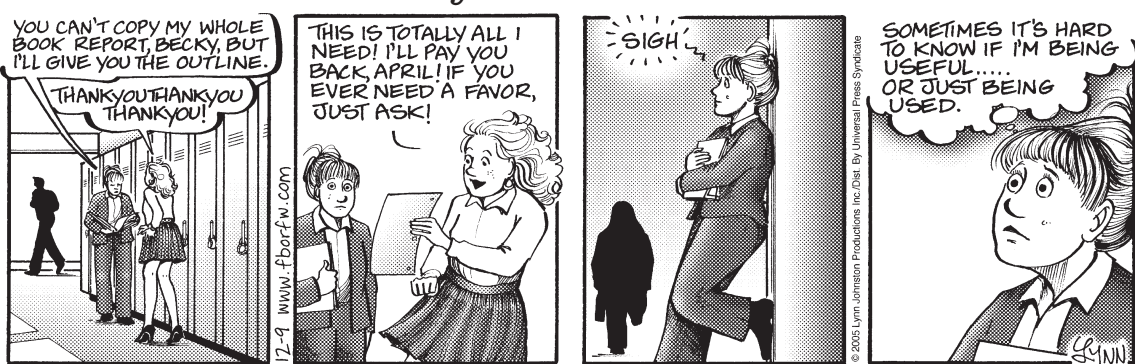
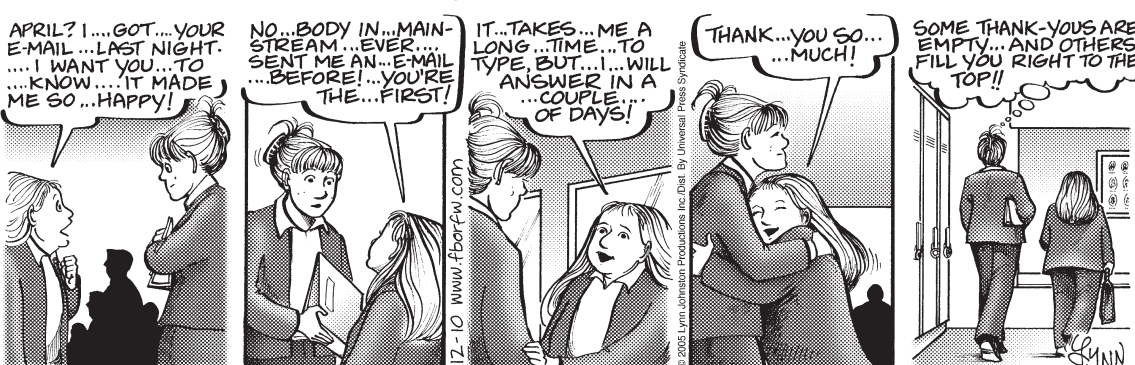


For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Garfield • Jim Davis



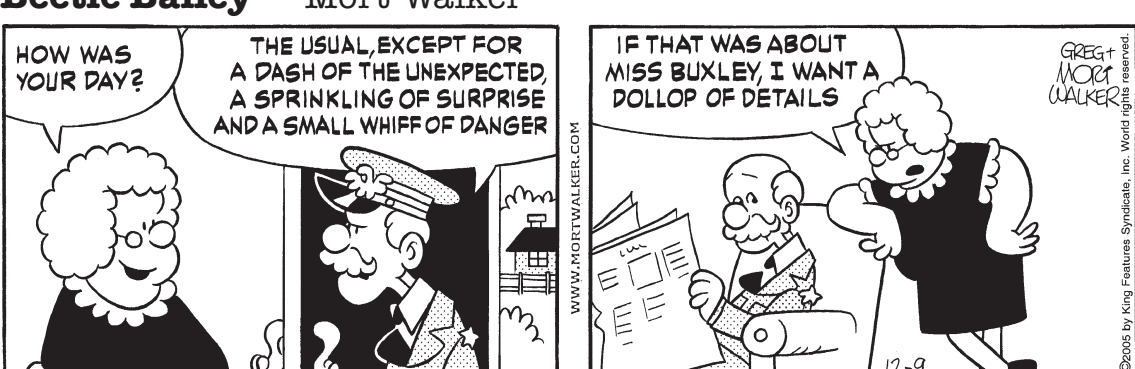
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



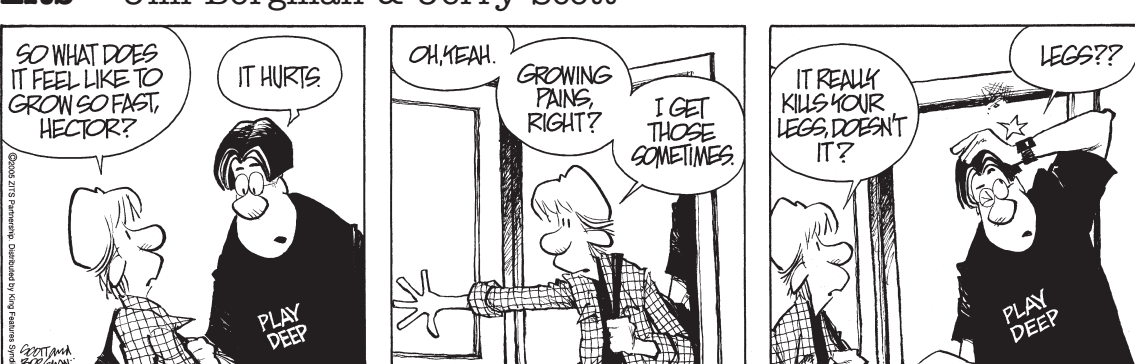
Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

MA EQBXUQVJ EKQFSV AOMTH

VOTYMX VZOPC SVZ FLPB'D

VFYMTW O ETQLEHQYB, M

TZPCYIS, SVZ FLCXZ

WFXEE HKXJ LQFSV UX

VOMCZC CKGM VYD

PTQGPXV QFH GQSV.

DZMSZMIZ GYSV IKMTYISYKM.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AS A GOOD PICKUP LINE FOR FRISKY MATHEMATICIANS, I WOULD SUGGEST "WHAT'S YOUR SINE?"

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF SOMEBODY SHOULD FAINT DURING A SNOWSTORM, I GUESS THEY WOULD BE KNOCKED OUT COLD.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals F

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals H

Crossword

ACROSS

1 Unhealthily pale

6 Chart

9 IRS worker

12 Cognizant

13 Sugar suffix

14 Gehrig or Gossett

15 Powder used in glass-polishing

16 Deal

18 Liz Smith's field

20 Litter's littleness

21 Put away

23 — Aviv

24 Vile

25 Cooped (up)

27 Free-stone, e.g.

29 Japanese straw mat

31 Hammock occupant

35 Musical instrument

37 Poet Angelou

38 Shy

41 Indivisible

43 Flushed

44 Arabian Sea gulf

45 Golf-course bend

47 Used mouth-wash

49 Duck

52 Census stat

53 Slithery one

54 Gram-marian's concern

55 "Mayday!"

56 Praise in verse

57 Adversary

DOWN

1 Lobbyist's org.

2 Blow one's mind

3 Portraitist

John Singer

4 Small combo

5 Dough component

6 Alabama city

7 Now, on a memo

8 Apiece

9 Annual visitor

10 Purpose

11 One of the kin

17 "How to Be Born Again" author

19 Old photo tint

21 Likely

22 Afternoon gathering

24 Cpl., for one

26 Studio goings-on

28 In accompaniment

30 Central

32 Almost at the end

33 CBS logo

34 "Way out!"

36 Brain (Sl.)

38 Frat-party garb

39 Big bug

40 Former fillies

42 Cheer up

45 "Monopoly" card

46 Tied

48 Zodiac cat

50 Tenet

51 "Partridge Family" cast member

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 12-9



ACROSS

1 Perkins' portrayal

6 Heads

11 Calder creation

12 Peaceful

14 Michener novel

15 Pamper

16 Calendar abbr.

17 First pig's construction material

19 Grapes, to

20 Calla lily family

22 Blue

23 Belligerent deity

24 Saunter

26 Obscure place

28 Affirmative action

30 Caviar, essentially

31 Criticized sharply

35 Re

Benedict XVI

39 History chapters

40 Nanki — ("Mikado" character)

42 Valley

43 Proscription

44 Antlered mammal

46 Actress Thompson

47 Standard practices

49 Proof of age, maybe

51 D.C. group

52 Passes a law

53 Tomb-stone info

54 Hotel guest's concern

11 Sir's companion

13 Put an end to

18 Kurosawa movie

21 Diner stack

23 Winning

25 Hearty laugh

27 See

34-Down

29 Ousts from the throne

31 Pictorial poser

32 Off the board?

33 Bicycle-seat style

34 With

27-Down, a cappella rock

36 Majestic home

37 Puts on the qui vive

38 Starts

41 Wicker-work material

44 Apportion

45 Author Ferber

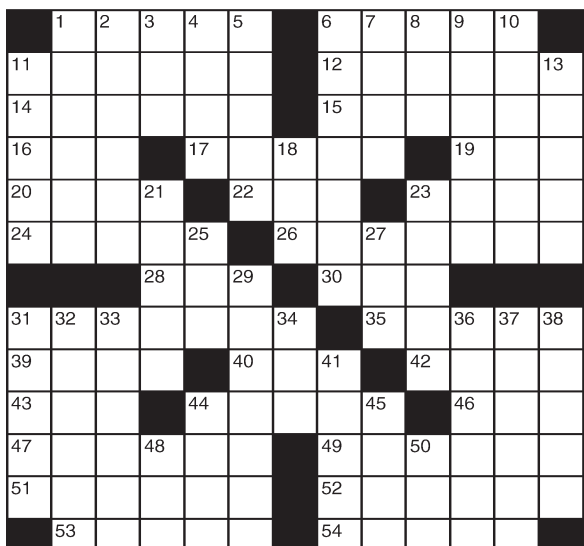
48 Hood's weapon

50 Clarinet in "Peter and the Wolf"

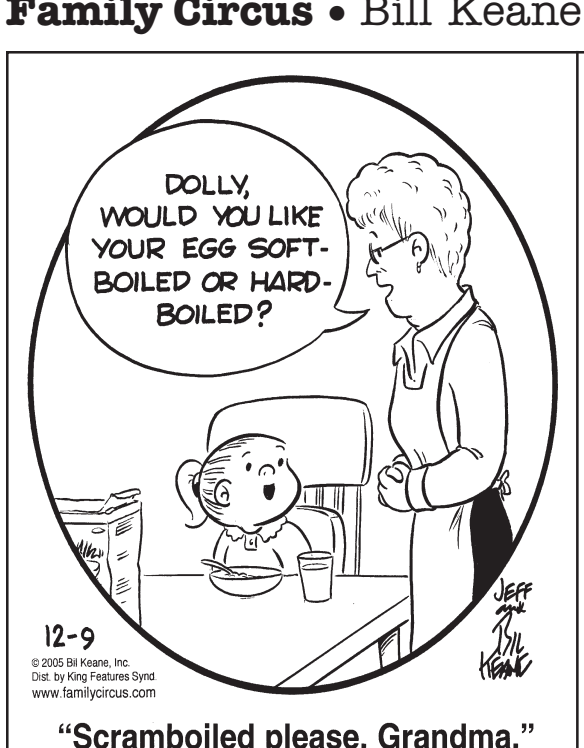
Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 12-10



Family Circus • Bill Keane



Bridge

NORTH

♠ A K

♥ A 10 8

♦ A Q 8 6 3

♣ Q 5 4

WEST

♠ J 10 9 8 5

♥ J 9 4

♦ J

♣ J 9 8 6

EAST

♠ Q 6 4

♥ 3

♦ 10 9 7 5 4 2

♣ K 3 2

SOUTH

♠ 7 3 2

♥ K Q 7 6 5 2

♦ K

♣ A 10 7

Test Your Play

Players who enjoy solving double-dummy problems will get a particular kick out of this one. South is declarer at Seven Hearts, and West leads the jack of spades. South is to make the contract against the best defense by East-West. As in all double-dummy problems, you are permitted to look at all four hands in seeking the solution. (See above graphic)

Answer: Win the spade lead with dummy's king and play a low diamond to the king. Then lead a low trump and finesse the eight.

Ruff the six of diamonds with the queen of hearts and return a low heart to dummy's ten. After ruffing the eight of diamonds with the king of hearts, cash the ace of clubs, then lead a trump to the ace and cash the ace of diamonds, discarding a club. This is now the position:

North

[S] A

[D] Q

[C] Q 5

West

[S] 10 9

[C] K 3

East

[S] Q 4

[C] J 9

South

[S] 7 3

[H] 7

[C] 10

Cash the queen of diamonds, discarding the ten of clubs. East cannot afford to discard a club on this trick because you could then ruff the five of clubs to make the contract. So assume East discards a spade.

West, in turn, finds himself in dire straits and has no satisfactory discard. If he discards a spade, you cash the ace of spades and score your 13th trick with the seven of spades. If he discards the nine of clubs instead, you lead the queen of clubs from dummy, catching East's king and West's jack on the same trick and establishing dummy's five of clubs as your final trick.

Of course, if East doesn't cover the queen of clubs with the king, you simply discard a spade to make the grand slam.

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A K 10 3

♥ Q 5

♦ Q 9 8 7

♣ K 10 8

WEST

♠ Q 8 7 4

♥ A K J 10 6 3

♦ 6 2

♣ 4

EAST

♠ J 9 5 2

♥ 9 2

♦ 5 3

♣ Q 7 6 3 2

SOUTH

♠ 6

♥ 8 7 4

♦ A K J 10 4

♣ A J 9 5

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	1 ♥	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	5 ♠	Pass

Opening lead — king of hearts.

Case of the Missing Damsel

Two-way finesses for a missing queen are the bane of many a bridge player's existence, but there's no need for them to be as difficult as they might at first seem.

Declarer can usually find a way of guessing correctly if he puts his mind to the matter. There are nearly always enough clues to point the way to where the queen is located, and all declarer has to do is to assess these clues to reach the right conclusion.

Let's say you've reached five diamonds on the bidding shown, and West cashes the K-A of hearts and continues with the jack. You ruff in dummy, East discarding a club, and there you are, sure to make the contract if only you knew which opponent had the queen of clubs.

The queen is certainly finessable, but which way to finesse — through East or West — is the vital question. You don't solve such problems by mentally tossing a coin. Instead, you first try to find out as much as you can about the opponents' hands.

You've already learned one important thing — that West started with six hearts. If you could find out how many spades and diamonds West had, you'd be in a much better position to deal with the clubs.

You start by cashing the ace of spades and trumping a spade. Next you draw two rounds of trumps ending in dummy. In the process, you discover that each opponent had two diamonds. Now you cash the king of spades, discarding a club, and then ruff the ten of spades, learning that the opposing spades were divided 4-4. The picture is now complete. West started with exactly four spades, six hearts and two diamonds and therefore only one club. So you lead a club to the king and a club back. When East follows low, you finesse, knowing with absolute assurance that the finesse will succeed.

