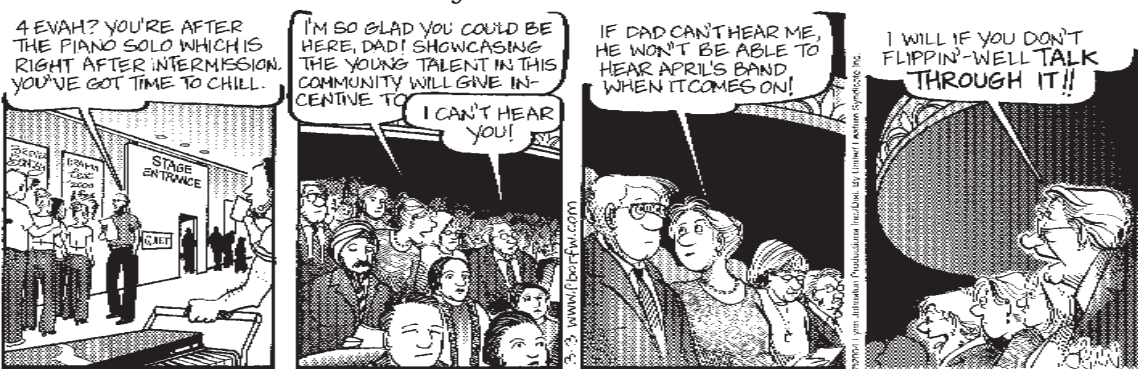
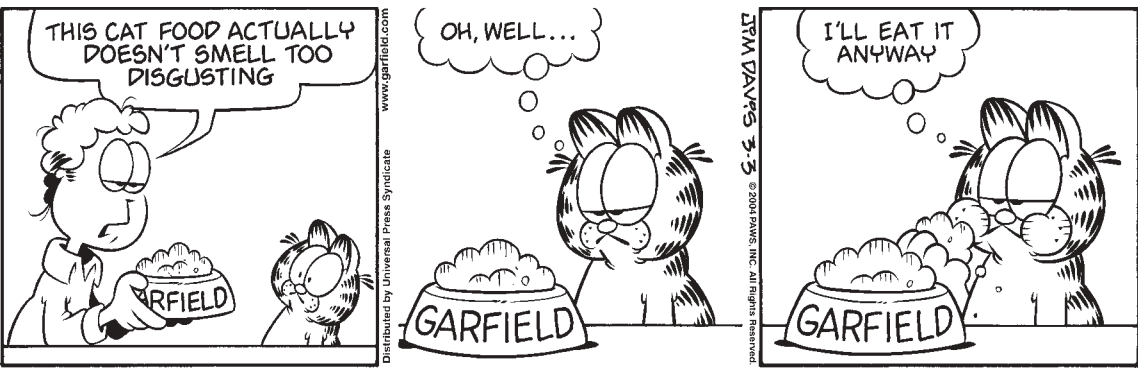


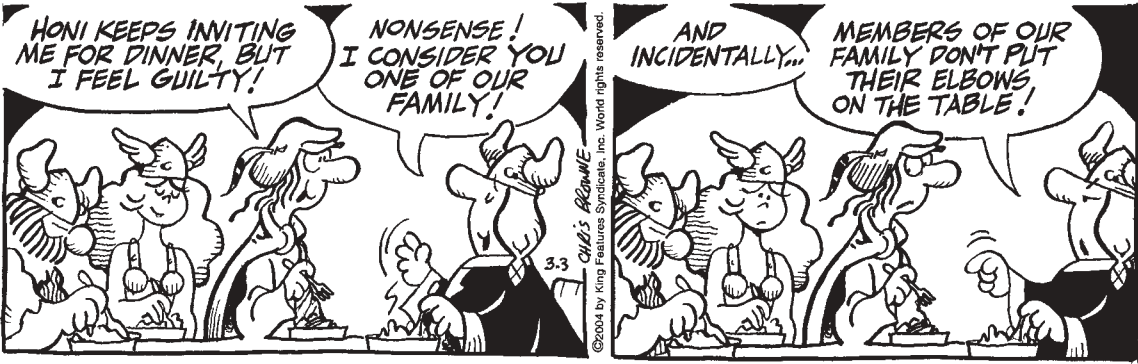
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Garfield • Jim Davis



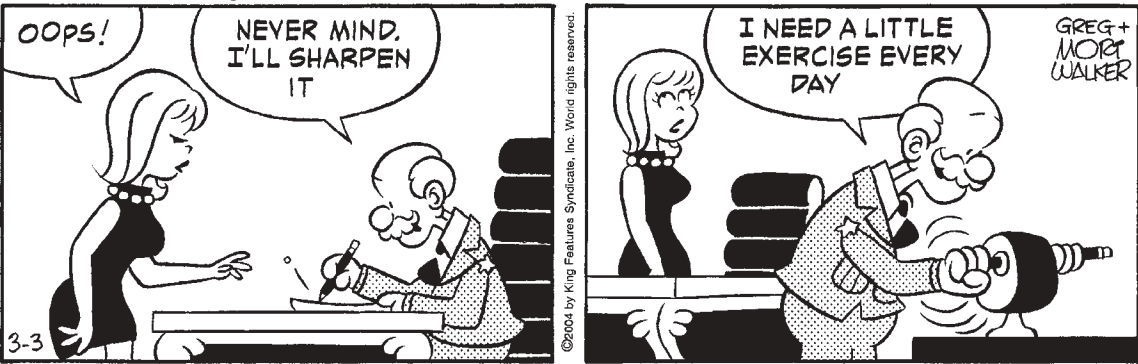
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

JBRVBEZW JYPMBXM EPY TMLY X PFVLP DLLD
 TUNVU IPZY PWL, XHBWWI NTF NMQYKD ML'E CQL
 EPPMTBRY NX ABQBY NF DNLXC, Q KZLDD ML
 YBHPQBL: R XUPB-NA. EFLD X EFZVCL NXUL.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF SOMEBODY YESTERDAY'S CRYPTOQUIP: PEACEFUL PROTEST
 BECOMES MAD AND KICKS AN INVOICE, I'D FOR WHICH YOUR OLD, SMELLY FOOTWEAR IS
 SAY THEY'VE FOOTED THE BILL. NEVER REMOVED: A SHOE-IN.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals E Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals T

Crossword

ACROSS
 1 "Dancing Queen" group
 5 Energy
 8 Streetcar
 12 Invent
 13 NAFTA signatory
 14 Top-notch
 15 Opinion's value?
 17 Intimation
 18 Stolen
 19 Obeys
 21 Beauty shop
 24 Bat a gnat
 25 State with conviction
 26 Lacking a vest, maybe
 30 Mr. Chaney
 31 Dutch South Africans
 32 Uncivilized
 33 Duplicitous
 35 Tour de France need
 36 Book-keeper (Abbr.)
 37 Stand-up repertoire
 38 George's wife
 41 Bagel topper
 42 Settled down
 43 Unfaithful one
 48 Baseball's Pete
 49 Oohs' mate
 50 Pitcher
 51 Hideo
 52 Sharp
 53 Heart of the matter
 3 Story of a lifetime
 4 Relay team's last member
 5 Football tactic
 6 Superlative ending
 7 Popular game show
 8 Papeete's island
 9 Disturb
 10 Murray or Meara
 11 Shea squad
 16 Untold centuries
 20 Navigator's stack
 21 Flavor enhancer
 22 Say confidently
 23 "Leading With My Chin" author
 24 Very appealing
 26 Harpsichord melodies
 27 Actor
 28 Birthday party
 29 Rams' ma'am
 31 "Art of the Fugue" composer
 34 Enrich
 35 Pugilism
 37 Tittle
 38 Target
 39 Soothing agent
 40 Obey
 41 Red-ink entry
 44 Personal question
 45 Miss Piggy's word
 46 Type squares
 47 Deteriorate

DOWN
 1 Do
 2 Acknowledge
 3 "Mary" Little Lamb
 38 Alluring
 39 Sugar suffix
 41 Put an end to
 43 Turkish officials
 46 Parking attendant
 50 Speak unclearly
 51 It's at the X
 54 Angry
 55 Squirrel's hide-away
 56 Primary
 57 Prepared to drive
 58 Itty-bitty
 59 Phoenix cagers
 1 Goblet feature
 2 Danza sitcom
 3 Hannibal's hurdles
 4 Big spot
 5 Greek cross
 6 Melody
 7 Arraignment offering
 8 Rx, for short
 9 Joy
 10 Family member
 11 Apportion
 16 Part of the U.A.R., once
 20 Cast a ballot
 22 "Turandot" tune
 23 Makes like new
 25 Chart
 26 Ms. Thurman
 27 Center of attention
 29 Torme's forte
 31 Snapshots
 32 Agent
 34 Flushing field
 38 Tics
 40 Vestige
 42 Eggs
 43 "Hey, you!"
 44 Lotion additive
 45 Pack away
 47 Waikiki wingding
 48 Green acres
 49 Change for a C-note
 52 Actress Charlotte
 53 — out a living

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 3-2

Bridge

North dealer.
 North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
 ♠ K 9 5
 ♥ A K
 ♦ K J 10 9 6 3
 ♣ 7 2
WEST
 ♠ J 7 4 3 2
 ♥ 10 6 5 4 3
 ♦ 4 2
 ♣ Q
EAST
 ♠ Q 8
 ♥ J 7
 ♦ A Q 5
 ♣ K 10 9 8 6 4
SOUTH
 ♠ A 10 6
 ♥ Q 9 8 2
 ♦ 8 7
 ♣ A J 5 3

The bidding:
 North 1♦ East 2♣ South 2NT West Pass
 3 NT
 Opening lead — queen of clubs.

A Stitch in Time Saves Nine

The signal is probably the most valuable weapon available to the defense, but, like any other weapon, there is a proper time and place for its use. Take this case where a signal proved useless, partly because of a good play by declarer and partly because one defender could not obey the command of the other.

West led the queen of clubs, and East signaled for a club continuation by playing the eight. Declarer correctly ducked the queen in order to hamper defensive communications. Had South taken the queen with the ace, he would surely have gone down.

West had no more clubs to lead and had no effective alternative move. In practice, he shifted to a low heart, but declarer won in dummy and led the king of diamonds. East took the ace and returned the ten of clubs, but he was fighting a losing cause. South won with the jack, led another diamond, took the next club with the ace and finished with 10 tricks.

East should have realized that West's queen of clubs might be a singleton, in which case a signal would be futile. To protect against that possibility, East should have overtaken the queen with the king!

This would have fixed South's wagon beyond repair. East could then have continued clubs, dislodging one of South's club stoppers. Whenever declarer got around to leading diamonds, East would win, force out South's remaining club stopper and thus would win the race to set up his clubs before South could set up dummy's diamonds.

East should know from the bidding that declarer has the A-J-x or A-J-x-x of clubs. In either case, overtaking the queen guarantees establishment of the clubs before the diamonds, while at the same time the play cannot cost East a trick. East should have signaled, all right, but with his highest club, the king.

West dealer.
 Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
 ♠ A 3
 ♥ 8 5
 ♦ A 7 6 4 3
 ♣ K J 8 2
WEST
 ♠ K Q 9 8 5 2
 ♥ A J 10 4
 ♦ 9 8
 ♣ 5
EAST
 ♠ J 10 7 4
 ♥ Q 7 6 3 2
 ♦ Q J 5
 ♣ 7
SOUTH
 ♠ 6
 ♥ K 9
 ♦ K 10 2
 ♣ A Q 10 9 6 4 3

The bidding:
 West 1♣ North Pass East 2♣ South 3♣
 Opening lead — king of spades.

A Highly Sophisticated Play

There are plays that appear to make no sense but are nevertheless demonstrably correct. Consider this deal where you're declarer at five clubs. West leads the king of spades, and the question is how to play the hand.

Let's say you win the spade with the ace, play the king of trumps and then lead a low diamond from dummy. You plan to play the ten from your hand, but, unfortunately, East produces the jack, which you win with the king.

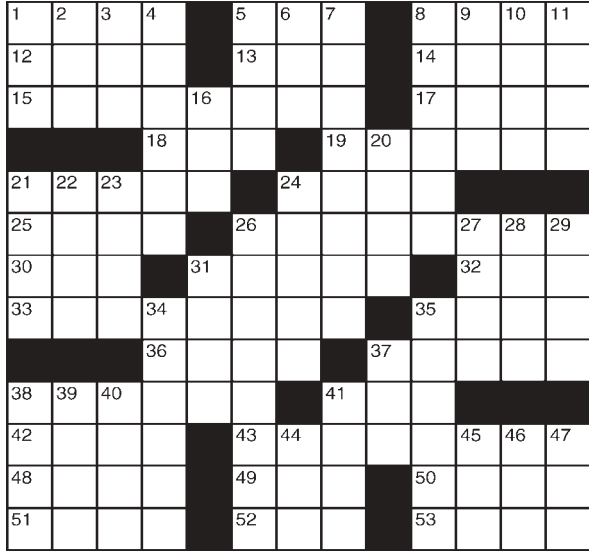
You next lead a diamond to the ace and play a third round of diamonds, hoping West will win the trick, which would ensure the contract. But East takes the third diamond with the queen and returns a heart, and you go down one.

You could say that the outcome was unlucky and that the gods were extremely unkind. But, even so, you should be willing to shoulder a goodly portion of the blame. You could have adopted a different line of play and thereby significantly increased your chances of making the contract.

Although it's certainly not the sort of thing you see every day, the correct play is not to take West's king of spades with the ace at trick one! Instead, you let him hold the trick, after which there is nothing he can do to stop you from getting home safely.

Let's say West leads another spade at trick two. You win with the ace and discard a diamond from your hand. Then, after playing the ace of trumps, you lead the K-A of diamonds and ruff a diamond. This establishes dummy's 7-6 of diamonds, on which you can later discard the K-9 of hearts, and you finish with an overtrick.

It is true that ducking the opening spade lead costs you a trick you didn't have to lose, but you get the trick back because you no longer have to lose a diamond. More importantly, you gain control of the diamond suit and can establish it without running the risk that East will take the lead for the killing heart return that defeats you.

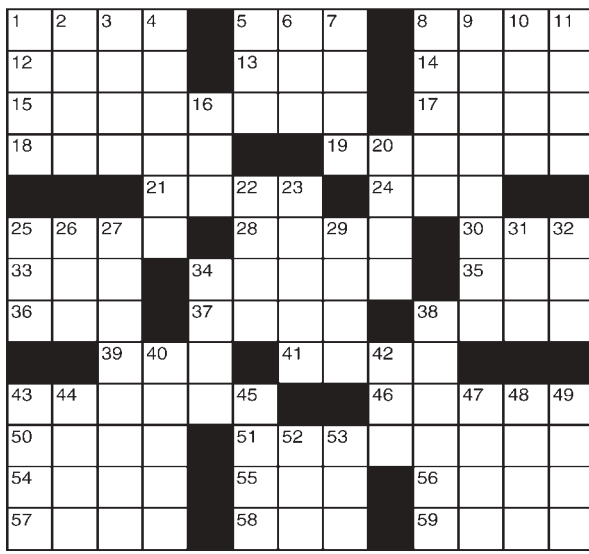


ACROSS
 1 Impale
 5 Spigot
 8 Unwanted e-mail
 12 Sky-high
 13 Have a bug
 14 Mr. Green's game
 15 PR agent's concern
 17 Broadway hit from 1996
 18 Johnny Mathis classic
 19 Fly
 21 Stuff
 24 Harvest goddess
 25 Oodles
 28 Take it easy
 30 Boom times
 33 "Little Women" woman
 34 From that moment on
 35 Sartorial woe
 36 Zero-star review
 37 "Mary" Little Lamb
 38 Alluring
 39 Sugar suffix
 41 Put an end to
 43 Turkish officials
 46 Parking attendant
 50 Speak unclearly
 51 It's at the X
 54 Angry
 55 Squirrel's hide-away
 56 Primary
 57 Prepared to drive
 58 Itty-bitty
 59 Phoenix cagers
 1 Goblet feature
 2 Danza sitcom
 3 Hannibal's hurdles
 4 Big spot
 5 Greek cross
 6 Melody
 7 Arraignment offering
 8 Rx, for short
 9 Joy
 10 Family member
 11 Apportion
 16 Part of the U.A.R., once
 20 Cast a ballot
 22 "Turandot" tune
 23 Makes like new
 25 Chart
 26 Ms. Thurman
 27 Center of attention
 29 Torme's forte
 31 Snapshots
 32 Agent
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 38 Tics
 40 Vestige
 42 Eggs
 43 "Hey, you!"
 44 Lotion additive
 45 Pack away
 47 Waikiki wingding
 48 Green acres
 49 Change for a C-note
 52 Actress Charlotte
 53 — out a living

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 3-3



Family Circus • Bill Keane

