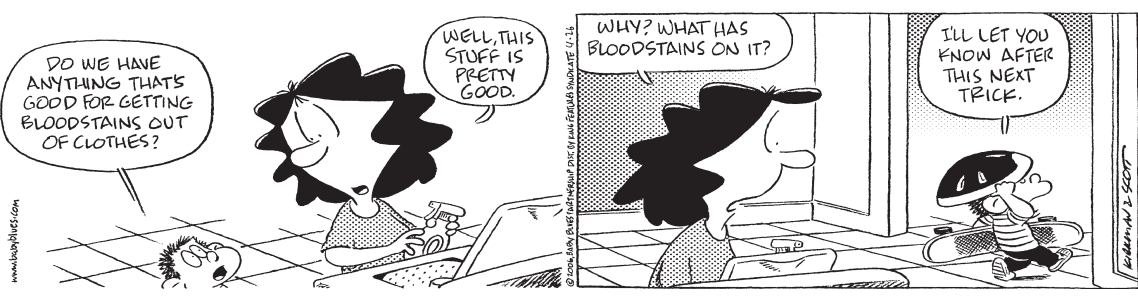


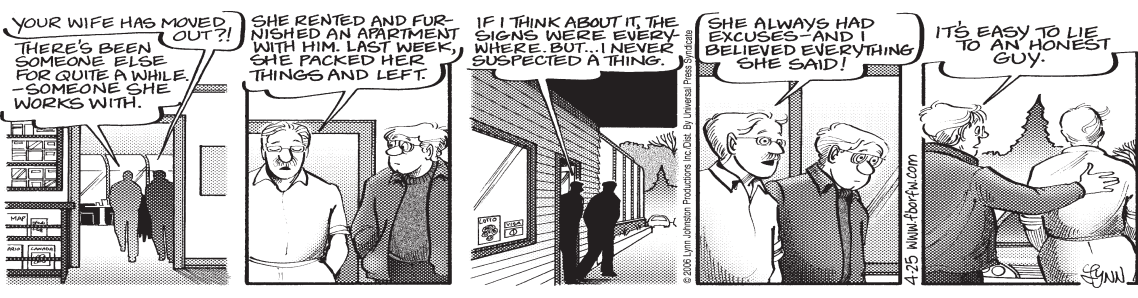
Retail • Norm Feuti (Sample)



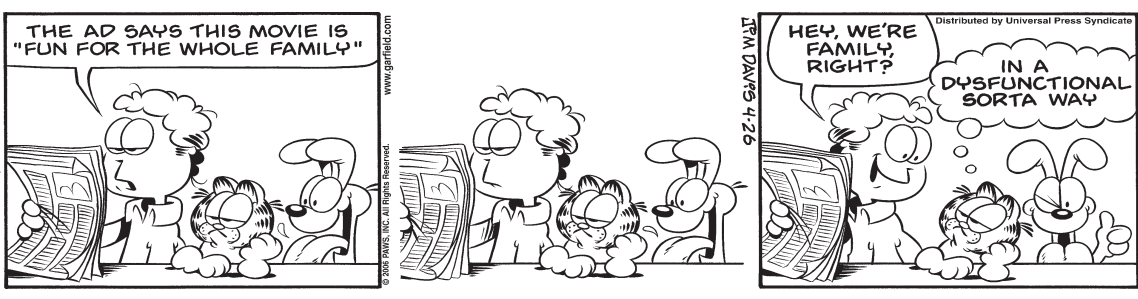
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott (Sample)



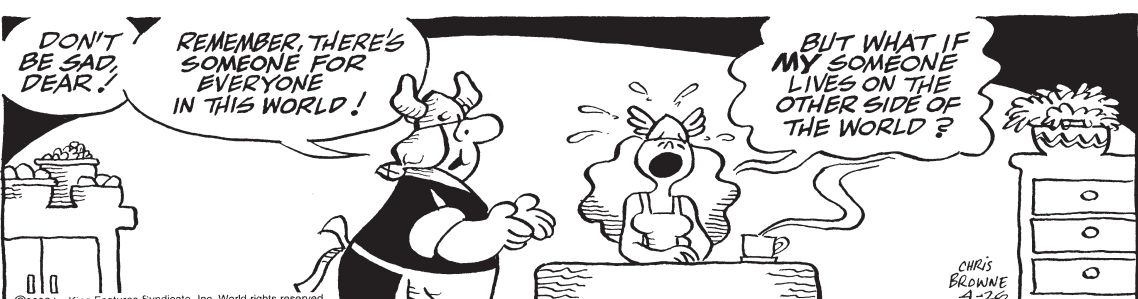
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



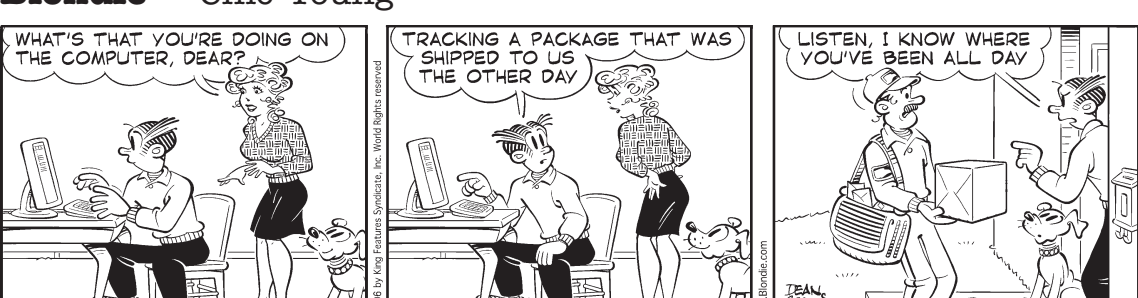
Garfield • Jim Davis



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



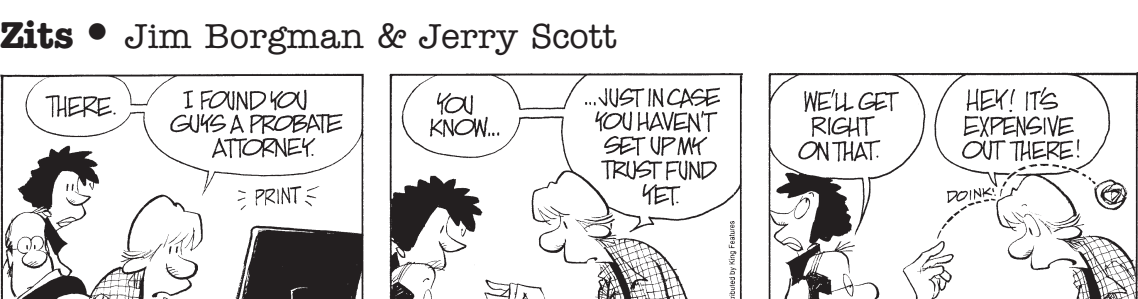
Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

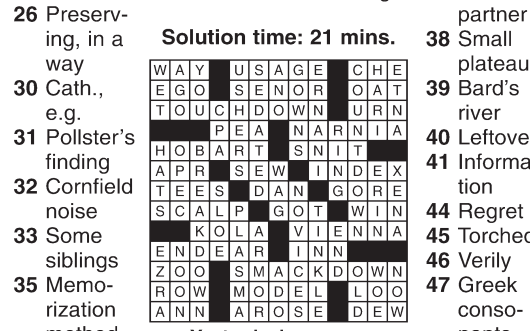
XD DKW MBXRNMABDWB - QO L ULVUDXX YLP OLCZDC
 TIRCAUHRP TIRDWCD, H VDCD MLTTDB LMB JSK QM
 CAJJICW DKW TIUJWDHDIR JCQXAM, YD ZQWYK KCP

H C YIP - WXD - YIP. KA WDK ASK AM TLUD.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE I CAN'T SEEM TO FIND MY THESAURUS ANYWHERE, I'M REALLY AT A LOSS FOR WORDS. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AT THE FRANKFURTER-CONSUMING CONTEST, I SUPPOSE THE COMPETITION IS DOG-EAT-DOG.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals T Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals F

Crossword

- ACROSS**
 1 Lose color
 5 Bakery buy
 8 "Zounds!"
 12 Piece of work
 13 On in years
 14 Italian city
 15 Veggie despised by
 17 Any day now
 18 Actor Holbrook
 19 "Gracias"
 21 Founded (on)
 24 Decree
 25 Swear
 26 Preserving, in a way
 30 Cath., e.g.
 31 Pollster's finding
 32 Cornfield noise
 33 Some siblings
 35 Memorization method
- DOWN**
 1 Watch chain
 2 Mar. follower
 3 Pair
 4 Shun
 5 Combine re-sources
 6 Under the weather
 7 Versions of a city
 8 Poor substitute
 9 Continue
 10 Beyond control
 11 Lairs
 12 Scoundrel
 13 Texas
 14 Hold 'em holding
- ACROSS**
 36 "Dies —"
 37 Accepted principle
 38 Pillage
 41 Took the prize
 42 Eternally
 43 Part of New York City
 48 McGwire rival
 49 "— Town"
 50 Stead
 51 Pismires
 52 Made a mark
 53 Greek vowels
- DOWN**
 21 Zinger
 22 State with certainty
 23 Unaccompanied
 24 "— Jacques"
 26 Rye holder
 27 PC picture
 28 Treaty acronym
 29 Verdon of Broadway
 31 Via, for short
 34 Headwear for royals
 35 Irritate
 37 Bill's partner
 38 Small plateau
 39 Bard's river
 40 Leftovers
 41 Information
 44 Regret
 45 Torched
 46 Verily
 47 Greek consonants

Solution time: 21 mins.



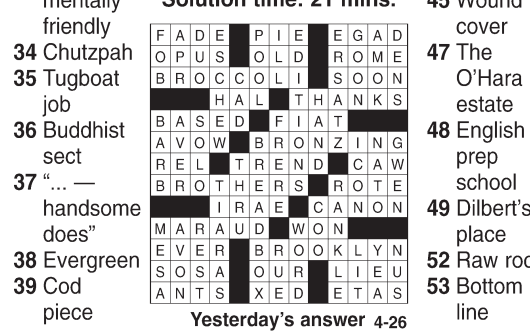
Yesterday's answer 4-25



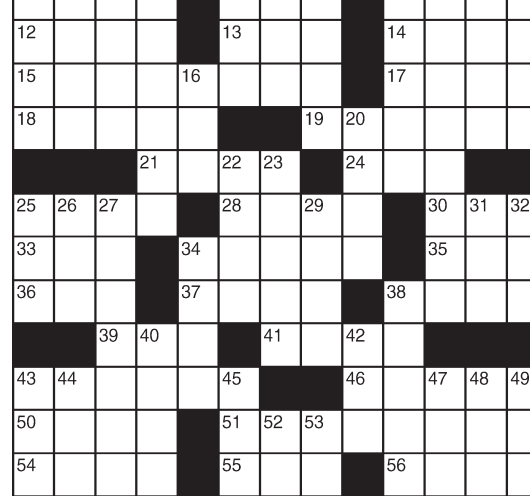
Yesterday's answer 4-25

- ACROSS**
 1 Footnote abbr.
 5 Squeal
 8 Surface matter
 12 Winning margin, maybe
 13 John's Yoko
 14 Skin opening
 15 Perplex
 17 Sci. course
 18 Michaelmas daisy
 19 Suffocate
 21 Help a hood
 24 Indivisible
 25 Datum
 28 Salamander
 30 Cravat
 33 Environmentally friendly
 34 Chutzpah
 35 Tugboat job
 36 Buddhist sect
 37 "... — handsome does"
 38 Evergreen
 39 Cod piece
- DOWN**
 1 Erstwhile Peruvian
 2 Greetings of the villain
 3 "If This — Love"
 4 Trounce
 5 With 55-party
 6 Lionel Richie song
 7 Pea holders
 8 Locale of rain-soaked plains
 9 Parade litter
 10 Eurasian range
 11 Apportion
 16 Sphere
 20 Carry
- ACROSS**
 41 Old woman's home?
 43 History-making events
 46 Honored with a big party
 50 Off base (Abbr.)
 51 Bring together
 54 Occupation
 55 See 5-Down
 56 Piccadilly statue
 57 Picnic invaders
 58 Wager
 59 Unpleasantly moist
- DOWN**
 22 Slaughter of baseball lore
 23 Largest of the 48
 25 "That '70s Show" role
 26 Expert
 27 Face up to
 29 Genie's command
 31 Charged bit
 32 Ram's ma'am
 34 Gum flavor
 38 Rid of rind
 40 Hawaii's makeup
 42 Vacationing
 43 FDR's pooch
 44 Victor's cry
 45 Wound cover
 47 The O'Hara estate
 48 English prep school
 49 Dilbert's place
 52 Raw rock
 53 Bottom line

Solution time: 21 mins.



Yesterday's answer 4-26



Yesterday's answer 4-26

Bridge

East dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ A 8 3
 ♥ K 9 2
 ♦ 10 7 5
 ♣ K 8 6 4

WEST
 ♠ K 10 7 6 2
 ♥ J 8 3
 ♦ K 8 6
 ♣ J 5

SOUTH
 ♠ J 9 5
 ♥ A 6
 ♦ A Q J 9 4
 ♣ A 7 2

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

The bidding:
 East Pass South 1 NT West Pass North 3 NT
Opening lead — six of spades.

Quantitative Analysis

Declarer frequently holds up an ace in notrump play, but there are times when it is much wiser to take the ace at once rather than withhold it. The issue can be resolved only if declarer carefully weighs the merits of each case separately before committing himself one way or the other.

Consider this deal where West leads the spade six against three notrump. Should South play low from dummy at trick one, or should he play the ace? When the deal occurred, declarer ducked, and East won the trick with the queen. Back came a spade, covered by the nine and ten, and declarer ducked again. A third spade then drove out the ace.

South had no choice but to try the diamond finesse, and when West won the ten with the king and cashed his remaining two spades, the contract went down one. Subsequent analysis revealed that declarer would have made the contract had he played the ace of spades at trick one and then tried the diamond finesse. With the spades blocked, East-West could not have run the suit, and South would have scored nine tricks. The question, therefore, is whether South erred by holding up the ace initially.

The answer lies in which play — going up with the ace or ducking it — offers the better chance for the contract in the long run. On that basis, the right play is to take the ace at once.

South should reason that, assuming West's six is his fourth-best spade, East has only one card higher than that — the seven, ten, queen or king. Presumably it is not the seven, since with the K-Q-10 West would have led the king rather than the six. Therefore, East's high spade is either the ten, queen or king.

Declarer can gain by ducking at trick one only if East's high spade is the ten. But if East has either the queen or king, playing the ace assures the contract. The odds are thus 2-to-1 in favor of playing the ace, making it by far the better play.

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ Q 10 8 6 5 4
 ♥ A Q
 ♦ A
 ♣ Q 9 6 3

WEST
 ♠ A J
 ♥ 2
 ♦ 10 8 7 6 5 2
 ♣ J 8 7 2

EAST
 ♠ K 7 3
 ♥ 10 9 7 5
 ♦ J 9 4
 ♣ A 5 4

SOUTH
 ♠ 9 2
 ♥ K J 8 6 4 3
 ♦ K Q 3
 ♣ K 10

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

Top-Notch Defense

One of the keys to winning at bridge is to press every advantage offered you by the cards.

Take this deal played in a rubber bridge tournament many years ago. East won the club lead with the ace and decided that his best hope of defeating the contract lay in assuming that his partner had the doubleton ace of spades.

Accordingly, he returned a low spade at trick two. West won with the ace and returned the jack, at which point declarer made the excellent play of a low spade from dummy rather than covering with the queen. But East, avidly pursuing his plan of attack, overtook the jack with the king and played a third round of spades.

It is hard to blame South for ruffing this trick high. From his viewpoint, he had the contract made if the trumps were divided normally — that is, 3-2 — while ruffing with the eight would mean instant defeat if West had either the nine or ten. So South ruffed with the jack, and East later scored a trump trick to put the hand down one.

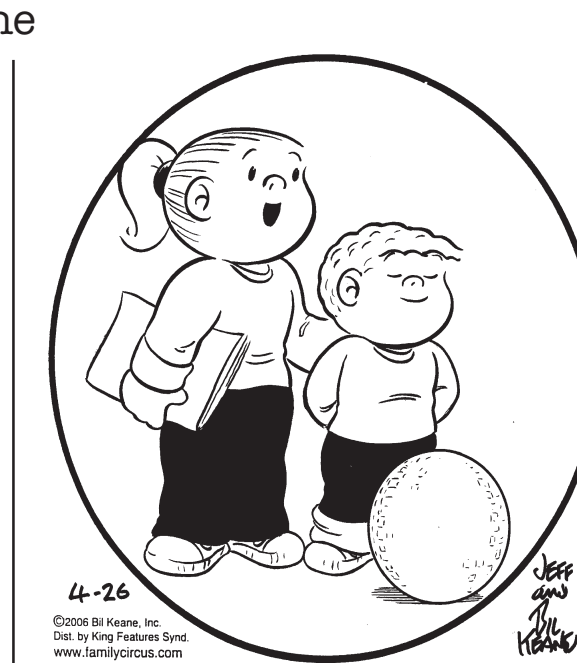
East's line of defense created a situation that gave his side a chance to beat the contract that had not existed naturally at the start of play. True, South could have saved the day by ruffing the third spade with the eight, but this play was much easier to make looking at all four hands rather than just two.

Actually, had West's singleton trump been the eight instead of the deuce, East's method of defense would have been the only way to put the contract completely out of reach.

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"My hair is nice and straight. Yours is bumpy."
 "Jeffy's gonna be a professional kickball player and I'm gonna be his agent."