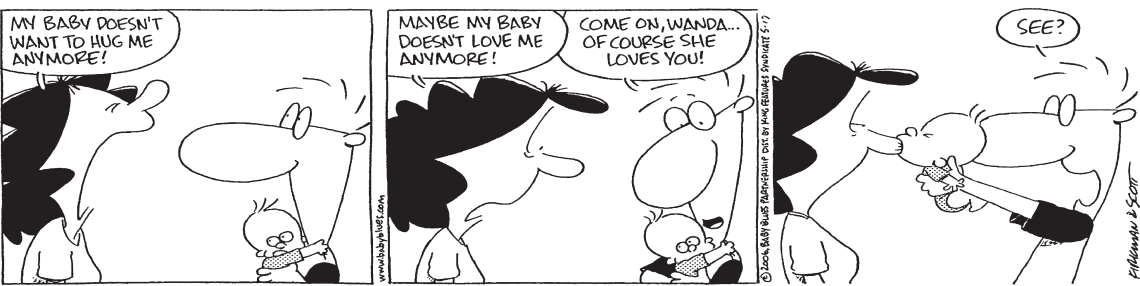


Retail • Norm Feuti (Sample)



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott (Sample)



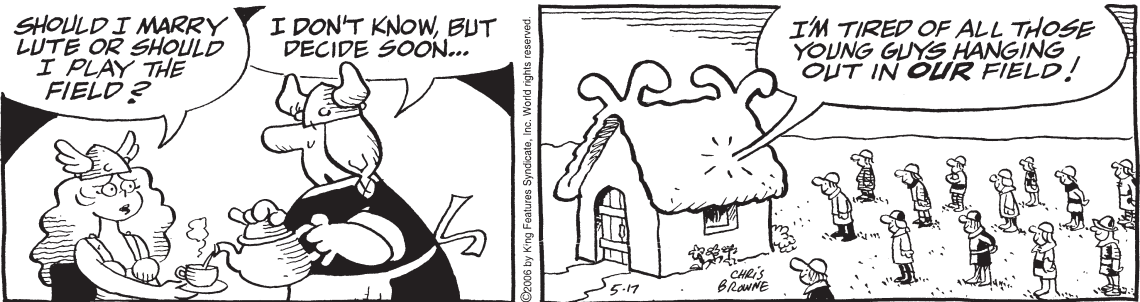
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



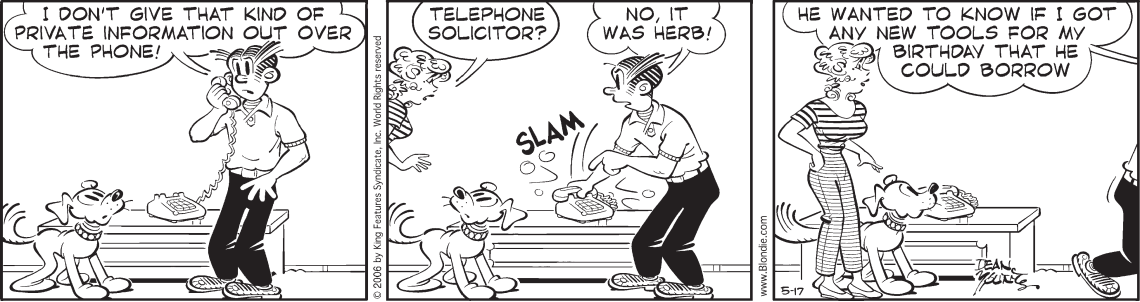
Garfield • Jim Davis



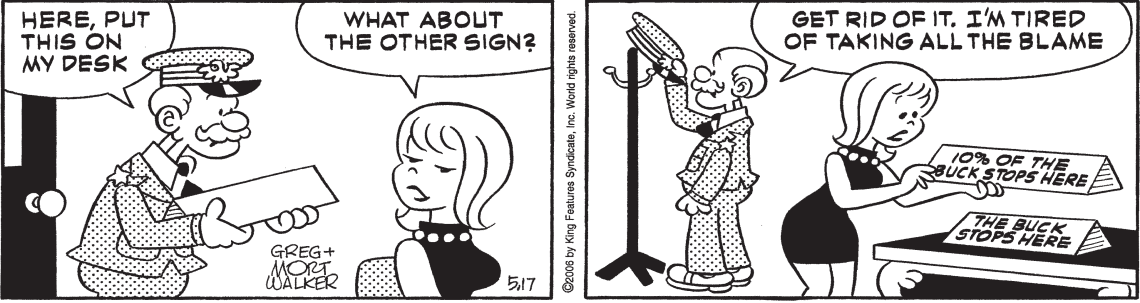
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



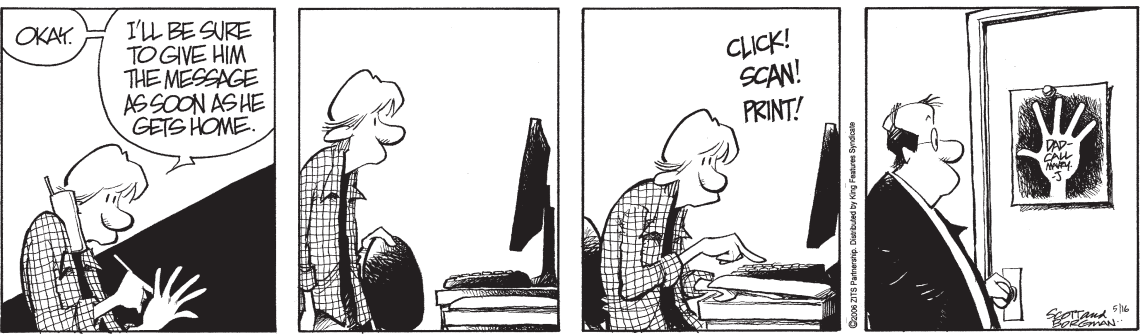
Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

ZRKDL AQFKST RKE OEOQD
JXLQP, HRL JQFLX XQS
KSHN HXNOJDL HNPQB.
ENALHRKST ZLSH Q-XBL.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A PERSON BOASTS
OF BEING THE VERY BEST PHLEBOTOMIST,
THAT MIGHT BE VEINGLORY.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals U

BPR GCKEFS CB RICEI
YCNG EFSTFGP TFPKMO
DFM KIPCM DVKIPM:
"SVYP MIOSP DFM NVNNO."
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHILE MAKING HIS
USUAL BREAD, THE BAKER RAN INTO
TROUBLE TODAY. SOMETHING WENT A-RYE.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals D

Crossword

ACROSS

1 Do some finger-painting
5 Profit
9 Uppercut target
12 Gumbo need
13 Mrs. Shake-speare
14 Blonde shade
15 Glider of a sort
17 Square root of IX
18 Tallow fat
19 Dutch earthen-ware
21 Capital of Jordan
24 Platter
25 Clay-rich soil
26 "Go ahead and call" sound
30 Blackbird
31 Foolish
32 Eg. and Syr., once
33 With seriousness
35 "The Thin Man" dog

DOWN

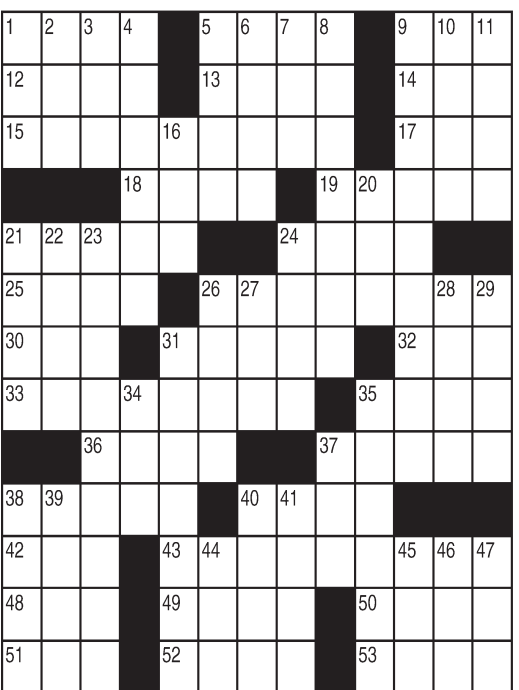
36 Italy's silhouette
37 Kilmer classic
38 "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" poet
40 Put together
42 Bagel enhancer
43 Violent weather
48 Pub order
49 Beige musical
51 "Abso-lutely"
52 Stationery quantity
53 Weap-onry

22 Stereo alterna-tive
23 Card holders?
24 "What's My Line?" emcee John
26 Power
27 Under the weather
28 Archibald of basketball
29 History chapters
31 Stifle
34 Dawn goddess
35 "The Queen of Soul"
37 Gridiron 6-pointers (Abbr.)
38 TV chef Bobby
39 Portrayal
40 Actress Sorvino
41 Astringent
44 Likely trick taker
45 Rowboat item
46 Edge
47 "Miniver"

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 5-16



ACROSS

1 Actor McBride
4 "Peter Pan" pooch
8 History
12 Pos-sessed
13 Peacock-tail
14 Pat on the buns?
15 "— be!"
16 Apiarist
18 Rodent aka nutria
20 Drunkard
21 Brewery output
24 More appealing
28 Ignores the light
32 Robin Cook novel
33 Big bother
34 Spitzer of New York politics
36 "Les —"
37 Anger
39 "Hamlet" setting
41 Tiny
43 Hobbling
44 Hole

DOWN

46 Safari master
50 Arthur's sword
55 Hockey team
56 Gratuities
57 Biography
58 Candle tally
59 Farewell
60 Hollywood clashers
61 Third degree?

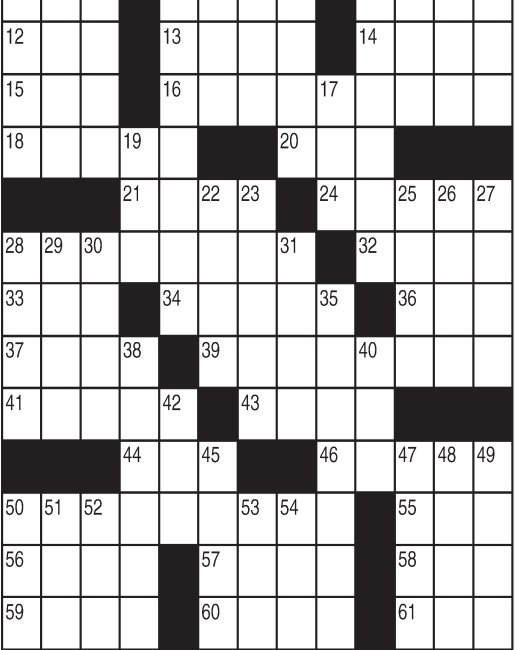
6 Maiden-name indicator
7 Sends out invitations
8 Elegantly worded
9 Matter-horn, for one
10 Witness
11 Ander-son's "High —"
17 A billion years
19 Handle clumsily
22 Model
23 Dexterity
25 "Dream Along With Me" singer

26 Eastern potentate
27 Demolish
28 Cup-board-shelf lineup
29 Enos' granddad
30 Guru's discipline
31 McGwire rival
35 Tone properties
38 Marty Robbins hit
40 Fresh
42 Abner's adjective
45 Scrabble piece
47 Pronto, on a memo
48 Ap-proaching
49 Pink-slipped
50 List-end-ing abbr.
51 Noon on a sundial
52 Figure head? (Abbr.)
53 Not
54 E.T.'s craft?

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 5-17



Bridge

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ J 10 8
♥ A 10 9 3
♦ Q 9 3
♣ K J 7

WEST

♠ K 7 5
♥ Q 8 7
♦ K 8 5 4
♣ 6 4 2

EAST

♠ Q 9 4 3 2
♥ J 6 4 2
♦ A 2
♣ 8 5

SOUTH

♠ A 6
♥ K 5
♦ J 10 7 6
♣ A Q 10 9 3

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

Opening lead — four of diamonds.

Timing Is Everything

The race for the establishment of tricks is a highly distinguishing feature of notrump contracts. Given more time, each side would usually be able to develop and win more tricks than it does in the ordinary course of events.

In this deal, for example, South starts with eight tricks, and would have no trouble making 10 if he could get the opponents to cash the A-K of diamonds right away. He would in the process acquire two diamond tricks, which he does not have ready-made, and the play would essentially be over.

But if the defenders function efficiently, they can win the race against time and defeat the contract. Assume West leads the four of diamonds and East wins dummy's queen with the ace. (The purpose of the queen play by declarer is to get East to return a diamond, which East might not do if the queen remained in dummy.)

But if East is alert, he does not return a diamond. He views the queen play with a jaundiced eye and returns the spade three instead. With the deuce and three of diamonds in view in his own hand and dummy, he concludes from the lead of the four that West has at most four diamonds and South therefore also has four.

The spade shift beats declarer fair and square. South plays the six, whereupon West takes the king and returns a spade. East ducks, of course, and South wins with the ace. Declarer can cash eight tricks but is then finished.

Finding declarer with only two spades might be viewed as a lucky shot by East, but actually it is not that unlikely on the bidding. Since South has four diamonds and opened with one club, he might easily have five clubs. Declarer's other four cards are then almost certain to be divided 2-2, which means he has exactly two spades.

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ J 10 9
♥ K 7 3
♦ A 6
♣ A 10 5 4 2

WEST

♠ 6
♥ Q J 10 6
♦ 8 7 4 2
♣ Q J 8 3

EAST

♠ Q 8 7 2
♥ A 9 4
♦ J 10 9 5
♣ 9 6

SOUTH

♠ A K 5 4 3
♥ 8 5 2
♦ K Q 3
♣ K 7

The bidding:
South 1 ♣
2 ♣
West Pass
Pass
North 2 ♣
4 ♣
East Pass
Pass

Opening lead — queen of hearts.

Appearances Are Deceiving

Memorizing the standard safety plays is clearly beneficial, but if you don't appreciate the reason behind a safety play, you might not handle it correctly if it appears in a guise slightly different from the one you're accustomed to.

For example, take the case where you have A-K-J-10-9 facing dummy's 4-3-2. If your goal is to win five tricks, you do best by cashing the ace first before crossing to dummy to finesse against the queen. The ace is cashed first to protect against the singleton queen in the West hand.

If the finesse succeeds and the suit is divided 3-2, your mission is accomplished, and if your left-hand opponent shows out on the second round, you still make five tricks by returning to dummy to repeat the finesse.

The spade setup in today's hand resembles the aforementioned combination, but there's an important difference. Observe that if, after losing the first three heart tricks, you cash the spade ace before attempting a finesse, East later scores a trump trick, and you go down one.

The big difference in the present case is that you can't afford to cash the ace to guard against a singleton queen in the West hand because you expend dummy's all-important nine in the process, making it impossible to pick up the Q-8-x-x in the East hand. The proper method of play is to lead the jack and take a first-round finesse. If you do, you make the contract.

Expressed mathematically, the reason for preferring the immediate finesse is that if the spades are divided 4-1, with West holding a singleton, the singleton will be a low spade four times as often as it will be the queen. Hence, the odds strongly favor a first-round finesse.

Tomorrow: To the victor belong the spoils.
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Family Circus • Bill Keane

