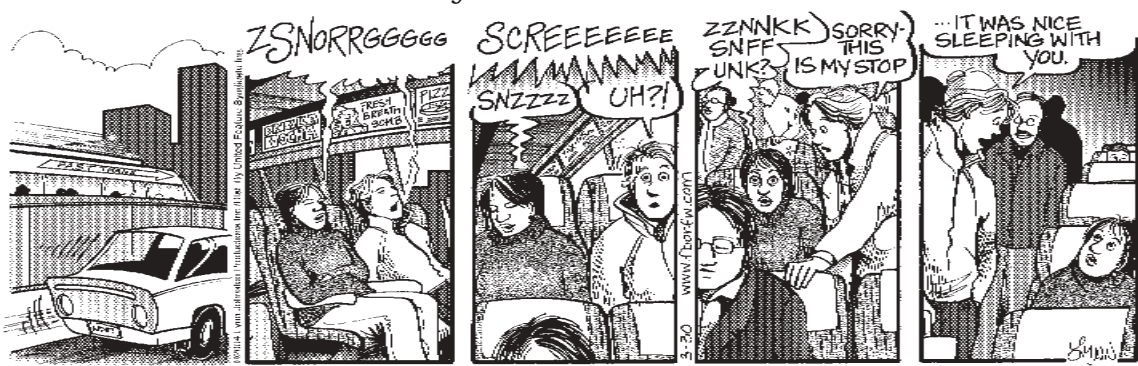
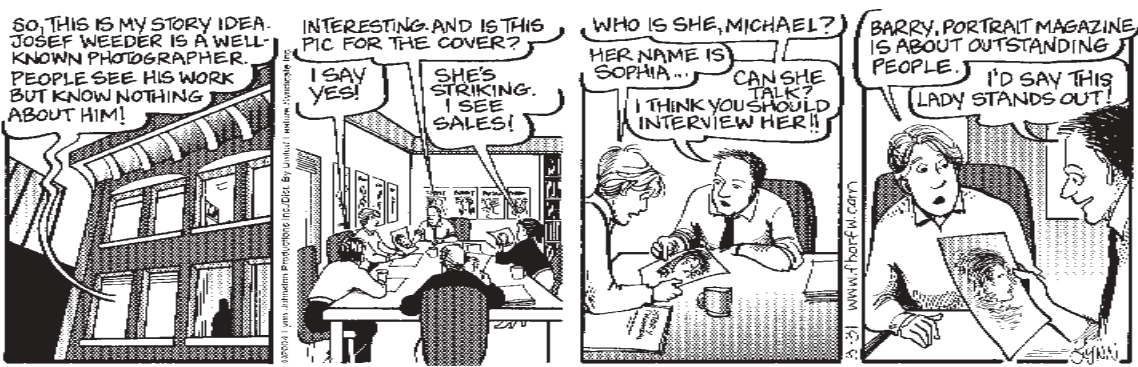


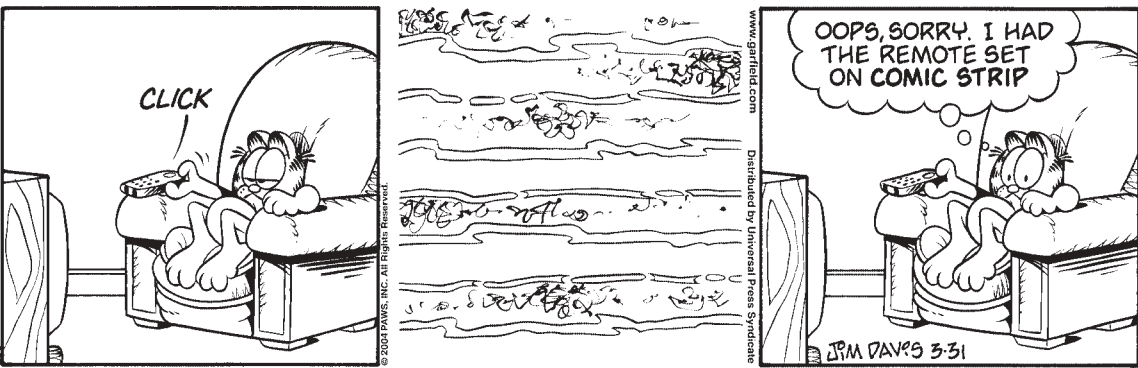
**For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston**



**For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston**



**Garfield • Jim Davis**



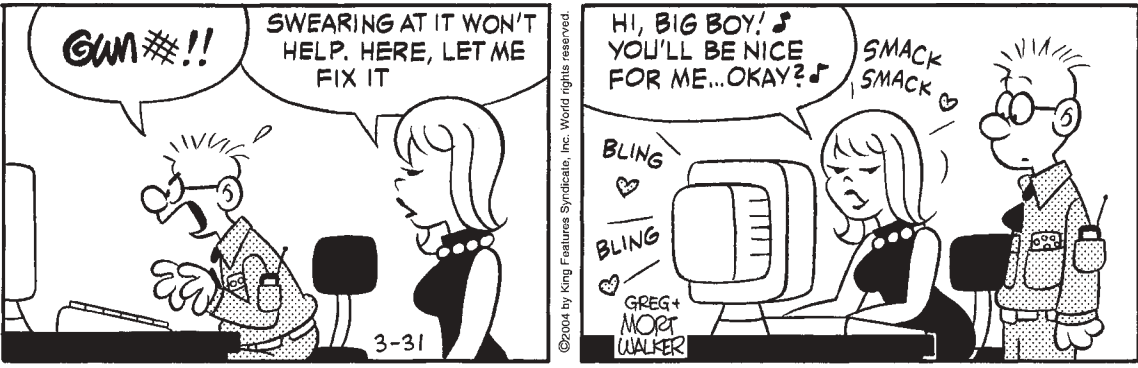
**Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne**



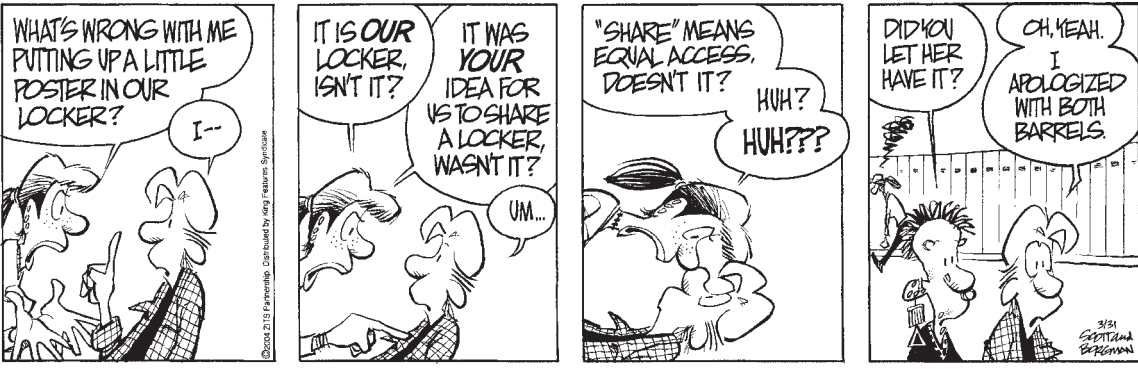
**Blondie • Chic Young**



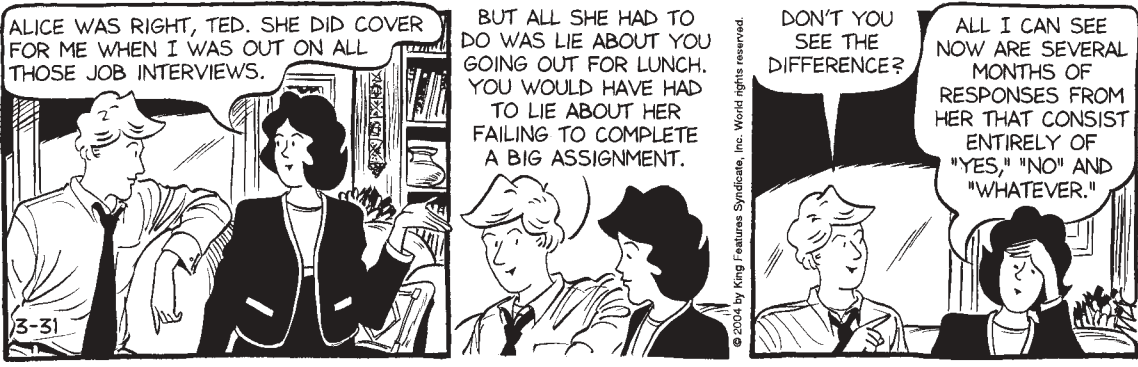
**Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker**



**Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott**



**Sally Forth • Greg Howard**



**Cryptoquip**

S G M P F M B Q Q B I M P W K C U X D X S U Q W ' B S V V I B  
 G E Z V V W , M Z B I S G V V X I U Q X S U U O K H I U N W V Y  
 Q F V J J B Q V R M . S E V R W Q I ' M H I V O . H K ' B K C U B D C V V N  
 Z P I Q W B M Z B M V V M Z . V Y C X I S G O V D G B .  
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU GO TO AEROBICS CLASS, I GUESS THAT COULD BE THOUGHT OF AS DROOP THERAPY.  
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals S  
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I STARTED DENTAL SCHOOL, THEN I SOON DROPPED OUT. I COULDN'T HANDLE THE TOOTH.  
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals R

**Crossword**

**ACROSS**  
 1 Inane  
 5 Play with robots  
 8 Marshy area  
 12 Canal zone  
 13 Smile center  
 14 Golden Rule  
 15 Liquid resources  
 17 Modern-day coin  
 18 Playpen item  
 19 Hack  
 21 Poet  
 24 Hamlet, for one  
 25 Depend (on)  
 26 Wallet fill  
 30 Eggs  
 31 Santa-esque  
 32 Tarzan's son  
 33 Trivial sum  
 35 Steerer's place

**DOWN**  
 1 Fine, in rap song  
 2 William Tell's canton  
 3 Hr. division  
 4 "Reds" star  
 5 Risque  
 6 Put to work  
 7 Impish  
 8 City on the St.  
 9 E pluribus  
 10 Razor name  
 11 Hoodlum  
 16 Japanese theater  
 20 Crooner  
 21 Object on stage  
 22 Jeans-maker  
 23 Chester — Arthur  
 24 Apporitions (out)  
 26 Ideas  
 27 Help a hood  
 28 Sans staff  
 29 Song of joy  
 31 Wozniak partner  
 34 Pillage  
 35 Bray  
 37 Fraction of  
 38 A little lower?  
 39 Medley  
 40 First victim  
 41 French city  
 44 Shock and —  
 45 Swelled head  
 46 Mongrel  
 47 Understanding

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

**YESTERDAY'S ANSWER 3-30**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13			14			
15			16				17			
			18			19	20			
21	22	23			24					
25				26				27	28	29
30			31					32		
33		34						35		
			36					37		
38	39	40				41				
42				43	44			45	46	47
48				49				50		
51				52				53		

**Bridge**

South dealer.  
 Both sides vulnerable.

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

**WEST**  
 ♠ J 9 5 2  
 ♥ 10 9 8  
 ♦ 8 4  
 ♣ 10 9 7 3

**EAST**  
 ♠ K 10 6 4  
 ♥ A K Q 5 2  
 ♦ 9 7  
 ♣ Q 5

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ 7 3  
 ♥ J  
 ♦ A K Q J 10 5 2  
 ♣ K 8 4

The bidding:  
 South 5♦ West Pass North Pass East Pass  
 Opening lead — ten of hearts.

**The Better Way**

When a contract depends solely on the favorable distribution of a suit or the success of a finesse, all you can do is hope that the Fates will be kind to you. However, some hands that seem to depend on luck can be salvaged by finding a way to reduce the luck element, thereby increasing the chance of success.

Consider this deal where South is in five diamonds and West leads a heart. East wins and plays another heart, ruffed by South.

There's no denying that declarer now has an excellent shot at the contract. He can draw trumps, play the K-x of clubs and finesse the jack. If the jack wins, he is home. Even if it loses, the clubs might turn out to be divided 3-3 and, failing that, the spade finesse might work.

All these possibilities added together make South a huge favorite for the contract. Yet, as the cards lie, he would go down one by pursuing this course of play, since both finesses fail and the clubs break 4-2.

However, South has a better chance to get home by altering his play slightly. After drawing trumps, he should cash the A-K of clubs, spurning the finesse. In the actual case, this safety play succeeds, since East has the doubleton queen.

Note that rejecting the club finesse does not hurt South's chances one bit. If the queen doesn't appear, South simply leads his remaining club toward the J-6. If West has the queen, or if the suit divides 3-3, the contract is secure, since dummy's fourth club becomes declarer's 11th trick.

By playing in this fashion, South makes the contract not only when West has the queen of clubs or when the suit breaks 3-3, but also when East has the doubleton queen. The club finesse should therefore not be attempted, since the maximum chance is attained by refusing the finesse.

**North dealer.**  
 Neither side vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
 ♠ A 6  
 ♥ 7 4  
 ♦ A Q 10 8 7 2  
 ♣ K Q 10

**WEST**  
 ♠ K Q 8 3  
 ♥ K Q 10 9 6 2  
 ♦ 5  
 ♣ J 3

**EAST**  
 ♠ 10 7  
 ♥ 8 5 3  
 ♦ J 9 6 4  
 ♣ 9 8 4 2

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ J 9 5 4 2  
 ♥ A J  
 ♦ K 3  
 ♣ A 7 6 5

The bidding:  
 North 1♦ East Pass South 1♠ West 2♥  
 Opening lead — king of hearts.

**Haste Makes Waste**

It is impossible to estimate how many points are lost over a period of time by a player who does not allow for unfavorable distribution and instead plunges ahead without considering the full range of possibilities.

Take this simple case where South went down in a contract he should have made. He won West's heart lead with the ace and promptly fell into the trap of trying to run his diamonds.

When West showed out on the second round of the suit, dashing South's hopes of winning six diamond tricks, declarer adjusted his tactics. After taking the second diamond with the queen, he turned his attention to clubs, hoping to score four club tricks and so salvage his game.

The K-Q of clubs were therefore cashed, felling West's jack, but when declarer next led the ten from dummy, he found he could score only three tricks in the suit, whether he allowed the ten to hold or overtook it with the ace. Eventually he scored his eight high-card winners and finished down one.

Declarer's downfall can be traced directly to playing diamonds initially instead of clubs. He should have cashed the K-Q of clubs at tricks two and three, after which he would have had no difficulty getting home safely. After cashing the ten of clubs, he would lead a diamond to the king and score the ace of clubs to obtain his ninth trick.

South should have reasoned that if the diamonds were favorably divided, they could be cashed at any time, but that the same was not true of the clubs. By playing the K-Q of clubs first, he could gain an extra trick if either defender started with the singleton or doubleton jack of clubs. On this deal, that extra trick would have made all the difference.

**Family Circus • Bill Keane**

