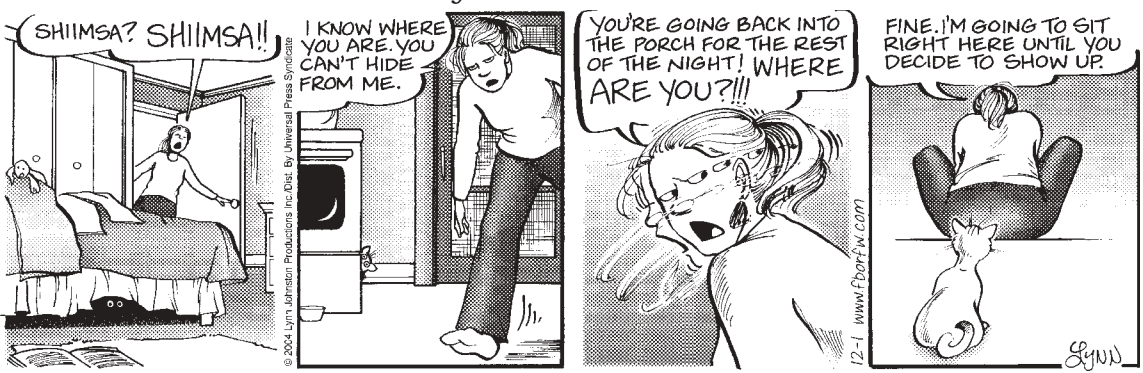
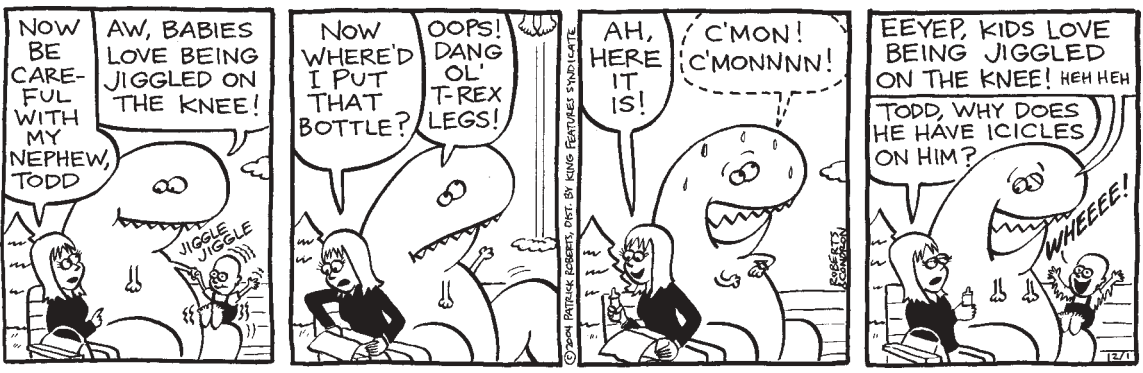


For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Tod The Dinosaur • PR Condon



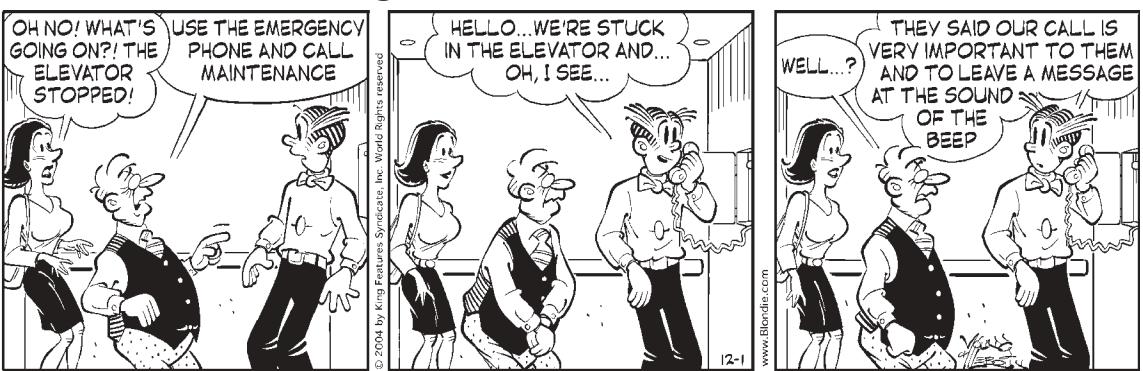
Garfield • Jim Davis



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



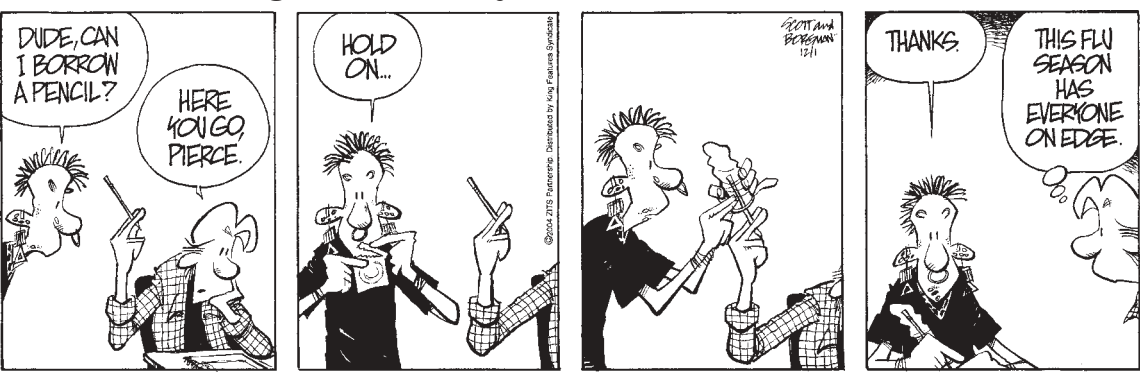
Blondie • Chic Young



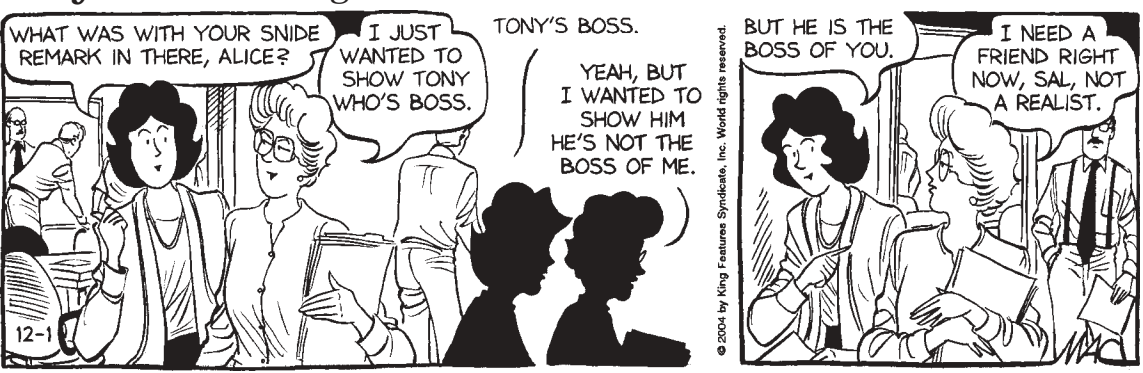
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

TA YMTYZYTGIVIE PSVP VJN HVCHJOX LSPCSZXZ GSDIX
 JNRAZYMW VOIN QNMPNJE PUZV AJ DVVK HIJZZ
 QAMEYTNJ PSNRENIZNE LUPNJOZ. XIJN'OJ AVXI
 V QAJN WJAGO?
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I HAVE TO ADMIT I LOVE WINNIE-THE-POOH CHARACTERS. WOULD YOU SAY I'M TIGGER-HAPPY?
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals T

HVCHJOX LSPCSZXZ GSDIX
 PUZV AJ DVVK HIJZZ
 LUPNJOZ. XIJN'OJ AVXI
 DOPCK GPZXJOZ.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: DO INDIVIDUALS THAT ARE REMOVING APPLE CENTERS CONSIDER THEMSELVES A CORE GROUP?
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equal S

Crossword

ACROSS
 1 Shut noisily
 5 Woodwind
 9 Law enforcer
 12 Guadalajara greeting
 13 Telephone, slangily
 14 Flamenco cheer
 15 Clarified
 17 Keanu, in "The Matrix"
 18 PC picture
 19 Author Sinclair
 21 Marsh plant
 24 Geometry answer
 25 Analgesic's target
 26 Speed
 30 Ar-tee connector
 31 Salary denial
 33 Union events

DOWN
 1 That girl

ACROSS
 35 Trombone end
 36 Em or Bee
 37 Mountain air
 38 Unquestioning
 40 Progeny
 42 Scooted
 43 Amateurish
 48 Rage
 49 Hammerhead
 50 Inlet part
 51 Peculiar
 52 Toolshop supply
 53 Paradise

DOWN
 2 Bagel topping
 3 Mont Blanc, e.g.
 4 Slander
 5 Part of B.&O.
 6 Former German capital
 7 Tramcar load
 8 Withstands
 9 Held
 10 Toast enhancer
 11 Manual laborer
 16 Expert
 20 Through
 21 Jet forth
 22 Relaxation

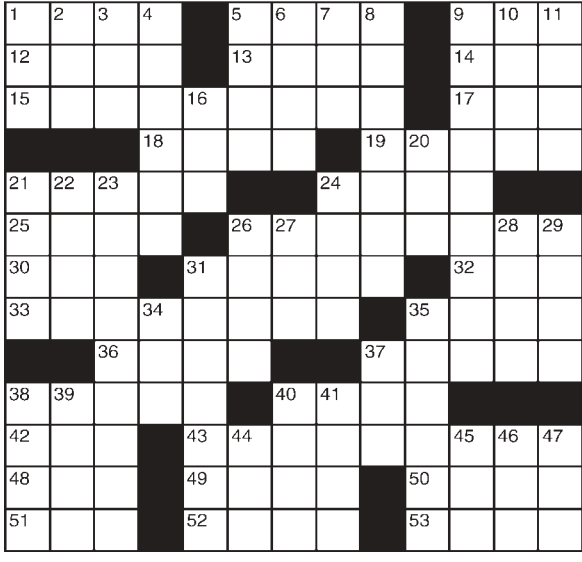
23 Treated with scorn
24 Brewery products
26 Lacks the skills
27 Batter ingredient
28 Story
29 Scream
31 Conclusions
34 Press for payment
35 Upper part of a dress
37 Nay canceler
38 Vivacity, to Valdi
39 Semisolid fat
40 Crockpot recipe
41 Sea flock
44 Teachers' org.
45 Pal of Wynken and Blynken
46 First lady
47 Hideaway

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 11-30

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13				14			
15				16				17			
			18				19	20			
21	22	23					24				
25				26	27				28	29	
30				31						32	
33			34							35	
			36							37	
38	39				40	41					
42				43	44				45	46	47
48				49					50		
51				52					53		



Bridge

South dealer.
 Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ A 9 3
 ♥ K J 10 6
 ♦ J 9 5 2
 ♣ A 4

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

EAST
 ♠ J 8 6 5
 ♥ A 9 7 5 3
 ♦ 8 4
 ♣ Q 2

SOUTH
 ♠ K Q 10
 ♥ Q 4
 ♦ A Q 10 7
 ♣ 10 9 6 3

The bidding:
South 1♦
West 1NT
North Pass
East 3NT
 Opening lead — seven of clubs.

There's a Very Good Reason

Let's say you're in three notrump, and West leads a low club. How should you proceed?
 Your first play with dummy's ace is very important. You should rise with dummy's ace despite all previous experience that might have taught you that it is better to hold up at least once — especially at notrump — when the enemy attacks your weakest suit.
 There is a very good reason for putting up the ace. Assuming that West has led his fourth-best club, East must have the king, queen or jack (because West would have led the king if he had the K-Q-J-7). Winning the first trick is therefore sure to block the clubs if West led from a five-card suit. If the clubs are divided 4-3, your first play makes no difference.
 The play at trick two is also critical. Ordinarily, you would force out the ace of hearts rather than attempt a diamond finesse, but here you should reverse the usual procedure.
 There is an excellent reason for tackling diamonds first. If West has the ace of hearts and king of diamonds, the order of plays is irrelevant because the contract is doomed. If East has the king of diamonds, with or without the ace of hearts, the contract is in the bag, whichever red suit is played first.
 The only case that matters, therefore, is the one where West has the king of diamonds and East the ace of hearts. In that instance, playing diamonds first makes the contract, while playing hearts first loses the contract.
 Tomorrow: A drop in the bucket.
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West dealer.

East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ 10
 ♥ A K J 3
 ♦ A K J 9
 ♣ Q J 10 4

WEST
 ♠ A K 9 8 3
 ♥ Q 8
 ♦ Q 5
 ♣ K 9 7 2

EAST
 ♠ 7 6 4 2
 ♥ 9 6
 ♦ 10 8 6 4 3
 ♣ A 5

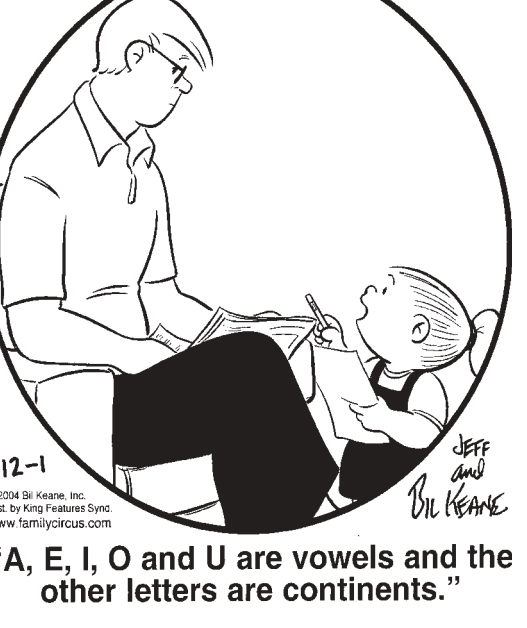
SOUTH
 ♠ Q J 5
 ♥ 10 7 5 4 2
 ♦ 7 2
 ♣ 8 6 3

The bidding:
West 1♠
North 2♣
East Pass
South 2♥
 Opening lead — king of spades.

A Drop in the Bucket

The most important aim when you are declarer is to make the contract if it can be made. Similarly, the most important aim when you are a defender is to beat the contract if it can be beaten.
 These goals may be achieved by following a fundamental principle: You always assume that the cards lie in a way that will enable you to attain your goal, rather than in a way that will prevent your attaining it. Very often this assumption will prove false, but there is little to be lost by adopting the more optimistic view.
 Here is a typical case. West leads the king of spades against four hearts and must then decide how to continue at trick two. The proper play is a low club, which defeats the contract after East takes the ace, returns a club to West's king and gets a club ruff for the defense's fourth trick.
 Most players wouldn't dare lead a club from the king at trick two. The possibility that South might have the ace would freeze them in their tracks and induce them to make a "safer" play.
 This is the wrong view. West has no choice but to assume that East has the ace of clubs, because if South has the ace, there is no way to defeat the contract. He must also assume that the ace is doubleton, for otherwise it will be next to impossible to score four tricks.
 It is true that a club lead might lose a trick, but it never loses the contract. The trick that might be lost is a drop in the bucket compared with what could be lost by not leading a club.
 Tomorrow: Two-for-one deal.
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Family Circus • Bill Keane



11-30
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