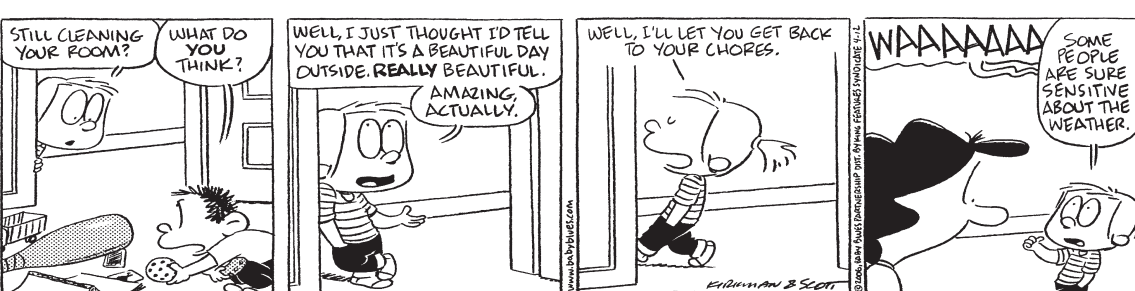


Retail • Norm Feuti (Sample)



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott (Sample)



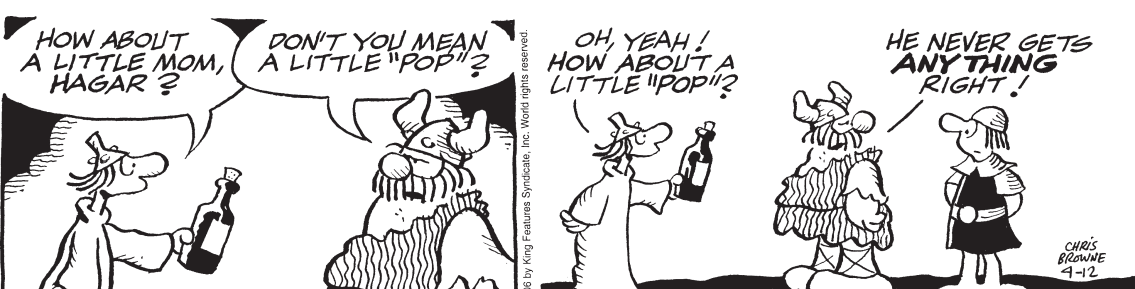
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



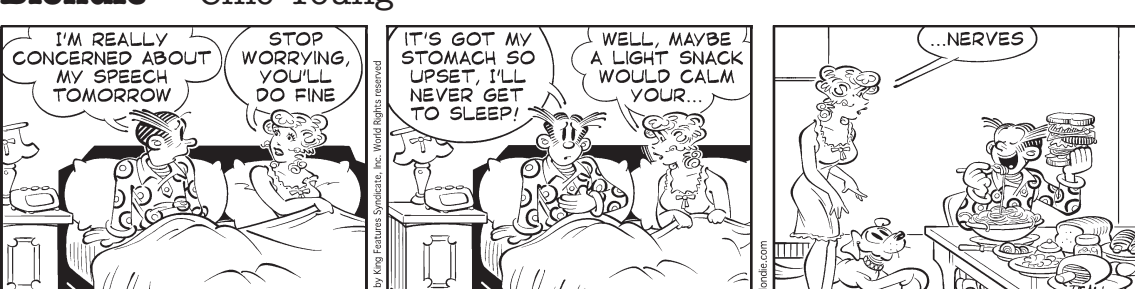
Garfield • Jim Davis



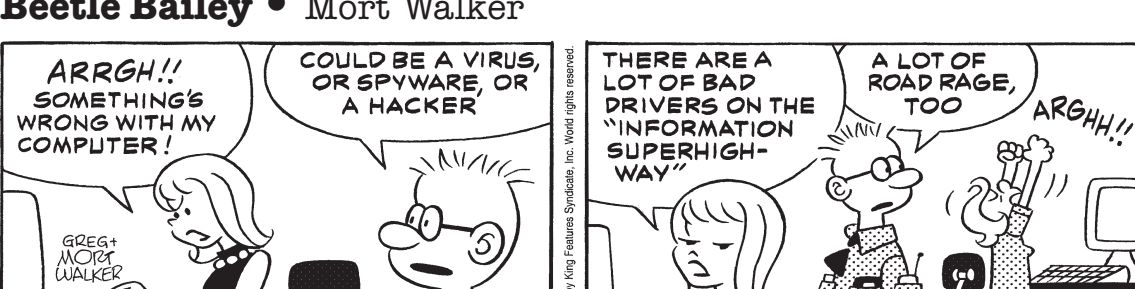
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



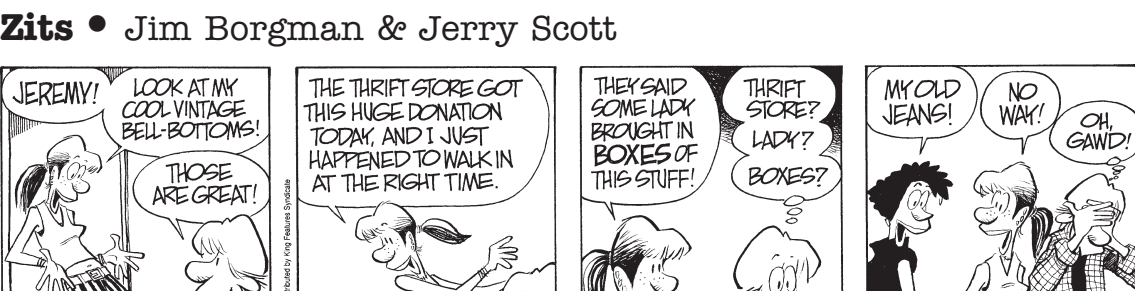
Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

JMD IKBL GZV XUJKQJ | ABYU V SNHZN F ZNOS V
CQDO JZ ZIV X OZCWBD- | UTFWY ABVZ JVHHLUVZLNW
ODGHDU WDO, WCJ MD IXQ | ZN KLJY, L KTYWW BY
UDGDVJBL OD-WCVHDO. | AVW HVOOLUK ZBY WBNZW.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A BOY SCOUT FIXED THE HORN ON HIS BICYCLE, I GUESS HE MIGHT EXCLAIM "BEEP REPAIRED!"
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals T
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE WILY CON ARTIST USED TO OWN A DOUBLE-DECKER BED, BUT HE WAS RECENTLY DE-BUNKED.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals T

Crossword

ACROSS
1 Recedes
5 Bush league? (Abbr.)
8 Lincoln in-law
12 Bound
13 Where (Lat.)
14 Eternally
15 Calcutta clothing
16 Expression of sadness
18 Hug
20 Let
21 Blond shade
22 To and —
23 Stem
26 Heater
30 Branch
31 Charged bit
32 Cowboy's sweetie
33 One option after a date?
36 Sales staffer
38 Wall climber

DOWN
1 Other-wise
2 Smile broadly
3 Zinger
4 Helical
5 Ravine
6 Woodwind instrument
7 Brooch
8 Nonstick coating
9 Squashed circle
10 1920s art style
11 Sketched
17 Actress Teri
19 Request
22 Enjoyment
23 "Casa-blanca" pianist

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 4-11

Bridge

South dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 7 6 2
♥ A J 7
♦ 10 7 3
♣ J 8 5 4

WEST
♠ A 9 5
♥ 10 8 5 4 3
♦ J 9 6 2
♣ 6

EAST
♠ Q J 10 4 3
♥ 9 2
♦ Q 8 5
♣ Q 10 2

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

The bidding:
South West North East
2 NT Pass 3 NT All Pass
Opening lead — four of hearts.

The Science of Evasion
There are many sound contracts that cannot be made due to an unfavorable lie of the cards and where nothing declarer can do will alter the outcome. But there are also other sound contracts where declarer runs into bad luck and can nevertheless prevail by playing his cards correctly.

Take this case where South won the opening heart lead in his hand, cashed the A-K of clubs and played a third club. East won and returned the queen of spades, and declarer went down two.

There is no doubt that South was unlucky to find East with three clubs to the queen and West with the ace of spades. But since he could have made the contract regardless of how the adverse cards were divided, bad luck was not a good excuse for the unhappy outcome.

Declarer's downfall came as a direct result of the way he handled the clubs. He had seven sure tricks — three hearts, two diamonds and two clubs — when play started, and all he had to do to make nine was to score two extra club tricks before the opponents could collect five tricks of their own.

South should therefore have played his clubs in such a way that if he had to lose a club trick, it would not be to East. He should have won the heart opening with dummy's jack and led the club eight, planning to let it ride if East played low. If West won the trick, four tricks in the suit would then be assured.

If East plays the ten on the eight, South wins, returns to dummy with the heart ace and leads another club, again prepared to lose a finesse to West.

Of course, if East shows out on the first club, declarer takes the ace and leads a club toward dummy's jack, once more guaranteeing four club tricks.

In the actual case, because East held both the queen and ten of clubs, South would have reaped an unexpected bonus by making the contract with an overtrick.

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ Q 9 8 5 2
♥ 9 8 4 3
♦ J
♣ A 7 6

WEST
♠ 4
♥ K 10 2
♦ Q 7 6 2
♣ K Q 9 5 3

EAST
♠ 7
♥ J 6 5
♦ K 9 5 4 3
♣ 10 8 4 2

SOUTH
♠ A K J 10 6 3
♥ A Q 7
♦ A 10 8
♣ J

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
6 ♠
Opening lead — king of clubs.

You Have to Do a Little Work

Many endplays come ready-made for declarer. Some of these might not be as easy to see as others, but that does not alter the fact that the position necessary to accomplish the endplay is there from the start. All that is needed is to lay the proper groundwork, and the final piece simply falls into place.

In today's deal, for example, South should take the view from the outset that the slam cannot be defeated regardless of how the opponents' cards are divided. This is true even though at first blush the slam appears to depend on the location of the king of hearts.

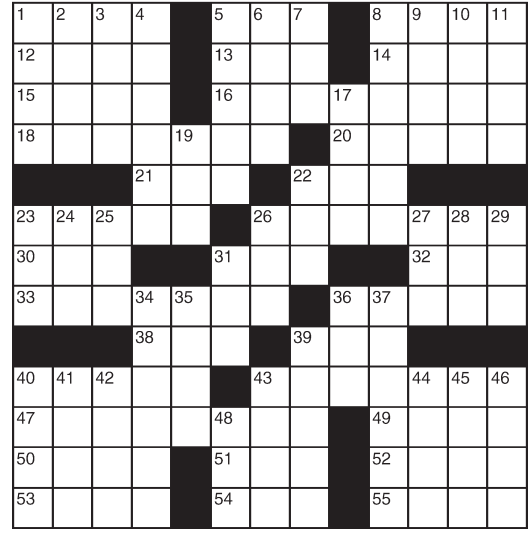
However, rather than stake the outcome strictly on the success of a heart finesse, which is only an even-money proposition, South puts into motion a plan designed to overcome the possibility that West might have been dealt the heart king.

He does this by clearing the diamonds and clubs from his own hand and dummy before tackling the heart suit. After winning the opening club lead with the ace, he ruffs a club high and draws a round of trumps. Next he cashes the ace of diamonds, ruffs a diamond in dummy, then ruffs dummy's last club and ruffs his last diamond.

The stage is now set for the endplay that cannot fail. He leads a low heart from dummy and, after East plays low, finesses the seven.

West wins with the ten, but, whatever he returns, South is sure to take the rest of the tricks. A heart lead is fatal, and so is a club or a diamond, which would hand declarer a ruff-and-discard. The endplay thus removes all risk of defeat.

Note that it would not help the defense if East played the jack when the heart was led from dummy. South would simply cover the jack with the queen, and West would again find himself in a hopeless position.



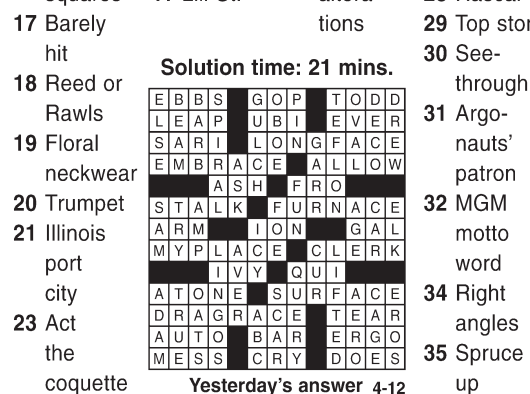
ACROSS
1 Messy place
4 Spot on a domino
7 Modern-day money
8 1996 Reform Party candidate
10 Farewell
11 Sites for fights
13 Phrase re some inventions
16 Type squares
17 Barely hit
18 Reed or Rawls
19 Floral neckwear
20 Trumpet
21 Illinois port city
23 Act the coquette

DOWN
1 Executives, slangily
2 Genealogy chart
3 Born later (than)
4 "Untamed Heart" actress
5 First name of 8-Down
6 Frogs' hangout
7 Cheese choice
8 "Z" star
9 Make alterations
10 Mimic
12 Utter a harrumph
14 Small combo occupant
19 Cover chap
21 Miserly
22 Mame or Em
23 Escape
24 Crazy
25 Kreskin's claim
26 Van venue
28 Rascal
29 Top story
30 See-through
31 Argonauts' patron
32 MGM motto word
34 Right angles
35 Spruce up

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 4-12



ACROSS
1 Recedes
5 Bush league? (Abbr.)
8 Lincoln in-law
12 Bound
13 Where (Lat.)
14 Eternally
15 Calcutta clothing
16 Expression of sadness
18 Hug
20 Let
21 Blond shade
22 To and —
23 Stem
26 Heater
30 Branch
31 Charged bit
32 Cowboy's sweetie
33 One option after a date?
36 Sales staffer
38 Wall climber

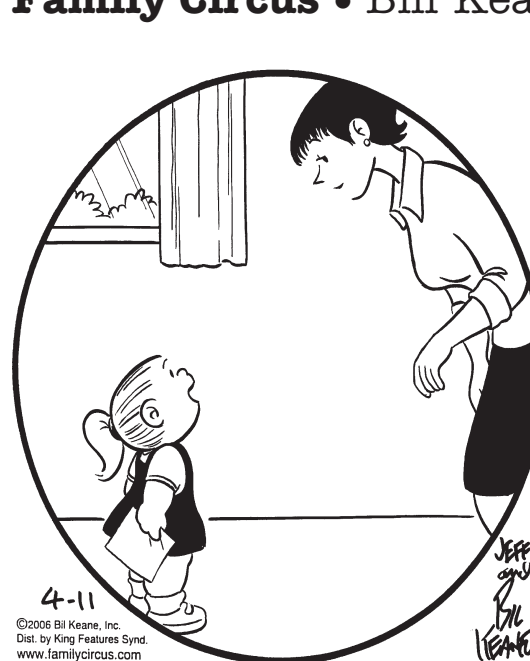
DOWN
1 Other-wise
2 Smile broadly
3 Zinger
4 Helical
5 Ravine
6 Woodwind instrument
7 Brooch
8 Nonstick coating
9 Squashed circle
10 1920s art style
11 Sketched
17 Actress Teri
19 Request
22 Enjoyment
23 "Casa-blanca" pianist

Solution time: 21 mins.

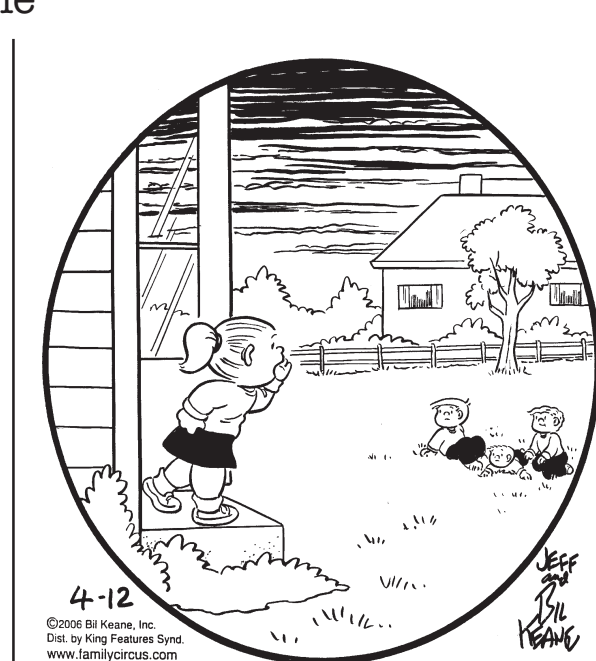
P	A	I	R	F	O	B	A	C	H	E
R	U	D	E	I	W	O	T	H	E	A
T	R	O	N	S	L	A	C	K	E	R
G	A	L	O	S	H	S	P	I	N	E
W	A	N	D	A	N	I				
S	P	A	N	K	E	R	S	S	L	E
O	I	L	S	T	O	W	S	L	E	E
B	E	A	D	S	N	E	A	K	E	R
C	O	E	F	A	R	N				
O	S	A	G	E	S	R	I	O	T	T
S	T	R	I	K	E	R	S	T	A	L
L	A	T	E	C	H	I	T	R	U	E
O	R	E	S	T	O	N	Y	O	L	K

Yesterday's answer 4-11

Family Circus • Bill Keane



"My Japanese friend is very good with puzzles. Her name is Sudoku."



"Dinner's almost ready! You guys better almost get to the table!"