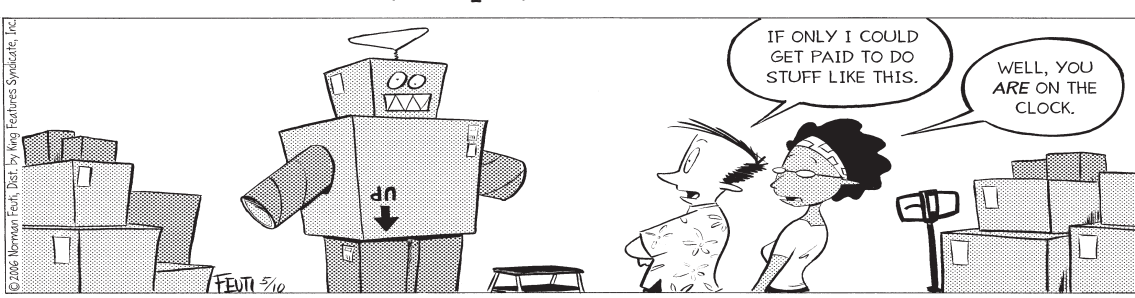
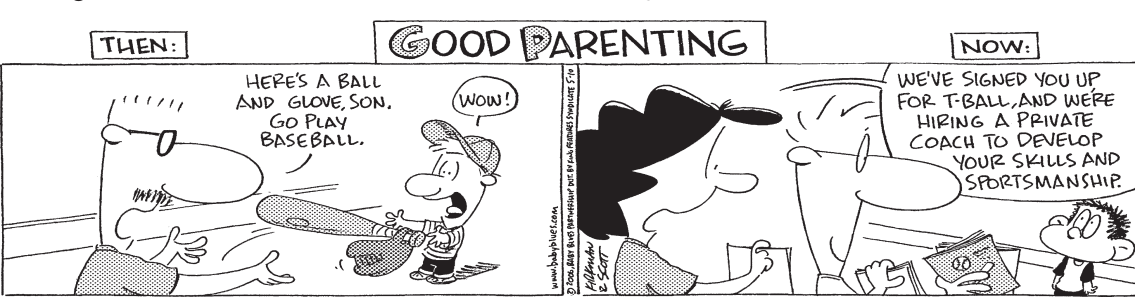


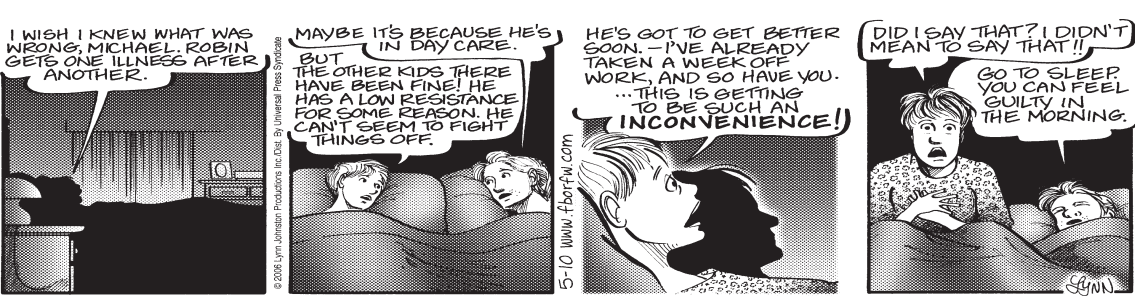
Retail • Norm Feuti (Sample)



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott (Sample)



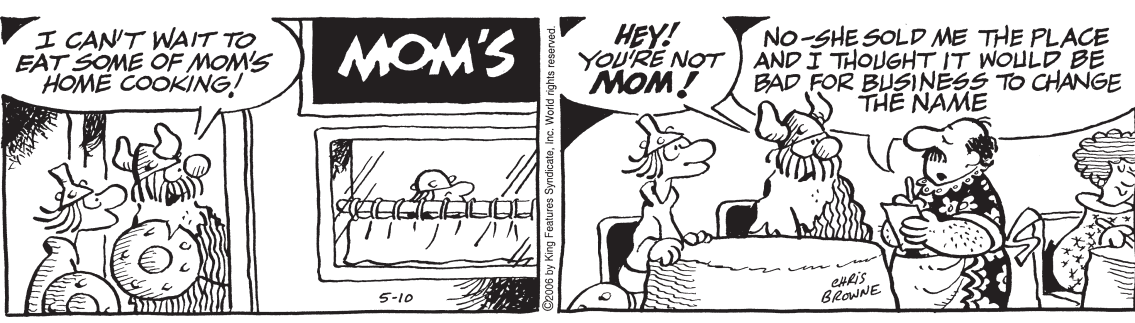
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



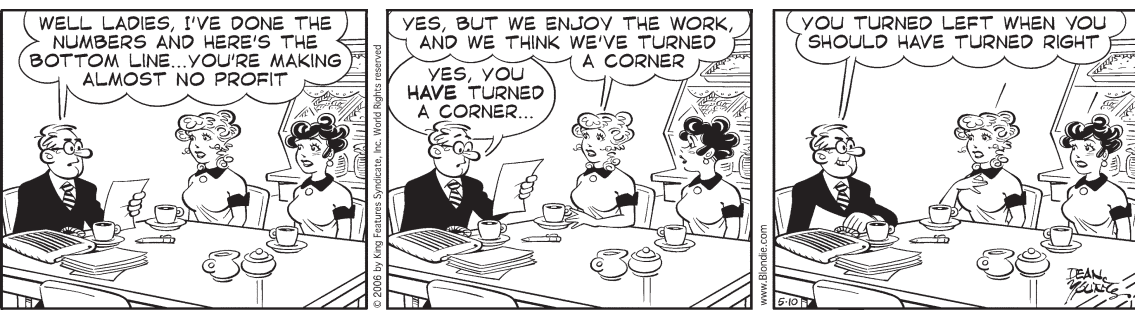
Garfield • Jim Davis



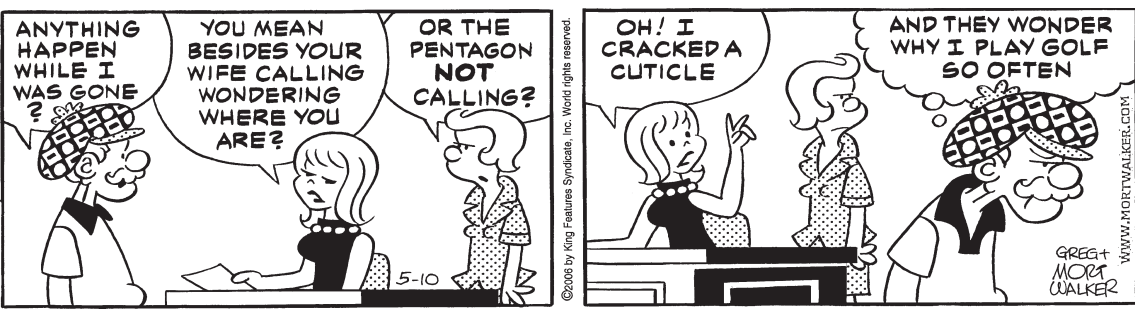
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



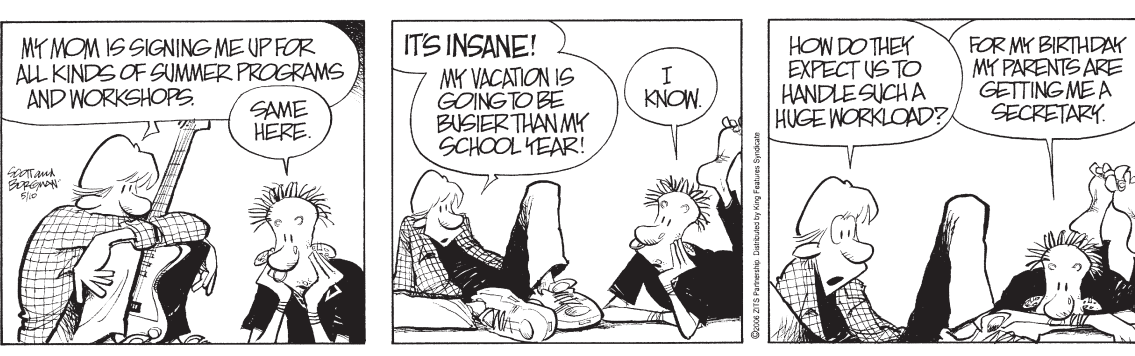
Blondie • Chic Young



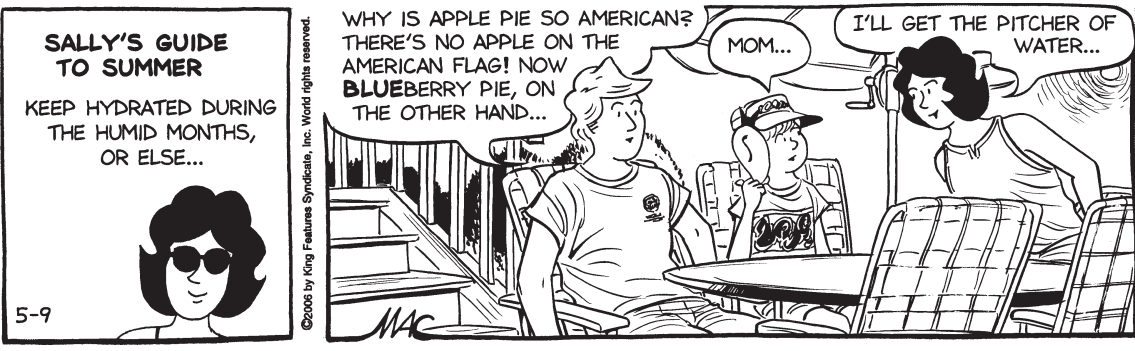
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



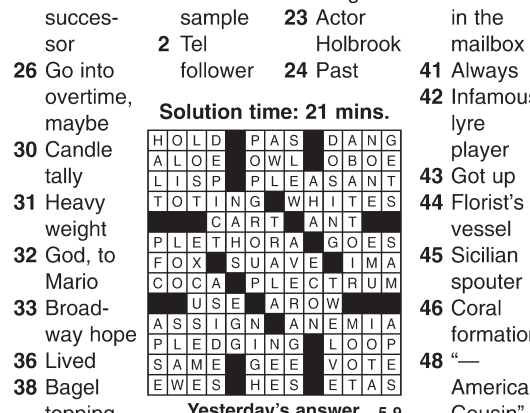
Cryptoquip

HU XDI QIRYSCHQYA BTY P CBQH CLPVDO S FDSTB
 FUUFHSQ DU F LYCYSPFLA D HXSH P BQDO HL IDFL
 SYQHAYLB, H'A QFX VT HL. P QBWWLQD HXSH
 XDI'SY F RFL TFLAPYS. NDSVQ P'N AD-NDNIDADO.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHICH TWO GUYS ARE TYPICALLY SEEN HANGING IN PEOPLES' HOUSES? CURT AND ROD. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU SUPERVISED THE AFFAIRS OF A NEVERLAND RESIDENT, I'D SAY YOU'RE A PAN HANDLER.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals Y Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals M

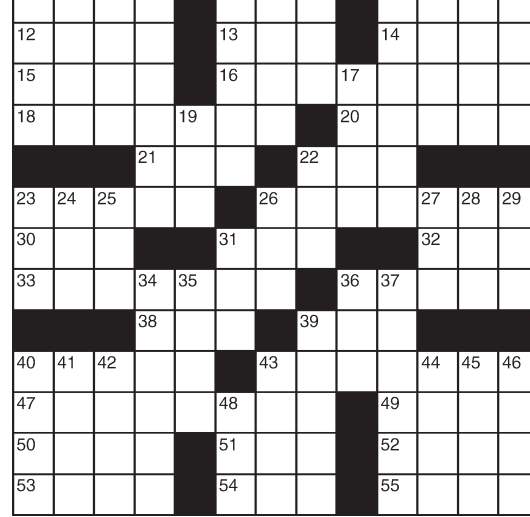
Crossword

- ACROSS**
 1 Knighted lady
 5 Bookie's fee, for short
 8 Chew away at
 12 Squared
 13 Expert
 14 Judicial garb
 15 Catcher's aid
 16 Examine
 18 Infest
 20 Duck
 21 Prior night
 22 Spell-down
 23 Grant's successor
 26 Go into overtime, maybe
 30 Candle tally
 31 Heavy weight
 32 God, to Mario
 33 Broad-way hope
 36 Lived
 38 Bagel topping
- DOWN**
 2 Tel
 3 Apportion (out)
 4 Main course
 5 Market price
 6 PC symbol
 7 Metro maker
 8 Abase oneself
 9 Bossa —
 10 Not up yet
 11 "— off to see ..."
 17 Acute homes, briefly
 19 Motor
 22 Chignon
 23 Actor
 24 Past
- ACROSS**
 39 Pair
 40 Re-punishment
 43 Rehearse
 47 Miss
 49 Go out with
 50 Withered
 51 Exploit
 52 A slave to cross-words?
 53 Trampled
 54 Scarlet
 55 Unable to hear
- DOWN**
 12 Longing
 26 Director Howard
 27 Rhyming praise
 28 Zero
 29 Understood
 31 Monkey suit
 34 Stared fiercely
 35 Kin of 22-Down
 36 Press for payment
 37 Rife with trees
 39 — it out (fought)
 40 Put in the mailbox
 41 Always
 42 Infamous lyre player
 43 Got up
 44 Florist's vessel
 45 Sicilian spouter
 46 Coral formation
 48 "— American Cousin"

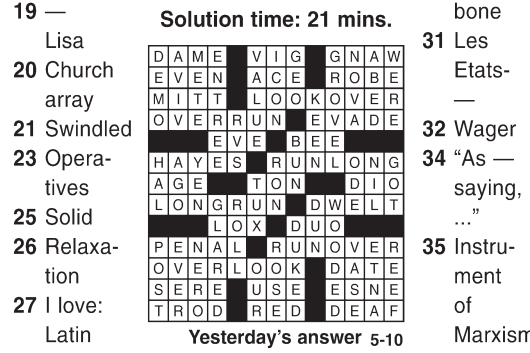
Solution time: 21 mins.



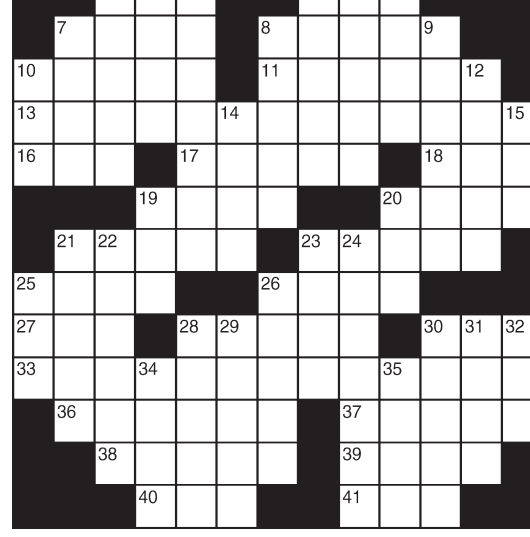
Yesterday's answer 5-9



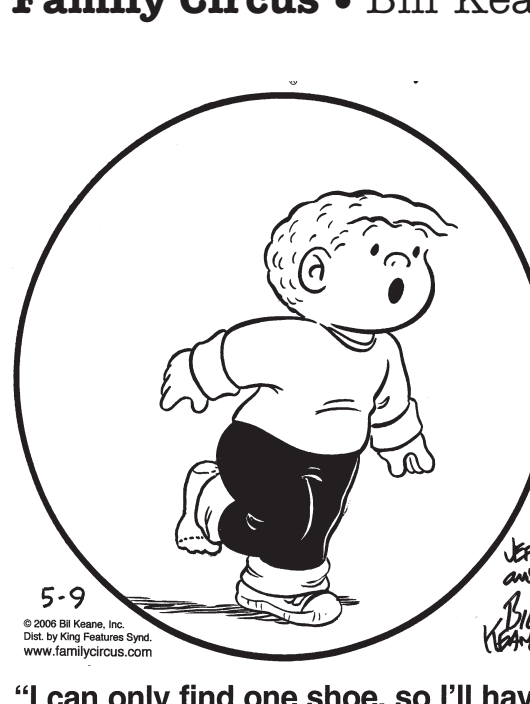
- ACROSS**
 1 Grimalkin
 4 Coop denizen
 7 Speak unclearly
 8 Gandhi wrappers?
 10 Sword part
 11 Pals, below the border
 13 Howe creation
 16 Billboards
 17 Roger Rabbit's ilk
 18 Jockey Turcotte
 19 — Lisa
 20 Church array
 21 Swindled
 23 Operatives
 25 Solid
 26 Relaxation
 27 I love: Latin
- DOWN**
 1 Talons
 2 German star
 30 Jalopy among boats
 33 Piece of gym equipment
 36 Soothing type of music
 37 Custom Rod of tennis lore
 39 Rainbow
 40 Sun. speech worker
 41 IRS earners' org.
- ACROSS**
 28 "Singin' in the Rain"
 30 Jalopy among boats
 33 Piece of gym equipment
 36 Soothing type of music
 37 Custom Rod of tennis lore
 39 Rainbow
 40 Sun. speech worker
 41 IRS earners' org.
- DOWN**
 12 Winter forecasts
 14 Big bell
 15 Type units
 19 Silent
 20 Chart format
 21 He "says"
 22 Brick-layer's tool
 23 Casa division
 24 Medium
 25 Distant
 26 Gantry or Fudd
 28 Jack
 29 Tree moth
 30 Leg bone
 31 Les Etats-
 32 Wager
 34 "As — saying, ..."
 35 Instrument of Marxism?



Yesterday's answer 5-10



Family Circus • Bill Keane



Bridge

South dealer. North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
 ♠ 9 8 5 2
 ♥ J 10 3 2
 ♦ K 8 2
 ♣ Q 6

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

EAST
 ♠ Q 7 4
 ♥ K 9 8
 ♦ 10
 ♣ A K J 10 9 8

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

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

Opening lead — three of clubs.

Tug of War

Bridge is occasionally like a tug of war, with each side trying to yank the other out of position. For example, take this deal where West leads a club against four hearts. East cashes two club tricks and plays a third round of clubs, hoping West will be able to ruff and force declarer to overruff with dummy's ten or jack. If East's plan succeeds, he will automatically acquire a trump trick.

West cooperates by ruffing the third club with the five, and if declarer makes the mistake of overruffing in dummy, he eventually goes down one, losing both a trump trick and a diamond.

But if South is on his toes, he does not allow himself to be yanked out of position by this attack on his trumps. Instead of overtrumping West's five, which seems the natural thing to do, South discards the deuce of diamonds from dummy. It is not difficult for declarer to diagnose East's purpose in leading a third round of clubs, especially after West ruffs with the five. Furthermore, since South has a sure diamond loser in any case, he realizes he is better off to concede it at this point rather than weaken dummy's trump holding. Discarding the diamond from dummy allows declarer to win the tug of war. Whatever West returns, South next enters dummy with the king of diamonds, leads the jack of hearts and finesses, then repeats the finesse to trap East's king. After drawing East's last trump, declarer trumps a diamond in dummy and winds up losing only the first three tricks to make his contract.

North dealer. East-West vulnerable.

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

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

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

SOUTH
 ♠ K 7
 ♥ 10 5
 ♦ 7 4 2
 ♣ A K J 8 5 3

The bidding:
North 1♦
East Pass
South 2♣
West Pass

Opening lead — three of hearts.

Solution to a Quandary

"Dear Mr. Becker: This hand occurred in a rubber bridge game. I held the East cards. My partner led a heart against three notrump, and I won with the ace. I returned the six, my original fourth-best heart, in accordance with standard convention. "Declarer played the ten, and my partner took the jack. Partner then shifted to a spade, and South won the rest of the tricks, taking six clubs, two spades and three diamonds.

"Obviously, something went wrong with the defense, since we could have taken five heart tricks off the top. My partner contends his play of switching to a spade was proper because it was perfectly possible that declarer had started with the Q-10-7-5 of hearts, in which case cashing the king at trick three could prove fatal.

"I see no flaw in his argument because I would also have returned the six had I originally held A-6-2. Is there any way for West to have known to play the king of hearts? Very truly yours, W.H.M."

Perhaps the best way to answer this question is to go back to East's play of the six at trick two. It is true that in returning the suit partner leads, it is customary to return the original fourth-best card from four or more cards, and the second-highest card from three. This usually enables the other defender to diagnose declarer's holding both as to length and strength.

But, as can be seen in the present case, the lead of the six does not clarify the true position for West, since East's return may be based on either of two opposite holdings. West might have cashed the king of hearts and hoped for the best, but he could not be sure that play would turn out right.

The answer to the problem is that East should have returned the two of hearts rather than the six. This would cause West to believe that East held four hearts originally and declarer, consequently, three. West would then have been safe in cashing the king, and the actual heart situation would have become exposed.