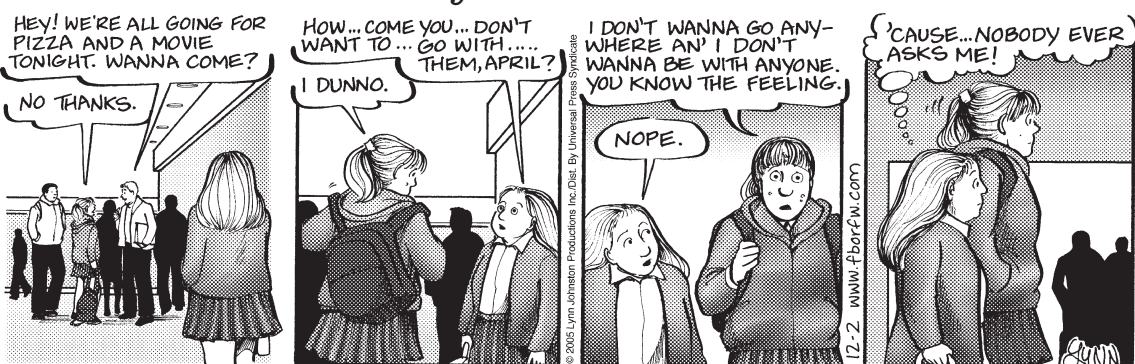
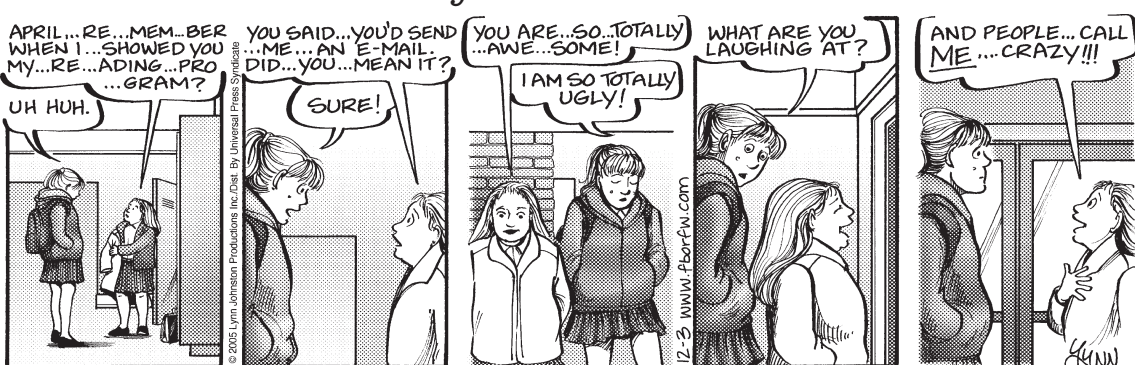


For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



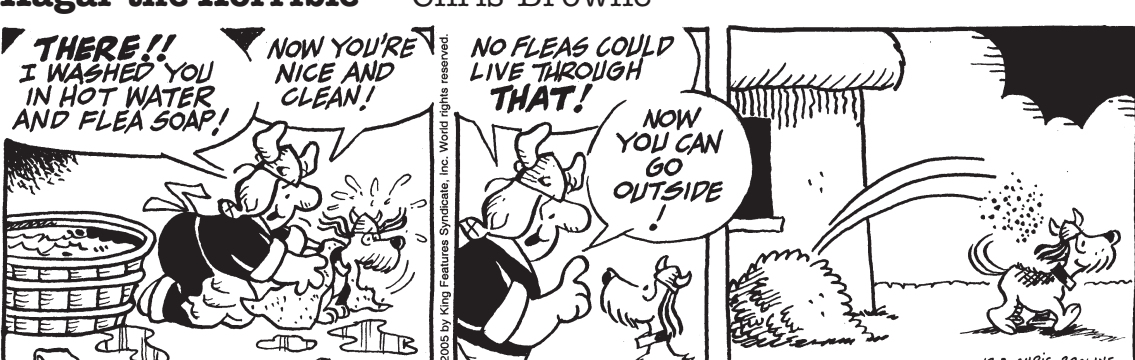
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Garfield • Jim Davis



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



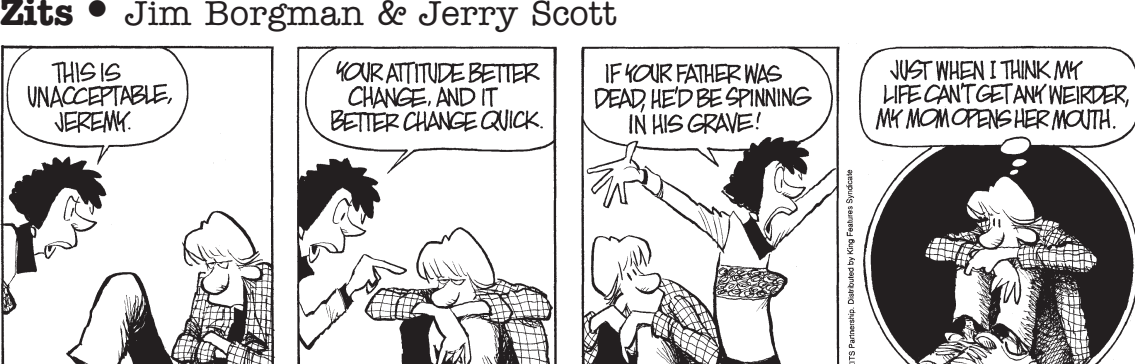
Blondie • Chic Young



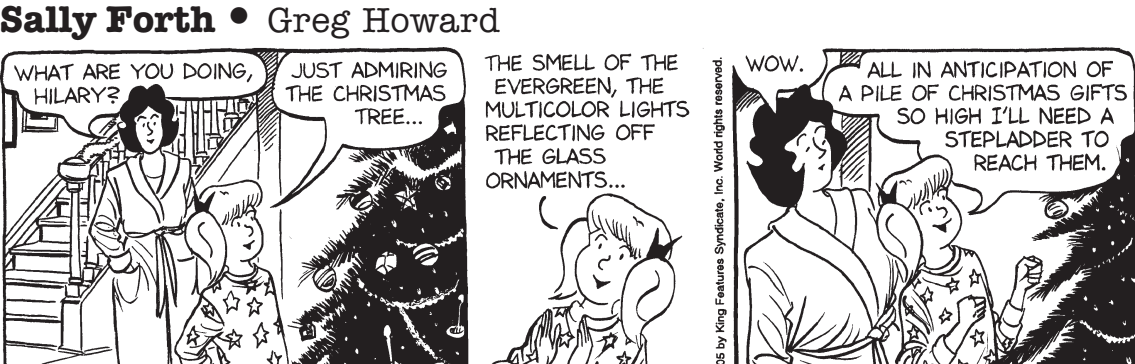
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

UBZRZ GXBTXG TJ FNTDN OBCMXF EP CVVSUSEX
DWLG GSWL PZDSWBTXG QJCMD CV EWBGSOWO
PBWR AXJXBZSTJA PWMV YG FGOUJSYGF EO E PCP-
GRXVVG: "VZF ZJU WUWB."
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A MAN POSSESSED REAL SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH, DO YOU SUPPOSE HE MIGHT TRY SHOP LIFTING?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals D

OBCMXF EP CVVSUSEX
QJCMD CV EWBGSOWO
YG FGOUJSYGF EO E PCP-
DJCDBGW CJQEPSIEWSCP?
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: DRAMA SERIES IN WHICH COPS STOP FACTORIES FROM GENERATING FOUL SMELLS: "LAW AND ODOR."
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals A

Crossword

ACROSS
1 Tie up the phone
4 Support system?
7 Ovine remark
12 Pussycat's partner
13 Boat-house item
14 Busybody
15 E.T.'s craft
16 Play
18 Pair
19 Put on a show
20 Charitable donation
22 Caustic solution
23 Pumps up the volume
27 West of Hollywood
29 Canoe type
31 Lucy's pal
34 Oversentimental
35 Affluence
37 Feedbag morsel
38 Bridge position
39 Early hrs.
41 Set off a Geiger counter
45 Inclination
47 Previous to
48 Shake-speare's home
52 Johnson or Adams
53 Butler's love
54 — U.S. Pat. Off.
55 Office-holders
56 Dissuade
57 Storm center
58 Scotty's assent
2 Very
3 Flourish
4 Employer
5 Nursery toy
6 Splendid setup
7 Computer info unit
8 Meadow
9 H.S. subject
10 Packed away
11 Lid for a lad
17 On in years
21 Troutlike fish
23 Type size
24 Swab the decks
25 Litter member
Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 12-2

Bridge

You are South, both sides vulnerable. The bidding has gone:

North	East	South	West
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♥	Pass	?	

What would you bid now with each of the following four hands?

- ♠ AQJ5 ♥ 53 ♦ Q2 ♣ AQ984
- ♠ KJ93 ♥ 5 ♦ Q85 ♣ KQJ72
- ♠ AJ874 ♥ 8 ♦ 10 ♣ AQJ963
- ♠ AQ92 ♥ — ♦ K7 ♣ KQJ9843

* * *

Bidding Quiz

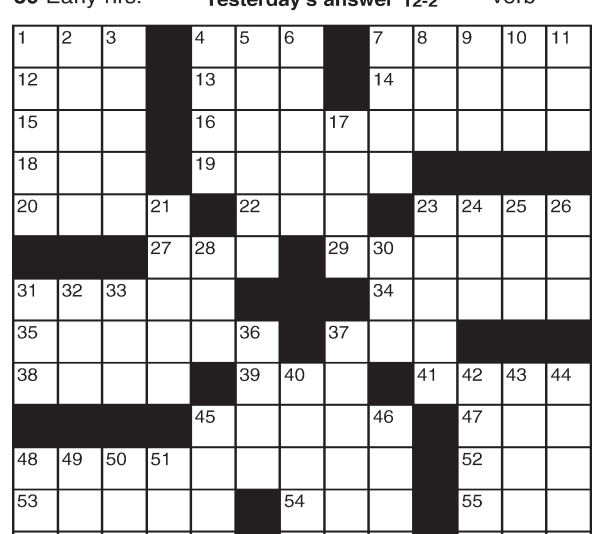
1. Four hearts. Naturally, you are reluctant to raise partner with only two trumps, but there are times when you have to. It is certainly reasonable to assume partner has at least six hearts after he has bid the suit three times, so any two trumps constitute sufficient support. Since you have a sound opening bid facing an opening bid by partner, a game contract is clearly indicated. With partner unable to support clubs or spades, and apparently unwilling to play notrump, there is no other choice but to undertake the game in hearts.

2. Pass. By bidding in minimum terms twice after opening with a heart, partner has unquestionably indicated a weak opening bid. Both his rebids show willingness to play at less than a game contract. So the question to be resolved is whether your hand opposite a bare opening bid is good enough to justify a game contract.

All signs point to a pass. Promising as your hand might have been when partner opened the bidding, his subsequent bids have substantially reduced your values. Partner lacks a fit in clubs or spades, and you have no fit for hearts. Game is therefore very unlikely.

3. Three spades. This depicts your 6-5 distribution and should make it easy for partner to choose the best contract. Since you would not have bid spades twice with only a four-card suit, partner now knows you have five spades. At the same time, he has learned that you must have at least six clubs, since you would have bid spades first had the two suits been of equal length.

4. Five clubs. Given partner's weak bidding to this point, all thoughts of a slam must now be abandoned. However, to play at less than game is also out of the question, despite partner's obvious lack of enthusiasm. You can play with clubs as trump even if partner has a singleton or void, so, since the hand is too unbalanced for notrump play, a leap to game in clubs appears to offer the best chance.



ACROSS

1 Ain't no more
4 Easter-egg preparations
8 Subsequently
12 Cadence-call start
13 Actress Russo
14 Exceptional
15 Dander
16 Iclie site
17 Plankton component
18 12th president
21 Coffee-shop vessel
22 Part of H.R.H., sometimes
23 Ride into space?
26 Clappett patriarch
27 Haggard novel
30 Entreaty
31 Space-craft compartment
32 Soccer-game shout
33 Suitable
34 Get nosy
35 Get playful
36 Greet the villain
37 "... owed to so —"
38 7th president
45 Suiitor
46 Take a shine to
47 Brewery product
48 Jeans-maker
49 Squared away
50 Pack quantity
51 Paradise
52 What-ever's left
53 Wonder-ful, to Paris Hilton
DOWN
1 Expert
2 Emanation
3 Detail, for short
4 Dismal
5 Long
6 Green-eyed monster
7 Saw red
8 Cafeteria stack
9 "TV's Big Dealer"
10 Therefore
11 Approach
19 Shake in the grass?
20 Succor
23 Hot tub
24 Matter-horn, for one
25 Say it's OK
26 Rapture
27 Costa del —
28 "2001" computer
29 Tarzan portrayer
31 Intruder
32 Stare stupidly
34 "Ulalume" writer
35 Dressed for company
36 UCLA athlete
37 Counterfeits
38 Competent
39 Require
40 Jay's rival
41 Swing music
42 Obi
43 Hedge-podge
44 Barber-shop call

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 12-3

West dealer. East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ K J
♥ 7 4 2
♦ 8 6 3 2
♣ A Q 7 3

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

SOUTH
♠ 10 5
♥ A K Q J 8 6 3
♦ K 9
♣ 6 4

The bidding:
West Pass East Pass South Pass
Opening lead — ten of hearts.

A Search for the Truth

Most declarers dread the situation encountered in this deal. At some point in the play, they must lead a spade toward dummy and guess whether to play the king or jack after West follows low.

If West has the queen, the jack is the winning play; if West has the ace, the king is the winning play.

To guess right might look like a tossup, yet, in the long run, one should guess right much more often than not. How to do this is no great secret; declarer simply gathers every scrap of information he can about the adverse hands before tackling the spade situation.

South starts by drawing two rounds of trumps and finessing the queen of clubs. He does this at once because he is committed to a club finesse in any case, and locating the king may later help him resolve the spade decision.

When the finesse succeeds, declarer plays a diamond to the king. As it happens, West wins with the ace, cashes the queen and plays another diamond, which South ruffs.

The moment of decision is now at hand. Declarer leads a spade, and West follows low. South does not have a sure thing at this point, but there is no doubt about the right play. He should play the jack — because he has discovered that East is virtually certain to have the ace.

This is because it is not reasonable to suppose that West — who passed originally and has thus far shown up with the king of clubs and A-Q of diamonds — has the ace of spades as well.

Once declarer places East with the ace, he has to hope that East does not also hold the queen. When the jack forces the ace, declarer is suitably rewarded for his efforts.

Family Circus • Bill Keane

