

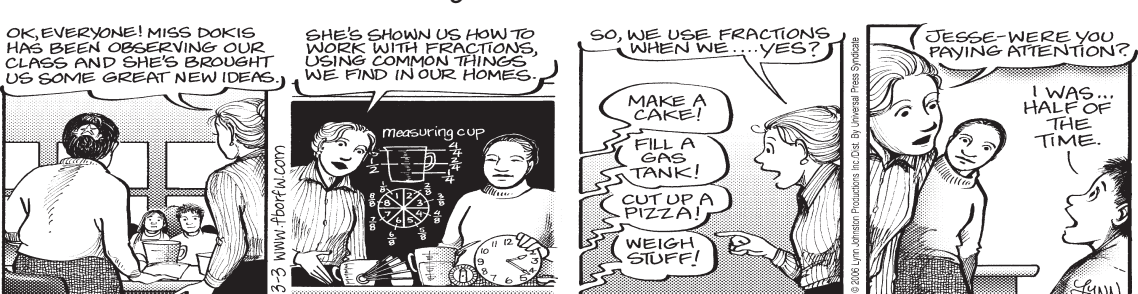
Retail • Norm Feuti (Sample)



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott (Sample)



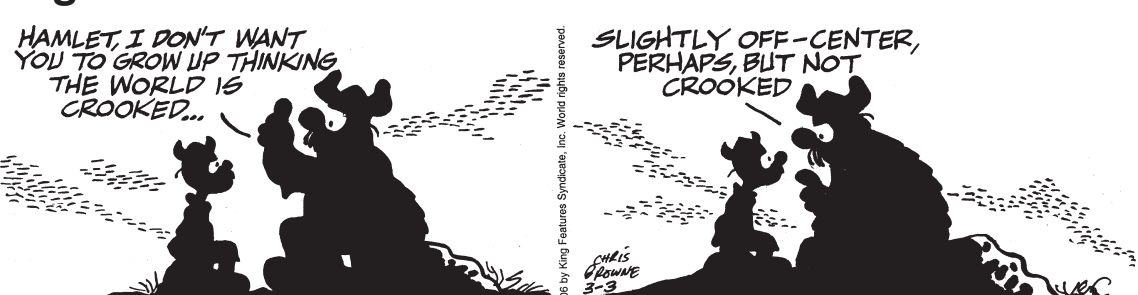
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



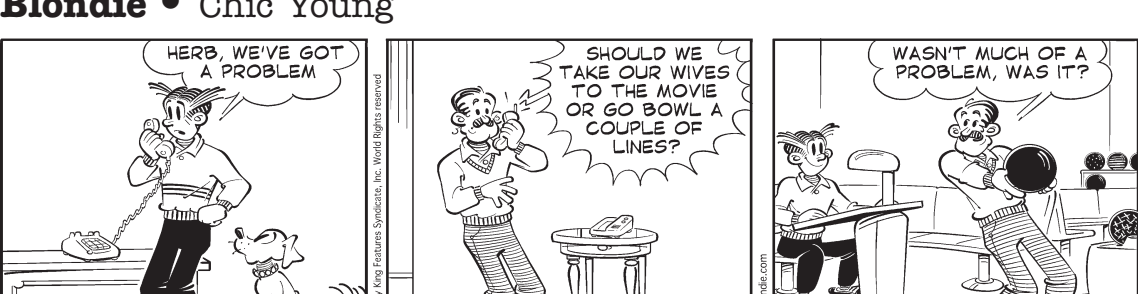
Garfield • Jim Davis



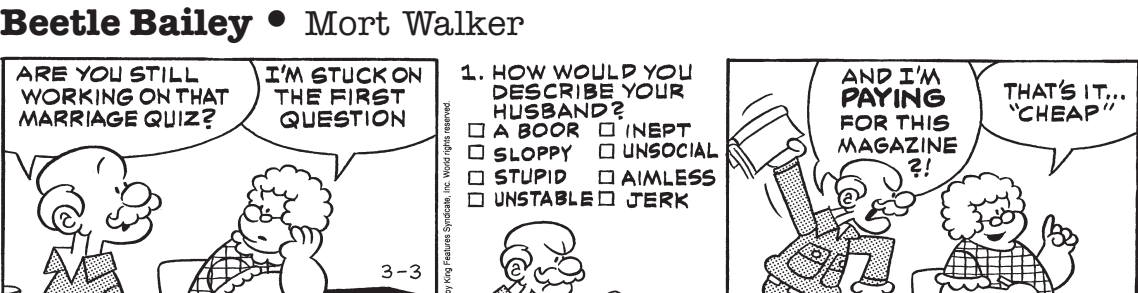
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

M UBMV XRAB QUPCCZF IUWC PVJNWDD DJWWCAGNFWC
 QBSZQ XMQ IPQA APTJZF UPD JT AW DTZW BKPVW
 FSXJ CST M ISD. BZ XMQ WKDW, O DGBBTDW DUW
 SE, DPA KMUEZF VSKRQB. FTWD TC UWN ZPNS IPS.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE YOUNG MAGNETS DECIDED THAT THEY SHOULD NO LONGER DENY THEIR MUTUAL ATTRACTION.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals W
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: A CHAP WITH SCUFFED SHOES WAS JUST TURNED DOWN FOR A JOB. HE WAS OK, BUT LACKED POLISH.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals O

Crossword

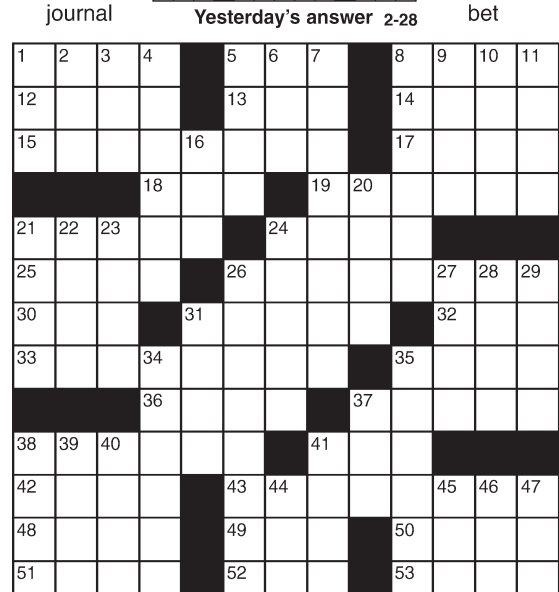
ACROSS
 1 Options list
 5 Boom times
 8 Unaccompanied
 12 It takes the cake
 13 Alternative to "believe it"
 14 Gunk
 15 Baffle
 17 Peruse
 18 Excessively
 19 Hateful
 21 House-paint ingredient
 24 Spill the beans
 25 "Sad to say, ..."
 26 One with real faith
 30 Calendar abbr.
 31 Groups of eco-communities
 32 Sapporo sash
 33 Tyro
 35 Online journal

DOWN
 1 Unruly bunch
 2 Prior night
 3 Fresh
 4 Comes together
 5 Loosen
 6 "The Raven" writer
 7 Pram
 8 Journalist
 9 Hydroxyl
 10 Waikiki wingding
 11 Probability
 16 Bagel topper
 20 Speaker's platform
 21 Easter entree

22 Lotion additive
23 Piquancy
24 Jaunty chapeau
26 Rendered senseless
27 Lemming's cousin
28 Black, in verse
29 Predetermines the outcome
31 Child's play
34 Sudden incursion
35 Rifle part
37 Existed
38 Collapse
39 Hodge-podge
40 Cold War faction (Abbr.)
41 Second-hand
44 Historic time
45 Long March leader
46 — out a living
47 Roulette bet

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 2-28



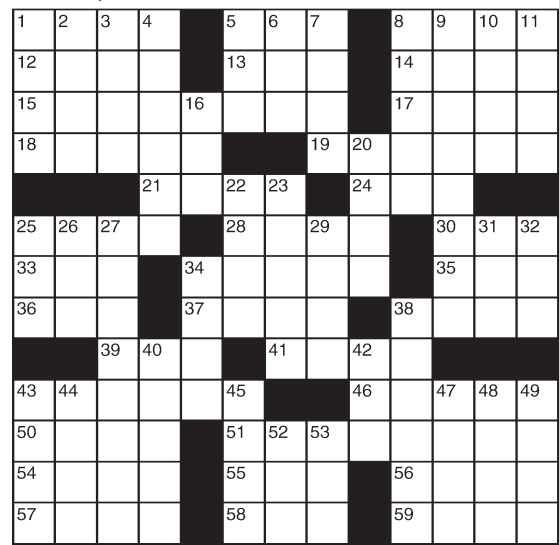
ACROSS
 1 Groovy
 5 Beyond that
 8 Jason's ship
 12 Check out, in a way
 13 Luau souvenir
 14 Bellow
 15 Game-show partner
 17 Tree trunk
 18 Man of La Mancha
 19 Skeptical apostle
 21 Quick drinks
 24 Prepare for battle
 25 Greet the villain
 28 Greek letters
 30 Mimic
 33 Tic-tac-toe victory
 34 Pine kin
 35 Foil material
 36 Wilde-beest
 37 Six-sided state
 38 Retainers
 39 Meadow
 41 Mexican money

DOWN
 2 Curved molding
 3 "The Good Earth" heroine
 4 Slot-machine symbols
 5 Carte preceder
 6 Bottom line
 7 Regimen
 8 Viny shelter
 9 Oscar, to Felix
 10 Big bash
 11 Mined-over matter
 16 Modern-day X-ray (Abbr.)
 20 Diner fare, maybe

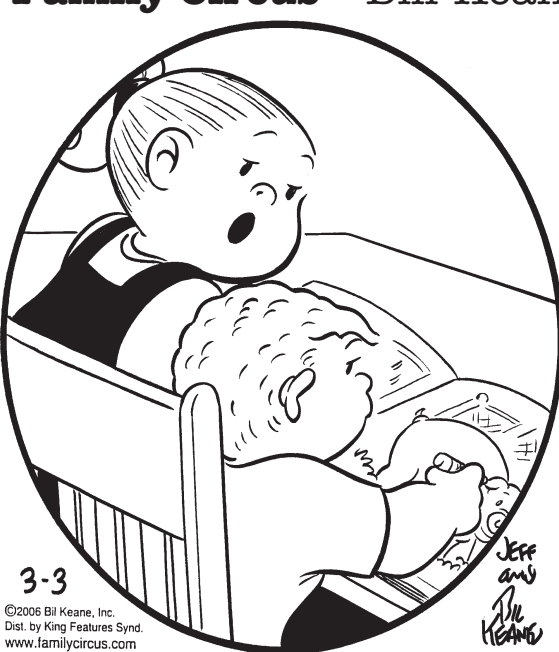
22 Bog material
23 Backpack part
25 Glutton
26 Saturn auto model
27 Romance quest
29 Rue the run
31 Chart type
32 Navy newcomer (Abbr.)
34 Island shindig
38 Data-organization method
40 English salts city
42 Sauce source
43 Long-running Broadway show
44 Oodles
45 Skewer
47 Hamlet was one
48 Sicilian spouter
49 Stench
52 Whopper
53 Succor

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 3-1



Family Circus • Bill Keane



"Pigs are easy to color. But wait until you get to an octopus."

Bridge

1. You are declarer with the West hand at Four Hearts, and North leads the king of diamonds. Trumps are divided 2-2. How would you play the hand?

WEST
 ♠ K 9
 ♥ A K J 7 3
 ♦ 7 4 2
 ♣ A 9 5

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

2. You are declarer with the West hand at Three Notrump. North leads the queen of hearts, which you duck, and continues with the jack, which you win, South following suit. When you next lead the king of spades, South takes the ace and returns a spade to your queen. How would you continue?

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

EAST
 ♠ 10 7 4
 ♥ 6 5 2
 ♦ 9 4 3 2
 ♣ A 6 5

Test Your Play

1. The obvious danger is that North has the ace of spades and that you may misguess which way to take the club finesse. Thus, suppose you won the diamond lead, drew trumps and lost a club to South's queen. He could then return a spade, which would defeat the contract if North had the spade ace. Equally, if you took the club finesse the other way and lost the trick to North's queen, you could go down if North then returned a low diamond to South for the killing spade shift.

The proper method of play is to duck the king of diamonds at trick one, thereby severing the North-South communication in that suit.

Let's say North continues with another diamond. You win with the ace, draw trumps, lead the jack of clubs from dummy and finesse. Even if the finesse loses, you are home with 10 tricks consisting of five hearts, the ace of diamonds, three clubs and a diamond ruff in dummy.

2. You have eight sure tricks and must try to develop a ninth. The question is whether it is better to cross to dummy with a club and take a diamond finesse, or whether to play the A-K-J of diamonds, hoping the suit divides 3-3 or that either opponent started with the singleton or doubleton queen or ten.

The finesse offers about an even chance of success, while playing the A-K-J of diamonds from your hand will succeed in developing an extra trick about two-thirds of the time. Leading the A-K-J is therefore the better percentage play.

West dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

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

WEST
 ♠ J 3 2
 ♥ K 10 9 5 3 2
 ♦ K Q
 ♣ 10 6

EAST
 ♠ A 8
 ♥ J 8 6
 ♦ 10 7 5 4 2
 ♣ Q 9 7

SOUTH
 ♠ K 10 9 7 5
 ♥ 7
 ♦ A 9 6 3
 ♣ K 4 3

The bidding:
 West Pass
 North 1♥
 East Pass
 South 4♠

Opening lead — king of diamonds.

With Malice Aforethought

In most hands, a player can deduce from either the bidding or the play where certain key cards are likely to be located. Once a player elicits this information, he has a much better chance of achieving the best possible result.

Consider this deal where West led the king of diamonds, which held, and continued with the queen. South took the ace and ruffed a diamond in dummy, West discarding a club.

Declarer led a club to his king, took a heart finesse, then cashed the ace, discarding a club. After ruffing a heart, South trumped his last diamond in dummy, producing this position:

North
 SQ
 CAJ 8 5

West
 S J 3 2
 H K 10
 C Q 9

East
 SA 8
 D 10

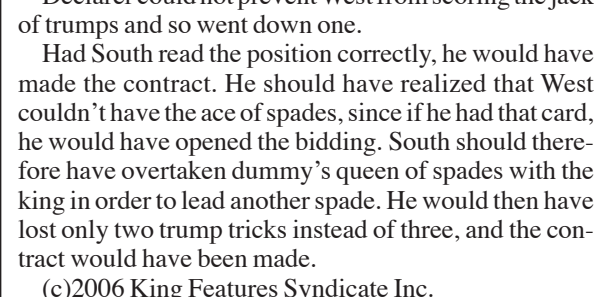
South
 SK 10 9 7
 C 4

Declarer led dummy's queen of spades, everyone following low, and was then forced to play the ace of clubs. West ruffed and returned the king of hearts. East alertly trumped his partner's high heart with the ace and led a diamond.

Declarer could not prevent West from scoring the jack of trumps and so went down one.

Had South read the position correctly, he would have made the contract. He should have realized that West couldn't have the ace of spades, since if he had that card, he would have opened the bidding. South should therefore have overtaken dummy's queen of spades with the king in order to lead another spade. He would then have lost only two trump tricks instead of three, and the contract would have been made.

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"This is a rerun. Mommy read it to me before."