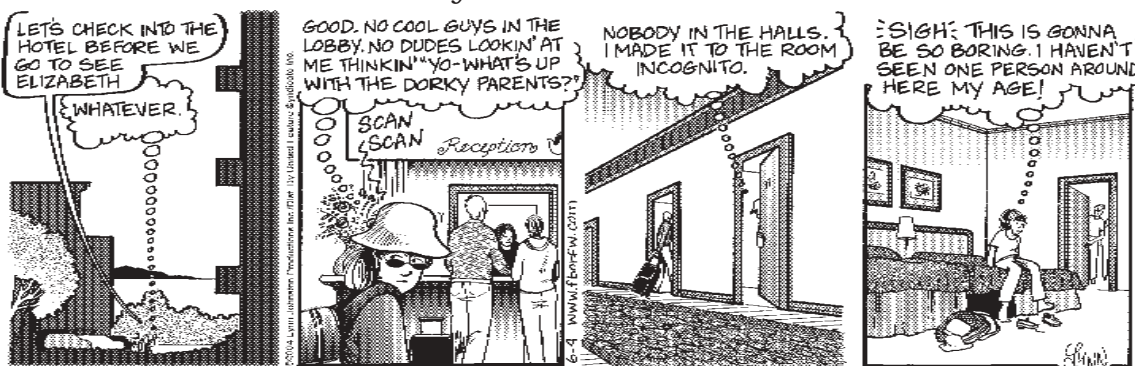
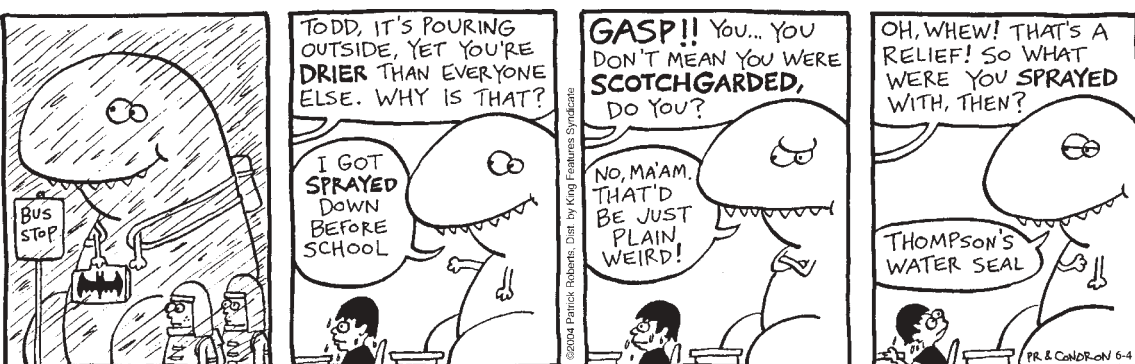


For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Tod The Dinosaur • PR Condon



Garfield • Jim Davis



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



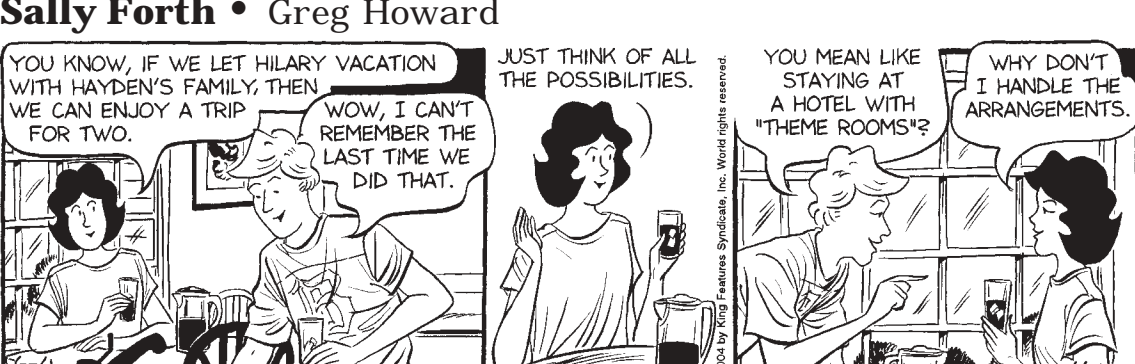
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

K H F E B H O H Z B V T | K E Q F V K G A V M Z P O D F V C
J B V T F L V B R M H O J H F Y K, H | A D D Z C A D S F E K G N C G Y,
K M D D T K B A T M W H Y Q V E L O O | K F M D S N Y A V M C N N V Y
W B L C M R R O B W L Z B C.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IN A LIMBO CONTEST, ONE MIGHT CANDIDLY SAY THAT THE BAR IS ALWAYS BEING LOWERED.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals B

"VCQF DE QP V Y V G."
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE I LIKE TO DETONATE BUILDINGS, I SUPPOSE YOU MIGHT CALL ME A RUBBLEMAKER.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals L

Crossword

ACROSS
1 Cornfield comment
4 Tarzan's companion
8 Parlor piece
12 Exist
13 Algerian port
14 Apple equipment
15 Spinning toy
17 Engrave
18 Coating on copper
19 Under the weather
21 Type units
22 Kills
26 Answer bills
29 Ball-bearing item
30 Trawler need
31 Surrounded by
32 — Allen belt
33 Wahine's performance
34 Trench
35 Annoy
36 Pert

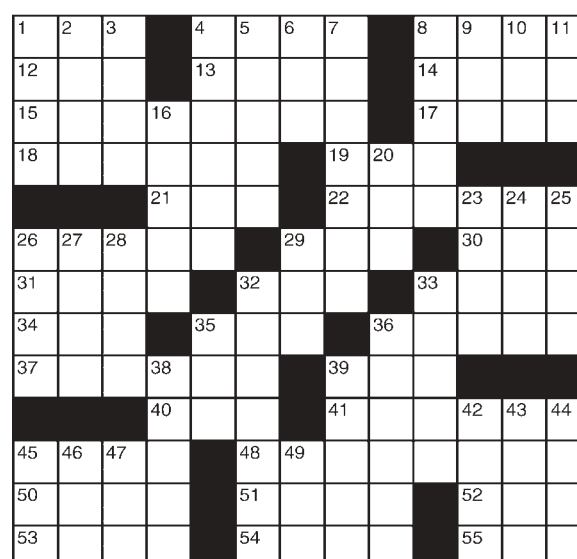
DOWN
37 Formality
39 Mongrel
40 Former Bush spokesman
41 Go up against
45 Satchmo's specialty
48 Lingerie buy
50 Bread spread
51 Borrower's burden
52 Augusta statistic
53 Cold one
54 Differently
55 George Smiley, e.g.

DOWN
1 Dog-patch's creator
2 Met melody
3 Took off
4 Jack's successor
5 Geometry finds
6 Dundee denial
7 Pep up
8 Refine
9 Cereal grain
10 Stern disciplinarian?
11 Barbecue residue
16 Ply
20 Brenda or Bruce
23 Responsibility
24 Erstwhile elvers
25 Command to Rover
26 Seance sounds
27 Send forth
28 Pocket bread
29 Levy
32 Form of transportation
33 Dwells (on) monotonously
35 Taper?
36 On one's back
38 "Sweeney Todd" prop
39 Arrives
42 "My bad"
43 Rebuff a masher
44 Bizarre (Var.)
45 Exemplar of patience
46 Kin of 53-Across
47 The mark of Zorro
49 Have a bug

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 6-4



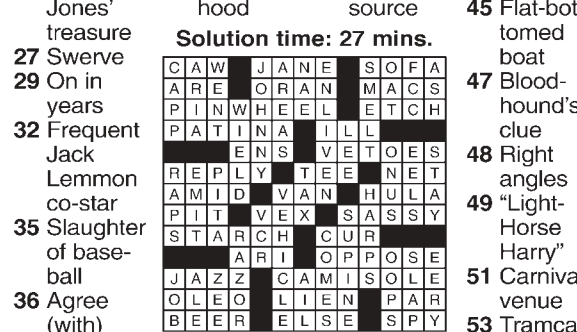
ACROSS
1 Voice actor Mel
6 Guppy troop
12 World-wide
13 Stir up
14 One side of the Urals
15 Annoy greatly
16 Options list
17 Amneris' slave girl
19 Seoul's land (Abbr.)
20 Bivouac structure
22 Miss Piggy, self-referentially
24 Indy Jones' treasure
27 Swerve
29 On in years
32 Frequent Jack Lemmon co-star
35 Slaughter of baseball
36 Agree (with)
37 Yank

DOWN
1 Risque
2 Forsaken
3 In the neighborhood
4 Short sleep
5 George Jefferson's business
6 Hour-glass stuff
7 Elite
8 All the rage
9 Completely
10 Christiania, today
11 Welsh emblem
12 Prized possession
18 List in detail
21 Seth's mom
23 Fiber source

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 6-5



ACROSS
1 Cornfield comment
4 Tarzan's companion
8 Parlor piece
12 Exist
13 Algerian port
14 Apple equipment
15 Spinning toy
17 Engrave
18 Coating on copper
19 Under the weather
21 Type units
22 Kills
26 Answer bills
29 Ball-bearing item
30 Trawler need
31 Surrounded by
32 — Allen belt
33 Wahine's performance
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Family Circus • Bill Keane



Bridge

Bidding Quiz

There are some bidding sequences that, for practical purposes, are regarded as impossible — that is, you cannot have a hand that fits the bid or bids you've made. In each of the following five cases, specify whether the last bid made by South is Possible or Impossible.

1. West North East South
1 [D] 2 [D] 3 [D] 4 [D]

2. South West North East
2 NT Pass 3 [H] Pass
6 [H]

3. West North East South
Pass 1 [S] 4 [H] 5 [S]

4. South West North East
1 NT Pass 2 [S] Pass
2 NT Pass 3 [S] Pass
3 NT

5. South West North East
1 [D] Pass Pass 1 [S]

Pass 3 [S] Pass 4 [S]

Pass 4 NT

1. Possible. In standard methods, the cuebid by North shows a huge hand with a probable void in diamonds. For the four-diamond bid, South might have a hand certain to produce a game and yet not be in a position to choose the best trump suit. For example, he might hold [S] J752 [H] J874 [D] 93 [C] A106. Rather than attempt to guess whether to bid spades or hearts, he should let North choose the trump suit by responding to the cuebid with a cuebid.

2. Impossible. By partnership agreement, a two-notrump opening indicates either 22 to 24 points or 21 to 22. It also shows a balanced hand containing no voids or singletons and not more than one doubleton. South should not punish partner for responding with three hearts by jumping to six, since North might have only three or four high-card points. The most South can do to encourage a slam is to make a cuebid — such as three spades, four clubs or four diamonds — to imply heart support and slam interest.

3. Possible. South might have a slam-going hand where his chief concern is the possible loss of two heart tricks. The five-spade bid asks North to continue bidding only if he has first- or second-round control of hearts. South could have [S] K9752 [H] 73 [D] A [C] AKJ94.

4. Impossible. The two-spade bid by North shows weakness and asks South to pass (which South should have done). The three-spade bid simply repeats the previous plea. South cannot continue to rebid the same values he showed when he opened with a notrump initially.

5. Impossible. North could have passed three spades since South's double raise, though invitational to game, was not a forcing bid. If North chooses to carry on to game — possibly with a marginal hand — South cannot then decide to change his spots and attempt to get to slam. Such a sequence of bids is illogical, since in effect South has put the partnership in a position where there is no way to play in four spades.

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

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

WEST
♠ 4
♥ K Q 9 5 4 2
♦ 8 4
♣ 9 5 3 2

EAST
♠ 10 9 8 5 2
♥ 10 6 3
♦ 9 5
♣ A J 8

SOUTH
♠ K Q J 7 3
♥ A 7
♦ A Q J 10 7 2
♣ —

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♣ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 4 ♣ Pass
4 ♥ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
7

Opening lead — king of hearts.

Handle With Care

When you're playing a grand slam, you should be willing to devote much more time and attention to the project than when you're playing, say, two diamonds, trying to make an overtrick.

You can't afford to be careless with grand slams. Every means of protecting and ensuring the contract should be investigated and pursued. It is not enough merely to adopt a promising line of play when there is an even better one available.

Take this hand where West led the king of hearts to declarer's ace. South saw that the contract was in serious danger from the start, but his prospects improved greatly when he cashed the Q-J of trumps and both opponents followed suit.

Indeed, the hand now appeared to be a cinch, since South could play three rounds of spades, discard a heart from dummy and then ruff his only apparent loser, a heart. But when he led a spade to the ace and another one back to the jack, West showed out, and South was in deep trouble. There was only one trump left in dummy, and he could not ruff both a heart and a spade with it, so he finished down one.

A little more thought might have enabled declarer to find the winning line of play. After the trumps turned out to be divided 2-2, South should have recognized that the only remaining danger was a 5-1 or 6-0 spade break.

He could have prepared for this possibility by first cashing the king of spades and then leading a spade to the ace. If both opponents followed suit, he could then claim the rest of the tricks. But if either opponent showed out of spades, he would have still another possibility to fall back on. He could lead the king of clubs from dummy and bank his hopes on East's having the ace. In the actual deal, this added safety measure would have brought home the contract.

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