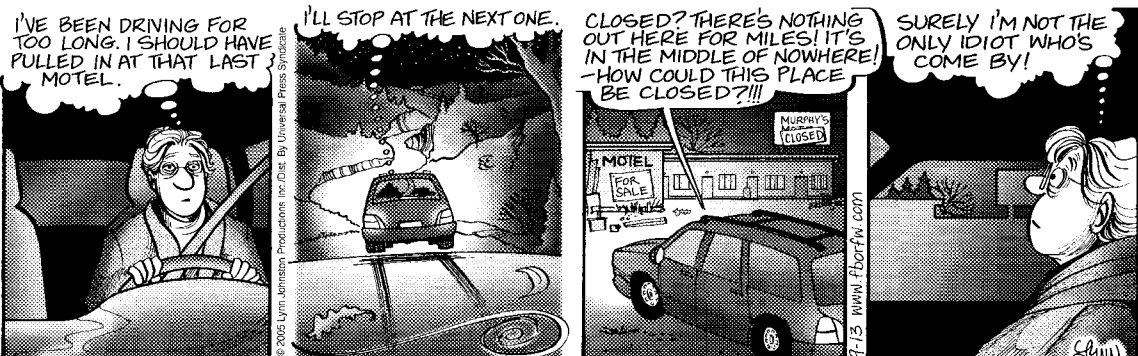
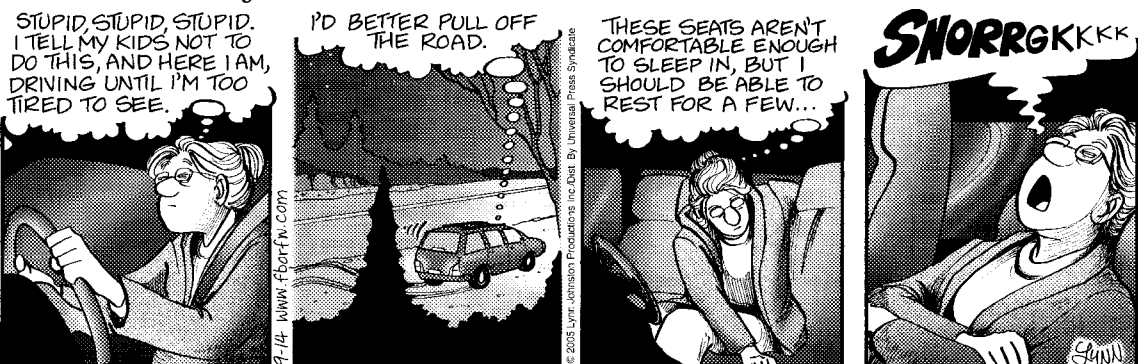


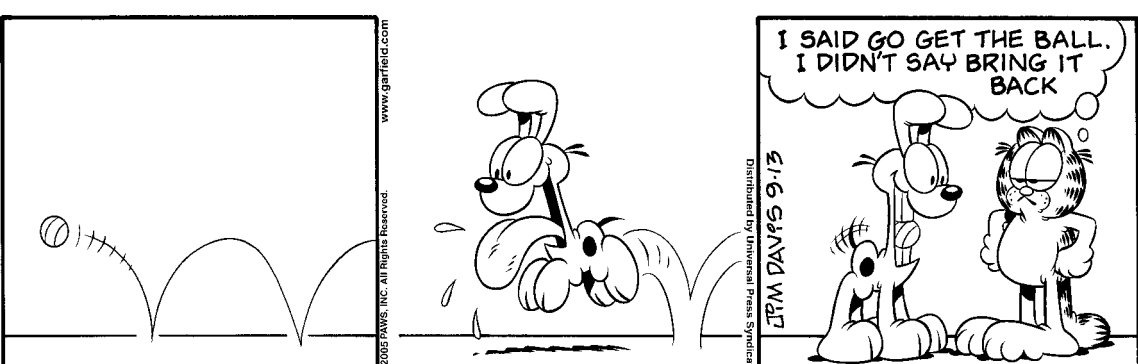
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



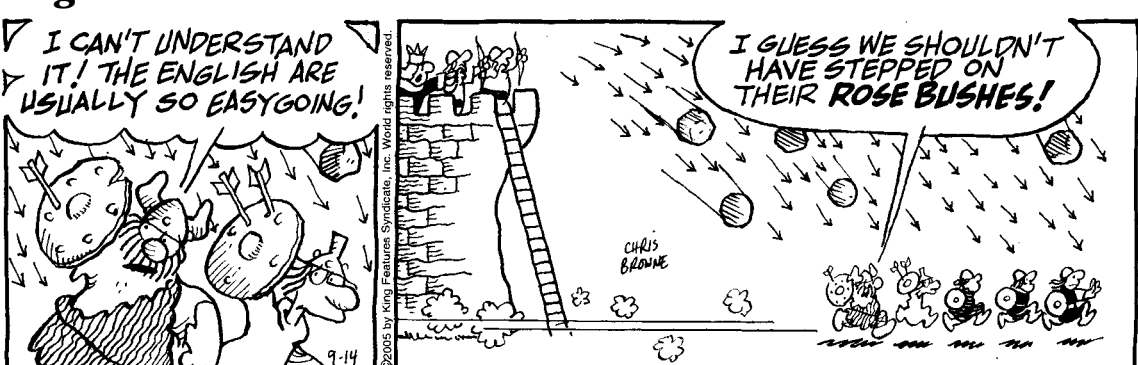
Geech • Jerry Bittle



Garfield • Jim Davis



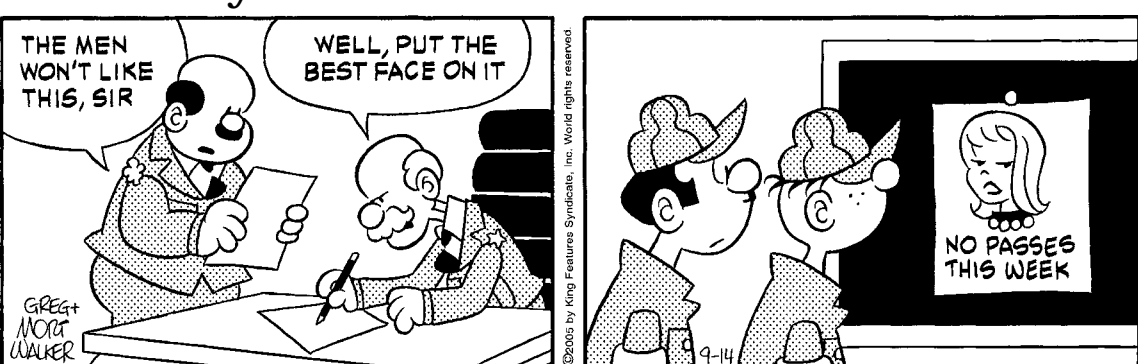
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



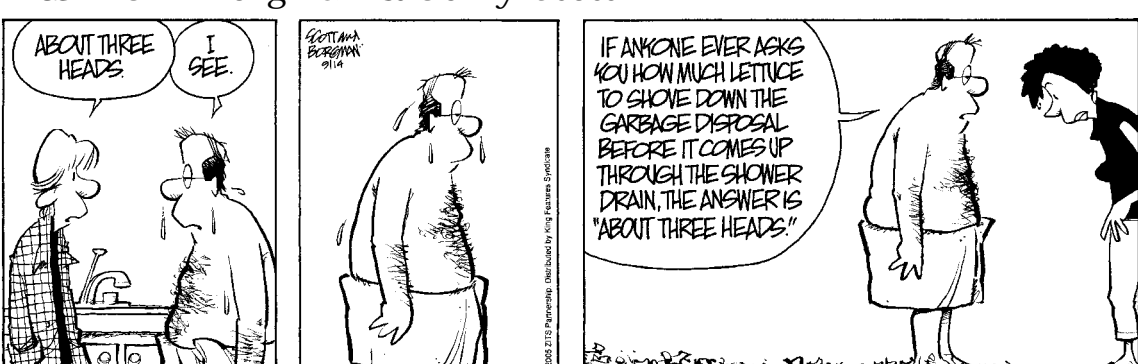
Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

WT U JRDMIJRVQ WI UMROJ
JR TUA A RSQC UVK PWJ
HRO, HRO DWFPJ IUH
HRO'CQ WV FCUSQ KUVFQC.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SHOULD PEOPLE BE PERMITTED TO GIVE GRIZZLIES GUNS? I BELIEVE IN THE RIGHT TO ARM BEARS.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals N

KGT HNWFT DS CGWMQYTC
GLC TCFLYLKTP NLHWPYI.
IDE FDEYP CLI WK'C
QDWMQKGNDEQG KGT NDDS.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A TOMBSTONE IS ABOUT TO FALL OVER AND HIT YOU, YOU MIGHT SAY YOU'RE IN GRAVE DANGER.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals O

Crossword

ACROSS

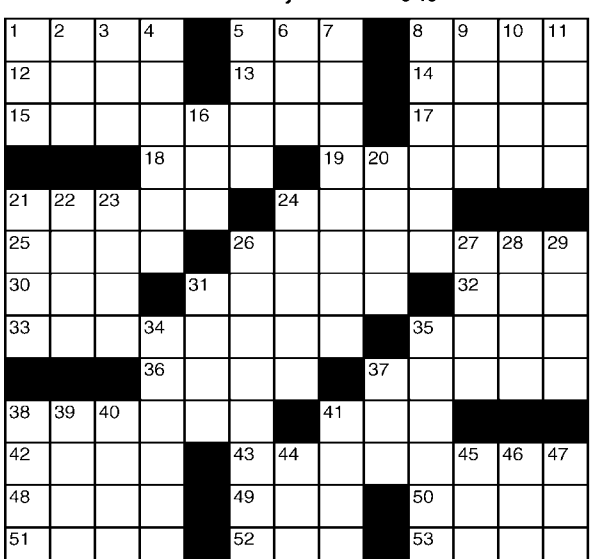
1 Genie's home
5 NASCAR sponsor
8 Radar spot
12 Dr. Frankenstein's aide
13 Scull tool
14 Took the "A" train
15 Foot-work?
17 "Zip- — Doo-Dah"
18 Use the remote, maybe
19 Gregarious
21 "Foolish Games" singer
24 Discourteous
25 "QB VII" author
26 Position of esteem
30 Wire measure
31 Ice-bucket accessory
32 Past
33 Lineage
35 Pharmaceutical

DOWN

1 Pitcher part
37 Relaxation
38 Leading man
39 Article in News-week
41 Lend a hand
43 Ivanhoe's love
46 Immigrants' island
50 Met melody
51 "Games People Play" singer
54 Benevolent
55 "Caught ya!"
56 Partner
57 Mayo maker's supply
58 Deterioration
59 Purchases
60 Remnants
61 Festive
62 Mennonite sect
63 Papa
64 Big bother
65 Pres.
66 Bartlet's workplace
67 "Got it!"
68 Cretan peak
69 Moon vehicle
70 Has- — (ex-star)
71 Poise
72 Flip call
73 "Misérables"
74 Croupier's tool
75 First (Abbr.)
76 Admitting a draft
77 Waikiki wingding
78 — bitty
79 With 18-Across, 1971 Tom Jones song
80 Discoverer's call
81 Nosh

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 9-13



ACROSS

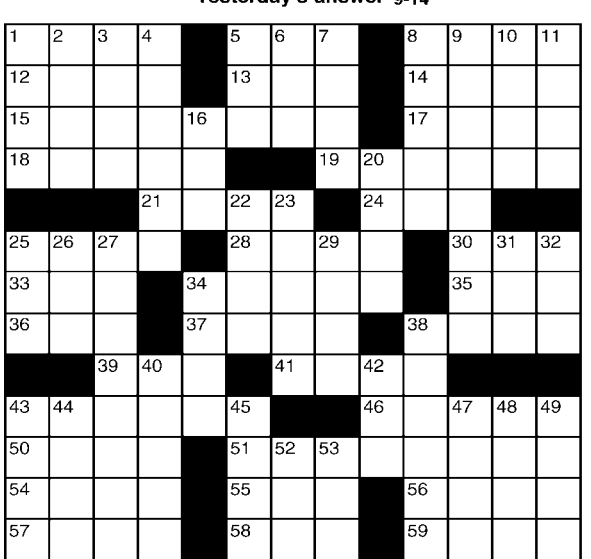
1 Gravy vessel
5 — Mahal
8 Rosary component
12 "Judith" composer
13 Way back when
14 Exceptional
15 TV's Dennis the Menace
17 On the briny
18 See
19 Honey's earlier state
21 Gymnast Korbut
24 Fresh
25 Sunrise
28 In the thick of
30 Tin Man's need
33 Citric quaff
34 Rapture
35 Praiseful recitation
36 Two, in Tijuana

DOWN

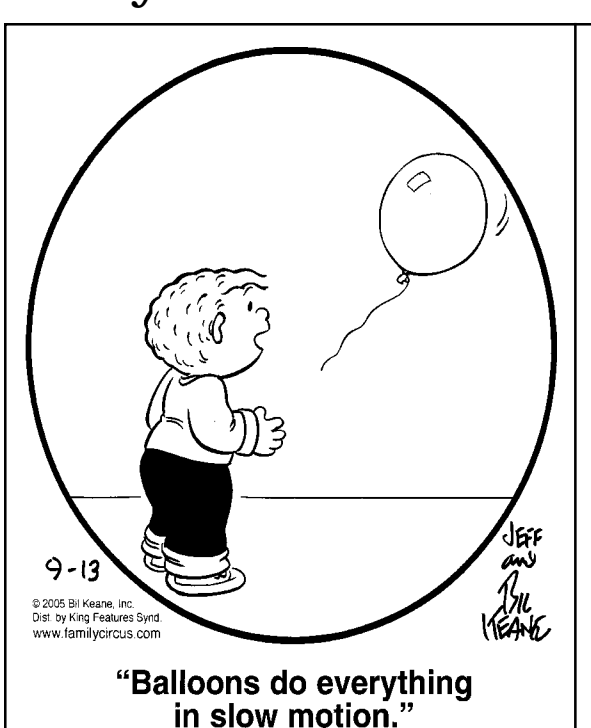
1 Mexican peninsula
2 Exam format
3 Writer Seton
4 Achilles, e.g.
5 Creosote source
6 Rep.
7 Magna Carta king
8 Pair
9 "Million Dollar Baby" star
10 Vicinity
11 Cherished

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 9-14



Family Circus • Bill Keane



West dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A 9 8 5 3
♥ 9 8 6 4
♦ 7 6
♣ A J

WEST

♠ J 7 4
♥ 10 2
♦ A K Q 4
♣ Q 9 7 5

EAST

♠ K 6 2
♥ Q
♦ 9 8 5 2
♣ K 8 6 4 3

SOUTH

♠ Q 10
♥ A K J 7 5 3
♦ J 10 3
♣ 10 2

The bidding:
West 1 ♦
North Pass
East 2 ♦
South 2 ♥
Opening lead — king of diamonds.

The Grosvenor Gambit

There is a play in bridge known mostly to aficionados of the game as a Grosvenor Gambit. Everybody who plays bridge has at one time or another fallen victim to a Grosvenor Gambit even though he or she may not have known it by name.

It occurs in a situation where a player has all the information needed to make the correct play, but instead makes a play that hands an opponent one or more tricks on a silver platter. Not believing his adversary could make such a horrendous mistake, the poor victim credits the perpetrator with some other holding, and so makes a play that hands the trick or tricks right back.

True Grosvenor Gambits are seldom seen at the expert level, but one recently cropped up in a most unlikely place, the final of the 2005 North American Open Pairs. The victim on this occasion was, sad to say, your humble scribe.

The auction went as shown, with my partner stretching a bit to bid four hearts. West led the K-A of diamonds and shifted to a low club, leaving me with two apparent losers in the black suits.

All was not lost, however. There was a perfectly plausible lie of the cards that would allow me to make the contract: If West had the spade king and East the jack, a surefire endplay was in the offing.

So, after taking the club ace, I cashed two trumps, ruffed a diamond in dummy and then led the jack of clubs. It was here that things began to unravel. If East had the king of spades, he would allow his partner to win the club in order to lead a spade; if West had the spade king, East would win the club and return a spade to take his partner off the potential endplay.

My East, however, although he had the king of spades and knew his partner had the club queen because of my failure to take a club finesse earlier, went up with the king of clubs and returned a spade!

Now I ask you, how could I possibly get this right? East couldn't have the king of spades and defend this way, so naturally I inserted the ten, hoping to force West's king. When West produced the jack, I was down one — just as I should have been with proper defense. The difference at my table, though, was that I had been well and truly Grosvenored!

East dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A K 10
♥ 5
♦ A K Q 10 6
♣ K 9 8 2

WEST

♠ Q J 4 2
♥ A K 9 8 3
♦ 7
♣ 7 4 3

EAST

♠ 9 7
♥ Q J 10 6 2
♦ J 9 5 3 2
♣ 6

SOUTH

♠ 8 6 5 3
♥ 7 4
♦ 8 4
♣ A Q J 10 5

The bidding:
East Pass
South Pass
West 1 ♥
North Dble 6 ♣
Opening lead — king of hearts.

The Pressure Principle

Assume you're West and lead the king of hearts against South's six-club contract. After East plays the six and declarer the four, what should you lead next?

This might not seem like much of a problem, but the fact is that your play at trick two is crucial. If you lead a low spade, the slam is practically certain to go down one; if you lead anything else, declarer makes the contract.

What would declarer do if you played a low spade at trick two? Lacking X-ray vision, he would win with the ace or king and later lose a spade trick regardless of how he played from then on. But if you made a neutral lead at trick two — let's say a diamond or a trump — you'd ultimately regret it.

Declarer would draw three rounds of trumps and cash the A-K-Q of diamonds, disclosing the 5-1 diamond division. He would then ruff a diamond, lead a spade and finesse the ten to make the slam. Once the diamonds failed to divide, the deep spade finesse would offer the only real chance for the contract.

True, declarer can make the slam by playing dummy's ten if you lead a spade at trick two. However, that would be an extraordinary play at that point unless declarer saw the East-West cards.

From South's point of view at trick two, the probability of finding the missing diamonds divided 3-3 or 4-2, or either defender with the singleton jack, is overwhelmingly in his favor (about 6-to-1). He would therefore play the ace or king of spades from dummy, rather than risk playing the ten, if you led a low spade at trick two.

In hands of this sort, you must force declarer to make a decision early in the play — before he uncovers an unexpected division. Only by applying the pressure principle immediately can you hope to stop the contract.