

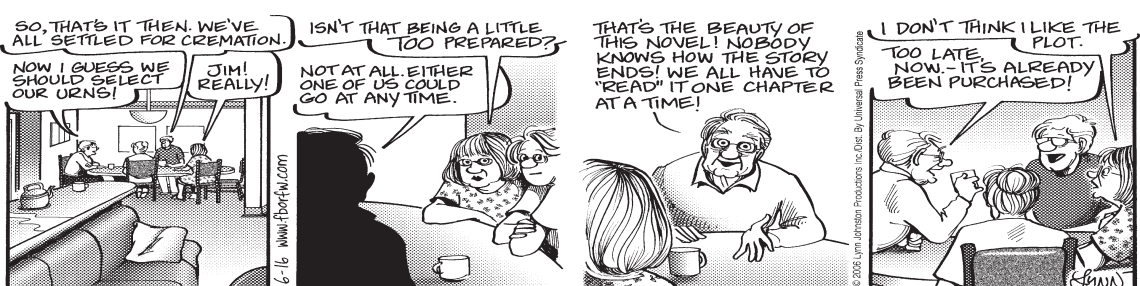
Retail • Norm Feuti (Sample)



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott (Sample)



For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



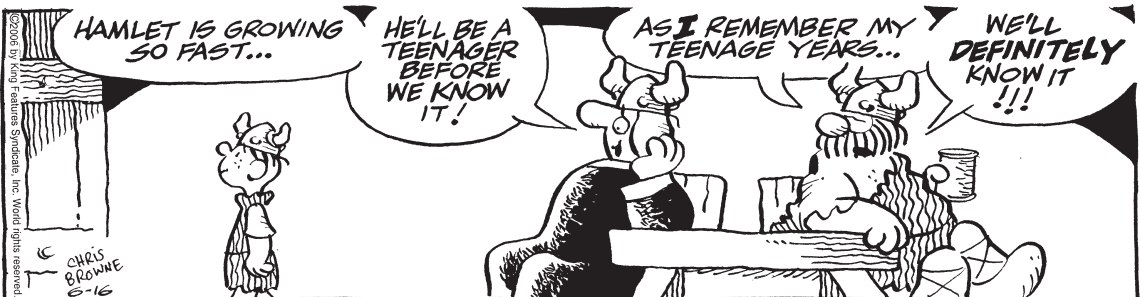
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



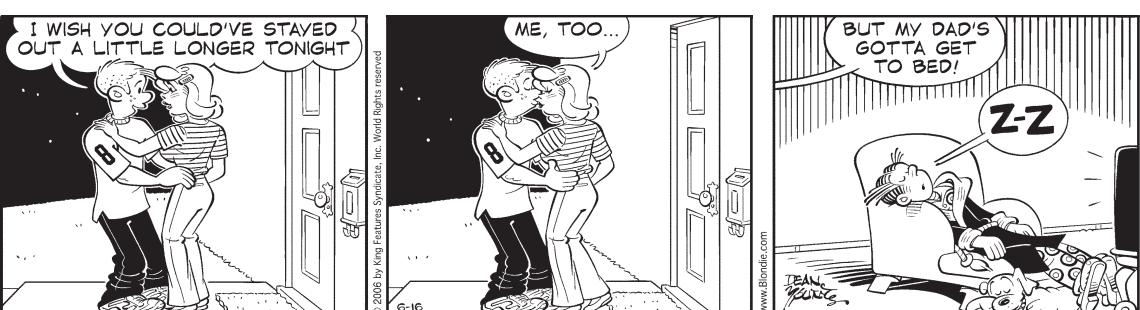
Garfield • Jim Davis



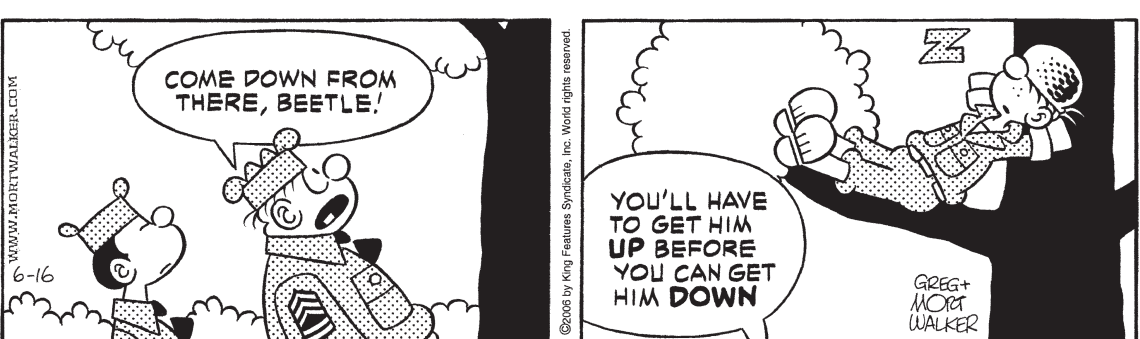
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Cryptoquip

O Y O J R Z B V U Z O J C N -

Y O J P N P X L U C D H C D L H Y D V R

B X H N P J H C Y O C L D O R "J U

J U U H D N H P U R J U U H D!"

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A GENTLEMAN WERE TO WED A GLEEFUL MS. POPPINS, I GATHER HE WOULD MARRY MERRY MARY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals O

Z U C I J S L N G H O C V H W S

N H Y U V H E L O G H N J S N

C Z H W K E E H J K D K H S G J K D

C I I E C L: "C Y U Z J F C K J E I U."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: A HANDFUL OF ANTI-HANGING PROTESTERS HELD UP SIGNS THAT READ "NO NOOSE IS GOOD NOOSE!"

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals L

Crossword

ACROSS

1 Ninny

4 La Scala solo

8 Chantilly, e.g.

12 Stern's opposite

13 Watson's partner

14 Emblem

15 Seafood picnic

17 Flex

18 Yuletide refrain

19 Reacts to yeast

20 Spread outward

22 Dressed

24 Remark re

29 Tie up the phone

30 Intonation

31 Environment-friendly

32 Cold symptom

34 Injury

35 Guy

DOWN

1 "The View" network

11 Tackles' team-mates

16 Old birds of New Zealand

19 Engrossed

20 Emulates Simon

21 Blueprint

22 Frasier's last name

23 Protracted

25 Dr. McGraw

26 Salt shaker?

27 Beige

28 Cupola

30 Despot

33 Pop out

34 Hastens

36 Organ parts

37 Kitten's comment

38 Birthright barterer

39 See to

40 "— we forget"

42 Now he's Barbie's friend

43 Perfume-label word

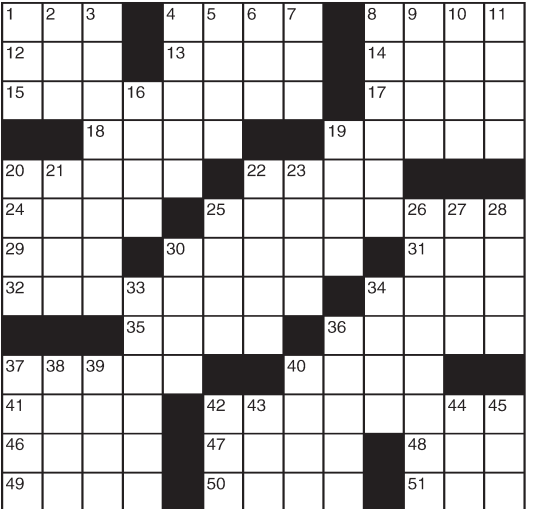
44 Indispensable

45 Ram's mate

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 6-9



ACROSS

1 Wield a needle

4 Diastemata

8 Wonderful, in rap slang

12 Mesozoic, for one

13 Monad

14 Hold the scepter

15 Have a bug

16 State with certainty

17 Portent

18 Parlor fixture

21 Cowboy's sweetie

22 Gluttonous sort

23 Hold-up man?

26 Come together

27 Just out

30 Burden

31 Rose, when young?

32 Tibetan monk

33 Church seat

34 Take wing

DOWN

1 Membership

2 Great quintet member

3 Humpty's perch

4 Tropical fruits

5 Toon squasher

6 Slapstick arsenal

7 Like the U.S. flag

8 Tine

9 Drones

10 Sheltered

11 Bivouac home

19 "Zounds!"

20 Tin Man's need

23 Jungfrau, e.g.

24 Water tester?

25 Matlock's field

26 Fellow

27 Kvetch

28 Ostrich's kin

29 Kids' card game

31 Congested

32 "Star Wars" hero

34 Back

35 Agreement

36 Rings out

37 Michaelmas daisy

38 Source of veritas

39 "American —"

40 "Monopoly" card

41 Verdi opera

42 Spring occurrence

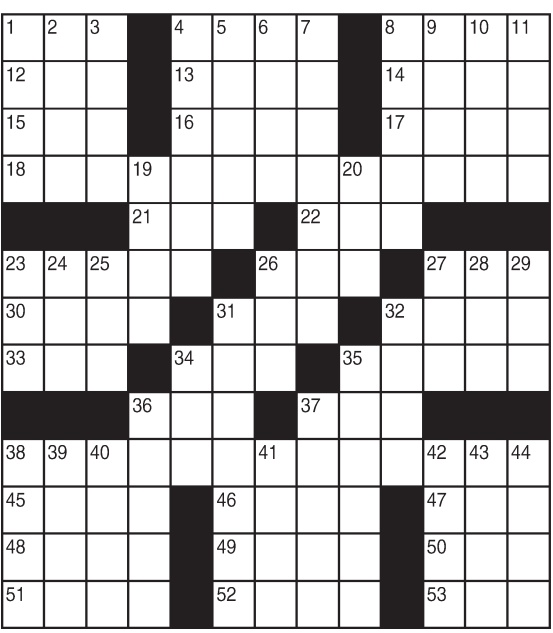
43 Melody

44 Tend texts

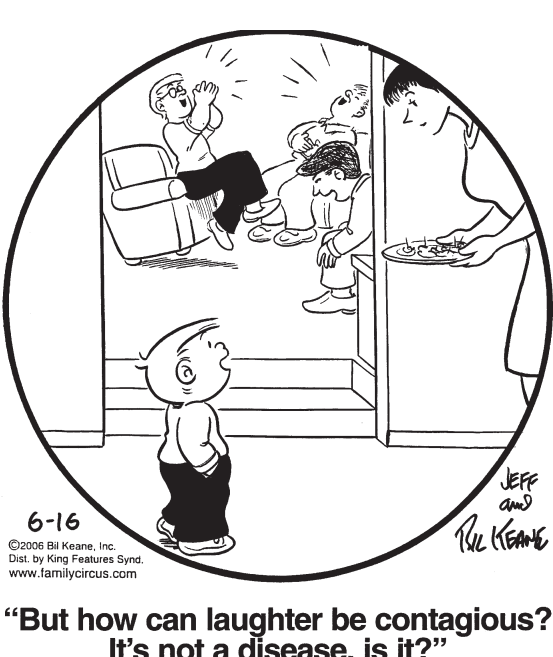
Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 6-17



Family Circus • Bill Keane



Bridge — Test Your Play

1. You are West, and the bidding has gone:

South	West	North	East
1 NT	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 NT			

NORTH

♠ 7 3

♥ K Q J

♦ Q J 10 8

♣ 7 6 4 2

WEST

♠ Q 9 8 6 2

♥ 9 2

♦ K 7

♣ A Q 8 3

You lead the six of spades, and declarer wins partner's ten with the jack. South leads a heart to dummy's jack and returns the queen of diamonds, which you win with the king. How would you continue?

From the play thus far, it is clear that South's opening notrump bid (16 to 18 points) included the ace of hearts, ace of diamonds and A-K-J of spades (your partner cannot have the ace or king of spades, judging from his play at trick one). It follows that South cannot have the king of clubs, which would give him 19 points.

You should therefore shift to the club three at this point, confident that partner will win with the king. If partner has another club to return, you will defeat the contract.

If you fail to lead a club and instead woodenly return a spade, declarer will score three spade tricks, three diamond tricks and at least three hearts to make the contract.

2. You are declarer with the West hand at Six Notrump, and North leads the ten of hearts. How would you play the hand?

West [S] A 7 4 2; [H] K J 3; [D] A K 4; [C] K 9 5
East [S] K 6; [H] A Q 4; [D] Q 10 2; [C] A 10 8 7 6
The only problem is how to handle the clubs to give yourself the maximum chance for four tricks in the suit. Best is to win the heart in dummy, lead the club six and play low if South plays low. (If the six wins, continue with the seven.) If the six loses to North's jack or queen, win any return and play the king of clubs. The slam becomes certain if North follows suit to the king.

The only time this line of play fails is when North has been dealt the singleton jack or queen. If you alternatively attacked the clubs by first cashing the king or ace, you would go down if the next player was either void of clubs or held a low singleton. These cases outnumber those where North holds a singleton honor.

East dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ J 5

♥ K J 8 3

♦ A 9 8 6 2

♣ K 4

WEST

♠ 9 4

♥ 10 9 6 2

♦ 4

♣ J 8 6 5 3 2

EAST

♠ K 10 7 6 3

♥ A Q 4

♦ 7

♣ A Q 9 7

SOUTH

♠ A Q 8 2

♥ 7 5

♦ K Q J 10 5 3

♣ 10

The bidding:
East 1 ♠
South 2 ♦
West Pass
North 4 ♦
Opening lead — nine of spades.

The Common-Sense Viewpoint

A fine declarer plays most hands as if he can see every card in the defenders' hands. This knack of playing as though all the cards are exposed can usually be attributed to inferences declarer draws from either the bidding or the early plays by the defense.

To illustrate, examine this deal where declarer should make five diamonds even though he seems certain to lose a club and two hearts. Assume that West leads the nine of spades in response to East's opening spade bid. Since the nine is obviously West's highest spade, declarer knows that East holds the K-10, and he should put this knowledge to good use by covering the nine with the jack. Failure to do so would cost declarer the contract if East followed low to West's nine.

After South takes East's king of spades with the ace, he enters dummy with a trump, leads a spade, and finishes the eight. Next he cashes the queen of spades, discarding a club from dummy, and then ruffs his last spade in dummy.

The stage is now set for the kill. Declarer plays dummy's king of clubs, saddling East with the lead, and East has no recourse. He can return a heart to dummy's K-J, or he can lead a club or a spade, allowing South to discard a heart and ruff in dummy. Either way, East's goose is cooked.

Declarer's course of play is clearly marked from the start. East's opening bid virtually marks him with the ace of clubs, and West's nine-of-spades lead tells declarer that East has the K-10 of spades. All South has to do is to put this information to good use.

