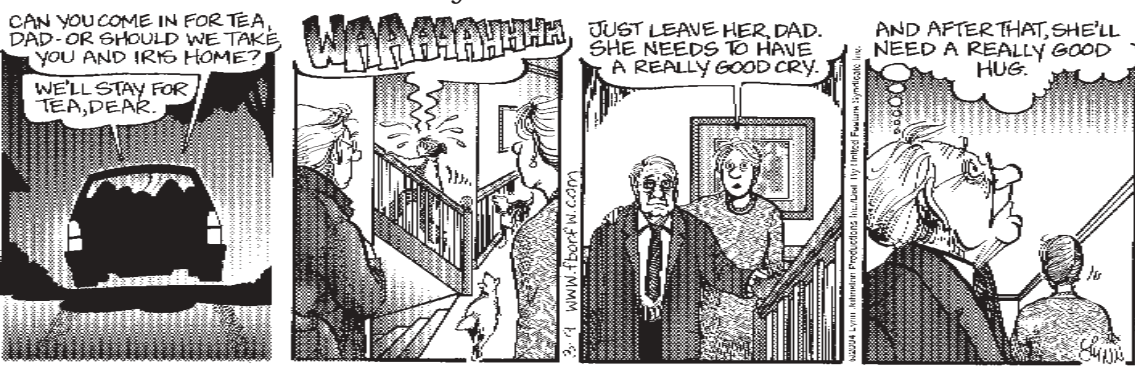
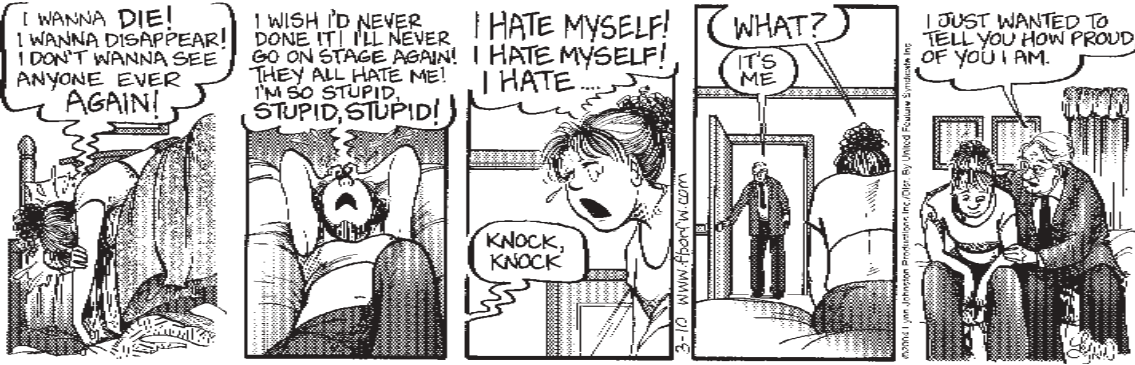


**For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston**



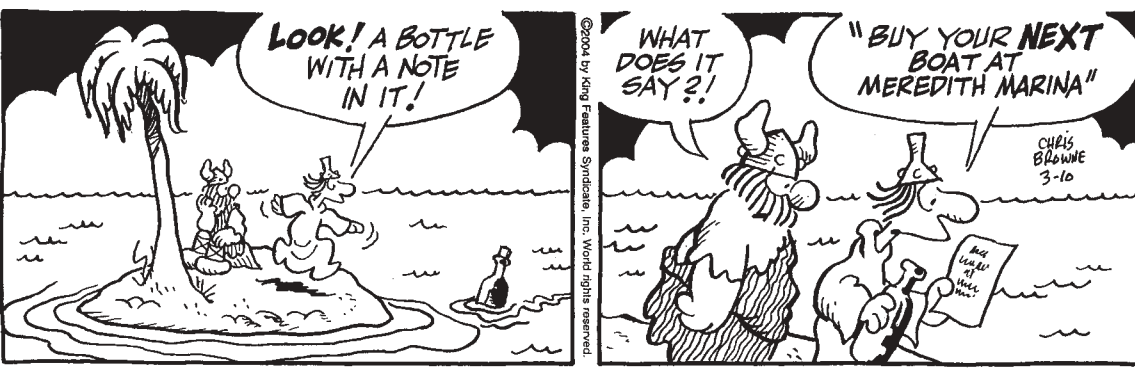
**For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston**



**Garfield • Jim Davis**



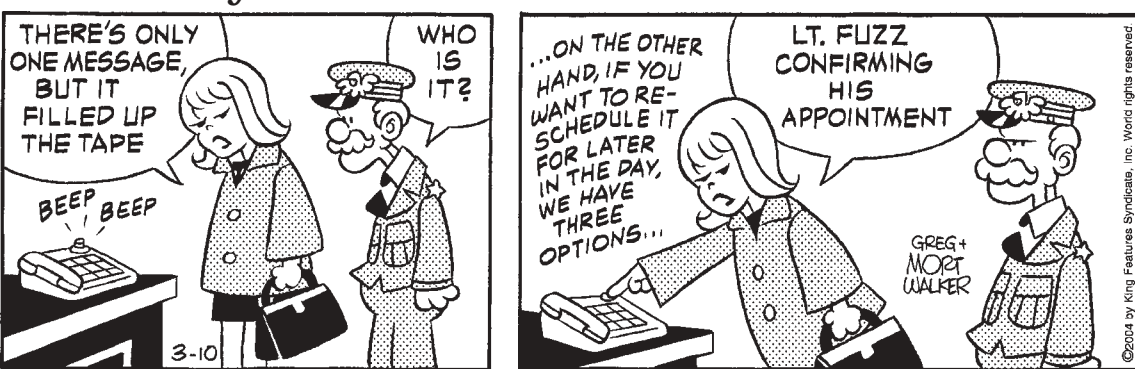
**Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne**



**Blondie • Chic Young**



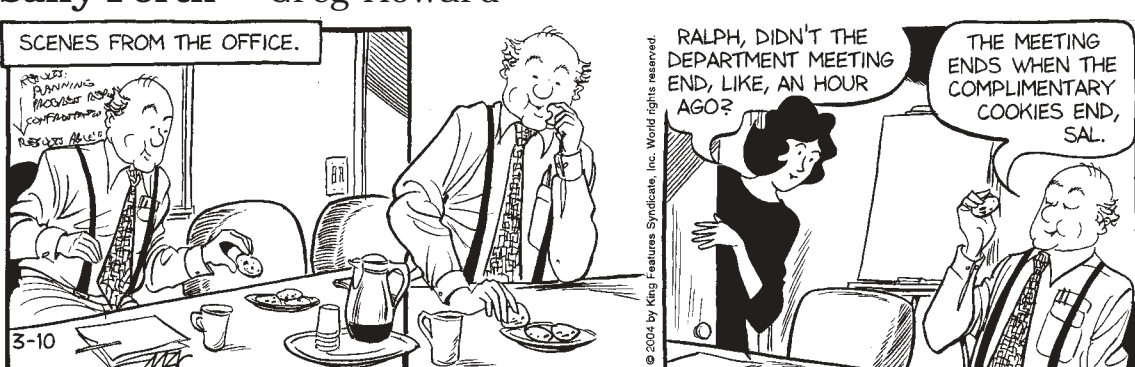
**Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker**



**Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott**



**Sally Forth • Greg Howard**



**Cryptoquip**

SBWZ OSA LXMOMRB NGKTFW R YQREM U  
 ZALTWNWZ PXW MZOWZRWTE ZXFF BGKEX SK SGX YXUZG?  
 NPC, CA EAJ OBMZG BXQGUBN SGXE R VKTFW  
 OBWE'TT CJGW MO AJO?  
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU SHOULD APPROACH A DOOR THAT HAS A BEAUTIFUL, FANCY DOORBELL, DON'T KNOCK IT!  
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals L

TNX ZUFF VUVREM.  
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN TWO BRITISH NOBLEMEN ARE INTENSELY MAD, DO YOU THINK THEY'LL DUKE IT OUT?  
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals C

**Crossword**

**ACROSS**  
 1 Laundry  
 5 Hot tub  
 8 Clench  
 12 Jam ingredient?  
 13 It's for horses!  
 14 Took the A train  
 15 Acceleration competition  
 17 Competent  
 18 Audio receiver  
 19 Raw rock  
 20 Prepare to propose  
 21 Swab  
 22 Top  
 23 — salts  
 26 Mothball material, once  
 30 Source  
 31 Profession  
 32 Discourteous  
 33 Acceptable  
 35 Went without saying?  
 36 Jazz enthusiast  
 37 Jack's container

**DOWN**  
 1 Test the waters  
 2 Emission  
 3 Constellation component  
 4 Glutton  
 5 Keen  
 6 Wear a rut in the rug  
 7 Crew's consent  
 8 High-level competition  
 9 Judicial raiment  
 10 Taking it easy  
 11 Banana castoff  
 16 Leeway  
 20 Ms. Basinger  
 21 Bikers' contest

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

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

Yesterday's answer 3-9

**Bridge**

**South dealer.**  
 Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
 ♠ A 7 2  
 ♥ 6 5 2  
 ♦ J 10 4  
 ♣ K 8 5 3

**WEST**  
 ♠ 6 5 4  
 ♥ K 9 4  
 ♦ 8 6 5  
 ♣ Q J 9 2

**EAST**  
 ♠ K 9  
 ♥ A 10 8  
 ♦ 9 7 3 2  
 ♣ 10 7 6 4

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

The bidding:  
 South 1 ♠  
 West Pass  
 North 2 ♠  
 East Pass

Opening lead — queen of clubs.

**Extra Chance**

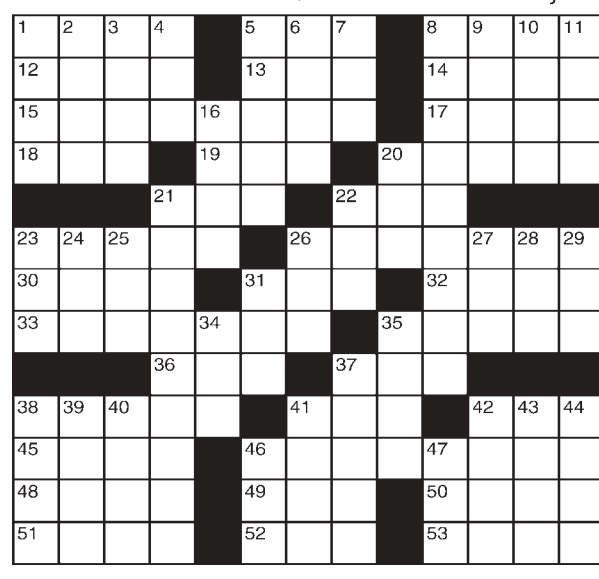
Most deals require nothing more of declarer during the play than proper technique. "Fancy" plays such as squeezes and coups might attract more attention, but in the long run good technique will win a great many more points than all the so-called fancy plays combined.

Consider this deal from a team contest where both North-South pairs reached four spades. At one table, declarer won the opening club lead with the ace and finessed the jack of spades, losing to East's king. South won East's diamond shift, led the three of spades to dummy's ace and discarded a heart on the club king.

Declarer next led a heart to the queen, losing to West's king, and ruffed the club return. However, with no entries remaining in dummy, he could not avoid eventually losing two heart tricks to East's A-10, so he finished down one.

At the other table, declarer realized that with this heart combination, his best chance to score a trick in the suit was to lead hearts from dummy twice, playing for split honors or for East to hold the A-K.

Unfortunately, dummy's only obvious entry was the spade ace — but there was a second possibility, and declarer made sure to allow for it. Accordingly, after taking the club ace, losing the spade finesse and winning the diamond shift, South led the eight of spades to the ace at trick four, hoping the nine would fall on the trick. When East's nine did appear, declarer was a lot closer to home. After discarding a heart on the club king, he played a heart to the queen and West's king, ruffed the club return high and led the carefully preserved three of spades to dummy's seven. It was then a simple matter to lead a heart toward the J-7 and bring in the game.



**ACROSS**  
 1 Pack down  
 5 Dime portrait  
 8 Sail support  
 12 Home of Lima beings  
 13 Canape topper  
 14 Golfer Jerry  
 15 Price reduction  
 17 "— La Douce"  
 18 Takes the helm  
 19 Went over like a lead balloon  
 21 Snitch  
 22 "Pygmalion" playwright  
 23 Neuman's magazine  
 26 Obtain  
 28 Resell at huge profits  
 31 Office shape  
 33 Quick swim  
 35 Over-advertise  
 36 Donny's sister  
 38 Museum stuff

**DOWN**  
 1 —  
 2 At the drop of —  
 3 Oozy terrain  
 4 Texas hold 'em, e.g.  
 5 Two-tone, as some hairdos  
 6 Part of DJIA  
 7 "Monopol-ly" payments  
 8 Popeye's invigorant  
 9 Broad thoroughfares  
 10 Where not to throw bouquets

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

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

Yesterday's answer 3-10

**South dealer.**  
 Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
 ♠ 6 4 2  
 ♥ A 9 8 3  
 ♦ 9 5 4 3  
 ♣ Q 7

**WEST**  
 ♠ K 7 3  
 ♥ 5 4  
 ♦ J 10 8  
 ♣ 10 9 8 5 3

**EAST**  
 ♠ J 10 9 8  
 ♥ 7  
 ♦ Q 7 6 2  
 ♣ J 6 4 2

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ A Q 5  
 ♥ K Q J 10 6 2  
 ♦ A K  
 ♣ A K

The bidding:  
 South 2 ♠\*  
 West Pass  
 North 2 ♠\*\*  
 East Pass  
 South 2 ♠  
 West Pass  
 North 3 ♠  
 East Pass  
 South 4 NT  
 West Pass  
 North 5 ♠  
 East Pass  
 South 6 ♠

\* artificial, strong  
 \*\* negative  
 Opening lead — ten of clubs.

**With a Little Bit of Luck**

Let's say you're playing a contract where the outcome appears to depend on a finesse — essentially a 50-50 proposition. Whenever you encounter such a situation, you should automatically make it a point to look for a way to elevate your chances beyond 50 percent.

Consider this deal where it seems that South needs a successful spade finesse to make six hearts. Despite this, there is a very good chance of making the slam without attempting the finesse; moreover, it costs declarer nothing to test this additional possibility while keeping the finesse in reserve.

Accordingly, he wins the club lead with the ace and cashes the K-Q of hearts, king of clubs and A-K of diamonds, noting with interest that West contributes the 8-10 of diamonds as the suit is led. Declarer then crosses to dummy with a trump and leads the five of diamonds. East cannot afford to step up with the queen, which would make dummy's nine a trick, so he follows low.

South does not bother to ruff the diamond because there is an excellent chance that West started with either the Q-10-8 or J-10-8 of diamonds. Instead, declarer discards a spade. As it happens, West is forced to win the third diamond with the jack, and South makes the rest of the tricks because West must either return a spade into South's A-Q or yield a ruff-and-discard. The suggested method of play succeeds because the diamonds are favorably divided, but note that if they were not, declarer would still have the spade finesse to fall back on. The important point is that South greatly increases his chances of making the slam by first sounding out the diamonds.

**Family Circus • Bill Keane**

