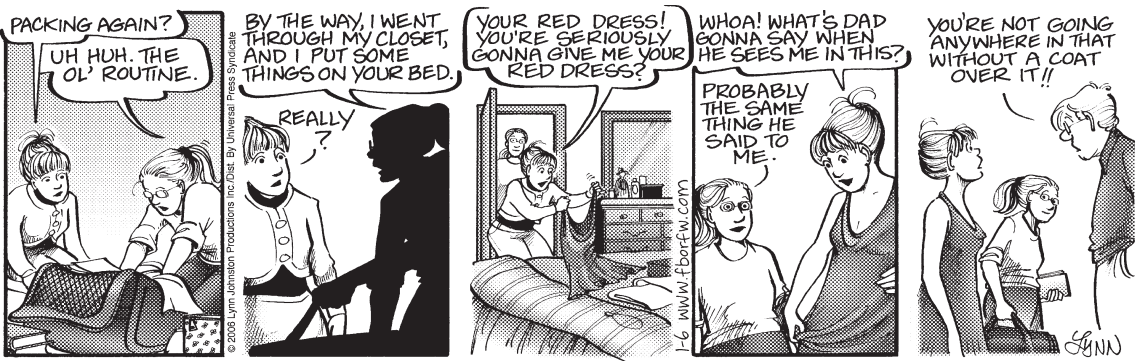
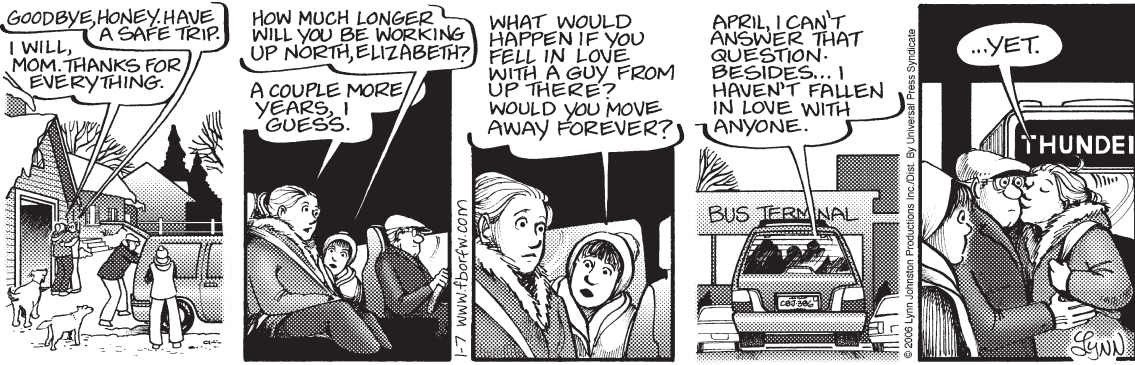


For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



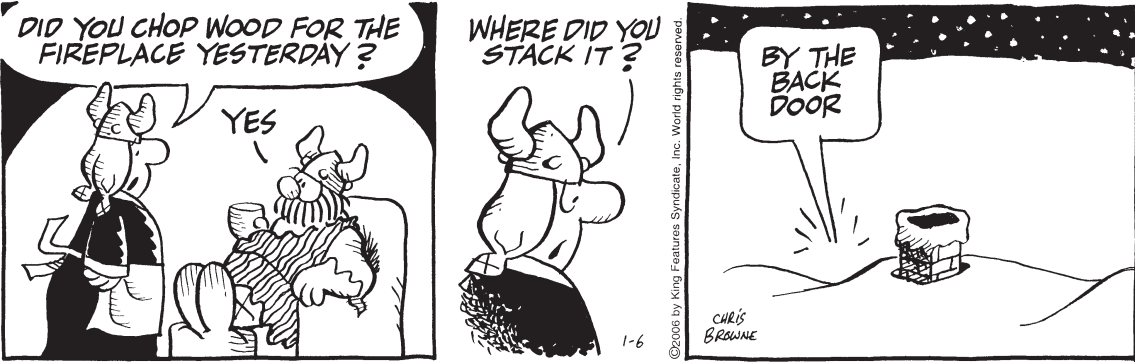
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



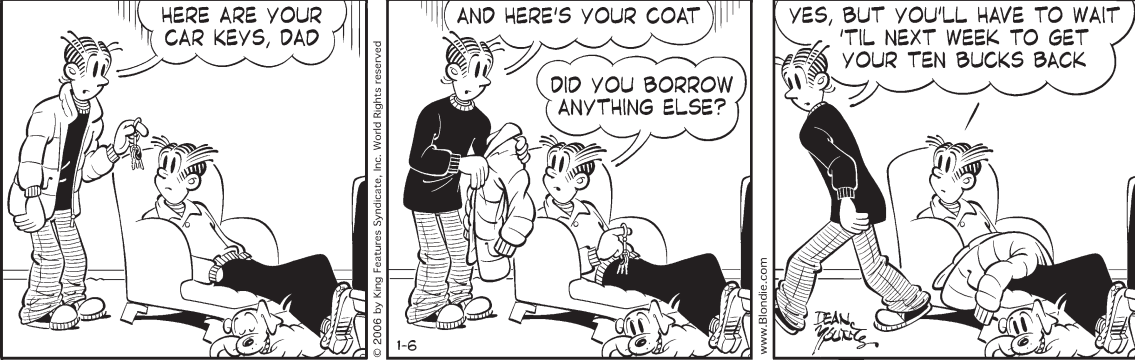
Garfield • Jim Davis



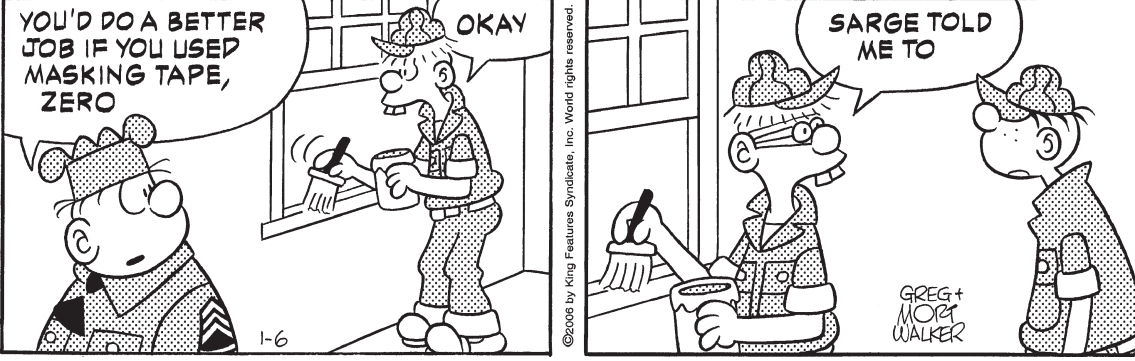
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

TK QG FKKTHTQY FJUWOUUO JC Z CIWZXI VFHITIOA JV
UJTY VWQHRTHUO QGC LQC Z OTIZM TKXIT, J VKEEFVI
NQLTRO, TO NU HQYYUC NFK WJOUM VZN VUI JV
RNU JTHU VWUOTCUGR? HITN IWETIVVJHI.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BEING THAT THE YESTERY IS VERY SCHOLARLY. YOU MIGHT DESCRIBE HIM AS A SAVANT GUARD. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF AN OFFICIAL OVERSEES EVIL PRACTICES AND BAD HABITS, IS HE CALLED THE VICE PRESIDENT?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals E Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals F

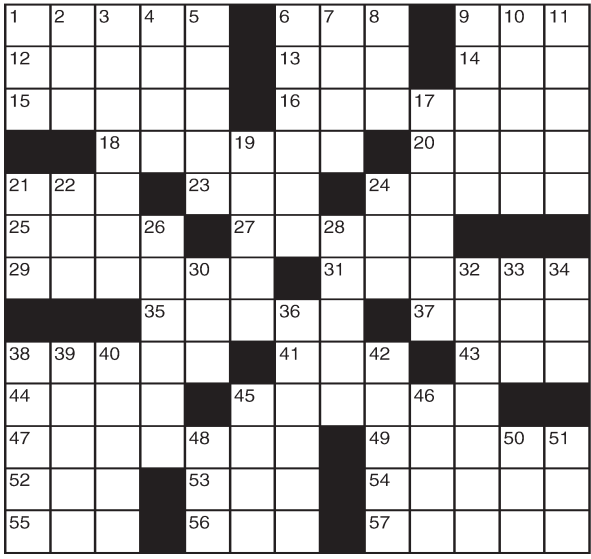
Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Monastery boss
 - 6 Biz deg.
 - 9 Ump
 - 12 Andrew Wyeth subject
 - 13 U.K. lexicon
 - 14 "What Kind of Fool —?"
 - 15 Startle
 - 16 Flexible Flyer
 - 18 Draw
 - 20 Green acres
 - 21 Roulette bet
 - 23 Big bother
 - 24 Silent-film star
 - 25 Particular
 - 27 Anticipate
 - 29 Outcast
 - 31 Took an apartment
 - 35 Toaster's word
 - 37 Old woman's home?
 - 38 Throat dangler
 - 41 Playwright
- DOWN**
- 1 "Eureka!"
 - 2 Barbara — Geddes
 - 3 Basket-ball's lining
 - 4 Fairy-tale baddie
 - 5 Florida metropolis
 - 6 University city of 19-Down
 - 7 Zone
 - 8 Citric quaff
 - 9 "A Prairie Home Companion" venue
 - 10 Nail file coating
 - 11 Off the payroll
- 43** Family member, for short
- 44** Magritte or Descartes
- 45** "A Beautiful Mind" director
- 47** Football player
- 49** Block-buster offering
- 52** "I" trouble
- 53** Exist
- 54** Update manuscripts
- 55** Lair
- 56** "Of course"
- 57** Lint magnet

Solution time: 25 mins.

BAGS DOT SHAM
ECRU ABA POLO
AHAB TIM IMAM
MEDUSA EGRESS
ROB NAB
ROBB AMBULATE
ADA SEA SOS
HASBEENS CENT
ELM EGO
FAMOUS BOWTIE
LIEU AMA BOOR
URNS GEL OTTO
BYTE AWL YEAS

Yesterday's answer 1-6

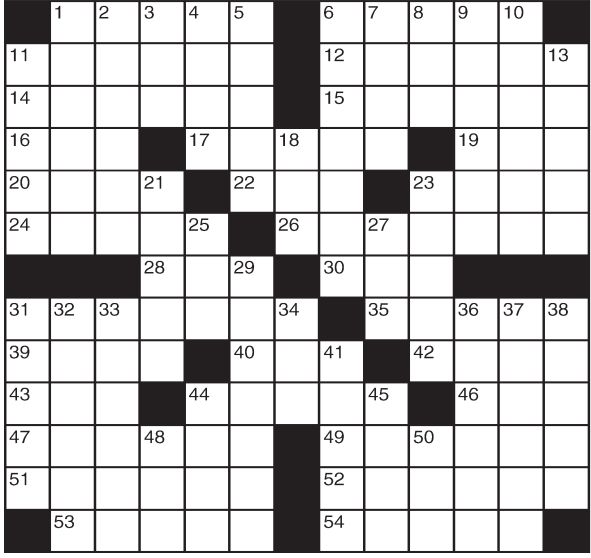


- ACROSS**
- 1 Frequents the stacks
 - 6 Cow catcher
 - 11 Kalimantan's other name
 - 12 ESL bafflers
 - 14 Game official
 - 15 — Grove, Calif.
 - 16 "I — line-man ..."
 - 17 8-Down's counterpart
 - 19 "CSI" evidence
 - 20 Trawler gear
 - 22 Deterioration
 - 23 Leak slowly
 - 24 Tweak
 - 26 Oliver Twist's request
 - 28 Plunder
 - 30 Baltimore newspaper
 - 31 Emotional upsets
 - 35 Hurl
- DOWN**
- 1 Wandered
 - 2 Proof-reader's concern
 - 3 Moreover
 - 4 Consider
 - 5 Echolocation method
 - 6 Ties with surgical thread
 - 7 Leading man
 - 8 Male title
 - 9 Sluggish
 - 10 Served as a portent
 - 11 Safari master
 - 13 Photos
 - 18 Two, in Tijuana
- 39** Actress Russo
- 40** Addressee
- 42** Heart of the matter
- 43** George's brother
- 44** Make a difference
- 46** Nerd-pack occupant
- 47** Onus
- 49** Elsie's company
- 51** Convert to dots and dashes
- 52** Colored ring
- 53** Baking pan
- 54** Fifth Christmas gift

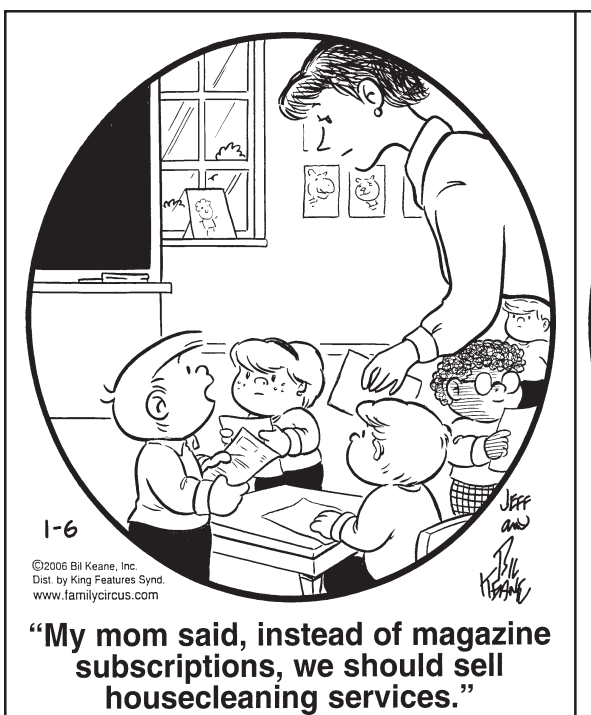
Solution time: 27 mins.

ABBOT MBA REF
HELGA OED AMI
ALARM SLEDDER
DEPICT EIRE
RED ADO LLOYD
ITEM AWAIT
PARIAH LEASED
SKOAL SHOE
UVULA ZOE UNC
RENE HOWARD
GRIDDER VIDEO
EGO ARE EMEEND
DEN YES SERGE

Yesterday's answer 1-7



Family Circus • Bill Keane



Bridge

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

North	East	South	West
1♦	1♠	?	

What would you bid with each of the following five hands?

- ♠ AQ5 ♥ 985 ♦ 863 ♣ 10842
- ♠ 72 ♥ AKJ9 ♦ K4 ♣ QJ875
- ♠ QJ83 ♥ KQ6 ♦ 5 ♣ AJ862
- ♠ — ♥ KJ764 ♦ AQ93 ♣ AJ73
- ♠ KQ6 ♥ AJ5 ♦ J843 ♣ AJ9

Bidding Quiz

- Pass. When your partner opens the bidding with one of a suit, you are required to keep the bidding open with six or more points. However, this obligation is suspended if the intervening player overcalls the opening bid. Since partner now has another bid coming to him, there is no necessity to enter the fray with flimsy values in order to keep the bidding alive. The only possible response in the present case is one notrump, but a voluntary notrump response is normally based on more than six points. So, despite the attractive spade holding, a bid of one notrump in these circumstances would be overstating your values.
- Two clubs. This follows the general principle of naming a five-card suit before a four-card suit (provided you have enough points to do so). Your plan is to bid hearts next so that partner will know you have only four of them.
- Double. Game is by no means certain, so the best chance of a significant plus score lies in trying to exact a penalty from the opponents at one spade doubled. If partner passes, indicating a normal opening bid, you are likely to collect 500 or 800 points.
- Two spades. Game is virtually certain, and slam is just around the corner. The best way of expressing this is by a cuebid. Two spades implies a void in that suit, good diamond support and interest in reaching a slam. If partner is weak in spades, which would mean he is strong elsewhere, a slam can almost surely be made.
- Three notrump. This is a quantitative bid showing 16 or 17 points, balanced distribution (usually 4-3-3-3) and scattered high-card strength. Since that is exactly what you have, you can best transmit this message by leaping directly to three notrump.

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A 9 8 4
♥ Q 7
♦ K 9 5
♣ 9 7 6 2

WEST

♠ 6 5
♥ A K J 9 3 2
♦ 8 2
♣ J 8 4

EAST

♠ Q J 7 3
♥ 10 8 6
♦ 7 4
♣ Q 10 5 3

SOUTH

♠ K 10 2
♥ 5 4
♦ A Q J 10 6 3
♣ A K

The bidding:

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

Opening lead — king of hearts.

Looking Seven Tricks Ahead

Assume you're declarer in five diamonds and that West cashes two heart tricks before shifting to a low club. After taking the ace, how would you continue?

The situation is no doubt similar to many you've encountered before. There you are with all the rest of the tricks but one — in this case, a spade loser. However, the fact that you have all the tricks but one should ring a bell — it should tell you there is the possibility of a squeeze.

You can't be sure the squeeze will succeed, since it depends on how the adverse cards are divided, but it costs nothing to try. What you hope is that the defender who has most of the clubs also has most of the spades. In that case, the squeeze will work because that defender will be unable to keep both suits guarded.

Accordingly, you cash the A-Q of diamonds and king of clubs and enter dummy with a diamond in order to ruff a club. You then cash another trump to bring about this position:

North	East
SA 9 8	
C 9	
	East
West	S Q J 7
S 6 5	C 10
H J 9	
	South
	S K 10 2
	D 10

Now you lead your last trump, discarding a spade from dummy, and East cannot prevent you from winning the rest of the tricks.

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