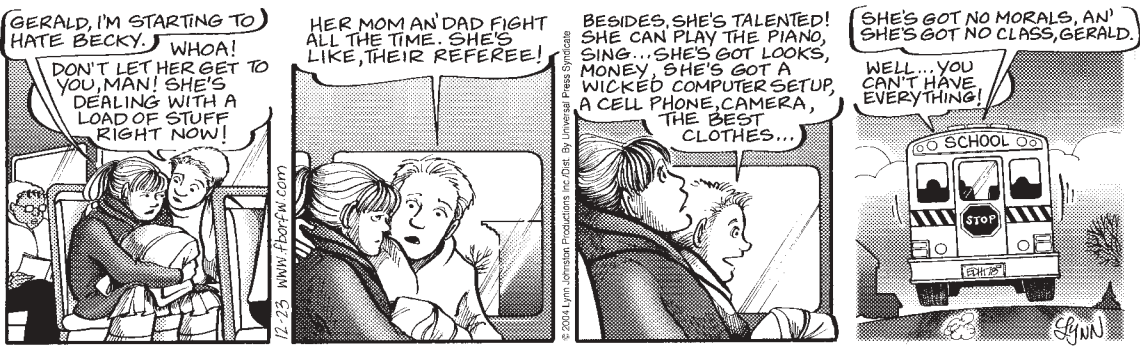
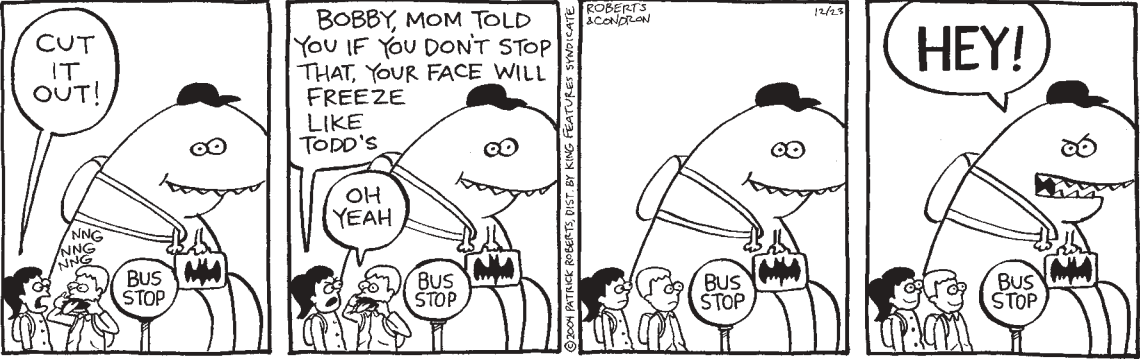


For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



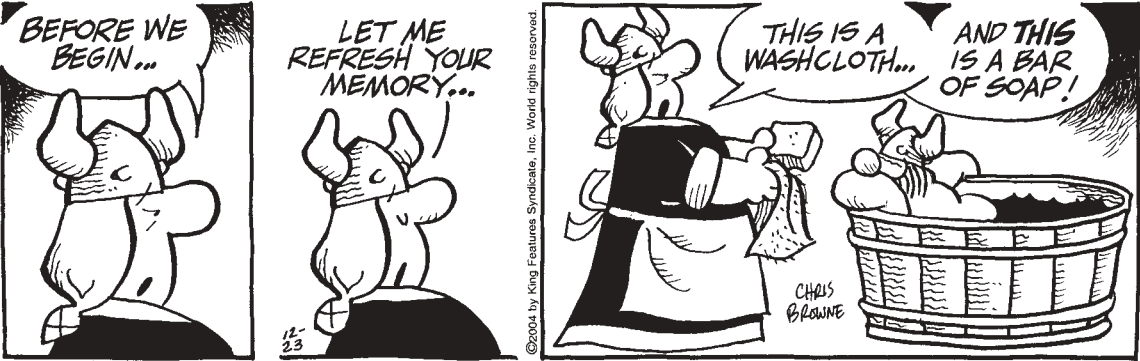
Tod The Dinosaur • PR Condon



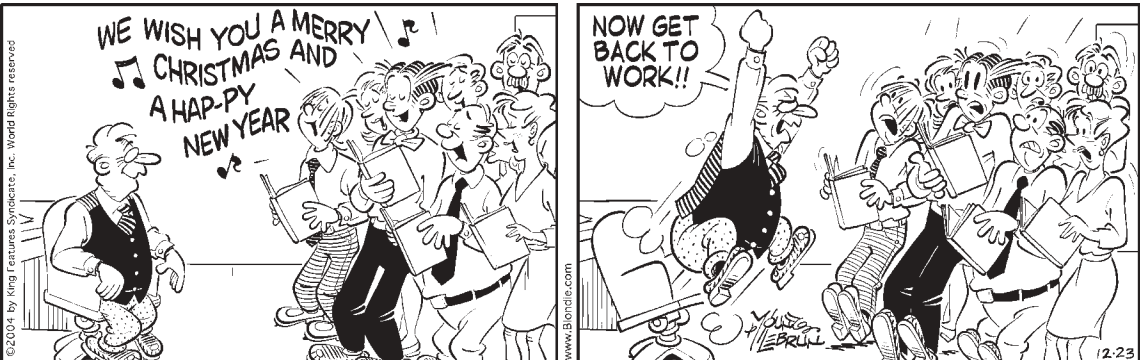
Garfield • Jim Davis



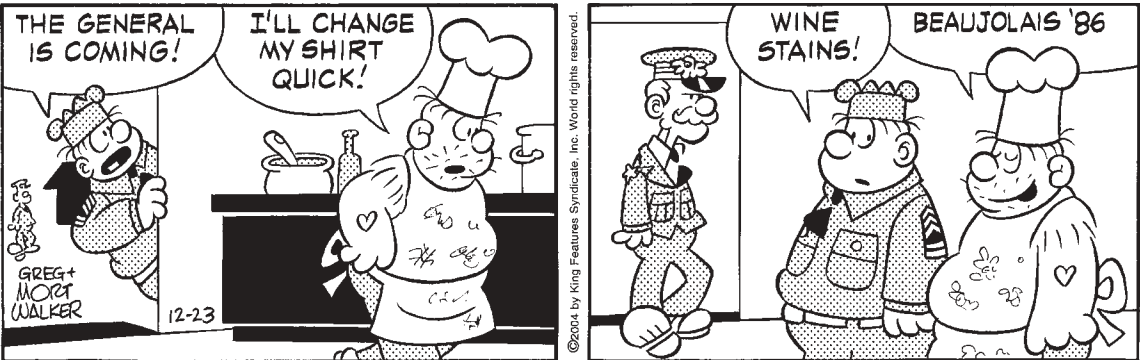
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



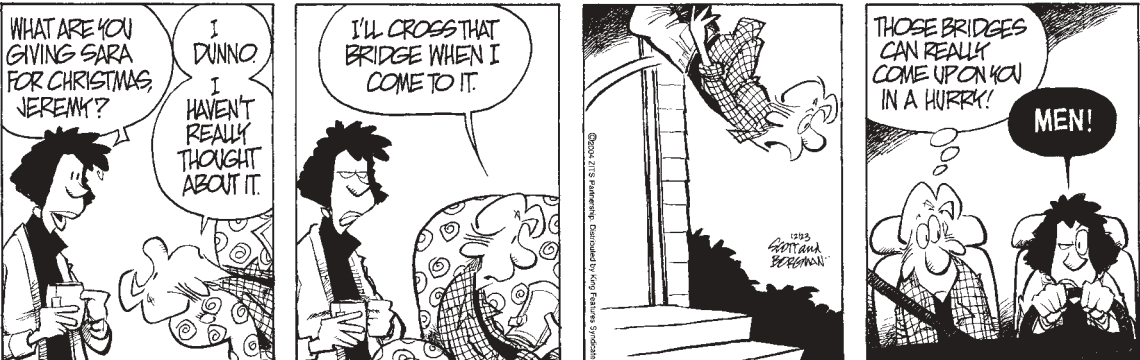
Blondie • Chic Young



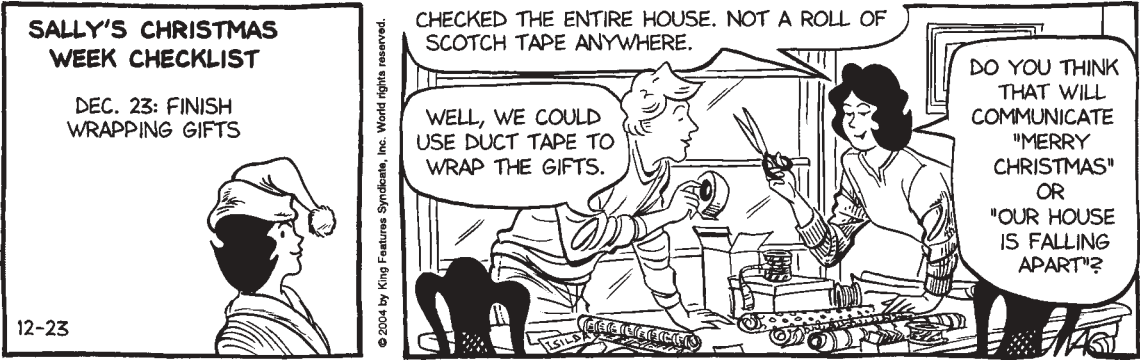
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

RI NROT SUJUCRNHC QHN
RONA WURDHY RNHWC,
CXAPDY TAP SUT WAJH
IAJ CXRSSROQ IDHUC?
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I DON'T EVER CARRY AROUND COINS. I GUESS YOU MIGHT SAY I'M AVERSE TO CHANGE.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals F

X GFC'L EFIK LSK
JXIXKJR JKZXFC, RELSFTZS
X ZTKBB X'G ZF LSKJK
RB R ERBL JKBFL.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF TINY PARASITES GET INTO MAILED ITEMS, SHOULD YOU PAY MORE FOR SHIPPING FLEAS?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals T

Crossword

ACROSS

1 Beyond control
5 Round Table address
8 Kohoutek feature
12 Creche trio
13 Farm implement
14 In a bad way
15 "— do"
16 Piratic potable
17 Prepare a casserole
18 Put aside
20 Related
22 Hard candy
26 Street's boss
29 Dryly humorous
30 Lemieux milieu
31 Unctuous
32 Put into words
33 Rounded handle
34 Altar affirmative

DOWN

1 Writer
2 Kingsley
3 Report-card heading
4 Party longingly
5 Petruccio's challenge
6 Debtor's letters
7 Knot again?
8 Leg bone
9 Comic born
10 Sort
11 Caustic solution
19 Forefront

ACROSS

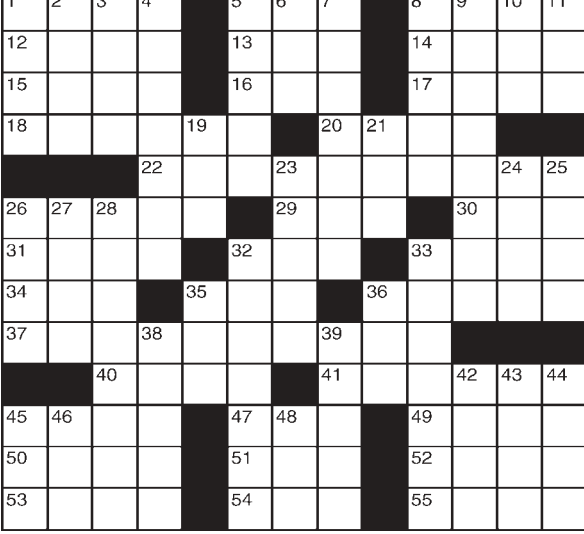
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10 Sort
11 Caustic solution
19 Forefront

Solution time: 25 mins.

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER 12-23



ACROSS

1 Brewery product
4 History chapters
8 Nightfall
12 Zodiac critter
13 Comedian
14 "— Brockovich"
15 Anti-Red witch-hunter
17 Day-shift start
18 Hollywood clashers
19 Elbow
20 Slander
22 Garden starter
24 Hideaway
25 Kenobi portrayer
29 Grecian vessel
30 "... against a — troubles"
31 Sapporo sash
32 Nixon opponent
34 Pro-tubance

DOWN

1 Branch
2 Fond du —, Wisconsin
3 Host's job
4 Glitch
5 Decomposes
6 Essen expletive
7 Firmament
8 Strip
9 Saharan
10 Pugilists' venue
11 Dandling site
16 Emulsifying agent
19 Soft ball
20 Run-down part of town
23 "Ghostbusters" role
25 Earth's inheritors?
26 Ashcroft's intended successor
27 Reed instrument
28 BBQ entree
30 Cinematographer
33 Began
34 "Family Feud" host
36 Mock attack
37 "Edward Scissorhands" star
38 Finished
39 Nil
40 Epidermis
42 "— Miniver"
43 Prompt
44 JFK info
45 Evergreen variety

Solution time: 25 mins.

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER 12-24



Puzzle Answers: Cryptoquip 12 / 25

I don't love the Riviera Region. Although I guess I'd go there as a last resort.



Bridge

North dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ Q J 7 3
♥ A J 2
♦ K Q
♣ A Q J 10

WEST

♠ K 9 4
♥ K 8 6 5
♦ J 9 5 2
♣ 8 4

EAST

♠ 6
♥ Q 10 4
♦ A 10 7 6 3
♣ 9 7 5 2

SOUTH

♠ A 10 8 5 2
♥ 9 7 3
♦ 8 4
♣ K 6 3

The bidding:
North 1 ♣
East Pass
South 1 ♠
West Pass

Opening lead — two of diamonds.

Assumptions Are Essential

A shrewd defender makes all kinds of assumptions about the location of the unseen cards. In doing so, he does not credit declarer with cards that would render the contract impregnable; rather, he assumes that his partner has the necessary honor cards or distribution that will lead to declarer's defeat.

Consider this case where West leads a diamond against four spades. East takes the ace and must decide what to return. The correct return is a low heart, but before discussing the question of why, let's first examine the effect of the heart shift. After South follows low, West puts up the king, and dummy wins with the ace.

When declarer next tries a trump finesse — there really isn't much else he can do — West takes the king and returns a heart, and East scores two heart tricks to finish South off. But if East returns anything other than a low heart at trick two, declarer makes the contract.

East's goal at the start is to find a way for the defense to score four tricks. In attempting to meet this goal, he cannot credit South with the king of hearts, since if declarer has that card, it becomes virtually impossible for East-West to take four tricks. Nor, for the same reason, can South be credited with the both the ace and king of trumps.

East's only realistic hope, therefore, is that West has the heart king in addition to a trump trick, in which case there is an excellent chance that the heart shift at trick two will do declarer in.

Bidding Quiz

You are South, neither side vulnerable, and the bidding has been:

West North East South
3D 3S 4D ?
What would you now bid with:
S 5 H A K Q 10 8 D 8 C K Q 8 7 4 3

George Rapee, playing in the 1972 International Team Playoff, was faced with this extremely difficult problem and, after considerable thought, elected to bid four hearts. Everybody passed, and Rapee made seven. This was the full deal:

NORTH

S A Q 10 9 3 2
H 7 3 2
D A 5
C A 10

WEST

S K 8 4
H 9
D K 9 7 4 3 2
C 9 5

EAST

S J 7 6
H J 6 5 4
D J 10 6
C J 6 2

SOUTH

S 5
H A K Q 10 8
D 8
C K Q 8 7 4 3

The Bridge World magazine, which polls top experts each month on a variety of bidding problems, presented this one to its distinguished panel with the following results:

There were 10 votes for Four Hearts; nine for Five Clubs; three for Five Diamonds; three for Four Notrump; four for Double. There were no votes for Six Hearts, Six Clubs or Five Hearts, which were alternative possibilities. Here are some of the comments offered by the panelists:

Jack Ehrlendbach: Five clubs. Hoping to get my hearts in over five diamonds.

Edgar Kaplan: Five clubs. When in doubt bid your longest suit. And I'm in doubt.

Bobby Wolff: Four hearts. Nothing else is remotely in the ballpark.

Theodore Lightner: Four hearts. There is often no satisfactory action after a pre-empt. Amen.

Marshall Miles: Double. I'm probably settling for 300, and we probably have a game. But where? It is possible we have a slam, but there is no logical way to investigate it.

Alvin Roth: Four notrump. I'm only guessing. There is a good chance that partner has two aces; if so, I plan on bidding six clubs. If partner has only one ace, I'll bid five hearts. How come that in real life I have never had this type of problem?

Bridge World Editor: Because you didn't get to the Playoff.

Family Circus • Bill Keane

