

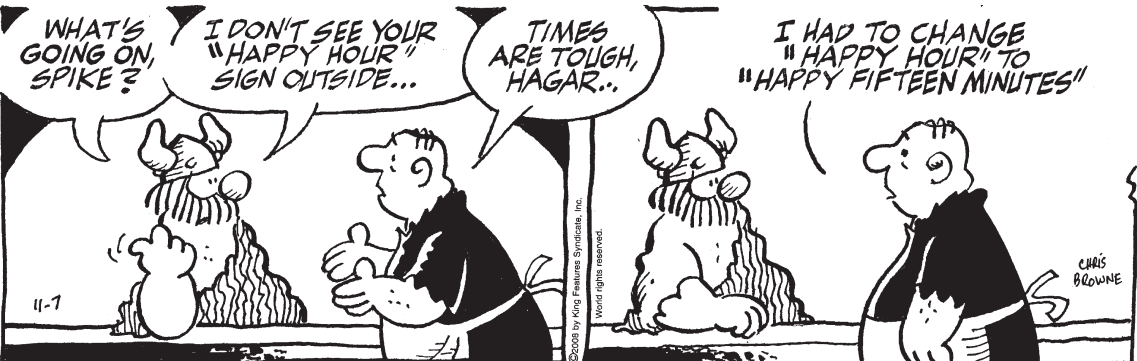
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



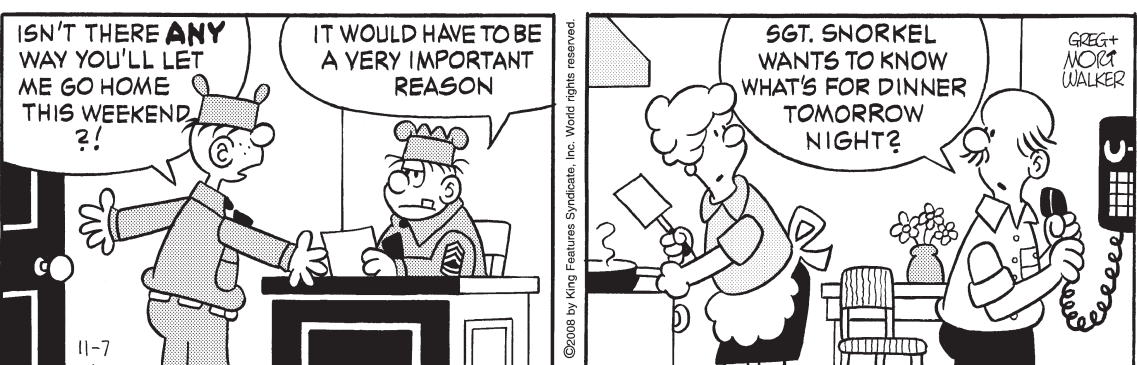
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



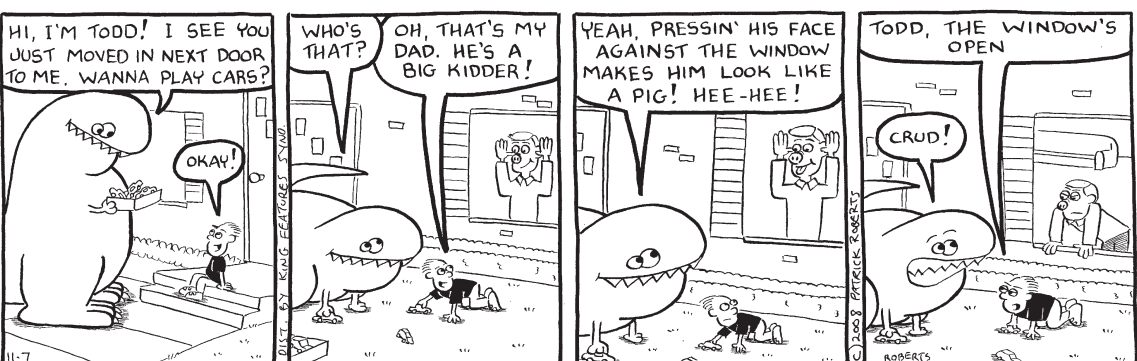
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Cryptoquip

SP SWWQEJSP, XOH EOHYOHBV
OQE OHQBV ESIH QPPSUHV
QPV VJEFDEXHV EOHY

WBUJPF "KQQ, ODIKDF!"
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF AN ENORMOUS THICK-SKINNED MAMMAL SPEAKS RASHLY, COULD YOU SAY IT SHOOTS FROM THE HIPPO?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals A

KRUK CJZ LHDNO'K DUK
ODUQSZ UN EJTR QHJCRUCD
UN RD T SUBEN. RD'N

LDGBOBKDSZ U GBFDQ GBFFDQ.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ON OCCASION, THE SHEPHERD HAS HEARD SOME ANNOYED AND DISGUSTED SHEEP CRYING "BAA, HUMBUG!"
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals H

Crossword

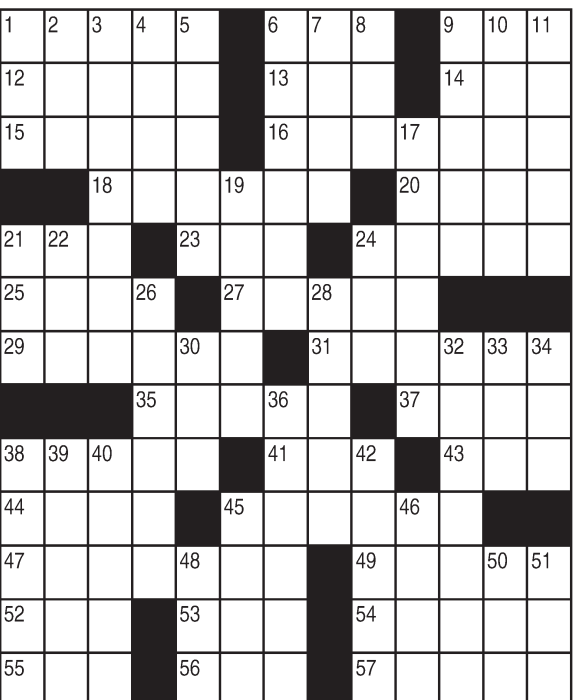
ACROSS 37 Manx's lack 38 Site of emotions 41 Intend 43 Energy watchdog 44 "Meta-org. mor-phoses" poet 45 Third-year student 47 Bug 49 Near 52 Away from WSW 53 Praise in verse 54 So all can hear 55 Scarlet 56 Apiece 57 Judo-like wrestling style

DOWN 1 — de deux 2 Biblical verb suffix 3 Desk gadget 4 Exhaust spring 5 Off-street-car ... 6 "Street-car ..." role 7 Meer-schaum, e.g. 8 Parisian pal 9 Signal light 10 Happy companion 11 Eastern bigwigs

17 Pad 19 Fastidious 21 Commer-cials 22 Drenched 24 "— the fields we go ..." 26 Un-scramble, maybe 28 Early morning 30 Branch 32 Bar 33 Hasten 34 Matter-horn, e.g. 36 Poor one 38 Viny shelter 39 Sheep-ish? 40 Begat 42 Isinglass et al. 45 Green gem 46 Earthen pot 48 Upper surface 50 Replace-ment 51 Tokyo's old name

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 11-7



ACROSS 1 Three, they say 6 Foolish folks 11 Evening affair 12 Memo-rized 14 Dr. Phil 15 Singer Barbara 16 Reaction to fire-works 17 Gold measure 19 Mas-seur's workplace 20 Carry 22 Scoot 23 Sax player's need 24 Follow 26 "Woman With the Hat" painter 28 Roulette bet 30 Atlanta-based health agcy. 31 Golf tally 35 Flat-bottomed rowboat

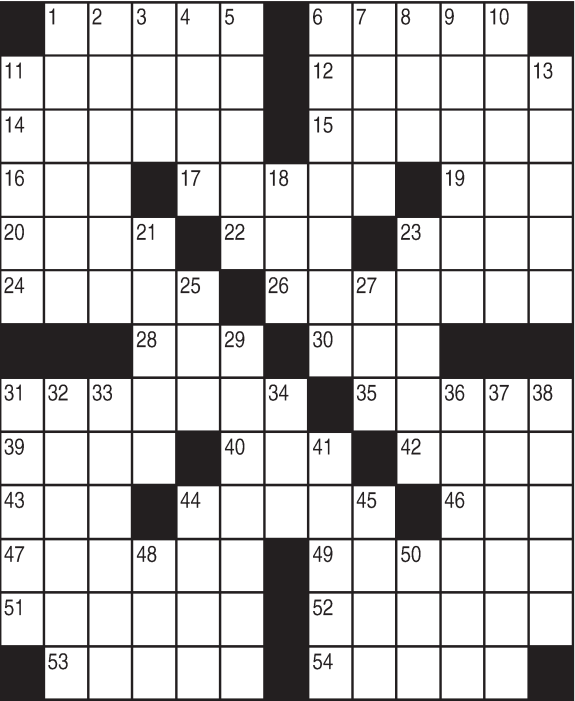
39 Earl Grey's family? 40 Enthusi-ast 42 "Ameri-can —" 43 Samovar 44 Go back to brunette? 46 TV Tarzan portrayer 47 Folk-singer Rod 49 Politico John 51 Threw stones 52 Light-intensity measure 53 Vichys-soise ingredients

54 Aspira-tions 55 Larval case 56 Privileges 57 Bobby of hockey 58 Frail 59 Flask named for a Scottish chemist 60 Annual publica-tion 61 Denom-ination 62 Part of UCSD 63 Oblit-erates 64 "Passen-ger 57" star

11 Hit 13 Swap 18 Pirates' quaff 21 Conti-nental cash 23 Lake of "Hair-spray" 25 Comic-strip cry 27 Gridiron scores (Abbr.) 29 Protects 31 Thwart 32 Toyota subcom-pact 33 Irritate 34 Blue 36 Con-ceive 37 Page numbers 38 Movie swash-buckler 41 Mytholog-ical maiden 44 Stench 45 Rever-berate 48 Multi-purpose truck 50 Filch

Solution time: 27 mins.

Yesterday's answer 11-8



Bridge

You are South, and the bidding has gone:

South	West	North	East
1 ♣	1 ♦	1 ♥	1 ♠
?			

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

- ♠ Q72 ♥ J85 ♦ A92 ♣ AQ86
- ♠ J5 ♥ AQ6 ♦ A4 ♣ Q109752
- ♠ K8 ♥ J74 ♦ AK ♣ KQJ954
- ♠ AJ9 ♥ J8 ♦ A97 ♣ AKJ63
- ♠ A64 ♥ K852 ♦ 10 ♣ AQJ104

Bidding Quiz

1. Pass. Opening bids of one in a suit normally contain 12 to 21 high-card points. So, whenever you open the bidding with one of a suit, your partner has no idea whether your opening is of the weak, strong or intermediate class.

Most of the time, you get to identify the strength of your hand at your next turn to bid. In the present case, that time is now. Since your opening bid was clearly of the minimum class, you can best indicate those values by passing one spade, implying that you opened a minimum and that you have no clear-cut action over East's bid.

2. Two hearts. Standing by itself, this is also a minimum hand, but it has risen appreciably in value because of the A-Q-x in partner's suit. Such excellent trump support should not be suppressed even though you have only 13 high-card points.

3. Three clubs. This hand is in the intermediate range (16 to 18 points) and can best be described by jumping to three clubs. Game is likely in clubs, hearts or notrump, although partner can pass with a minimum (six or seven points). The final contract depends on what he does next.

4. Two notrump. This hand is also in the intermediate class, but the available information -- at least for the time being -- indicates that notrump is probably your best spot. The jump to two notrump shows 18 or 19 points, notrump distribution and stoppers in both of the opponents' suits.

However, the final contract is still an open issue. Partner may be able to raise notrump, or may prefer a suit contract. Wherever he leads you follow, because your values are flexible and can fit any type of hand he holds.

5. Three hearts. Your four-card trump support, singleton diamond (worth three points) and potential four or five club tricks all combine to put your hand into the intermediate class, so you jump to three hearts to invite partner to go on to game. Partner is allowed to pass with the skimpiest of values, but will seldom do so in actual practice.

Tomorrow: A question of probabilities.
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West dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH		EAST	
♠ A 10 8 2	♥ Q 8	♠ K 10 8 6 3	♥ A Q

WEST		SOUTH	
♠ 4	♥ A K 9 4 2	♠ K J 7 6 3	♥ J 10 6 3
♦ A 5 2	♣ J 10 4 3	♦ Q 9	♣ K 6

The bidding:
West 1 ♥ Pass
North 4 ♠
East Pass
South 2 ♠
Opening lead — king of hearts.

A Question of Probabilities

Most finesses are directed at missing kings or queens. Finesses against jacks or tens occasionally occur, and finesses against nines or eights are extremely rare.

Today's deal features an unusually deep finesse. Declarer was in four spades, and West started with the K-A and another heart. East had played high-low in hearts, so South knew from both the bidding and the play that East had no more hearts. Declarer's most pressing problem was to decide which of dummy's cards to ruff with in order to avoid a trump loser either immediately or eventually.

As happens very often when declarer is trying to locate a missing queen, South had to weigh the probability of East holding the greater spade length (and therefore the queen) against the probability that West was more likely to have the queen because he had opened the bidding.

After considering all the relevant factors, South decided that East was apt to have more spades than West, so he ruffed with dummy's ace. He then led the ten of spades, intending to finesse. But East correctly covered the ten with the queen.

South won with the king and -- pursuing his premise that East was more likely to have been dealt three spades than two -- entered dummy with a club and returned the spade deuce. After East followed with the five, South finessed the six!

When the finesse succeeded, South was home free and clear. He collected East's nine of spades with the jack, then conceded a diamond to the ace to bring a satisfying conclusion to a well-played hand.

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Family Circus • Bill Keane

