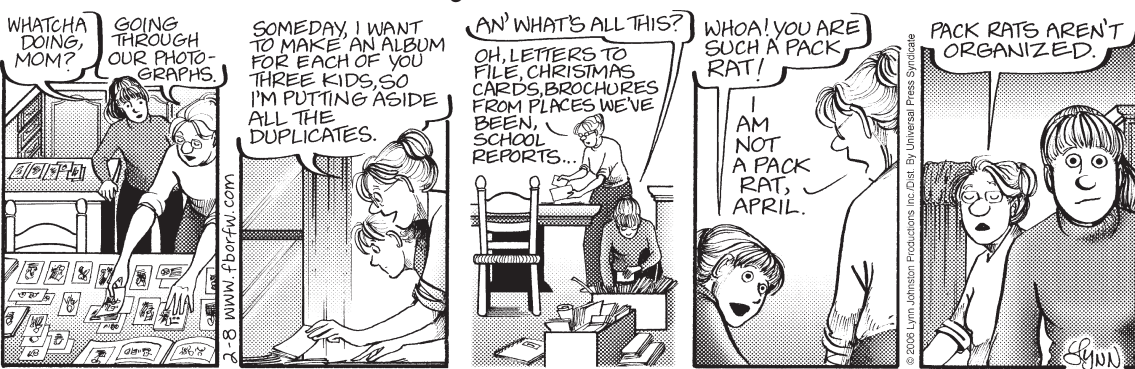


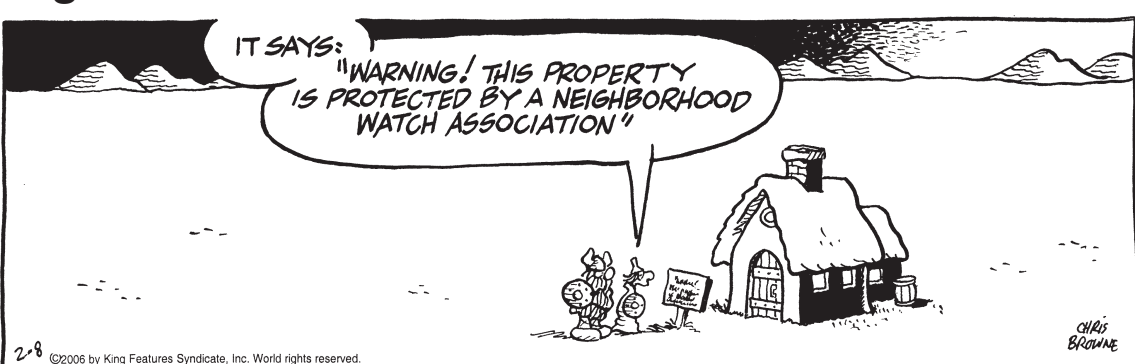
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Garfield • Jim Davis



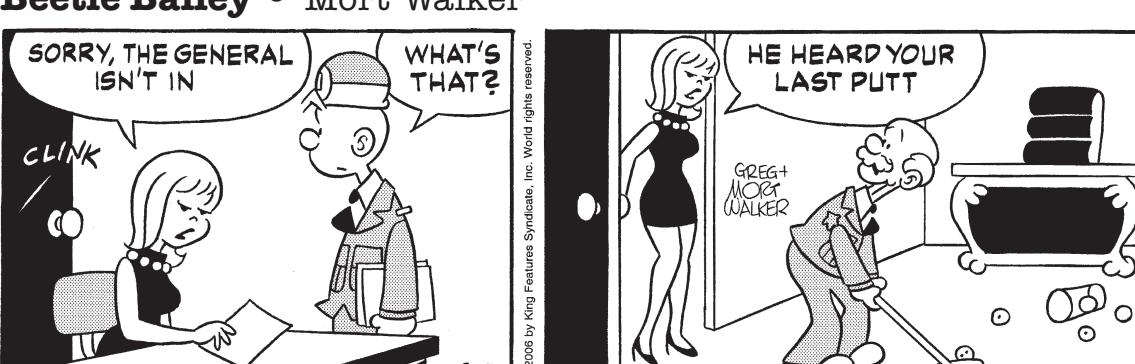
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



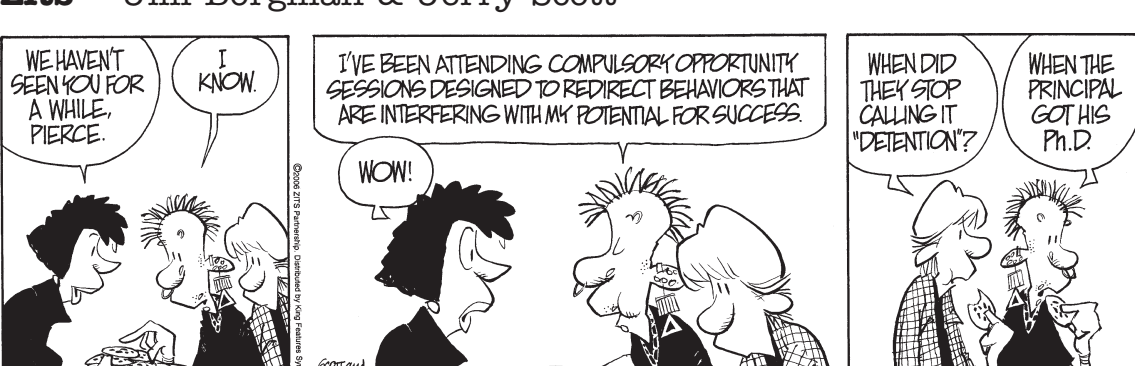
Blondie • Chic Young



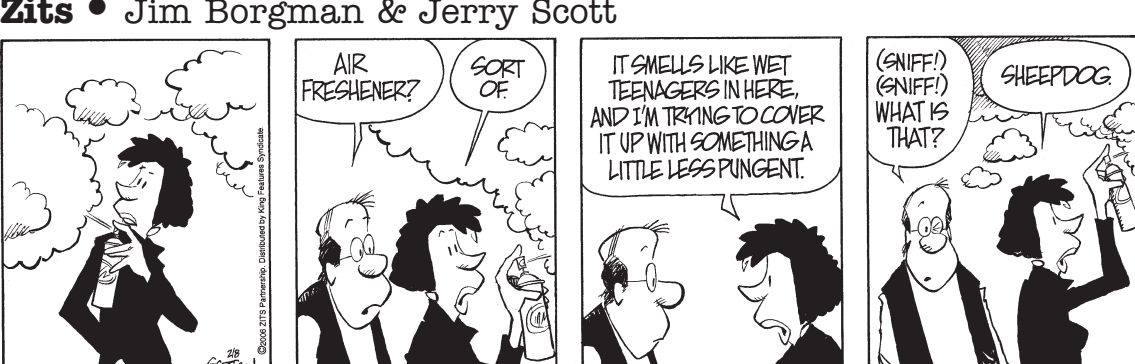
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

ZTO KNULLJKUN SUBKP | GJ U IUGOCGOH PDYD
 LRSTSJZ KNZLPS STP RZ | UAATRDQ ZJ U AYGXD,
 VZBPX GOZWNPVL. J AZTNS | G RTIIZRD GC XGHVC
 LUX JR APBR WUNNPR TG. | RVZTC "G PUR JYUXDQ!"
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A POTTER'S SPINNING THING WERE CONSTRUCTED OF IRON, I WOULD CALL IT A FERROUS WHEEL.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals U
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: OUR CLASSICAL DANCE STUDIO CLOSED DUE TO MONEY PROBLEMS. I WOULD SAY IT WENT BALLET UP.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals I

Crossword

ACROSS
 1 Not barefoot
 5 Pub request
 8 Fluorescence
 12 Heard the alarm
 13 Remuneration
 14 Top-rated
 15 Entry on a baseball schedule
 17 Alternatives to PCs
 18 Thickness
 19 Sphere
 20 Doctrine
 21 Tit for —
 22 Airborne vampire
 23 Within the rules
 26 Nightwear
 30 Speedy steed
 31 Newton flavor
 32 U2 lead singer
 33 Hotel staffer
 35 Beau and Jeff's dad
 36 Corn spike

DOWN
 1 Trade
 2 Ululate
 3 Suitable

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

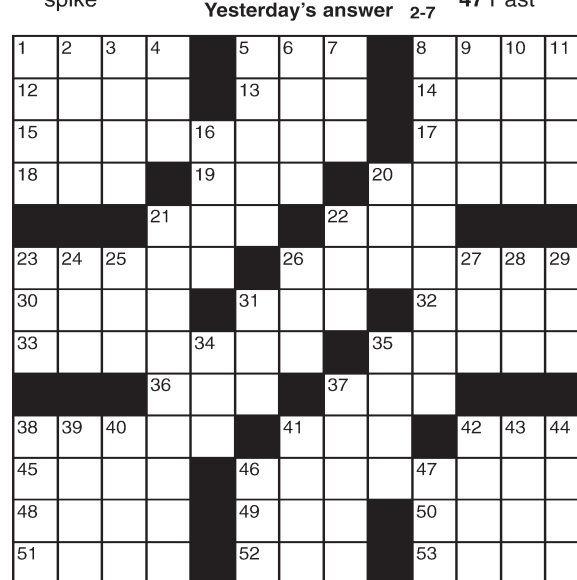
Yesterday's answer 2-7

Bridge

South dealer.
 Neither side vulnerable.
NORTH
 ♠ Q 10 5
 ♥ A 9 2
 ♦ 7 5 4
 ♣ A K 6 3
WEST
 ♠ 7 6
 ♥ Q J 10 4
 ♦ Q J 9 2
 ♣ 10 7 5
EAST
 ♠ 8 4 3
 ♥ K 8 7
 ♦ K 10 3
 ♣ Q 9 8 2
SOUTH
 ♠ A K J 9 2
 ♥ 6 5 3
 ♦ A 8 6
 ♣ J 4
 The bidding:
 South West North East
 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♣ Pass
 2 ♠ Pass 4 ♣ Pass
 Opening lead — queen of hearts.

Power of Positive Thinking

It is estimated that even the best bridge players get to their optimum contract only 90 percent of the time. This is perhaps a surprising statistic, considering that the top experts employ many sophisticated bidding devices to help guide them to the ideal contract.
 For a good example of how easy it is to miss the mark, take this case where a normal sequence of bids led North-South to a contract that seemed certain to fail. Three notrump was laydown, but was not an easy contract to reach.
 However, good play allowed declarer to get home safely. Faced with four probable losers — two hearts and two diamonds — he managed to make one of them disappear by converting his seemingly useless jack of clubs into a trick.
 After winning West's queen of hearts with dummy's ace, declarer immediately led the club three toward his jack! East put up the queen and played the king and another heart to West's ten. West shifted to the queen of diamonds, but South was now firmly in the driver's seat.
 He took the diamond with the ace, cashed the A-Q of spades and club jack, and crossed to dummy's ten of spades. He then discarded his two losing diamonds on the A-K of clubs to finish with 10 tricks.
 It is true that South lost a club trick he did not have to lose, but in so doing he avoided losing two diamond tricks. He realized from the start that his only real chance for the contract was to score three club tricks instead of two, and all his moves were made with that goal in mind.
 Tomorrow: A view from the top.
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Crossword

ACROSS
 1 From square one
 5 More, to Manuel
 8 Touch
 12 Uris book, "— 18"
 13 Elev.
 14 Guitar's ancestor
 15 Popular song of 1928
 17 Lead-in to "bird" or "plane"
 18 Spa
 19 "— Weapon"
 21 Ultimate
 22 Italian noble name
 23 Suitable
 26 Wet wiggler
 28 Star Broncos quarterback
 31 Partake at tempis
 33 Teeny
 35 Relaxation
 36 Sing à la Bing
 38 Little devil
 40 Go way off course

DOWN
 41 Fide preceder
 43 Feathery accessory
 45 Old Faithful, e.g.
 47 Skilled
 51 Comedian Johnson
 52 Just one of the crowd
 54 1972 Bread song, "Every-thing —"
 55 Navy rank (Abbr.)
 56 Neet competitor
 57 "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" author

ACROSS
 41 Fide preceder
 43 Feathery accessory
 45 Old Faithful, e.g.
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DOWN
 1 Eastern potato
 2 Cleo's waterway
 3 Pipe bends
 4 Cart
 5 Gospel writer
 6 Eur. nation
 7 Fashion
 8 Some-what
 9 Incidental-ly
 10 — Major
 11 Blue hue
 16 Art Deco VIP
 20 Language suffix

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 2-8

Bridge

North dealer.
 Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
 ♠ 5 4 2
 ♥ A 4 3
 ♦ Q 8 6
 ♣ K 8 5 3
WEST
 ♠ K Q 10 8 6
 ♥ J 2
 ♦ J 7 4
 ♣ A J 4
EAST
 ♠ J 9 7
 ♥ 9 6
 ♦ K 10 5 3 2
 ♣ Q 10 6
SOUTH
 ♠ A 3
 ♥ K Q 10 8 7 5
 ♦ A 9
 ♣ 9 7 2
 The bidding:
 North East South West
 Pass Pass 1 ♥ 1 ♠
 2 ♥ 2 ♠ 4 ♥ 1 ♠
 Opening lead — king of spades.

A View From the Top

One of the more entertaining bridge books of all time is Bob Hamman's "At the Table — My Life and Times," written with Brent Manley. In the autobiography, Hamman, winner of a host of national and world titles, and the World Bridge Federation's top-ranked player for many years, recounts his career from the late 1950s to the mid-'90s — including the eras of the Italian Blue Team and the Aces.
 The book is sprinkled with dozens of anecdotes involving the world's greatest players, Hamman's observations on bridge in general and the bridge world at large, plus numerous insights into the way Hamman feels the game should be played (he prefers fewer conventions and favors four-card major-suit openings). Of particular interest is the closing chapter, in which Hamman offers his views on what it takes to be a winner.
 Many of the hands in the book are culled from world and national championships in which Hamman participated. Today's deal, which occurred in the 1970 World Championship final against Taiwan, is described by Hamman (South) as follows:
 "This deal put the last nail in the coffin for the Chinese. West led the spade king and I ducked. He continued with a spade and I won the trick. Next came the key play — the club seven. I passed this to East's 10, and the defense was helpless.
 "The defenders neither had the time nor the communications to set up a diamond trick. I could ruff the spade continuation in hand, play two rounds of trumps, leaving the ace in dummy as an entry even if trumps split 3-1, and play another club. If West rose with the ace I would have the vital tenth trick in the club eight. If West ducked, I would go up with the king and play a third round with the same result.
 "Desperately, East switched to a low diamond, hoping his partner had the ace or that I would chicken out and not play low, but I ducked it around to the queen. Plus 620 was good for a 10-IMP pickup since North-South were in three hearts (making only three) at the other table."
 Tomorrow: Probing far beneath the surface.
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Family Circus • Bill Keane

