

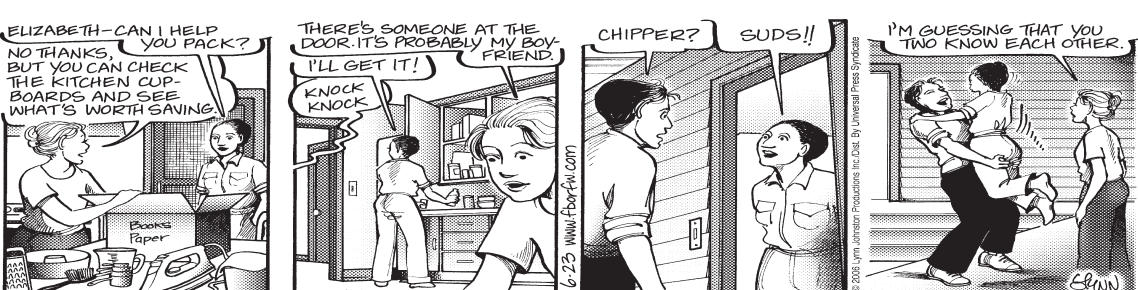
Retail • Norm Feuti (Sample)



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott (Sample)



For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Garfield • Jim Davis



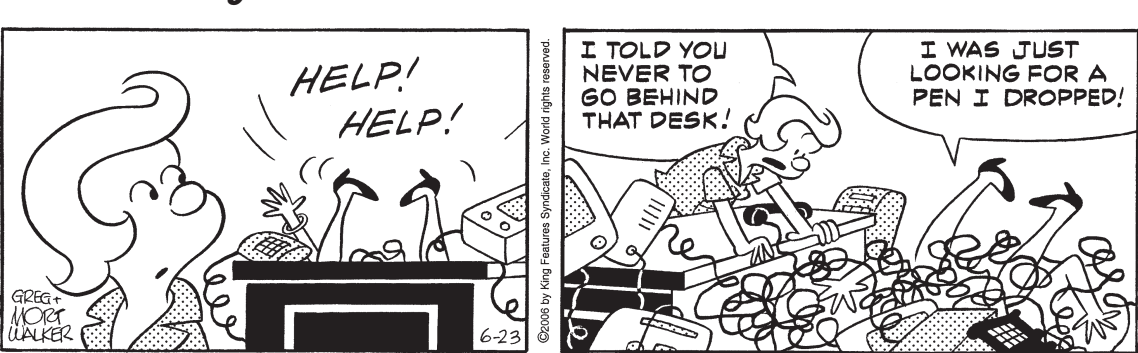
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



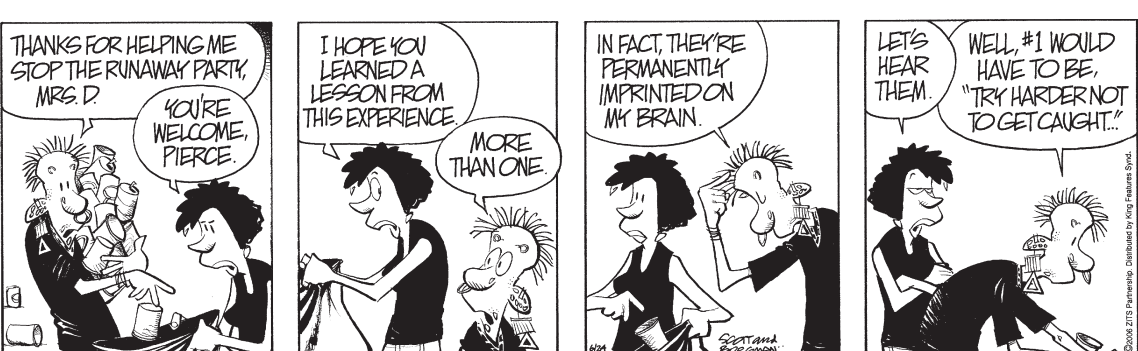
Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Cryptoquip

QC G VHGM DHY DGZZHWHI M YQOVV U XMPK ULCQA UF
 VB AB JH GAA DHY MFUDDOVV MLPO KCQFAUMF
 J V X I H W V J , B W H M B X A I DBUMF VBCQPE LO DUPPOE
 MGAA DHY IH-MAGJJ-QCQHI. "U JMEYO ACC XUJ."
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN THE PENGUIN WALKED INTO A NEIGHBORHOOD PUB, THE BARTENDER ASKED "SO WADDLE IT BE?"
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals L

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A TEACHER HAPPENED TO LOSE ALL HER STUDENTS, ONE COULD CALL HER DE-CLASS-IFIED.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals O

Crossword

ACROSS

1 Loses color
 6 Bribe
 9 Figure head? (Abbr.)
 12 Hebrew letter
 13 Eventual ayes
 14 Cock and bull?
 15 Prove untrue
 16 Handel masterpiece
 18 "The — Cometh"
 20 Never again?
 21 Puncturing tool
 23 D.C. VIP
 24 Highland hillsides
 25 Shir work
 27 Gun-powder ingredient
 29 Command
 31 Takes as one's own
 35 Goings-on at some clinics
 37 Worked at a loom
 38 Opening night

DOWN

1 Beatles adjective
 17 Sadness
 19 Calendar page
 21 Priestly vestment
 22 Reason to say "alas!"
 24 Founda-tion
 26 Instru-ment of punish-ment
 28 Verboten charges
 30 Collection
 32 "The Mikado" character
 33 1933 project abbr.
 34 Sun. subject
 36 Sagit-tarius
 38 Judges' state-ments
 39 Old anesthetic
 40 Dismal
 42 Cereal fungus
 45 Rescue
 46 Heart
 48 Savion Glover's genre
 50 Put away
 51 E

Solution time: 25 mins.

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER 6-23

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
					13				14		
		18		19					20		
21	22		23					24			
25			26		27		28				
29			30			31			32	33	34
			35		36				37		
38	39	40				41		42		43	
44				45				46			
47				48				49		50	51
52				53				54			
55				56				57			

Bridge — Bidding Quiz

You are South, both sides vulnerable. The bidding has gone:

West	North	East	South
1D	1H	2D	?

What would you bid with each of the following five hands?

- SAK983 H Q74 D 762 C J8
- SA107 H J5 D KQ9 C KQJ63
- S 10 H Q863 D A65 C AQJ83
- SAJ762 H KJ6 D — C KJ985
- S KJ8753 H 9 D J83 C 972

- Two hearts. The best way to show heart support, which you have, is by raising hearts. A two-spade bid (not forcing) would not suggest support for hearts, and there is no reason to assume that spades would be a better trump suit. Partner did not open the bidding — he merely overcalled, indicating a strong five-card or longer suit in a hand of frequently less than opening strength — and a two-spade bid could easily lead to the wrong contract.
- Three notrump. Partner must have values of some sort for his bid — whether in high cards, distribution or both. Game must be reached, whatever the nature of his hand.
- Although three notrump appears to be the right spot, partner might have other thoughts and retreat to four hearts — which your well-rounded hand can also support. The important point is that you can't bid only two notrump or three clubs, neither of which is forcing.
- Four hearts. If this hand doesn't yield at least 10 tricks, you'd better get yourself a new partner. An alternative choice is three diamonds, a cuebid, to indicate slam possibilities.
- Three diamonds. Here, also, you must get to game — and conceivably a slam — and the proper way of suggesting both possibilities is by a cuebid. Partner might cooperate by cuebidding in his own right to show interest in slam. If he merely bids three hearts, you carry on to four hearts.
- Pass. Here there is the real danger of a misfit, so the wisest thing to do is to pass. Two spades might work out well in a given case, but all too often it would lead to serious trouble.

If partner does not have spades, the opponents might begin doubling and collect a fat penalty. There is a fundamental rule that in misfit hands, you drop out of the picture as soon as possible. Here, that time is now.

Tomorrow: Putting all the clues together.
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ACROSS

1 Shroud city
 6 Mom of Jenna and Barbara
 11 Dawn
 12 Not all there?
 14 Library arrangements
 15 Trousers
 16 Charged bit
 17 Impertinent
 19 Carte lead-in
 20 Beat decisively
 22 "The 7 Faces of Dr. —"
 23 Mimic
 24 Mississippi quartet
 26 Stops
 28 High-arc shot
 30 URL part
 31 Typical Hitchcock movie
 35 Deride

39 Sharpen place
 40 Unruly bunch
 42 Ship's skeleton
 43 Will Ferrell movie
 44 Cashew-family shrub
 46 Confucian principle
 47 Hits hard
 49 Housing on Gilligan's Island
 51 Computer geek
 52 Money of Ecuador

53 Witness's place
 54 Acts the robot
 DOWN
 1 Instructors
 2 Far-out planet
 3 Sinbad's bird
 4 Annoys
 5 Twangy
 6 Caught a doggie
 7 With skill
 8 Home of the brave
 9 Summa-geek
 10 Short sock
 11 Remark to the house
 13 Autocrats
 18 Blue
 21 Ball VIP
 23 Gee, I may surround this member
 25 Scale
 27 "Mayday!"
 29 Per-plexed
 31 Treasure container
 32 "The Sign of Four" hero
 33 Actually
 34 Ukr. neighbor
 36 Vehement protest
 37 Chips
 38 Dentist's directive
 41 Low range
 44 Epidermis
 45 Fresh-water fish
 48 Half a dance
 50 Expert

Solution time: 27 mins.

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER 6-24

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

East dealer.

Both sides vulnerable.

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

WEST
 ♠ Q J 9 4 2
 ♥ 9 7 6 5 3
 ♦ 3 2
 ♣ 2

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

SOUTH
 ♠ 6
 ♥ A J 4
 ♦ K 7
 ♣ A J 10 9 7 6 4

The bidding:

East	South	West	North
3♦	4♣	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	7♣

Opening lead — three of diamonds.

Putting All the Clues Together

When you're declarer in a grand slam, you should naturally devote more time and energy to your prospects than when you're playing, say, a two-club contract. After all, the stakes are so much higher.

Take this case where South reached seven clubs after East had opened with three diamonds. West led a diamond, and declarer could count 12 top tricks, with the only possible loser a heart. Obviously, this loser could be avoided by taking a heart finesse in the right direction, and it was also obvious that if the spades were divided 4-3, dummy's fifth spade could be established as a trick — thus obviating a heart finesse.

Accordingly, South won the diamond lead with the king, cashed the A-K of clubs and ace of spades, then ruffed a spade. Next came a diamond to the ace and another spade ruff. Unfortunately, East showed out on the third round of spades, so guessing the location of the queen of hearts now became paramount.

As happens so often, declarer solved the problem by utilizing the information he had been able to gather during the bidding and play. He knew that East had started with seven diamonds, two clubs and two spades, and so had been dealt precisely two hearts.

Declarer therefore led a trump to the queen, ruffed the seven of spades and cashed his last trump, leaving himself with only the A-J-4 of hearts. West's last three cards at this point were known to be the queen of spades and two hearts, while dummy had the ten of spades and K-10 of hearts. Since East's last three cards were known to be two hearts and a diamond, it no longer mattered to South which defender actually held the queen of hearts.

He simply played the king and ace with the absolute assurance that the queen would fall, and the jack of hearts became his 13th trick.

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Family Circus • Bill Keane

