

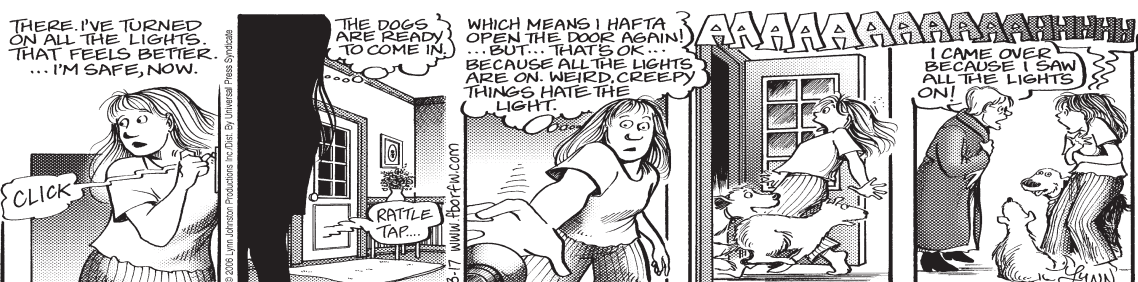
Retail • Norm Feuti (Sample)



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott (Sample)



For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Garfield • Jim Davis



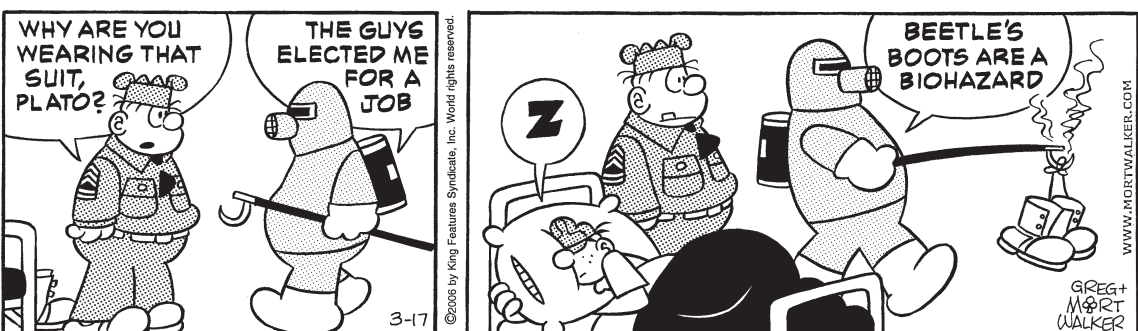
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



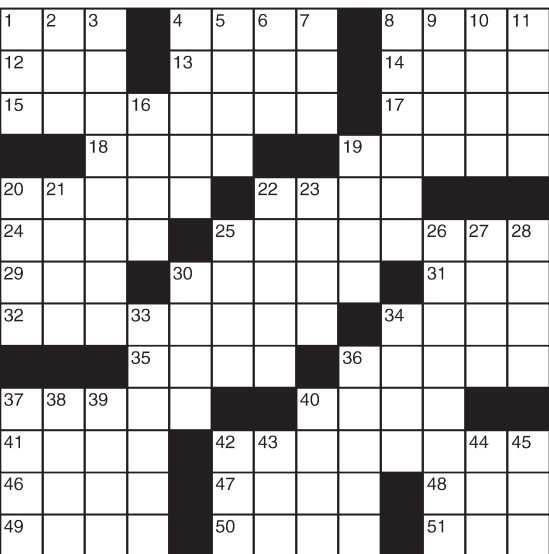
Cryptoquip

YPXA Q RJY TV SQTD HCDTGQC WU BKFPCK'Q
OISSQAM IO, Q JILDTJLQWJSSV OFDCZQC FQ DEPCCKB FZ
RLJFLXN RQAMQAM "PXF
WDTXR LPX FQNX."
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AT VARIOUS TIMES I HAVE STOOD ON MY HEAD SO THAT I MIGHT TURN THINGS OVER IN MY MIND.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals P
SNTS'Q OTWH-FZTSFEZ?
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN I SAW MY LIMO PULLING UP, I AUTOMATICALLY STARTED SINGING "HERE COMES THE RIDE."
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals I

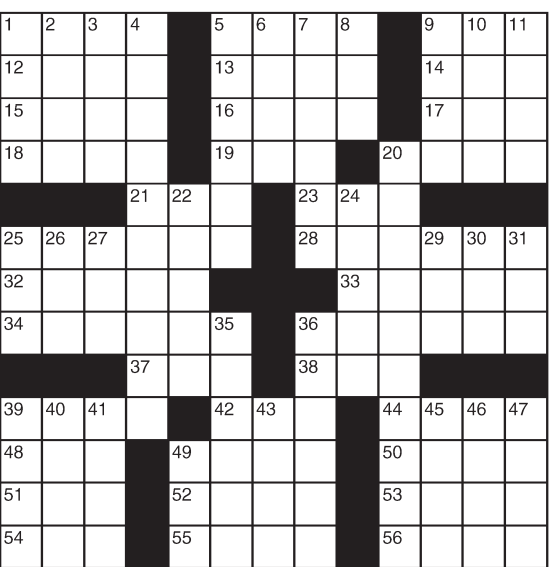
Crossword

ACROSS
1 Lob's path
4 Deposited
8 Basilica section
12 Resume
13 Green land
14 After-noon telecast
15 Pals
17 Peeved
18 Paltry
19 Lofty lair
20 Poseidon's domain
22 Expansive
24 Coed's quarters
25 Tropical flower
29 Grumpy companion?
30 Jousting weapons
31 Lennon's lady
32 Bony
34 Writer Kingsley
35 Rehab candidate
36 Aware of, slangily
37 Angry
40 Logical
41 En-grossed
42 Office fixture
46 State with certainty
47 Rain-storm
48 Prior minutia
49 DNA component
50 Nervous condition
51 Clinton's instrument
DOWN
1 "Lost" network
2 Carnival setting
3 Trade
4 Memorize
5 Senate assistant
6 Rage
7 — Moines
8 Property
9 Indigent
10 Rani's wrap
11 Foil's kin
16 Paper quantity
19 Yard sale
20 Probabil-ity
21 Diner employee
22 Wakefield VIP
23 First victim
25 Detest
26 Vies
27 One
28 Mediocre
30 Disorder
33 Sheen, in Shrop-shire
34 Hokkaido aborigine
36 Pleased
37 Rugged cliff
38 Four-star review
39 Tourna-ment format
40 Urban blight
42 B-F connec-tion
43 Fort —, Calif.
44 Peron or Gabor
45 Tyranno-saurus —

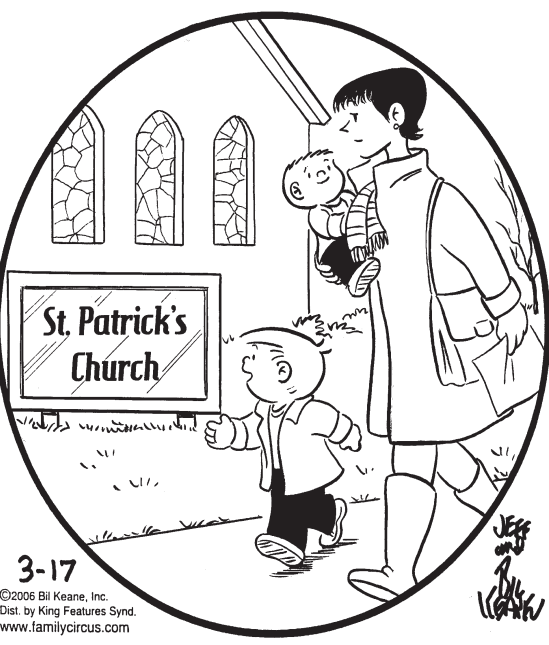
Solution time: 25 mins.
POKE BAD MALI
IMUS LEE ANON
CARS ASS GAWK
ANDEAN CHIC
NBCPEACOCK
BRACE IND NON
RUSE VAT EDGE
ASP SIN BLASE
CHICKCOREA
RAYE OYSTER
AFAR RAW TYPO
TOTE OVA IRIS
MEET YEN COCA
Yesterday's answer 3-17



ACROSS
1 Presidential power
5 Give a darn
9 Downy accessory
12 Without delay, on a memo
13 Narnia critter
14 Wardrobe malfunction
15 Assessment
16 Likelihood
17 Micro-brewery product
18 Taiwanese dollar
19 Work with
20 Multi-colored quartz
21 Norm (Abbr.)
23 Antonym (Abbr.)
25 Bedding
28 Squalid
32 Biscotti flavoring
33 Hall of fame?
34 Put one's foot down
36 Drops in on
37 Urban transp. letters
38 Citric quaff
39 "Titanic" cast member
42 Bell and Barker
44 As well
48 Prior to
49 Pouches
50 Scattered
51 Mardi Gras VIP
52 Taj Mahal city
53 Last words?
54 Feedbag tidbit
55 Antelope's playmate
56 Unable to launch
DOWN
1 Change
2 Birthright
3 "Bye"
4 Access to the thieves'
5 Becomes blurry
6 Visual —
7 Cow-pokes' competi-tions
8 USNA grad
9 Cereal choice
10 Unctuous
11 Pinnacle
20 Period of attack
22 Notting-ham river
24 Tartan pattern
25 Scoundrel
26 Indivisible
27 Pizzazz
29 Blackbird
30 Derma-tology subject
31 "Of course"
35 Break-pokes'
36 Pough-keepsie school
39 Goose egg
40 Vicinity
41 Adjoining
43 Farm fraction
45 Timber wolf
46 Hearty gulp
47 Aware of
49 Blue
Solution time: 27 mins.
ARC LAID APSE
BIO EIRE SOAP
COMRADES SORE
MERE AERIE
OCEAN VAST
DORM HIBISCUS
DOC MACES ONO
SKELETAL AMIS
USER HIPTO
CROSS SANE
RAPT COMPUTER
AVER DROP EVE
GENE EDGY SAX
Yesterday's answer 3-18



Family Circus • Bill Keane



3-17
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Bridge

You have the following hand, both sides vulnerable:
♠ KJ94 ♥ 10972 ♦ K8 ♣ 643

1. Your partner deals and bids One Club. What would you respond?
2. Your partner deals and bids One Heart, which you raise to Two Hearts. Partner then bids Three Diamonds. What would you bid now?
3. Your partner deals and bids One Heart, which you raise to Two Hearts. Partner then bids Three Clubs. What would you bid now?
4. Your partner deals and bids Three Hearts. What would you bid now?
5. Your left-hand opponent deals and bids One Heart. Your partner doubles, and your right-hand opponent bids Four Hearts. What would you bid now?

Bidding Quiz

1. One heart. When holding two or more four-card suits opposite an opening bid, it is generally more efficient and economical to bid the lower-ranking one first, regardless of the relative strength of the suits.
The advantage of responding one heart in the present case is that if partner has four-card length in either major suit, you are sure to discover the fit right away (since he will bid one spade if he lacks heart support). But if you respond one spade, you might never find the heart fit if partner has four of them.
2. Four hearts. Your partner is apparently trying to find out whether you have a minimum or maximum raise by bidding a suit in which he requires assistance, and your doubleton king fits the bill perfectly. Since your values are greatly increased by the three-diamond bid, you should happily accept the invitation to game by jumping to four hearts.
3. Three hearts. Here your hand does not improve in value when partner bids clubs, so the chance of making game is materially decreased. Accordingly, you bid three hearts to tell partner that your raise was in the minimum range.
4. Four hearts. You are not raising to game because you expect partner to make 10 tricks, but because you hope to stop the opponents from bidding five clubs or diamonds, which they seem likely to make in view of your side's lack of defensive strength. This tactic might succeed if the missing high-card strength is evenly divided.
5. Four spades. Since partner is marked with a singleton or void in hearts, you are likely to make four spades. Even if you can't, four spades might prove to be a profitable sacrifice. There is also the possibility that your four-spade bid might push the opponents into five hearts, which you can then double, expecting to score at least a one-trick set.

North dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

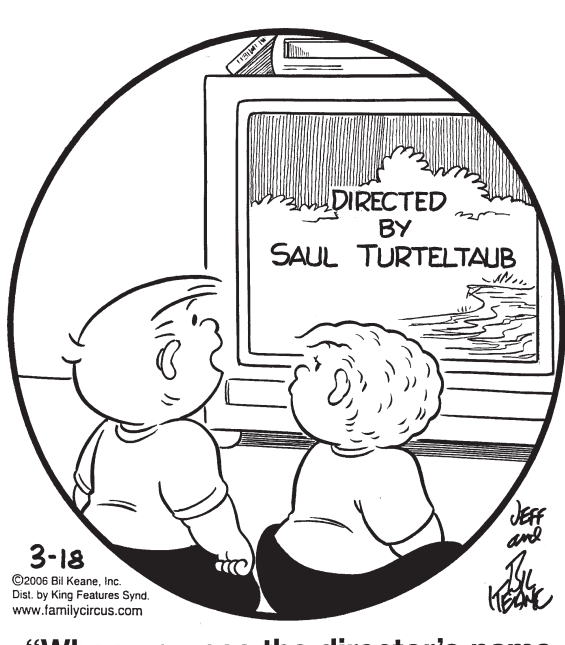
NORTH
♠ A K 8 3
♥ Q 9 7 6 5 2
♦ 6
♣ K 5
WEST
♠ 6
♥ J 10 8 4
♦ Q J 9
♣ J 10 9 8 3
EAST
♠ 10 4 2
♥ 3
♦ K 10 7 4
♣ Q 7 6 4 2
SOUTH
♠ Q J 9 7 5
♥ A K
♦ A 8 5 3 2
♣ A

The bidding:
North 1♥ East Pass South 1♠ West Pass
3♠ Pass 7♠
Opening lead — jack of clubs.

It's a Delicate Operation

Opening lead — jack of clubs.
There are hands that are easy to play, and others that are very difficult. Here is one of the latter type.
South reaches seven spades after an unscientific bidding sequence, and West leads a club. Declarer does not know how he will ultimately fare, because the spades and hearts might be divided unfavorably. However, it is clear that South should try to establish dummy's hearts rather than attempt to ruff his diamonds in dummy.
So let's say he wins the club with the ace, cashes the queen of spades and plays a spade to the king, on which West shows out. South does not dare lead a third trump now because he is sure to go down if either opponent has four hearts.
He therefore leads a heart to the ace and continues with the king, hoping nothing catastrophic will occur. Unfortunately, East ruffs the king of hearts, and the grand slam goes down the drain.
Now let's go back to trick three, after declarer has taken the ace of clubs and queen of spades, and have him cash the ace of hearts before leading a spade to the king.
This one play makes a big difference, and, in fact, the contract is now ice-cold against any distribution. South next cashes dummy's king of clubs and discards the king of hearts! He then ruffs a low heart, plays a spade to the ace and ruffs another low heart to secure the rest of the tricks.

The suggested method of play is clearly better than the one declarer followed. It caters not only to a 3-1 trump division, but also to a 4-1 heart division, and is therefore the play of choice.
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