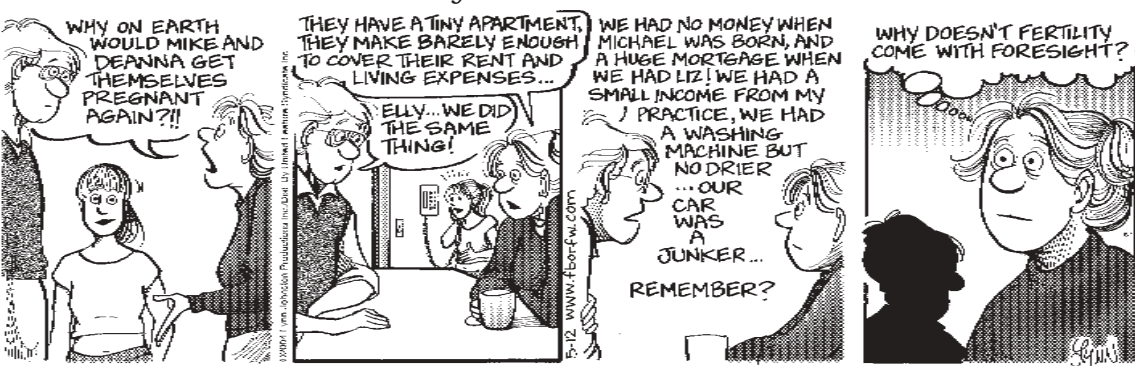


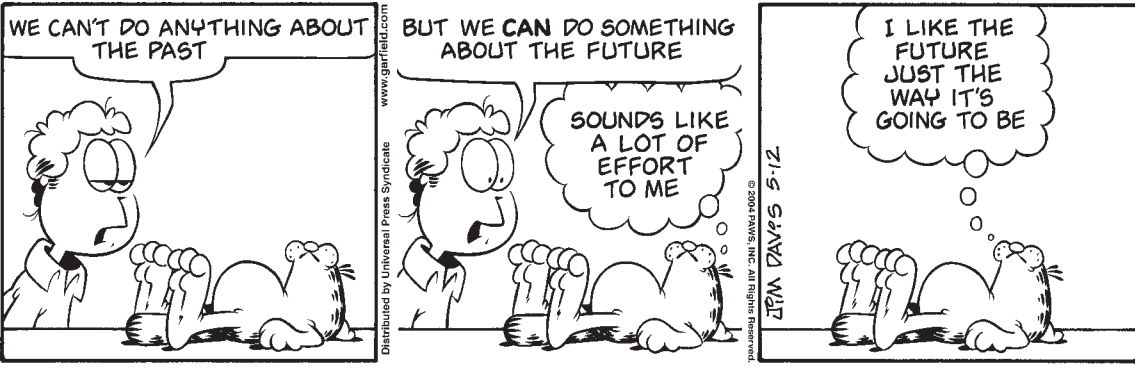
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



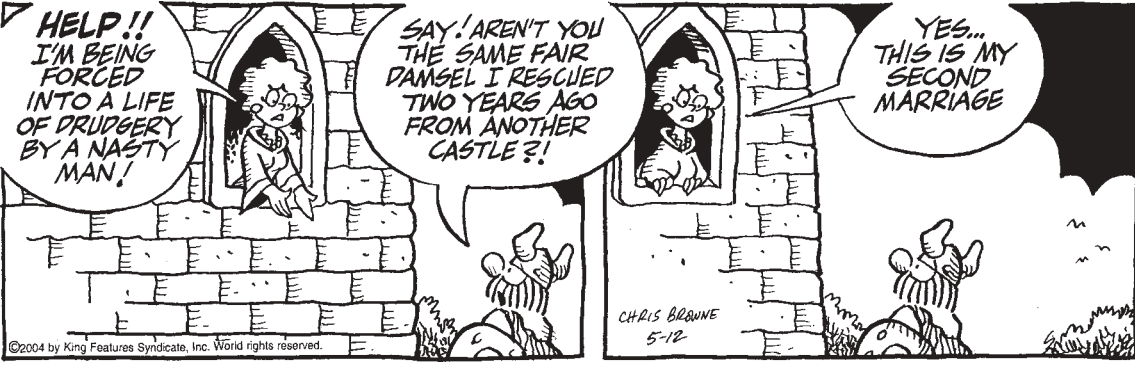
Tod The Dinosaur • PR Condon



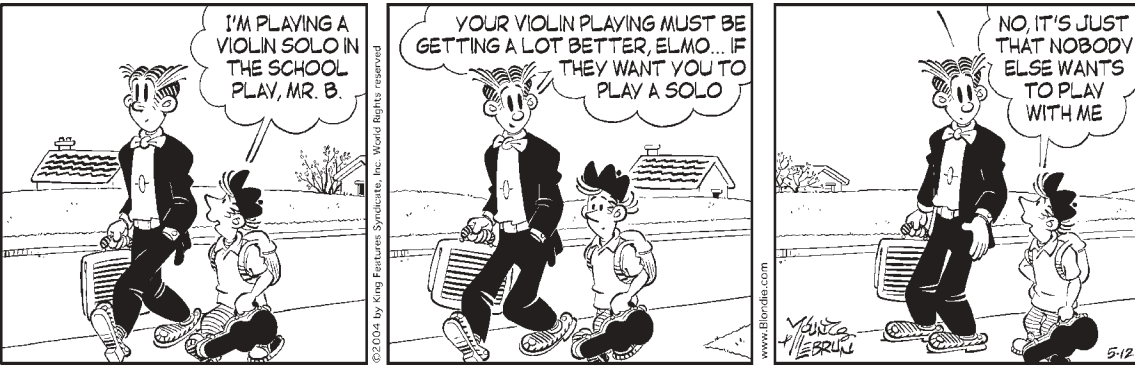
Garfield • Jim Davis



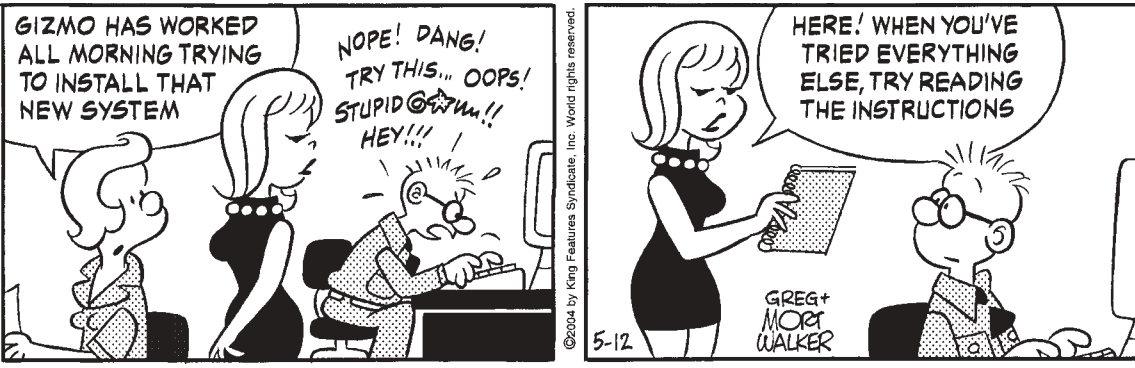
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



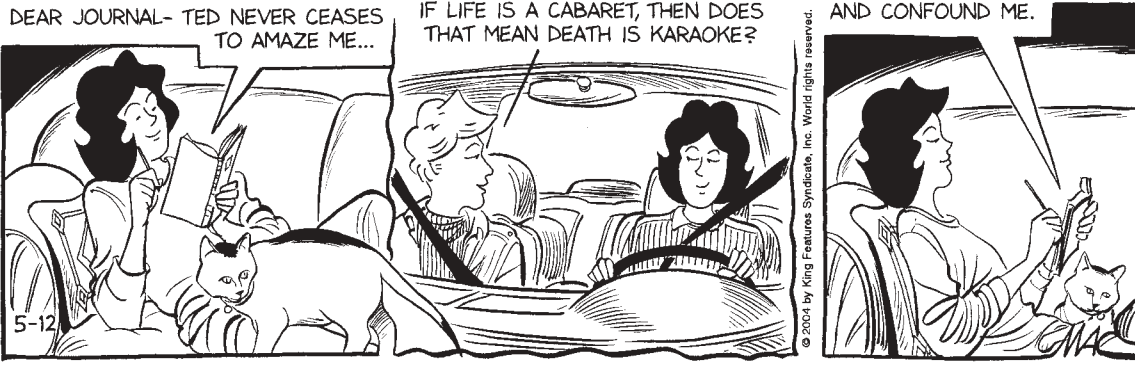
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

JWPB GDQXZPBP MZSO ME J BNPWPT QNJZI
 BW CO PXZQZBOR DVR UMXV IJUQSIV EPW J
 CQDYO. BGOL'QO YOQL ZMGMTY, IXPSZQ XN PBNT
 XMIASL JIPZAZDVP. J IXJGMTYI JHHPSTV?
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: OUR FAMILY'S OLD ECCENTRIC MILLIONAIRE WAS FONDLY KNOWN AS "FORTUNE KOOKIE."
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals S
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MOST HARPISTS LIKE TO BE SPIRITED AND BRAVE. THEY'RE VERY PLUCKY MUSICIANS.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals I

Crossword

ACROSS
 1 Unescorted
 5 Omega precursor
 8 Donahue or Collins
 12 Heroic tale
 13 Performance
 14 Santa —, CA
 15 Monthly payment
 16 Seder time
 18 Massachusetts city
 20 Poked with the patella
 21 Part of MPH
 22 Suitable
 23 Custom
 26 Hollow quick bread
 30 Fuss
 31 TV network
 32 In olden days
 33 Stop during a journey
 36 Non-sense
 38 Plead

DOWN
 1 Anti-toxins
 2 Admitting clients
 3 "Swedish Nightingale"
 4 Eight-armed creatures
 5 Document
 6 "The Lion King" baddie
 7 "Monty Python" intro
 8 Without delay
 9 Threw
 10 "— dead people"
 11 Fat
 17 Leave out
 19 Pet healer
 22 Mexico's president
 23 "2001" computer
 24 Oklahoma city
 25 Tarzan's son
 26 Augusta standard
 27 Actor
 28 Early bird?
 29 Wade opponent
 31 Hatrack part
 34 Preoccupy excessively
 35 Kill a bill
 36 Proscription

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 5-11

Bridge

South dealer.
 North-South vulnerable.

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

WEST
 ♠ 10 9 6 5 2
 ♥ A 9 8 4
 ♦ 6 4
 ♣ J 8

EAST
 ♠ K J 8 4
 ♥ 10 5
 ♦ K 9 8 5
 ♣ 9 4 3

SOUTH
 ♠ A 7
 ♥ 7 6 2
 ♦ A Q J 10
 ♣ A Q 7 2

The bidding:
 South 1 NT
 West Pass
 North 2 ♣
 East Pass

Opening lead — five of spades.

It's All in the Spots

This is a relatively simple hand to play, but it is worth discussing because many declarers might carelessly foul it up.

West leads a spade, and declarer hopefully plays dummy's queen. When East produces the king, South ducks and wins the spade continuation.

It is clear that if South loses the lead before he scores nine tricks, he will go down, losing at least four spades and the ace of hearts. He must therefore try to win four diamond tricks and four club tricks in addition to the ace of spades.

It is far from certain South can accomplish this goal — the odds are greatly against it — but he has no better alternative. He begins by leading the ace of clubs followed by the queen to guard against the possibility that West might have four clubs to the jack. If so, the jack becomes finessable.

As it happens, however, West plays the jack on the queen, and at this point South must take advantage of his good fortune by overtaking the queen with the king. If he doesn't, he goes down one. Next comes a diamond finesse, which wins.

Again declarer must be very careful, leading the seven of clubs to dummy's ten in order to repeat the diamond finesse. He then leads the carefully preserved deuce of clubs to dummy's six for the final diamond finesse.

South's reward for manipulating his clubs correctly is that he finishes with nine tricks. But if he fails to overtake the queen of clubs, or later neglects to lead the seven to dummy's ten, he goes down, since he will not be able to lead diamonds three times from dummy.

South dealer.
 Both sides vulnerable.
 North-South have a partscore of 30.

NORTH
 ♠ A K 10 9 7
 ♥ Q 9 5
 ♦ 10
 ♣ A K J 7

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

EAST
 ♠ 6 5 4 3 2
 ♥ J 4
 ♦ J 8 2
 ♣ 8 5 3

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

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

Opening lead — two of clubs.

A Heart-Rending Tale

They say that truth is stranger than fiction, and here is a tale to bear it out. The hand was played in a rubber bridge game. The stakes were high, the atmosphere tense, and all the players except South were first-rate.

North had been having a hard time all evening, largely because he had cut South as his partner most of the time. So when he heard South open the bidding with a diamond, North cheered up, since he was about to win a rubber at long last. To make sure South got the message, North responded by jump-shifting to two spades. South now bid two hearts, which was not sufficient. West called attention to the insufficient bid and offered to explain the options South could exercise, but South, gazing intently at his score pad, said, "No, it's all right. I bid three diamonds. We have game and 40."

North groaned deeply and said: "For your information, sir, we happen to have game and 30, and furthermore, you've now succeeded in barring me from the auction. Can't you even keep score correctly?" So South played the hand at three diamonds, making seven, and, of course, lost the rubber on the next deal.

Had South corrected his bid to three hearts, there would have been no penalty under the laws, and North-South might have reached a slam and made it. When North tried to explain this to his partner, South replied: "Well, I've already told you three times I thought I was making a game bid because I thought we had 40 on. Besides, I wouldn't dream of rebidding my hearts with a four-card suit!"

Aside from what occurred, the hand is a curiosity in another respect: As the cards lie, North-South could have made a grand slam in spades, hearts, diamonds, clubs or notrump!

Family Circus • Bill Keane

