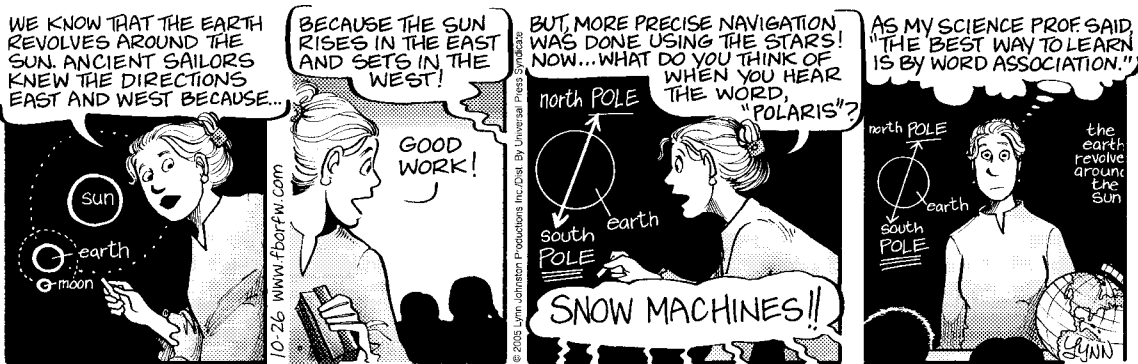


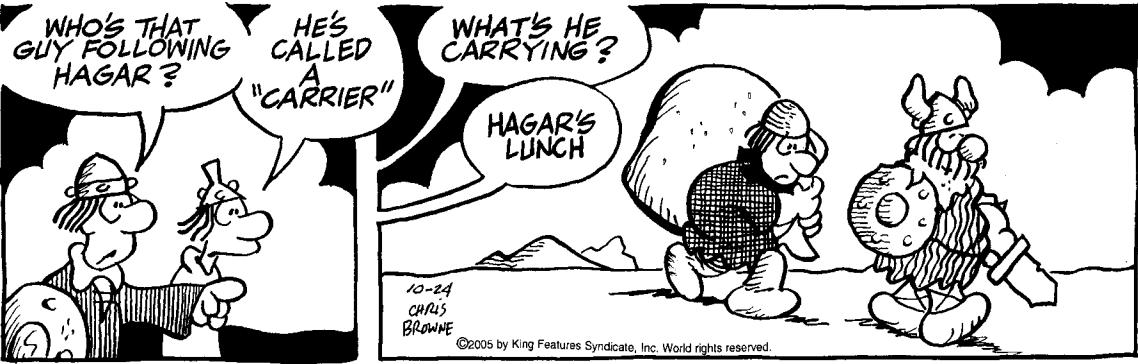
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Garfield • Jim Davis



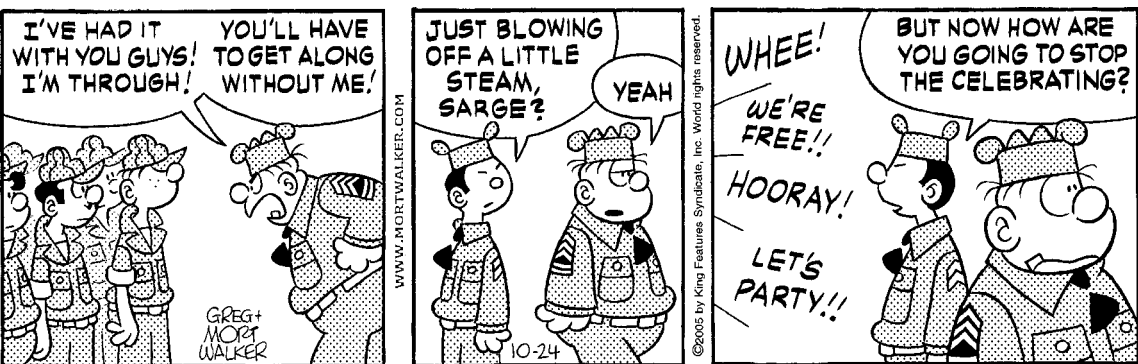
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

ZE ESJ ELZUJW ZRJQMH'P

XBBKMJ, Z WZLRJ PKRQ

XQ ESJ IXXL LJZIP

"UJQKMJ, ZQH XQJ?"

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A SWIMMER WERE TO SHOPLIFT FROM A SUPERMARKET, I SUPPOSE HE WOULD TAKE A DIP.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals O

RP HGF PGOOGQ N IGISANRO

QRAE N CRPPXZXMA

CZRMS, R JFXWW HGF

TRJEA IENWX TNMENAANM.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AT THE TRAVEL AGENCY'S OFFICE, A LARGE SIGN ON THE DOOR READS "VENICE, ANYONE?"

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals U

Crossword

ACROSS

1 River structures

5 "King Kong" actress Wray

8 Sound of dull impact

12 Persia, now

13 Pub request

14 Hindu royal

15 Antitoxins

16 Broad range

18 Rye guy?

20 Overact

21 Youngster

22 Hiatus

23 Chasm

26 Brought the banquet

30 Caviar, essentially

31 Scale member

32 Bullring bravo

33 Afternoon siestas

36 Beany's pal

38 "This — surprise!"

39 Office seeker, e.g.

DOWN

1 Frisbee, for one

2 Type of rug

3 Shopping site

5 Stream-lined

43 List

47 Boos

49 Recording

50 Dermatology subject

51 Make

41-Down

52 Send forth

53 Arthur and Lillie

54 Modern-day evidence

55 Rick of "Disco Duck" fame

19 Owned by a man

22 Cowboy's companion

23 Joan of —

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 10-25

Bridge

South dealer. East-West vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A 10 2

♥ J 10 8 4

♦ 6 3

♣ Q 8 7 6

WEST

♠ J 9 6 5

♥ 7 6 3 2

♦ 8 7

♣ K 9 5

EAST

♠ K 8 7 3

♥ K Q 9

♦ 9

♣ A J 10 4 2

SOUTH

♠ Q 4

♥ A 5

♦ A K Q J 10 5 4 2

♣ 3

The bidding:

South 1 ♦

West Pass

North 1 ♥

East Dble

Opening lead — five of spades.

Keep Your Eye on the Ball

There are times when declarer must make a unnatural play in order to bring in the contract. South passed his test with flying colors in today's deal.

First, a word about the bidding. South had a problem of sorts in selecting his opening bid. He gave thought to opening with five diamonds, but dismissed that option on the ground that his hand was too strong for a pre-emptive bid. Ultimately, he decided to open one diamond in order to increase the possibility of reaching a slam if his partner happened to hold a good hand.

As things turned out, South had his work cut out for him just to make five diamonds. West led a spade. Declarer played low from dummy, and when East won the trick with the king, South dropped his queen on it!

As a result of this unusual play, South made the contract. He was later able to finesse the ten of spades and discard a heart on the ace of spades to bring his total to 11 tricks.

Of course, had South played the four of spades on the king, he would have wound up with only one spade trick and would have finished down one, losing a spade, a heart and a club.

It is certainly unusual for a declarer to play a queen instead of a four on a trick he has already lost, but it is the kind of play any declarer who does not proceed automatically might make.

ACROSS

1 Humpty Dumpty

4 Physique

7 Speak unclearly

8 "From Here to Eternity" author

10 Grassy plain

11 Critter

13 "Where have you been all these years?"

16 Foundation

17 "Finished at last!"

18 Spotted

19 Greets the villain

20 "Pretty Woman" actor

21 Choker fastener

23 Small, round and shining

DOWN

1 Gazelle's kin

2 — -ho (zealous)

3 Caverns

4 Lulu of a slip-up

5 Cat- — -tails

6 Show-room sample

7 Black-thorn

8 First name of 8-Across

9 Talked back

10 Law deg.

12 Denis of "Rescue Me"

14 Breakfast franchise acronym

15 Ram's mate

19 Belfry dweller

20 Roscoe

21 Thick piece

22 Defeated at a joust

23 Cow palace?

24 Gave it a shot

25 Abbott's first baseman

26 4/1 victims

28 Beach sights

29 Phantom's bailiwick

30 Tennessee footballer

31 Portent

32 "Of course"

34 Eve's grandson

35 Story

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 10-26

North dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A Q

♥ Q J 5

♦ A Q 10 4 3

♣ A Q 4

WEST

♠ J 9 6 3

♥ 8 7 3

♦ 8

♣ 10 8 7 5 2

EAST

♠ K 10 7 2

♥ 6 4

♦ J 9 7 2

♣ K J 6

SOUTH

♠ 8 5 4

♥ A K 10 9 2

♦ K 6 5

♣ 9 3

The bidding:

North 2 NT

East Pass

South 3 ♥

West Pass

Opening lead — eight of hearts.

How to Capture a Sovereign

There are plays a declarer must resist despite their magnetic attraction. Take this case where it would be easy to go wrong.

South was in six hearts, and West led a trump. Declarer drew three rounds of trumps, East discarding a low spade, and then cashed the A-K of diamonds, learning that East had started with four to the jack.

South continued with a diamond to the queen and ruffed the fourth round of diamonds, establishing dummy's ten as a trick. Declarer now had to decide whether to take a finesse in spades or clubs, but in the actual case it did not matter which one he chose, because he would go down one either way.

South should not have gotten himself into this predicament. He could have assured the slam earlier by altering his play slightly. Instead of ruffing the fourth round of diamonds as he did, South should have discarded a spade or a club.

East would then have found himself on lead with the jack of diamonds and no place to go. He would have been compelled to return a spade or a club into one of dummy's A-Q's, and this in turn would have handed declarer the slam.

It might run against the grain for declarer to lose a trick he can easily win, but in the present case it is surely right to concede a diamond trick to East in exchange for a 100 percent certainty of making the slam.

Tomorrow: Forewarned is forearmed. (c)2005 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Family Circus • Bill Keane

