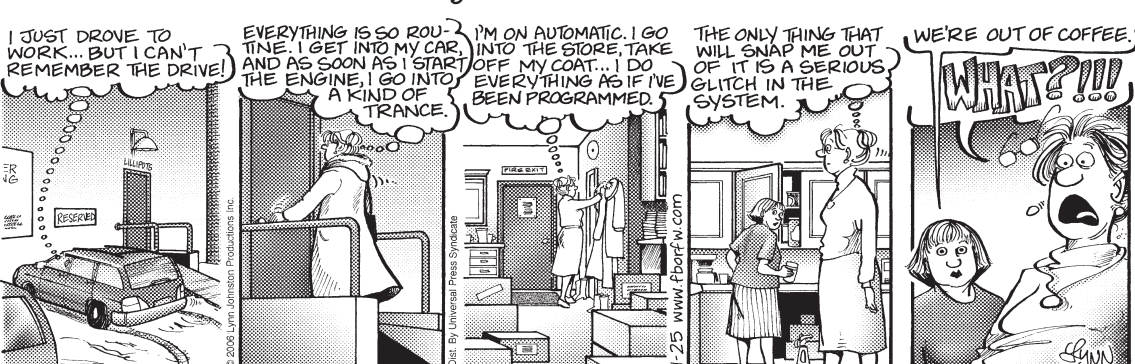


For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Garfield • Jim Davis



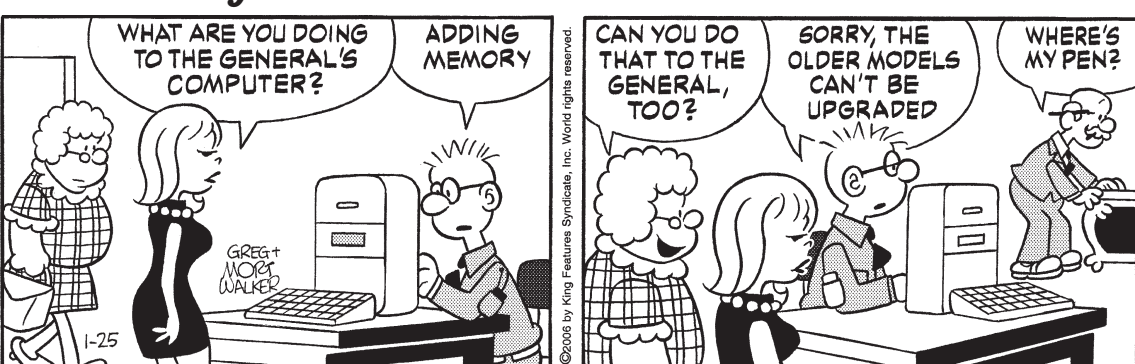
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



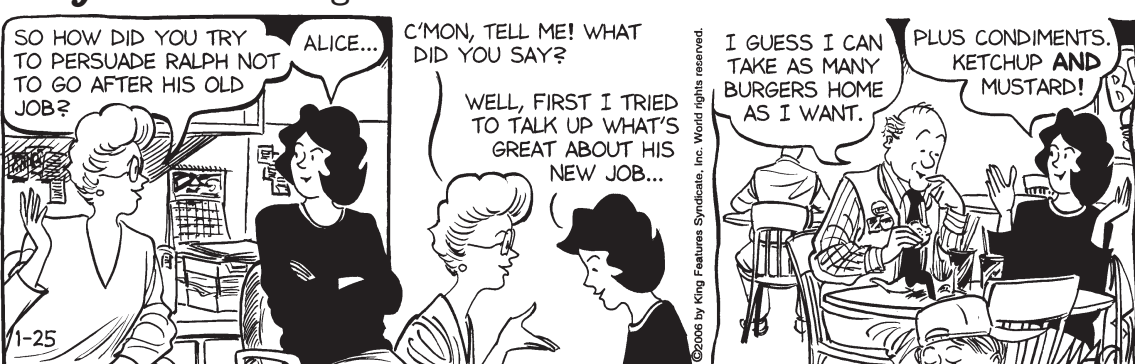
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

ZFBS GEI ZSFQA LZS BQ R PSZXFU SQ PSSF
 QIOEQ LZFL LZSQS PX F WLSTAT QSCVUY R NRHY,
 OELEQHGHS YMEHYEU B TZXXSTU ALUK VBWLA
 HFKKSA ZFQAKG AFBPAXEM? XFRK CLKALV RHY NSST.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU BEGIN DRINKING AFTER SEVERAL YEARS, COULD YOU BE TAKING A LEAVE OF ABSTINENCE? Yesterday's Cryptoquip: HAVE YOU HEARD THE RUMOR THAT THERE IS A MOTORCYCLE KNOCKOFF CALLED HARDLY DAVIDSON?
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals D Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals P

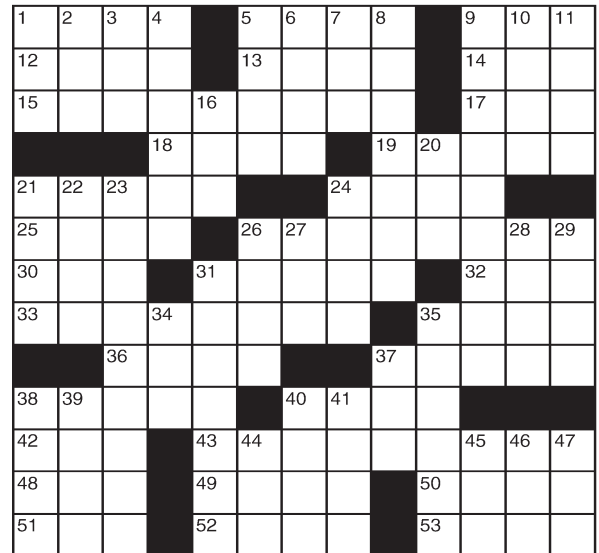
Crossword

- 1** Mexican money **35** Eastern bigwig **53** Calendar quota **16** Propel a shell
- 5** Colorless **36** Geological periods **1** Omega preceder **20** Internet address
- 9** Turf **37** Having a damp smell **2** Type units **21** Dispatch **22** Carte
- 12** Child's play **38** Urban fleet **3** Frivolous gal of song **23** On and on and on
- 13** Verdi opera **40** Young horse **4** La Scala stagings **24** Nerd-pack contents
- 14** Tribute in verse **42** Office-holders **5** Loony **26** Courts
- 15** Home of tailless cats **43** One way to stride **6** Frost **27** Embrace
- 17** Part of UCLA **44** Be under the weather **7** Okla-homa city **28** Send forth
- 18** Mortgage datum **49** Sea eagle **8** Feast **29** Agile
- 19** Elementary particle **50** Actress Gershon rooms **9** Glass-enclosed **31** Wasn't coordinated
- 21** Slander **51** Pippet **10** Stench **34** Prior to **35** Encmium
- 24** Sound of contentment **52** "Consarn it!" **11** Dilbert's place **37** Wrestling surface **38** Prejudice **39** Monad **40** Sherilyn of "Twin Peaks" **41** Couturier Cassini **44** Mound stat **45** Dead heat **46** — budget **47** Corn spike

Solution time: 21 mins.

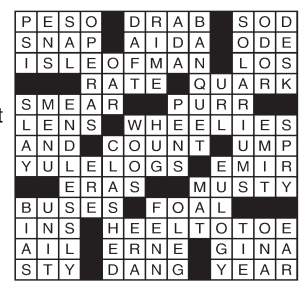


Yesterday's answer 1-24

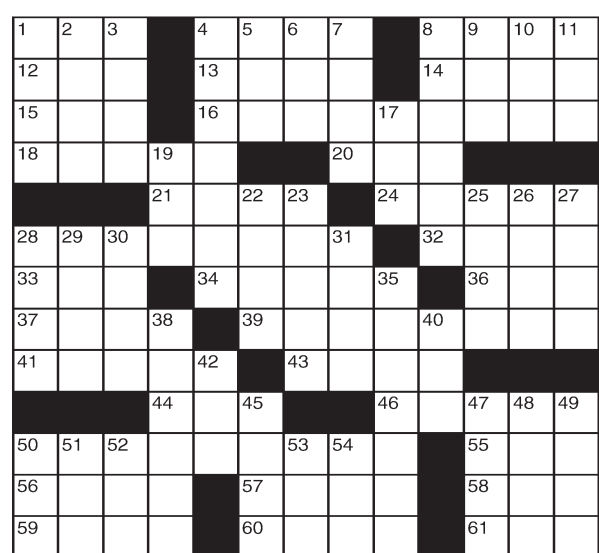


- ACROSS**
- 1** Get ready to rumble **50** "The Pajama Game" song **4** One who reads between the lines? **23** Cabbie's collections
- 4** Blueprint **55** Upper limit, for short **5** Rawls or Reed **25** "The Amazing —"
- 8** Two-way **56** Harbor town **6** Common middle name **26** Passport endorsement
- 12** "Golly!" **57** Ocean flier **7** Guitar part **27** Tend texts
- 13** Top-notch **58** Eggs **8** Light switch of a sort **28** Tulip, to start
- 14** Capri, e.g. **59** Days gone by **9** Deal with **29** Place of worship?
- 15** Pack away **60** Hotel employee **10** Ga. neighbor **30** Heart
- 16** Bologna, for one **61** Prized possession **11** Say it's okay **31** Snare
- 18** Night vision? **17** Possessive pronoun **35** Tweaked
- 20** Kipling lad **19** Ararat vessel **38** Chopping spree?
- 21** Jazz phrase **22** Nourish **40** Lingerie item
- 24** Do one's bidding **1** Improved in the bottle **42** Water blocker
- 28** Inferior position **2** Bring up **45** Sci-fi film about mutant ants
- 32** Incursion **3** Apportion **47** Urban blight
- 33** Venusian vessel? **41** The staff of life **49** Physical agent
- 34** — cotta **42** Lingerie item **50** Agent
- 36** CBS crime series **43** Practice pugilism **51** Excessively
- 37** Spree **44** Snitch **52** Mess up
- 39** Persistent nonpayer **45** Old hat **53** History chapter
- 41** The staff of life **46** Old hat **54** Blackbird

Solution time: 21 mins.



Yesterday's answer 1-25



Family Circus • Bill Keane



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"Should I be saving now for my vacation on Mars?"

Bridge

East dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ 8 7 2
 ♥ 6 5 3
 ♦ Q J 8
 ♣ A 10 5 4

WEST
 ♠ K J 9 4
 ♥ K 10 7 2
 ♦ 9 6 5
 ♣ 8 3

EAST
 ♠ Q 10
 ♥ J 8 4
 ♦ 10 4 3 2
 ♣ J 9 7 6

SOUTH
 ♠ A 6 5 3
 ♥ A Q 9
 ♦ A K 7
 ♣ K Q 2

The bidding:
 East Pass South 2 NT West Pass North 3 NT
 Opening lead — four of spades.

Choosing Between Alternatives

Suppose you're declarer at three notrump and West leads a spade. You duck East's queen at trick one and take the ten return with the ace. How would you continue?

When the deal occurred, declarer cashed the K-Q-A of clubs, hoping dummy's ten would become his ninth trick. After the jack failed to fall, South led a heart to the nine, losing to the ten.

West cashed his two spades and exited with a diamond to dummy's jack. Declarer then led a heart to his queen, but when West showed up with the king, the contract went down one.

It is true that declarer was unlucky to go down on the line of play he chose. It offered better than an 80 percent chance of success. Nevertheless, the fact remains that a different approach was available that was almost 100 percent certain to succeed.

Once West shows out on the third round of clubs, all of South's attention should be focused on the best way to try to score a trick with the queen of hearts. One way of going about this is to do exactly what declarer did, first finessing the nine and later the queen. A much better way, though, is to try to compel West to lead a heart into the A-Q.

Since it is known after the first two tricks that West has at most four spades, and since he presumably has no longer suit, there is a sure way to make him lead a heart without losing five tricks first. After taking the three top clubs, declarer simply cashes the A-K-Q of diamonds and exits with a spade.

In the actual deal, West takes two spade tricks before he is forced to return a heart into the A-Q. Even if West has the 13th diamond to cash after taking his spades, the heart return on his next play is certain to hand South his ninth trick.

Tomorrow: It's so easy to go wrong.
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South dealer. East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ A 7
 ♥ 9 6 3
 ♦ K Q 8 6 2
 ♣ 7 6 4

WEST
 ♠ Q J 10 8 2
 ♥ —
 ♦ J 9 4 3
 ♣ J 10 8 5

EAST
 ♠ K 9 5 3
 ♥ Q 10 8
 ♦ A 10 7
 ♣ Q 9 2

SOUTH
 ♠ 6 4
 ♥ A K J 7 5 4 2
 ♦ 5
 ♣ A K 3

The bidding:
 South 1♥ West Pass North 1 NT East Pass
 Opening lead — queen of spades.

It's So Easy to Go Wrong

One of declarer's greatest enemies is complacency, which frequently develops when, after viewing dummy, he decides there's really nothing to the play.

Consider this deal where South is in four hearts. He wins the spade lead with dummy's ace and, without giving the matter much thought, next leads a heart to the ace, planning to draw trumps and later discard a club on one of dummy's high diamonds for an overtrick.

But if declarer leads a trump to the ace at trick two, he goes down one. After discovering the unexpected 3-0 trump break, the best he can do is play a diamond to the queen and East's ace. East then cashes a spade and shifts to a club. Declarer takes his A-K of clubs and exits with a club.

After East takes the queen and returns a diamond, declarer, reduced to nothing but trumps, has to ruff and then concede a trick to East's queen of trumps for the defenders' fourth trick.

A more cautious declarer would adopt a different approach, however. Before leading a trump to the ace at trick two, he would stop and ask himself what, if anything, might jeopardize the contract. After realizing that only a 3-0 trump division can defeat him, he would then channel all his thoughts into guarding against that possibility. This, in turn, might lead him to the winning line of play.

To protect against a 3-0 distribution, the correct play is to lead a trump from dummy at trick two and finesse the jack after East follows low! If the jack wins, the battle is over then and there.

And what if the finesse loses? In that case, the best West can do is to cash a spade and lead a club. Declarer wins, draws a second round of trumps and concedes a diamond to the ace. South takes the club return, crosses to the nine of trumps and disposes of his club loser on dummy's high diamond to make the contract.