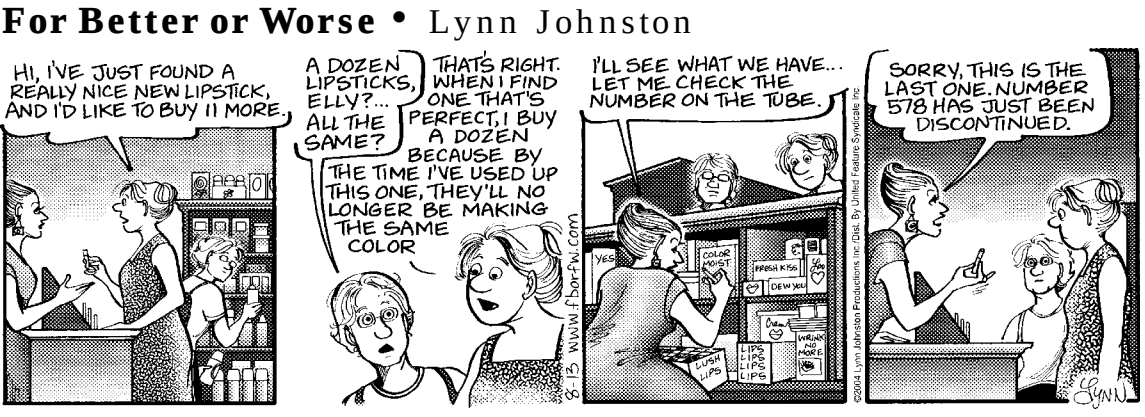
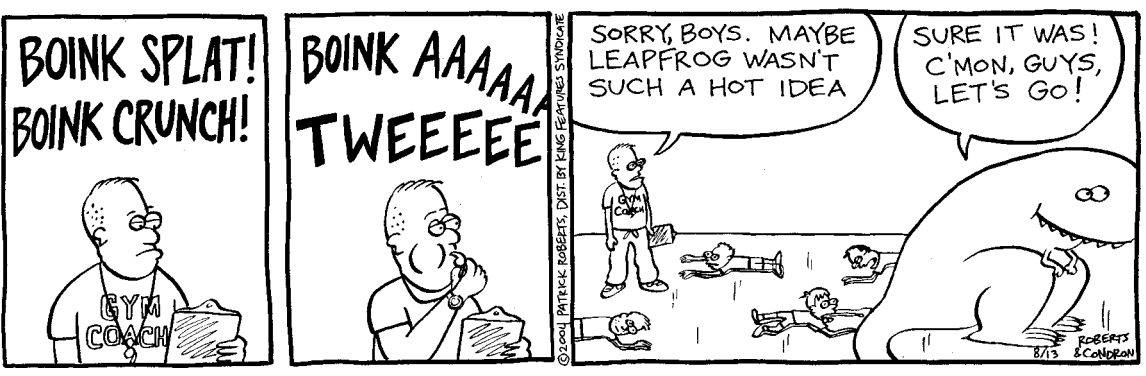
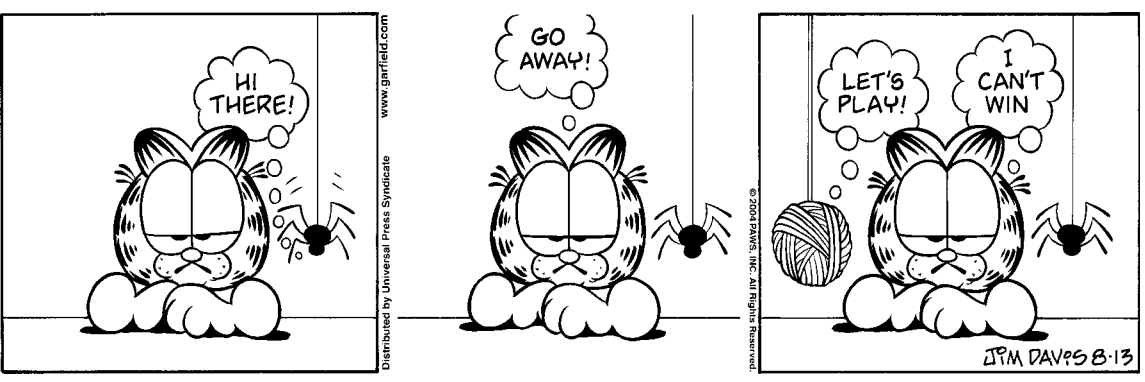
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Tod The Dinosaur • PR Condron

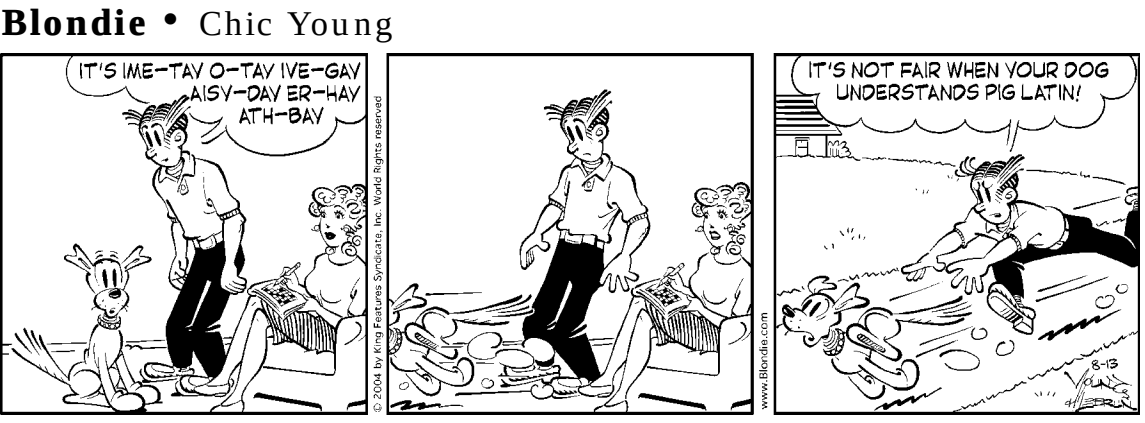


Garfield • Jim Davis

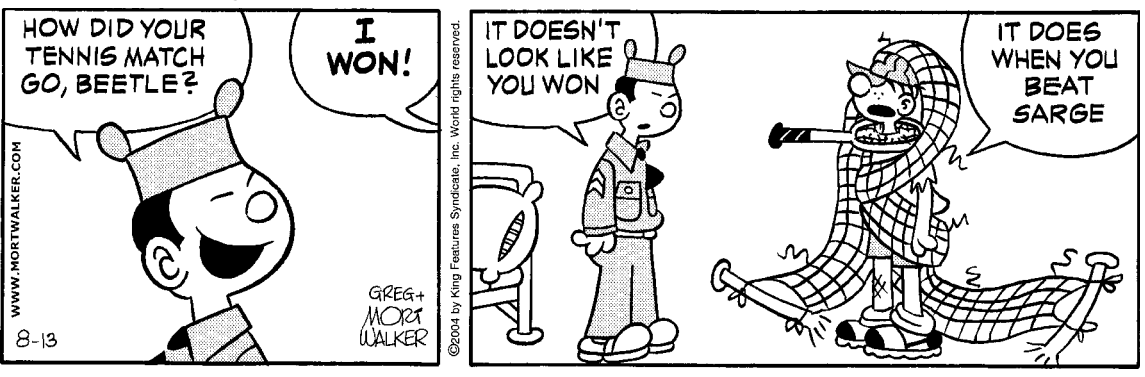


Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne

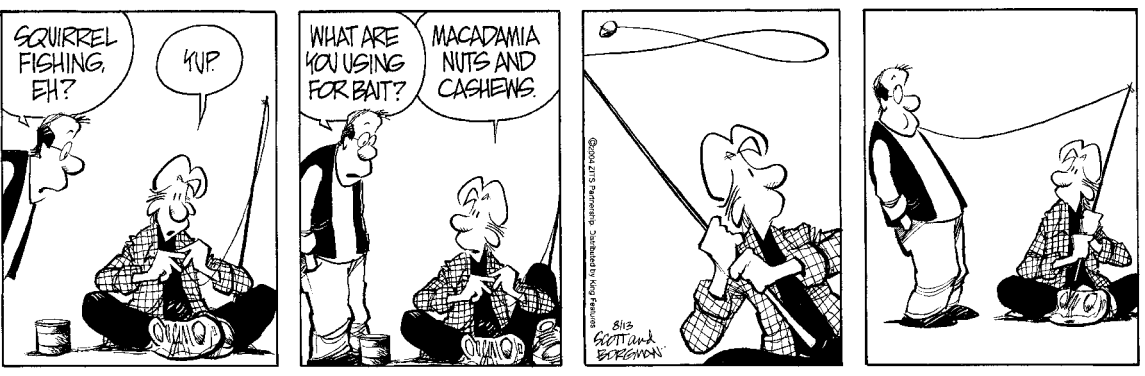
Blondie • Chic Young



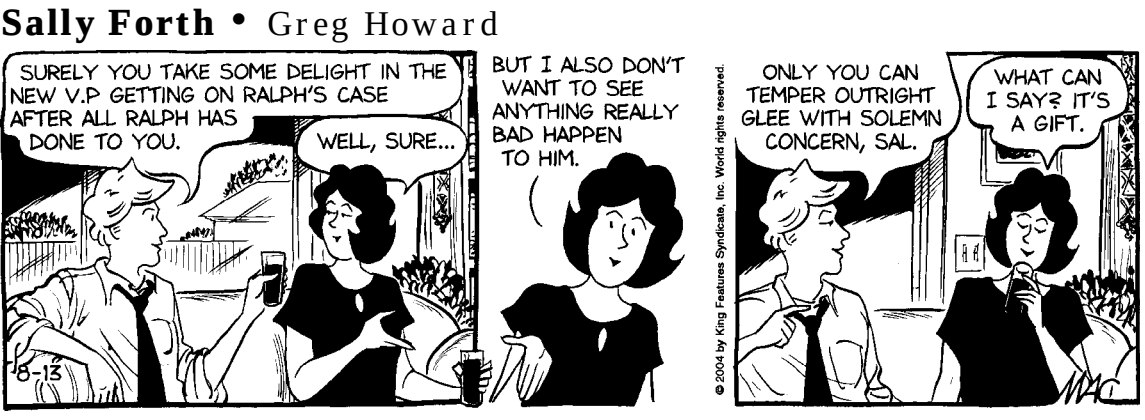
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

P ENQR QPSLJNHR ZSKZCQ ICASPMT RMAVX RBMOV P IPC. KRZ IPCKZSLZC IOMYYXMVC TCXSX. MS QPFQ, "XZCF QBCCF, JZ HBXS HCPT SFCG OKZC LBS'K QZCXZ EBBL RZCZ." OMZMTL KT SFC CVLC.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: TO MANY MOTORISTS, RETRIBUTION MAY RIGHTFULLY BE THOUGHT OF AS A TOOT FOR A TOOT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals R

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: A FISH SANDWICH ENTERS A BAR. THE BARTENDER SAYS, "VERY SORRY, WE DON'T SERVE FOOD HERE."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals D

Crossword

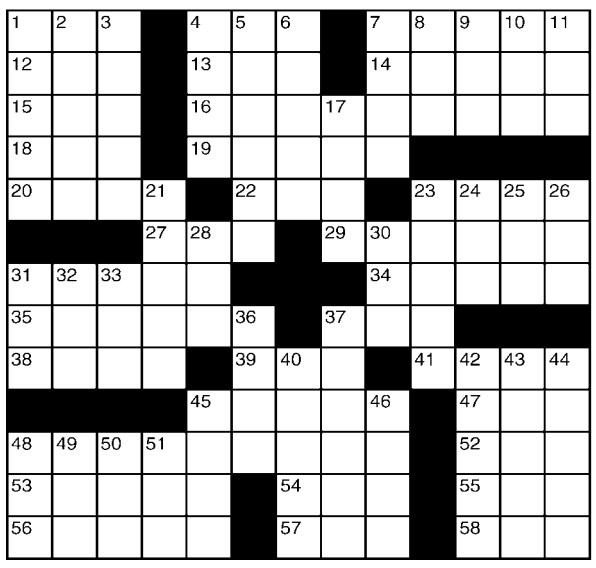
ACROSS
1 Journey segment
4 Discordance
7 Work dough
12 Commotion
13 "— Lazy River"
14 Goosebump-inducing
15 Instance of wordplay
16 P.E. game
18 Expert
19 1999 news-making youngster
20 Goose egg
22 Despondent
23 Skewer
27 Menagerie
29 Wide-sleeved robe
31 Primary study
34 Autumnal quaff
35 Valencia, for one
37 Comprehend
38 Actress Neuwirth
39 Norm
41 Fair share
45 Heterogeneous
47 Have misgivings about
48 Santa Fe Trail town
52 Raw rock
53 Perpendicular, at sea
54 Indivisible
55 Central
56 Wild dog
57 Frenzied
58 Billboards

DOWN
1 South American capital
2 Bring out
3 Lost cause
4 Hardy's "— the Obscure"
5 Moon-mission program
6 FCC concern
7 Astute
8 Kan. neighbor
9 Geological time
10 Have a bug
11 Benicio — Toro
17 Stare stupidly
21 Endangered layer
23 Common surname
24 Spacecraft compartment
25 Resembling (Suff.)
26 Anderson's "High —"
28 Assoc.
30 Lemieux milieu
31 Unruly bunch
32 Beatitudes verb
33 Poke
36 Grand-scale tale
37 — Green (elopers' mecca)
40 Truth held to be self-evident
42 Bakery lure
43 Sensational
44 Nourishes
45 Note from the boss
46 Went blonde
48 1989 Jack Lemmon movie
49 29-Across accessory
50 Lair
51 Prevent from talking

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 8-13



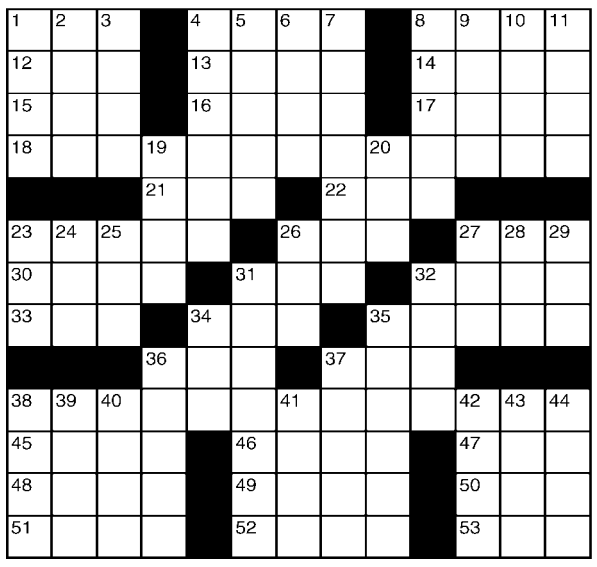
ACROSS
1 Spasm
4 Hertz rival
8 Hawk
12 Farmer's tool
13 Santa's reference
14 Eastern potentate
15 Piercing tool
16 Aware of
17 Puerto —
18 Be careful
21 "2001" computer
22 Pirouette pivot
23 Jennifer Garner TV series
26 Brother of Jack and Bobby
27 See 29-Down
30 Make a 32-Across
31 Play with robots
32 Bank transaction
33 Mr. Chaney
34 Mardi Gras VIP
35 Elk, in Europe
36 "Casablanca" pianist
37 Charged bit
38 Levin's super-obedient Nutmeggers
45 Kitchen flooring, for short
46 Field mouse
47 Prior to
48 Loosen
49 State with certainty
50 Sartorial woe
51 Phantom's cover
52 Not so much
53 Wager

DOWN
1 Spring phenomenon
2 Waterloo is there
3 Highlander
4 Greetings from the Big Island
5 Naugahyde coating
6 Ratio phrase
7 More corpulent
8 Limerick, for one
9 Send forth
10 Courteous
11 Rainstorm minutia
19 Election Day hanger-on?
20 Scepter
23 The whole shooting match
24 MGM mascot
25 B&B
26 Monkey suit
27 Excessively
28 Existed
29 With 27-Across, combination punch
31 Ouster
32 Actress Anderson
34 Brit. fliers
35 Greenskeepers' props
36 Frighten
37 Runs in neutral
38 Poor part of town
39 Ms. Turner
40 Remnants
41 Wander
42 Trick or treat, e.g.
43 Pennsylvania port
44 Calendar abbr.

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 8-14



Bridge

Test Your Play

1. You are East, defending against Three Notrump, South having opened one notrump, raised by North to three. Your partner leads the four of spades. You cover dummy's five with the seven, and declarer wins with the queen. South leads the jack of diamonds, which you win with the queen. What would you play next?

NORTH
S 10 9 5; **H** K J 2; **D** K 9 8 3; **C** K 10 2
EAST
S 7 2 **H** 9 8 4 3 **D** Q 4 2 **C** A Q J 5

2. You are declarer with the West hand at Seven Spades. North leads the king of hearts. How would you play the hand?

WEST	EAST
S A K Q J 5 3	**S** 10 9 8
H -	**H** 9 6 5 2
D A K Q J	**D** 10 9 5
C 7 4 3	**C** A K 6

1. The correct return is the five of clubs! This play will almost certainly defeat the contract.

Judging from declarer's play, it is highly likely that your partner has the ace of diamonds. South could have something like: S AKQ H AQ65 D J10 C 9863. That would be consistent with his opening notrump bid and the play to the first two tricks. He can scarcely have the ace of diamonds and attack the suit without cashing the ace first.

Once West is credited with the ace of diamonds, his spades cannot be good enough to justify a spade return. South's weak spot is obviously in clubs, and that is the place to attack. Note that the five must be led, not the queen or jack. When West gets in with the diamond ace, his club return defeats the contract.

2. Ruff the heart high and cross to dummy with a trump. Assuming both opponents follow suit, which is likely, ruff another heart high, return to dummy with a trump and ruff still another heart. Then play a club to the king and ruff dummy's last heart. This runs you out of trumps, but dummy still has one.

Now lead a club to the ace and play the ten of trumps, discarding your club loser. Then claim the last four tricks with the A-K-Q-J of diamonds.

This method of play succeeds whether the trumps are divided 2-2 or 3-1. In all, you score seven trump tricks (four heart ruffs in your hand, plus dummy's 10-9-8 of spades), four diamonds and two clubs.

Tomorrow: Solution to a predicament.

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

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

WEST
♠ 10 8 5 4 3
♥ 6
♦ 8 7 6 2
♣ 7 5 4

EAST
♠ 9 7 2
♥ J 10 9 3
♦ 3
♣ K J 10 8 2

SOUTH
♠ J 6
♥ A K 8 7 5 2
♦ A Q 10 4
♣ A

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♥	Pass	3 NT	Pass
4 ♦	Pass	6 ♦	Pass
7 ♦			

Opening lead — eight of diamonds.

Solution to a Predicament

Good bridge requires great mental effort. Merely planning to rely on past experience in similar situations will not be good enough in many cases; you must also be able to think things out — independent of what has happened to you before.

For example, take this case where South got to an excellent grand slam and went down one, losing 100 points when he should have made seven diamonds and scored 2,340 points instead.

It didn't take South long to go astray. He won the trump lead with the ten and continued with the ace, on which East discarded a club.

At this point, declarer realized that the only real threat to the contract was the possibility that the hearts might not be divided 3-2. Accordingly, at trick three he led a heart to the queen and then led a heart back to the ace. Unfortunately, West ruffed, and the grand slam went down the drain.

Declarer would have done much better had he taken more effective steps to guard against unfavorable divisions in both diamonds and hearts. All he had to do was cash the ace of clubs at trick two, then lead a low trump to dummy's nine.

Upon discovering the 4-1 trump division, declarer ruffs a club, leads a spade to the queen and ruffs another club with his last trump. Now a spade to the king, followed by the K-J of trumps, puts an end to the matter.

By playing this way, South scores all 13 tricks regardless of how the hearts are divided. He finishes with his four natural trump tricks, two club ruffs in his hand, the A-K-Q of spades, the Q-K-A of hearts and the ace of clubs. It all seems ridiculously easy if you stop to think about it. The hard part is to think of it!

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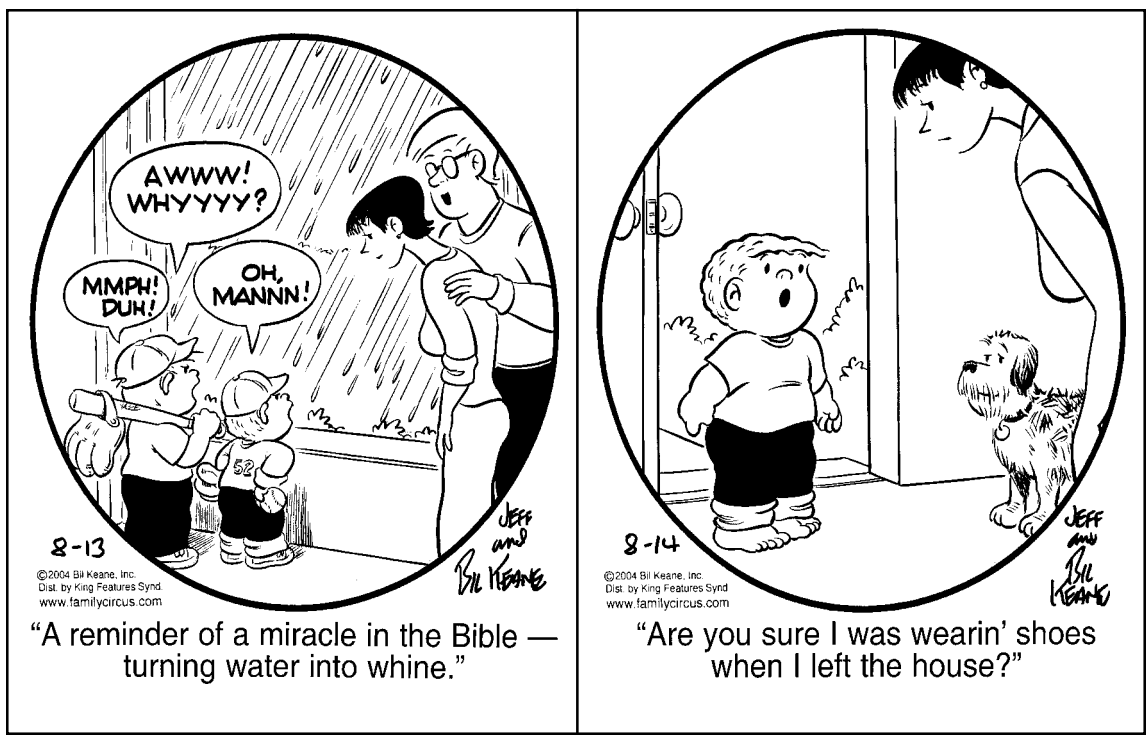
Family Circus • Bill Keane



"A reminder of a miracle in the Bible — turning water into whine."

"Are you sure I was wearin' shoes when I left the house?"