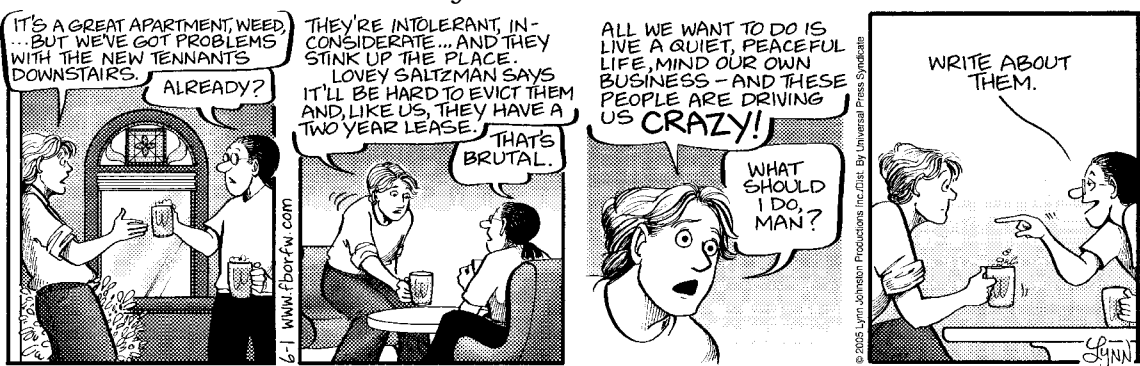
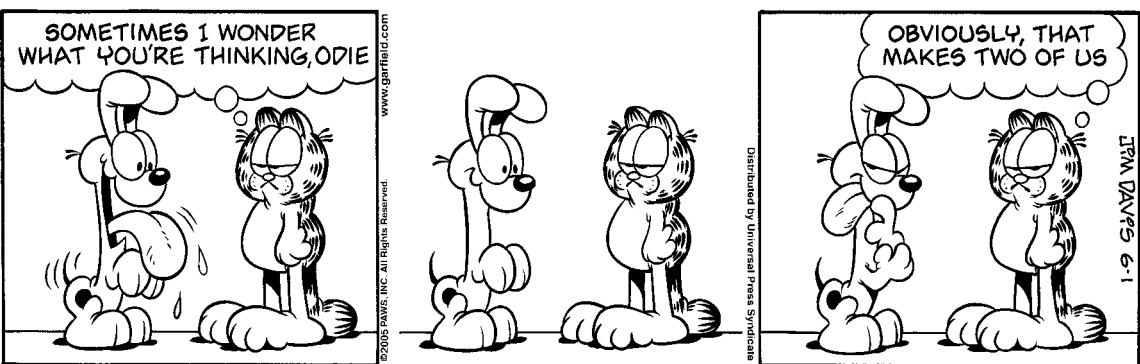


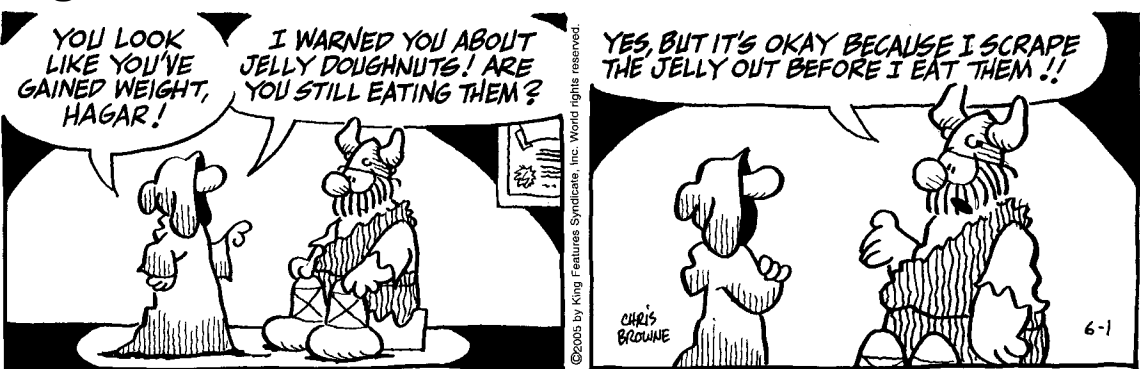
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



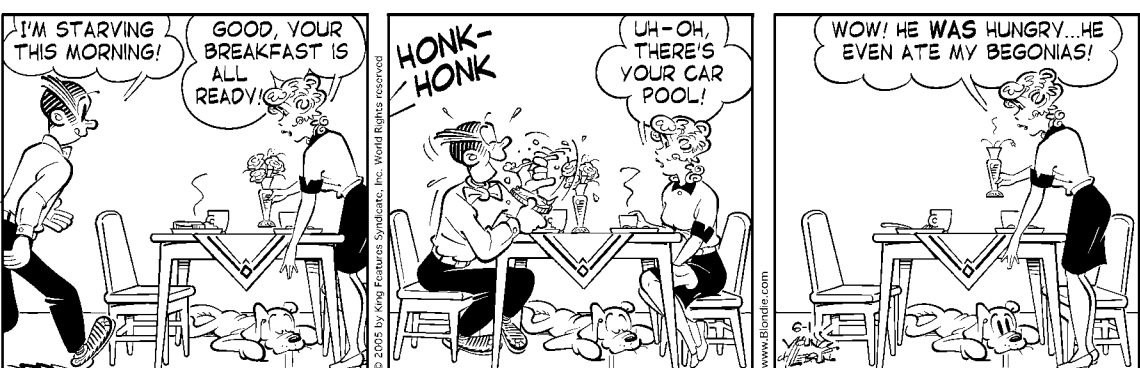
Garfield • Jim Davis



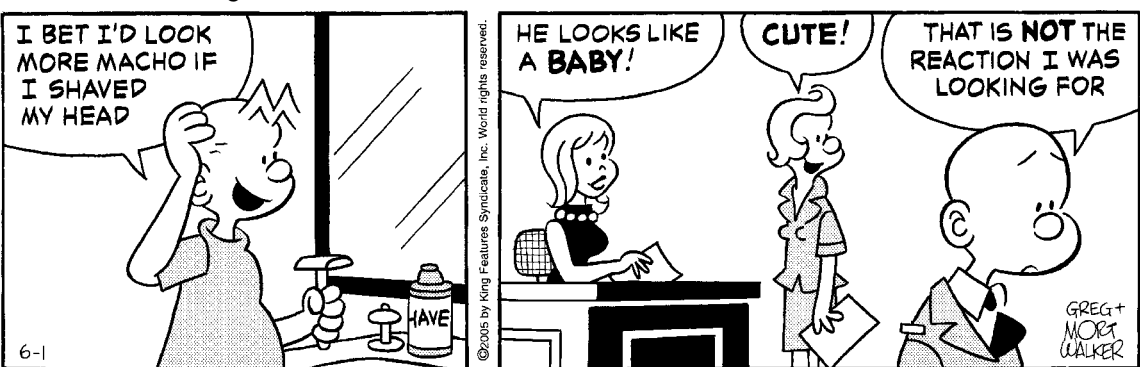
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



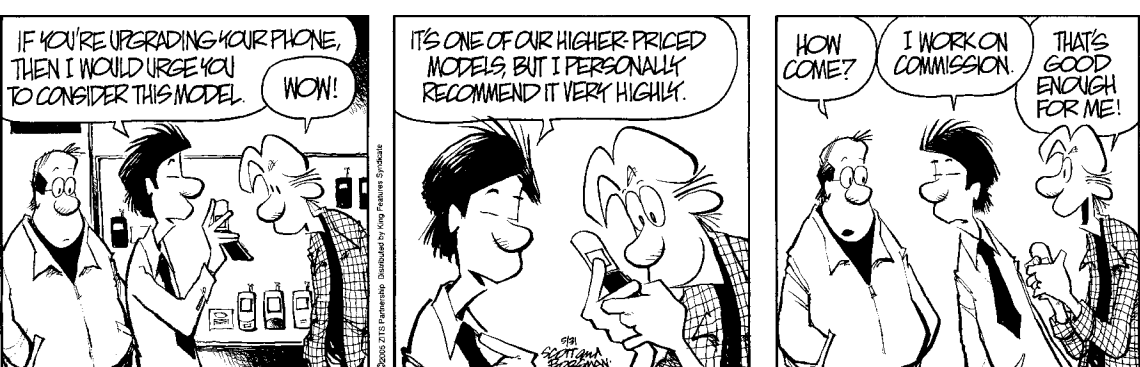
Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

AX NMY JARL WMGIDJAQLI MNZDB GAAEZPT OLRRBH,
 DVG D WMQDAQYL XMC U TZHD, XLZSB ZHEBW
 KAJLI, KAZVD DVG D KGRL US U VBDDAM, RDUPSBW
 NMY G JMQZIVMCLKGQ? U XLZGNB AP NZO VUGB.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: FEATURE FILM ABOUT BIG CARS THAT SPLASH UNSUSPECTING PEDESTRIANS: "SODDEN IMPACT."
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals U
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU LIKE COASTLINES THAT CONTINUE FOR MILES, MIGHT THAT MAKE YOU A LONGSHOREMAN?
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals Q

Crossword

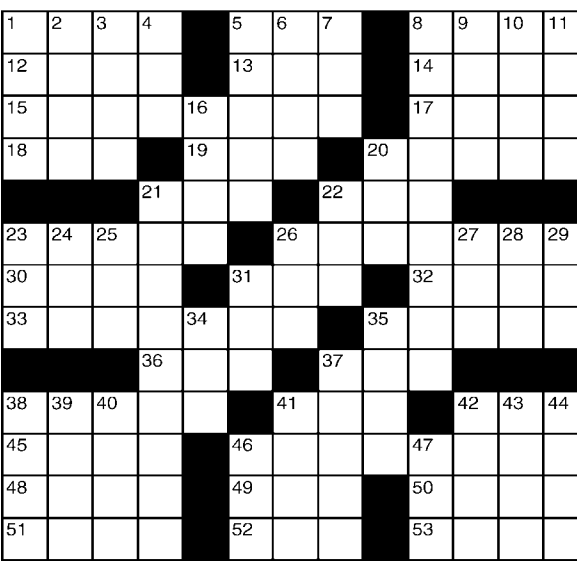
ACROSS
 1 Michigan is one
 5 "Judging —"
 8 Well-protected
 12 Shakespearean septet
 13 "Holy cow!"
 14 The yoke's on them
 15 Watch-face covers
 17 Practiced extortion
 18 Decks (Sl.)
 19 Disen-cumber
 20 Attire
 21 Oppositionist
 22 Luau bowlful
 23 Super-market section
 26 Feast
 30 Partner in crime
 31 Carton
 32 Desire
 33 "Non-sense!"
 35 Mortise mate
 36 Pantheon member

DOWN
 1 Deficiency
 2 Farming (Pref.)
 3 Steinway array
 4 Curved letter
 5 Repeat-edly
 6 Pinochle play
 7 "Naturally"
 8 Nick-name
 9 Wheel-base terminus
 10 Lawyer's income
 11 Tackles' team-mates
 16 City on the Hudson
 20 Slip into
 21 Requiring low temperatures

Solution time: 21 mins.

BAR	BBC	PALM
AMOK	ALI	TGOR
SEMI	DOG	CENT
SNARL	GAZA	
SEW	RIBALD	
MARTIAN	POSER	
ALAI	GUM	SHEA
POKES	BATTERY	
STEALS	TAR	
LYON	XERES	
JAIL	BOW	EURO
URGE	ETA	TEND
TROY	RED	SEA

Yesterday's answer 5-31



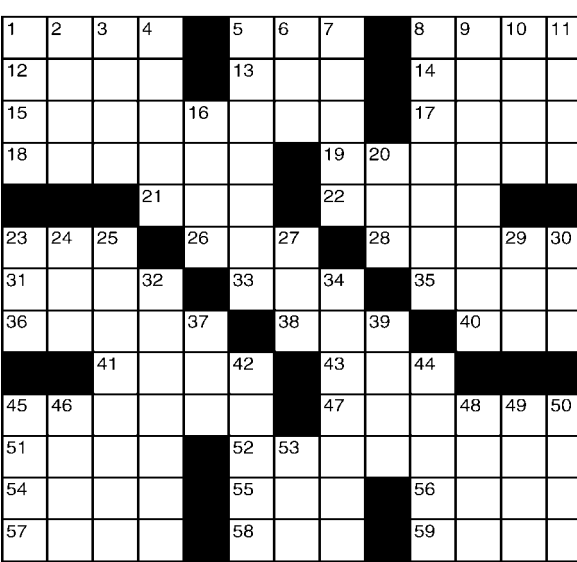
ACROSS
 1 Carson predecessor
 5 Keep talking
 8 Open somewhat
 12 Ontario neighbor
 13 Bud's partner
 14 Bouquet holder
 15 Bed type
 17 Genuine
 18 Gour-mand's pastime
 19 Failed miserably (Sl.)
 21 Heir, often
 22 Alphabet, e.g.
 23 Without delay (Abbr.)
 26 Surfing site
 28 Hotelier
 31 Utter defeat
 33 French noble

DOWN
 1 Lapdog, perhaps
 2 Met melody
 3 "— Mis-behavin'"
 4 Kelly's cohort
 5 In a row
 6 Florist's qty.
 7 Airs for pairs
 8 Routes
 9 Big winnings
 10 Connors' competitor
 11 On pens.
 16 January forecast

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 6-1



Family Circus • Bill Keane



Bridge

South dealer.
 East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ K 4 3 2
 ♥ A K Q 5
 ♦ 8 3
 ♣ 10 9 4

WEST
 ♠ J 9 6
 ♥ J 8 3
 ♦ K Q 7 2
 ♣ K 6 5

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

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

The bidding:
 South 1♣
 West 2♣
 North 2NT
 East Pass
 Pass
 Pass
 3NT
 Opening lead — two of diamonds.

A Psychological Battle

Part of the skill of declarer play is the ability to get the defenders to make mistakes. The most common way of achieving this is by attempting to convince the opponents that a situation exists which in fact does not. Here is an example.

West led his fourth-best diamond against three notrump, and East played the ten. South could see that if East had the king of clubs, he could collect the first 11 tricks by winning the ten of diamonds with the jack and taking a club finesse. But he also saw that if West had the club king and shifted to a high spade after winning the club, the contract would be in danger.

And so, to try to dissuade West from finding the potentially killing defense, South won the first diamond with the ace! He was trying to sell West the idea that East had the jack of diamonds. Declarer then played a heart to the queen, led the club ten and finessed.

West took his king and, convinced that his partner had the jack of diamonds, returned the diamond seven. South won with the nine and quickly cashed five clubs and two more hearts for a total of 10 tricks.

Declarer's clever ploy notwithstanding, the fact is that West should not have fallen victim to it. He should have refused to take his king of clubs at trick three, giving East the opportunity to signal with the eight of spades on the next club lead from dummy.

Regardless of how declarer proceeded, he would have gone down at least three tricks with normal defense. Thus, if declarer conceded a club to the king, West would shift to the jack of spades, and South would then find himself in very hot water. All of which goes to show that smart defense can sometimes overcome deceptive declarer play.

Tomorrow: Search for a missing queen.
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East dealer.
 Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ J 9 7 3
 ♥ A J 10 5
 ♦ A J 7
 ♣ Q 7 4

WEST
 ♠ 10 2
 ♥ Q 9 7
 ♦ 9 8 6
 ♣ J 10 9 5 3

EAST
 ♠ Q 4
 ♥ 8 6 4 3
 ♦ K 5 3 2
 ♣ A K 8

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

The bidding:
 East Pass
 South 1♣
 West Pass
 North 3♣
 Opening lead — jack of clubs.

Search for a Missing Queen

A recurring problem for declarer is to decide which way to finesse for a queen when the finesse can be taken in either direction.

The solution is rarely a matter of pure guesswork. There are nearly always clues that point to a winning solution. The clues come from the bidding or from the plays that precede the moment of decision. In some cases, the finesse can be taken with absolute assurance that it will win; in others, there is only a probability that it will win.

South's problem in today's hand is to guess which way to take the heart finesse. After he ruffs with the third round of clubs, he cashes the A-K of trumps, catching East's queen, and takes a diamond finesse, losing to the king. East returns a diamond to dummy's jack, and South must decide how to play the hearts.

First, as a matter of good technique, he cashes the ace of diamonds to learn more about the adverse distribution. After both opponents follow suit, all South knows about their distribution is that they each had two spades and also at least three clubs and three diamonds. This doesn't help much, so South starts looking for further enlightenment.

When he considers the high cards each opponent has shown up with, he encounters a significant clue. To this point, East has turned up with the A-K of clubs, queen of spades and king of diamonds.

East, therefore, cannot have the queen of hearts, since he surely would not have passed originally with 14 high-card points. Accordingly, declarer places the queen of hearts with West, takes the appropriate finesse and so makes the contract.

Tomorrow: Once in a lifetime.
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