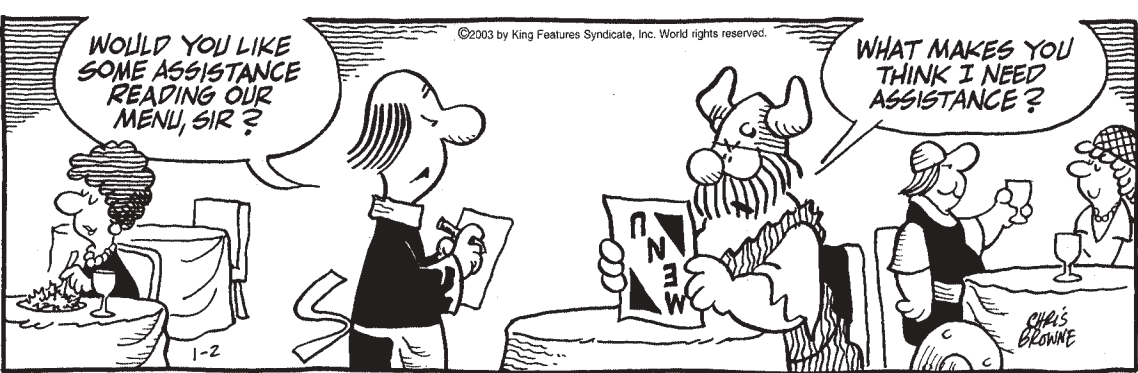## For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston

Garfield • Jim Davis

Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne
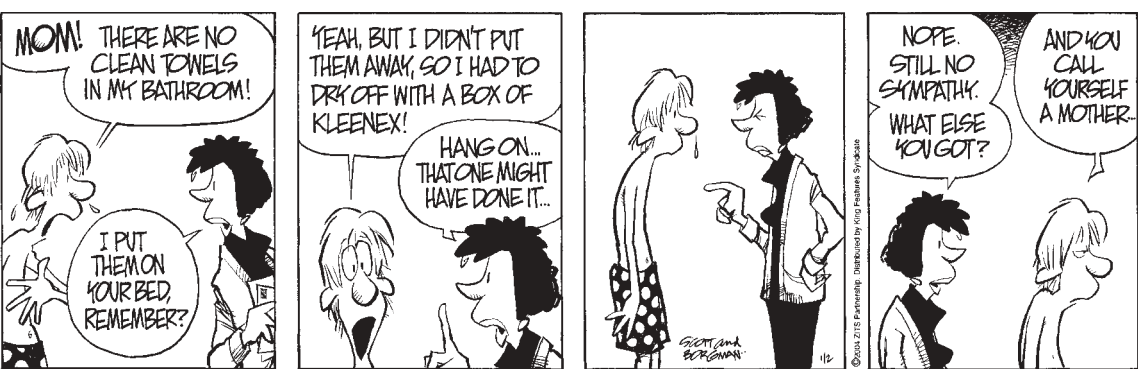

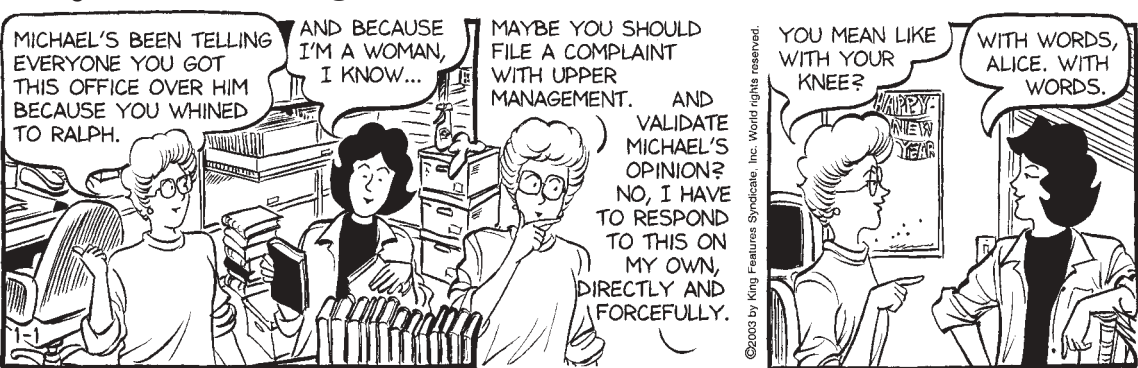## Blondie • Chic Young

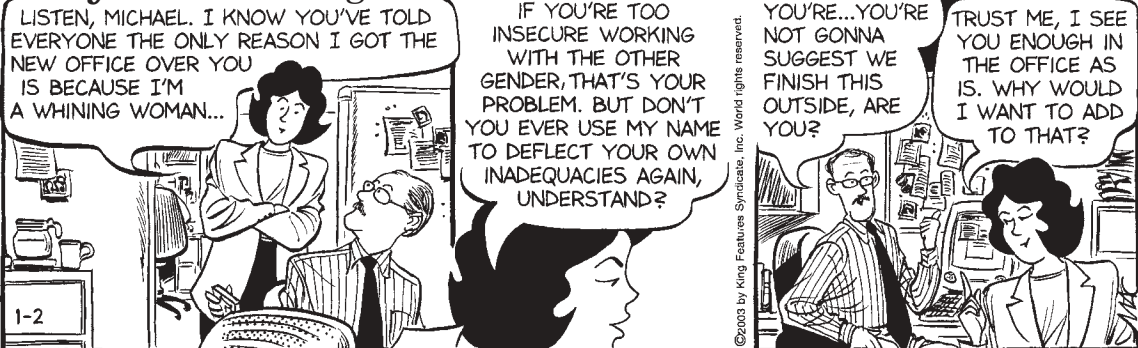## Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker

Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott

Sally Forth • Greg Howard

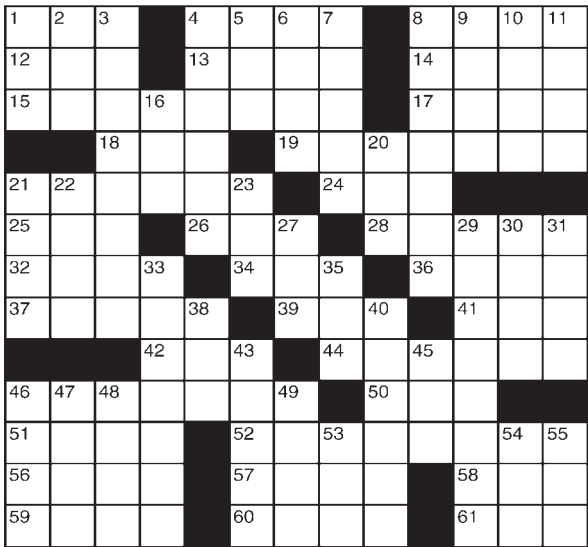## Sally Forth • Greg Howard

Crossword

ACROSS
1 Greek cross
4 Navigator's stack
8 Mexican money
12 Larry King's employer
13 Touch
14 Saharan
15 Circus clown's ride
17 Incense
18 "Go, team!"
19 Summery shades
21 Gardening tool
24 Barnyard comment
25 Bale stuff
26 The word?
28 "— Got Mail"
32 Terrible guy?
34 Hiatus
36 Recognize
37 Graf rival
39 Lad's lid
41 — -de-France
42 Shooter's ammo
44 Arthur Murray's lessons
46 Pairs participants
50 Old Olds
51 Llama territory
52 Cosmos
56 — even keel (stable)
57 Tiresome sort
58 Enthusiast
59 Start of a famous quote
60 The third man
61 33-Down's domain

DOWN
1 Horned Frogs' sch.
2 Political writer Coulter
3 Big name in tires
4 Willful destruction
5 Rudimentary lesson
6 Tabloid writing
7 Watt's power
8 Shared in the experience
9 Ontario neighbor
10 Ledge
11 Praiseful poetry
16 Cornfield call
20 Sauce source
21 Anything but that
22 Dance party
23 Shlep
27 Doorway accessory
29 Mythical creatures
30 Muskrat's kin
31 Lambs' dams
33 Trident bearer
35 Launch site
38 Witness
40 Wizard of Oz, aka Professor —
43 Island off Venezuela
45 Born
46 Dick and Jane's dog
47 Casino pastime
48 Desert denizen
49 Nose-in-the-air type
53 Anger
54 Seek restitution
55 Timetable abbr.

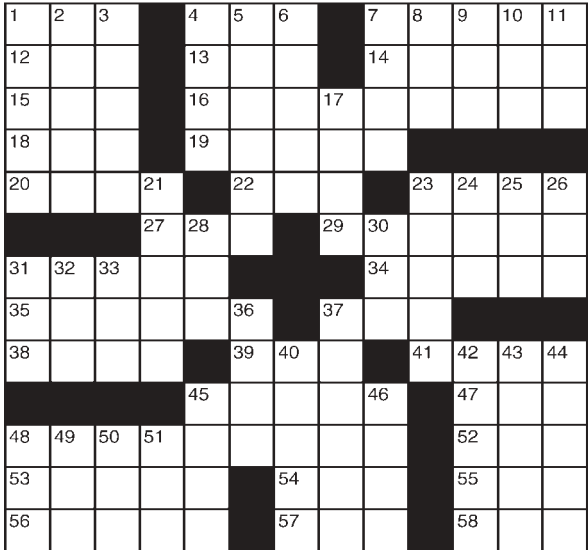**Solution time: 25 mins.**

Yesterday's answer   1-1

ACROSS
1 Treasure seeker's aid
4 From — Z
7 Lessen
12 Versified tribute
13 Elmer, to Bugs
14 Groucho prop
15 Disencumber
16 Alliterative entrance
18 Shell-game item
19 Frightening
20 Luau entertainment
22 Commotion
23 Hemingway sobriquet
27 Cambridge academic
29 Guggenheim Museum architect
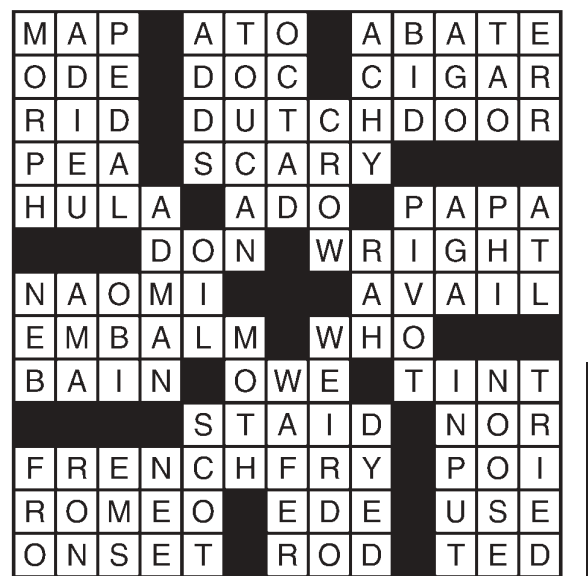31 Model Campbell
34 Serve
35 Preserve, in a way
37 Personal question
38 Barbara or Conrad
39 Haven't paid yet
41 Coloration
45 Sedate and self-restrained
47 Postal Creed word
48 Alliterative potato
52 Taro recipe
53 He looked up to his girlfriend
54 Netherlands city
55 Employment
56 Beginning
57 Staff

DOWN
58 United Airlines' discount subsidiary
1 Transform (into)
2 Farewell
3 Go by bike
4 Uses an abacus
5 Froot Loops mascot
6 Eightsome
7 In need of a rub
8 eBay offer
9 Past
10 Guiding principle
11 Mess up
17 Boast
21 Clio contender
23 Hoopster's tactic
24 Khan title
25 — Beta Kappa
26 Pac. counterpart
28 Tin Man's need
30 Pep-rally shout
31 Beak
32 "I — Camera"
33 Kyoto cummerbund
36 Gypsy or luna
37 Nutcase
40 Semiconductor slice
42 Computer fodder
43 Hangman's device
44 Gave it a go
45 Highlander
46 Turned blue?
48 Back
49 Director Howard
50 Type units
51 Formerly called

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer   1-2

Answers to the crossword puzzle above

Solution time: 27 mins.

Yesterday's answer   1-3

Bridge

East dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

```
              NORTH
              ♠ Q 8 6
              ♥ Q 10 4
              ♦ K 5 2
              ♣ K 10 6 5
 WEST                      EAST
 ♠ 10 3                    ♠ A K J 9 5 4
 ♥ 7 6                     ♥ 8 3 2
 ♦ J 9 8 4 3               ♦ A 6
 ♣ J 9 7 2                 ♣ 8 4
              SOUTH
              ♠ 7 2
              ♥ A K J 9 5
              ♦ Q 10 7
              ♣ A Q 3
```

The bidding:

East	South	West	North
1 ♠	2 ♥	Pass	3 ♥
Pass			

Opening lead — ten of spades.

A Guess Becomes a Certainty

Counting how many cards the opponents hold in each suit might be more work than some players would want to undertake, but it sure saves a lot of guesswork.

Consider this deal, for example. East won the opening spade lead with the jack and continued with the A-K, South ruffing the third spade high as West discarded a diamond. Declarer then drew three rounds of trumps, West discarding another diamond, and led a low diamond to the king.

East took the king with the ace and returned a diamond, and South was at the crossroads. He had to decide whether to finesse the ten of diamonds, or whether to go up with the queen and hope to discard the ten on dummy's fourth club.

After reviewing the play to this point, declarer correctly rejected the diamond finesse (which would have been fatal) because the contract had by now become a certainty. South knew that East had started with exactly six spades (West discarded on the third round) and had also followed to three rounds of trumps. East had then also shown up with the A-6 of diamonds.

With 11 of East's original 13 cards fully accounted for, it was impossible for him to hold more than two clubs. So, after taking the diamond queen, South cashed the A-Q of clubs and led a third club. When West produced the nine, it was a simple matter to finesse the ten, since East could not have the jack of clubs. The same result could have been achieved if South had cashed his last trump after winning the diamond queen, a move that would have embarrassed West for a discard. The key point, though, is that by resorting to elementary counting, declarer found a way to avoid embarrassing himself.

Family Circus • Bill Keane

"Mommy! Your dress is broken!"

Family Circus • Bill Keane

"I can't start this New Year's letter to Grandma. I keep writing '2003' at the top."

Cryptoquip

O WYSSXWV AZDA DBI
FVAVEOBDEODB'W QXERLDI
MXYTL FVEI QVTT OBFXTFV
D WSXA MZVMR.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE TAILOR WAS DECIDEDLY TICKED OFF. HE WAS ALWAYS THE ONE DOING THE LEGWORK.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals P

MT UNO FOE FZGEXR NT
TNNC NA G RXYPMAK
FZGEEXY, M KOXRR ELXU
LGPX IXXA IX-EYGUXC.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I SUPPOSE THAT ANY VETERINARIAN'S WORKDAY COULD VERY WELL INVOLVE A SPOT CHECK.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals E

Answers to the Cryptoquip puzzle for December 31, 2003

If you put plates of food on a serving platter, I guess they have been be-trayed