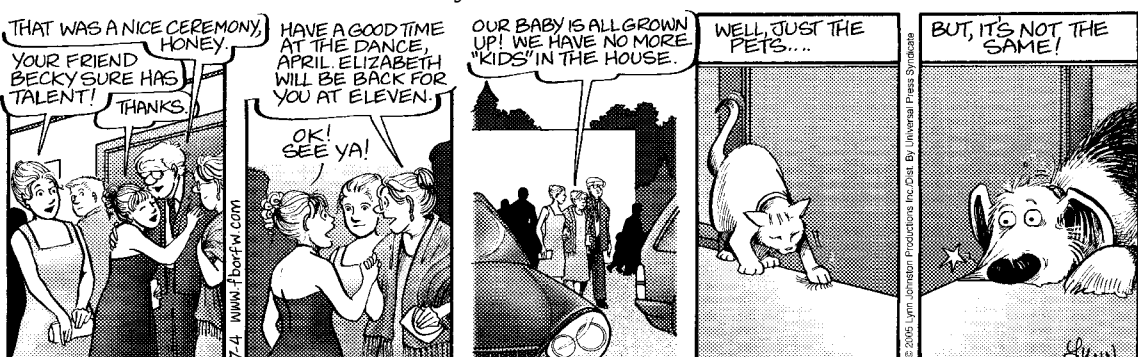
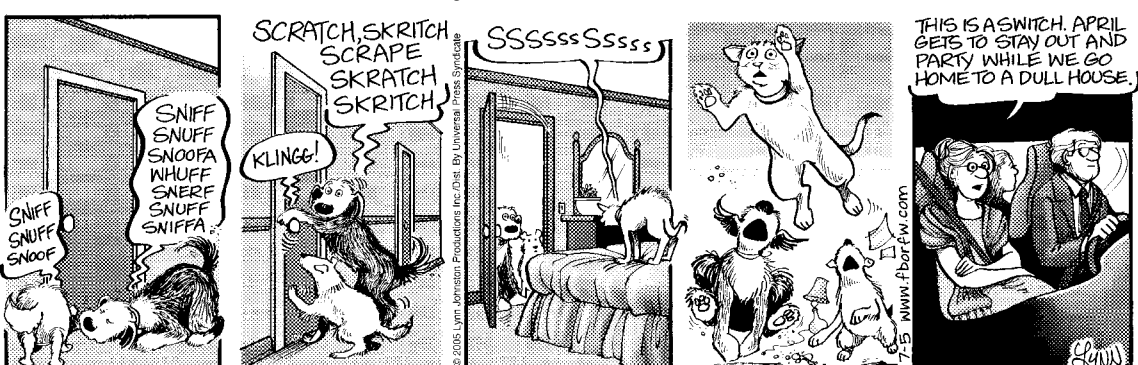


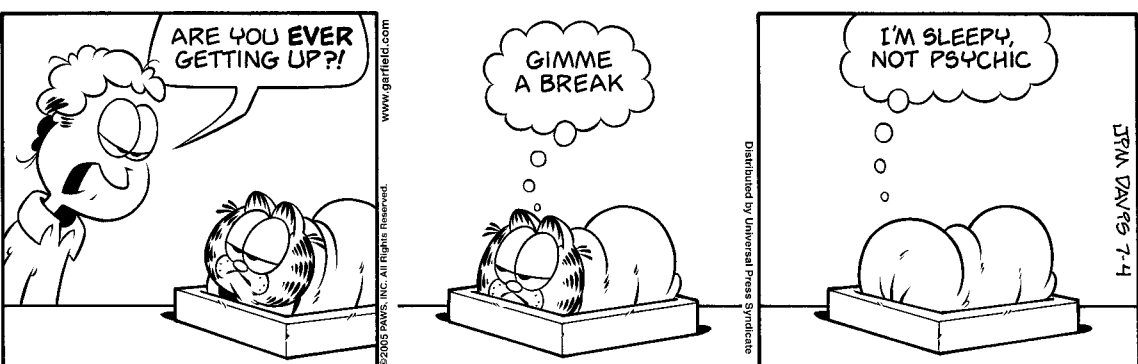
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



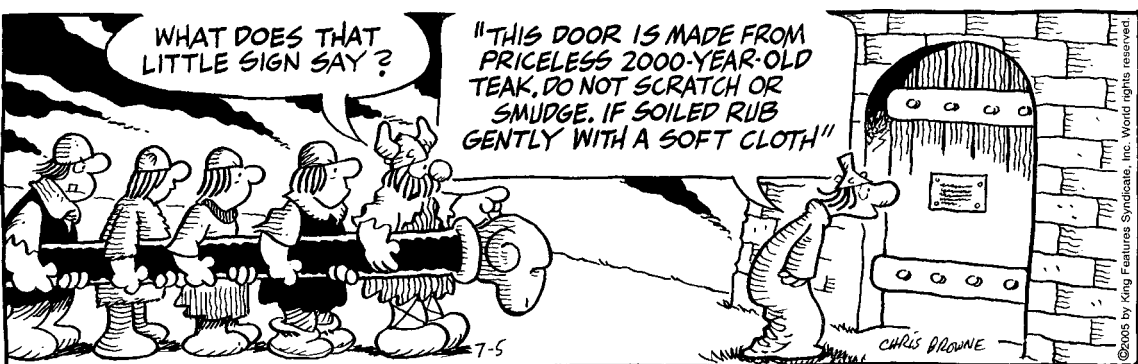
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



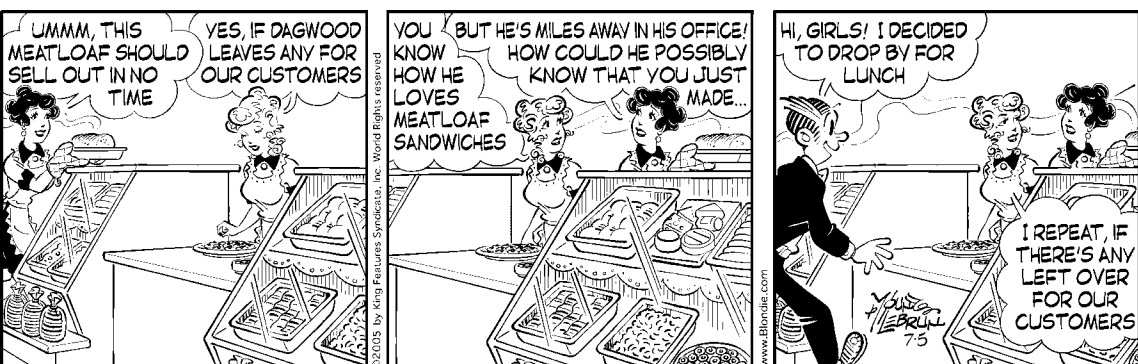
Garfield • Jim Davis



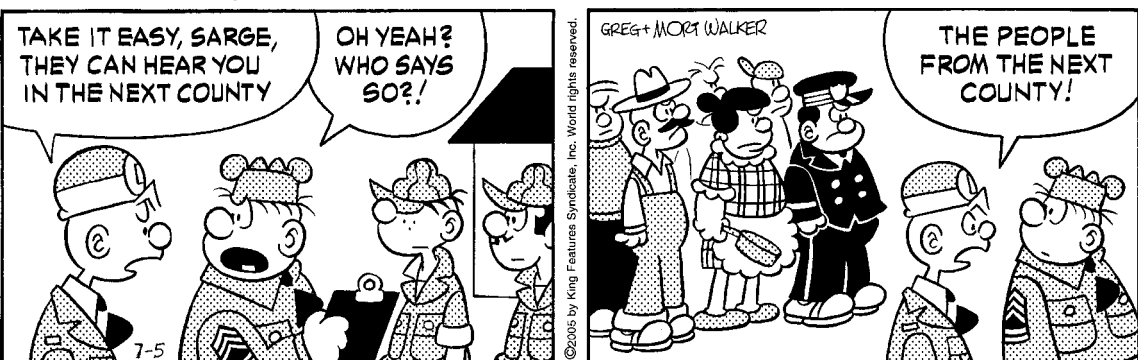
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

SUH BYXLY QVJ TKHBLHV ZJQ UQHRIZRPD OHRBP
 RBZ B RUXSH-TWKKBV RD DGH GRSYDHC GJSPH,
 TVXCXLBK, XLNBCWPZ DGHK RBMRKP ORIH UREJY
 NWV CWLHJ KBPLQHVXLY. RYC PEQHRO JZ MGRD.
 Saturday's Cryptoquip: IF A FISH COMPULSIVELY Yesterdays Cryptoquip: THE AGING DRY
 BURROWS INTO THE SEABED, WOULD THAT BE CLEANER WAS A WHITE-COLLAR CRIMINAL,
 CARP'LL TUNNEL SYNDROME? INFAMOUS FOR MONEY LAUNDERING.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals I Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals U

Crossword

ACROSS
 1 Pile
 5 Up to, for short
 8 "The — Love"
 12 Chorus member
 13 Commotion
 14 Summer-time desserts
 15 Laugh-a-minute type
 16 Race-horse
 18 Chicago university
 20 Constricting garment
 21 Flight component
 23 "Golly!"
 24 Father of Pochontas
 28 Urban
 31 Anger
 32 Seasonal god-desses
 34 Midafternoon, on a sundial
 35 — Beach, Fla.

DOWN
 1 It's eaten with a pair of sticks
 39 Journey segment
 41 Oodles
 42 Jackson or Johnson
 45 Endured
 49 TV studio prop
 51 Language of Pakistan
 52 Kournikova of tennis
 53 Bill's partner
 54 "— Kleine Nachtmusik"

ADOLSCENT
 56 Relatives
 57 Resorts

ENTER-TAINER'S
 19 Beehive State
 22 Word of mouth
 24 Spade or diamond
 25 Man-mouse link
 26 Steak-house stipulation
 27 Oblong pastry
 29 Lubricant
 30 Bestow, to Burns
 33 "Cómo — usted?"
 36 Noted Broadway belter
 38 Problems
 40 Jewel
 42 Blind as —
 43 Zilch
 44 Candle string
 46 Stumble
 47 Author Ferber
 48 Union payment
 50 Colorful carp

Solution time: 24 mins.

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

Saturday's answer 7-4

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			54				
55					56			57				

ACROSS
 1 From a distance
 5 Highlander's hat
 8 Haul laboriously
 12 Bleacher-ites' choreography
 13 "Eureka!"
 14 "I could — horse!"
 15 Not imit.
 16 Parrot variety
 18 Rogue played by Ian McShane
 20 Hold-up man?
 21 Tandoori bread
 22 Equal (Pref.)
 23 Insane
 26 Car thieves' jaunt
 30 Fuss and feathers
 31 Thither
 32 Tier
 33 Rural excursion
 36 Reinforce
 38 Golfer Ernie

DOWN
 1 Off base
 2 Gambling game
 3 Tel —
 4 Governor
 5 Claw
 6 Swabbie's salutation
 7 Dallas basketball, for short
 8 Someone in the red
 9 Bar
 10 Razor brand
 11 Wanders about
 17 Simple
 19 Comic Leno
 22 Charged bit
 23 "Humbug!"
 24 Oklahoma city
 25 Nursery item

GREASY-SPOON
 26 Greasy-spoon beverage
 27 Savings-plan acronym
 28 Elmer, to Bugs
 29 Ram's ma'am
 31 Gridiron stats (Abbr.)
 34 Library patron
 35 Sorts
 36 Tarzan's son
 37 Close up again
 39 Lady's address
 40 Quatrain rhyme scheme
 41 Linguish
 42 Cube-maker
 43 Medal earner
 44 Reverberate
 45 Part of Q.E.D.
 46 Bestows knight-hood upon
 48 Wet wiggler

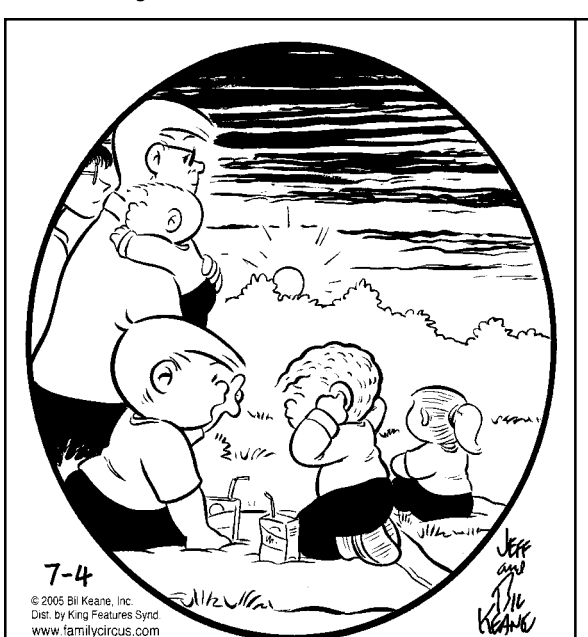
Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 7-5

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					54			55				

Family Circus • Bill Keane



7-4

© 2005 Bill Keane, Inc. Dist. by King Features Synd. www.familycircus.com

"The fireworks won't start 'til the sun is all the way down, Jeffy."

Bridge

West dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

WEST
 ♠ K 10 8 7 6 3 2
 ♥ A K 3
 ♦ K Q 8
 ♣ —

EAST
 ♠ Q J 9
 ♥ Q 7
 ♦ A 9 5
 ♣ K 9 7 5 3

West
 Ron Rubin
 1 ♠
 3 ♣
 4 ♣
 4 NT
 6 ♦

East
 Mike Becker
 2 ♣
 3 ♦
 4 ♦
 5 ♣
 6 ♠

Famous Hand

Most players — good, bad or indifferent — bid naturally rather than artificially. When they bid hearts they usually have hearts; when they bid clubs they usually have clubs; and so on.

But in the top echelons of bridge there are an increasing number of pairs who employ very exotic methods and often bid suits that have nothing to do with their actual holdings in these suits.

One pair in this category who did exceedingly well in national championships during a 15-year period are Ron Rubin and Mike Becker (this writer's brother). They held the East-West cards during the Vanderbilt team-of-four championship in 1978 and got to six spades as shown.

By way of explanation, and not for instructional purposes, here is what their bids meant:

One Spade: Normal bid, but denies more than 16 high-card points.

Two Clubs: Artificial game-forcing bid asking West to describe his distribution.

Three Clubs: I have a void in hearts, diamonds or clubs, and a rather freakish hand.

Three Diamonds: Tell me more.

Four Clubs: The void is in clubs, and my distribution is 7-3-3-0! (The number of steps taken over three diamonds describes West's distribution.)

Four Diamonds: What are your high-card values?

Four Notrump: I have 14 to 16 high-card points and five controls (an ace is two controls, a king one).

Five Clubs: Where are your controls located?

Six Diamonds: I have controls in all three suits and extra honors in hearts and diamonds. (Had Rubin been weak in any suit, he would have bid five of that suit. Thus, if he had held SAKxxxxx HAJx D Qxx C —, he would have responded five diamonds.)

After Mike Becker, who had made four artificial forcing bids in succession, closed the auction with six spades, he was asked by South what kind of hand West had indicated by his five bids. Becker wrote down that he expected his partner to have: SKxxxxx HAKx D KQx C —.

Tomorrow: Caught in a quandary.
 (c)2005 King Features Syndicate Inc.

West dealer.
 Both sides vulnerable.

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

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

SOUTH
 ♠ A J
 ♥ A K Q 10 8 5 3
 ♦ 8 6 5
 ♣ 7

The bidding:
 West Pass North Pass East Pass South 4 ♥
 Opening lead — jack of clubs.

Caught in a Quandary

There is no denying that in some deals, declarer must guess what to do because he does not know how the adverse cards are divided. The clues might be disturbingly sparse, or the defense might be exceptionally sharp.

Fortunately, such deals are rare. On most occasions, declarer can find a way to improve his chances of guessing correctly, or can avoid the guess altogether.

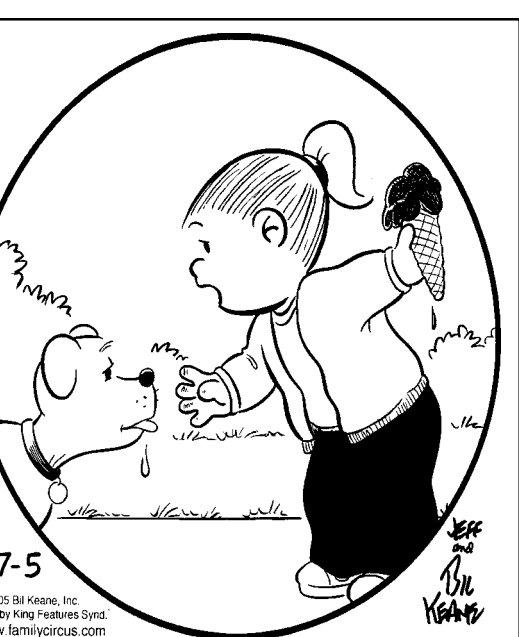
Take this case where South went wrong. He ruffed the second club, drew trumps and led a diamond to dummy's queen. East followed low, realizing that if he took the ace his partner's jack (if he had it) would be subject to a later finesse.

Declarer then led a low spade to his jack. West won and returned a club. South ruffed, cashed the ace of spades and played another diamond, West following low.

Now South was in a quandary. If West had started with the J-7-4, the winning play was the ten; if West had started with the A-7-4, the winning play was the king. Either play could turn out right or wrong. In fact, South guessed wrong. He played the king and eventually lost another diamond trick to go down one.

It is true that South ran into sturdy defense, as well as bad luck. However, his difficulties were self-created. He should have made the contract without exposing himself to a guess. He missed a sure-fire method of play.

After ruffing the second club and drawing trumps, South should have played the A-J of spades, deliberately spurning the spade finesse. A later diamond lead to the queen would have assured an entry to dummy for a diamond discard on the queen of spades, and his only losers would have been a spade, a diamond and a club.



7-5

© 2005 Bill Keane, Inc. Dist. by King Features Synd. www.familycircus.com

"You can't have any ice cream, Barfy, but you can lick my fingers."