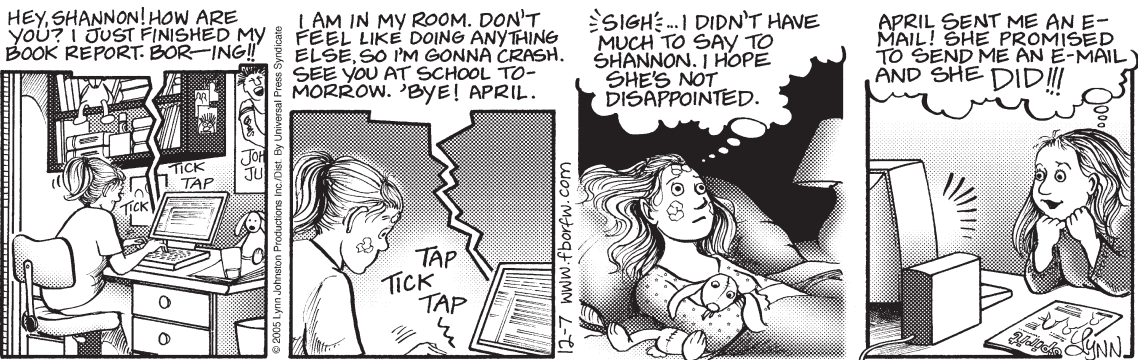


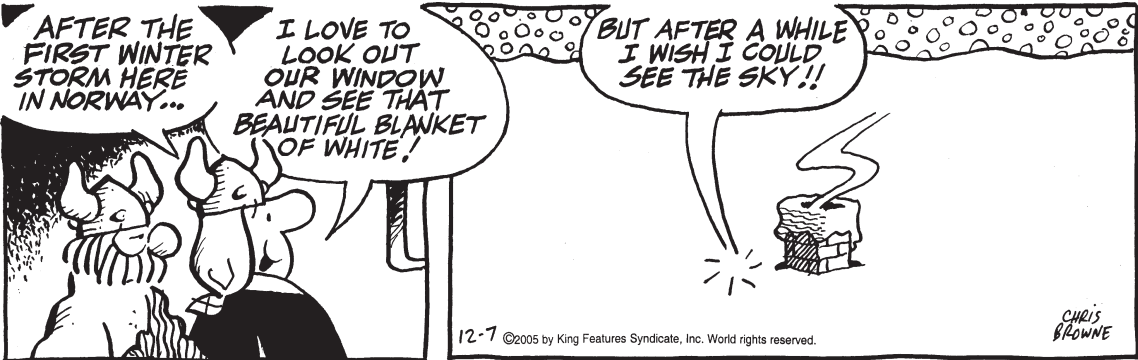
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Garfield • Jim Davis



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



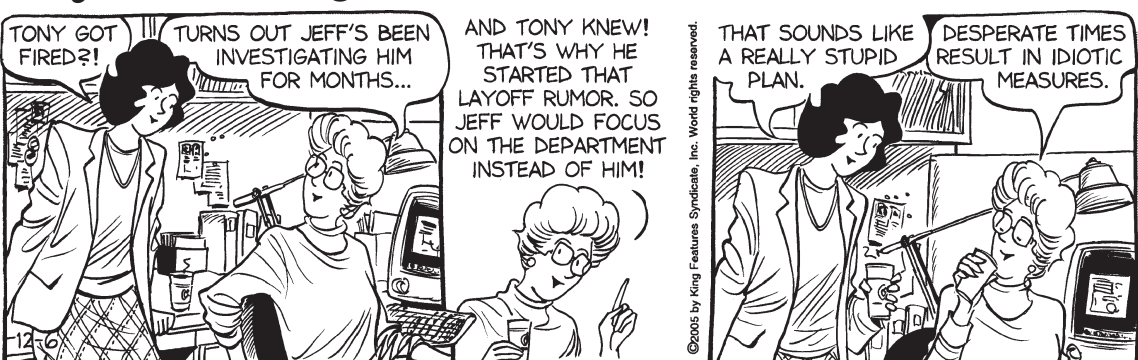
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

QVH QTCOG JMHTMB QJMZ

ZT QJZIV J GCBO JP UZ

TIICWP? U RCBPP UZ'P

GWJQUMR JZZBMZUTM.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU'RE FORCED TO RESIGN FROM YOUR DESIGNATED POST, I'D CALL IT A DIS-APPOINTMENT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals S

WB OJI WMLUMX H KJKIYHE

GJGSXHWY, W'T XDWMS

XDHX HBXUE OJI TWU OJIE

NKWEWX YWLUN JM.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHY WOULD ANYONE WANT TO WATCH A DUEL AS IT OCCURS? I GUESS IT'S DRAWING ATTENTION.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals F

Crossword

ACROSS

1 Glove

5 Owns

8 Bat a gnat

12 Needing liniment

13 Sapporo sash

14 Horse play?

15 Justice Marshall

17 Crucifix

18 Diving bird

19 Obliterated

21 Too thin

24 Forehead

25 Oxidation result

26 "I hope things work out"

30 Rage

31 Mini-plateaus

32 Roscoe

33 Indemnified

35 Sheltered

36 Tranquil

37 React to reveille

38 Moon-mission program

41 Humongous

DOWN

1 Wrestling surface

2 Pronoun in a JFK quote

3 Thanks-giving abbr.

16 Eviscerate

20 Scepters

21 Forbidding

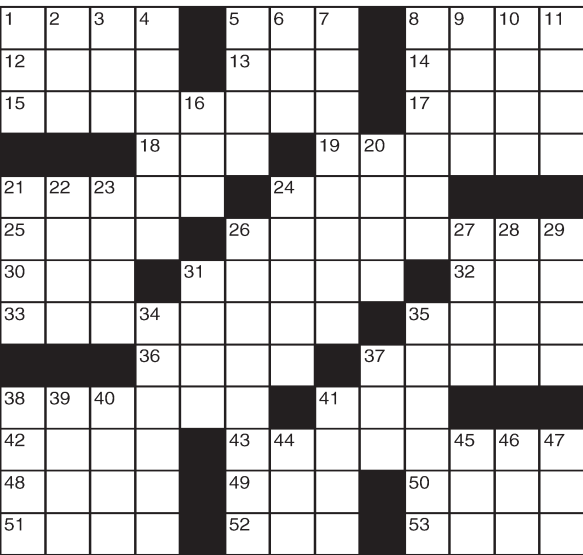
22 Emanation

23 Second-hand

Solution time: 21 mins.



Yesterday's answer 12-6



ACROSS

1 Guinness or Baldwin

5 "Skip to My —"

8 Venomous vipers

12 Cordelia's father

13 Sort

14 Old Italian coin

15 Chat site

17 Mid-month date

18 Examine ore

19 Catches some z's

21 Stomped (on)

24 Squid squirt

25 Prepare a casserole

28 Implement

30 Doctrine

33 Kyoto cummerbund

34 Foolish

35 Prompt

36 Moment

37 "Survivor" setting, often

DOWN

1 —

2 Romeo

3 Rings around the collars?

4 Put together

5 XXVI

6 Timeworn

7 Guitars' kin

8 Foreigner

9 Companion

10 Get set

11 Impudent response

16 UAR nation (Abbr.)

ACROSS

38 Revue piece

39 St. Bernard's burden

41 Vacillate

43 Beach structure

46 Pursuing

50 "Oh, woe!"

51 Have the wrong effect

54 Powell successor

55 Back talk

56 Fleur-de-lis

57 Puts out feelers

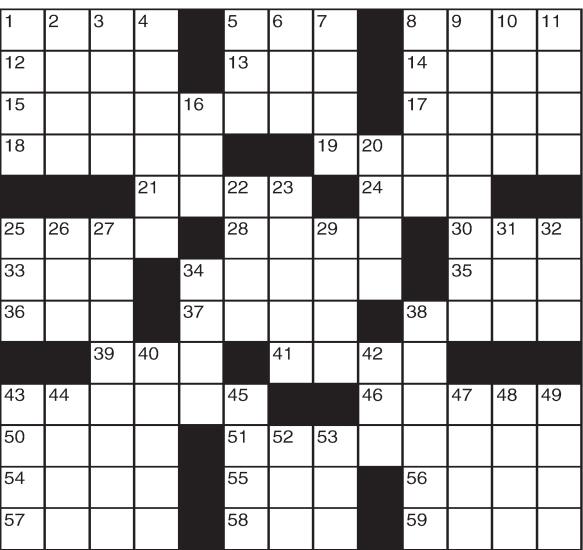
58 History chapter

59 Big top

Solution time: 21 mins.



Yesterday's answer 12-7



Family Circus • Bill Keane



Bridge

South dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A J 8 2

♥ 7

♦ Q 6 5

♣ 10 9 7 4 3

WEST

♠ 10 9 4 3

♥ 8 4

♦ 9 8 3 2

♣ K 6 5

EAST

♠ K 5

♥ A J 9 6 5 2

♦ 7

♣ A J 8 2

SOUTH

♠ Q 7 6

♥ K Q 10 3

♦ A K J 10 4

♣ Q

The bidding:
South 1 ♦
West Pass
North 1 ♠
East 2 ♥

Opening lead — eight of hearts.

The Huddle Factor

Anyone who has played bridge for any length of time should know that to do well at the game, you have to think. It's really that simple. In bridge, thinking is not optional.

There are times, though, when too much thinking can be detrimental to your cause. It might be a case of overthinking that results in a poor decision, or an extended hesitation that gives away information that can be used against you.

Today's deal is of the latter type. South became declarer in three notrump after the auction shown. West led the eight of hearts — obviously his highest heart — and East took the ace and shifted to the club deuce.

West won South's queen with the king and returned a club, dummy's nine losing to East's jack as South discarded a spade. East then exited with a diamond.

Declarer now had eight tricks — five diamonds, two hearts and a spade. A ninth trick could be made if a spade finesse against West succeeded, but if the finesse lost, East would cash the ace of clubs to set the contract. There was no reason, however, to attempt the finesse at this point, so South cashed his diamonds, producing this position as the last diamond was led:

North
SAJ8
C974

West
S 10 9 4 3
H 4
C 5

East
SK 5
HJ 9 6
CA

South
S Q 7
HK Q 10
D 10

After South discarded a club from dummy on the diamond ten, East went into a long huddle and finally parted with the five of spades.

Declarer had been keeping an open mind about his next move, but after East's obvious discomfort on the last diamond, the solution seemed clear. East would have had no problem had he held two low spades, so he had to have his actual holding.

South therefore played a spade to the ace, felling East's king, crossed back to the queen of spades and cashed the K-Q of hearts to make his game. Of course, had East elected to discard a heart or the club ace instead of a spade, declarer would also have scored nine tricks.

South might have found the winning line on his own, but East's prolonged hesitation made the final decision much easier. I know, because I was South.

East dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ 9 8 3

♥ J 8 4

♦ A 5 2

♣ Q 9 8 4

WEST

♠ J 6 2

♥ 7

♦ K J 10 8 6 4

♣ 10 7 2

EAST

♠ A K Q 10 7 4

♥ 6

♦ Q 7 3

♣ K J 6

SOUTH

♠ 5

♥ A K Q 10 9 5 3 2

♦ 9

♣ A 5 3

The bidding:
East 1 ♠
South 2 ♥
West 3 ♠
North 3 ♥

Pass 5 ♥
Pass 4 ♠
Pass

Opening lead — two of spades.

Spectacular Defense

The most interesting deals are those where the outcome depends on how well each side plays its cards. This is especially true when one side seems clearly destined to lose the battle, but manages somehow to turn the tide.

Consider this deal, which features high-level play on both sides. South reached five hearts as shown, and West led a spade. East won and played another spade, ruffed by declarer.

Placing East with the king of clubs, which seemed likely on the bidding, South immediately began laying the groundwork for a potential endplay to try to avoid one of his two club losers. He led the nine of hearts to the jack, ruffed dummy's last spade, led a diamond to the ace, ruffed a diamond high, then entered dummy with a trump and ruffed another diamond.

Having eliminated spades and diamonds from both hands, South now led a low club toward dummy. He planned to play the eight after West followed low, and so endplay East. After winning the trick, East would be forced to return a club or yield a ruff-and-discard. Either way, South would make the contract.

But West, having observed declarer's preparations to this point, was all set when South led the low club at trick nine. Instead of woodenly following low, he played the ten.

This play gave South food for thought. If West started with the J-10-x — certainly consistent with his defense — the winning play was to allow West's ten to hold. A club return by West would then trap East's king. But if West did not have the jack of clubs, the winning play was to put up the queen and force East to make a losing return after he won with the king.

Eventually, South decided to play low from dummy. When West then led another club, declarer played dummy's eight, expecting to force East's king. But when East produced the jack instead, South had to go down one, thanks entirely to West's alert defense.