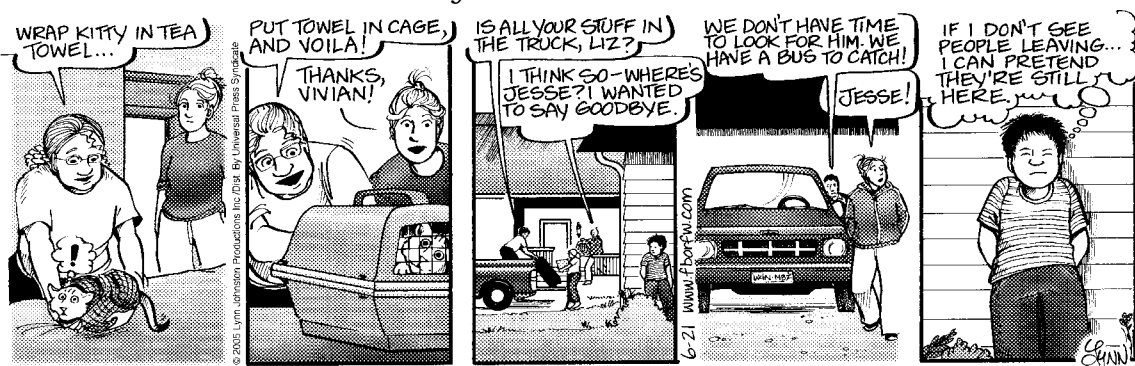
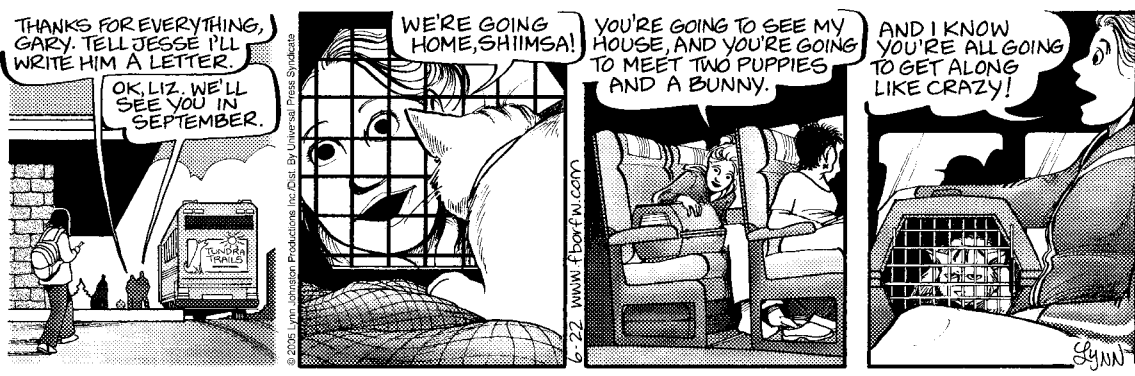


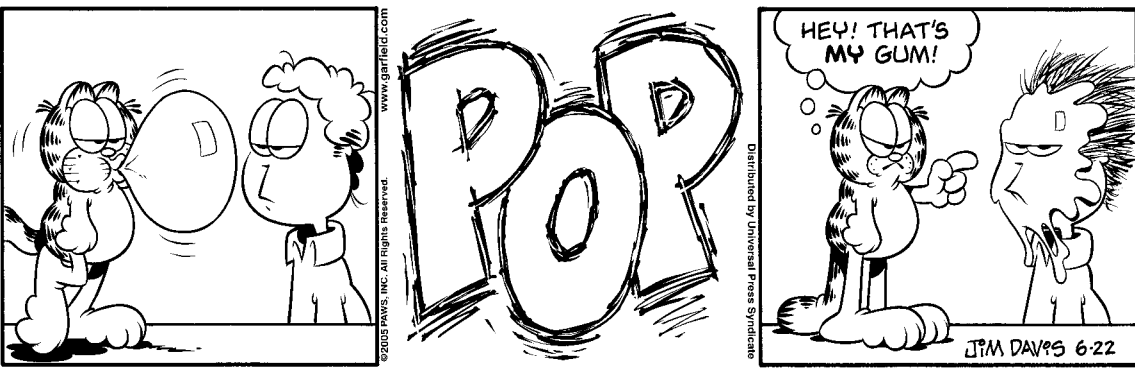
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



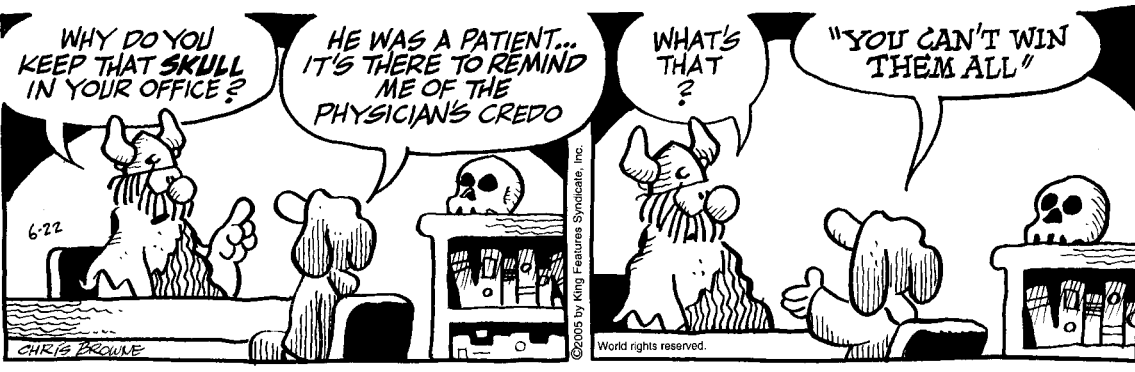
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Garfield • Jim Davis



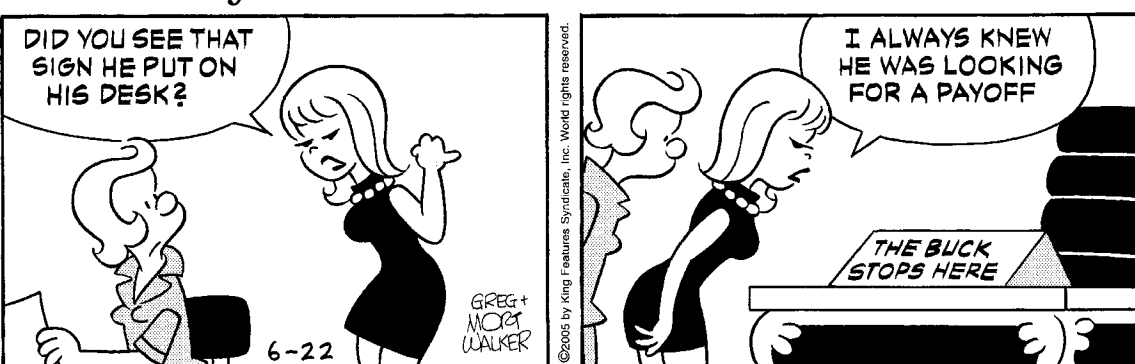
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



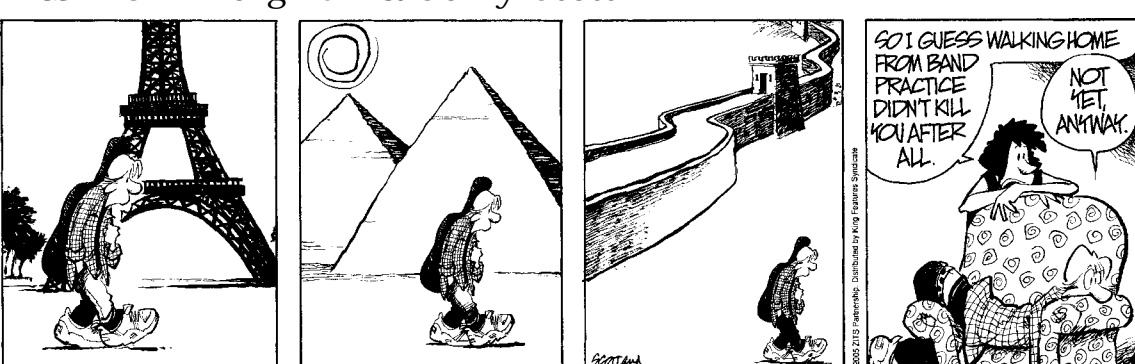
Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard

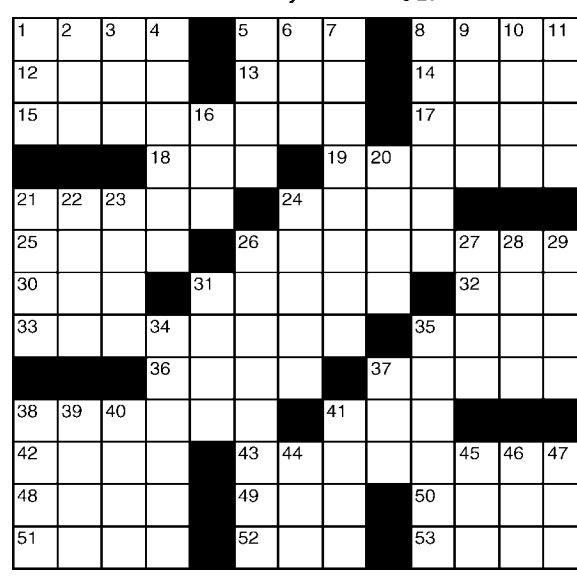


Cryptoquip

F QWD YLGAW FJLRX | WLYWB JOK KLQK AJEQM
 FCYLCWT DFC GWVAHKWE | NYCKVJIZMX LYV MYA
 HFWY LRX FCLRQT WAUVX | AQKWL NJ IJO COUJCY
 DWWZE FUL, JRX AX XFQZWT. | CLY'C BZGGZMX KZEY?
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A TAXI DRIVER | Yesterday's Cryptoquip: A NEW MOVIE ABOUT
 INSISTS ON GABBING, I SUPPOSE HE WILL | ARMORED WAR VEHICLES CAME OUT AROUND
 EXPECT A CABTIVE AUDIENCE. | EIGHT WEEKS AGO, BUT IT TANKED.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals W | Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals S

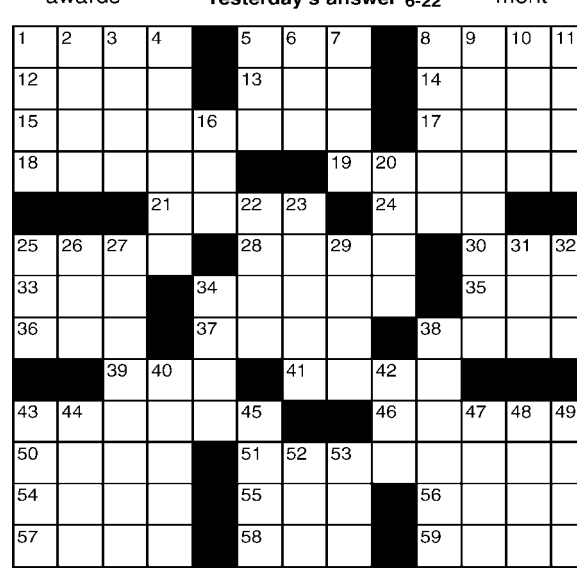
Crossword

ACROSS
 1 Hinged fastener
 5 Go like a bunny
 8 Drum companion
 12 Inventor Sikorsky
 13 "— Town"
 14 Yemen's gulf
 15 Set off
 17 Frigid
 18 Carton
 19 Photographs
 21 Did some yardwork
 24 Swiss capital
 25 Footnote abbr.
 26 Disparage
 30 Journal
 31 Meatloaf enhancement
 32 In favor of
 33 Barren
 35 Collapse
 36 Small boxers?
 37 "Mr. Television"
 38 Plot
 41 Round Table address
 42 Unyielding
 43 Embellish
 48 Nitwit
 49 Glass of NPR
 50 Pre-diploma hurdle
 51 Basin accessory
 52 "Platoon" venue
 53 Change for a \$50
DOWN
 1 Stashed
 2 Candle tally
 3 Drunkard
 4 Investigated
 5 "Punk'd" goings-on
 6 Chic no more
 7 Can
 8 Opposite
 9 "American —"
 10 Dropped down
 11 Tackles' team-mates
 16 Affirmative action?
 20 Helen's place
 21 Moderate
 22 Reed instrument
 23 "La Cage aux Folles" supply
 24 Pulsates
 26 Wearing, loosely
 27 Somewhere out there
 28 Bridge payment
 29 — Stanley Gardner
 31 Morose
 34 First game of the season
 35 Search (out)
 37 Story of a lifetime?
 38 Faction
 39 Boast
 40 Clinton's hometown
 41 Con job
 44 Historic time
 45 Pink-slip
 46 Neutral color
 47 Type squares



Yesterday's answer 6-21

ACROSS
 1 Carry on
 5 Early hrs.
 8 Curly hairdo
 12 A Van Halen brother
 13 Acknowledge applause
 14 Cripple
 15 Disney classic
 17 "— partridge ..."
 18 Unable to escape
 19 Time's up signal
 21 Snack
 24 Architect I.M.
 25 Foolish
 28 History
 30 Kvetch
 33 Mrs. McKinley
 34 Decorative novelty
 35 Mound stat
 36 Zero-star review
 37 German-Polish river
 38 Some GIs' awards
 39 Train component
 41 Show-room sample
 43 "My Friend —"
 46 Standard
 50 Choir's place
 51 Guitar-and-castanets melody
 54 Malaria symptom
 55 Way back when
 56 Beatles song
 57 Brazen
 58 Roulette bet
 59 List-condensing abbr.
DOWN
 1 Float on the wind
 2 Winglike
 3 Hackman or Tunney
 4 Range
 5 Six-pack muscles
 6 Miss Piggy's pronoun
 7 Mop the decks
 8 Stupefy
 9 Devotees' publications
 10 Carnival attraction
 11 The Tent-maker
 16 Big bother
 20 Involved in
 22 Tater
 23 Went swiftly
 25 Crackers' partner
 26 Oklahoma city
 27 Imaginative
 29 Paddock papa
 31 Branch
 32 Petrol
 34 Stopper
 38 Tablet or teaspoonful, maybe
 40 Put on a show
 42 Type of pie?
 43 Cellulite
 44 Trademark symbol
 45 Beyond the horizon
 47 Monad
 48 Taj Mahal city
 49 Lounge about
 52 Generation
 53 Head movement



Yesterday's answer 6-22

Bridge

South dealer.
 Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
 ♠ A J 4 3
 ♥ Q J 4 2
 ♦ A 8
 ♣ Q 5 4
WEST
 ♠ 10 9 8
 ♥ A 10 9 3
 ♦ Q 3 2
 ♣ 9 7 2
EAST
 ♠ 7 6 5 2
 ♥ —
 ♦ J 9 7 6 4
 ♣ J 10 8 6
SOUTH
 ♠ K Q
 ♥ K 8 7 6 5
 ♦ K 10 5
 ♣ A K 3
 The bidding:
 South 1♥ West Pass North 3♥ East Pass
 South 4NT West Pass North 5♥ East Pass
 South 6♥
 Opening lead — ten of spades.

There's Only One Right Play

When you are missing four cards of a suit, they will be divided 3-1 50 percent of the time, 2-2 40 percent of the time and 4-0 10 percent of the time. These are mathematical figures only, and you needn't memorize them if you don't want to. But there are times when even a partial familiarity with probable distributions will alert you to an incipient danger and induce you to adopt precautionary steps that might not otherwise come to mind. Consider this deal where West leads a spade against six hearts. A favorable outcome seems pre-ordained until declarer wins with the king, leads a low trump to the jack, and East unexpectedly shows out.

If South begins to worry about the slam at this point, it is already too late. Regardless of what he does, he must lose two trump tricks and go down one. Granting that a 4-0 division is relatively rare, it is certainly not unprecedented. In fact, South's only concern from the opening gong should be a 4-0 trump division. All his thoughts should therefore be focused on dealing with that one possibility, unlikely though it might be.

Declarer should arrive at the conclusion that if East has four trumps, the slam is sure to fail, but that if West has them, he can be limited to one trump trick by playing the king of hearts at trick two.

Once the king is led, West cannot score two trump tricks regardless of how he elects to defend, and the slam is home.

East dealer.
 Neither side vulnerable.
NORTH
 ♠ A J 10
 ♥ J 7 2
 ♦ 9 8 5 3
 ♣ A J 10
WEST
 ♠ 8 6 4
 ♥ A K Q 10 9 5 4
 ♦ Q
 ♣ 7 3
EAST
 ♠ K Q 7 2
 ♥ 8 6 3
 ♦ J 10 6 4
 ♣ 6 2
SOUTH
 ♠ 9 5 3
 ♥ —
 ♦ A K 7 2
 ♣ K Q 9 8 5 4
 The bidding:
 East Pass South 1♣ West 3♥ North 4♣
 East Pass South 5♥
 Opening lead — king of hearts.

South Displays Good Technique

The outcome of most deals depends upon how the defenders' cards are divided. Since declarer does not know the opposing distribution at the start, he tries to shape his play to cater to both the expected and unexpected distributions.

Take this deal where West leads a heart against five clubs. South ruffs and sees that if the opposing diamonds are divided 3-2 and West has the king or queen of spades, he will make the contract.

There is normally a 2-to-1 expectancy that the diamonds will split 3-2, and a 3-to-1 expectancy that West has a spade honor that can be overcome by taking two finesses in the suit.

However, these are merely probabilities, and South should not rely on them exclusively. He should also prepare for the possibility of bad breaks in both diamonds and spades.

He does this by leading a club to dummy at trick two and ruffing a heart, then re-entering dummy with a club and ruffing dummy's last heart.

South now cashes the diamond ace, on which West plays the queen. Since this might be a singleton, South next leads a low diamond to dummy's eight to set up a finesse against East if it becomes necessary.

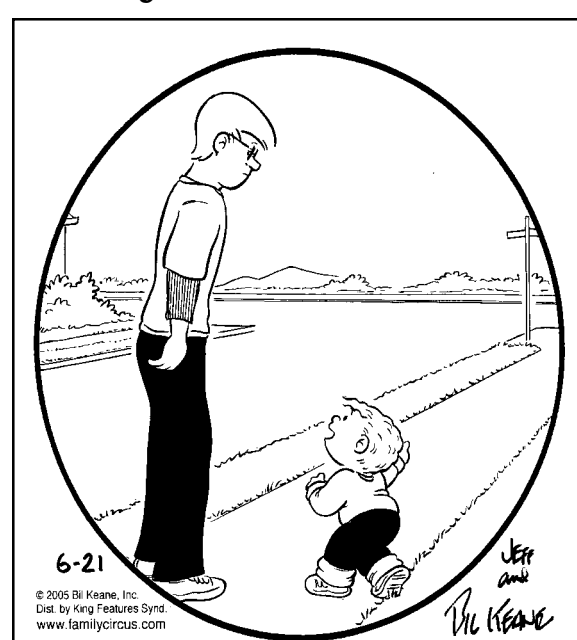
This precautionary move pays off handsomely when West shows out and East wins with the ten. East then returns a diamond, won by declarer with the seven.

The contract is now certain regardless of how the spades are divided. South cashes the king of diamonds and leads a spade to dummy's ten. East wins with the queen, but then, having only spades, must return one into dummy's A-J, handing South the contract.

Note that if South neglects to first eliminate dummy's hearts, leaving East with safe exit cards in that suit, or fails to make the safety play in diamonds, he comes home lame.

Tomorrow: Cards always tell a story.

Family Circus • Bill Keane



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