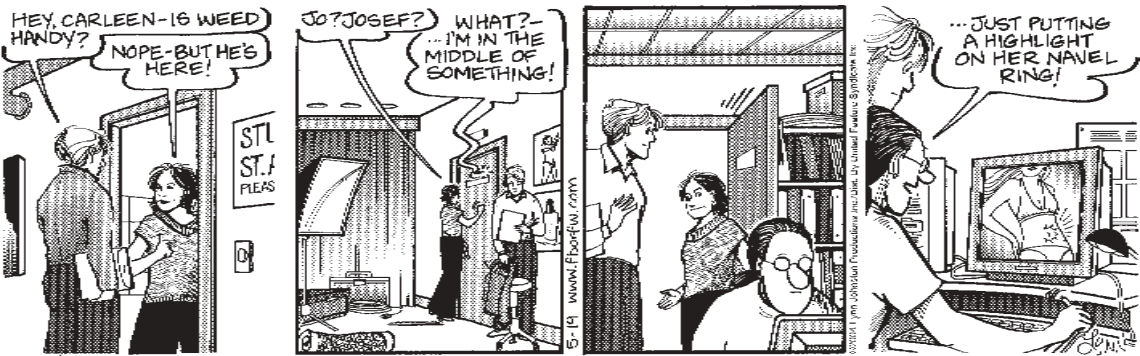
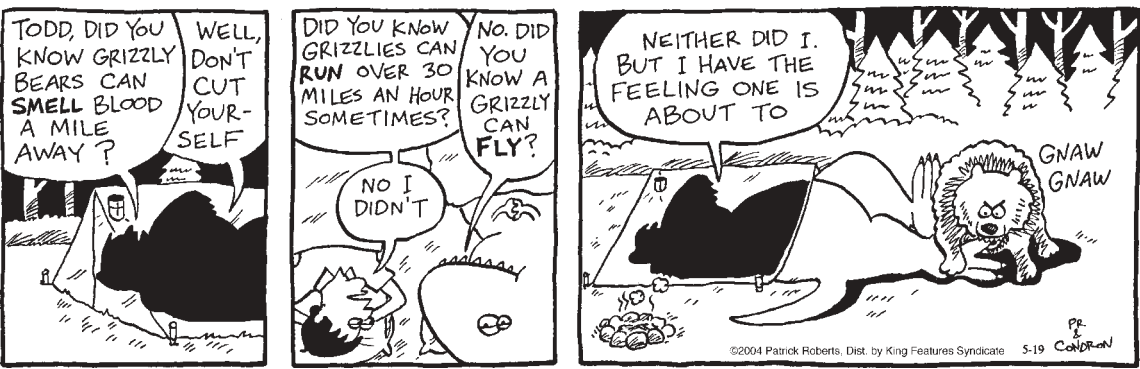


For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Tod The Dinosaur • PR Condron



Garfield • Jim Davis



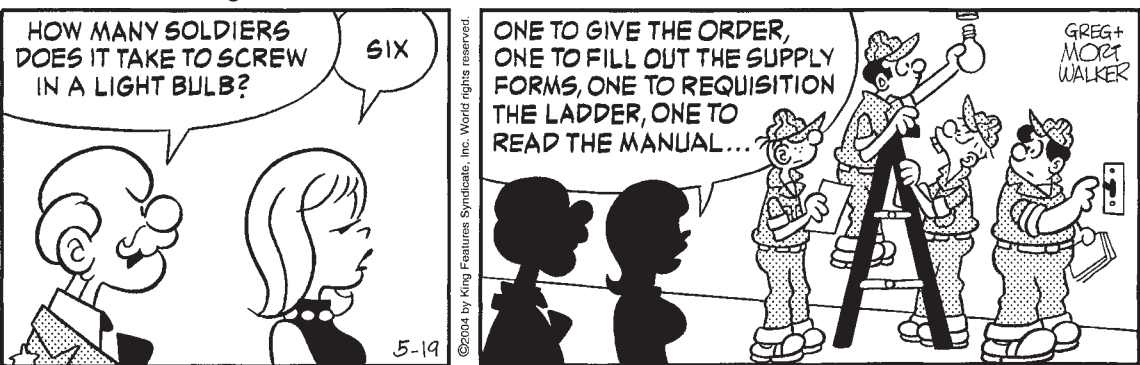
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

Y I V G O O K T D S H Y W M K S H C V X C F F
U Z Y K G Z O O Q H V S W D G M A J Z V V C H Z B J L Z H Q X J A
O G G E T O R G H R S G U Q H Z V W S C B H Z Y Y M K X
U Z Y K G H K Q G Z O' U Z H E I O. M S P X. L X V Z P X F K S P
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A TIGHT NECKLACE V X J Q C B H J X W.
IS HELPING A PERSON IN LIFE, IS THAT A YESTERDAY'S CRYPTOQUIP: I GUESS TABLOID
PRACTICAL CHOKER? WRITERS SHOULD BE SEEN AS PEOPLE WHO
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals W WRITE OTHERS' WRONGS.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals N

Crossword

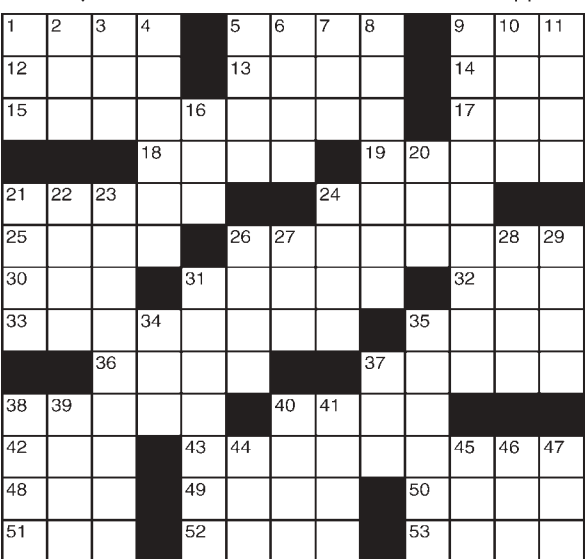
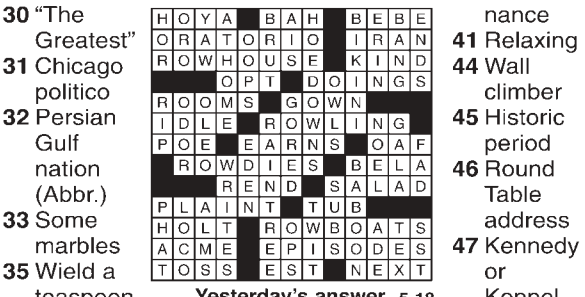
ACROSS
1 Fly high
5 World according to Arp?
9 Maple extract
12 Jason's ship
13 Beige
14 Dead heat
15 Wrinkles near the eyes
17 Com-motion
18 Lawyer (Abbr.)
19 "The Old — Bucket"
21 Mix
24 Basilia section
25 Cincinnati team
26 Shofar
30 "The Greatest"
31 Chicago politico
32 Persian Gulf nation (Abbr.)
33 Some marbles
35 Wield a teaspoon

DOWN
1 Pouch
2 Bobby of hockey
3 Past
4 Mountain ash trees
5 Skilled
6 — -deucy
7 Dr. — of rap
8 Final exam?
9 Police surveil-lances
10 Helper
11 Lowly worker
16 Normal (Abbr.)
20 Blond shade
21 Bric-a —
22 Actress Rochon

36 Rem-brandt's supply
37 Bungle
38 Bouquet — (herb mixture)
40 Surround
42 Actor
43 Chinese soup
48 Charlie's endless ride, in song
49 Malefi-cence
50 One of HOMES
51 Scale member
52 3-Down, to Burns
53 Play area

23 Opinion piece
24 Iowa city
26 Shafts of light
27 Milwau-kee product
28 Incur-sion
29 "Quo Vadis?" role
31 "Lakme" composer
34 Sermon subject
35 Mr. Poitier
37 — Doubtfire
38 Lapi-dary's array
39 Counter-tenor
40 Cheshire counte-nance
41 Relaxing
44 Wall climber
45 Historic period
46 Round Table address
47 Kennedy or Koppel

Solution time: 21 mins.



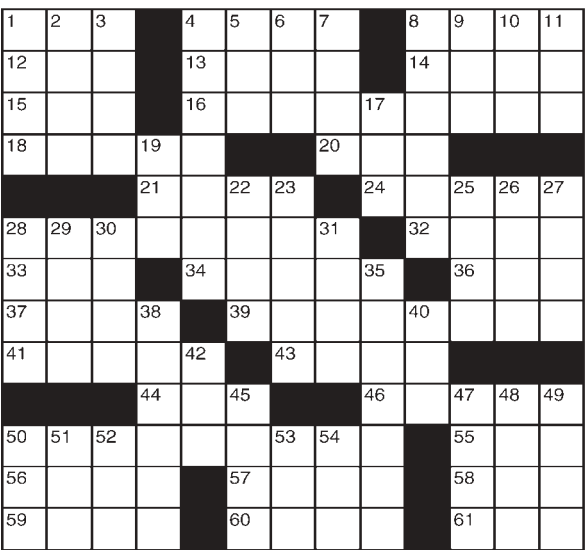
ACROSS
1 Under-wear with underwire
4 Snead and Spade
8 Dag-wood's neighbor
12 Pouter's protrusion
13 Monad
14 Met melody
15 Expert
16 Manu-script section
18 Pugilist
20 Clerical title (Abbr.)
21 Mexican money
24 Pinochie combina-tions
28 Lover
32 Bygone times
33 Venusian vessel?
34 "— apple every day, ..."
36 Prompt
37 Collapse
39 Example
41 Untethers

DOWN
1 Spill the beans
2 Puerto —
3 Top
4 Highest in degree
5 Literary collection
6 Russian space station
7 Luminary
8 Invisible movie rabbit
9 Mound stat
10 Sartorial woe
11 Scrooge's cry
17 Prized pos-ses-sion
19 Ecol. watchdog org.
22 Daytime TV offering
23 — the elbows (shabbily dressed)

43 Follow closely
44 Petrol
46 Prancer's yokemate
50 It'll bring you down to earth
55 Before
56 With, en francais
57 Leave out
58 Presently
59 Stand up to
60 Duel tool
61 Pompous one

25 Sites
26 Pharma-copoeia subject
27 Appear
28 Magic dragon of song
29 Some-where out there
30 Charac-terization
31 Avis adjective
35 Unsophis-tication
38 Dead give-away?
40 Mid-Vth-century date
42 Tear holder
45 Pump, e.g.
47 Lawless portrayal
48 Piccadilly statue
49 Updated informa-tion
50 Beatnik's home
51 Rd.
52 Arbitr
53 Arbitr
54 Father's Day gift

Solution time: 21 mins.



Family Circus • Bill Keane



Bridge

North dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
♦ Q 10
♥ K 8 5
♦ K 10
♣ K Q J 9 6 4

WEST
♦ 6 5 3
♥ Q 4 3 2
♦ 9 7 5 2
♣ 10 5

EAST
♦ A 4
♥ J 10 7 6
♦ A Q J 3
♣ 8 7 2

SOUTH
♦ K J 9 8 7 2
♥ A 9
♦ 8 6 4
♣ A 3

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

Opening lead — two of diamonds.

The Philosophy of Defense

In the normal course of events, a player will be declarer in one deal out of four, dummy one deal out of four, and a defender two deals out of four — which means that a player is on defense twice as often as he is on offense. Despite this obvious fact of bridge life, the role of a defender does not receive anywhere near the attention it deserves. To defend well is surely as important as playing well as declarer.

Consider this deal, which illustrates the kind of challenge a defender sometimes meets. South is in four spades, and West leads a diamond. East wins dummy's king with the ace and must decide what to do next.

His proper return is the four of trumps, after which declarer must go down; with any other return, declarer gets home safely. Moreover, East should work out that the low trump return at trick two offers virtually the only chance to defeat the contract.

East should reason that West's deuce-of-diamonds lead, presumably fourth-best, marks declarer with three diamonds, all losers. East also knows from the bidding that South must have both missing aces as well as the king of spades. So it would be futile for him to play the ace and another spade to try to stop a diamond ruff in dummy. Indeed, declarer would make the rest of the tricks against that defense.

Only by maintaining control over trumps can East hope to stop the contract. He can't be absolutely certain that the low spade return will do the job, since that depends on how the unseen cards are divided. But he can determine that the low trump return offers the only realistic chance to score three diamond tricks and put the contract down one.

Tomorrow: Plan ahead.

North dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♦ A K
♥ A 6
♦ K Q J 8 5 3
♣ K Q 4

WEST
♦ 8 5
♥ Q 10 2
♦ A 10 9 4
♣ 9 8 5 3

EAST
♦ Q 10 7 6 4 2
♥ 9 7 5 4 3
♦ —
♣ J 6

SOUTH
♦ J 9 3
♥ K J 8
♦ 7 6 2
♣ A 10 7 2

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

* artificial, forcing
Opening lead — three of clubs.

Plan Ahead

It is natural to relax when a contract seems easy to make, but this is not always the right thing to do, as declarer sometimes learns to his sorrow. All too often a relaxed declarer fails to consider that an unexpected development might upset the apple cart.

Consider this deal where West led a club against six notrump. Declarer played low from dummy and won East's jack with the ace. There seemed to be nothing to the play; it appeared to South that the only trick he'd lose would be the diamond ace.

But when he led a diamond to the jack and East showed out, South found himself in deep trouble. West still had the A-10-9 of diamonds, and declarer could not get to his hand twice to lead toward the K-Q.

He could enter his hand once by leading a heart to the king, but since West would play the nine on the next diamond lead to dummy, the suit could not be brought home without losing two diamond tricks to West. So South went down one.

Declarer lost the slam on his very first play when he followed low from dummy on the club lead. This was a serious error even though it assured him of four club tricks instead of three.

South should have recognized at the outset that only a 4-0 diamond division could jeopardize the contract. Gaining a club trick was of no consequence whatever. All that mattered was the diamond division.

Declarer should start by assuming a 4-0 split. If East has all four diamonds, the contract is virtually hopeless. But if West has them, it is essential to win the first club in dummy.

South next leads the king of diamonds. Whether or not West takes the ace at this stage makes no difference. Declarer still has two entries to his hand to lead twice toward dummy and thus assure five diamond tricks and the slam.

Tomorrow: Eliminating the luck factor.
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