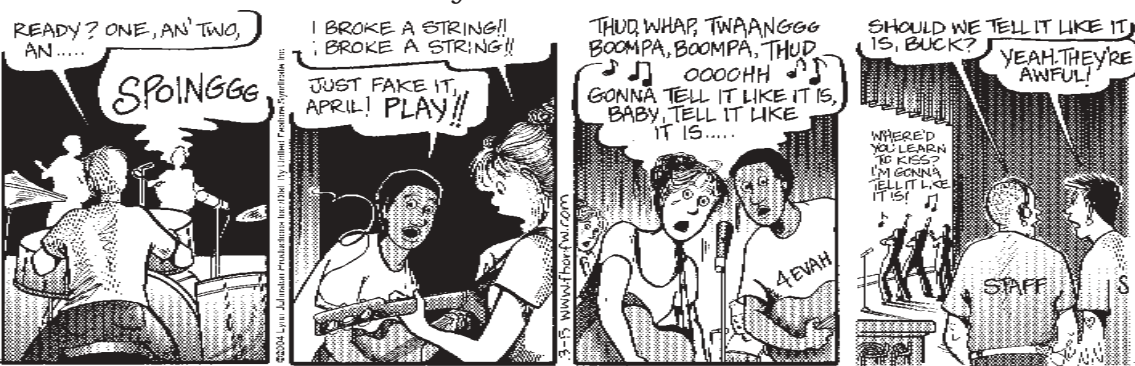
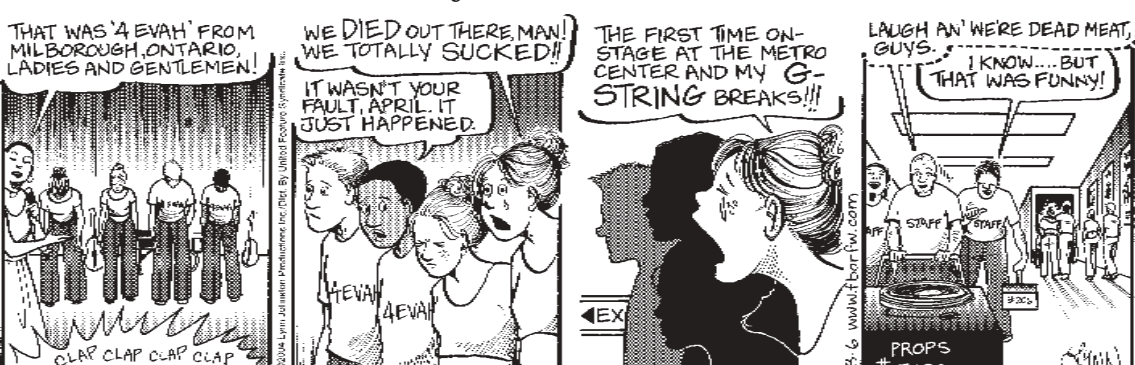


For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



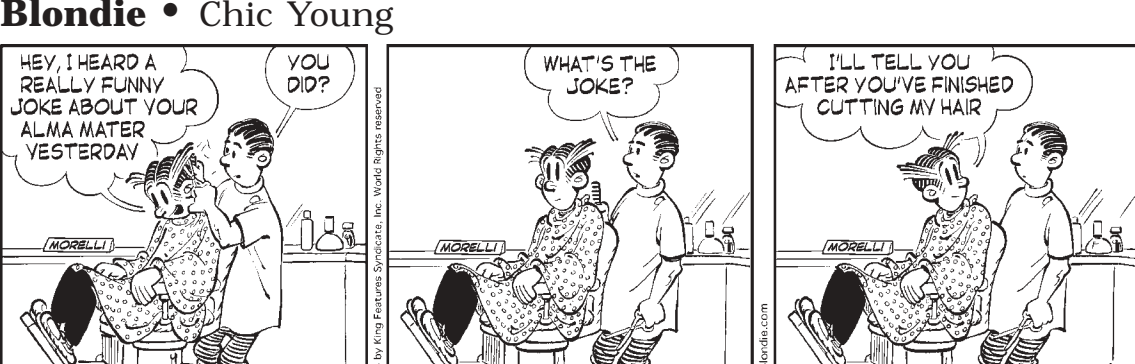
Garfield • Jim Davis



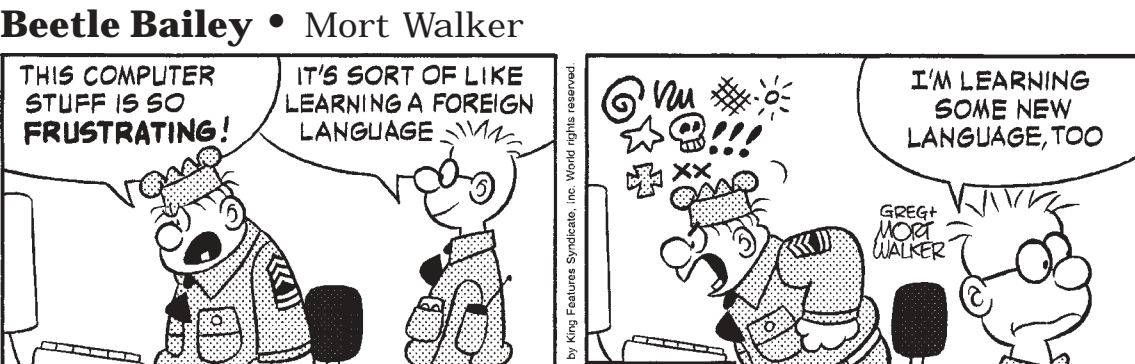
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

QODF LNSG CKCXZRM WZ NBN XUVBTTZ FVKYH
 YXKCLF, X RHIBO NH: YOBS GKUHKV UMZ
 "FIN SCZ'M GCQO FIND TIBMIH TKKF TUF1. OI
 BCMO CZV OVXMG, MII!" TIBDVIN US XDKW HADBSAO.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: COULD A TUNE AGAINST BIGAMY, I SPOKE UP: "YOU CAN'T HAVE YOUR KATE AND EDITH, TOO!"
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals T Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals L

Crossword

ACROSS
 1 Key letter
 6 "Chicago" lyricist
 9 Bee follower
 12 Perfect
 13 Noon, in old Rome
 14 North Sea feeder
 15 Dinette necessity
 16 Races
 18 "White Christmas" writer
 20 Sheltered
 21 Bando of baseball
 23 Pitch
 24 Rival of lie and Jimmy
 25 Furniture chain
 27 Aquarium fish
 29 Hound variety
 31 Impede
 35 Sweet liqueur
 37 Flight-related
 38 Time stamp

DOWN
 17 "— Game"
 19 Starbucks request
 21 One of the kin
 22 Wanted-poster abbr.
 24 Shape-shifter?
 26 Climb
 28 Burglary
 30 Mess up
 32 Hawks
 33 Mound stat
 34 Ritchie Petrie's dad
 36 Corruptive atmosphere
 38 Station
 39 Hebrew vowel
 40 Delicious
 42 Trembled
 45 Throb
 46 Exile
 48 Caustic solution
 50 Blond shade
 51 The Red or the Black

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 3-5

Bridge

Bidding Quiz

You are the dealer. What would you bid with each of the following four hands?

- [S] KJ7 [H] AKQ10 [D] AQ3 [C] AQ9
- [S] Q [H] 98632 [D] AKQ10 [C] AJ5
- [S] AK94 [H] AKQ7 [D] 8 [C] 9742
- [S] — [H] AKJ62 [D] AJ9653 [C] Q8

1. Three notrump. This indicates a balanced hand of 25 or 26 high-card points with strength in all four suits, which is exactly what you have. It would be wrong to open with two hearts (strong), or two clubs (artificial), planning to bid hearts next. While this would also represent a powerful hand and be forcing to game, it would not reflect the 4-3-3-3 distribution and balanced nature of your hand. Most forcing two-bids have attractive distributional features and often fewer points in high cards. They are based more on their trick-taking potential than on their high-card strength.

2. One heart. This is the right bid, even though your suit is headed by the 9-8 and you have another suit headed by four honors. It should be recognized that if partner has any three hearts, the suit becomes playable as trumps. Furthermore, if hearts are not bid now, the best trump suit might never be found.

3. One heart. For those whose system permits them to open four-card major suits, it is usually best to open the suit beneath the singleton in hands with 4-4-4-1 distribution. Here, however, the clubs should be ignored because they are too weak, while your other two suits are very strong. In this case, it is best to show the two suits you really have, and in so doing you should bid the lower-ranking suit first, leaving partner room to respond with one spade if he has four or more cards in that suit.

It should be added that those who guarantee a five-card suit when they open one heart or one spade are best advised to open the bidding with one club and proceed from there.

4. One diamond. Here the main effort should be devoted to identifying your 6-5 distribution. The best way to do so is to start with one diamond, planning to bid hearts twice thereafter.

When you bid hearts next, partner will assume for the moment that you have four hearts and five diamonds, but you will correct this impression on the next round when you bid hearts again. Partner will thus learn that you have five hearts and, because you opened with one diamond, that you have even greater length in diamonds.

East dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ K J 10 2
 ♥ Q J 10
 ♦ 10 8 7
 ♣ K 8 6

WEST
 ♠ 6 3
 ♥ 7 4 2
 ♦ Q J 2
 ♣ J 10 9 7 4

EAST
 ♠ 9 7 5 4
 ♥ A 9 6 3
 ♦ 9 5 4 3
 ♣ 2

SOUTH
 ♠ A Q 8
 ♥ K 8 5
 ♦ A K 6
 ♣ A Q 5 3

The bidding:
East South West North
 Pass 2 NT Pass 6 NT
 Opening lead — jack of clubs.

Score One for the Defense

There's one peculiar thing about squeezes. Nearly always, for a squeeze to be successful, declarer must first attain a position where he can win all the remaining tricks but one.

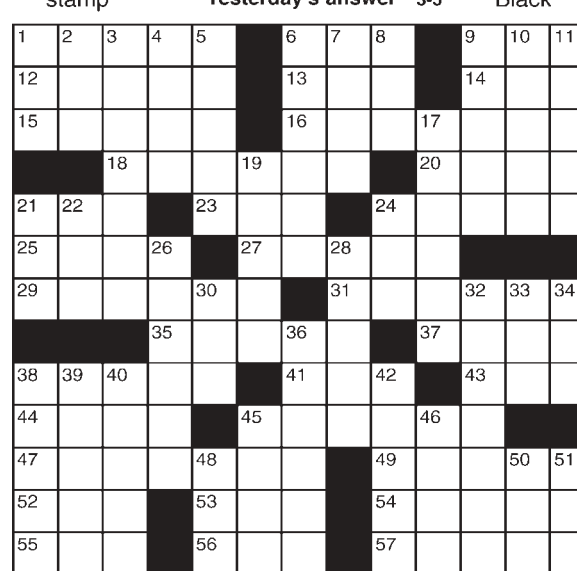
Take the present case, for example. Let's say South wins the opening club lead with the queen and plays a heart to dummy's ten, taken by East with the ace. Declarer now has 10 of the 11 tricks remaining to be played. In other words, he has achieved the significant all-but-one position.

Let's assume East continues with a heart at trick three. Declarer cashes two hearts, four spades and the A-K of diamonds, reducing his hand to the A-5-3 of clubs. Dummy's last three cards are the ten of diamonds and K-8 of clubs.

But note what has happened to West in the meantime. He also had to come down to three cards, and he couldn't comfortably do that at trick 10 when he had to choose a discard from the 10-9-7 of clubs and queen of diamonds. Whatever he discarded, declarer would win the last three tricks and make the slam.

Observe that East can defeat the contract if he ducks the ten of hearts at trick two and refuses to win the heart continuation at trick three! By declining to win either heart lead, he prevents declarer from reaching the all-but-one position needed for the squeeze. It leaves South two steps away from his objective instead of one, and the effect is that West can retain his stoppers in both diamonds and clubs.

Of course, East must be well-versed in squeezes to withhold his ace of hearts twice in a row, but that's why we so often say that defense is the most difficult part of the game.



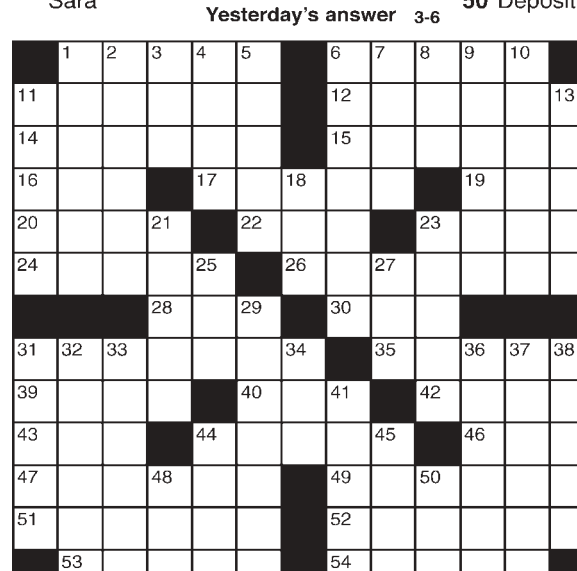
ACROSS
 1 Major blunder
 6 "Just a Gigolo" singer
 11 Spoil, as a parade
 12 Flight components
 14 Give
 15 Significant effect
 16 Mug
 17 Baking chambers
 19 Dundee denial
 20 Morays
 22 Take the cake?
 23 Trig function
 24 Do a Van Winkle
 26 Aristocratic
 28 Cenozoic, e.g.
 30 "Less Than Perfect" star

DOWN
 1 Either of two O.T. books
 2 Pacifier part
 3 Literary collection
 4 Roadway option
 5 Loosen
 6 PC attachment
 7 Edges
 8 AOL, e.g.
 9 Villain
 10 Esoteric
 11 Prepares potatoes, one way
 13 Super-man comparison
 18 Trail the pack
 21 Burpee's wares
 23 Lieu
 25 In favor of
 27 Gist
 29 Kevin's "American Beauty" co-star
 31 Stands
 32 Ill will
 33 Make unkept
 34 Scale member
 36 Rest
 37 Hydrogen and oxygen
 38 Tends texts
 41 Playground fixture
 44 Tars' bars
 45 Famous name?
 48 Scull need
 50 Deposit

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 3-6



Family Circus • Bill Keane

