





**ZITS®** 

BY JERRY SCOTT & JIM BORGMAN



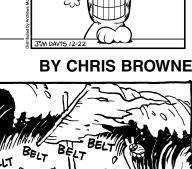
HMMWBEETLE

INVITEDMETO

JOIN HIM WITH



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE® 12-22 TIME FOR SEAT BELTS!



FRANK AND ERNEST®

BY BOB THAVES

PICKLES® 5 DO YOU HEAR & RINGING THROUGH WHAT I HEAR ...? & THE SKY, SHEPHERD BOY... MIS

BY BRIAN CRANE

PETERENCE

00135

DO YOU HAVE

DICTIONARIES? of course WE DO!

> SH*AL*L I SELL ONE TO YOU

RHYMING





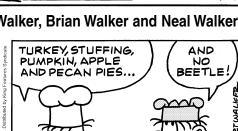
& JOHN ROSE

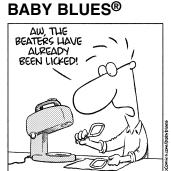
BEETLE BAILEY®

T'M MAKING A

CHRISTMAS DINNER FOR GUYS WHO HAVE NOWHERE TO GO

BY Greg Walker, Brian Walker and Neal Walker





BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT YOU COULD HAVE A GO AT AND SOMEBODY ALREADY GOT TO THESE, TOO! THOSE HANDS, IF YOU'D LIKE. (G)

BY F.LASSWELL

THE BORN LOSER®

BY ART & CHIP SANSOM I'M AFRAID YOU'RE GOING

BARNEY GOOGLE & SNUFFY SMITH®

YA AIN'T GOTTA GO TO THAT BOTHER, PAW!! JEST YORE GINGERBREAD WALLS T'GETHER WIF ICIN' !!

THAT'S MAW !!

FRAMIN' IT FURST ?! WHO BUILDS

LOOK, SIR, I FEEL FOR YOU. AND I REALLY WOULD LIKE TO HELP, BUT ...

TO HAVE TO ASK YOUR BOSS FOR THAT RAISE! BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER & CHANCE BROWNE

Ô>

**CRABGRASS®** 



BY TAUHID BONDIA I'M THINKING IT'S GOTTA BE SOME THING THEY'LL **REALLY**LIKE, BUT NOT TOO
FANCY. THAT'S NOT MY PARENTS' STYLE.

GOOD THINGS COME IN SMALL PACKAGES.

HI AND LOIS®

BY DEAN YOUNG & JOHN MARSHALL

I BET THERE'S A NEW BIKE FOR ME IN THAT **BIG** BOX.



SOMETHING IN A LATE-MODEL SEDAN. A NICE FOUR-DOOR.







SHAKE, SHAKE

BY LYNN JOHNSTON SHAKE SHAKE PUT SALT ON THE STAIRS
LIKE YOU ASKED ME TO,
DADDY... BUT IT
SURE TOOK A SERIE

THE LOCKHORNS®

TRUE



"THE MORE I UNDERSTAND MEN, THE LESS I UNDERSTAND THEM."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS®



go FASTER."

"...and please make the days



## **BRIDGE®**

North dealer. Neither side vulnerable. **NORTH** 



**♦** J 8 **♥** K 8 6 **♠** A 10 **♥**J9732 ♦ A 10 9 8 2 **♣**K 108 **♣**7632 SOUTH  $\frac{1}{2}$   $\frac{1}{2}$   $\frac{1}{2}$   $\frac{1}{2}$   $\frac{1}{2}$   $\frac{1}{2}$ 

**EAST** 

**★** K Q 6 4

♥O54 The bidding:

East West North South Pass Pass 4 🏚 Pass \*balanced raise to game in spades. Opening lead — ten of diamonds. This deal occurred in an early

match between Norway and the United States at the 1993 world team championship. When Peter Weichsel and Bobby Levin of the U.S. held the North-South hands, they reached four spades as shown. It might appear that with the spades dividing evenly and the king of clubs favorably located, Levin was certain to make his contract.

But this did not take into account the inspired defense of then-23-year-old Geir Helgemo, who, with

## BY STEVE BECKER

his youthful Norwegian teammates, finished second to the Netherlands for the world title that year. For his opening lead, Helgemo selected the diamond ten! Barring a defensive slip, there was

now no way for Levin to make the contract. But the Norwegians demonstrated in this, their very first match, that they had not come to the world championship to settle for anything less than perfection. Levin took the opening diamond lead in his hand and led a spade to

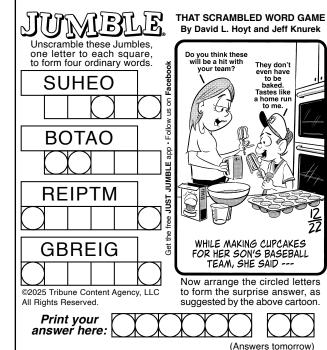
the queen. East, Tor Helness, won with the ace and returned a diamond to his partner's ace. Helgemo then carefully led the diamond deuce for Helness to ruff, giving the defenders their third trick. Had Helness returned a heart, certainly tempting in view of dum-

my's club holding, declarer could have gotten home safely by playing low from his hand, trapping West's king. But Helness obeyed the suitpreference signal carried by the diamond deuce and returned a club. After Helgemo's ten forced dummy's queen, there was no way for Levin to avoid losing a heart, and he finished down one.

At the other table, Norway's Glenn Grotheim and Terje Aa stopped in three spades and made four for plus 170, giving the Norwegians a 6-IMP pickup on the deal.

Resolve to Stay Informed





HARSH

was a - HEAD-SCRATCHER

Answer: How he ended up with poison ivy on his scalp

ACCENT

DRIVER

Jumbles: YEAST

Saturday's

Tomorrow: Look before you leap. ©2025 King Features Syndicate Inc.