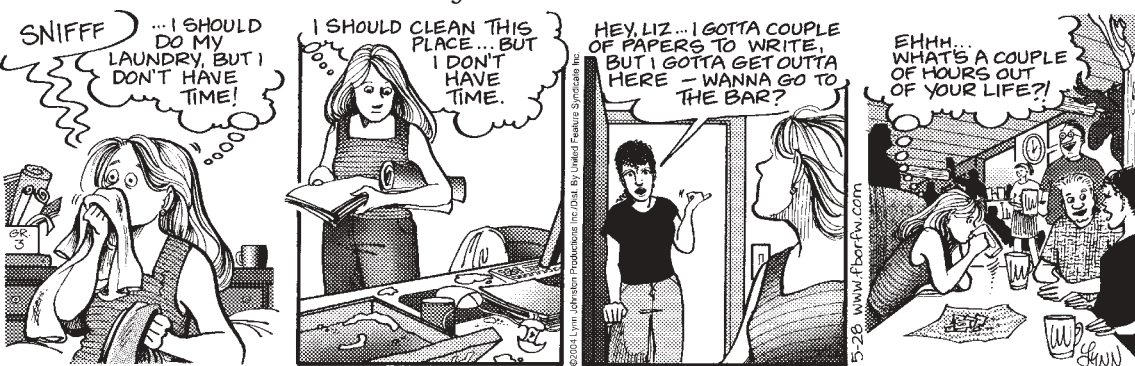


For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



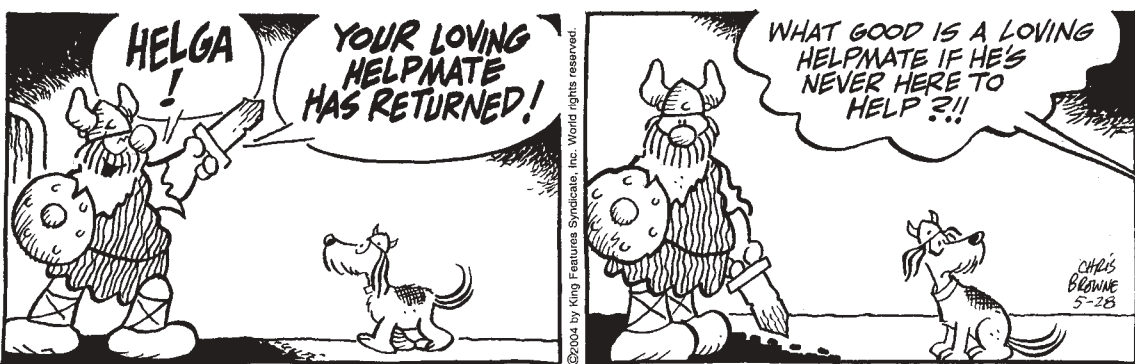
For The Dinosaur • PR Condon



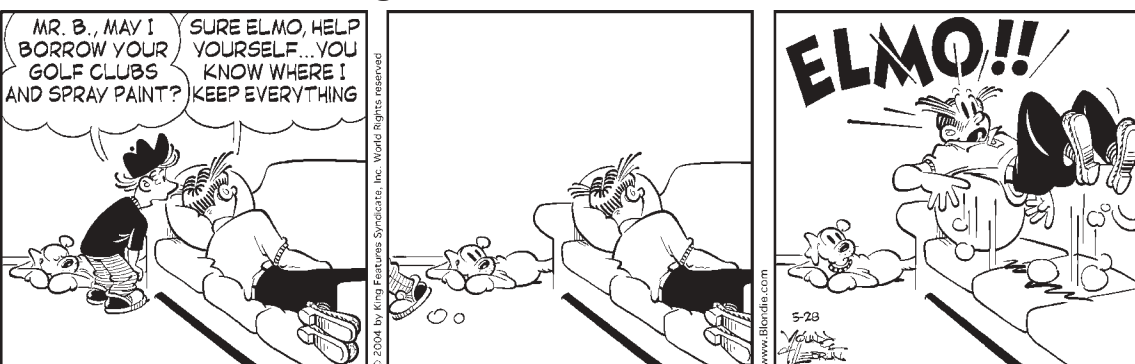
Garfield • Jim Davis



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



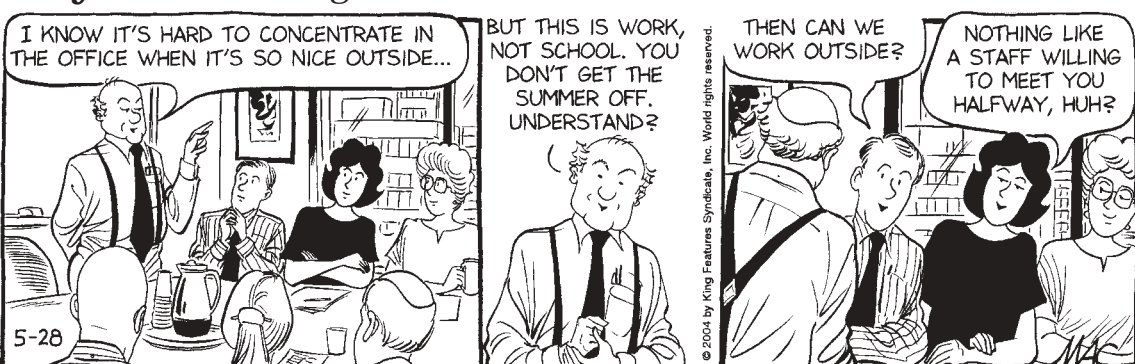
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

SW KY KEEIPYHG'V WSPQ DM YAZ JDCYDZJ, VNTQX
 KVVHQDZHX WIP K NMZ ZCLZVY YABY
 RPITB BLIEIRPKBL, NITZX VZGYBDM KBGJ BMX LTKJ
 ELKE DH K ZKN VLIEE?
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: YOU DO REALIZE MY FATHER IS TRULY NUTS. HE NAMED ME HAZEL AND MY BROTHER FILBERT.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals O

ABX B ADLLDZ ANTG?
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF AN ATTORNEY'S FIRM ASSEMBLED FOR A GROUP PHOTOGRAPH, WOULD THAT BE A LAW SHOOT?
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals H

Crossword

ACROSS
 1 Tether
 6 Crafty
 9 Shell game need
 12 Bring good news to
 13 Place-kicker's pride
 14 He loves ewe
 15 Capital of Jordan
 16 "Charlotte's Web" author
 18 Brings about
 20 Portent
 21 Every last crumb
 23 Compass pt.
 24 Get on
 25 Medley component
 27 Having a cupola
 29 Satisfy
 31 Web-footed shorebird
 35 Harder to come by

DOWN
 1 Meadow
 2 Freddy's street
 3 "Winnie-the-Pooh" author
 4 Ollie's pal
 5 Therefore
 6 Better than mono
 7 High-arc shots
 8 Ever-green
 9 Band-leader Louis
 10 Trencherman
 11 Reword, maybe
 17 Jinx

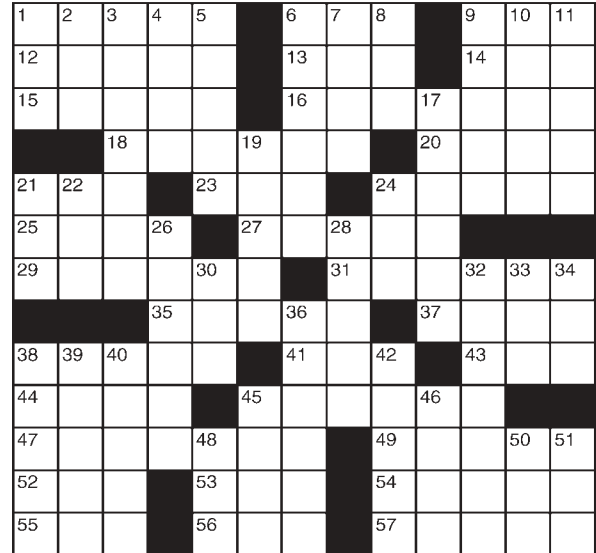
37 Scandinavian city
38 Auto style
41 Indistinct
43 Back talk
44 Plumber's concern
45 Countable
47 "War of the Worlds" author
52 Take top honors
53 Bill's partner
54 "America's Most Wanted" subject
55 Whatever number
56 Cozy hideaway

19 Hypnotized
21 Cleo's slayer
22 Chatroom chortling
24 Ms. Sills, to friends
26 Word with "band" or "sale"
28 California county
30 — Remo
32 "The Chronicles of Narnia" author
33 Inventor Whitney
34 Surpass
36 Man of ideas?
38 Unstressed vowel
39 Illinois city
40 Soothingly soft
42 Chop finely
45 Ice sheet
46 Seagull's kin
48 Digital readout, maybe
50 Flightless bird
51 Shelter

Solution time: 25 mins.

FAST REF ASEA
 INCH ALL SUDS
 STOA IKE SNIP
 HITMAN WRISTS
 ELF ASH
 JOBS ADOPTING
 AOL LEV NEO
 WHITELIE MEET
 ZEE RHO
 LIZARD CITRUS
 IRASAMA LILIT
 MARE WAS EDNA
 ENDS NET YEARE

Yesterday's answer 5-28



ACROSS
 1 Circular windows
 6 Mountain nymph
 11 Warrior woman
 12 Administer
 14 Danish explorer
 15 Portuguese explorer
 16 Last (Abbr.)
 17 Mayberry leather-neck
 19 Understood
 20 Rain cats and dogs
 22 Pitch
 23 Excellent
 24 Razor sharpener
 26 Go over again and again?
 28 Spigot
 30 "— good deed"
 31 Muslim woman's veil
 35 Cut into cubes
 39 Iowa city

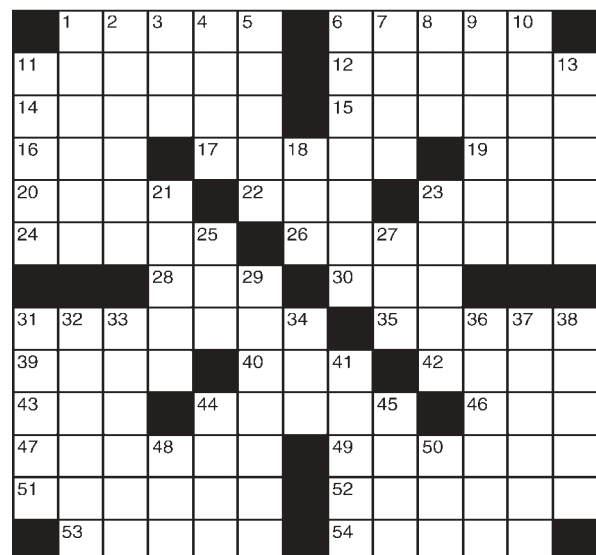
40 Edge
42 Composer Schifrin
43 Oppositionist
44 Comedian Leary
46 Yr. opener
47 English explorer
49 Spanish explorer
51 Absentee
52 Part of a rack
53 Measles
54 Trusty horse

DOWN
 2 Habitat for Humanity proponent
 3 9mm sub-machine gun
 4 Protracted
 5 Gold mold
 6 Sent for
 7 Back
 8 Chang's closest relative
 9 Slowly, to Stokowski
 10 Satan's minions
 11 Touches
 13 Per-unit costs
 18 Ruin the veneer

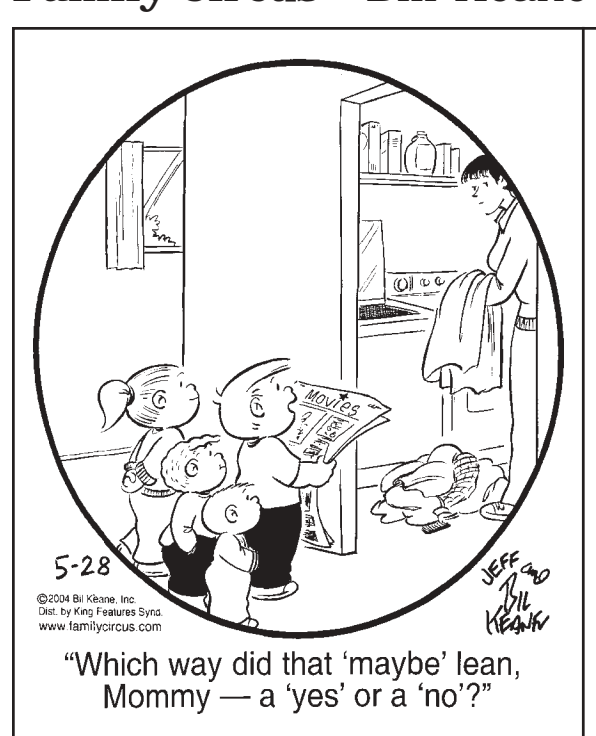
Solution time: 27 mins.

LEASH SLY PEA
 ELATE TOE RAM
 AMMAN EBWHITE
 INCURS OMEN
 ALL ENE BOARD
 SONG DOMED
 PLEASE AVOCET
 RARER OSLO
 SEDAN DIM LIP
 CLOG FINITE
 HGWELLS NEWEL
 WIN COO CRIME
 ANY DEN ENSUE

Yesterday's answer 5-29



Family Circus • Bill Keane



Bridge

Bidding Quiz

You are South, neither side vulnerable, and the bidding has gone:
 North East South West
 1 [D] Pass 1 [H] Pass
 2 [H] Pass ?
 What would you bid now with each of the following four hands?
 1. [S] AJ9 [H] QJ95 [D] Q7 [C] K984
 2. [S] K54 [H] KJ872 [D] 95 [C] Q63
 3. [S] 10 [H] K97632 [D] Q83 [C] A95
 4. [S] J8 [H] KJ73 [D] K962 [C] KQ7

1. Three notrump. Since you have an opening bid facing an opening bid, there is no question about reaching game. Only two game contracts are feasible — three notrump or four hearts — and the best way of reaching for one of them is by jumping to three notrump. It would be wrong to bid only two notrump, which partner might pass.
 If North's heart raise was based on four trumps, he will almost surely remove three notrump to four hearts, but if he raised with only three trumps, which is possible, he will no doubt pass and leave you in a contract you're a heavy favorite to make.
 2. Pass. Partner has 13 to 15 points, part of which might be distributional in value. You are therefore unlikely to miss a game by passing, and will often wind up with a plus score instead of the minus that might result from bidding, say, three hearts. It is true that you have a king more than you might have had for your one-heart response, but that is not a good-enough reason for continuing to bid when game is unlikely.
 3. Four hearts. The strength of this hand lies as much in its distribution as in its high cards. Granting that you have only nine high-card points, the fact is that you have lots of tricks — and that's the bottom line in bridge.
 Another way of assessing your prospects is to ask yourself: "Am I likely to lose four tricks with this hand after partner opens one diamond and raises hearts?" If the answer is no, as it ought to be, you should go directly to game.
 4. Three clubs. You are on the verge of a game but can't tell whether to play in hearts, diamonds or notrump. Three diamonds (also forcing) might seem a more truthful bid, but it is not as helpful as three clubs in reaching for a notrump game — if that is the right contract. Partner might have spade strength, club weakness and only three hearts and be unable to bid three notrump over three diamonds.

West dealer.
 North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
 ♠ Q 10
 ♥ 10 9 8 4
 ♦ A K Q
 ♣ 9 6 5 3
WEST
 ♠ K 9 3
 ♥ Q 5 2
 ♦ 8 7 2
 ♣ Q J 10 8
EAST
 ♠ 8 7 6 5 4 2
 ♥ —
 ♦ J 6 5 3
 ♣ 7 4 2
SOUTH
 ♠ A J
 ♥ A K J 7 6 3
 ♦ 10 9 4
 ♣ A K

The bidding:
 West Pass North Pass East Pass South Pass
 Pass 3♥ Pass 4♦
 Pass 4♦ Pass 6♥
 Opening lead — queen of clubs.

Death of a Monarch

All bridge players at times experience a good-luck streak where everything — good cards, favorable distribution — goes right. However, there are also times when everything goes wrong. It is during these unlucky streaks that the mettle of a player is tested. Unfortunately, some players devote so much time to feeling sorry for themselves that they make no effort to overcome their bad luck.
 For example, consider what happened to South in this deal. He was in six hearts and would have been home free had the trumps divided 2-1, or even 3-0 with East holding the three trumps. Furthermore, even if West had all the trumps, there was at least an even chance that a spade finesse would succeed. All these chances combined made South a huge favorite to make the slam.
 He won the queen-of-clubs lead with the ace and got his first bad news when he cashed the ace of trumps and East showed out. Having suffered a few similar misfortunes earlier, South had expected this development. And when, shortly afterward, he attempted the spade finesse and the queen lost to the king, he sadly finished down one.
 However, South would have made the slam had he concentrated on the task at hand instead of allowing himself to wallow in his earlier misfortunes. After getting the bad news in trumps, he should have tried for an elimination play.
 This could have been done by cashing the king of trumps and king of clubs, followed by a diamond to the queen and a club ruff. The A-K of diamonds, another club ruff and a trump lead would then put West on lead in a hopeless position. With only spades remaining in his hand, he would be forced to lead one and present South with his 12th trick.
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