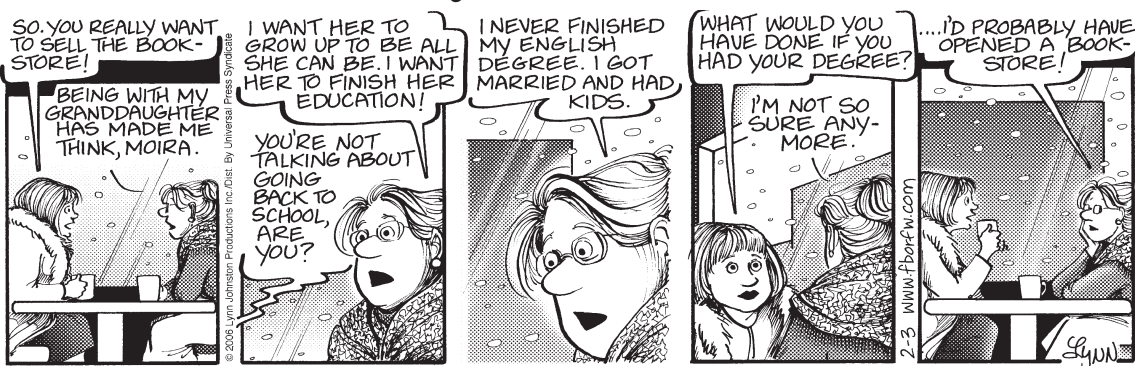
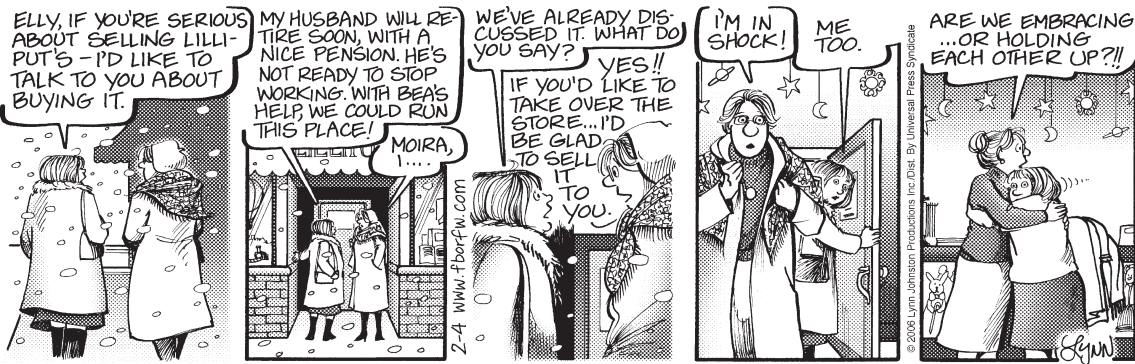


For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



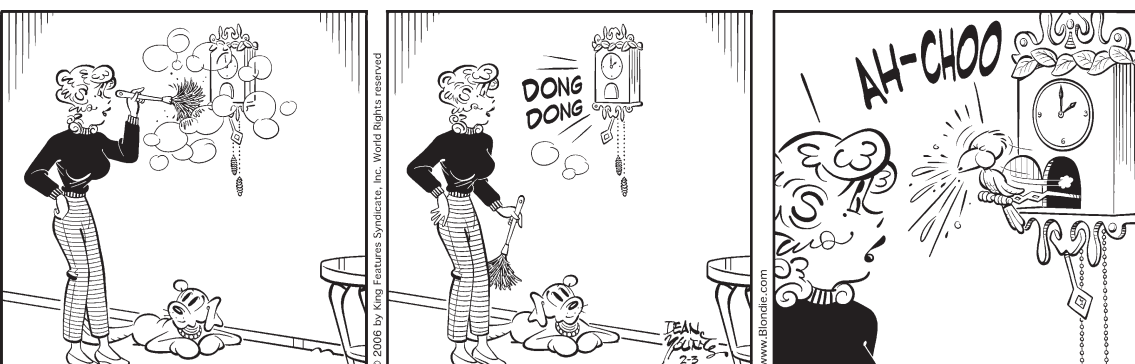
Garfield • Jim Davis



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

SOAG COA FVG'R PXB ZB L RPMZFFVY JIIXR L
 CXXW V EHCA XZC XK V NIEVY, Z ZKLOZCV NZR
 EXXW, H CXXW COA SXJPR BZFRE FVPMVRE KZONE
 JHBOC XZC XK HCR FXZCO. JV L CMESFLSXVF RMZEV.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: A BRAND-NEW Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN THE MAN'S
 CALLIGRAPHY SHOP IS OPENING SOON. IT DOG TOOK A BITE OUT OF A BOOK, I TOOK THE
 WILL REPORTEDLY BE CALLED PEN STATION. WORDS RIGHT OUT OF ITS MOUTH.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals O Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals F

Crossword

- ACROSS**
 1 19th president
 6 See
 9 White lie
 12 Sidestep
 13 With
 6-Across, online annoyances
 14 Will Smith biopic
 15 Major fad
 16 Linus' constant companion
 18 Bit of grain
 20 Staffer
 21 West of Hollywood
 23 Vast expanse
 24 Wallendas' walkways
 25 Ice-skating jump
 27 "Cheers" perch
 29 Leave in the lurch
 31 Cold-storage train car
 35 Pondered
- DOWN**
 1 Height of fashion?
 2 Ms. Gardner
 3 Frequent Series champs
 4 Falco or McClurg
 5 Big name in retail
 6 Optimistic
 7 Survey
 8 Hot tub
 9 Dervish
 10 —
 11 Morsels
 17 Caught red-handed
 19 Ravens' havens
 21 Neuman's mag
 22 Bunyan's tool
 24 Misery
 26 "Save the Tiger" Oscar winner
 28 Command
 30 Regret
 32 Air America VIP
 33 Corrode
 34 Deli loaf
 36 Pep
 38 Nuisances
 39 Indian money
 40 Really displeased
 42 Mary Ann Evans' pseudonym
 45 Diner's card
 46 Cookbook compiler
 48 Small barrel
 50 Quiche maker's need
 51 Rotation duration

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 2-3

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
12						13			14			
15						16			17			
	18					19			20			
21	22			23				24				
25				26			27		28			
29				30			31		32	33	34	
				35			36		37			
38	39	40				41		42		43		
44						45			46			
47						48			49		50	51
52						53			54			
55						56			57			

- ACROSS**
 1 Bundle of wheat
 6 Con-temptible critters
 11 Couturier
 12 Little hooters
 14 Billfold
 15 BB, e.g.
 16 Phonograph part
 17 Sets up a bivouac
 19 Churchill gesture
 20 Currier's partner
 22 Abner's adjective
 23 Bartok or Schick
 24 Meshlike
 26 Put one over on
 28 Computer acronym
 30 Round Table address
 31 Nomadic Arab
 35 Screwed up
- DOWN**
 1 Be super-hungry
 2 Cyclist's protector
 3 Blueprint addition
 4 A Baldwin
 5 "Attraction"
 6 Falls like dominoes
 7 Has bills
 8 The whole enchilada
 9 Investigated
 10 Brosnan the TV role
 11 Suitor
 13 Lieu
 18 Central
 21 Sen.
 23 Speaks like a Scot
 25 "— betcha!"
 27 Pinocchio's undoing
 29 Even less in size
 31 Ointments
 32 Star over the Seine
 33 Fairway bend
 34 Zilch
 36 Theater district
 37 High honor
 38 Nutritionists' recommendations
 41 Reservation residence
 44 Shah Pahlavi
 45 Break up with, unceremoniously
 48 Trail the pack
 50 Section of L.A.?

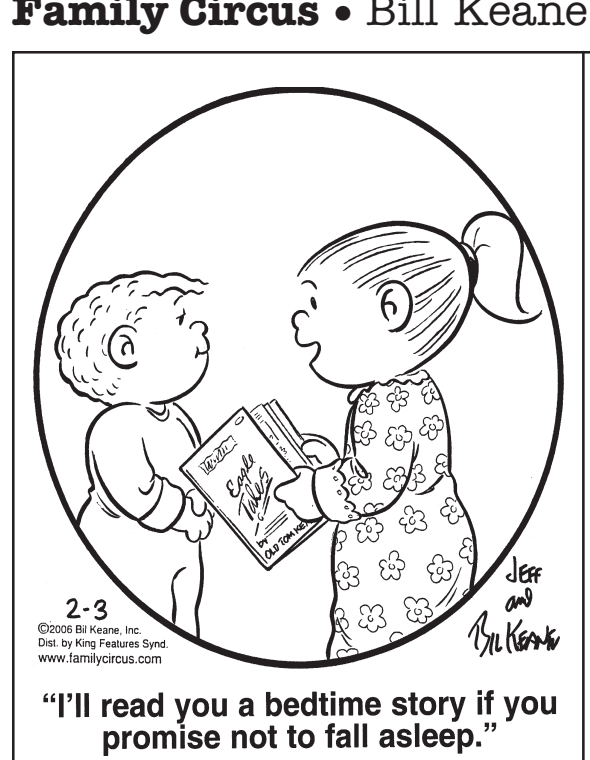
Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 2-4

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
11						12			13		
14						15					
16				17		18			19		
20		21		22				23			
24				25		26		27			
				28		29		30			
31	32	33				34		35	36	37	38
39				40		41		42			
43				44				45		46	
47				48				49		50	
51								52			
								53			
								54			

Family Circus • Bill Keane



You are South, both sides vulner-

able. The bidding has been:
South 1 ♣ Pass
West Pass
North 1 ♠ Pass
East 2 ♣ Pass
 ?
What would you now bid with each of the following four hands?
 1. ♠ 84 ♥ J7 ♦ A52 ♣ AQJ943
 2. ♠ Q10 ♥ AQ10 ♦ K7 ♣ KJ9652
 3. ♠ J6 ♥ KJ5 ♦ 943 ♣ AKJ76
 4. ♠ Q102 ♥ 84 ♦ AK ♣ KQ8654
 * * *

Bidding Quiz

- Three clubs. Each new suit bid by the responder is forcing for one round. Since you are thus obligated to bid over two diamonds, the only question is what to bid. Three clubs is the most descriptive rebid. By bidding one, two and three clubs, you make it clear that your opening bid is in the minimum range, that you are unenthusiastic about either of partner's suits, and that you cannot bid notrump. If partner chooses to go on in the face of your sign-off bids, he does so on his own responsibility.
- Three notrump. An important principle of bidding is that if you have underbid at one point, you should try to correct it later by making a strength-showing bid. In the same way, if you make an early overbid, you should bid weakly from then on to try to correct the previous impression. In this case, the rebid of two clubs slightly understated your actual values. Consequently, when partner says two diamonds, you want to avoid making any bid that would sound as though you were responding only because partner is forcing you to bid. Both two notrump and three clubs in this sequence would sound weak. The jump to three notrump compensates for the previous underbid.
- Two notrump. Partner may be angling for game in notrump, and the reason for his failure to bid it himself might be that he lacks a heart stopper. In any case, regardless of what partner's purpose is in forcing you to bid again, there is no real choice but to say two notrump. As indicated previously, this is not a strong bid. It merely shows that you can't support either of partner's suits and that you have a holding in hearts that makes a notrump contract feasible.
- Three spades. Having bid only two clubs on the preceding round, you are obligated to show that your hand is better than was previously indicated. If you were simply to bid two spades, it would sound as though you had started with a minimum opening that included marginal spade support. Such a hand, for example, would be one where you had three small spades instead of the Q-10-2. These extra values are shown by making a jump-preference to three spades. Tomorrow: Achieving the impossible. (c)2006 King Features Syndicate Inc.

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

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

WEST
 ♠ J 10 2
 ♥ 10 7 2
 ♦ A 10 8 7
 ♣ 9 4 2

EAST
 ♠ 9 8 7 5
 ♥ Q 9 6 5 3
 ♦ —
 ♣ J 8 5 3

SOUTH
 ♠ A Q 3
 ♥ 4
 ♦ J 9 6 5 4 2
 ♣ K Q 6

The bidding:
South 1 ♠
West Pass
North 2 ♥
East Pass
 3 ♠
 4 NT
 5 ♠
 Pass
 6 ♠
 Opening lead — jack of spades.

Achieving the Impossible

One of the most remarkable hands on record is this gem, which appears in the book "Reese on Play." West's A-10-8-7 of diamonds over declarer's J-9-6-5 appear to constitute two impregnable trump tricks. Even when all four hands are studied, the slam appears impossible to make. Nevertheless, the contract can be made. The play starts innocently enough when South wins the spade lead in his hand and leads a low diamond. West follows with the seven, and the queen wins as East shows out. Prospects for the slam, which appeared a moment before to be a near certainty, suddenly change to a near impossibility. No finesse against West's potent trump holding is possible, and the contract seems doomed. Standard procedure in such situations, where the outlook seems hopeless, calls for declarer to construct in his mind a hand West might have that would permit the contract to be made. It certainly can't be good policy to concede down one without a fight. The only chance of a successful resolution lies in attempting to arrange an endplay that would snuff out one of West's two seemingly sure trump tricks. The plan can succeed only if West has a hand where he has to follow suit as the winners in each side suit are cashed. At the same time, South must reduce his trump length to the same size as West's. Accordingly, at trick three the ace of hearts is cashed, and a low heart is ruffed. Three rounds of clubs are taken, and the jack of hearts is ruffed. Two high spades are then cashed, ending in dummy. Ten tricks have now been played. Dummy has the king of hearts and K-3 of diamonds, while South has the J-9-6 of diamonds and West the A-10-8. The king of hearts is led next, and South trumps it with the jack. If West overruffs, he has no safe return. If he underuffs, he scores only his ace of trumps. West has no recourse, and his second trump trick simply vanishes. (c)2006 King Features Syndicate Inc.

