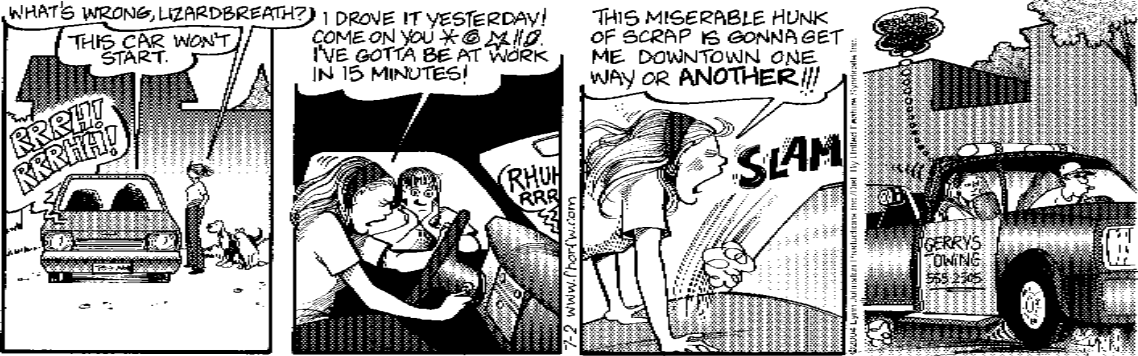
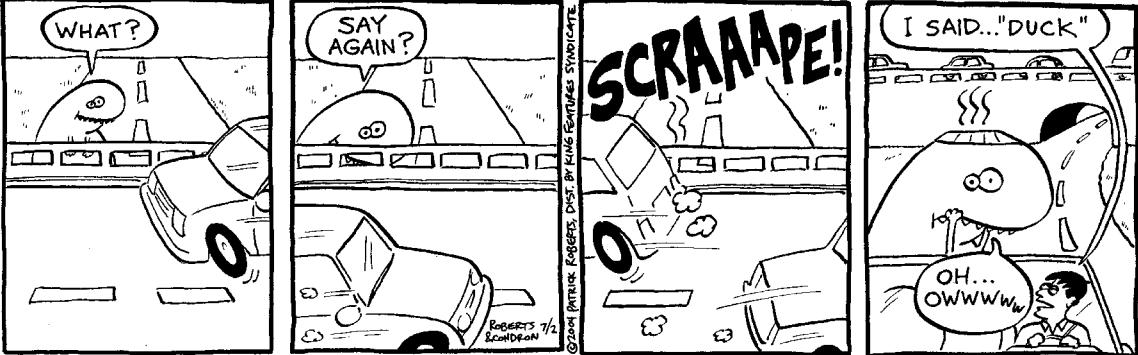


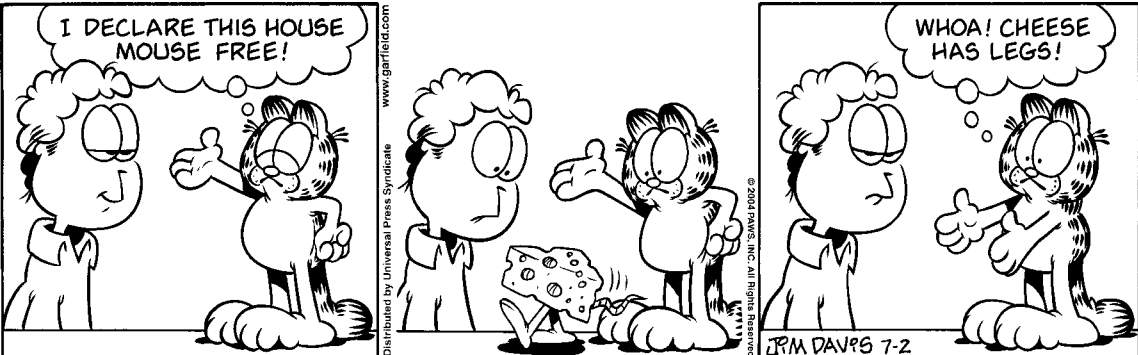
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Tod The Dinosaur • PR Condron



Garfield • Jim Davis



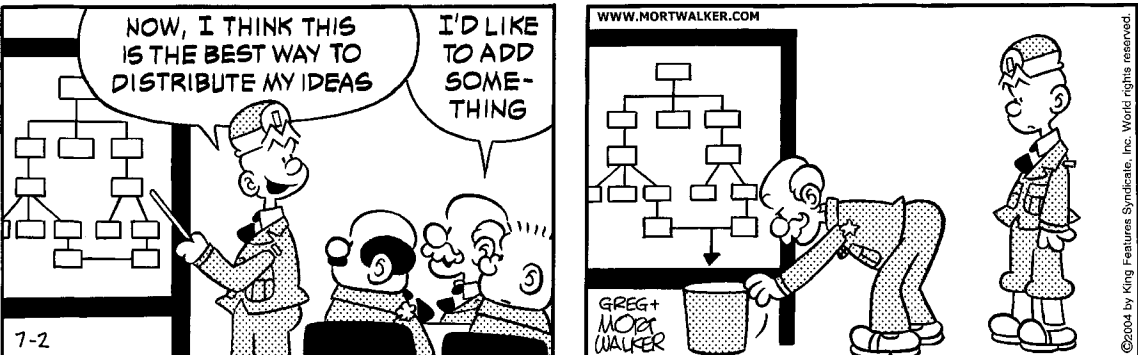
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



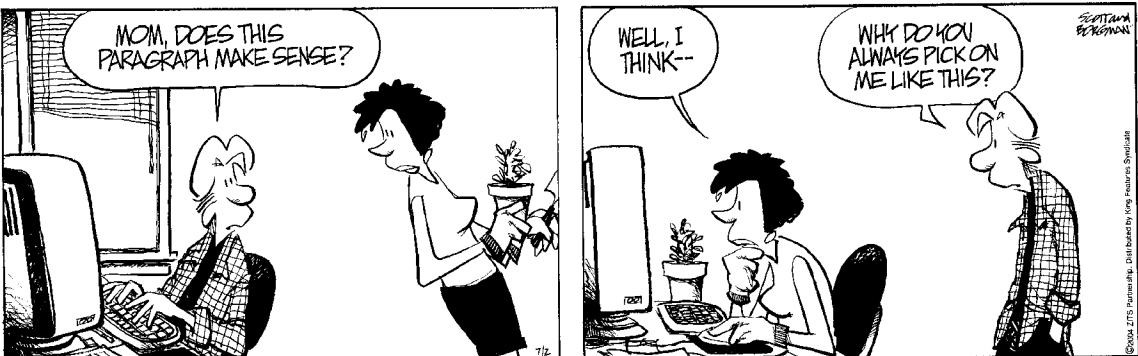
Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

ER GYKKT ZKVK OQ
 TKVRQVN GQNK JYQVBX
 NMGEJ, E HKO EO ZQMXI

KUI QU B HBB-KI UQOK.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I DON'T KNOW HOW TO MAKE ASPARAGUS. MAYBE SOMEBODY SHOULD GIVE ME SEVERAL TIPS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals A

UZUZ VZQ Z SGZDDC
 XIPG TZL FT LGV FSDGZLQ
 UZSKMGQ. XG SGLZHGE

XMHQGDT HZSKC PSZI.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF SHEEP WERE TO PERFORM SOME CHORAL MUSIC, I BET IT WOULD END ON A BAA-ED NOTE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals P

Crossword

ACROSS
 1 Word missing from four of this puzzle's answers
 4 Unescorted
 8 Gordius' baffler
 12 Excessively
 13 Hindu sacred text
 14 Asta's mistress
 15 Miscellany
 17 Gossip-column subject
 18 Streisand standard
 19 Vacationing
 21 One of Pugsley's kin
 22 Hubbub
 26 Pair
 29 Swindle
 30 Golfer's concern
 31 Take on cargo
 32 Actress Gretchen
 33 Demanding superstar
 34 Blackbird
 35 Westheimer subject
 36 Swain
 37 Baseball tactic
 39 A billion years
 40 "— Little Teapot"
 41 Mollify
 45 Trumpet
 48 Routine
 50 Big bothers
 51 Duel tool
 52 — chi
 53 Apportion
 54 "Phooey!"
 55 Doggie-bag tidbit
 56 Variety, to life
 57 Enjoyment
 58 Advertiser's award
 59 Split forcefully
 60 Lithe and slender
 61 CIA director George
 62 Throw into the mix
 63 Hybrid car fuel
 64 "Crocodile Dundee"
 65 Threatened prop
 66 Negative word
 67 Tramcar contents
 68 Lid for a lad
 69 Variety, to life
 70 Enjoyment
 71 Advertiser's award
 72 One of the Jackson 5
 73 Get wind of
 74 Tend texts
 75 Scenery chewer
 76 It may be written to someone
 77 "Poppycock!"
 78 "— Lazy River"

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 7-2

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16					17			
18												
				21					22			
26	27	28							29		30	25
31												
34												
37												
45	46	47										
50												
53												

ACROSS
 1 Dieter's entree
 6 V-shaped fissures
 12 Platitude
 13 Loaf of braid?
 14 Eroze
 15 High-pH chemical
 16 Existence (Lat.)
 17 Whodunit pooch
 19 Prized possession
 20 Actress Moore
 22 Existed
 24 Ovine comment
 27 Streamlet
 29 Old woman's home?
 32 Intimates
 35 Row
 36 Magnitude
 37 Cribbage piece
 38 Varnish ingredient
 40 Slippery ones
 42 "Caught ya!"
 44 New Year's noise-maker
 46 Work in postproduction
 50 Labored
 52 Female urchin
 54 Absolutely
 55 Baffler (anagram of 52-Across)
 56 Rush hour woes
 57 Impudent
 4 Milwau-kee product
 5 Cause of change
 6 Confab
 7 Harry Hamlin series
 8 Wapiti
 9 Santa Maria, e.g.
 10 Yarn
 11 Doorstop, perhaps
 12 Vietnam city
 18 Less sensible
 21 Blunder
 23 Tray contents
 24 On the other hand
 25 Singer DiFranco
 26 "Guys and Dolls" role
 28 Sore-throat aids
 30 Counter's start
 31 Early bird?
 33 Geologic period
 34 Aviv, precursor
 39 Incubator sound
 41 Tourney round
 42 Persisting
 43 Hagar the Horrible's daughter
 45 Toteboard tally
 47 Accommodations
 48 Beach Boys' "— Room"
 49 Mid-afternoon social
 51 Romanian money
 53 Japanese airline

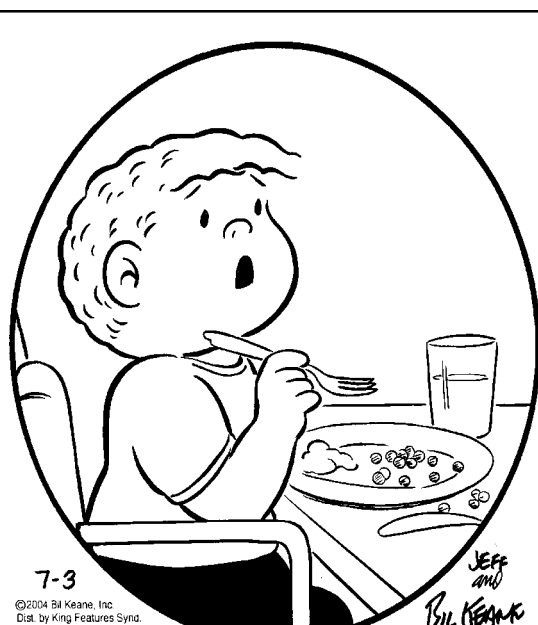
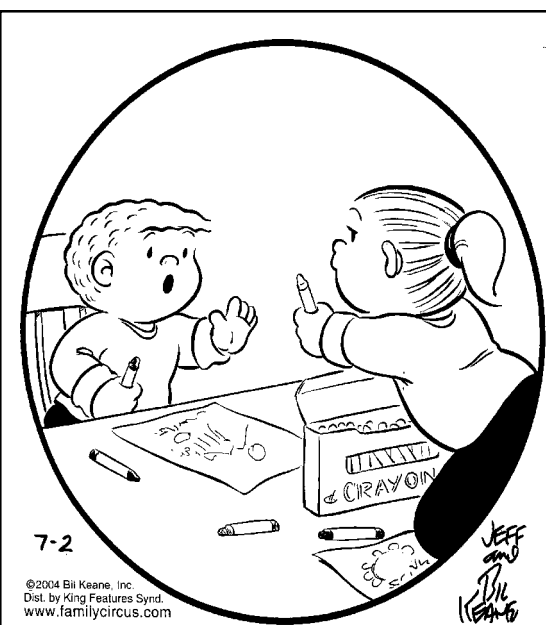
Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 7-3

	1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	11
12									13			
14									15			
16												
24	25	26							22	23		
32												
35												
42	43											
50												
54												
56												

Family Circus • Bill Keane



Bridge

NORTH
 ♠ A 8 5
 ♥ A 4 3 2
 ♦ A 9
 ♣ A K Q 3
WEST
 ♠ 6 4 3
 ♥ 10 9 8
 ♦ 8 7 5 4
 ♣ J 8 6
EAST
 ♠ 9
 ♥ K Q J 7 5
 ♦ K Q 10 6 3
 ♣ 7 4
SOUTH
 ♠ K Q J 10 7 2
 ♥ 6
 ♦ J 2
 ♣ 10 9 5 2

Test Your Play

This is a double-dummy problem. The contract is Seven Spades, and West leads the ten of hearts. You are permitted to look at all four hands in attempting to find the solution. How do you proceed?

 It might appear that you must lose a diamond come what may, but obviously the diamond loser can be avoided, since otherwise the hand would not be presented here as a problem.

As usual, when you have all the remaining tricks but one, the first thought to pop into your mind should be the possibility of a squeeze. For a squeeze to be effective, you must assume that one opponent or the other has two suits to guard. As you must also assume that the clubs will break favorably, the two suits one of the defenders will have to guard are hearts and diamonds.

This presupposes that the hearts are divided 5-3 or 6-2, so that only one of the defenders can guard hearts. Accordingly, you win the heart lead with the ace, ruff a heart and then draw four rounds of trumps to produce this position:

North [H] 43 [D] A[C] A K Q 3
 West [H] 9 [D] 8 7 5 [C] J 8 6
 East [H] K Q [D] K Q 10 [C] 7 4
 South [S] 7 [D] J 2 [C] 10 9 5 2

You now cash the A-K-Q of clubs, being careful to drop your 10-9-5, and lead the three of clubs. East, who is down to a pair of K-Q's, cannot withstand the pressure of the fourth club lead.

If he discards a heart, you ruff the three of hearts, establishing dummy's four; if he discards a diamond instead, you cash the ace of diamonds before ruffing a heart and score the last trick with the diamond jack. Either way, East is a deceased pigeon.

Tomorrow: Planning the play.

South dealer.
 Neither side vulnerable.
NORTH
 ♠ J 6 5 2
 ♥ K 7
 ♦ 9 6 3
 ♣ K J 7 6
WEST
 ♠ 4
 ♥ J 10 9 6 2
 ♦ A Q 7
 ♣ 9 5 4 2
EAST
 ♠ Q 8 7
 ♥ Q 8 5 3
 ♦ J 10 8 4
 ♣ 10 8
SOUTH
 ♠ A K 10 9 3
 ♥ A 4
 ♦ K 5 2
 ♣ A Q 3

The bidding:
 South 1 ♠
 West Pass
 North 2 ♠
 East Pass
 Opening lead — jack of hearts.

Planning the Play

A fine declarer always forms at least a tentative plan of action before playing a card from dummy. He realizes that he cannot expect good results with a high degree of regularity if he begins to play without some kind of plan in place.

Consider the present deal where West leads a heart against four spades. Declarer sees at once that his only potential losers are a trump and three diamonds. He also notes that if all goes well, he can eventually discard a diamond on dummy's fourth club.

South's only real problem, therefore, is to manage his trumps in such a way that East cannot gain the lead with the queen of trumps if he happens to have that card. Declarer takes this view because he cannot afford to have East make what might prove to be a deadly diamond return.

Accordingly, South wins the heart lead with the ace, cashes the ace of trumps, leads a heart to dummy's king and returns a low trump, finessing the ten after East follows low. Win or lose, the finesse assures the contract. In the actual case, the finesse wins, and South finishes with 11 tricks.

But let's assume that the worst happens and the finesse loses to West's doubleton queen. Even so, the contract is in no danger, regardless of where the diamond ace is located. West can do no better than return a club, and South disposes of one of his diamond losers on dummy's fourth club.

If declarer fails to take the trump finesse and cashes the A-K instead, he unnecessarily jeopardizes the contract. In the actual hand, he would go down one, assuming normal defense.

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