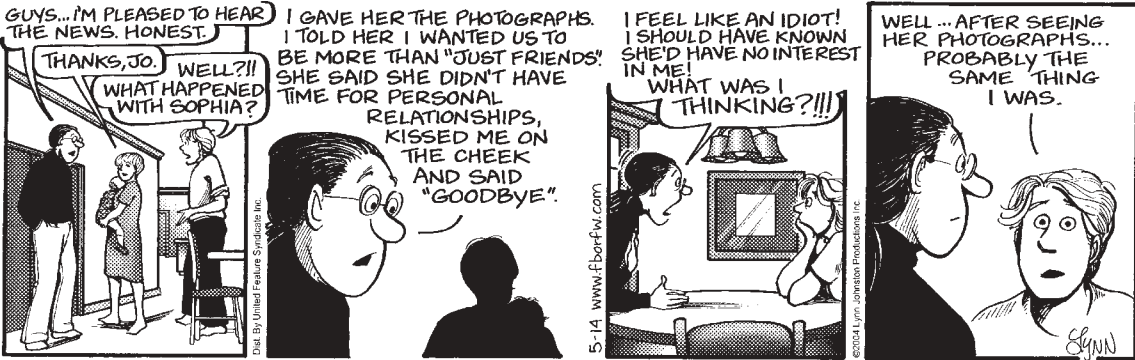


For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



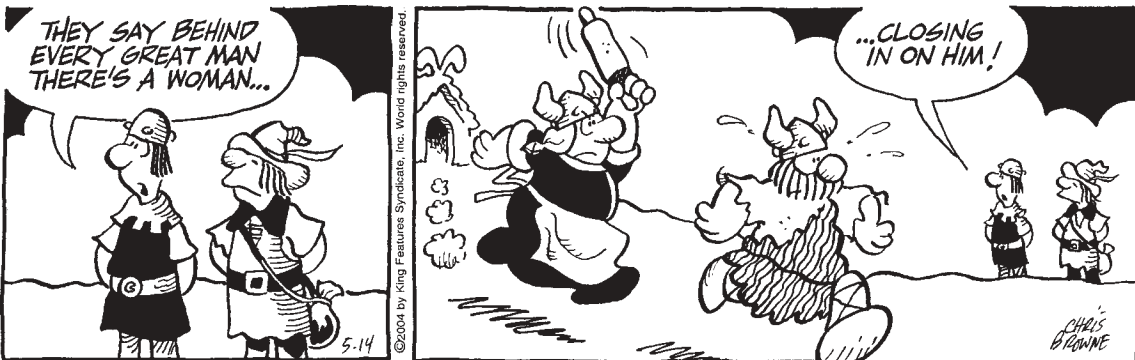
Tod The Dinosaur • PR Condron



Garfield • Jim Davis



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



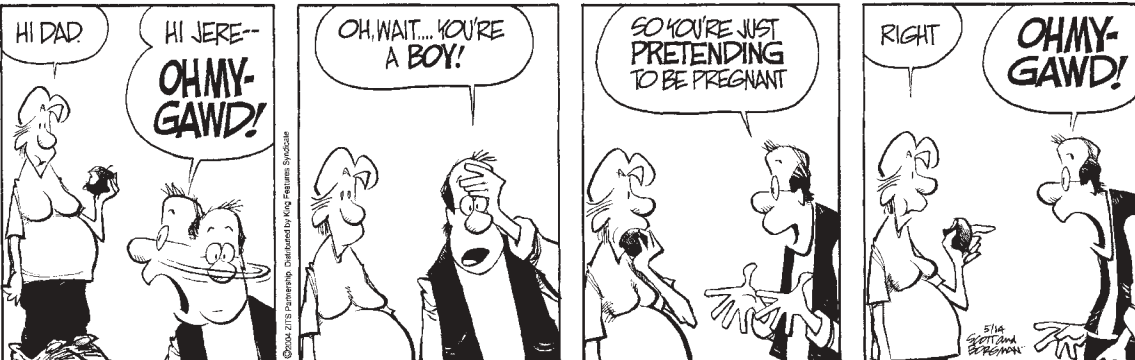
Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

NRW AUZGWONWZ NRBXERN
 RW'J FABZW VUJTK BO
 NRW NWFN, VZN RW WOJWJ
 XG OUQTQOE QN.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: A NONUNION LAUNDRY WORKER WAS HEARD TO SAY, "LET'S IRON WHILE THE STRIKE IS HOT!"
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals R

QC FBHWBOW FXAAWFFCXTTK
 RUQTF U AUV, Q FXGGBFW
 RW HUK VW ABOFQJWZWJ
 U NUSQ HWWNWZ.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE CARPENTER THOUGHT HE'D SCORE BADLY ON THE TEST, BUT HE ENDED UP NAILING IT.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals S

Crossword

ACROSS
 1 The whole enchilada
 4 "Beetle Bailey"
 8 Trailing the pack
 12 Court
 13 Grand
 14 Subject of Weird Al Yankovic's "The White Stuff"
 15 "Lassie" actress June
 17 Minimal change
 18 Recognized
 19 Emulate Jamie Sale
 20 Hay machine
 22 Bear lair
 24 Out of the storm
 25 New Jersey city
 29 Portion of an ode title
 30 UCLA athlete
 31 Weeding tool
 32 Most irascible
 34 Agents, for short
 35 Leak slowly
 36 Bottom of the heap
 37 Corresponds
 40 He got the point across to his son
 41 End of the line?
 42 Tie
 46 Tom Joad, e.g.
 47 Enthusiastic, plus
 48 Bill's partner
 49 Saucy
 50 Teaspoonful, often
 51 Filmmaker Burns
 16 Dandling site
 19 Cinematographer Nykvist
 20 Crazy
 21 Moises of baseball
 22 Charitable undertaker
 23 Persisting
 25 Leader, jocularly
 26 Sleuth
 27 "My bad"
 28 Egg container
 30 Resumes
 33 Sentimental pendant
 34 Snake eyes or boxcars
 36 Golfer's choice
 37 Buy stuff
 38 Servitude symbol
 39 Film —
 40 New Mexico art colony
 42 Papa
 43 Self-esteem
 44 Miler Sebastian
 45 "— Tiki"

Solution time: 25 mins.
 SHIP LAP FEEL
 TOOL AGE INGA
 ANTI BOA AVOW
 BEAGLE BONE
 HELLO DOLLY
 SLATE ADD OOO
 WINS SPY SPAN
 ALT GEE AMEND
 BYE BYE LOVE
 LUMP SEAWAY
 TROT AHA RARE
 WEPT GAG EVIL
 ODES EYE DEAL

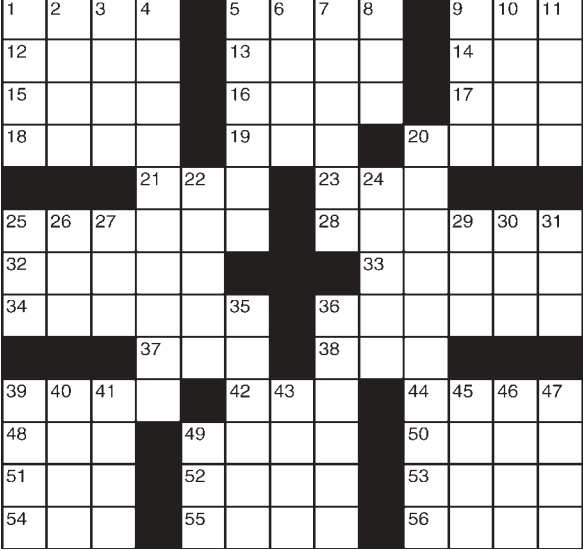
Yesterday's answer 5-14
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
 12 13 14
 15 16 17
 18 19
 20 21 22 23
 24 25 26 27 28
 29 30 31
 32 33 34
 35 36
 37 38 39 40
 41 42 43 44 45
 46 47 48
 49 50 51



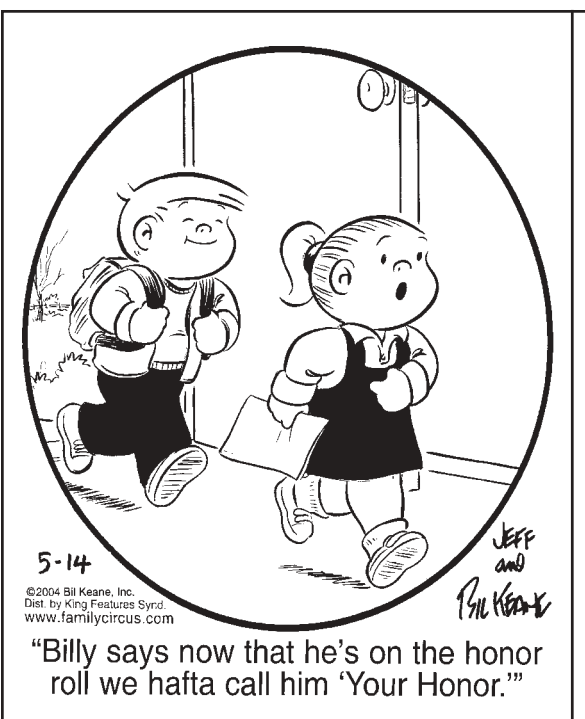
ACROSS
 1 Principles
 5 Pointed projection
 9 La-la lead-in
 12 Commandment starter
 13 Oppositionist
 14 Pub
 15 Potable
 16 Barber-shop item
 17 Period
 18 Curry or Conway
 19 "Bonanza" son
 19 "Please explain"
 20 Boutique
 21 "Evita" role
 23 Perfume-label word
 25 Scopes trial lawyer
 28 Go ashore
 32 On the other hand
 33 Progeny
 34 One of the group
 36 Maneuver for advantage
 37 Socket contents
 38 "— Town"
 39 Go aloft
 42 Newton flavor
 44 Unsure
 48 "Cabaret" lyricist
 49 Blueprint addition
 50 Entreaty
 51 Slithery swimmer
 52 Quondam
 53 Sea bird
 54 Go blue?
 55 Sport
 56 Found-ered
 3 Mid-May honorees
 4 One with lots of Time on his hands?
 5 Kind of nut
 6 Golden Rule word
 7 Packed away
 8 "Great Expectations" lad
 9 Inauguration
 10 Hodge-podge
 11 Sisal, for example
 20 Numerals in chemical formulas, e.g.
 22 Sweet-heart
 24 "Wheel of Fortune" buys
 25 Water barrier
 26 Improve in the bottle
 27 Aries
 29 Seek information
 30 Wish otherwise
 31 Crucial
 35 Free from impurities
 36 One on the run?
 39 Burpee buy
 40 Act the robot
 41 Competent
 43 Erstwhile Peruvian
 45 Dog bane
 46 Terrarium plant
 47 American, to a Brit
 49 Knock ('em) dead

Solution time: 27 mins.
 ALL OTTO LAST
 WOO THOU OREO
 LOCKHART CENT
 KNEW SKATE
 BALER CAVE
 ALEE PATERSON
 TOA BRUIN HOE
 SURLIEST REPS
 OZE WORST
 SYNC S TELL
 HOOK DEAD LOGK
 OKIE AGOG COO
 PERT DOSE KEN

Yesterday's answer 5-15
 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 54 55 56



Family Circus • Bill Keane



Bridge

Bidding Quiz

You have the following hand:
 [S] K94 [H] Q82 [D] A85 [C] KQJ6
 What would you respond if partner opened the bidding with:
 1. One diamond.
 2. One spade.
 3. One notrump (16-18 points).
 4. Two notrump (22-24 points).
 * * *

1. Two notrump. This is by far the best way to indicate both your balanced distribution and point count. Although your heart stopper is tenuous, two notrump is nonetheless the standout response because it describes your hand perfectly with one stroke of the brush.
 2. Two clubs. Here, with game in spades a distinct possibility, you should reject two notrump, despite its accurate description of your distribution and high-card values. The distinction between this case and the previous one is narrow, but nevertheless real. The difference is that this time your partner has opened the bidding in a major suit rather than a minor.

Major-suit games are much preferred to notrump games when both are viable, so it is best to leave as much space as possible by making the temporizing response of two clubs.

3. Four notrump. This is not Blackwood; it merely invites partner to bid a slam if he has maximum values for his opening notrump bid. If partner has 18 points, he will bid six notrump knowing your raise to four notrump shows 15 or 16 points. If he has 16 points, he will pass, while if he has 17 points, he can bid five notrump and leave the final decision to you.

4. Seven notrump or four clubs. If you play a range of 22 to 24 high-card points for a two-notrump opening and partner can always be trusted to be in that range, you can bid seven notrump straightaway, since your combined point count can't be less than the 37 points required for a grand slam. But if you play a slightly lower range of 21 to 22 points for an opening two notrump, as many now do, your best bet is four clubs — Gerber, asking for aces — since you could be off an ace. If partner shows three aces by responding with four notrump, you should bid seven notrump next.

Note that a direct four-notrump response to two notrump would not be Blackwood, but would instead ask partner to evaluate his point count for the purpose of reaching a small slam, as in the previous problem. One of partner's options in that case would be to pass — certainly the last thing you would want him to do.

Tomorrow: More to it than meets the eye.
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South dealer.
 North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
 ♠ A Q 9 4
 ♥ A 10 9 2
 ♦ 9 7 4 3
 ♣ Q
WEST
 ♠ J 10 8 7 5 2
 ♥ 5
 ♦ A K J 6
 ♣ J 8
EAST
 ♠ K
 ♥ 7 6 3
 ♦ 8 5
 ♣ 10 9 7 6 5 3 2
SOUTH
 ♠ 6 3
 ♥ K Q J 8 4
 ♦ Q 10 2
 ♣ A K 4
 The bidding:
 South 1♥
 West 1♠
 North 3♥
 East Pass
 Opening lead — king of diamonds.

More to It Than Meets the Eye

If you're a careful cardplayer, you take nothing for granted. For example, take this case where South is in four hearts and West leads the K-A-6 of diamonds. East ruffs the third diamond and returns a club to dummy's queen.

Superficially, there seems to be nothing to the rest of the play. Declarer draws trumps and sooner or later takes a spade finesse. Surprisingly, the queen loses to East's king, and South goes down one.

Bad luck, you could say, but the fact is that declarer had a sure thing and failed to cash in on it. Granted that West was much more likely to have the king of spades for his spade overall than East, South should not have relied solely on that probability.

After winning the club at trick four, declarer should cash the A-K of trumps and A-K of clubs, discarding two spades from dummy. He then runs all his remaining trumps, producing this position as the last trump is led:

North [S] A Q [D] 9 — West [S] J 10 [D] J
 East [S] K [C] 10 9 — South [S] 6 3 [H] 8

At this point, South knows that West's last three cards consist of the jack of diamonds and two spades, which might or might not include the king. When the heart eight is led, West is forced to discard a spade, whereupon South discards dummy's nine of diamonds.

When South next leads the spade three and West produces the jack, it becomes folly to attempt a finesse, because West's last card is known to be the jack of diamonds. Declarer therefore goes up with the ace, catches East's king and so makes the contract.

