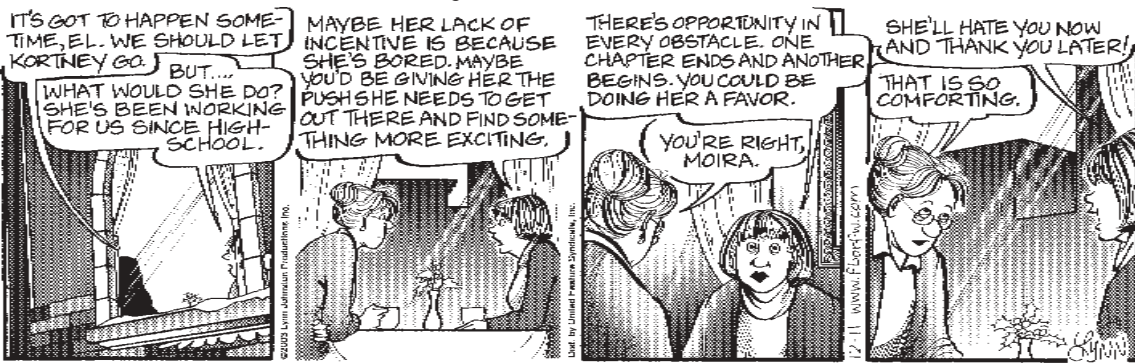


For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



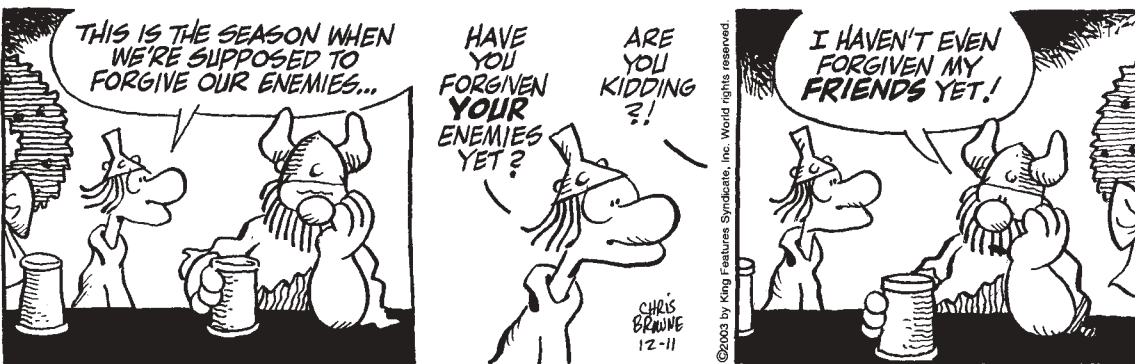
Garfield • Jim Davis



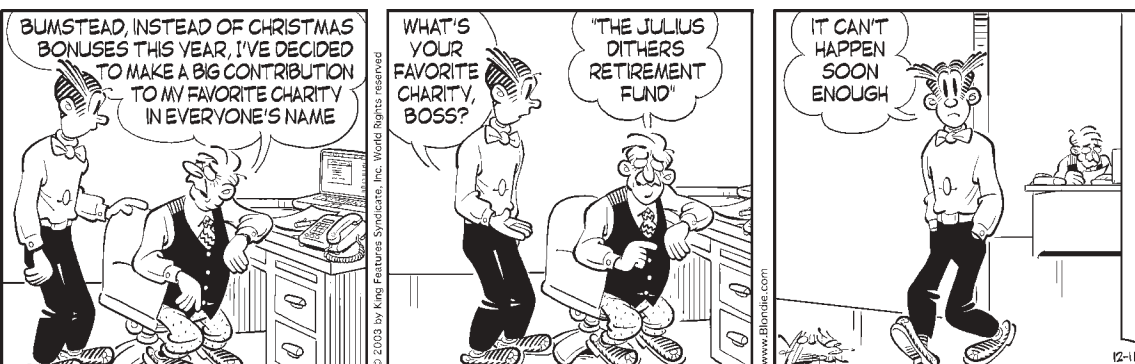
Garfield • Jim Davis



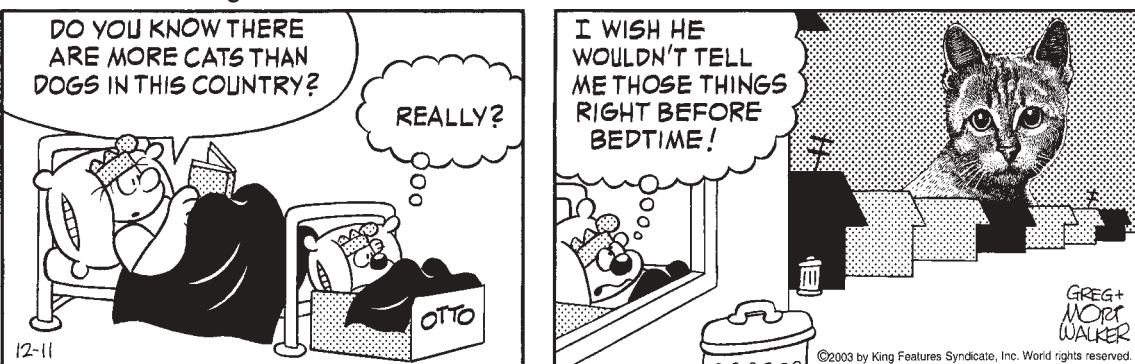
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

GS X NDRFXIW GI LJZK
 XFZ GROKLGWGFKW, GI
 PK WPJI ZGIOUXDGFN X
 SUGOOWFW XWWGWJZK?
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I BELIEVE MY BROTHER ONCE SAID THAT SALES RESISTANCE IS SIMPLY MIND OVER PATTERN.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals P

Television in restaurant not good

DEAR ABBY: What do you think of restaurants that have televisions in every room while you're trying to eat dinner with your family?
 They make me crazy! I can't stand them.



Abigail Van Buren

Dear Abby

I consider dinnertime to be a special opportunity for family members to share a nutritious meal while conversing about the events of everyone's day.

We don't answer the phone or the doorbell, nor do we watch TV, so that we can concentrate on hearing about school and work. Because during the rest of the day family members eat at different times and rush about, dinnertime is sacred.

Occasionally we dine out at different restaurants so that I can have a break from cooking and doing dishes.

Lately they all seem to have TVs in every room, and instead of talking, everyone stares at the TV like hypnotized zombies.

If a baseball or football game is on, everything else is ignored. This defeats the purpose of having dinner out together.

Can anything be done to get the TVs removed from the dining areas in restaurants?

Shouldn't there be a choice as to whether you eat in a room with a television or not? Restaurants used to have small TV sets in the bar area, but not in the dining room.

I hate to give up eating out, but I'm about ready to. Any other suggestions?

—TV-LESS MOM, SOUTH MIAMI, FLA.

DEAR MOM: You have my sympathy, but the restaurants are only obeying the laws of supply and demand.

They are providing televised access to the games because their customers are demanding it.

If the restaurateurs refuse, they risk losing business because their customers will watch the event elsewhere.

I agree that the "traditional" family dinner is important. Not only does it draw families closer, it also fosters communications skills.

Sadly, however, I have heard from educators who tell me that fewer families are continuing the tradition — and more and more children eat their meals glued to the television set.

Of course, people who are distracted tend to overeat — so not only does the net effect show up in a shrinkage of conversational skills, but there is a corresponding expansion of waistlines as well.

Some possible solutions to your problem: Make sure to avoid going to sports bars. Before making dinner reservations, do some reconnoitering. Scout around and see for yourself if there are any restaurants in your neighborhood that

have TV-free dining rooms. There are probably some in every price range.

DEAR ABBY: I'm concerned about a friend I'll call Edith. Despite the fact that her husband died several years ago, she continues to wear her engagement and wedding rings. Is that in poor taste or what?

When I pointed this out to Edith, she simply said it was her business.

What do you say, Abby?
 —EDITH'S FRIEND IN DES MOINES

DEAR FRIEND: I agree with Edith. A widow may wear her wedding rings as long as she wishes. When she is ready to date again, the rings can be switched to her right hand, incorporated into another piece of jewelry, or simply put away.

P.S. If you are really Edith's friend, why are you labeling and criticizing her? She is hurting no one.

Editor's note: Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, Calif. 90069.

Bridge

North dealer.
 North-South vulnerable.

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

The bidding:
 North East South West
 1 ♦ Pass 1 ♣ Pass
 1 NT Pass 3 ♣ Pass
 3 ♥ Pass 4 ♥
 Opening lead — jack of spades.

The So-Called Guessing Game

There is much more to the art of guessing two-way finesses correctly than meets the eye.

The best players seem to have a knack for guessing right far more often than might normally be expected, but in many cases it's not just plain luck that leads them to the right decision so often.

Consider this deal where the play started with three rounds of spades.

Declarer ruffed and was faced with the question of whether to lead a trump to the king and take a finesse against East at trick five, or whether to take a trump finesse at trick four by leading low to the ten.

Declarer "guessed" right when he played a low heart to the ten, which won.

He continued with the king, led a club to the ace and cashed the ace of trumps, East showing out.

South then ran his clubs, and it did not matter when West ruffed, because that would be the last trick for the defense.

Had declarer instead led a heart to the king and then finessed against East, he would have gone down at least one after a fourth round of spades by West.

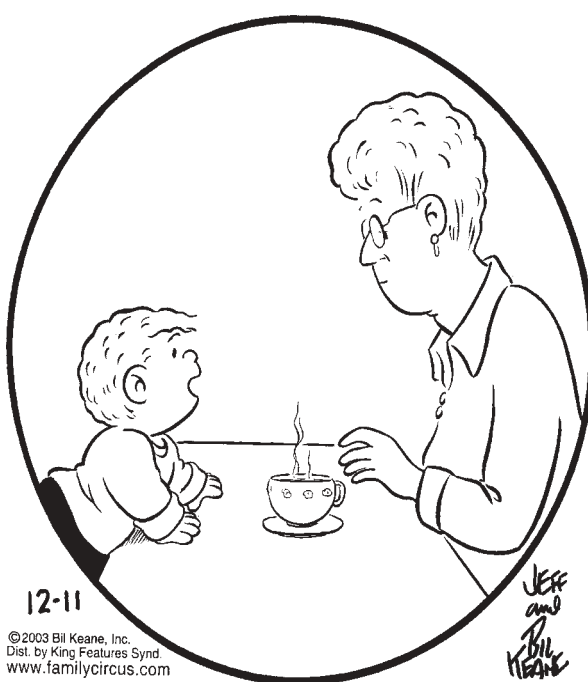
Now let's suppose East had held the Q-8-5-2 of trumps instead of West.

In that case, East would have won dummy's ten with the queen, but he would then have found himself unable to prevent South from scoring 10 tricks, whatever he returned.

In effect, declarer's decision to take the trump finesse against West was a safety play covering every possible 4-2 or 3-3 division of the trumps.

It was not so much a question of guessing which defender had the queen; it was more a question of guaranteeing the contract against any normal division of the cards.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



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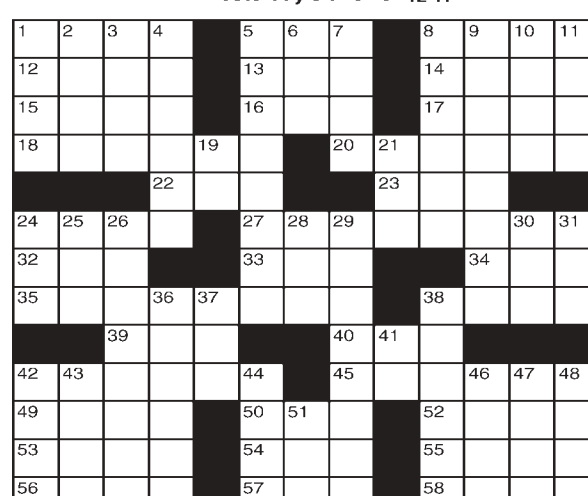
Crossword

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|--|--------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 38 Second-hand golfer's problem | 57 Wood-shaping tool | 11 Urban blight rival |
| 1 Basic learning | 40 Solo of "Star Wars" | 58 Campus VIP | 19 "People" rival |
| 5 Coffee shop vessel | 42 Agree component | | 21 4.0, ideally (Abbr.) |
| 8 Tampa Bay team, for short | 45 Left at the altar | DOWN | 24 Intimide with |
| 12 Milne bruin | 49 Visibility hindrance | 1 Flats (Abbr.) | 25 "Go, team!" |
| 13 Excessively | 50 Mouths (Lat.) | 2 Italy's silhouette | 26 Worked with |
| 14 Fermi's concern | 52 "Novus — Seclorum" | 3 Body of laws | 28 "— Sera Sera" |
| 15 "So much — ..." | 53 Finished Shriner's chapeau | 4 Boutique city | 29 Salt Lake City squad |
| 16 Possess | 54 Takes a mate | 5 In a perfect world, you'd find them | 30 Scotty's affirmative |
| 17 Pixar clownfish | | 6 Tier | 31 "Waking — Devine" |
| 18 Increase | | 7 Zilch | 36 Mosaicists, maybe |
| 20 Creamy quaff | | 8 Maine city | 37 Sushi-bar request |
| 22 Omega preceder | | 9 Silverware | 41 Unau's cousin |
| 23 Neg. negator | | 10 Long-popular crooner | 42 Grub |
| 24 Rock music's Motley | | | 43 Possess |
| 27 Lincoln, astrologically | | | 44 Parlor piece |
| 32 Feedbag bit | | | 46 Verifiable |
| 33 Eccentric | | | 47 Icelandic saga |
| 34 Austic | | | 48 Slay a dragon |
| 35 Kola Peninsula's water | | | 51 Roulette bet |

Solution time: 25 mins.

I	S	N	T	P	H	D	S	C	O	W
N	E	A	R	R	A	Y	N	U	D	E
C	A	P	E	T	O	W	N	O	P	O
A	R	A	B	S	E	F	F	O	R	T
E	P	I	C	O	F	F				
S	O	C	K	T	U	R	N	T	H	E
T	W	O	D	E	P	O	T	E	E	L
Y	E	P	A	M	I	D	T	A	X	I
A	S	H	D	E	M	O				
D	A	P	P	L	E	O	M	A	H	A
R	I	L	E	K	E	E	P	A	T	I
A	D	E	N	E	A	R	T	O	D	O
B	E	A	T	D	U	E	O	M	E	N

Yesterday's answer 12-11



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