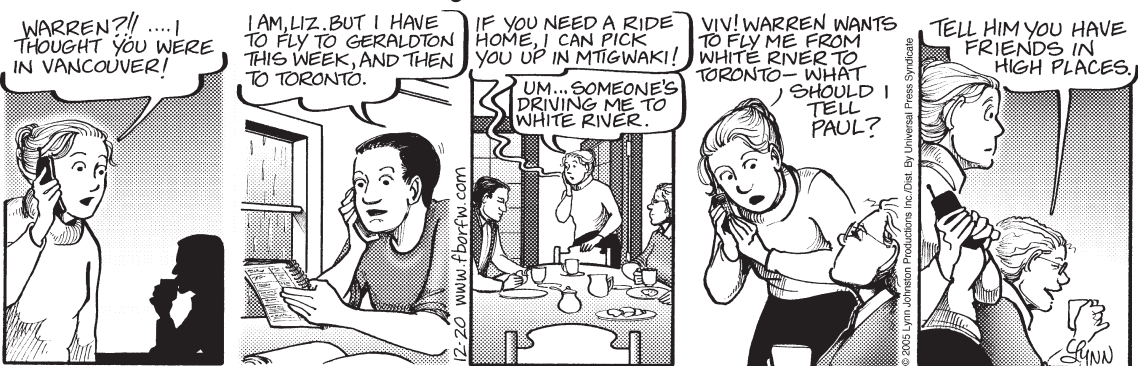
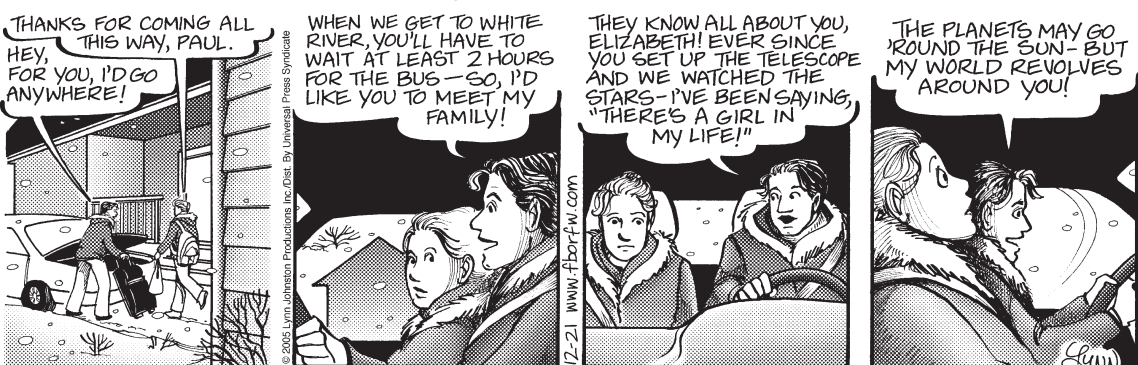


For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



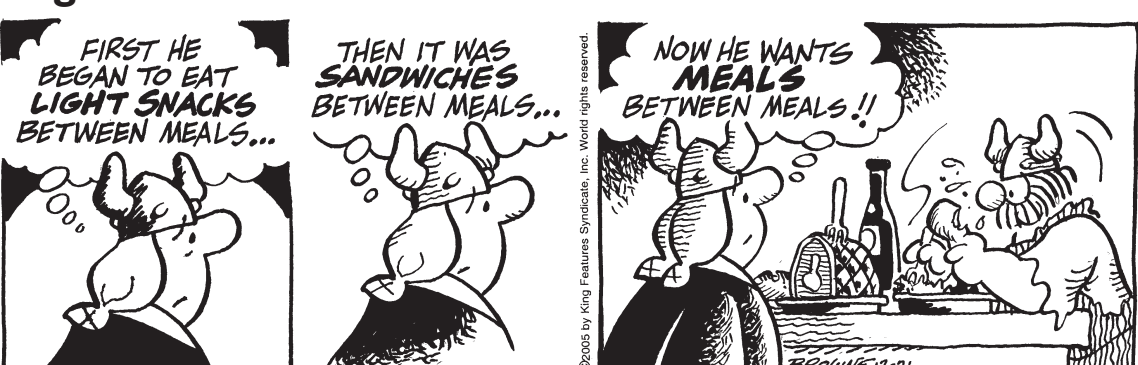
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Garfield • Jim Davis



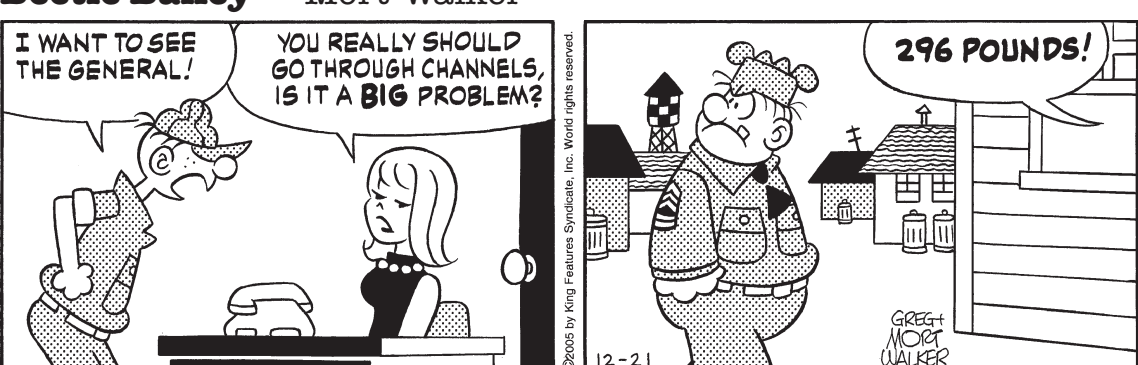
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



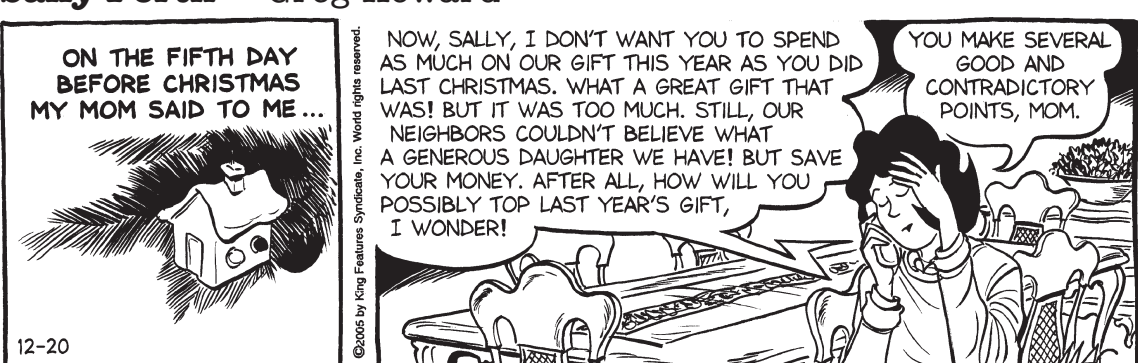
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

VMEK OUIJG QUI OEJJ

KMRCSL JRYW LKHRCSL,

MEZZWHL, ECG VUUGWC

YWQL? BRECU BRWOWL.

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

NS T ATQNDJ GS TRTCUT

ETW CXBJF-CETFB DNCNGA,

N QENAU N'W ITRR EJF

TA GBQNITR TRIXQNTA.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT COULD YOU CALL THINGS LIKE STRINGS, HAMMERS AND WOODEN KEYS? PIANO PIECES.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals D

Crossword

ACROSS

1 Impetuous

5 Pismire

8 Supermarket lineup

12 Lotion additive

13 Court

14 Reed instrument

15 Thwart

16 Outermost

18 Not merely miffed

20 Devil's domain

21 Internet address

22 Sweetie

23 Fermi's bits

26 Supply

30 "Norma —"

31 Pooch

32 Actress Carrere

33 Sneaky

36 Impudent

38 Moreover

39 Crib

40 Not together

DOWN

1 Rabble, for short

2 Moises of baseball

3 Evening in Paris

4 Balloon filler

5 Terrible

ACROSS

27 "Monty Python" opener

28 Bro's cohort

29 Dinner for Dobbin

31 Movie format

34 Prepared for shingles

35 Grooving on

36 Round Table address

37 Yearly

39 Move slightly

40 From a distance

41 Whine

42 Met melody

43 "Factor"

44 Kournikova or Karenina

45 Metropolis

46 December 24 and 31

48 Personal question?

DOWN

6 Strictly entre —

7 Rocky peak

8 Bach patriarch

9 Sleeping

10 Obeyed reveille

11 Collections

17 Son of Odin

19 Kin of ifs and buts

22 Embrace

23 Sandy's comment

24 Greek cross

25 "— the fields we go"

26 Adversary

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 12-20

Bridge

East dealer.

Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ 10 7

♥ A 10 5

♦ K 9 8

♣ A J 9 4 3

WEST

♥ Q 9 8 6 5

♠ 6 4 2

♦ 5 4 3

♣ 6 2

EAST

♠ A J 4

♥ J 9 8 3

♦ J 10 7 2

♣ K 8

SOUTH

♠ K 3 2

♥ K Q 7

♦ A Q 6

♣ Q 10 7 5

The bidding:

East	South	West	North
Pass	1 NT	Pass	3 NT

Opening lead — six of spades.

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.

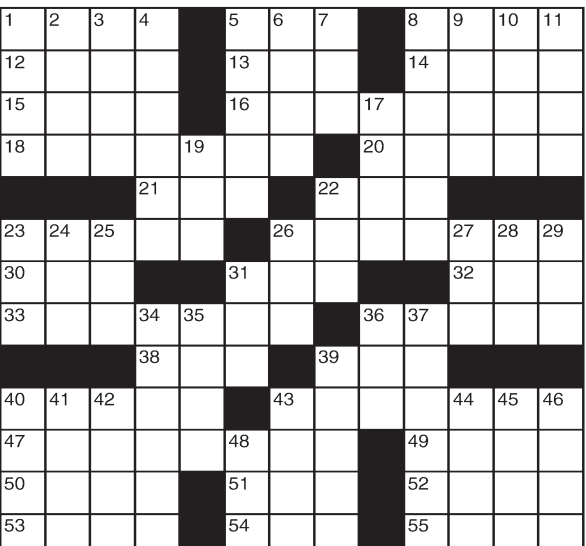
It is true that in playing the jack rather than the ace, East must violate the general practice of playing third hand high. Nevertheless, the play of the jack has solid logic behind it.

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.

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ACROSS

1 Hoagie

4 Hallucination

7 Hemingway

8 Cobbler's supply

10 Brass or bronze

11 Vagrants

13 1936

16 Possess

17 Tom, Dick and Harry

18 Disen-cumber

19 Solidifies

20 Grown-up elvers

21 Para-trooper's carrier

23 Imposing home

25 Came down

DOWN

1 Beauty shop

2 Fairy-tale preposi-tion

3 Rifle attach-ment

4 "Casa-blanca" cast member

5 Bridge coups

6 Ms.

7 Blizzard need

8 Petioles

9 Near-strikes

10 I love, to Livy

ACROSS

26 Soul singer

27 Author Deighton

28 Sag

30 Meadow

33 Creed-ence

36 Tease

37 Mary's pal

38 Storms

39 Charged bits

40 John Ritter's dad

41 Ph. bk. info

DOWN

12 Funt's directive

14 Crooner Jerry

15 They prove it's you

19 Eviscer-ate

20 Em halves

21 Sterilize

22 Block

23 Othello, e.g.

24 Analge-sic

25 Priestly vestment

26 Singer Norah

28 Duck

29 Watch word?

30 Columbia team

31 Tackles' team-mates

32 Khan title

34 Vegan's no-no

35 Send packing

Solution time: 21 mins.

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