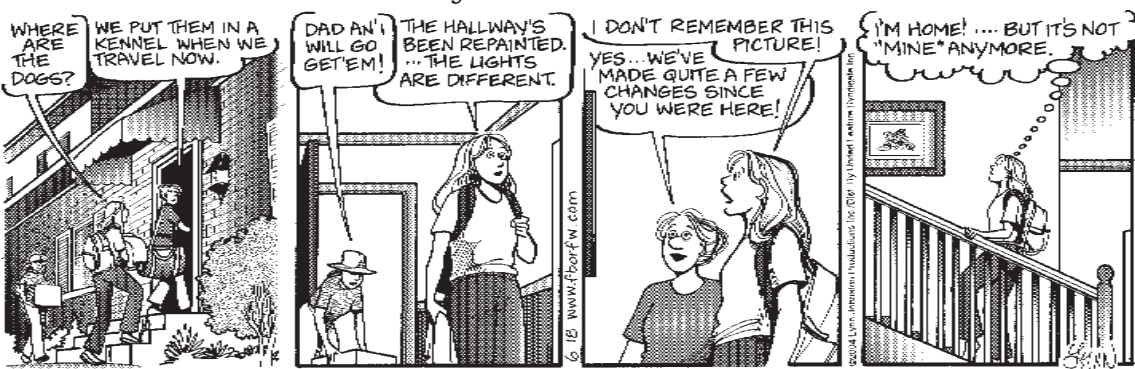
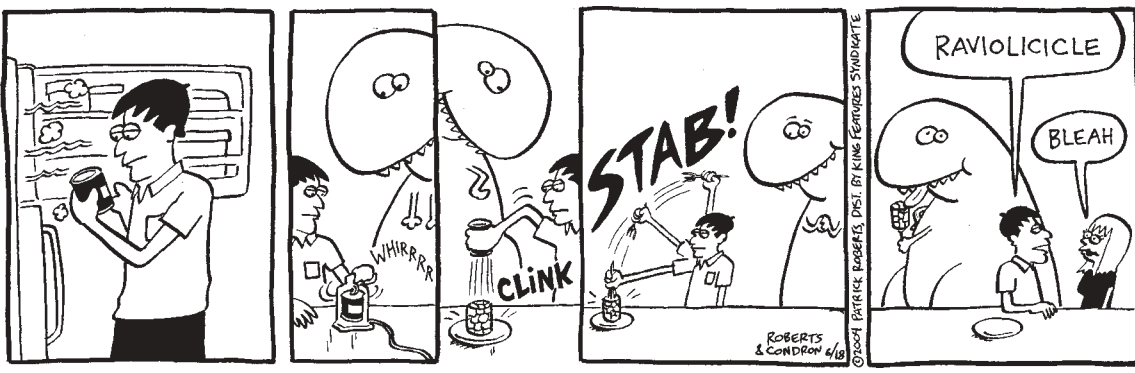


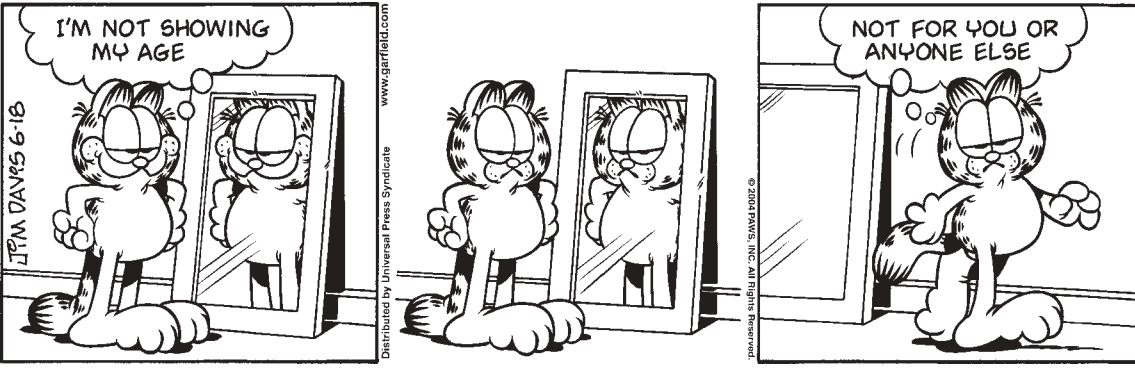
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Tod The Dinosaur • PR Condron



Garfield • Jim Davis



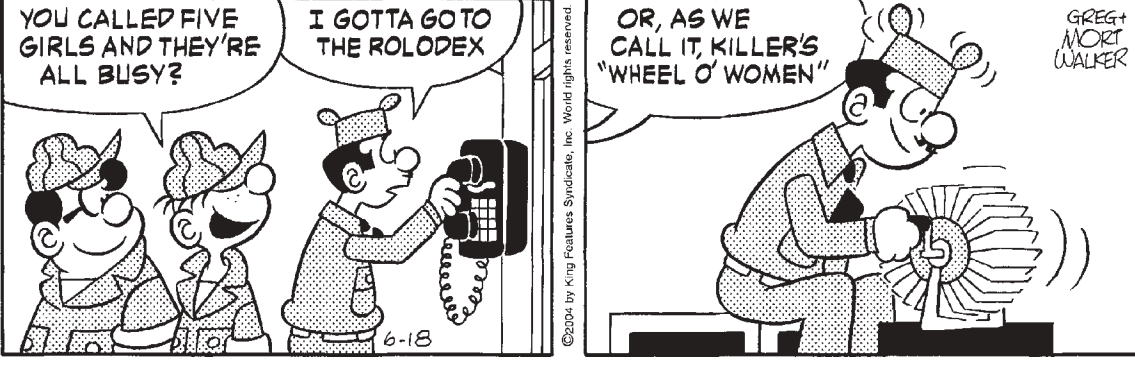
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



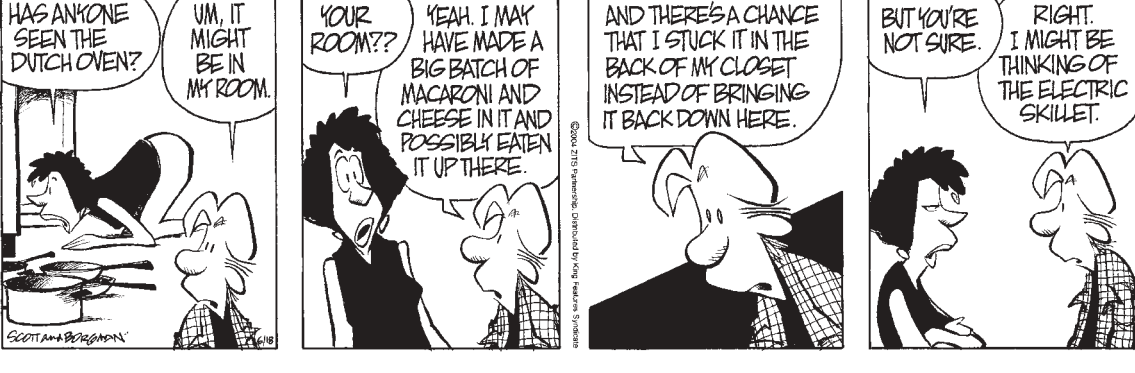
Blondie • Chic Young



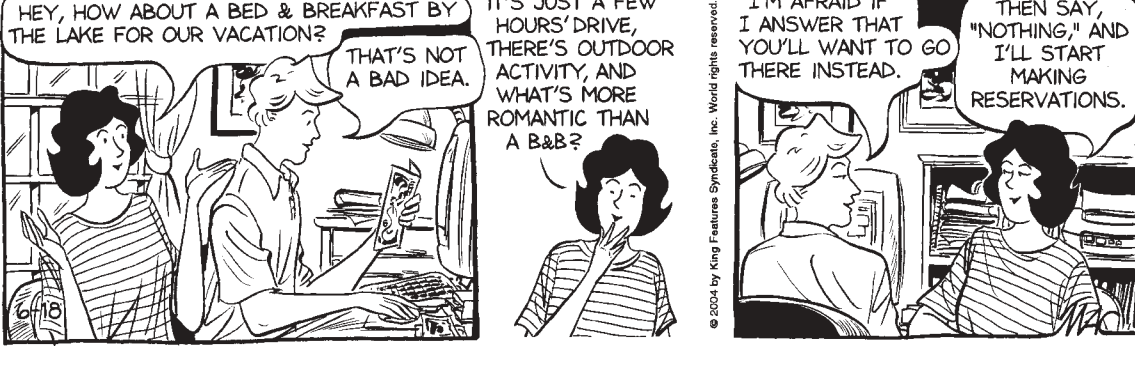
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

R LKRUJEZ YXXUOGXUF UC WLB'SR K HLMRSTUCIUFD
 NGUSRSW Y PVRPPNK- RVHRSI, U RVHRAI WLBS
 OYSTJYVXTKRSW JYVXNKZ, LHUFULF IL AKSSW K
 LTX RX FRFS'X VTX RX. TLI LC MRUDZI.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF SOMEONE SWIPED A WHOLE LOT OF HAMBURGERS, WOULD HIS GETAWAY BE A PATTY WAGON?
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals I
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I BRIEFLY ATTEMPTED OPENING A SCISSOR-MANUFACTURING FACTORY, BUT IT DIDN'T CUT IT.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals R

Crossword

ACROSS
 1 Start a garden
 4 — canto
 7 Unsocial
 12 IRS employee
 13 "Little Women"
 14 Urban dwelling
 15 On pension (Abbr.)
 16 Pop type
 18 Exist
 19 Nimble
 20 Section
 22 Nipper's old boss
 23 Capri, for one
 27 Shade
 29 Fruity drink
 31 First sign of spring
 34 Rolls' partner
 35 A.M. stimulant
 37 Quarter-back Marino
 38 Passion
 39 Buck's mate
 41 Unwanted e-mail

DOWN
 1 Argument
 2 Phantom's entertainment
 3 Adam's ale
 4 Rum cake
 5 Relocator of a sort
 6 Type of poetry
 7 Liniment target
 8 Tennis ploy
 9 Inseparable
 10 It may be written to someone
 11 Backing
 17 Family
 21 Pilferage
 23 PC pictures
 24 Messy home

Solution time: 25 mins.

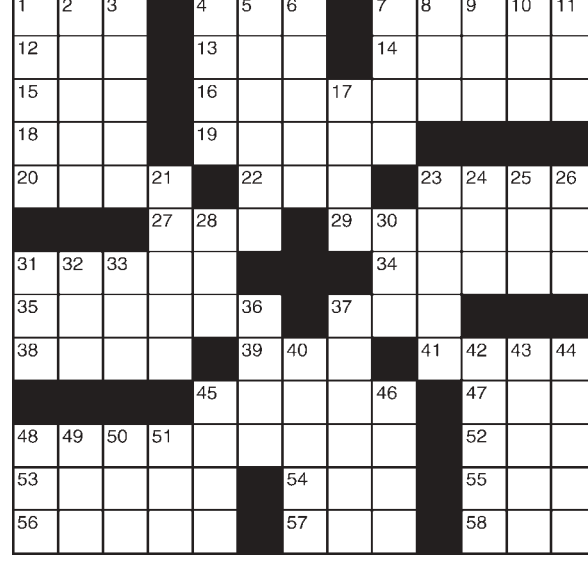
A	B	C	I	M	A	M	C	A	R	P	
R	E	A	R	O	L	E	A	R	E	A	
C	A	L	Z	O	N	E	S	L	A	N	A
E	O	N	C	A	L	I	B	E	R		
A	T	N	O	O	N	S	I	C			
G	O	D	N	O	D	V	O	C	A	L	
H	U	A	C	W	A	G	S	A	G	A	
A	R	R	A	Y	A	K	L	A	M		
			L	A	P	B	I	C	A	R	B
C	A	L	M	E	T	B	U	M			
O	V	U	M	C	A	L	O	R	I	E	S
B	O	N	N	A	C	E	S	N	E	O	
S	W	A	Y	N	O	A	H	E	L	E	

Yesterday's answer 6-18

Bridge

Bidding Quiz
 You are South, both sides vulnerable. The bidding has been:
 South West North East
 1 S Pass 2 H Pass
 2 S Pass 3 C Pass
 ?
 What would you bid now with each of the following four hands?
 1. S KJ8742 H 643 D K7 CAQ
 2. S KQ9542 H — DA83 C KQ74
 3. S KQJ1093 H J6 D 5 CAJ62
 4. S AJ7652 H J98 D 10 C AQ9

 1. Three hearts. Partner undoubtedly has a good hand, since he has made two forcing bids, but caution is needed to reach the best contract. Only two bids can be considered — namely, three hearts and three notrump.
 Three notrump is ruled out because your diamond stopper is tenuous, and because partner appears to be angling for a suit contract. Your heart support is not robust, but it is adequate considering that North is sure to have five or six hearts.
 2. Five clubs. Hands rise and fall in value, depending on partner's bids. Thus, the initial two-heart bid took a lot of wind out of your sails, but the three-club bid has added to your hand's original value.
 To raise to four clubs now would be inadequate. This could all too easily be read as a forced response to partner's forcing bid of three clubs. Now that the club fit has been discovered, you have much more than a minimum opening bid, and the best way to indicate this sudden improvement is to jump to five clubs.
 3. Four spades. Game in spades is practically certain, as it is difficult to imagine losing four tricks opposite whatever partner has to contribute. Your spades are playable as trump even if partner is void, so showing your club support is unnecessary.
 4. Four hearts. This hand, with 12 high-card points, is far more promising for game purposes than Hand No. 1, with its 13 points. The difference is one of fit.
 In the first hand, you started with a minimum opening bid, and it pretty much stayed that way throughout. You therefore did nothing more than show a preference for hearts. But here, with better heart support, and especially because of your singleton diamond, your hand is no longer in the minimum class. A jump-preference is consequently used to express these additional values.
 Tomorrow: Active or passive defense?
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ACROSS
 1 Sans exclusion
 4 Factor in Einstein's formula
 8 Help a hood
 12 Miss Piggy, self-referentially
 13 Concept
 14 Cordelia's pop
 15 Lemieux milieu
 16 Campus
 17 Poi base
 18 1957 Perry
 21 Under the weather
 22 Clear the tables
 23 The final frontier
 26 Adipose tissue
 27 Hula hoop, e.g.
 30 Cabbie
 31 Command to Fido
 32 Guy
 33 Ogle
 34 Persian's remark

DOWN
 35 Hardly reticent
 36 Web site info
 37 Spotted
 38 Catch-22
 45 In due course
 46 Green land
 47 Stocking stuffer
 48 Bedazzle
 49 Bedframe part
 50 Chang's closest kin
 51 No. 1
 52 "Not — knowledge"
 53 Existed

DOWN
 1 Sheik's peer

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 6-19

South dealer.
 North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
 ♠ K Q 6
 ♥ A
 ♦ 9 7 5 3
 ♣ J 9 5 4 3
WEST
 ♠ J 5 4
 ♥ 9 7 3
 ♦ J 8 6 2
 ♣ Q 8 2
EAST
 ♠ A 10 8 2
 ♥ 8 5 2
 ♦ A Q 10 4
 ♣ 10 7
SOUTH
 ♠ 9 7 3
 ♥ K Q J 10 6 4
 ♦ K
 ♣ A K 6
 The bidding:
 South West North East
 1 ♥ Pass 2 ♣ Pass
 3 ♥ Pass 3 NT Pass
 4 ♥
 Opening lead — two of diamonds.

Active or Passive Defense?

It is often difficult to choose between active and passive defense. Every deal has its own characteristics, and, even though general rules are frequently helpful, the most reliable guide usually is plain common sense.
 Assume you're East and partner leads a diamond against South's four-heart contract. When you play the ace, declarer produces the king, obviously a singleton.
 If you decide to defend passively, you return a diamond at trick two. Declarer ruffs, leads a trump to dummy, a club to his ace and continues with two more rounds of trumps. He then plays the king and another club.
 West wins with the queen, but, whatever he returns, the only other trick your side scores is the ace of spades. So South makes the contract, losing only a spade, a diamond and a club.
 This is a predictable outcome if you play a diamond at trick two. You can't expect West to take more than one club trick on the bidding, so your only realistic hope is to score two spade tricks.
 To that end, your best shot is to lead a low spade from the A-10-8-2 at trick two in an effort to kill dummy's entry to the clubs. This is clearly a time for active defense, even though it presupposes that your partner has the jack of spades. This assumption is not far-fetched, and it is unlikely to do any harm if you're wrong.
 In the actual case, your low spade play at trick two is eminently successful. Declarer ultimately loses two spade tricks, a diamond and a club to finish down one.
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Family Circus • Bill Keane

