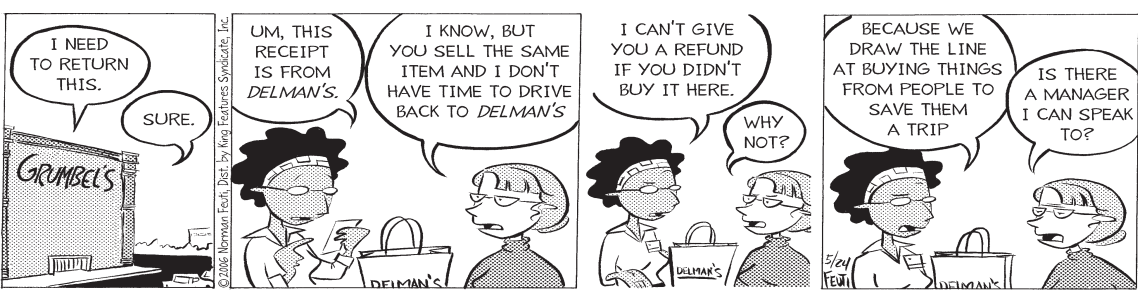
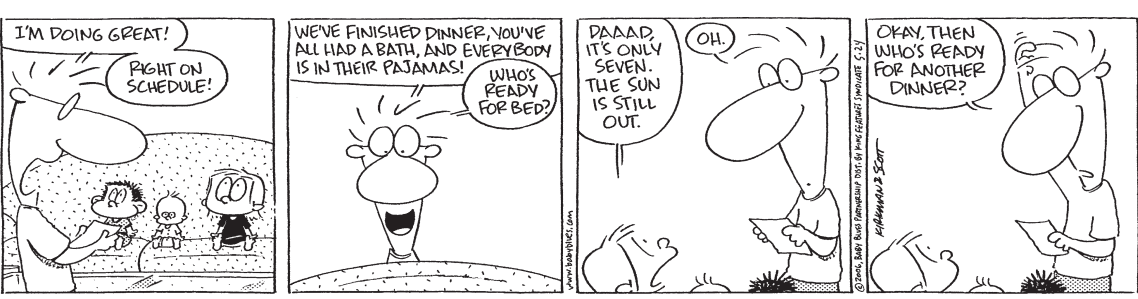


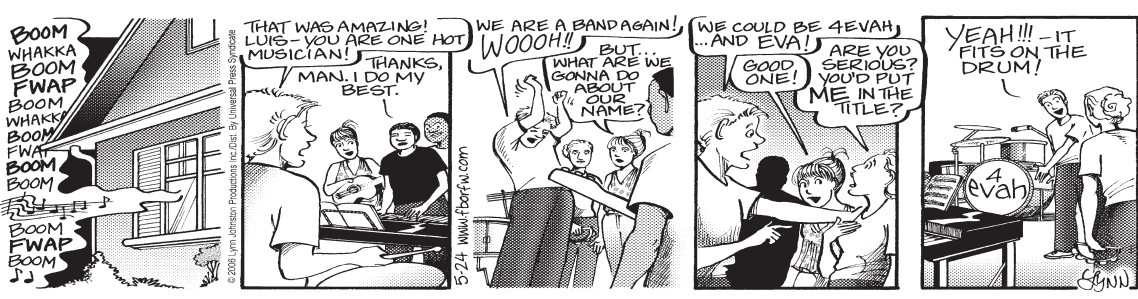
Retail • Norm Feuti (Sample)



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott (Sample)



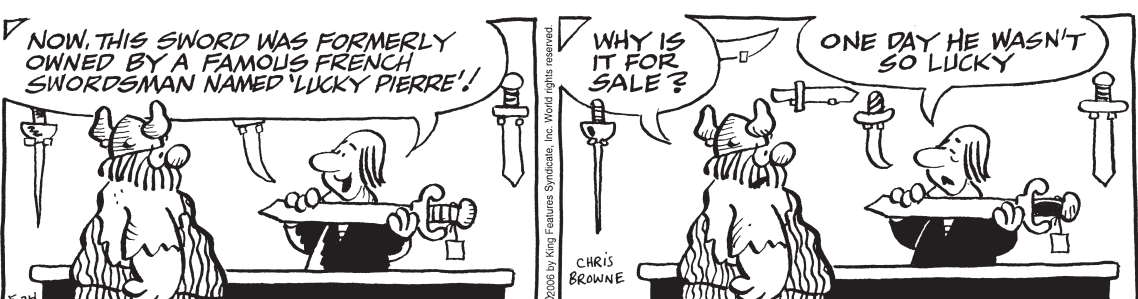
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



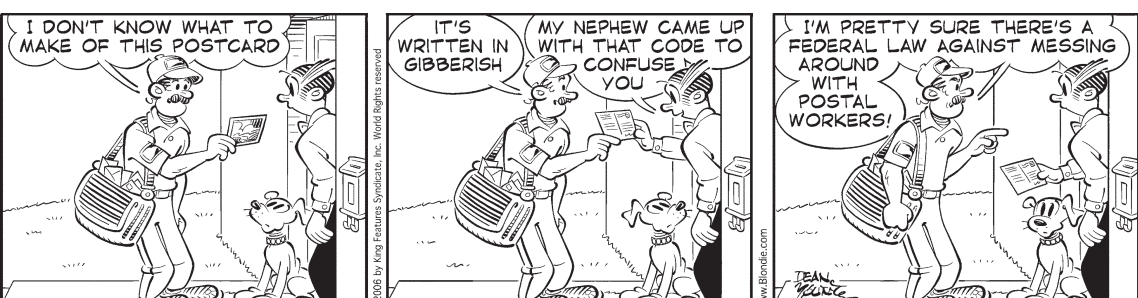
Garfield • Jim Davis



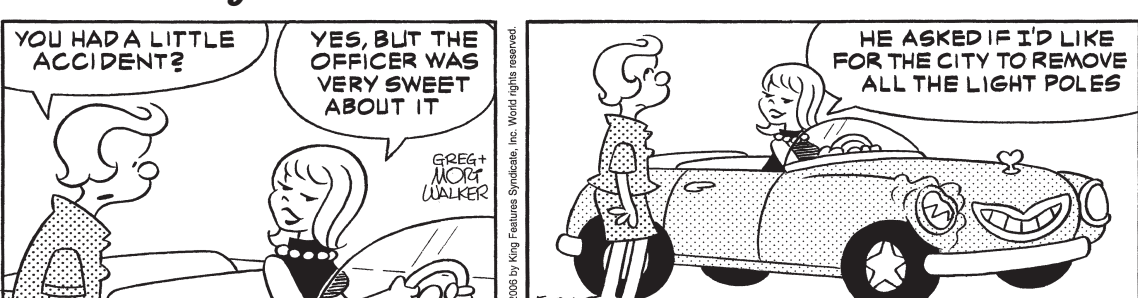
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



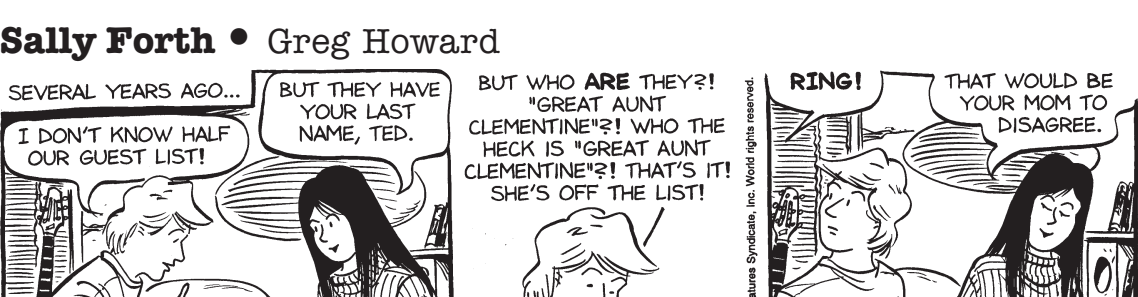
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

BY Z ODFRWA YWFSVQZKDR IVM E PYEZ YN MUYGV
 Z VDKMWP KW GWQWF GTEOVG XT MUV ZXGMETAV
 MZBF, UWS GWSQP GZQQ LEOXTI LXGAUXVN. YU
 BK Z "PUD-BK OQZA."
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SUPPOSE I POURED A SUGAR SUBSTITUTE ON THE LAWN. WOULD THAT BE "SPLENDA IN THE GRASS"?
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals T
 RVPP, HYEG RXPP HV HYEG!
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A PERSON FORMULATES A METHOD TO COLOR HAIR, YOU COULD CALL IT A "DYE-IT PLAN."
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals H

Crossword

ACROSS
 1 On picture
 5 Drench
 8 Resign parent
 12 Stable
 13 Not vert.
 14 "Do — others ..."
 15 Toughie
 17 Paradise
 18 Suitable
 19 Do relief work
 21 Porcelain-ware
 24 Merriment
 25 Everything else
 26 Traveler's necessity
 30 Illustrations
 31 British weaponry
 32 Uncivilized
 33 Den furniture
 35 Manicurist's tool
 36 Carry on
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 1 Blonde shade
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 28 Filene's Basement event
 29 Basin accessory
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 35 Biz big-wig
 37 Promise
 38 Firsties
 39 Beige
 40 Slight grimace
 41 Hitchcock tour de force
 44 Med-plan grp.
 45 Carte lead-in
 46 Long lunch
 47 Type squares

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 5-23

Bridge

South dealer. North-South vulnerable.

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

WEST
 ♠ A J 8 2
 ♥ J 7 3
 ♦ 9 4 2
 ♣ Q 10 5

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

SOUTH
 ♠ K 10 3
 ♥ Q 6 5
 ♦ A K Q 8
 ♣ 7 4 3

The bidding:
 South 1♦
 West 2NT
 North Pass
 East 3NT
 Opening lead — two of spades.

Thinking the Unthinkable

A long, establishable suit is usually a welcome sight to declarer at a notrump contract, but it is not always the answer to his needs. There are times when he should look elsewhere for tricks.

For example, consider this case where a well-intentioned declarer lost sight of the forest for the trees. He took East's queen of spades with the king at trick one and could count seven immediate winners — four diamonds, two clubs and the spade he had already won. To establish the two additional tricks he needed, he played the A-K and another club, setting up the last two clubs in dummy.

This line of play might have been a good idea on some other deal, but it was bound to fail on the actual one. It allowed the defenders to cash five tricks in a row consisting of a club, three spades and a heart before South could regain the lead to collect the game-going tricks.

Declarer should have realized that establishing dummy's clubs was certain to lead to defeat, and so should have turned his attention elsewhere. His only legitimate chance lay in the hope that West had the jack of hearts — a 50-50 probability — and had started with only four spades, which seemed likely from his lead of the deuce.

In that case, a low heart lead to dummy's ten at trick two would enable South to establish two heart tricks whether the opponents took the ace immediately or not. The only tricks the defenders could then get would be three spades and the heart ace, leaving declarer with the nine tricks he was looking for.

Although this approach might easily have failed, it was nevertheless better to have some chance for the contract than to adopt a line of play that offered no chance at all.

West dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ A 8 7 3
 ♥ A J 3
 ♦ J 4
 ♣ A J 8 7

WEST
 ♠ Q 10 9
 ♥ 9 7
 ♦ A K 10 9 5 2
 ♣ 5 2

EAST
 ♠ 4
 ♥ 10 8 6 5 4 2
 ♦ Q 7 6
 ♣ Q 10 3

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

The bidding:
 West 2♦
 North Dble
 East 3♦
 South 4♣
 Opening lead — king of diamonds.

The Magic Number

A well-known player, having spent much time, effort and more than a few shekels some years ago to improve his game, is said to have observed, after three years of tribulation, "I've discovered the secret of the game — all you have to do is count to 13!"

Truer words were never spoken. The player who consistently makes an effort to count to 13 cannot help but improve his game.

Take this case where South arrived at four spades after West opened a weak two-bid in diamonds, indicating a strong six-card suit and six to 11 points in high cards.

West cashed the K-A of diamonds and shifted to the nine of hearts. Declarer won with the king, led a spade to the ace and returned a spade to the king, learning he would have to lose a trump trick to West. The outcome now hinged on avoiding a club loser.

South overtook the queen of hearts with dummy's ace and cashed the heart jack, discarding a club. West ruffed and returned a club.

Declarer played low from dummy and won East's ten with the king. A club was then led to the jack, but when East produced the queen, the contract was down one.

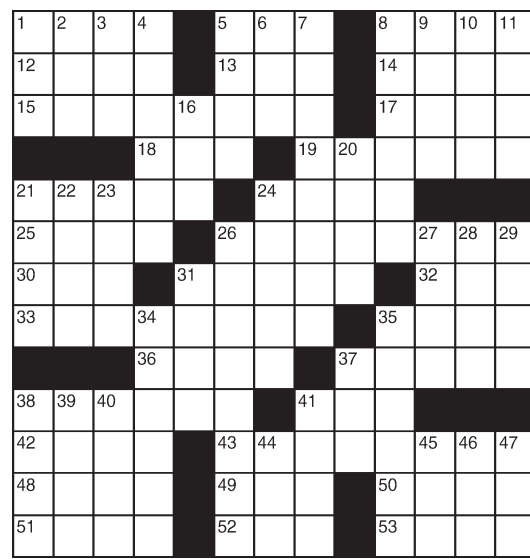
South's line of play would have succeeded had West held the ten of clubs, the queen of clubs or both club honors. Only if East had the queen and ten would the contract fail.

Nevertheless, the fact is that declarer overlooked another approach that was virtually certain to succeed. After two rounds of spades and two rounds of hearts had been played, it was known that West had started with six diamonds, three spades and at least two hearts, and therefore no more than two clubs.

Accordingly, after playing the K-Q of hearts, declarer should have cashed the king of clubs and then led a club toward the ace.

When West follows to the second club, declarer puts up the ace and leads a spade, forcing West to win and return a diamond. Declarer ruffs in dummy while discarding one club, and gets rid of his other club on dummy's high heart.

Note that the same result accrues if West started with a singleton club, whether he chooses to ruff the second club or not.



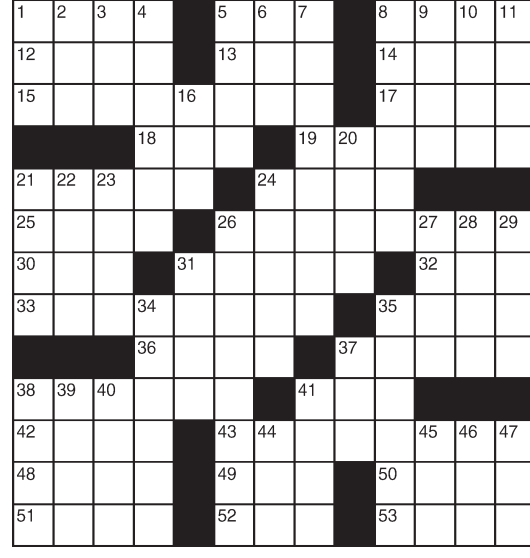
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 13 Not vert.
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Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 5-23



Family Circus • Bill Keane

