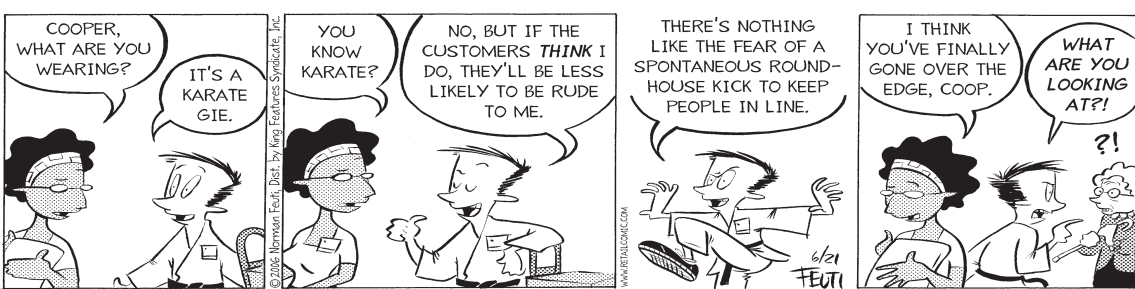


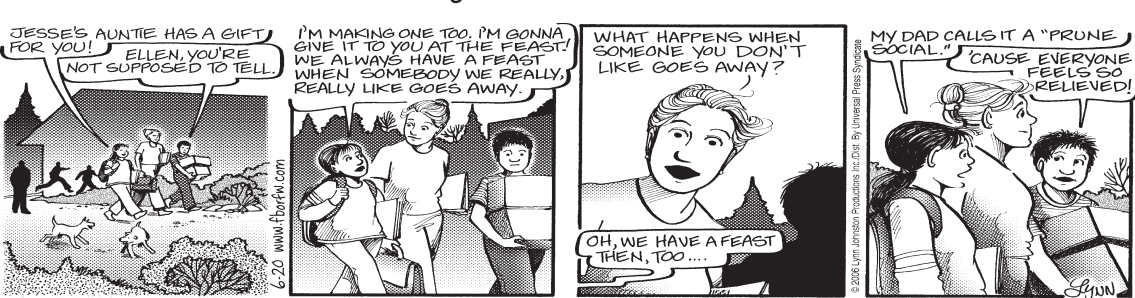
Retail • Norm Feuti (Sample)



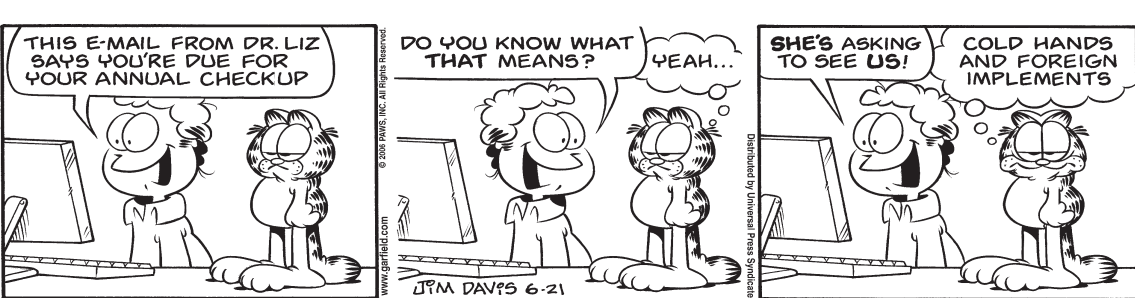
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott (Sample)



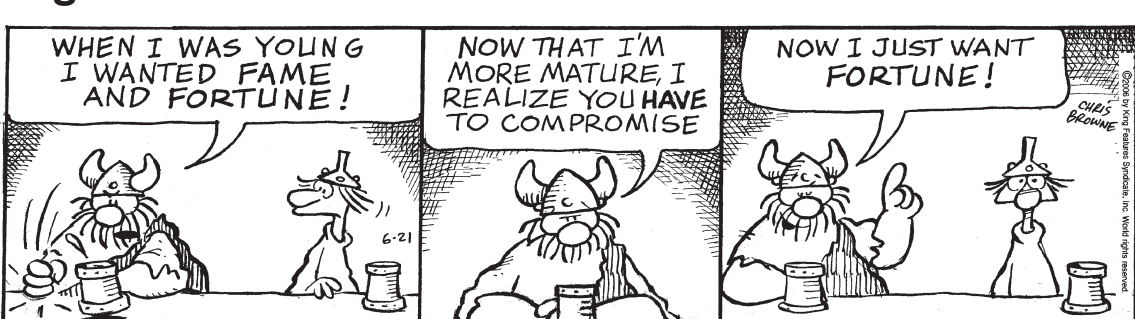
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



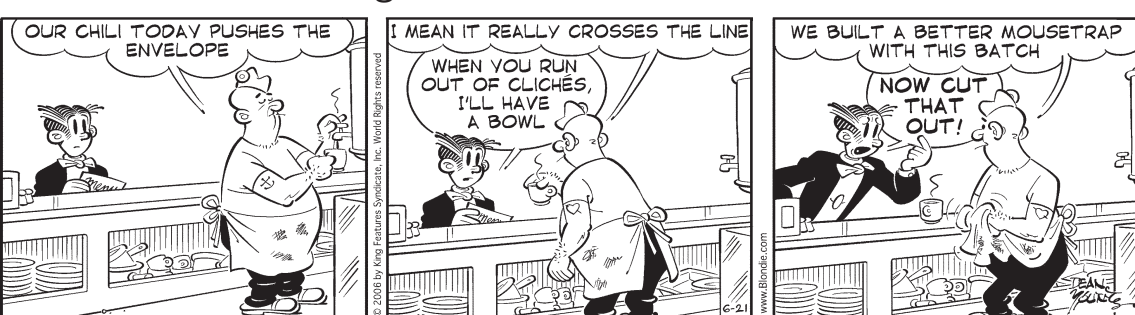
Garfield • Jim Davis



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



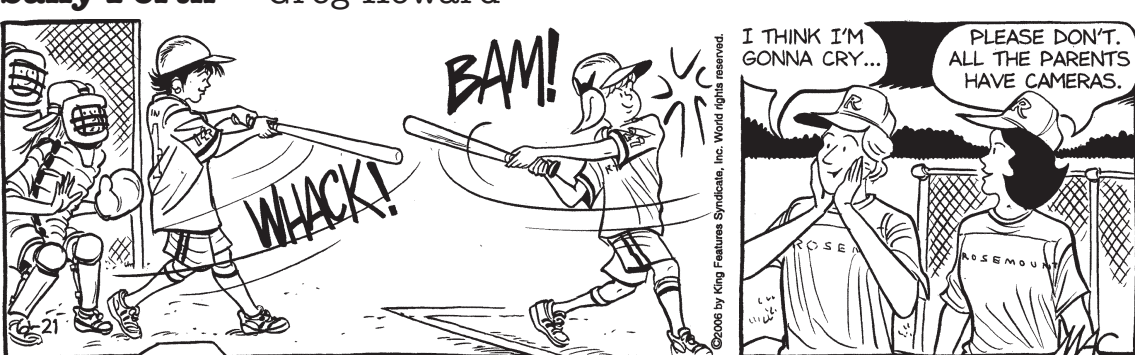
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

MB G NDJ UFGXXJ XMHFO CLN RNB ISXGA CLYC
 QMN NTBP OUMLHN, INYCOFNU Y GQOFC HNPCNF
 ZTKXO JTK NGJ QF'N G GSYU XR YFDQF BYP RYDNU
 ZTHF-GLO-OGEEFU PJDF?
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MY MOTHER OWNS A LOCAL DOG GROOMING COMPANY WHOSE SPECIALTY IS IN TERRIER DECORATING.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals Y
 "IQQS DNCYS HYGANC."
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A SPY REALLY LIKED HIS SOFT DRINKS, COULD YOU SAY HE'S A COKE-AND-DAGGER TYPE?
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals T

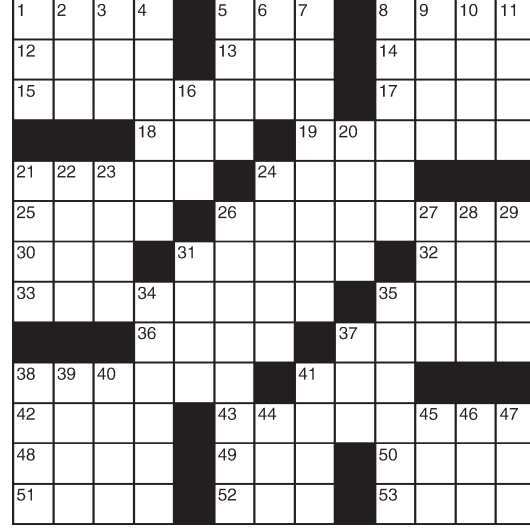
Crossword

ACROSS
 1 Frisbee, for one
 5 Past
 8 Impale
 12 Concept
 13 Jockey Turcotte
 14 Pack animal
 15 Disadvantage
 17 Competent
 18 Alias abbr.
 19 Annoy repeatedly
 21 Giraffe's kin
 24 Chowderhead
 25 It ain't worth a nickel
 26 Chat locale
 30 Have debts
 31 Heard reveille
 32 Drunkard
 33 Best seats in the house, maybe
 35 Unsigned (Abbr.)
 36 Bush cabinet member

DOWN
 1 Accomplished
 2 Altar affirmative
 3 Do mending
 4 Hors d'oeuvre
 5 Met melody
 6 Pantheon member
 7 Small, as some towns or sleighs
 8 Intelligence (Sl.)
 9 Brass instrument
 10 Shakespeare title start
 11 Honey bunch?
 16 Schuss
 20 Sheltered
 21 Stench
 22 Fuzzy fruit

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 6-20



6-20

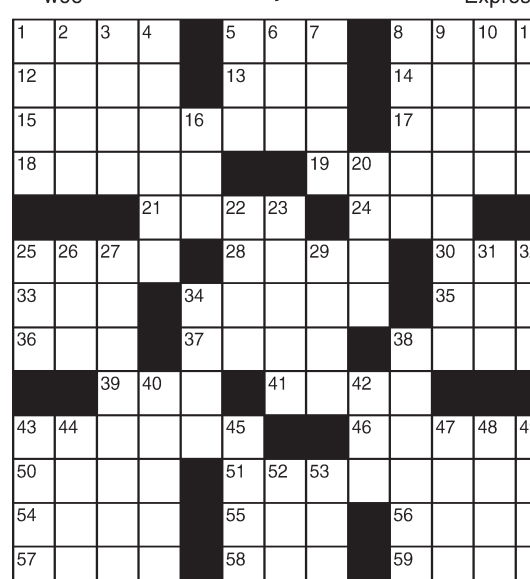
ACROSS
 1 PBS science series
 5 Where Goldilocks was found
 8 Masticate
 12 Send forth
 13 Man-mouse link
 14 Tra trailer
 15 Tom Hanks movie
 17 Persisting
 18 Prepare to pray
 19 "Who cares?"
 21 Bridge coup
 24 "My home, sweet home"
 25 Equitable
 28 Alger's "before"
 30 Method
 33 Sternward
 34 Permissible
 35 Noshed
 36 Cattle call
 37 "Oh, woe"

DOWN
 1 Guitars part
 2 Muscat's country
 3 Workbench attachment
 4 Bear witness
 5 Violin player's need
 6 Historic time
 7 "— of Our Lives"
 8 Talons
 9 Shakespearian in-law
 10 Director Kazan
 11 Bulb measure

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 6-21

DISC AGO STAB
 IDEAS RON MULE
 DOWNSIDE ABLE
 AKA HARASS
 OKAPI DOLT
 DIME FIRESIDE
 OWE AROSE SOT
 RINGSIDE ANON
 RICE ULTRA
 DIGEST BRA
 ASIA IRONSIDE
 TOSS OAT KNOT
 ANTE NTH ANNA



Family Circus • Bill Keane



Bridge

West dealer.
 North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
 ♠ 8 4 2
 ♥ —
 ♦ AK 9 7 5 4 2
 ♣ AQ 6

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

EAST
 ♠ 10 9 7 3
 ♥ 6
 ♦ J 8 6 3
 ♣ 9 7 5 2

SOUTH
 ♠ AK Q J 5
 ♥ A 8 7 5 4 3 2
 ♦ —
 ♣ 4

The bidding:
West 1♥
North 2♦
East Pass
South 2♠
 3♣
 Pass
 5♣
 Pass
 Pass
 Pass
 Opening lead — king of hearts.

South Does It With Finesse

On some deals declarer's chances of making the contract might seem quite poor, but many of these can be salvaged by perseverance and a modicum of good luck. Take this case where West led a heart against six spades. Given the bidding, declarer realized he could not rely on heart ruffs in dummy to take care of his heart losers, since East would be able to overruff at will. South therefore decided to focus all his efforts on establishing dummy's diamonds. He realized a 3-3 diamond division was unlikely, but he formulated a plan to cope with the expected 4-2 break. Accordingly, declarer ruffed the opening heart lead with dummy's eight and trumped a low diamond at trick two. He then drew four rounds of trumps, discarding a club and a diamond from dummy, after which he finessed the queen of clubs! This seemingly unnecessary finesse was almost sure to succeed — West could scarcely have opened the bidding without the king of clubs — but in any case it was an essential step designed to guard against an uneven diamond division. After winning the club finesse, South cashed the A-K of diamonds, West turning up, as expected, with a doubleton. Declarer then led a fourth round of diamonds to establish the suit, and after winning with the jack, East was forced to return a club to dummy's lone ace. Declarer thus lost only a diamond trick, and his six heart losers proved to be a nonfactor. In effect, South made dummy the master hand, which is what a declarer must do when he doesn't know what in the world to do with all the losers in his own hand. Tomorrow: Little strokes fell great oaks. (c)2006 King Features Syndicate Inc.

East dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ J 9 4
 ♥ Q 6
 ♦ 8 6 5 3
 ♣ K 7 5 2

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

EAST
 ♠ K 8 7 6
 ♥ K 5 2
 ♦ Q 9 4
 ♣ 10 8 3

SOUTH
 ♠ A Q 10 3
 ♥ A 8 4
 ♦ A K 10
 ♣ A 9 6

The bidding:
East Pass
South 2 NT
West Pass
North 3 NT
 Opening lead — jack of hearts.

Little Strokes Fell Great Oaks

Most mistakes at the bridge table are of a relatively simple sort. This is not surprising when you consider that the number of easy deals that arise in the ordinary course of events far exceeds the number of difficult ones. Take this case, for example. Superficially, there seems to be no good reason for South to go wrong. But even thoroughly experienced players might overlook the delicate but important point involved. West leads the jack of hearts against three notrump. Declarer covers with the queen, hoping West has the king, but East produces the monarch. South ducks the king and also the heart continuation, and is forced to win the next heart with the ace. Since it is impossible to win nine tricks without utilizing his spades, declarer crosses to dummy with a club to take a spade finesse. That brings declarer to the critical point of the deal, though he might not realize this until it's too late. If he leads the jack of spades to take the finesse, he goes down against best defense, even though the finesse wins. East and South follow low, and the jack holds the trick. When declarer repeats the finesse, he is forced to win in his own hand and can no longer capture East's king. South can cash eight tricks, but eventually finishes down one. Declarer's error came when he led the jack of spades from dummy first rather than the nine. The nine lead permits three spade finesses through East, while the jack lead permits only two. This seemingly insignificant choice makes all the difference between making the contract and going down.

