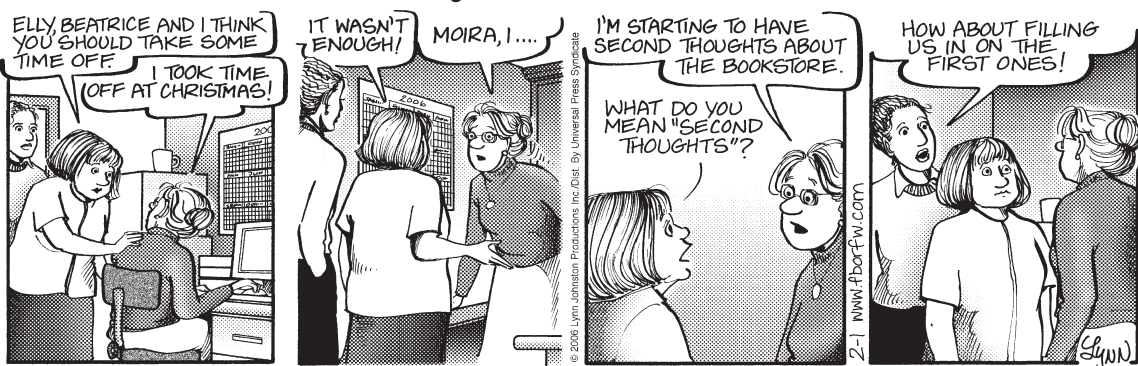


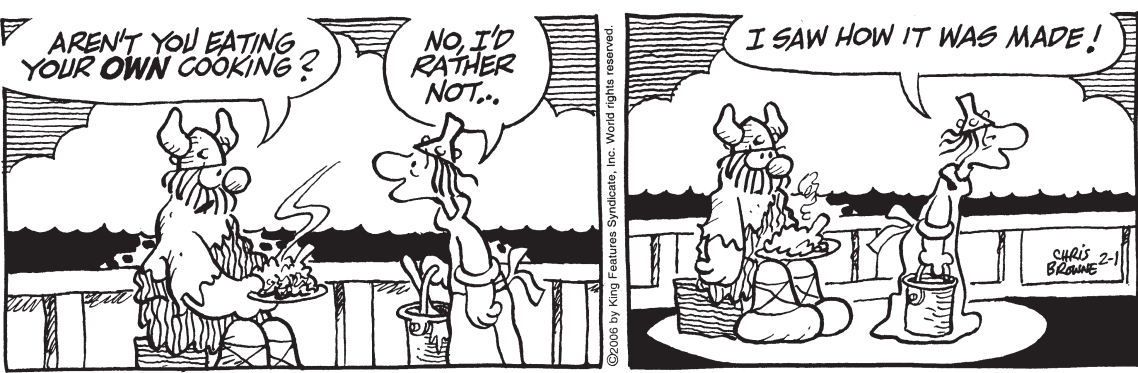
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Garfield • Jim Davis



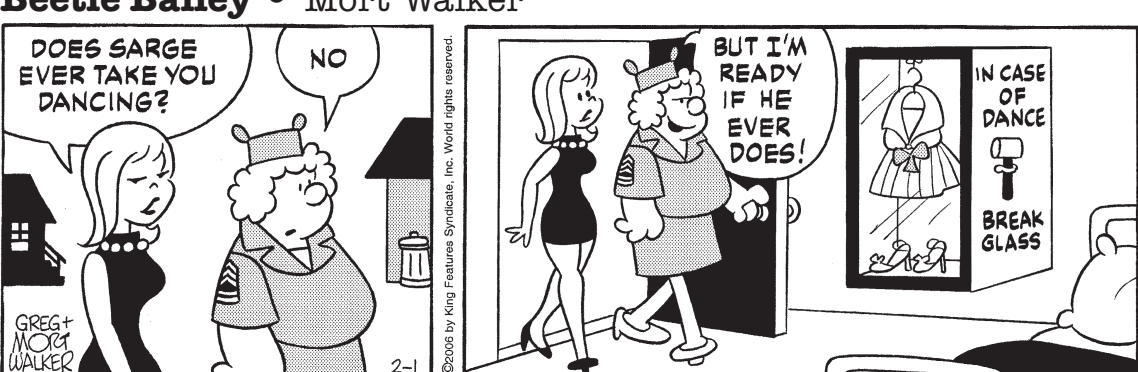
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

UCD AYDLHYQTH AEPODP BE RZWKYZZA XBPJK FZL
 CEL E YWU WA AEQUC JZMR WZNK LFQS
 QT CQOBDYA. CQB QSALFBSM KXRK, WBMFL FK
 NWTALDND VEB HPVWQTH. YK SQWKJ ENQSP JBMMKN?
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A DIGITAL CAMERA FAILS, IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THE PROBLEM COULD BE A SHUTTER BUG? Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE FLEDGLING FARMER HAD A LOT OF FAITH IN HIMSELF. HIS CONFIDENCE WAS GROWING.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals F Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals E

Crossword

ACROSS
 1 Prejudice
 5 Bake sale org.
 8 Call a halt to
 12 Leave a lasting impression?
 13 One who gives a hoot?
 14 Option for Hamlet
 15 Bottle cap, often
 17 Mayberry moppet
 18 "Finished at last!"
 19 Potpourri pouch
 21 Whatever's left
 24 White House nickname
 25 Bohemian
 28 Tale-teller
 30 Expert
 33 Pair
 34 Paycheck extra
 35 Forefront
 36 Item in a roadie's burden

DOWN
 1 No. 1
 2 Pruritus
 3 Farm fraction
 4 Fortified wine from Spain
 5 Cauldron
 6 33-Across number
 7 Yodelers' mecca
 8 Inventory
 9 Likely to tip over
 10 Stage statuette
 11 Actress
 16 Itsy-bitsy

37 2005
 Rosario Dawson movie
38 Polar explorer
39 Dillinger's foes (Abbr.)
41 Part of MYOB
43 Roger and Julianne
46 Linguine topping
50 Gumbo ingredient
51 Santa's runway
54 Metropolis
55 Blunder
56 Billy of "Titanic"
57 Piano lineup

58 Lair
59 Green land

20 Ostentatious display
22 — gin fizz
23 Like a honky-tonk piano
25 Computer language
26 Pirates' potable
27 Music-radio format
29 Ford or Lincoln
31 See 29-Down
32 Remnant
34 Soft cheese
38 Light wind
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43 Make fun of
44 Tom Joad, e.g.
45 Lean-to
47 Luminary
48 Writer Morrison
49 Tournament type
52 Raw rock
53 Grecian vessel

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 2-1

Bridge

East dealer.
 Neither side vulnerable.
NORTH
 ♠ 8 2
 ♥ A 9 3
 ♦ J 6
 ♣ J 10 9 7 5 3

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

EAST
 ♠ Q 7 6 4 3
 ♥ 10 2
 ♦ K 10 9 8 5
 ♣ 6

SOUTH
 ♠ A J 9
 ♥ K Q 6
 ♦ A Q 7 4 3
 ♣ A Q

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

The Aim of the Game Is to Win

There's surely something paradoxical about the statement that bridge is a relaxing game, when the fact is that you can't ever afford to relax — if you want to do well.

Take this hand, for example, where West leads a heart against three notrump. Declarer plays low from dummy and wins East's ten with the king. He then cashes the ace of clubs and continues with the queen, but West plays low, and East shows out.

This is a disappointing development to South, because if West had taken the king, everything would have been under control and a minimum of 10 tricks would have been assured.

But South sees there is still a chance to make the contract, so he leads a low heart and, after West plays low, finesses the nine. When the nine wins, he leads the jack of clubs, forcing West to take the king either now or on the next trick, and South's troubles are over.

The finesse of the nine is certainly unusual, since South starts with three sure heart tricks and appears to be jeopardizing one of them. However, it is necessary because he needs an extra entry to dummy to establish the clubs and be able to cash them later. So South has to be credited with a good play.

However, the fact is that West was asleep at the switch at the critical point in the play. Having smartly refused to take his club king at trick three, he allowed himself to relax at trick four — and, as we said at the start, you just can't afford to do that in bridge. When South led the low heart to ward dummy, West should have put up the jack. Had he done that, nothing could have saved declarer.

West knows from East's play of the ten at trick one that South has the king and queen of hearts. West should therefore try to prevent declarer from gaining an extra entry to dummy by inserting the jack when South leads the six. It can cost West nothing to make this play, while it can gain him a great deal.

Tomorrow: From darkness into light.
 (c)2006 King Features Syndicate Inc.

From Darkness Into Light

Assume you're in four hearts and West leads the queen and another club, which you ruff. The problem is to find the best method of play — and this is not easy even if you look at all four hands.

There are several assumptions you're entitled to make without seeing the East-West cards. One is that the trumps are divided 3-2, since you have no chance to make the contract if they're divided 4-1. Another is that East, who opened the bidding, has the ace of spades.

It would be easy enough to make 10 tricks if West had three hearts and East two. You could cash the K-A of trumps, force out the ace of spades and later ruff a spade in dummy.

The danger in playing this way is that East might have three trumps, as in the actual deal. If you drew two rounds of trumps and then played a spade to the queen, East would take the ace and cash his high trump. You would then go down one, losing two spades, a heart and a club.

However, assuming East has the spade ace, there is a way to make 10 tricks regardless of which defender has three hearts. To accomplish this you play the A-K of hearts and then lead the six of spades from dummy.

If East goes up with the ace, you no longer need to ruff a spade, so let's say he ducks. In that case, you win the spade with the king, lead a diamond to the ten, ruff a club and continue with a diamond to the ace.

If East ruffs, your only remaining loser is a spade; if he discards, you ruff dummy's last club and continue playing diamonds. Whatever East does, you are sure to make 10 tricks.

Tomorrow: By the sweat of the brow.
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P	L	O	D	L	A	C	A	C	M	E			
H	E	R	E	I	D	A	B	R	A	G			
D	A	T	E	B	O	O	K	S	U	M	O		
		P	U	N	E	R	O	D	E	S			
C	O	M	E	T	O	W	E	R					
A	D	A	R	P	L	A	I	N	A	B	O	O	K
S	I	N	A	R	I	L	S	H	A	L			
T	E	X	T	B	O	O	K	D	I	R	E		
		H	I	T	S	L	O	O	S	E			
D	E	N	O	T	E	L	E	U					
E	V	E	R	C	O	O	K	B	O	O	K		
S	E	R	A	T	H	O	T	O	N	I			
K	N	O	X	S	O	P	S	H	E	D			

Yesterday's answer 2-1

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

Yesterday's answer 2-1

Family Circus • Bill Keane

