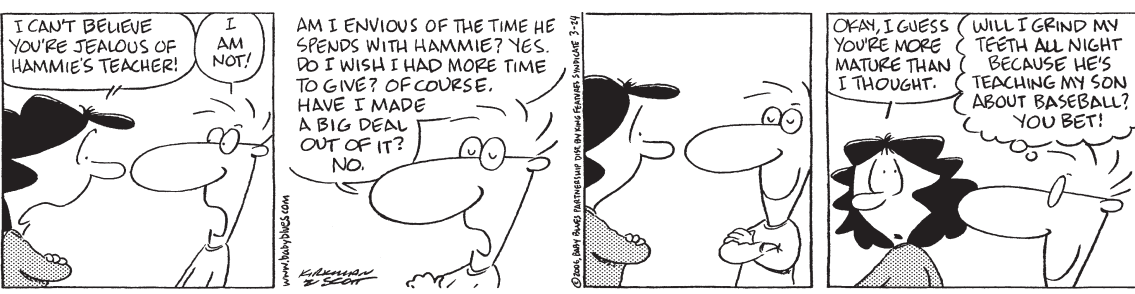


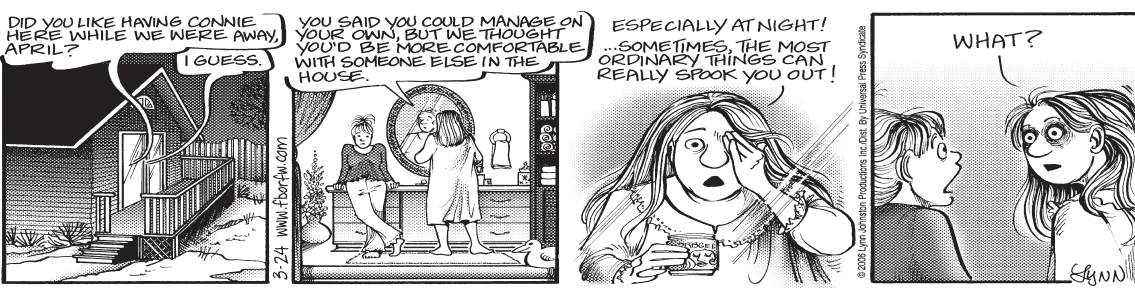
Retail • Norm Feuti (Sample)



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott (Sample)



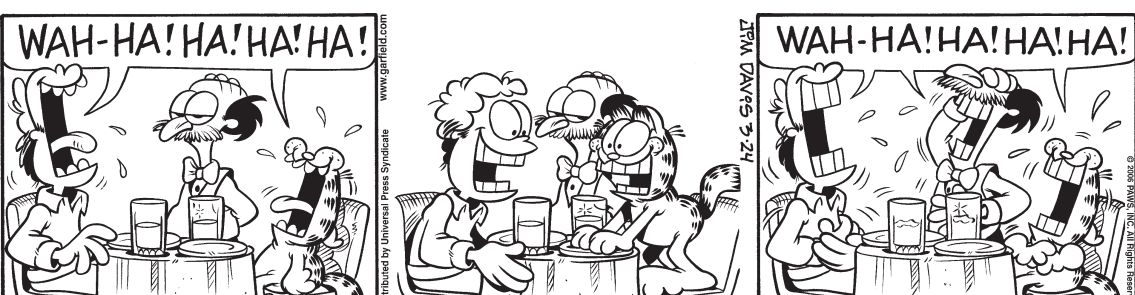
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



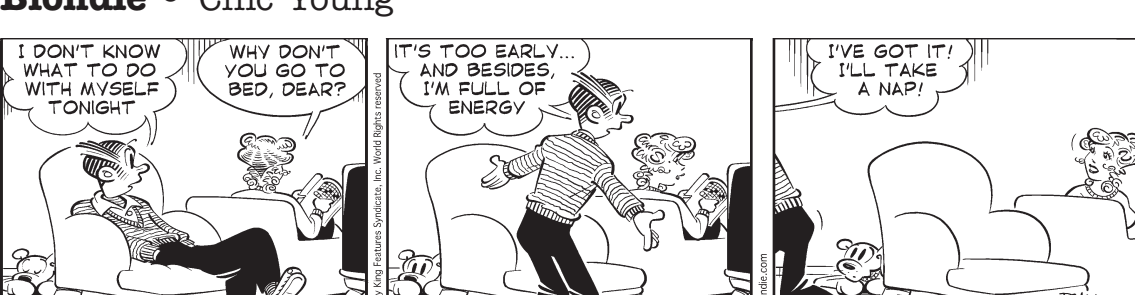
Garfield • Jim Davis



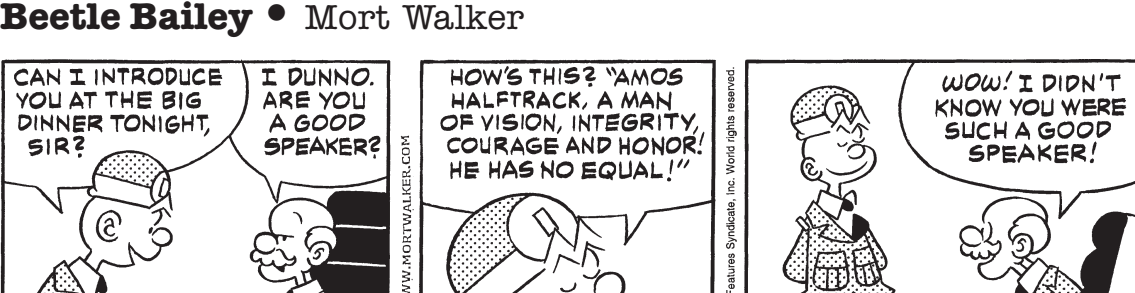
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



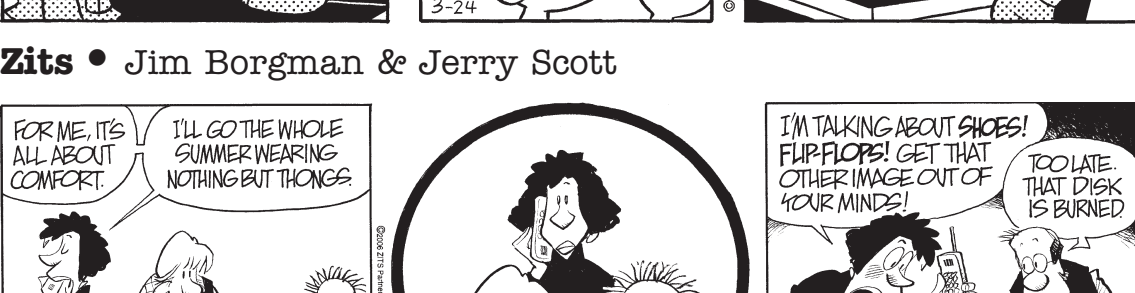
Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Cryptoquip

Q M R V J N L G P I U Q N | E T U V R F I K T X T C V R G T
 X U G N N D A G E I U V O R U X I K M G U | C B M T Q Q A M V V G N T G ' F V I A Y
 R W J P H U I D D R , Q U I V T G W | V Y K X G V X V R Y D D B Q K F :
 L O I A ' E I H I I W N G R T I K .
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN THE WEDDING PARTY MEMBERS WERE COMPETING, SOMEBODY CRIED "MAY THE BEST MAN WIN!"
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals I

"G N A K T F F U A Y T D A Q B A ."
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A CUSTOMER IS GROSSLY OVERCHARGED FOR AN UMBRELLA, I RECKON THEY'VE BEEN SOAKED.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals O

Crossword

ACROSS
 1 — "King" Cole
 4 Dr.'s field
 7 Bandage material
 12 Poetic tribute
 13 Milwaukee product
 14 Entanglement behind a desk
 15 Part of some German names
 16 Odin's maidens
 18 Illustrations
 19 Blotch
 20 Handle
 22 View-finder?
 23 Make coffee, maybe
 27 In need of repair
 29 "Vagabond Lover" singer
 31 Oklahoma tribe
 34 Pal of Bugs and Elmer
 35 Treasured
 37 Wood-shaping tool

DOWN
 2 Decorate before the hour
 3 Shortly before the hour
 4 Dallas NBA team, for short
 5 Cheered up
 6 Postponement
 7 17th-century English actress
 8 Melody
 9 Swiss canton
 10 Last letter before 10-Down
 11 Seventh
 1 "Bell, Book and Candle" star
 17 Chicken

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 3-24

Bridge

Spades are trumps, and it's your lead with the South hand. How would you make all the tricks?

NORTH
 ♠ 5
 ♥ K 7 4 3
 ♦ K
 ♣ K

WEST
 ♠ 7
 ♥ 6
 ♦ Q 5 3
 ♣ 9 4

EAST
 ♠ —
 ♥ Q 10
 ♦ 10 9 6
 ♣ Q 3

SOUTH
 ♠ Q
 ♥ 5
 ♦ A J 8
 ♣ A 10

Two Double-Dummy Problems

Cash the diamond ace and lead the jack. If West covers with the queen, ruff in dummy, overtake the king of clubs with your ace and play the queen of spades, placing East under severe pressure.

He cannot spare a heart, which would make dummy's hearts all tricks; he cannot spare the diamond ten because you'd then cash your eight, squeezing him again; nor can he spare the club queen because you'd cash your ten, continuing the remorseless squeeze.

If West ducks the diamond jack, you discard a heart from dummy, ruff the diamond eight, overtake the king of clubs and play the queen of spades, placing East once again in the same hopeless predicament.

You are on lead with the South hand and, with diamonds as trumps, must make five of the last six tricks. How would you proceed?

NORTH
 SA2
 HAQ6
 DQ
 C—

WEST
 SKQ
 H10
 D—
 CK53

EAST
 S3
 HKJ8
 D—
 CAQ

SOUTH
 S4
 H2
 DK
 C642

Play a spade to the ace and ruff a spade. East is forced to discard a club on this trick and, furthermore, must discard the ace. (If he discards the queen, you play the deuce of clubs next and discard a heart from dummy, forcing East to return a heart into dummy's A-Q.)

Now lead the deuce of clubs. If West follows low, you discard a heart, compelling East to win the club and return a heart. If West instead goes up with the king of clubs to stop East from being employed, you ruff in dummy and play the six of hearts. If East wins the heart, he must yield two heart tricks to dummy; if West wins the heart, he must yield two club tricks to you!

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ A J
 ♥ K 8
 ♦ K Q 8 7 5
 ♣ 8 6 4 2

WEST
 ♠ Q 10 8 7 4
 ♥ 10 6 5 2
 ♦ 6 2
 ♣ K 10

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

SOUTH
 ♠ 3
 ♥ A Q J
 ♦ A J 10 9 4
 ♣ A J 7 5

The bidding: South 1♦, West Pass, North 3♦, East Pass. Opening lead — seven of spades.

A Crucial Decision

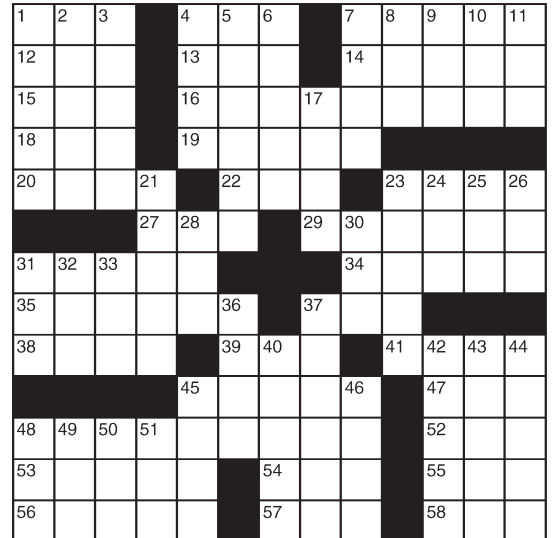
When declarer has a choice of two methods of play, he naturally tries to select the one that offers the better chance of succeeding — in other words, the percentage play.

Consider this deal where West leads a spade against six diamonds and declarer sees he might lose two club tricks. All his thoughts are therefore focused on trying to limit himself to one club loser.

He realizes that the clubs may be divided so that he must lose two tricks, whatever he does. But he also realizes the slam can be made if the clubs are favorably divided. South lays his plans accordingly. He wins the spade lead and ruffs a spade. After drawing trumps, he cashes three hearts, discarding a club from dummy. He then crosses to dummy with a trump and leads a club, on which East follows low.

Now comes the crucial decision. If South makes the percentage play of the ace, he makes the slam. After West plays the ten on the ace, declarer continues with a low club. West wins with the king but must return a spade or a heart, allowing South to ruff in his hand as he discards dummy's last club. Declarer then trumps a club in dummy, and his day's work is done.

It may be argued that this method of play fails if East's clubs include the K-Q — about a one-in-four possibility. In that event, finessing the jack would be the only way to make the slam. This is true enough, but the fact is that playing the ace will succeed more often than playing the jack, because it gains whenever West has the doubleton or tripleton king or queen. It also wins if West started with a singleton king or queen, in which case declarer can cross to dummy after West's honor falls and lead toward the jack. The ace is therefore the percentage play, since the aforementioned combinations far outnumber those where East has the K-Q.



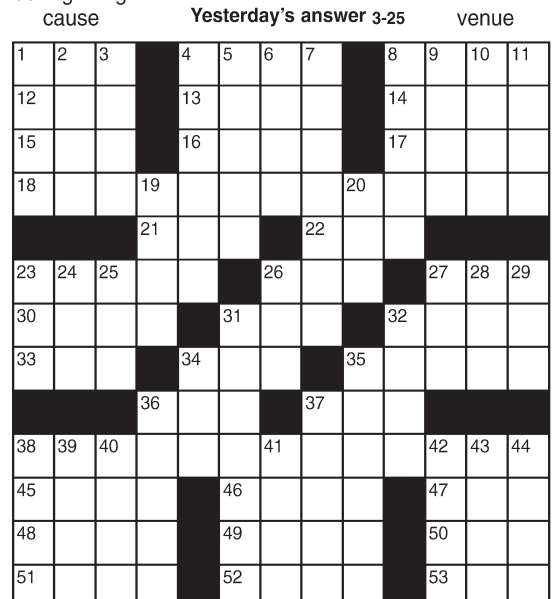
ACROSS
 1 Monologue component
 4 Olympian's hope
 8 Be philanthropic
 12 Wish otherwise
 13 Tom Joad, for one
 14 Second-hand
 15 Skill
 16 Galley supply
 17 Hitch
 18 "The Egg and I" duo
 21 Actress MacGraw
 22 Seesaw quorum
 23 He's all wrapped up in himself
 26 Larry's pal
 27 Moo gai pan pan
 30 One of HOMES
 31 Spot on a domino
 32 Eatery
 33 Big bang cause

DOWN
 2 What-ever's left over
 3 "— life!"
 4 Considerable
 5 Giraffe's kin
 6 Old Italian bread
 7 PC place
 8 Vitality
 9 "— It Romantic?"
 10 Osso buco base
 11 Advantage
 19 Appoint

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 3-25



Family Circus • Bill Keane

THIS IS A GOOD READ.

3-24

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3-25

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"You'll see some REAL March Madness if you get crumbs all over my clean carpet."