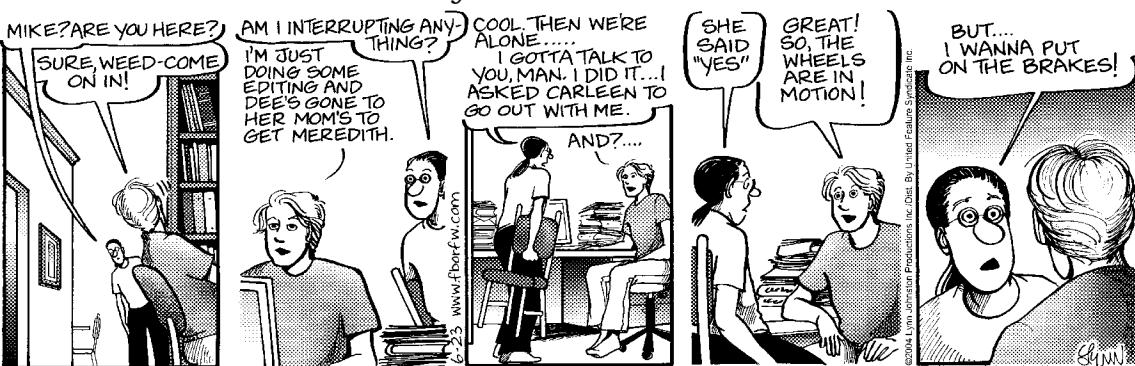


For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



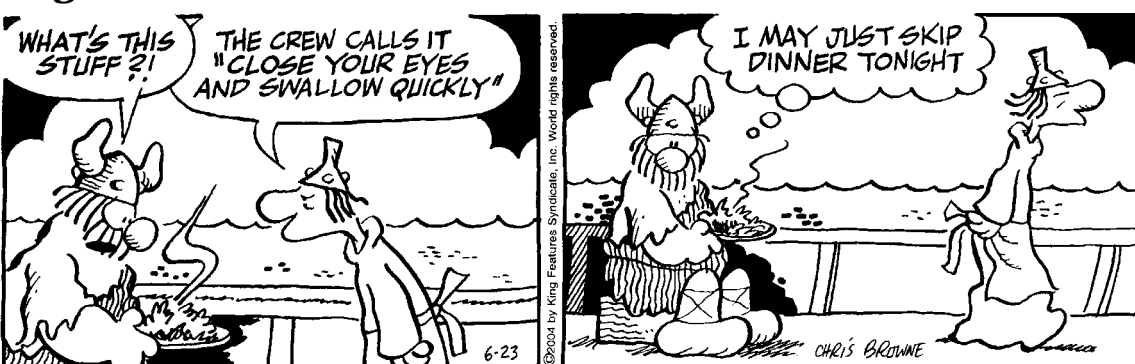
Tod The Dinosaur • PR Condon



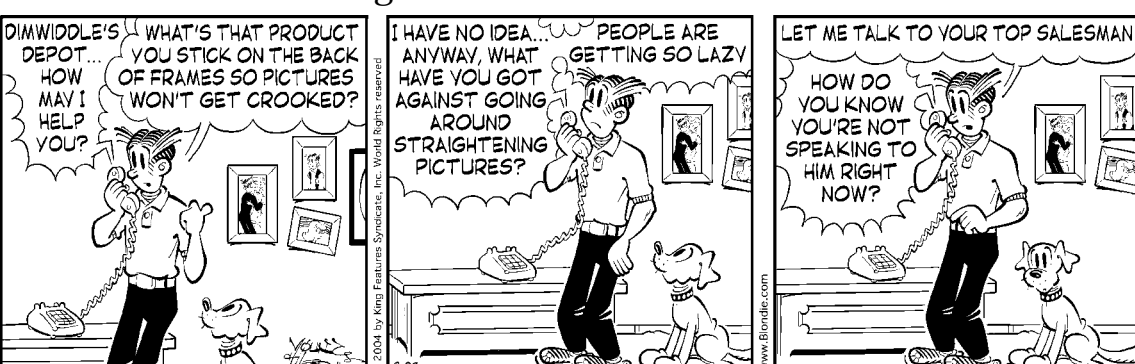
Garfield • Jim Davis



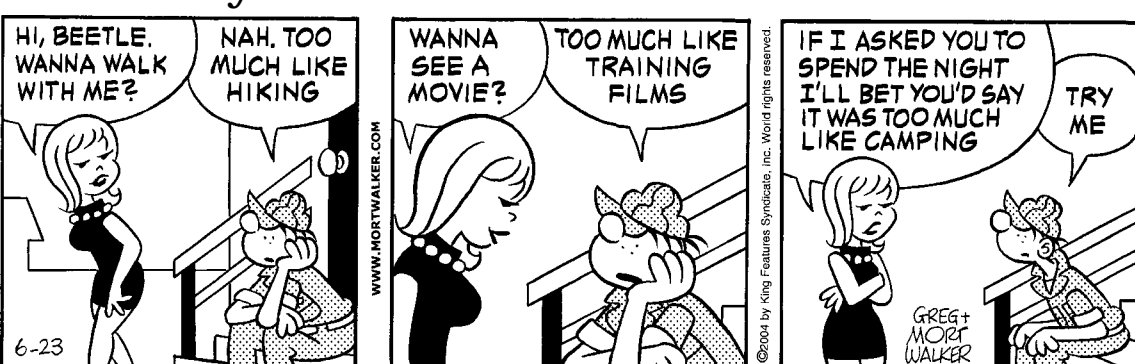
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



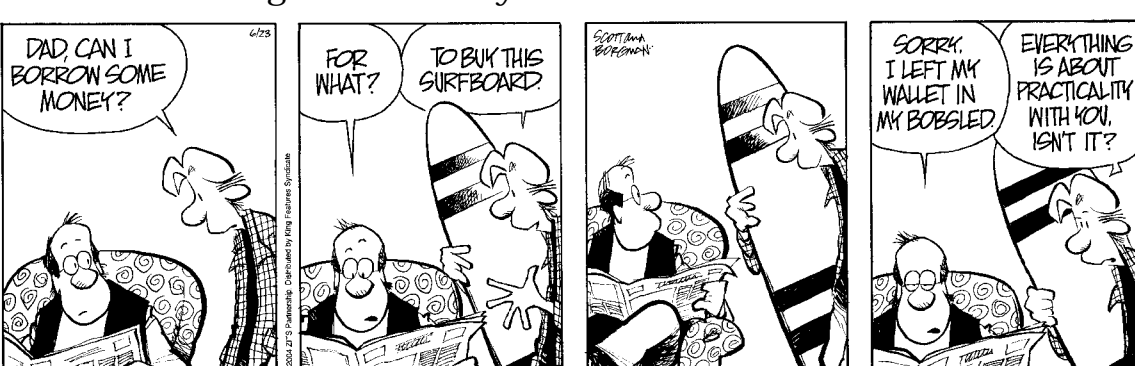
Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

MFSNYFG JGSZMWMH SANI UJSD KUN GZBKNVB IJZK
Y PSAH HID'Z DOYUMZNIAM: YP GJNDS, H'A GVNZYXP
"S AMUMO KMN Y KYA INDBHASV HK Z GZVBND-
S HSHA'N WSJP!"
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I SUPPOSE A WATERBED COULD ARGUABLY BE VIEWED AS ONE'S VINYL RESTING PLACE.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals D
KN-GZVBND IZXX.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: EPITAPH CHISELED INTO A KIND DOG'S GRAVESTONE: "I NEVER MET A MAN I DIDN'T LICK!"
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals T

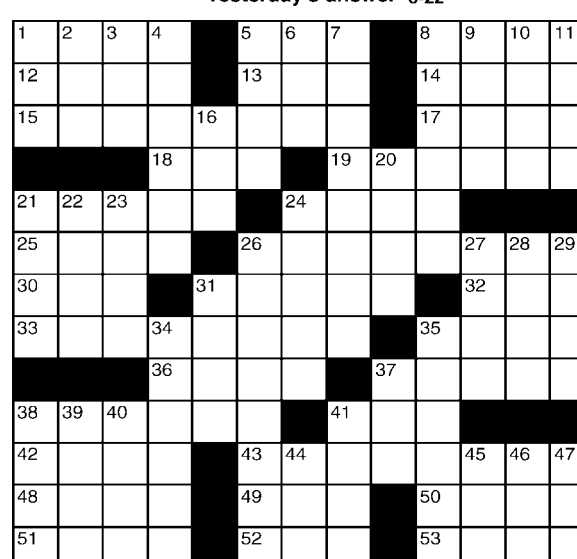
Crossword

ACROSS
1 Squared off
5 Wildebeest
8 Mel Torme specialty
12 Theater accommodation
13 Scoot
14 Command to a sled team
15 Thrive
17 Sandwich cookie
18 Disenchantment
19 Weather map line
21 Razor sharpener
24 Body sci.
25 Crazy one
26 Off-white shade
30 Blackbird
31 Trellis plants
32 By way of
33 Dylan Thomas' "Under..."
35 Give temporarily
36 Damone and Morrow
37 Audacious
38 Ivanhoe's love
41 Perched
42 Condominium, e.g.
43 Baseball call
48 Frisbee
49 Falsehood
50 Durante trademark
51 — A
52 Shade provider
53 See 16-Down
1 Sprite
2 Encyc. bk.
3 Swelled head
4 CNS cell
5 Grating
6 Greek consonants
7 Destabilized
8 Suave
9 Put a check on
10 On the briny
11 Son of Odin
16 Sartorial woe
20 Back talk
21 Bridge coup
22 Singer
23 Tennille
24 Ex-change premiums
26 Like dormant memories
27 Incessantly
28 "Swedish Nightingale"
29 Jenny
29 Tramp's love
31 Victor's call
34 Gripe constantly
35 Potential
37 Chapeau
38 Discourteous
39 "Step —!"
40 Minn. neighbor
41 Branch
44 Have a bug
45 Caviar, essentially
46 Dos Passos trilogy
47 Pay- —view

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 6-22



ACROSS
1 Cavort
5 Brylcreem dosage
8 Keep — (persist)
12 Concept
13 Work with
14 Carnival attraction
15 Be patient
17 Lothario's look
18 Strike zone's lower boundary
19 Quieted down
21 Methuselah's grandson
24 Trawler gear
25 Leave at the altar
28 Disposition
30 — out (just get by)
33 Big whoop
34 Jargon
35 Fresh
36 Cattle call
37 Stench
38 Advantage
39 Dallas sch.
41 Agts.
43 Speaks sheep-ishly?
46 Stinging
50 Contrite one
51 Act unrestrainedly
54 Masculine side
55 "— was saying,..."
56 Hold the scepter
57 Unadorned
58 Navigation aid
59 Abound
20 Destroy
22 In the thick of
23 Esteem
25 Predicament
26 Altar
27 Bit of unfinished business
29 Shrek, e.g.
31 Frat party item
32 Lamb's dam
34 LummoX
38 Accompany
40 Bart and Lisa's mom
42 Chum
43 — Mawr University
44 Waikiki wingding
45 Con game
47 Libertine
48 Capri, e.g.
49 Consider
52 Cable sta.
53 Lagniappe

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 6-23

Bridge

South dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ K Q 8
♥ J 10 7 3
♦ K J 5 2
♣ Q 6

WEST
♠ 10 9 2
♥ A 6 4
♦ 9 8 6
♣ K 9 5 2

EAST
♠ A 7 6 4 3
♥ 8
♦ 10 7 3
♣ A 8 7 3

SOUTH
♠ J 5
♥ K O 9 5 2
♦ A Q 4
♣ J 10 4

The bidding:
South 1♥
West Pass
North 3♥
East Pass

Opening lead — ten of spades.

The Old Misdirection Play

When declarer discards on one of dummy's winners, it is natural to assume that he is weak in the suit in which he discarded. For this reason, it is normal for the defenders to attack that suit, if practical, as soon as they regain the lead.

Declarer took advantage of this standard defensive tactic on the accompanying deal and succeeded in bringing home a contract that seemed impossible to make. East won the opening spade lead with the ace and, hoping West's ten was a singleton (or a doubleton, in which case a ruff might later be negotiated), returned the spade three. South, looking at four certain losers, won with dummy's queen and decided that his only chance lay in trying to divert the opponents' attention from the club suit. So at trick three he cashed the king of spades and discarded the four of diamonds!

Declarer next led a trump to his king, losing to the ace, whereupon West shifted to the nine of diamonds. South won with the ace, cashed the Q-J of trumps, then led a low diamond to the queen, followed by a low trump to the ten. Two clubs were then discarded on the K-J of diamonds, and declarer finished with exactly 10 tricks.

Although South is entitled to full credit for his ingenuity, West should not have fallen victim to the ruse. First of all, if declarer had any diamond losers remaining, they could not possibly get away. Second, and even more important, East's return of the spade three at trick two, in a situation where West might have been able to ruff, was a suit-preference signal directing West to return a club if he did ruff.

Finally, if West had simply ducked the first trump lead, East would have been able to signal for a club shift by discarding the eight on the second round of trumps.

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Last Nail in the Coffin

Partscore hands lack the dramatic appeal of game or slam hands, but they can be highly instructive nevertheless.

Consider this deal where East wins the opening heart lead with the king and continues with the ace, on which West discards a club. What should East do next? It might seem automatic for East to return a heart for his partner to ruff, but if he does this, South makes the contract, because his only remaining losers are a spade and a club.

The heart return at trick three is not as automatic as it might seem. In fact, it's clearly the wrong play. East should anticipate that a heart return might well hand South the contract.

He knows that his side needs six tricks, and can see that an immediate heart ruff will account for only five. He should therefore look for a means of acquiring another trick — and the solution lies in arranging for a club ruff. Accordingly, after cashing the A-K of hearts, East should play the A-8 of clubs.

Declarer cannot counter this maneuver. As soon as he leads a trump, East takes the ace and gives his partner a heart ruff. West then returns the compliment by giving East a club ruff, and South goes down one. It is, of course, tempting for East to continue with a heart at trick three, but when the matter is examined in the cold light of day, it becomes obvious that there is no real need for an immediate heart ruff.

East is looking at the ace of spades and knows that West's trumps cannot be drawn before the ace of trumps is dislodged. The heart ruff can therefore wait until East has laid the groundwork for the club ruff that defeats the contract.

Family Circus • Bill Keane

