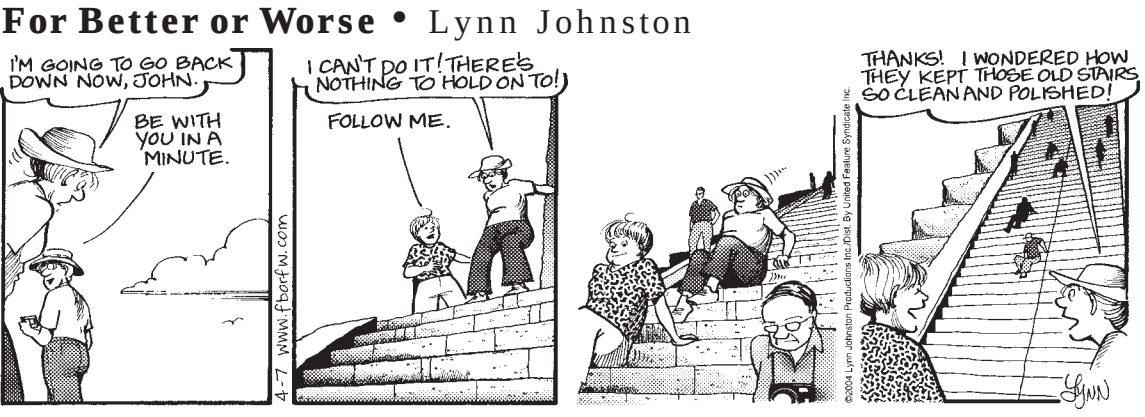
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston

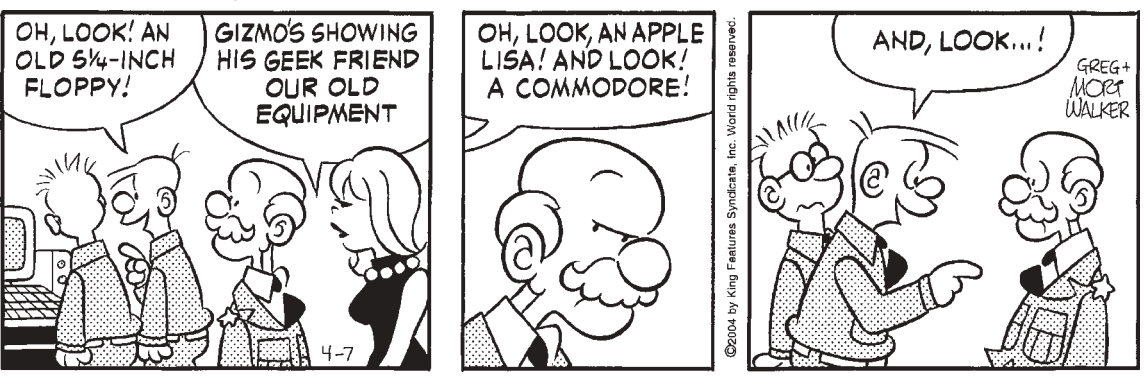


Garfield • Jim Davis

Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne

Blondie • Chic Young

Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott

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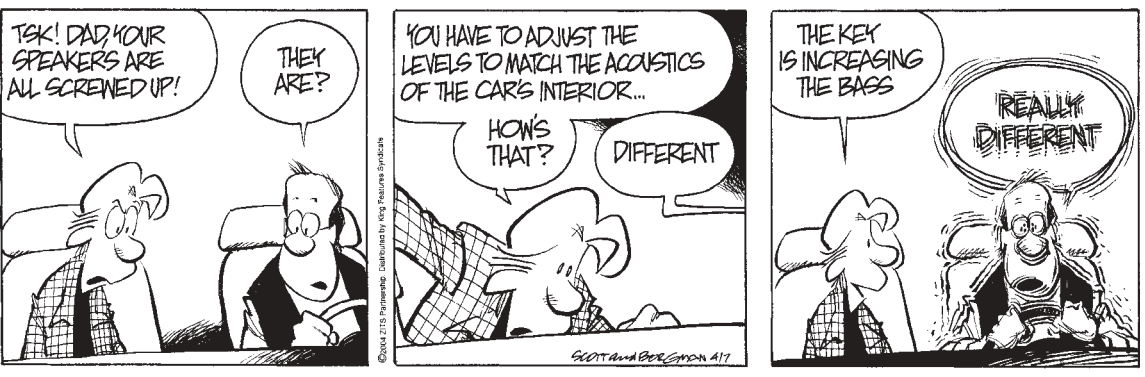


Sally Forth • Greg Howard

Cryptoquip

VK LTXA PTHHL AJBZZL ZVEJY CTS CJ FBU IBAE, STXZP CJ IJ FTUYVPJAJP B YCTS-BAK?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I BELIEVE THE CUTE DOE SHOULD ASK THE BUCK IF HE WANTS TO HAVE A LITTLE FAWN.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals L

VKXQUL N MOBOLZKG MOUH XL U YOANLNVZ'V XYYNBO HXXM: "U ANVV NV UV QXXH UV U AUKO."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOUR DOGGY REALLY LIKES HOW HE CAN BARK, WOULD HE BE CONSIDERED A SHOW-ARF?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals F

Crossword

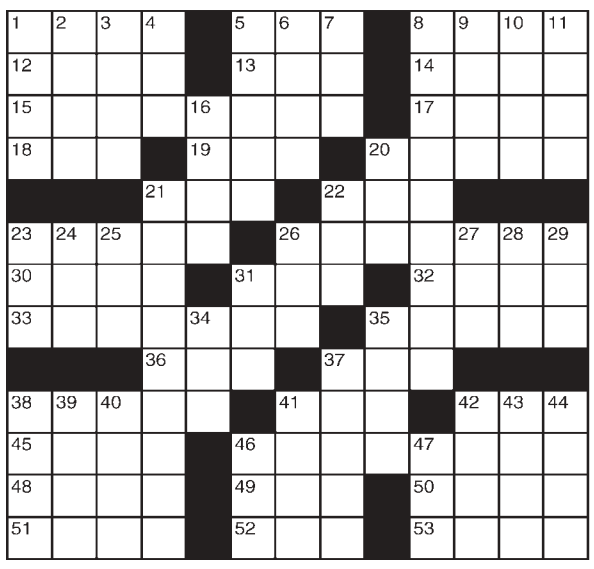
ACROSS
1 Part of the SATs
5 Foundation
8 Moist
12 Hydrox rival
13 Bartending need
14 One of HOMES
15 Wicker-cased bottle
17 "— Congeniality"
18 Kreskin's claim
19 Judge Lance
20 Buzzing instrument
21 "CSI" evidence
22 Glutton
23 Chicle source
26 He provided a night light
30 Particular
31 Chignon
32 Racetrack barrier
33 Convey
35 Early film role for Madonna
36 "Little Women" woman
37 Born
38 Wrinkle reducer
41 Leprechauns' dance
42 More, to Manuel
45 Bread spread
46 Wreck
48 Layer
49 Scepter topper
50 Rue the run
51 Baserunner's goal
52 Firmament
53 Poet Angelou

DOWN
1 Fashion
2 Belligerent god
3 Weather stat
4 Polloi preceder
5 Flora and fauna
6 Reverberate
7 Lair
8 Emotion-arousing politico
9 Four Corners st.
10 Soybean paste
11 Mexican money
16 Hoodoo
20 Tyke
21 "G.I. Jane" star
22 Bit of wordplay
23 Cover
24 Noshed
25 Either of AT&T's T's
26 Capek drama
27 Part of UNLV
28 Sch. org.
29 Coop occupant
31 Plead
34 Irritate
35 Lily variety
37 "Put it somewhere else" acronym
38 This and that
39 Hodgepodge
40 Abound
41 Quick tug
42 Isinglass
43 Wan
44 Big Apple stadium
46 John — Passos
47 Felon's flight

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 4-6



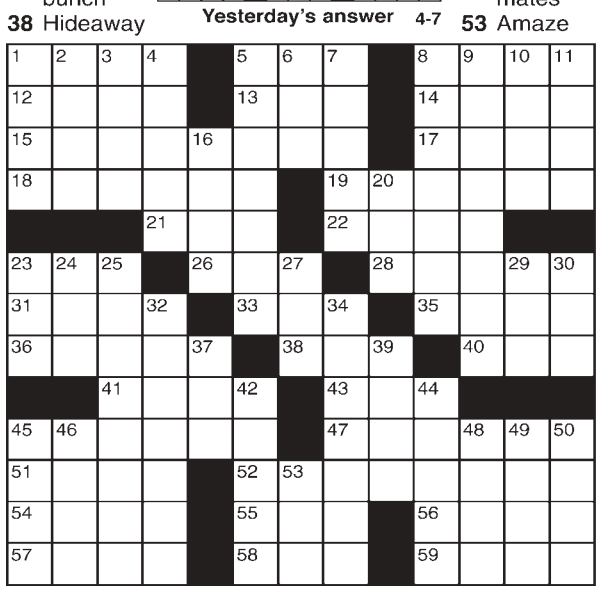
ACROSS
1 Rolling stone's lack
5 Noun modifier (Abbr.)
8 Attempt
12 Slightly
13 Composer Delibes
14 "— My Heart"
15 Ed Ames' missile
17 Grownup elvers
18 Tried
19 Engraves
21 Blue
22 Moreno or Rudner
23 Priestly vestment
26 Spade, heart, diamond, or club
28 Staircase post
31 Instrument of Marxism?
33 Neither mate
35 Hinge (on)
36 Honey bunch
38 Hideaway
40 Conk out
41 Tragic
43 Autumn abbr.
45 Most contemptible
47 Develop
51 Reactions to fireworks
52 Kind of goose or shirt
54 Summertime pest
55 Ram's ma'am
56 Cry from the crow's-nest
57 Wields a needle
58 Started
59 Mars' counterpart

DOWN
1 Damon or Dillon
2 Reed instrument
3 Saxophonist Zoot
4 Numerical data, for short
5 Disney hero voiced by Scott Weinger
6 Morning moisture
7 Nicholson role
8 Ghost
9 Brayed
10 Give the glad eye
11 Pitch
16 Jalopy
20 Stannum
23 Mates of 51-Across
24 Mason's field
25 Quarterback Terry
27 Legume holder
29 Yalie
30 Caustic solution
32 Deacon's superiors
34 Extended, in a sense
37 "— Doubtfire"
39 PBS science series
42 Lucy's partner in mischief
44 "Allakazam!"
45 Cranberry areas
46 Top-notch
48 Charlatan
49 Barn-roof adornment
50 Tackles' teammates
53 Amaze

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 4-7



Bridge

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 9 7 3
♥ J 4 2
♦ J 8 6
♣ A 10 5 3

WEST
♠ Q J 10 2
♥ A 10 7 6
♦ 5 2
♣ J 8 7

EAST
♠ 8 6 5 4
♥ —
♦ 9 7 4 3
♣ K Q 9 4 2

SOUTH
♠ A K
♥ K Q 9 8 5 3
♦ A K Q 10
♣ 6

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
2 ♣ *	Pass	2 ♦ **	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 ♦	Pass
6 ♥			

* artificial, strong
** negative
Opening lead — queen of spades.

Covering All the Possibilities

It might be only of passing interest to know how four missing cards of a suit can be expected to divide when declarer has nine cards of the suit. Mathematically, the expectation is that in 100 random hands, the defenders' four cards will be divided 3-1 50 times, 2-2 40 times, and 4-0 10 times.

Declarer might or might not be able to put this knowledge to good use in a given hand, but if he is familiar with these probabilities in a general way, the knowledge can do him no harm, and in some cases will do him a lot of good.

Consider this case where South reached six hearts as shown. He won the opening spade lead and, without giving the matter much thought, led a low heart to dummy's jack. Unfortunately, East showed out, and there was then no way for declarer to avoid losing two trump tricks for down one.

However, if South had initially played the king of hearts, instead of leading low to dummy, he would have made the contract. Whether West took the ace immediately or not, only one trump trick would have been lost. After East failed to follow suit, it would have been a simple matter for declarer to trap West's ten by means of a finesse.

The king-of-hearts lead is demonstrably the right play. It guards against the possibility that either opponent has all the missing hearts, allowing for a finesse to be taken against the ten whenever this turns out to be the case.

Declarer should reason that the contract is a virtual certainty if the opposing trumps are divided 3-1 or 2-2. His only concern should be a possible 4-0 break and how to cater to it.

If East has the missing four trumps, a low heart to the jack would reveal the situation and permit the slam to be made. But since this approach fails if West has four trumps, declarer must protect against that eventuality also. The king play covers both possibilities, and it is therefore the right play.

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

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

WEST
♠ J 10 9 7 5 2
♥ 8
♦ 9 5
♣ J 8 6 3

EAST
♠ Q 3
♥ 10 7 6
♦ A K J 7 6
♣ K 9 2

SOUTH
♠ A 8
♥ A K Q 9 4 3
♦ Q 10 2
♣ A 5

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♥	Pass	1 NT	2 ♦
4 ♥			

Opening lead — nine of diamonds.

Sylvia Learns How to Finesse

When Sylvia first learned how to finesse, a whole new world opened up for her. Even though she didn't fully comprehend how finesses worked, that didn't stop her from adopting the newfangled device with all the verve and enthusiasm she could muster.

To illustrate her state of mind in those early days, take this deal where she arrived at four hearts and West led a diamond. East cashed the K-A and continued with the seven, West ruffing Sylvia's queen.

West's jack-of-spades return was taken by the ace, and Sylvia now had to avoid losing a club trick. This did not seem too difficult a task to her, since she planned to resolve that problem by taking a club finesse! Accordingly, after drawing three rounds of trumps ending in dummy, she led the queen of clubs, intending to finesse after East followed low. But East upset the well-known apple cart by covering with the king. After taking the ace, poor Sylvia was surprised to find that she still had a club loser!

Putting this development aside for the moment, she next cashed two more trumps, producing this position:

North [S] K 6 [C] 10
West [S] 10 9 [C] J
East [S] Q [C] 9 2
South [S] 8 [H] 4 [C] 5

When Sylvia next led her last trump, West was forced to discard the nine of spades, allowing dummy to score the last two tricks with the K-6 of spades.

Thus, Sylvia's newest toy proved to be a complete failure when East covered the club queen with king. Be that as it may, it was also clear that she had found the only way to make four hearts — by executing one of the rarest of all plays in bridge, a transfer squeeze.

Family Circus • Bill Keane