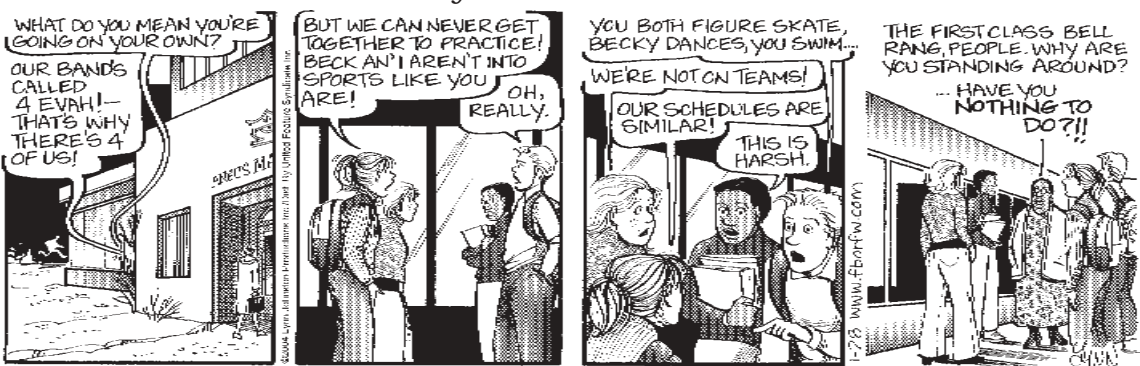
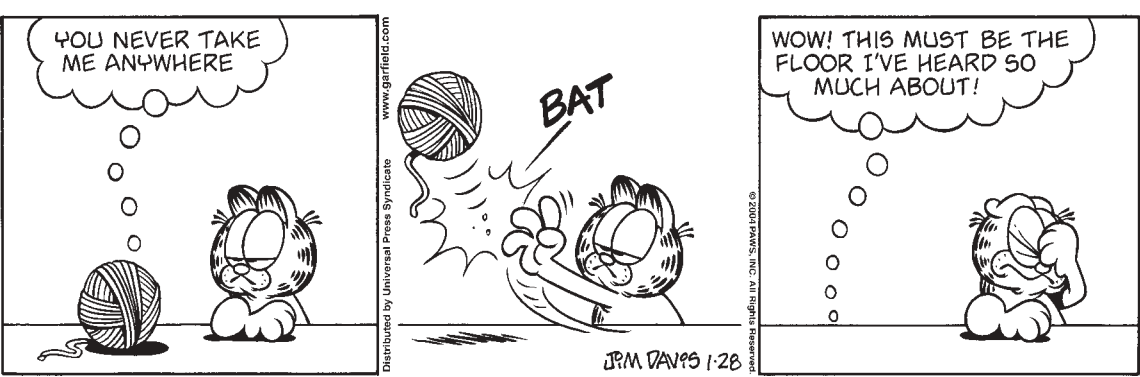


For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Garfield • Jim Davis



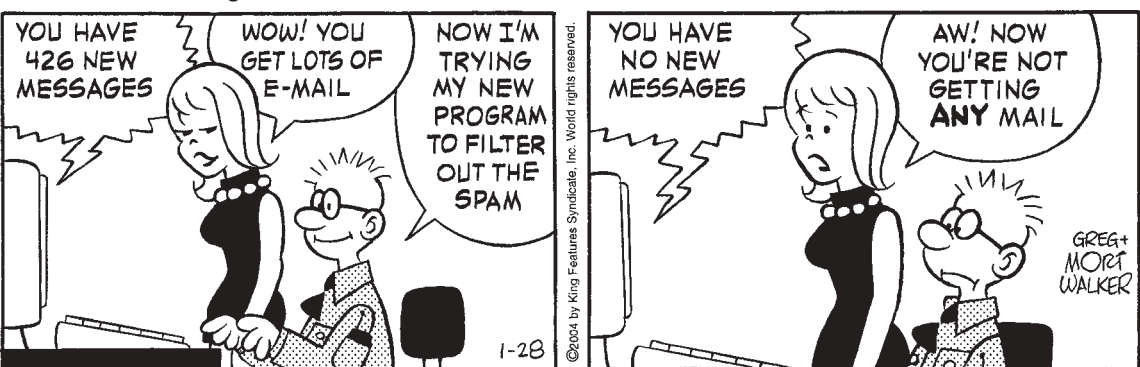
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



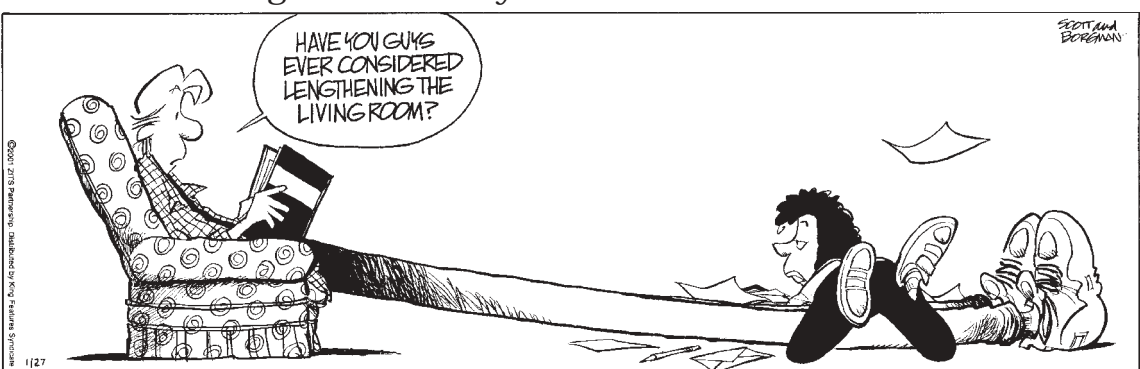
Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



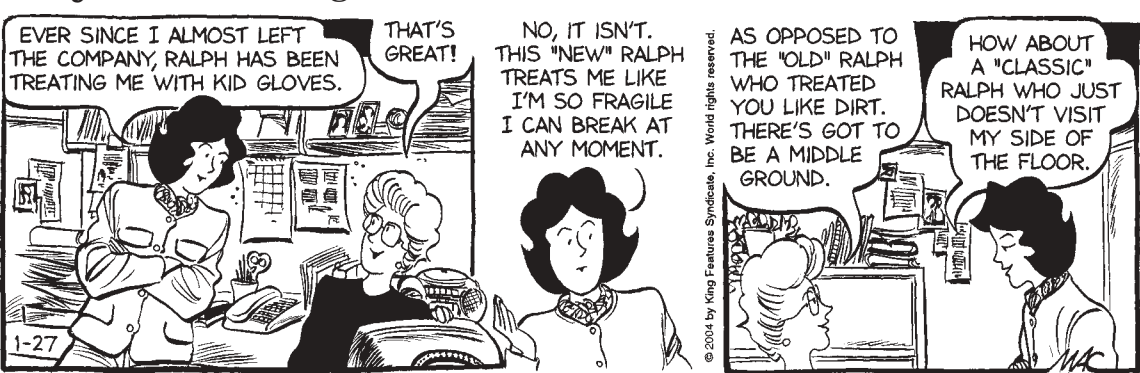
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

DMXL AMBFFJ AMXATXG

DXLH HQ FRGO, NQ JQB

HMCLT MX QGNXGXN MCO

NGCLTO DCHM R HDCOH?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE MOUSE MAY OFFER THESE PARTING WORDS TO A PIECE OF WOOD: "NICE GNAWING YOU!"

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals B

R'QH JHUWM FUYHP EL U

QHWA IRX PFEQH RNUXH

EL U IECHW RO HXAVF,

O UNHM YHEO PVJROC.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN CHUBBY CHECKER WENT TO BARS, DO YOU THINK HE ORDERED HIS DRINKS WITH A TWIST?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals S

Crossword

**ACROSS**  
1 Detail, for short  
5 Underwear with underwire  
9 Atl. counterpart  
12 Kansas city  
13 Inauguration recitation  
14 Under the weather  
15 Upholsterer's offering  
17 Keanu, in "The Matrix"  
18 Smoke  
19 Auto-graphed  
21 Offspring  
24 St. Andrews supply  
25 Farmer's home  
26 "Crooklyn" director  
30 Maui memento  
31 Paddock pops

**DOWN**  
32 Rage  
33 Risk  
35 Shadow-box  
36 Author Hunter  
37 Bombastic  
38 Not as easy to find  
40 Earth  
42 Aussie bird  
43 Overwhelming victory  
48 Zilch  
49 "Zounds!"  
50 Egg  
51 White House monogram  
52 Feet, slangily

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**DOWN**  
1 Family member  
2 Ward heeler  
3 Inventor Whitney  
4 Detergent measure  
5 Prosperous time  
6 Wild dance party  
7 Corroded  
8 High-pitched cries  
9 Fires  
10 Sheltered  
11 LummoX

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

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

**Yesterday's answer 1-27**

Bridge

**South dealer.**  
**Both sides vulnerable.**  
**NORTH**  
♠ A 10 9 8 6 4 3  
♥ 6 3  
♦ Q J 6  
♣ 4

**WEST**  
♠ K Q J 7  
♥ K Q J 5 2  
♦ —  
♣ A Q 6 5

**EAST**  
♠ 2  
♥ 10 9 8 7  
♦ 8 5 3 2  
♣ J 10 7 2

**SOUTH**  
♠ 5  
♥ A 4  
♦ A K 10 9 7 4  
♣ K 9 8 3

**The bidding:**  
**South** 1 ♦  
Pass 4 ♦  
5 ♦  
\* strong takeover

**West** 2 ♦  
2 ♥  
4 ♥  
Dble

**North** Dble 2 ♠  
4 ♠

**East** Pass 3 ♥  
Pass

**Opening lead — king of hearts.**

South Stages an Extravaganza

How should declarer play this hand in five diamonds doubled? Of course, he cannot see the East-West cards; his only real clues lie in the bidding and the opening lead.

A great deal of information is available from the bidding.

First, declarer should assume that West has no diamonds for his two-diamond bid and subsequent strong bidding. For the same reason, West should also be credited with virtually every missing high card, since his direct cuebid showed a powerful hand. So while it is true that South cannot actually see the defenders' hands, he can nevertheless approximate their holdings, and all he has to do is to try to take advantage of this knowledge.

Declarer's first key move is to duck the king of hearts! This is an important part of the overall plan of play. Let's say West leads another heart. South wins and leads the king of clubs! This play is likewise crucial to declarer's plan.

West takes the ace and can do no better than lead the king of spades. Declarer wins with the ace and trumps a spade. From then on, he has clear sailing. South trumps his 9-8-3 of clubs in dummy, re-entering his hand each time by ruffing a spade, and so finishes with 11 tricks. The early heart duck and the seemingly extravagant play of the club king at trick two pave the way for a successful crossruff.

Observe that if South takes the king of hearts with the ace at trick one, he can be defeated. West can sooner or later put East on lead with a heart to return a trump and ruin the crossruff. Similarly, if declarer leads a club lower than the king at trick three, East can win and gum up the works with a trump return. Two hurdles, carefully surmounted by South, get him home safely.

**South dealer.**  
**Both sides vulnerable.**  
**NORTH**  
♠ A 3  
♥ A J 9 4  
♦ A 9 8 5  
♣ J 6 2

**WEST**  
♠ K 6 2  
♥ K 6 5  
♦ K 10 7 2  
♣ 10 9 8

**EAST**  
♠ 5  
♥ Q 10 8 3 2  
♦ J 6 4  
♣ 7 5 4 3

**SOUTH**  
♠ Q J 10 9 8 7 4  
♥ 7  
♦ Q 3  
♣ A K Q

**The bidding:**  
**South** 4 ♠  
Opening lead — ten of clubs.

**West** Pass

**North** 6 ♠

**East** All Pass

Reducing the Risk Factor

At times, great foresight is required to achieve the best possible result. Take this deal where West led a club against six spades. Declarer won with the ace, played the queen of spades and finessed. Had South next played another spade, hoping to catch the king, he would have gone down one.

Rather than put all his eggs in this one basket, however, South temporarily abandoned further trump leads in order to first play a heart to the ace and ruff a heart. Now he led a trump to the ace, and when the king failed to appear, South continued his long-range plan by ruffing the nine of hearts and cashing the K-Q of clubs.

South then made his bid for fame and fortune by exiting with a trump. West won with the king but, having been shorn of spades, hearts and clubs, had to return a diamond from the king, thereby handing South the contract. The hand represents a prime example of planning the play. Having noted at trick one that his main chance of making the slam was to find West with the singleton or doubleton king of trumps, South sought and found a way to add to that chance by setting the stage for a potential endplay against West if he had the guarded king of spades.

When the main chance failed, the secondary chance came to South's rescue at the end. South was lucky to find West with the king of diamonds and only three hearts, but this is the kind of luck that can come to a declarer's aid when he lays his plans far enough ahead.

Family Circus • Bill Keane

