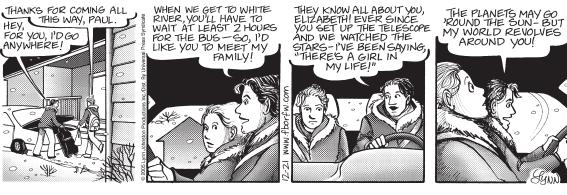
## For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



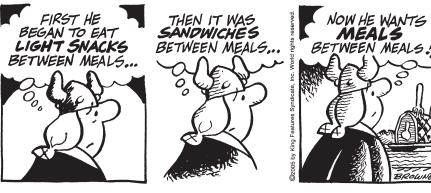
#### For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



### **Garfield** • Jim Davis



### Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



# Blondie • Chic Young



# Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker





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info

# Bridge

East dealer.	
Both sides vulner	able.
NO	RTH
<b>•</b> 10 7	,
♥A 10	0.5
♦ K 9	8
♣A J	
WEST	EAST
$\mathbf{A}$ Q 9 8 6 5	$\Rightarrow$ A J 4
♥642	♥J983
◆ 0 4 2 ◆ 5 4 3	◆ J 10 7 2
<b>♣</b> 6 2	<b>♣</b> K 8
~~~	JTH
♠ K 3	
♥KQ	
♦ A Q	
♣Q 10	075
The bidding:	
East South	West North
Pass 1 NT	Pass 3 NT
Opening lead — s	six of spades.
1 0	1

### It's All Very Logical

A defender cannot rely on standard procedure - that is, what one would do most of the time - and expect to get the best results. Take this deal where West leads a spade against three notrump. Dummy follows low, and if East makes the mistake of playing the ace, declarer makes the contract.

South ducks the jack continuation and wins the third spade with the king. He then tries a club finesse, losing to East's king, but scores the rest of the tricks as West's two good spades are left withering on the vine.

Now let's suppose East plays the jack of spades on the opening trick rather than the ace. In that case, South is essentially forced to win the trick with the king, since the whole suit could be run against him if West had the ace. He would then go down one after the club finesse lost and East played the ace and another spade.

It is true that in playing the jack rather than the ace, East must violate the general practice of playing third hand high. Nevertheless, the play of the jack has solid logic behind it.

By the Rule of Eleven, East knows that declarer has only one spade higher than the six. If he assumes that card is the king, the jack automatically becomes the proper play. However, it is also true that if the card is the queen, it costs East a trick to play the jack.

The question, therefore, is whether South is more likely to have the queen or the king. Given that South should have a minimum of 16 points in high cards for his one-notrump opening, and that East can see 22 points between his own hand and dummy, it becomes impossible for West to hold the king. Consequently, the jack is the proper play at trick one.

Tomorrow: It could happen to anyone. (c)2005 King Features Syndicate Inc.

East deal North-So ♥A Q ♥A J 8 ♦ 10 3 ♣A 9 6	uth vulne NOR 6 5 2 7 3 5 2 K Q T 7 4	TH U 8 7 4 EAS ◆ 8 3 ♥ 6 2 ◆ K Q ◆ 10 2 TH	J9764
	<ul> <li>♥ K Q</li> <li>♦ A 8</li> <li>₱ 3</li> </ul>	10 9 5 4	
The biddi			
East			
3 ♦			4 🗭
Pass			
Opening	lead — te	en of dian	nonds.

## It Could Happen to Anyone

The chief purpose of a pre-emptive bid is to make things difficult for the opponents. The bid is made in the hope that the opponents, who presumably have the balance of strength, will get fouled up in the bidding. Consider this deal where East opened three diamonds and South doubled for takeout. West passed, and North responded four clubs. South understandably retreated to four hearts, and West just as understandably doubled. Declarer won the diamond lead with the ace and played the queen of trumps. West took his ace and led a second diamond. East won and returned a spade, whereupon West played the Q-A and led a third spade for East to ruff. East returned a club to partner's ace, and West later scored the jack of trumps to defeat the contract four tricks -1,100 points! If you study the matter fairly, you find that South really did nothing terribly wrong in the bidding. He might have overcalled with three hearts instead of doubling, but that was his only real alternative - and even three hearts would have gone down 800. To pass three diamonds was simply impossible. Of course, had North held West's hand, South's double would have worked out exceedingly well. In that case, North-South might have reached a grand slam in spades, which could not be defeated. The actual deal vividly demonstrates the advantages that can accrue from a pre-emptive bid. Players who pass up the opportunity for such a bid with a weak hand often lose a chance to create a huge windfall in their favor. Who would think, looking only at East's hand, that his three-diamond bid would produce 1,100 points? Tomorrow: Bad luck is not always fatal. (c)2005 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



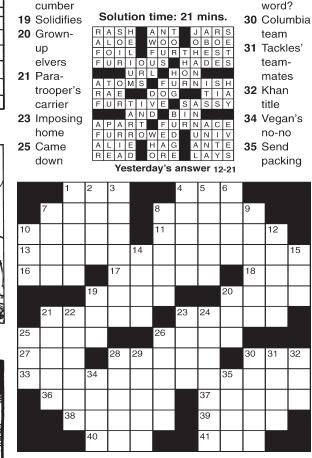
### Sally Forth • Greg Howard



NOW, SALLY, I DON'T WANT YOU TO SPEND YOU MAKE SEVERAL AS MUCH ON OUR GIFT THIS YEAR AS YOU DID GOOD AND LAST CHRISTMAS. WHAT A GREAT GIFT THAT ONTRADICTORY WAS! BUT IT WAS TOO MUCH. STILL, OUR NEIGHBORS COULDN'T BELIEVE WHAT POINTS, MOM. A GENEROUS DAUGHTER WE HAVE! BUT SAVE YOUR MONEY. AFTER ALL, HOW WILL YOU POSSIBLY TOP LAST YEAR'S GIFT, I WONDER!

## Cryptoquip

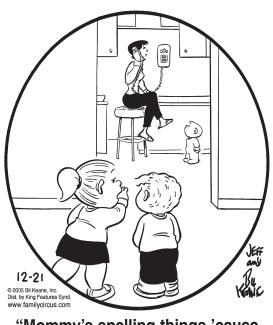
VMEK OUIJG QUI OEJJ	NS T ATQNDJ GS TRTCUT
KMRCSL JRYW LKHRCSL,	ETW CXBJF-CETFB DNCNGA,
MEZZWHL, ECG VUUGWC	N QENAU N'W ITRR EJF
Y W Q L ? B R E C U B R W O W L . Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A CERTAIN DENTAL PRODUCT WERE WAY UNDERPRICED, IT WOULD PROBABLY BE A FLOSS LEADER. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals L	T A G B Q N I T R T R J X Q N T A . Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT COULD YOU CALL THINGS LIKE STRINGS, HAMMERS AND WOODEN KEYS? PIANO PIECES. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals D



# Family Circus • Bill Keane



"... he hasta take his boots off and on at all those security checks.'



"Mommy's spelling things 'cause PJ's there."