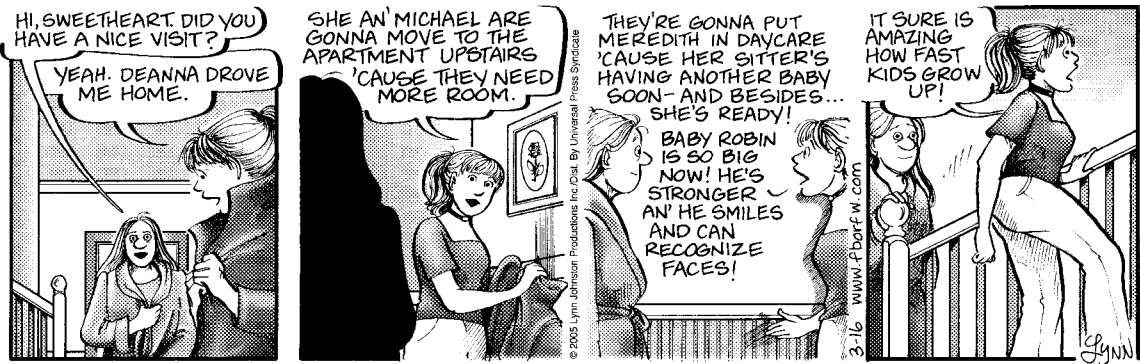


**For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston**



**Garfield • Jim Davis**



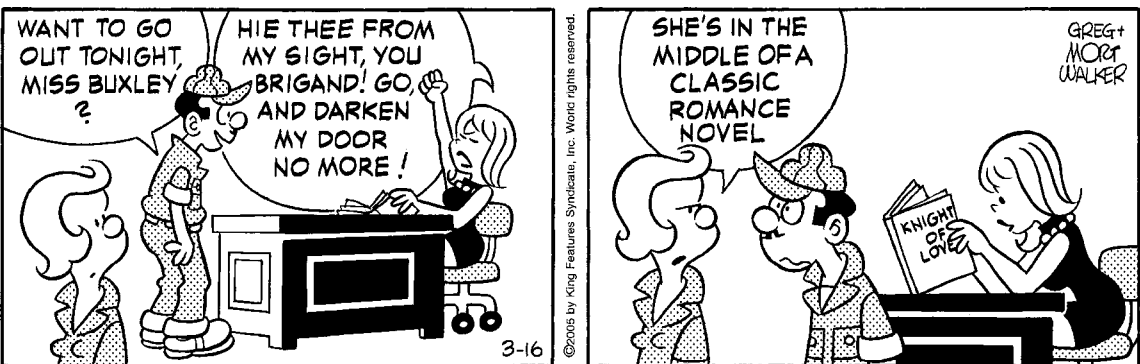
**Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne**



**Blondie • Chic Young**



**Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker**



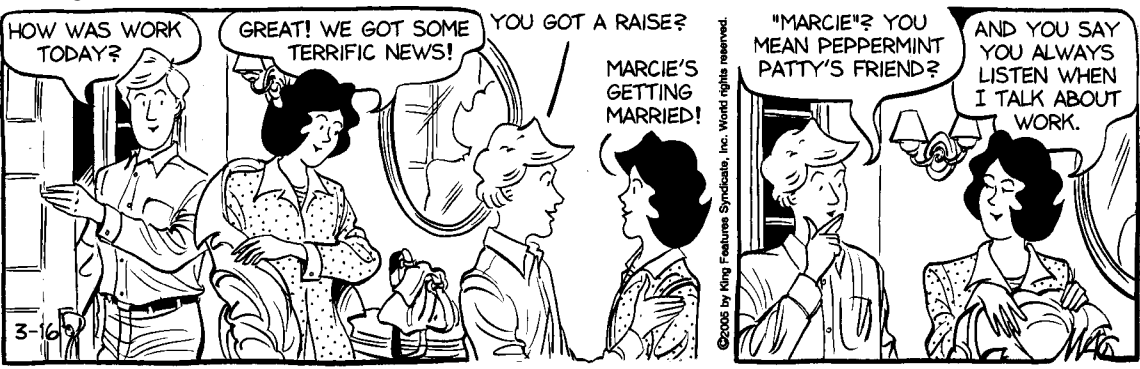
**Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott**



**Sally Forth • Greg Howard**



**Sally Forth • Greg Howard**



**Cryptoquip**

Z ZDHQZEM VGHV H LBYXX EB XG W.X. CXRF CXWW  
NMVSMME H LHEEYE HEK AZL NXR X TGXJT BLZ  
H NMRR SYIRK NM KINNMK RTFIJNEGD AEJIQZFR, ER  
"VGM NYD MBHEQ."  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ONE OF MY COMPUTER KEYS APPEARS TO BE STICKING, BUT I CAN'T PUT MY FINGER ON IT.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals B  
NF XG XZIBQW OLODFZ?  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I IMAGINE THAT A CROSS BETWEEN A CANNON AND A BELL WOULD BE DUBBED "THE BOOMERANG."  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals A

**Crossword**

**ACROSS**  
1 Desire  
5 Barbie's ex  
8 Karate school  
12 Wan  
13 Paul Bunyan prop  
14 Carbon compound  
15 Turn on a pivot  
16 Long-fellow subject  
18 League championship  
20 O.  
21 Henry's specialty  
22 Billboards  
23 Colony dweller  
26 Low voice  
29 Snobbish  
30 Literary collection  
31 Comic  
32 DeLuise  
33 Sapporo sash  
36 Fireplug  
38 Leonard Marx  
39 Mound stat  
40 Laughing pack  
43 Madeline and Gus  
46 Egress  
47 PBS  
48 benefactor  
49 Uncle (Sp.)  
50 "CSI" evidence  
51 Holds the scepter  
52 St. Louis attraction  
53 Ford or Lincoln  
54 piece  
55 17-syllable verses  
56 Constricts  
57 Attention getter  
58 Golfer Ballesteros  
59 Slapstick arsenal  
60 Doctor's revenue  
61 Winning margin, maybe  
62 Merriment  
63 Back talk  
64 Airline initials

**DOWN**  
1 Nasty stinger  
2 Capri, e.g.  
3 Avoid  
4 Avoiding  
5 Madeline and Gus  
6 Egress  
7 PBS  
8 Scarcity  
9 Aware of  
10 Revelation writer  
11 Moisturizer name  
12 KFC piece  
13 Com-mo-tion  
14 Intention  
15 "Hum-bug!"  
16 Whatever amount  
17 Despondent  
18 Like  
19 August  
20 Actress Jessica  
21 Free-loaded  
22 Bushel quarters  
23 Religious images (var.)  
24 Aaron's daughter  
25 -mutuel betting  
26 Walks the floor  
27 Motor  
28 Biz deg.  
29 Vestige  
28 Get a grip?  
29 Mr. Rogers' neighborhood?  
30 "On and On"  
31 Place for an ace?  
32 Pass along  
33 Super-man comparison  
34 Son of Aphrodite  
35 Botch up  
36 Clinton's instrument  
37 From square one  
38 Terkel or Lonigan  
39 All better  
40 Stop up  
41 "— and Circumstance"  
42 Acknowledge applause  
43 Oktoberfest crockery  
44 Spotted, to Tweety  
45 Imperfection  
46 Dadaist pioneer  
47 Casino temptation  
48 Hotel guests' needs  
49 Barber-shop item  
50 Diamond experts?  
51 Eye network  
52 "What's My Line?" group  
53 Crowbar  
54 Jacob's ladder, e.g.  
55 Feathery stoles  
56 Mole, maybe  
57 Rose or Rozelle  
58 Antitoxins

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

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

Yesterday's answer 3-15

**Bridge**

West dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ K Q J  
♥ 8 3  
♦ A Q J 10 4  
♣ 10 7 2

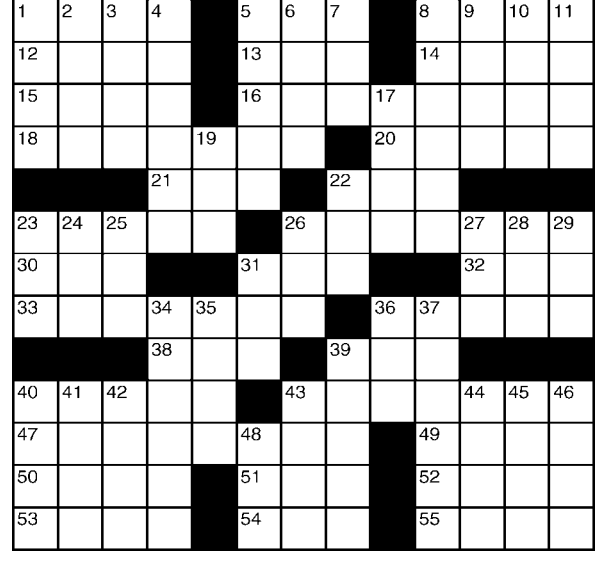
**WEST**  
♠ 6 3 2  
♥ A J 9 7 5  
♦ K 6 5 2  
♣ 4

**EAST**  
♠ 10 4  
♥ Q 6 4 2  
♦ 7  
♣ K Q J 8 6 5

**SOUTH**  
♠ A 9 8 7 5  
♥ K 10  
♦ 9 8 3  
♣ A 9 3

The bidding:  
West Pass  
North 1♦  
East Pass  
South 2♠  
Opening lead — four of clubs.

**Technician at Work**  
A player who, hand after hand, gives himself the best possible chance to make his contract is known in bridge circles as a technician. The technician always plays his cards in the right order and in accordance with the percentages to give himself the maximum chance for success.  
Consider this case from a district final of the 2005 North American Open Pairs. North-South bid aggressively to reach a touch-and-go four-spade contract that depended essentially on a diamond finesse.  
West led his singleton club, taken by South with the ace. Most declarers then drew three rounds of trumps, overtaking the third round with the ace after the trumps divided 3-2.  
Next came the nine of diamonds, which held, and another diamond to the ten. When East showed out, South was in trouble. There was no way to return to his hand to repeat the diamond finesse, so these declarers tried leading a heart to the king. West won and led a heart to East's queen, and East cashed two clubs to defeat the contract.  
The declarers who failed were naturally disappointed by the result. Once the nine of diamonds held, they no doubt thought they were going to score at least 11 tricks — 12 if East had the ace of hearts.  
At two of the tables, though, the declarers found a way to improve on their chances if the cards were divided as they were. In these two cases, the technicians ably demonstrated their craft.  
After taking the first club, the successful declarers led a diamond to the ten at trick two. Then they played the K-Q-J of trumps, overtaking with the ace. The nine of diamonds, followed by a diamond to the jack, now allowed declarer to score five diamond tricks and finish with 11 tricks in all.



East dealer.  
East-West vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ A Q 8  
♥ A Q J 5  
♦ 7 5 2  
♣ K J 6

**WEST**  
♠ J 7 6  
♥ 9 8 7  
♦ A 10 6 3  
♣ Q 10 5

**EAST**  
♠ 9 5 4 3  
♥ 10 3 2  
♦ 8 4  
♣ 9 8 4 2

**SOUTH**  
♠ K 10 2  
♥ K 6 4  
♦ K Q J 9  
♣ A 7 3

The bidding:  
East Pass  
South 1NT  
West Pass  
North 6NT  
Opening lead — nine of hearts.

**The Art of Good Defense**  
Let's say you're West, defending against six notrump. You lead a heart, and when dummy comes down, there are several conclusions you can reach about the unseen hands.  
Assuming that South plays 16- to 18-point notrumps, you can tell right away that your partner has a hand you wouldn't wish on your worst enemy. Your seven points, added to dummy's 17 and South's 16, tell you that East is pointless, since there are only 40 points in the deck.  
Translating declarer's points into tricks, you can count 11 of them — three spades, four hearts, two diamonds and two clubs. You are also painfully aware that South can acquire his slam-going trick in clubs simply by finessing dummy's jack.  
Your only real chance of stopping the slam is to try to talk South out of taking the club finesse by diverting his attention elsewhere. Accordingly, when he wins the heart lead in dummy and plays a diamond to the queen, you play the three. When he next re-enters dummy with a spade and plays a diamond to the king, you follow low again!  
South is now practically certain to return to dummy and lead a third round of diamonds, since he is sure to think that East has the ace. He is not likely to take a club finesse at this stage, since losing the finesse would mean losing the slam. When he does lead the third diamond from dummy, you score the A-10, and the slam goes down one.  
Observe what happens if you win the first or second diamond lead. Declarer later discovers that the diamonds are divided 4-2 and has no alternative but to hope you have the queen of clubs. When you turn up with it, he breezes home with the slam.  
Tomorrow: Hindsight versus foresight.  
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**ACROSS**  
1 Pos-sesses  
4 Orchestra's place  
7 Fruit part  
8 Tea variety  
10 Cha-cha's cousin  
11 Squirrel's stash  
13 "Back at One" singer  
16 Succor  
17 Estimate  
18 401(k) alternative  
19 Pan-handles  
20 From square one  
21 Terkel or Lonigan  
23 All better  
25 Stop up  
26 "— and Circumstance"  
27 Acknowledge applause  
28 Get a grip?  
29 Mr. Rogers' neighborhood?  
30 "On and On"  
31 Place for an ace?  
32 Pass along  
33 Super-man comparison  
34 Son of Aphrodite  
35 Botch up  
36 Clinton's instrument  
37 From square one  
38 Terkel or Lonigan  
39 All better  
40 Stop up  
41 "— and Circumstance"  
42 Acknowledge applause  
43 Oktoberfest crockery  
44 Spotted, to Tweety  
45 Imperfection  
46 Dadaist pioneer  
47 Casino temptation  
48 Hotel guests' needs  
49 Barber-shop item  
50 Diamond experts?  
51 Eye network  
52 "What's My Line?" group  
53 Crowbar  
54 Jacob's ladder, e.g.  
55 Feathery stoles  
56 Mole, maybe  
57 Rose or Rozelle  
58 Antitoxins

**DOWN**  
1 Like  
2 Actress Jessica  
3 Free-loaded  
4 Bushel quarters  
5 Religious images (var.)  
6 Aaron's daughter  
7 —  
8 Walks the floor  
9 Motor  
10 Biz deg.  
12 Vestige  
19 Imperfection  
20 Dadaist pioneer  
21 Casino temptation  
22 Hotel guests' needs  
23 Barber-shop item  
24 Diamond experts?  
25 Eye network  
26 "What's My Line?" group  
28 Merriment  
29 Crowbar  
30 Jacob's ladder, e.g.  
31 Feathery stoles  
32 Mole, maybe  
34 Rose or Rozelle  
35 Antitoxins

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

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

Yesterday's answer 3-16

**Family Circus • Bill Keane**

