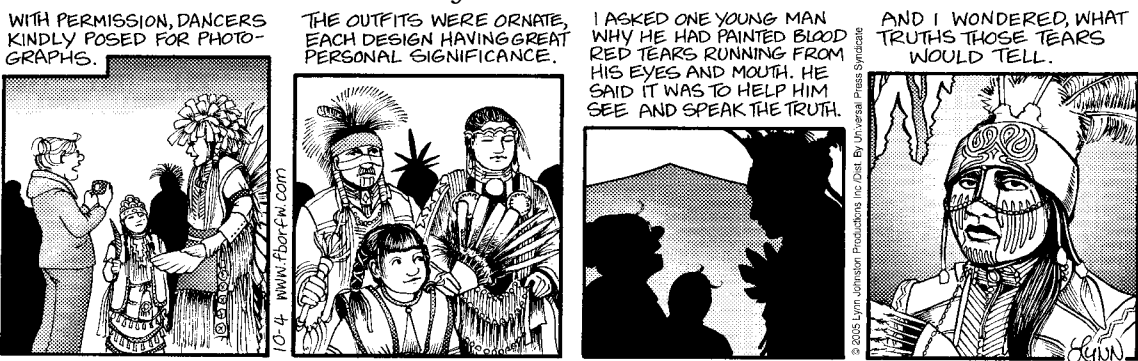## For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston

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

HEV WSZSKNXF JVED, JSKS-
RWPHNXF EPI HVV XVNDNKI,
RVHU UPC JVQQNHHSC P
QVVNXF ZNVKPHNVX.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A GECKO BECAME A WHIZ AT BLACK MAGIC, WOULD YOU REFER TO HIS SKILLS AS LIZARDRY?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals O

JA M FZGWQRGP UQZB
HYSY AMJVJRW, J'F UMX JPU
ZHRYS HZGVF BSZCMCVX
CY JR PQY QZVY.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: TWO REVELING COWS, CELEBRATING WAY TOO NOISILY, BOTH HAD COMMITTED A MOOING VIOLATION.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals E

Crossword

ACROSS
1 "Little Women" woman
5 Rebuff a masher
9 Male swan
12 Heehaw
13 Staffer
14 Onassis, familiarly
15 One in charge of board meetings?
17 Snitch
18 Stevenson villain
19 Aesopian offering
23 Host
24 Frill for Fonteyn
25 Make independent, maybe
26 Ice
30 Screw up
31 Tubular pasta
32 Cornfield call
33 Takes back
35 Mater lead-in
36 Arena for Sarah Hughes
37 007, e.g.
38 Bandleader Louis
40 Cougar
42 Owned
43 Boutonniere flower
48 Ovum
49 Take out of context?
50 Clinton's hometown
51 Teensy
52 Bullets
53 Stud fee?

DOWN
1 English channel
2 History chapter
3 Pitch
4 It helps when you break your word
5 Hourglass filler
6 Lo-cal
7 Citric beverage
8 Scent
9 Garnet variety
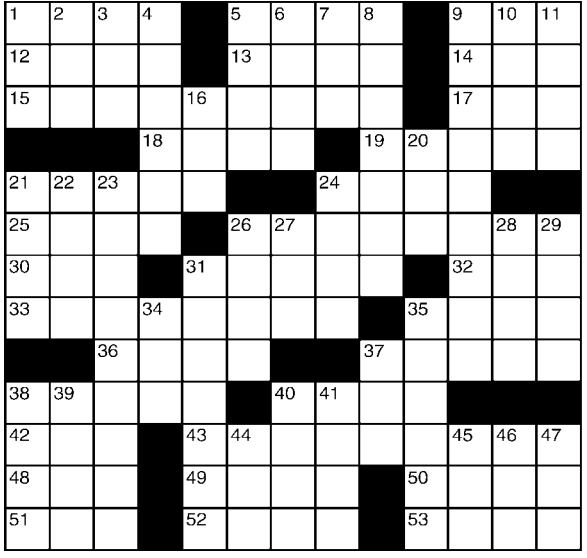10 Exam format
11 Nibble
16 Storm center
20 From — Z
21 Basin accessory
22 Un-adorned
23 Cassette
24 Catches some rays
26 Deliver a kayo punch
27 Passbook abbr.
28 Rhett's shocking word
29 Bat a gnat
31 Cure-all
34 Edge
35 Big name in whodunits
37 "I — Camera"
38 "That's a relief!"
39 Anger
40 Prudish
41 Golden rule word
44 Navy boss (Abbr.)
45 Charged bit
46 Make a decision
47 Born

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 10-4

ACROSS
1 Tom Hanks movie
4 Horace contemporary
8 Wield the shears
12 Depressed
13 Suitable
14 Banks of "America's Next Top Model"
15 Have bills
16 Overly enthusiastic
18 Hackneyed
20 Understand
21 Baker's unit
24 Do refinery work
28 Disney classic
32 Winged
33 Census statistic
34 Summer or Reed
36 Blackbird
37 Sketched
39 Lively Spanish dance
41 Appeased to the max
43 Kenny Rogers song
44 Underwear with underwire
46 Take it easy
50 Not "spoken for"
55 Branch
56 Neighborhood
57 NFL team
58 Dessert choice
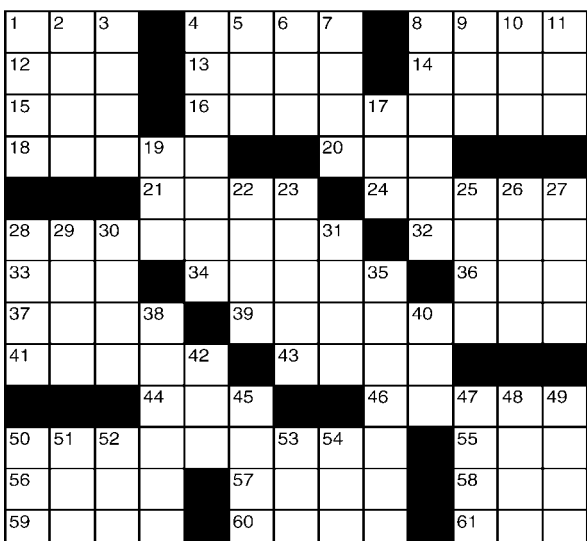59 Abound
60 Comic-strip penguin
61 — Francisco

DOWN
1 Amorphous sci-fi villain
2 River City site
3 Singer Stefani
4 Empty a truck
5 Through
6 B&B
7 Like a doornail?
8 Mark of shame
9 Big Apple letters
10 401(k) alternative
11 Crony
17 Frank McCourt memoir
19 Elev.
22 Since
23 "Is that your — answer?"
25 Verve
26 "Auld — Syne"
27 Peter, Paul and Mary, e.g.
28 Transitory trends
29 Taj Mahal site
30 Depilatory brand
31 Kournikova of tennis
35 Speech
38 Internet image provider
40 Sailor's assent
42 Parched
45 Kind of hairdo
47 Track circuits
48 Met solo
49 Comic-book super-group
50 Corpulent
51 "All the Things You —"
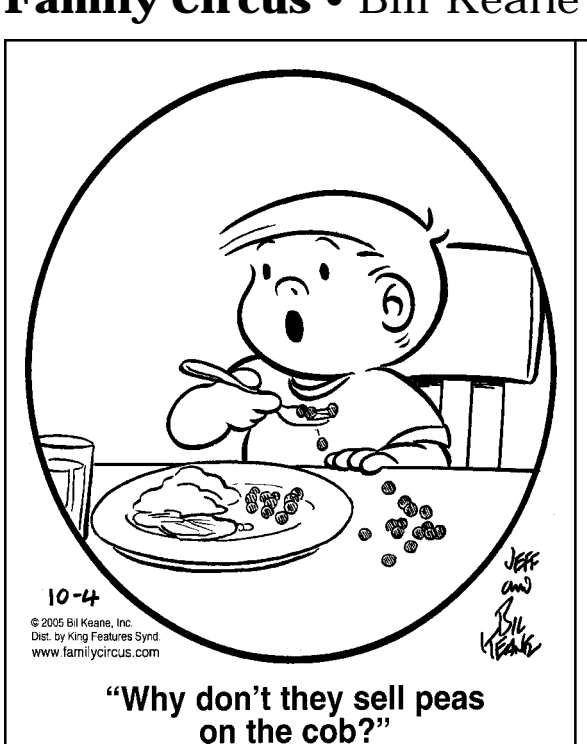52 Maiden-name indicator
53 Snoop Dogg's genre
54 Ostrich's kin

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 10-5

Family Circus • Bill Keane

"Why don't they sell peas on the cob?"

"Why do newborn babies have an extension cord plugged into their tummies?"

Bridge

East dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

```
            NORTH
          ♠ Q J 3 2
          ♥ K 5 2
          ♦ A J 9
          ♣ 9 5 4
 WEST                 EAST
♠ 9 8 5              ♠ 10 7 6
♥ Q 10 8 7           ♥ A J 9 4
♦ 7 3 2             ♦ K 8 4
♣ Q 10 6            ♣ J 8 3
            SOUTH
          ♠ A K 4
          ♥ 6 3
          ♦ Q 10 6 5
          ♣ A K 7 2
```

The bidding:

East	South	West	North
Pass	1 NT	Pass	3 NT

Opening lead — seven of hearts.

A Case of Simple Arithmetic

Most experts advocate opening one notrump even when the opener holds a weak doubleton in one suit — provided the rest of the hand meets all the usual distributional and point-count requirements. The chief advantage of this is that it simplifies the bidding on many hands while resulting in very little harm over the long haul.

One natural adversary of notrump bids is the Rule of Eleven, which can dramatically pinpoint a weak spot in declarer's hand. Today's hand demonstrates how the rule is applied.

West led the seven of hearts, won by East with the jack. East returned a club to South's ace, and a diamond finesse lost to East's king. Declarer won the club return and cashed three diamonds and four spades to make exactly nine tricks.

However, three notrump would have failed had East played the four on the opening heart lead, allowing West's seven to hold the trick! A heart continuation by West would have given the defenders the first four tricks, and East's king of diamonds eventually would have done South in.

How could East have known that West's seven would win the first trick? The answer lies in the Rule of Eleven, which can be applied whenever a player leads fourth-best of a suit.

Since there was no reason to doubt that West's lead was fourth-best, East should have subtracted seven — the card led — from 11. The resulting number — in this case four — would tell East how many cards higher than the seven were in the other three hands. Since East could see all four of them in his own hand and dummy, he could conclude that South had no heart higher than the seven, enabling him to safely play the four at trick one.

North dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

```
            NORTH
          ♠ 7 6 3
          ♥ A J 9 6
          ♦ 6 5
          ♣ A Q 7 3
 WEST                 EAST
♠ K J 4             ♠ 10 9 5 2
♥ 8 3               ♥ 7 5
♦ Q 9 7 4 2         ♦ K 10 8 3
♣ 10 6 5            ♣ 9 8 2
            SOUTH
          ♠ A Q 8
          ♥ K Q 10 4 2
          ♦ A J
          ♣ K J 4
```

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
Pass	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	6 ♥	Pass

Opening lead — four of diamonds.

Make Haste Slowly

Declarer is sometimes so certain he's spotted the best approach to his contract that he often begins to play without stopping to double-check his plan. It is in such situations that a disciplined player rigidly restrains his impulses until he first makes sure he's really following the right path.

For example, take this deal where West led the diamond four against six hearts. South took East's king with the ace and quickly visualized an endplay.

Accordingly, he drew two rounds of trumps, then cashed four club tricks, discarding the jack of diamonds. Declarer next ruffed dummy's last diamond and re-entered dummy with a trump to lead a spade toward his hand.

Had East followed low, there would indeed have been a very rapid conclusion after South played the eight to force West to win the trick and concede the contract. But East rudely upset the apple cart when he inserted the nine of spades, after which South had to go down one.

Declarer had essentially the right idea at the start, but he chose the wrong way to achieve his goal. A far better approach — one that is virtually certain to succeed — is to discard the eight of spades on dummy's fourth club and then play a diamond to the jack.

After West wins with the queen, there is no escape. He must either return a spade into the A-Q or yield a ruff-and-discard by returning a diamond. Either way, declarer makes the contract.

By discarding a spade rather than a diamond on the fourth club, South guarantees a successful outcome if West — as seems highly likely from the play to the first trick — has the queen of diamonds. Even if East unexpectedly turns up with the queen, South still has the spade finesse to fall back on.