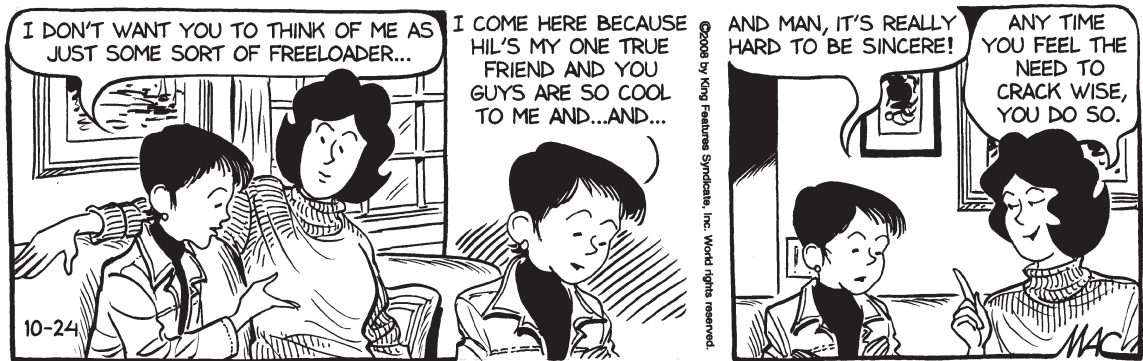
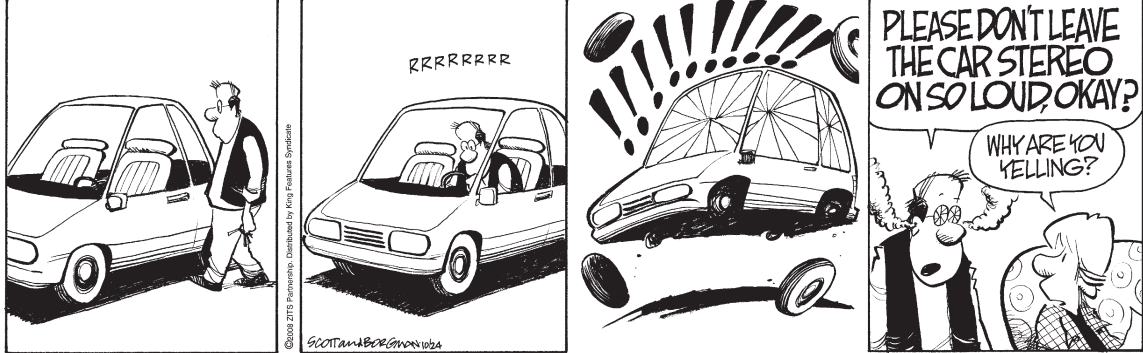


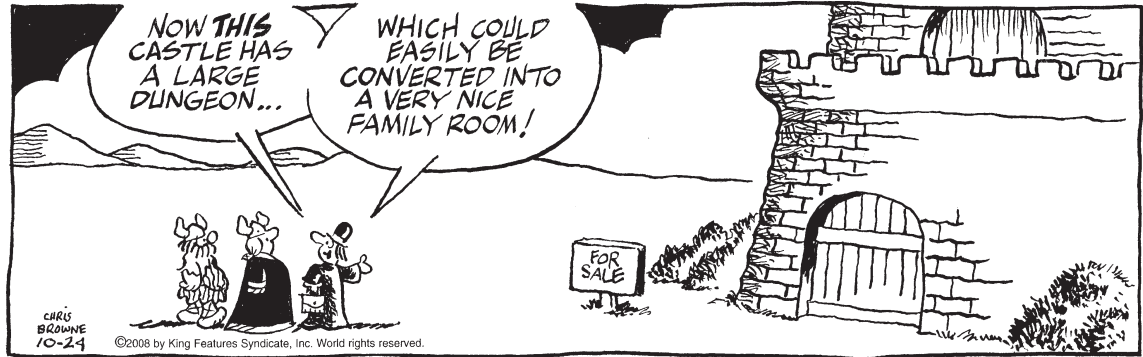
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



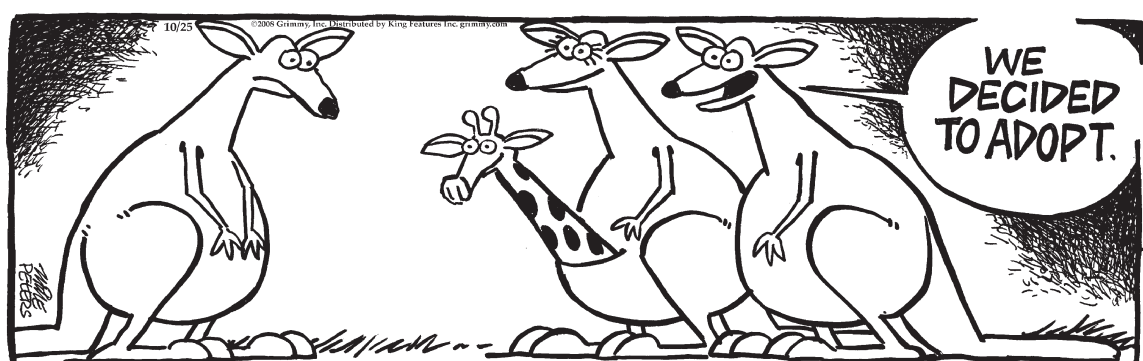
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Cryptoquip

NK A Q N M U K A M Z L U S T U F V S Q
Z G A X G N G M T P M D N D
N U F P V F N A O M F Q W X S Q I S P Q W

L M S L H M: "I F O M N G M Q F N A S Q."
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE I HAD THE FLU WHILE I WAS ON MY LAST FLIGHT, YOU MIGHT SAY THAT I OFTEN COUGHED ALOFT.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals A

C K L P J G R G X O U G H D R N L H H
L N G X A H O P O H E P P O W G U
T O C M G W T N L P R? P K O
D E P P O T N L M G G J H O.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: TV INTERVIEW PROGRAM ON WHICH THE GUESTS TRAUMATIZE AND CONFOUND PEOPLE: "FAZE THE NATION."
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals C

Crossword

ACROSS

DOWN

34 Mischievous tykes

35 Example of beef-cake

36 Hibernian

37 Photo book

40 PC picture

41 Winter garment

42 Rule

46 Luau entertainment

47 Caspian feeder

48 Earl Grey, e.g.

49 Paradise

50 Say it isn't so

51 Addnl. phone no.

22 Cheese choice

24 Slender

25 Con game

29 Last (Abbr.)

30 Sprung up

31 1-Across request

32 Footballer's anti-glare smear

22 Impede

23 Put on the line

25 Drescher or Tarkenton

26 Make into a thin plate

27 Much of Austria

28 Netting

30 Astringent

33 Himalayan nation

34 Unyielding

36 With aloofness

37 Rue the run

38 Clamorous

39 "The Dark Knight" star

40 Model who wed David Bowie

42 Flop

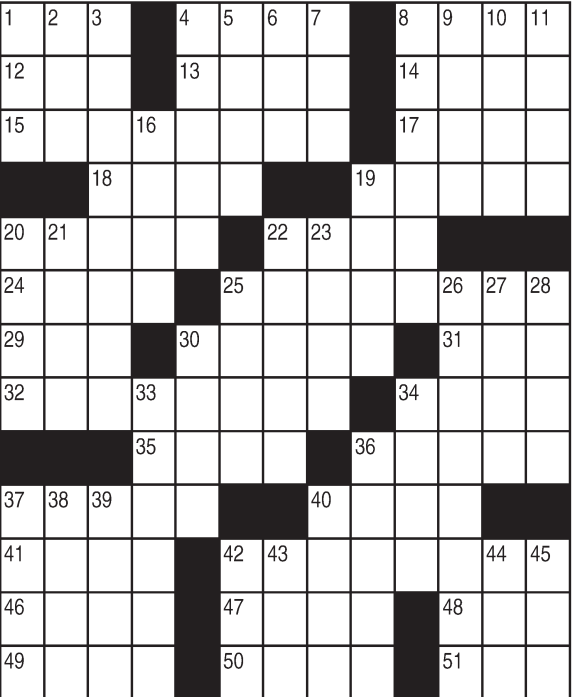
43 Tramcar contents

44 John Ritter's dad

45 Chow down

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 10-24



ACROSS

DOWN

33 One-eighty

34 Contacted via BlackBerry

36 Paid under the table

37 Tokyo's old name

38 Immigrant's course (Abbr.)

39 Flex

42 Needlefish

44 Pinnacle

48 Keatsian work

49 Pre-swan

50 "Wind in the Willows" character

51 Past

52 Piscine organ

53 Urban carrier

54 X rating?

55 Pianist

56 Maze goal

8 Em halves

9 Fashion

10 Cupid's alter ego

11 Departed

20 Starbucks order

22 Medicated

24 — truly

25 Snitch

26 Hearty brew

27 Kibosh

29 Gist

30 Rage

31 Conclusion

35 Pooch

36 Emerald et al

39 Regatta entry

40 Advantage

41 Night light?

43 Shakespeare title starter

45 Wheedle

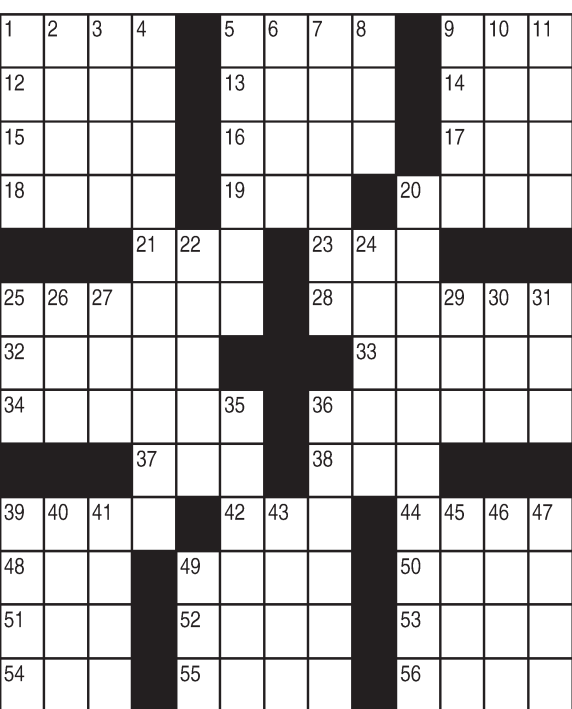
46 Long skirt

47 Wield a blue pencil

49 "Eewwww!"

Solution time: 27 mins.

Yesterday's answer 10-25



Bridge

You are South, both sides vulnerable. The bidding has been:

North	East	South	West
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
3 NT	Pass	?	

What would you now bid with each of the following four hands?

- ♠ KQ764 ♥ A8 ♦ A3 ♣ 9872
- ♠ KQJ94 ♥ J873 ♦ AJ4 ♣ 6
- ♠ KJ83 ♥ 9 ♦ K62 ♣ 98653
- ♠ KQ962 ♥ AQ1054 ♦ J3 ♣ 9 * * *

Bidding Quiz

- Six notrump. Partner's three-notrump bid indicates a balanced hand of about 20 points since your one-spade bid did not guarantee more than six points. Partner is thus expressing a willingness to play in game opposite even that meager holding. With 13 points facing 20, a slam must be undertaken; nothing less is acceptable. A bid such as four spades or four notrump runs the risk of partner's misinterpreting your intentions and so missing the slam. Never make a bid that partner may pass when you already know a slam can be made and you are reasonably sure you know where to play it.
- Four diamonds. Again you must have a slam, but this time you can't tell where the best place to play it is. The proper contract may be in spades, diamonds or notrump. Partner will have to help you in making this decision. The four-diamond bid (forcing, since you have not yet reached game) is designed to do just that. Whichever denomination partner selects should settle the issue, and you will then raise to six at your next turn.
- Pass. The three-notrump contract has to be accepted, though some concern over the singleton heart is justified. However, any further bid made in an effort to get out of notrump may lead to a less satisfactory contract.
- The combined hands contain about 27 points, which should be sufficient to produce nine tricks at notrump one way or another.
- Six hearts. Although the partnership high-card holding may be a point short of the desired 33, your distribution and abundance of first- and second-round controls is sufficient to merit contracting for slam.

A bid of four hearts would not reflect the true potential of the hand. Four hearts is not forcing and could easily be based on far less in high cards.

Partner can pass six hearts if he has better support for that suit, or he can retreat to six spades if he prefers that spot. In the unlikely event that he bids six notrump, you will of course pass.

Tomorrow: A shadow on the horizon.
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East dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH

WEST

EAST

SOUTH

The bidding:

East Pass

South 1 NT

West Pass

North 2 NT

Opening lead — seven of spades.

A Shadow on the Horizon

Tactical considerations are often more important than technical considerations. This means, for example, that it may not always be right to make the theoretically best play in a given suit combination; rather, it may be more important to try to find the overall best play in that particular hand.

Consider this deal where West leads his fourth-best spade. Declarer wins with dummy's nine and sees that his best source of tricks lies in diamonds.

Ordinarily, declarer would handle this particular diamond combination by first cashing the ace and then the king. But observe what happens if South follows that procedure in the present case. He can no longer score all his diamonds, and cannot score a fourth diamond trick without surrendering one to East first. East would then return the queen of hearts to put the contract down one.

To prevent this from happening, declarer should cash the king of diamonds at trick two and next lead the ten, planning to finesse if East follows low! This approach guarantees the contract even if West wins the trick with the jack. (South would then score four diamonds, two clubs and three spades after conceding a trick to West's king.)

Of course, if East covers the ten with the jack, South wins with the queen, thus assuring five diamond tricks whether West follows suit or not.

In adopting this line of play, declarer reasons that he is virtually certain to make the contract by cashing the diamond king at trick two. It is a safety play that ensures at least four diamond tricks and three notrump, come what may.

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Family Circus • Bill Keane

