

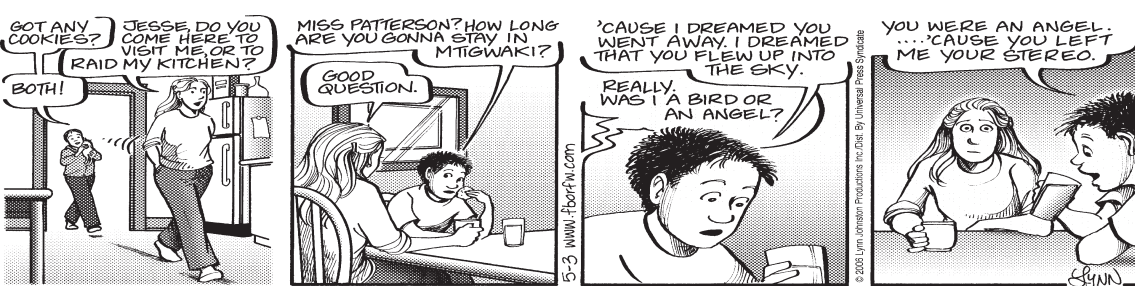
Retail • Norm Feuti (Sample)



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott (Sample)



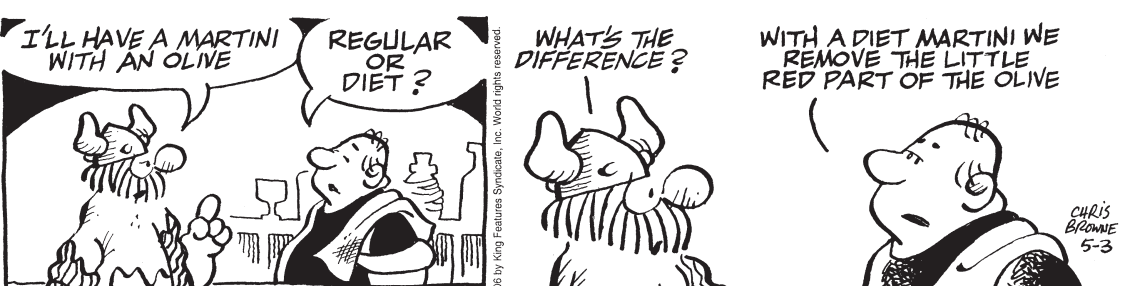
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



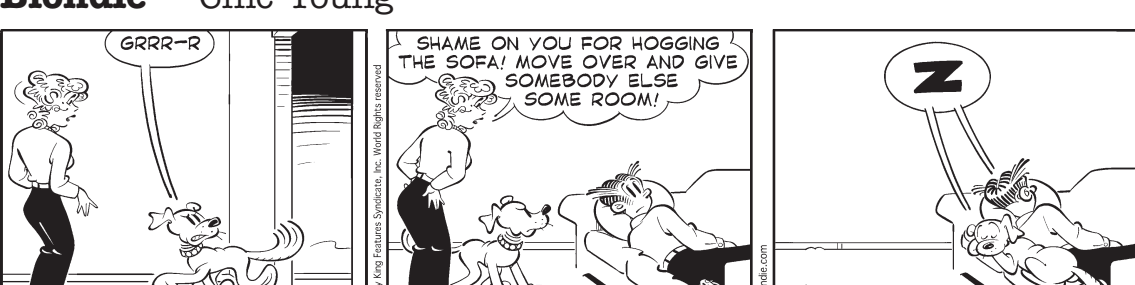
Garfield • Jim Davis



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

HW O ZOD, BGF O ZQL, K LHYD WD TYSKDO Y
 WGQBM O EKBBL, XGQDM XKHT ZCDECFCU YFWIDU
 NOBL EKGEDK VODD HF CYEKDO YDU UFKDSKDO,
 "VKBF GW O XGNOB?" ZYHHCU "OIHL XKZEKWD."
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE OLD CHURCH, LACKING ANY KEYBOARD INSTRUMENTS, MAY SOON BE SEEKING AN ORGAN DONOR.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals P
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A GAL, NOT A GUY, FOUND A PENNY, WOULD MANY PEOPLE CALL IT "CENT OF A WOMAN?"
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals A

Crossword

ACROSS
 1 "Clueless" interjection
 5 Ump
 8 Ella's specialty
 12 Gabrielle Chanel
 13 Greek mountain
 14 Ness, for one
 15 Biz acquisition
 17 One of HOMES
 18 007, e.g.
 19 Chaps
 20 Like a snake's eyes
 21 Dog doc
 22 Quick swim
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 32 Bouquet holder
 33 Drop
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28 Fool
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34 Sushi item
35 "Unh-unh"
37 Charlatan
38 Tweety's home
39 It takes the cake
40 Bob's longtime friend
41 Aesopian also-ran
42 Office shape
43 Start from scratch
44 Cauldron contents
46 Speedometer abbr.
47 Asked

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 5-2

Bridge

South dealer. East-West vulnerable.

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

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

SOUTH
 ♠ A J 7 2
 ♥ A Q 4
 ♦ 4
 ♣ Q J 6 5 3

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	1 ♦	Pass
1 ♣	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
3 NT			

Opening lead — eight of diamonds.

Lost in the Twilight Zone

The chief danger in many deals lies in playing impulsively at a critical point instead of taking the time to think things out. Hasty play is advantageous in some games, but not in bridge.

Assume you're in three notrump and West leads the eight of diamonds. You can't afford to rise with the ace, which would leave the diamonds wide open, so you cover the eight with the nine, which loses to the jack. You plan to duck the next diamond if East returns the king, since East is marked by the opening lead with the K-Q-J. However, East shifts to the jack of hearts at trick two.

This is the moment when you must take care not to act too quickly by playing the queen. The temptation to finesse, whenever you have the A-Q-x facing two small, is almost irresistible, but it would be a dreadful play to make here.

If you go up with the ace, you can be 100 percent sure of the contract, regardless of how the cards are divided. You simply cross to dummy with a club and lead the queen of spades, planning to finesse. Win or lose, you are certain to score at least three spades, five clubs and the two red aces.

But if you finesse the queen of hearts, which you might do if you were thinking of where you parked the car that morning, a sad fate would befall you when West took the king and returned a heart.

You would take the spade finesse later on, in an effort to make the contract, but ultimately you would go down one, losing three hearts, a diamond and a spade.

North dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

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

WEST
 ♠ J 9 6
 ♥ K J 7 6
 ♦ Q J 8
 ♣ 9 7 2

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

SOUTH
 ♠ —
 ♥ Q 8 5 2
 ♦ 6 2
 ♣ K J 10 8 6 5 3

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	4 ♣	Pass
5 ♣			

Opening lead — six of hearts.

The Road to Good Defense

To be a good defender, you must do a lot of theorizing about the composition of the two unseen hands. Fortunately, there are nearly always clues that stem from either the bidding or the play, so that the best method of defense need not be treated as sheer guesswork.

Take this case where East-West are defending against five clubs. It is not difficult for West to find a heart lead, given the reluctance of both North and South to bid notrump at any point.

East wins the heart with the ace and returns the ten. He hopes partner has the K-J, in which case, if dummy can be forced to ruff a heart, East's queen of clubs will become the setting trick.

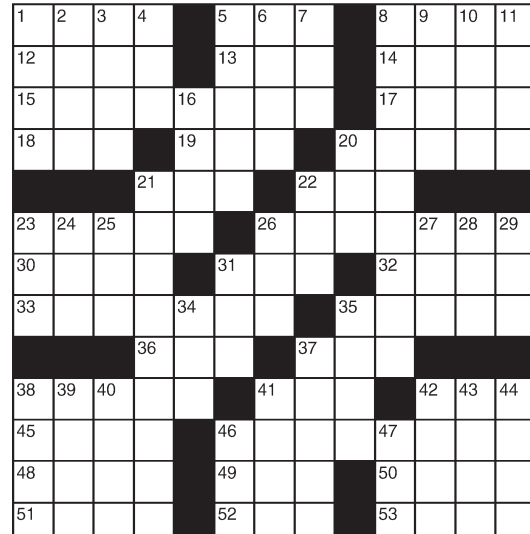
Declarer covers the ten with the queen, and West wins with the king. West does not know at this point that East has the Q-x of clubs, but he can easily deduce that the jack-of-hearts continuation offers the best chance of defeating the contract.

West arrives at this conclusion by assuming that South, who bid clubs three times, must have at least seven of them. Since declarer has already produced two hearts, it follows that South's four unknown cards, whatever they are, are fully covered by dummy's two sets of A-K's.

It is therefore clear that no advantage can accrue from returning a heart, a diamond or a trump at trick three. The only real chance is that East has either the Q-x or J-10 of clubs, in which case forcing dummy to ruff a heart will promote a trump trick for the defense.

If West fails to lead the jack of hearts at trick three, declarer makes the contract, but with that lead, South must go down one.

Tomorrow: The never-say-die spirit.
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ACROSS
 1 They may be connected
 5 Madam's counterpart
 8 Attention getter
 12 Soothing agent
 13 Naval rank (Abbr.)
 14 Puerto —
 15 Carnival attraction
 17 Cheese choice
 18 Arboreal bird
 19 Van Gogh's "The Potato —"
 21 Bottom line
 22 Carey or Barrymore
 23 Antacid target
 26 Gridiron arbiter
 28 Precise
 31 Grand-scale tale
 33 Snitch
 35 Category
 36 Enticed

DOWN
 1 Morse "T"
 2 Hodgepodge
 3 "So much —, ..."
 4 Leaks slowly
 5 Certain plotter
 6 Stock's debut, perch.
 7 Obeyed the coxswain
 8 Supposed purpose
 9 Laterally

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

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A	C	M	E	P	A	W	N	E	A	T	
T	E	E	N	S	B	I	R	D			
			D	A	M	Q	U	E	S	T	S
B	A	R	E	X	A	M	E	R	N	I	E
O	D	O	R	P	A	Y	B	O	L	L	
G	I	B	B	S	J	E	Z	E	B	E	L
S	T	E	E	P	S	W	O	N			
			N	A	I	L	O	D	D	L	Y
B	A	L	D	B	I	N	E	R	I	E	
O	G	E	E	Y	E	A	R	O	S	A	
B	O	O	R	L	U	G	P	A	R		

Yesterday's answer 5-2

Family Circus • Bill Keane

