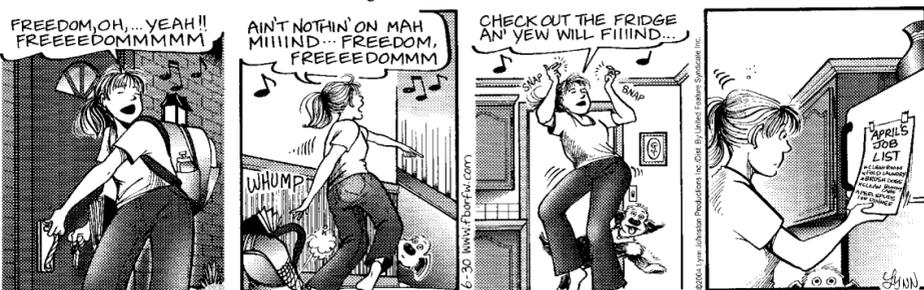
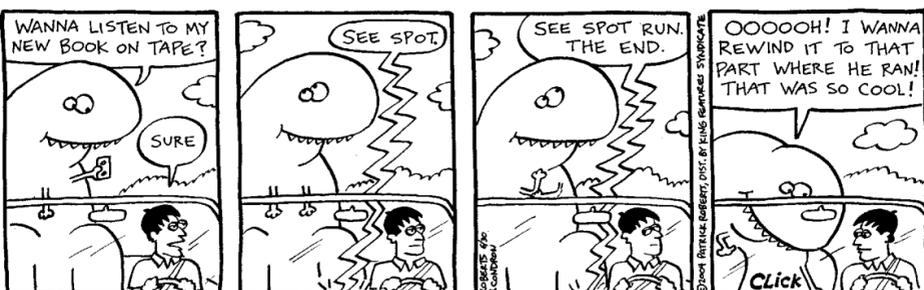


For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



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

FV GEM'RN DETRNQ | R DXNGBL EBPQC GRV
 DMYIWUAFYJ QFTNPPWD, | OFRO OFX SXLP HL R
 F INTFNRN GEM AWRN | NXGORPNRLO DNBWHCXG
 VEMYQ UWYFYJ DETMUFYD. | SRLV WHOOX GOROHGOHEG.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: DO YOU THINK A GUY WHO'S WORKING AT A SODA FOUNTAIN IS REALLY CALLED A FIZZICIAN?
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals N
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU'VE SOLVED SUNBATHING DILEMMAS, I BELIEVE YOU HAVE FOUND TANNING SOLUTIONS.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals T

Crossword

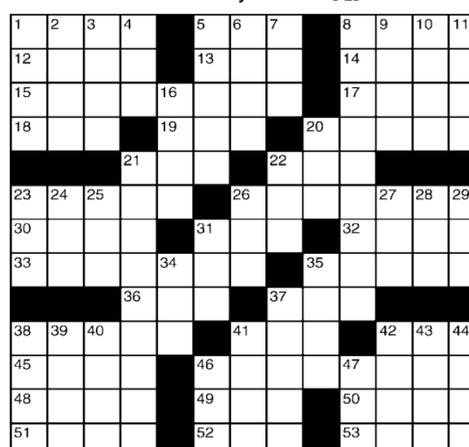
ACROSS
 1 Arizona river
 5 Health resort
 8 End of the song
 12 March 15, e.g.
 13 Scull tool
 14 Enthusiastic
 15 It may be rather informative
 17 Put aside
 18 Melancholy
 19 Boom times
 20 Holdup man?
 21 Show you're 18-
 22 Support system?
 23 "Loves me (not) factor"
 26 Horror-movie villains
 30 A really long time
 31 Super-mane foe
 32 Toast topper

DOWN
 1 Traps
 2 Impres-stand
 3 Lascivious
 4 Pompous sort
 5 Lathered
 6 Quarter-back's tactic
 7 Illustrations
 8 Look for
 9 Office shape
 10 Prima donna
 11 Fruit drinks
 12 Ringlet
 20 It's up your sleeve
 21 "Survivor" group
 22 Engage in pugilism
 23 Crony

Solution time: 21 mins.

YOGI ASS YELP
 TOR PT A ORELO
 MOLL TOR URGE
 SHELFWALL
 BIG HELMET
 JEZEBEL OBELI
 ANEW MAP EASE
 BORIS MONSTER
 SLOTHS DUO
 HEAP BRADS
 ABOY LAG RHEA
 FARO VIA YELL
 THOU ORT MITT

Yesterday's answer 6-29



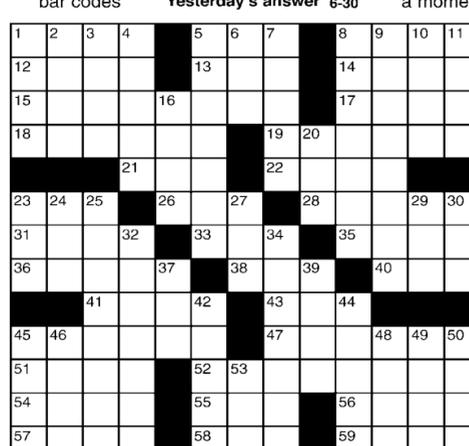
ACROSS
 1 Dessert choice
 5 Leno's prominence
 8 Puts together
 12 Strong as
 13 "Home of the brave"
 14 Journey
 15 Temporary expedients
 17 Writer Morrison
 18 Modeling exec Ford
 19 Earl Grey's place
 21 Wahine's gift
 22 Actor Estrada
 23 Gram. case
 26 Pigs' dogs
 28 Liveli-ness, in music
 31 Section of London
 33 Deluge refuge
 35 Check bar codes

DOWN
 1 Docket entry
 2 Con
 3 Rapper — Moe Dee
 4 Oust
 5 Hall of "South Pacific"
 6 Cleo's slayer
 7 Squander
 8 Gets
 9 Rugby tactic
 10 Pebbles' pet
 11 Skewer
 16 Right-turn signals
 20 Historic period
 23 Balaam's ride
 24 Sanders' title (Abbr.)
 25 Chinese menu item
 27 Cen. parts
 29 West of Hollywood
 30 Abby's sis
 32 Jacks or better, usually
 34 Peeper's place
 37 LAX info
 39 Harvest
 42 Big name in printers and scanners
 44 The A in E.A.P.
 45 Caspian Sea feeder
 46 Smoked salmon
 48 Tarzan's transport
 49 Small salamanders
 50 Proof-reader's notation
 53 Waste not a moment

Solution time: 21 mins.

GITLA SPA CODA
 IDEES OAR AVID
 NEWSCAST SAVE
 SAD UPS ATLAS
 CRY BRA
 PETAL ZOMBIES
 AGES LEX OLEO
 LOATHED BULKY
 AID COT
 BLOWS GOO VIA
 AIDA DOWNCAST
 INDY ONE OSLO
 LESS WED BEEP

Yesterday's answer 6-30



Family Circus • Bill Keane



Bridge

North dealer.
 Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ A J 8 3
 ♥ K 4
 ♦ A 8 5 2
 ♣ J 9 6

WEST
 ♠ K Q 9 7 6 2
 ♥ 8
 ♦ J 10 6
 ♣ K 8 2

EAST
 ♠ 9 5 3 2
 ♥ K 9 7 3
 ♦ Q 10 7 5 4
 ♣ A 3

SOUTH
 ♠ 10 5 4
 ♥ A Q J 10 7 6
 ♦ Q 4
 ♣ A 3

The bidding:
 North East South West
 1♦ Pass 1♥ Pass
 Pass Pass 4♥
 Opening lead — king of spades.

Famous Hand

An intriguing feature of team bridge is that one deal can produce two entirely different results and yet yield virtually no swing.

Consider this hand from a match between Mexico and Canada in 1993. When Peter Herold and Jim Dickie of Canada held the North-South cards, they reached six spades as shown after Herold raised his partner's spades with a void at his third turn.

West led the club king to dummy's ace. Dickie crossed to the diamond king and cashed the A-K of spades before returning to dummy with a heart to discard his club loser on the diamond ace. He then led a club, which East ruffed, but declarer overruffed and conceded a spade to make the slam for a score of 1,430 points.

At the other table, with Mexico sitting North-South, things took a completely different turn when the bidding went:

South West North East
 1[S] 2[C] Pass Pass
 Dble Pass Pass Pass

After Canada's Mike Streibinger overcalled with two clubs, North, Gonzalo Herrera, playing negative doubles, passed to await developments. Miriam Rosenberg elected to reopen with a double rather than rebid her seven-card spade suit, and everyone passed.

Herrera cashed the K-Q of hearts and the diamond ace, felling his partner's king. South ruffed the diamond continuation and cashed the A-K of spades, North discarding the heart jack and a diamond.

Herrera ruffed the third round of spades and led another diamond for South to ruff. Rosenberg played the heart ace, and North discarded his last diamond when declarer ruffed with the club queen. Herrera took the jack of clubs with the ace and returned the ten to hold declarer to just two tricks — down six, 1,400 points!

The final tally after all this excitement? By losing 1,400 points at one table and gaining 1,430 at the other, the Canadians gained all of 1 IMP on the deal!

Tomorrow: Beware of impulsive plays.
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South dealer.
 Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ A 8 7 3
 ♥ 10 5
 ♦ K 4
 ♣ A Q 10 5 4

WEST
 ♠ 10 9 6 2
 ♥ A 7 6 3
 ♦ 8 7 5 3
 ♣ 2

EAST
 ♠ K J 5 4
 ♥ 8 2
 ♦ A 10 9 2
 ♣ 9 7 6

SOUTH
 ♠ Q
 ♥ K Q J 9 4
 ♦ Q J 6
 ♣ K J 8 3

The bidding:
 South West North East
 1♥ Pass 2♣ Pass
 3♣ Pass 3♣
 3 NT
 Opening lead — eight of diamonds.

Deviating From the Norm

One of the principal pitfalls for a defender is the tendency to adhere too closely to general rules. A far better approach is to be thoroughly versed in standard procedure, but to be ready to suspend normal practice when the situation calls for it.

Consider today's deal, where East made what most would consider a highly unusual play to defeat South's three-notrump contract. Following the bidding sequence shown, West led the eight of diamonds, a "top of nothing" lead in the one suit that had not been bid. After dummy played low, East paused to take stock. East could tell from the diamond lead, as well as declarer's notrump bid, that South had three or four diamonds headed by the Q-J. East had also heard South open the bidding with one heart and then support clubs. It was therefore a near certainty that South had at most one spade.

Having come this far, East now had to decide how to proceed. After some thought, he concluded that his best chance was that his partner had the ace of hearts.

Accordingly, East put up the ace of diamonds at trick one and shifted to a spade. But he did not lead just any spade. To cater to the possibility that South's lone spade might be the queen, East returned the king!

This left declarer with no recourse. He could take five clubs, two diamonds and a spade (holding up the spade ace as long as he liked), but whenever he got around to playing hearts, the defenders would collect their remaining spades to defeat him.

Observe that if East had not taken the first diamond, declarer would win, establish hearts and finish with 11 tricks. The only way the contract could be defeated was to do exactly what East did, suspending standard procedure because on this deal, the circumstances dictated otherwise.

Tomorrow: Deft manipulation.

