

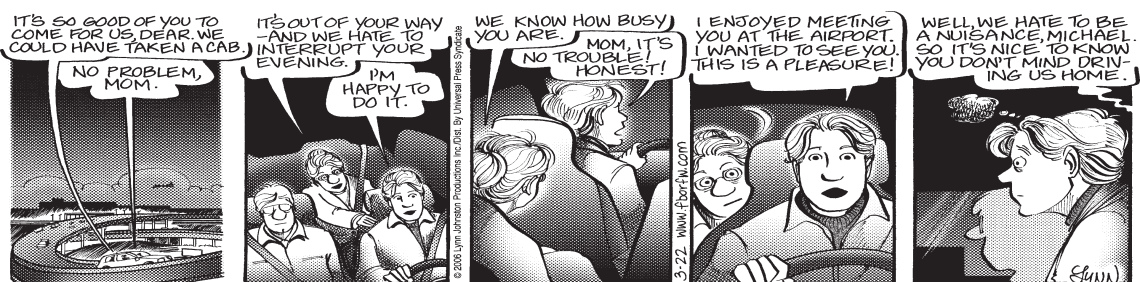
Retail • Norm Feuti (Sample)



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott (Sample)



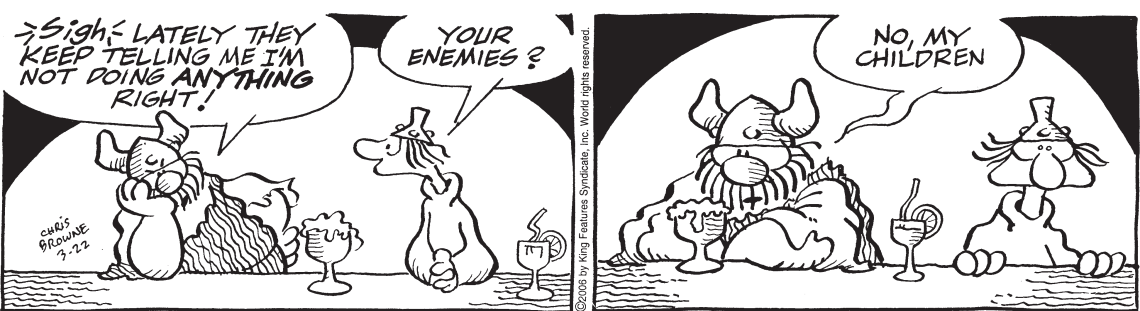
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Garfield • Jim Davis



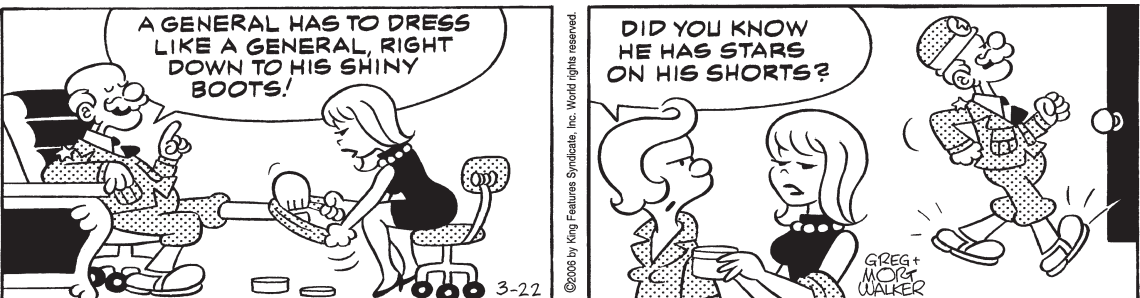
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



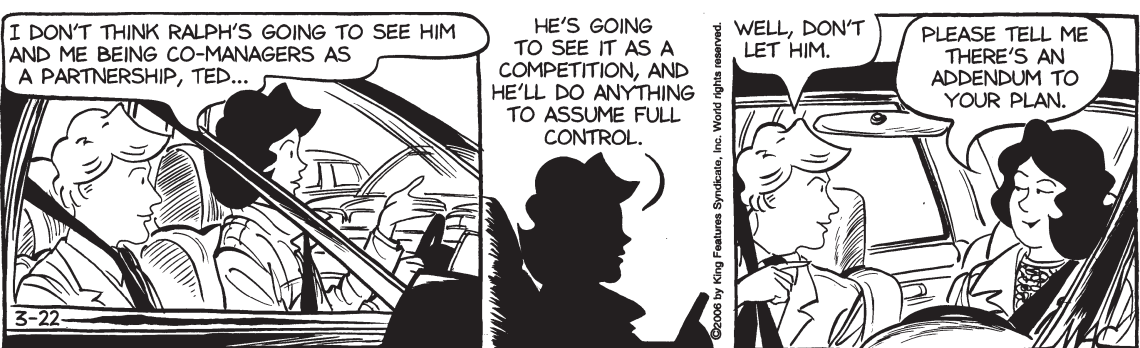
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

K U G P S U I V M H J W B

ICMRN HBC DPRU OVON'

GMCWBJOF. WBUL GPO

SUPMML KU BPKJW-ICSDJOF.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A NEWSPAPER WERE FULL OF MISTAKES AND TYPOS, I GUESS IT MIGHT BE PUBLISHED WEAKLY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals W

DX QB VFS PVFS AYVRALUCVY

MLUQGL RALLUZFLRR,

GQHML ZL RDGAFH ZQS

BVCZDBP FLXC CV QRRQH.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BE CAREFUL WITH FOLKS WHO MAKE NUNS' CLOTHING. THEY CAN REALLY BE HABIT-FORMING.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals H

Crossword

ACROSS
1 Over-publicize
5 Maple genus
9 The girl
12 Track competition
13 PBS science show
14 Kennedy or Koppel
15 Woody Allen movie
17 Tatter
18 Wife of Osiris
19 Like Santa's laundry
21 Painter Hieronymus
24 The MacDon-ald place
25 Wading bird
26 Uncomplimentary remark
30 A billion years
31 Board
32 Praise in verse

DOWN
33 Control
35 Show off the biceps
36 Speedy steed
37 Swoon
38 Herb with showy flowers
40 Highland garb
42 Judge Lance
43 Massa-chusetts sound
48 Distant
49 Duel tool
50 Top-notch
51 Article in News-week?
52 Consider
53 Detergent brand
21 Coffin stand

DOWN
1 "Let me think ..."
2 Verily
3 Corral
4 Moral principles
5 Con
6 Barracks array
7 Actress Longoria
8 Plunder
9 Italian volcano
10 Light a fire under
11 Provocative
16 Blond shade
20 Mork's home planet
37 Winter woe
38 Elevator
39 Hexagonal state
40 Dangling site
41 Particular
44 Gorilla
45 Pond fish
46 Conclusion
47 Football prop

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER 3-21

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

Bridge

North dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A 9 4
♥ A K 6
♦ Q 8 5
♣ A 8 7 3

WEST
♠ 7 2
♥ Q J 10 3
♦ A J 9 4
♣ Q 10 2

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

SOUTH
♠ K Q J 10 5
♥ 7 5
♦ 10 6 3
♣ K J 4

The bidding:
North 1 NT
East Pass
South 3 ♠
West Pass

Opening lead — queen of hearts.

The Right Time for Action

If the only way to defeat a contract depends upon your partner having a certain card, and if your partner's holding that card is consistent with the bidding, then you should proceed on the assumption that he has that card. To play otherwise constitutes a form of self-destruction. For example, consider this deal where South is in four spades and West leads the queen of hearts. Declarer wins with the king and draws three rounds of trumps, ending in dummy. The three of clubs is then led to the jack, losing to West's queen. What should West play next?

Actually, there is only one card he can return to defeat the contract: the jack of diamonds. If he leads that card, South goes down; if he leads any other card, South makes the contract.

The jack is the killing play because declarer cannot then avoid the loss of three diamond tricks regardless of what he does. But if West leads the ace of diamonds or a low diamond, South can hold himself to two diamond losers with proper play.

How can West know that the jack of diamonds — and only the jack of diamonds — is the right play? West sees that declarer has five trump tricks, the A-K of hearts, and the ace of clubs. It is also fairly obvious that South took a club finesse at trick five with a holding that included the K-J. This brings declarer to nine sure tricks.

If West also credits South with the king of diamonds, he might as well give up and go home. Instead, he must assume that East has the king. Having done so, he leads the jack to trap the queen and thus gains the hoped-for three diamond tricks.

East dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ J 9 4
♥ A 10 6
♦ 7 3
♣ K Q J 10 5

WEST
♠ 8 6 5 2
♥ 4
♦ K J 9 2
♣ 9 6 4 3

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

SOUTH
♠ A Q
♥ Q J 9 8 5 3
♦ 10 5
♣ A 7 2

The bidding:
East 1 ♦
South 1 ♥
West 2 ♦
North 3 ♥
Pass 4 ♥

Opening lead — two of diamonds.

It may at times seem amazing how some declarers are able to figure out what to do when they are faced with a difficult decision. While many might attribute this to a mystical quality known as "table feel," in reality it is simply the ability to place the cards from clues gleaned during the bidding and play.

Consider this deal where South got to four hearts as shown and West led the diamond deuce. East won with the ace and returned the eight of clubs, a play that had all the earmarks of a singleton.

Given this development, declarer realized that the contract was in serious danger. East's play of the ace of diamonds had marked West with the king and simultaneously indicated that East had to have the king of hearts (as well as the king of spades) for his opening bid. There was consequently a strong possibility that whenever East gained the lead with the king of trumps, he would lead a diamond to West's king and get a club ruff to defeat the contract.

But South worked out a sly solution to this problem. He took East's club return in dummy, led the four of spades to the queen and cashed the ace of spades. He then led the queen of trumps to the ace and returned the jack of spades, discarding his remaining diamond when East covered the jack with the king.

By thus exchanging his diamond loser for a spade loser, declarer assured that East could no longer put his partner on lead to return a club. As a result, South lost only a diamond, a spade and a trump and so made his contract.

In effect, declarer played the entire hand as though he had seen all 52 cards from the word "go." In a sense, he did — after East's first two plays — but that is typical of any declarer who makes the effort to read the cards from the clues he obtains. The critical information is frequently right there if declarer simply stops to think about it.

Family Circus • Bill Keane