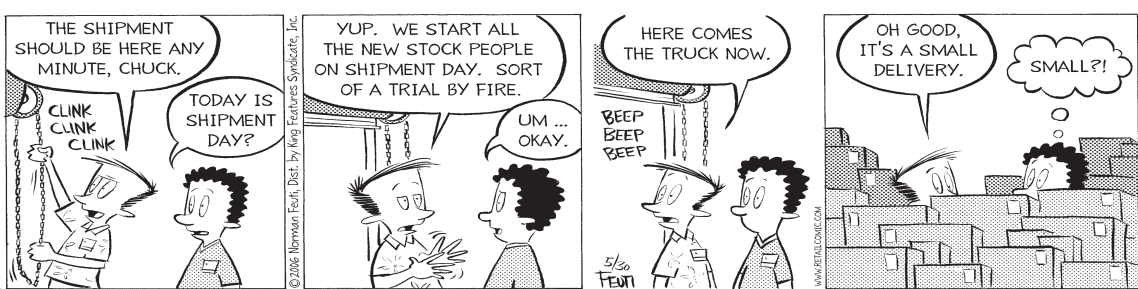
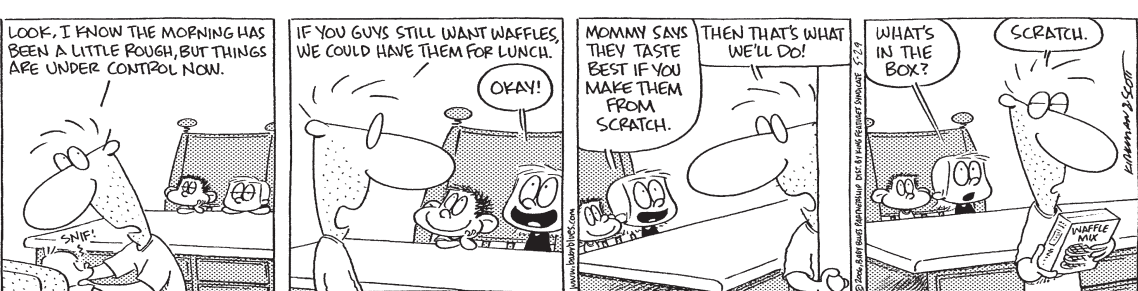


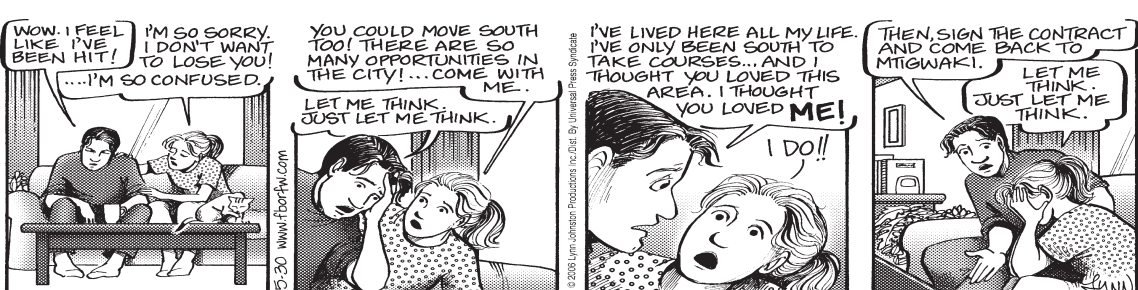
Retail • Norm Feuti (Sample)



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott (Sample)



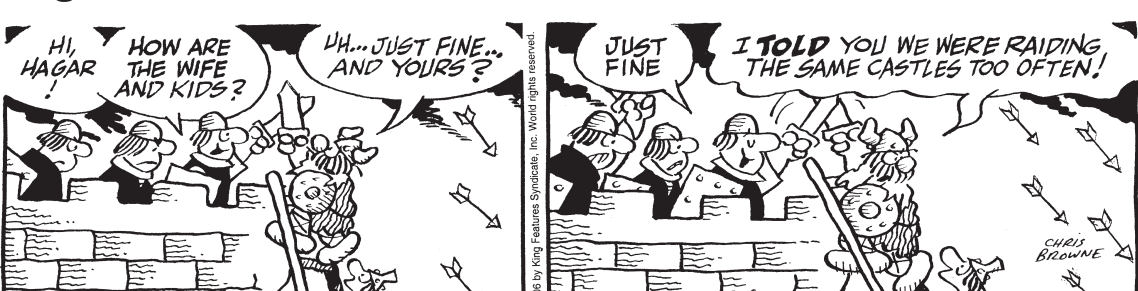
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Garfield • Jim Davis



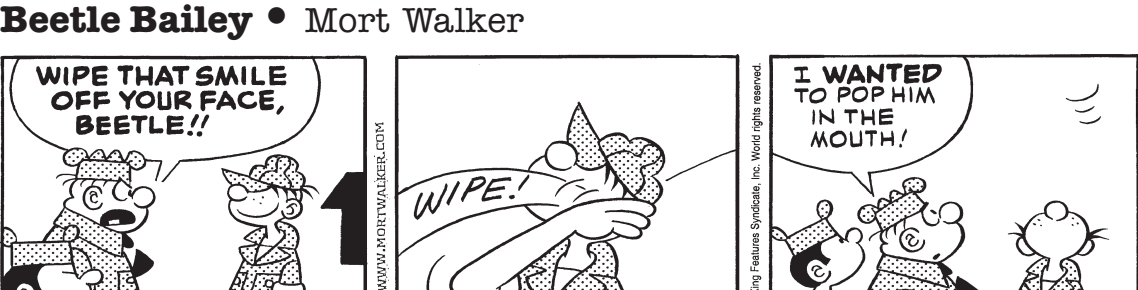
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



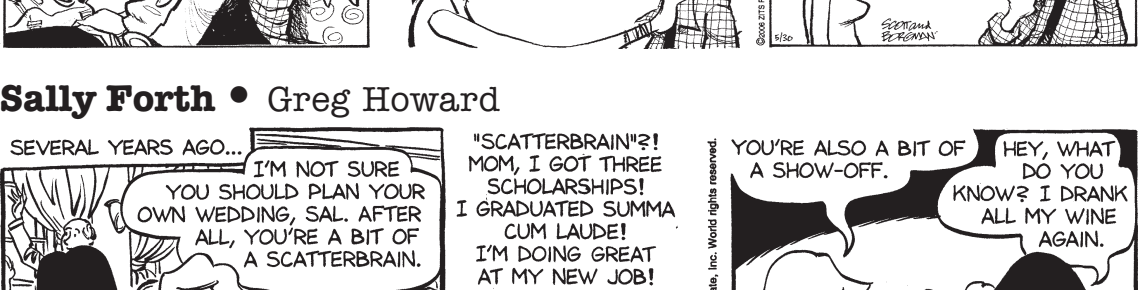
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



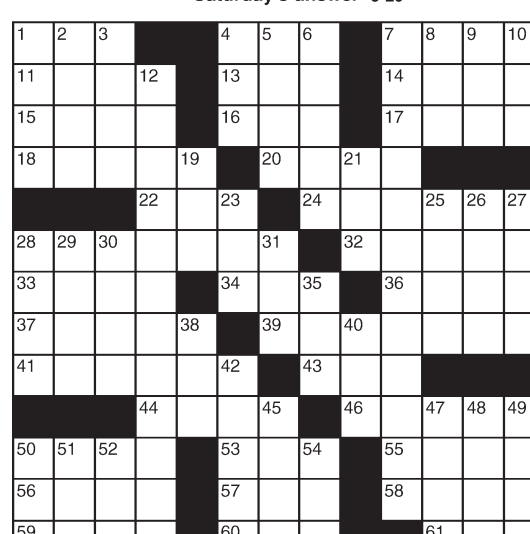
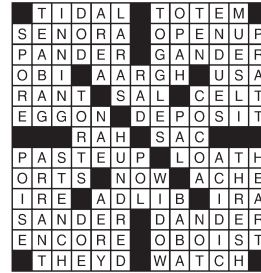
Cryptoquip

U NVPURVN X AGJBVRB CBNL P ONUIML'I BPV YI
 BG RVV ZTG AXJ MUPV CYVBYL NPIE UNPSB, Y
 BTV IVRB RXSVR DUBAT. IQOOMIN EMQ SMQRJ
 UB ZXR X RDUVSUJM IVV. SPRR VBPV P BPLJE SPO.
Saturday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU'VE GOT A FLATTOP HAIRCUT, I GUESS PEOPLE COULD SAY YOU'RE LEVEL-HEADED.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I DEvised A CONTEST TO SEE WHO CAN GIVE THE BEST SALES PITCH. IT WAS A SPIELING BEE.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals E
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals T

Crossword

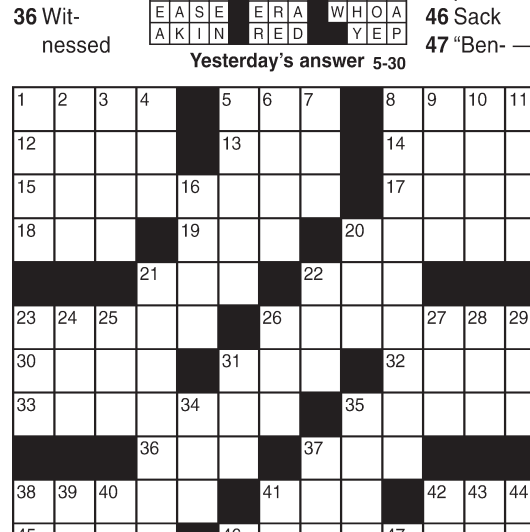
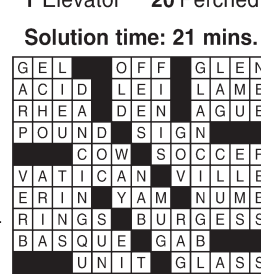
- ACROSS**
 1 Tooth-paste type
 4 Vacationing
 7 Secluded valley
 11 Alkali
 13 Hawaiian garland
 14 Needing crutches
 15 Comedian
 16 Lair
 17 Malaria symptom
 18 Home for strays
 20 Autograph
 22 Intimidate
 24 Pele's game
 28 Papal residence
 32 Town (French)
 33 Ms. Brocovich
 34 Sweet potato
 36 Unfeeling
 37 Olympics symbols
- DOWN**
 1 "The World According to —"
 2 Reverberate
 3 Stead
 4 Anti-quoted
 5 Lawyer's payments
 6 The end
 7 Ricochet
 8 Trail behind
 9 Ostrich's cousin
 10 Born
 12 ABBA song
 19 Billy Ray Cyrus series
 21 Head of st.
- ACROSS**
 39 Colonial representative
 41 Pyrenees language
 43 Tie up the phone
 44 Troop group
 46 Tumbler
 50 Write at the keyboard
 53 Obtuse
 55 Norway's capital
 56 Relaxation
 57 Historic time
 58 Horse's halter?
 59 Related (to)
 60 Crimson
 61 "Uh-huh"
- DOWN**
 23 Method
 25 Hint
 26 "Desire Under the —"
 27 CSA soldiers
 28 Part of speech
 29 Met melody
 30 Supermarket stack
 31 Apprehend
 35 Oktoberfest vessel
 38 Day of wk.
 40 Scott Joplin's genre
 42 Duck down
 45 Grow weary
 47 Wan
 48 — gin fizz
 49 Daytime drama
 50 Afternoon social
 51 Tibetan beast
 52 Omega precursor
 54 Frenzied

Solution time: 24 mins.



- ACROSS**
 1 Chantilly, for one
 5 Number cruncher (Abbr.)
 8 Gambling game
 12 Computer symbol
 13 Uncooked
 14 Etcher's medium
 15 Voluntary
 17 Data
 18 Kennedy or Koppel
 19 Height of fashion?
 20 Take the helm
 21 Tease
 22 Scrooge's cry
 23 Kind of button
 26 Zilch
 30 On
 31 Gender
 32 Notion
 33 "Shakespeare in Love" star
 35 Polish silver?
 36 Witnessed
- DOWN**
 2 Farm fraction
 3 Dorm denizen
 4 Away from WSW
 5 Wept
 6 Date provider
 7 Puncturing tool
 8 "This Kiss" singer
 9 Complexion woe
 10 Abounding
 11 Smell
 16 Tad
 20 Perched
- ACROSS**
 37 Wire measure
 38 Void
 41 Brooch
 42 "Amazing Race" aid
 45 Sandwich shop
 46 Hit 1983 movie, with "The"
 48 Isle of Man man
 49 Blond shade
 50 Language of Pakistan
 51 List-ending abbr.
 52 Roscoe
 53 Wander
- DOWN**
 21 Didn't move
 22 Carton
 23 Knock
 24 LAX info
 25 Fa's neighbor
 26 Fresh
 27 Altar
 28 Seine
 29 Festive
 31 Scatter seed
 34 Shaft of light
 35 Galvanizing material
 37 Possibly will
 38 Advantage
 39 Vegan's no-no
 40 Entreaty
 41 Tower city
 42 Picasso contemporary
 43 "M*A*S*H" star
 44 Future prune
 46 Sack
 47 "Ben—"

Solution time: 21 mins.



Bridge

West dealer.
 Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ A K Q 7 5
 ♥ A 7
 ♦ K J 9 4
 ♣ 9 7

WEST
 ♠ J 6 3
 ♥ Q J 9 6 4 2
 ♦ Q 8 6
 ♣ A

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

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

The bidding:
 West North East South
 Pass 1 ♠ Pass 1 NT
 Pass 2 ♦ Pass Pass
 Pass 3 NT
 Opening lead — queen of hearts.

Famous Hand

The year Edgar Kaplan won the Life Masters Individual (1957), he also reported the tournament for the Bridge World magazine. The Individual is a special type of event where the participants take turns playing with each other, as contrasted with pair and team contests where you play steadily with a partner of your own choice. Naturally, when you play with a succession of strange partners, some of whom might have wild flights of fancy, almost anything can happen — and does. As Kaplan commented in his report: There are three factors in the winning of this event: You must play reasonably well; you need a lot of fortune; and you must be enormously lucky. Luck is the theme of this article, as it should be in one about the Individual. After describing several hands in which he was both lucky and unlucky, Kaplan discussed the ace accompanying hand, which came up near the end of the final session. "This was the luckiest of all. As South, I hold no brief for my partner's three-notrump bid, although it won the tournament for me. I had done my darndest to scream that my hand was worthless except at clubs. But there I was at three notrump. "I won the heart queen in dummy, East's king falling. I led the nine of clubs (not the seven) to my king, and West put on the ace. West shifted to a low diamond, and the jack forced the ace. A diamond return rode to the king. Now I led a club, finessed the eight and made ten tricks for a top. "You see, I was lucky enough to have Norman Kay on my left, in the West position. Never in his life has Norman been guilty of so bad a play as winning the first club if he could hold up, so the finesse was marked. "Obviously, the secret of winning Individuals is to make sure that your opponents are more expert than your partners."

South dealer. East-West vulnerable.

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

WEST
 ♠ K 6 2
 ♥ —
 ♦ A 7 6 3
 ♣ A K Q 9 4 2

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

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

The bidding:
 South West North East
 1 ♥ 2 ♣ Pass Pass
 4 ♥
 Opening lead — king of clubs.

Pre-emptive Defense

Assume you hold the West hand and declarer gets to four hearts as shown. You lead the K-Q of clubs, everyone following suit, and the question is what to do next. It seems normal to continue with the ace of clubs, which certainly looks harmless enough, but if you do you will regret it later on. South will ruff and play the ace of trumps, learning that your partner started with all the missing trumps. He then makes the contract by leading a spade to dummy's ace and finessing the ten of hearts, losing only two clubs and a diamond. However, the best play at trick three is a low spade! The chief purpose of the spade shift is to try to force declarer to play dummy's ace of spades before he discovers that all the outstanding trumps are in one hand. You know that, but declarer doesn't — and you should try to take advantage of this knowledge by leading a spade at trick three instead of an innocuous third round of clubs. (If South has the queen of spades, it is unlikely the spade shift will cost anything.) It must be granted that if you shift to a spade at trick three, declarer might see through your scheme and finesse the ten of trumps at trick four. However, players capable of doing this are few and far between. Besides, you shouldn't be playing bridge against people that smart! The bidding strongly suggests that South's trump holding is something like the one he actually has, or possibly an eight-card suit headed by the A-K-J. The best way of dealing with either of these possibilities is by compelling South to commit himself before he finds out what the situation really is. Tomorrow: There's only one right play. (c)2006 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Family Circus • Bill Keane

