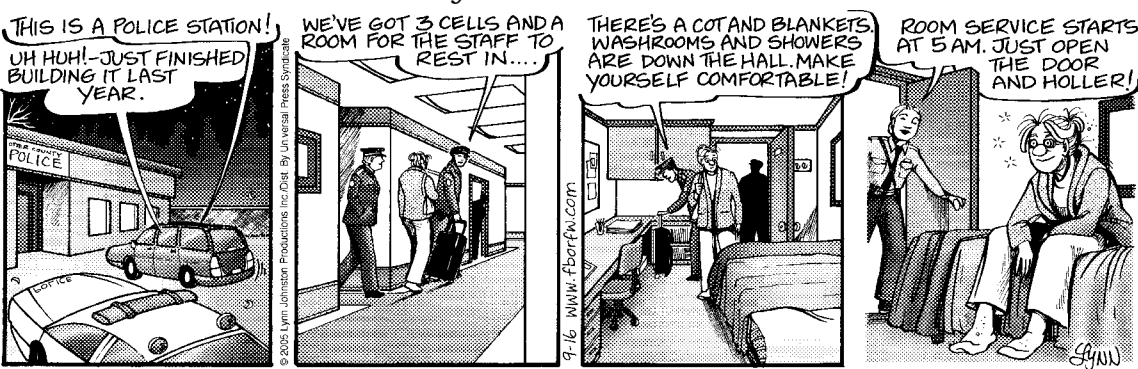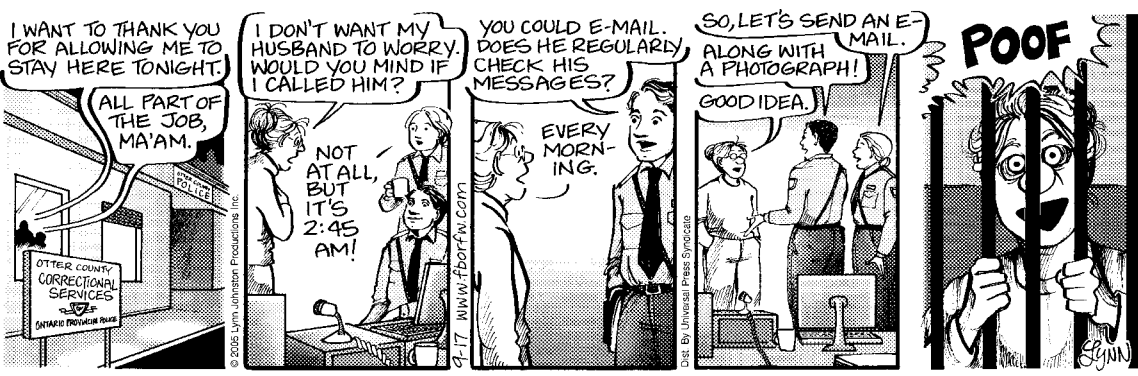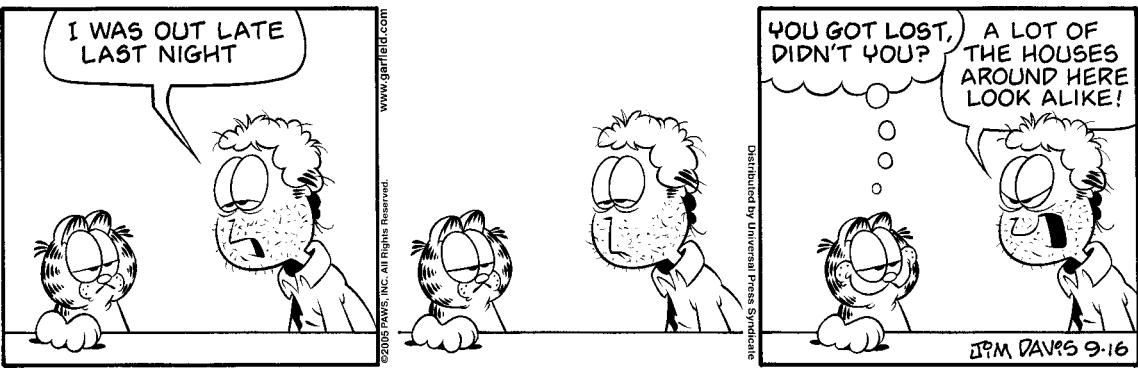## For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston

For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston
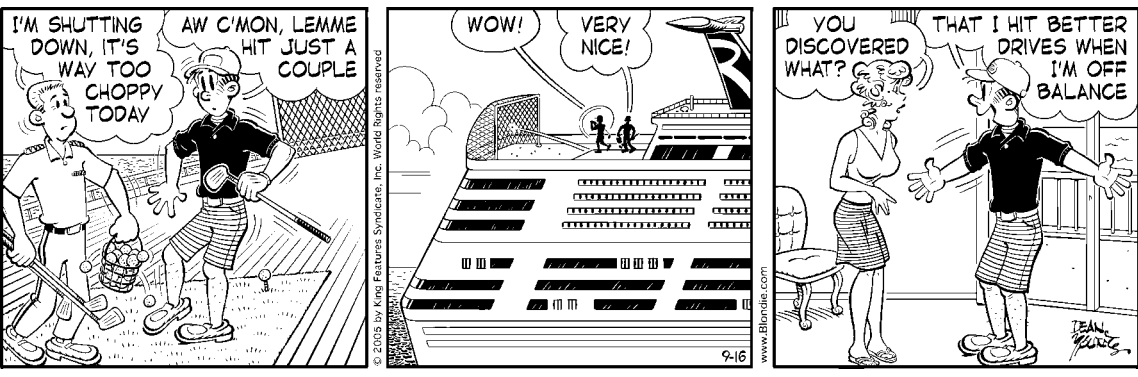

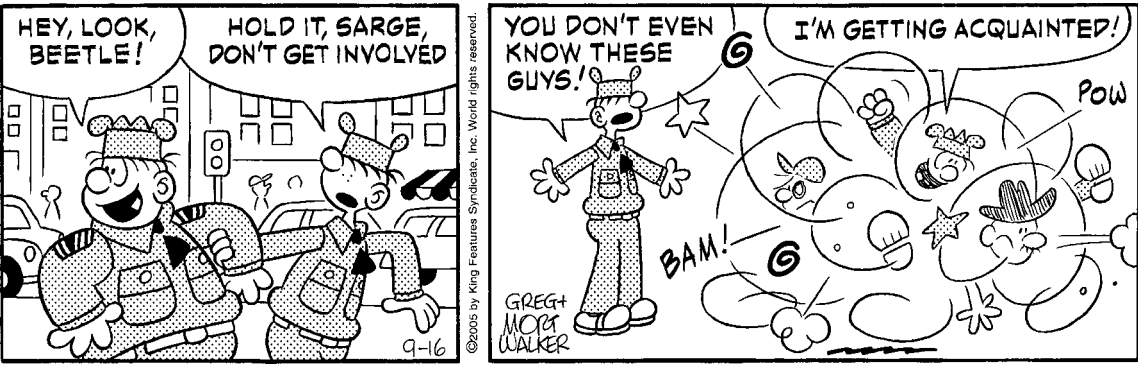## Garfield • Jim Davis

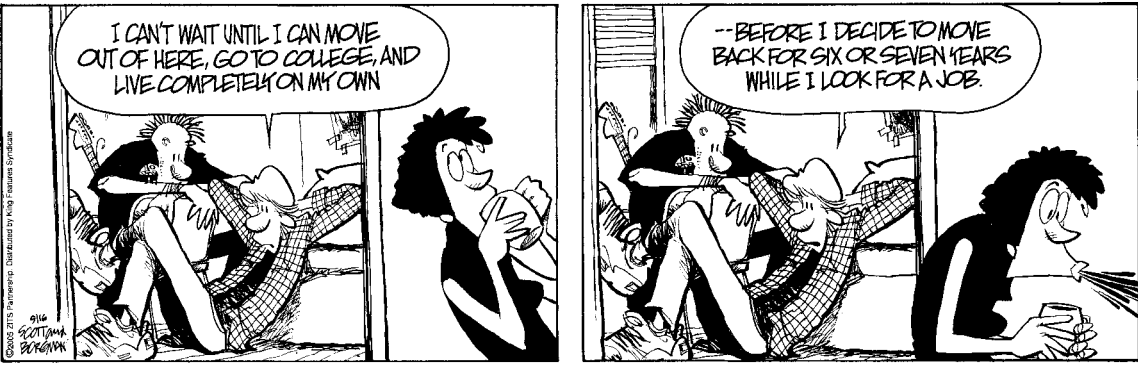## Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne

Blondie • Chic Young

Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker

Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott

Sally Forth • Greg Howard

Cryptoquip

HJEXBV ERWE ZAWETMAH

W ZWVJNQ ZTNN BZ

JNN-VWDDAMAC XRJNCMAD:

"ERA FMWEEQ FTDXR."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A BIG THICK-SKINNED MAMMAL FELT IMAGINARY ILLNESSES, IT'S PROBABLY A HIPPOCHONDRIAC.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals L

D DMFDKOR KGO PVJEM KV

GOTX JO QBO KGO SUVPCEU

COSEQBO D RDRM'K PEMK

KV TOFOU ETVMO.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SITCOM THAT FEATURES A FAMILY FULL OF ILL-MANNERED CHILDREN: "THE BRATTY BUNCH."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals D

Crossword

ACROSS
1 Word elongated by McMahon
6 Suitable
9 Squirrels' hangout
12 Entero-bacterium
13 Vast expanse
14 Actress Thurman
15 Yellow-stone beast
16 Non-convertible?
18 Is partial to
20 Architect Saarinen
21 Performance
23 Antipollution org.
24 Bit of hardware
25 "Let's Make a Deal" choice
27 Host
29 Seem
31 Tourist's car, maybe
35 Pursuit
37 Mexican entree
38 Winter warmer
41 Spigot
43 Just out
44 Blood-hound's clue
45 Comment
47 Computer site
49 Short shots
52 Legal eagle abbr.
53 Ball in a gym
54 Festoon
55 "— your old man!"
56 Scratch (out)
57 Calyx leaf

DOWN
1 Height of fashion?
2 Green, in a sense
3 Santa's runway
4 "Born Free" lioness
5 Strainer
6 Religious retreat
7 Look-alikes, idiomatically
8 Paving material
9 Exterior
10 "Moon-struck" subject
11 "Wham!"
17 Modestly dressed
19 Phantom's place
21 Computer language
22 Filch
24 Witness
26 Close a bottle again
28 Elite
30 "Now it makes sense"
32 Summer-time shirt
33 Expert
34 Despond-ent
36 Treeless tract
38 Conclud-ing parts
39 "— Billie Joe"
40 Expendi-tures
42 Half a 1960s quartet
45 Castle
46 Impolite
48 Word indexers ignore
50 La-la lead-in
51 Long-popular comedy show, for short

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 9-16

ACROSS
1 Grain bundle
6 Mead's territory
11 Mooch
12 Quantity
14 Winery employee
15 Learn thoroughly
16 Scrap
17 Pythias' pal
19 Irving or Grant
20 Second-hand
22 Steven Tyler's daughter
23 Sponsor-ship
24 Fax fore-runner
26 Lion's dinner, maybe
28 Fr. biz abbr.
30 Plagiarize
31 Compel-ling
35 Joins with heat
39 Cruising
40 — -es -Salaam
42 Laugh-a-minute
43 Nipper's co.
44 Seat of emotions
46 Snake eyes
47 Spring festivity
49 Poultry-preparing prop
51 Herds
52 By word of mouth
53 Catch
54 Uses a keyboard

DOWN
1 Few and far between
2 Inn
3 Tolkien tree creature
4 On in years
5 Wild
6 Tea urn
7 "... — with seven wives"
8 Calendar pp., usually
9 Power problem
10 Weak-ness of a sort
11 Substan-tial
13 Rendez-vous
16 Soviet space-craft
21 Record label formed in 1929
23 Hearth minutia
25 Noon in old Rome
27 "Holy mackerel!"
29 Back
31 Got along
32 Tinsel-town trophies
33 Cause
34 Petrol
36 Wee
37 Wooden pegs
38 Bedtime read
41 Man of steel?
44 Frat-party necessity
45 Gardener of rhyme
48 1933 dam proj.
50 Enervate

Solution time: 27 mins.

Yesterday's answer 9-17

Bridge

Assume you're declarer with the West hand at Six Clubs, and North leads the queen of diamonds. How would you play the hand?

WEST
♠ K J 7
♥ K J 6
♦ A
♣ A J 7 6 4 2

EAST
♠ A 4 3 2
♥ A 4 3 2
♦ —
♣ K Q 9 8 3

Test Your Play

This excellent problem, published in the British Bridge Magazine some years ago, was composed by Paul Lukacs, Israeli expert.

West should begin by ruffing the queen-of-diamonds lead in dummy (it would be wrong to discard a spade or a heart). He then draws both missing trumps, ending in dummy, and leads the deuce of spades.

If South follows suit with the five or six, or shows out of spades, West plays his seven and is sure to score the rest of the tricks regardless of which suit North returns after winning the seven of spades.

If South produces the eight, nine or ten of spades on the deuce lead from dummy, West wins with the king, returns to dummy with a trump and leads the three of spades toward his hand, planning to play the jack if South follows low.

By adopting this line of play, declarer makes the contract in each of the following six cases:

1. If South has no spade higher than the six.
2. If South errs and plays the five or six of spades on the first round of the suit when he holds the eight, nine or ten.
3. If South has the queen of spades, in which case the number of spades he was dealt makes no difference at all.
4. If North has either the singleton or doubleton queen of spades.
5. If the six spades held by North-South are divided 3-3.
6. If the potential heart finesse — taken as a last resort after the spades fail to divide favorably — wins because South was dealt the queen.

Only if all six chances go wrong would declarer fail to make the slam on the recommended line of play. If they all did go sour, declarer could easily be forgiven if he decided to give up the game for a while.

Tomorrow: The pessimistic approach.
(c)2005 King Features Syndicate Inc.

North dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A J 9 6
♥ J
♦ A Q 10
♣ A K J 10 3

WEST
♠ Q 8 7 5 2
♥ 3
♦ 9 6 5 4 2
♣ 8 4

EAST
♠ K 10 4
♥ A 10 8 5
♦ 7 3
♣ 9 7 5 2

SOUTH
♠ 3
♥ K Q 9 7 6 4 2
♦ K J 8
♣ Q 6

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
3 NT	Pass	6 ♥	Pass

Opening lead — five of spades.

The Pessimistic Approach

A fine declarer hopes for the best but prepares for the worst. Here is a typical example. Assume you're in six hearts and West leads a spade. As soon as dummy comes down, you see that the only significant threat to the slam is that one defender was dealt four trumps to the A-10, about a one-in-four probability.

You therefore adjust your thinking to that possibility. If West has the A-10-x-x, you are doomed whatever you do, so you assume East has them.

Ordinarily, East would score two trump tricks with such a holding, but if you play your cards right you can restrict him to one trump trick.

From the start you must plan to shorten yourself in trumps. After winning the spade lead with the ace, you immediately ruff a spade. You then lead a trump to dummy's jack.

Let's say East wins with the ace and returns a diamond — as good a defense as any. You win in dummy and ruff another spade, then lead the king of trumps, on which West shows out.

Your early preparations for a trump coup are now richly rewarded. You still have the Q-9-7 of trumps left over East's 10-8, and, to coup him, you simply have to equalize your trump length with his. You therefore lead a club to the ten and ruff dummy's last spade as East discards his last diamond.

Next you cross to dummy with a club and then play your club winners. It does not matter whether East ruffs now or later; his 10-8 of trumps either immediately or eventually succumb to your Q-9.

(c)2005 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Family Circus • Bill Keane

"Printing the 'Down' words in crossword puzzles is like writing Chinese."

"And this is a picture of PJ being bathtized."