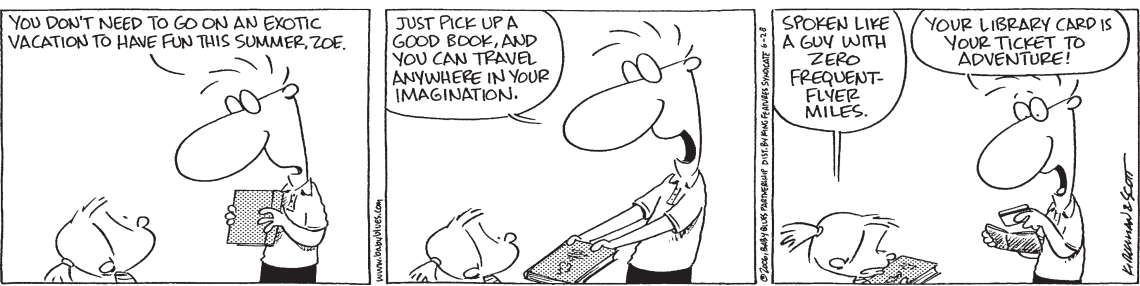


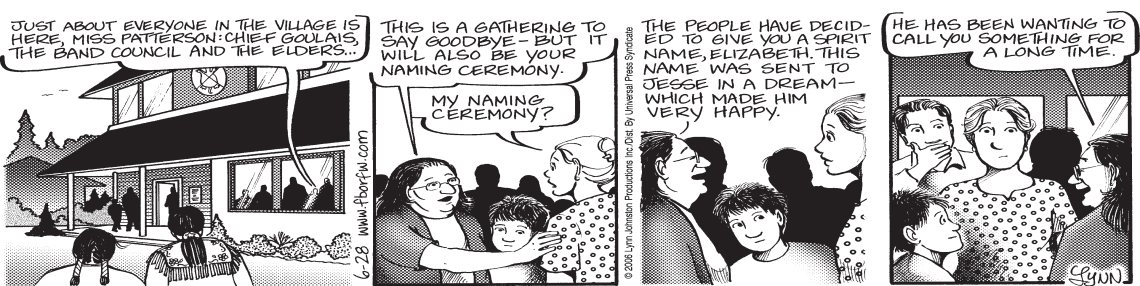
Retail • Norm Feuti (Sample)



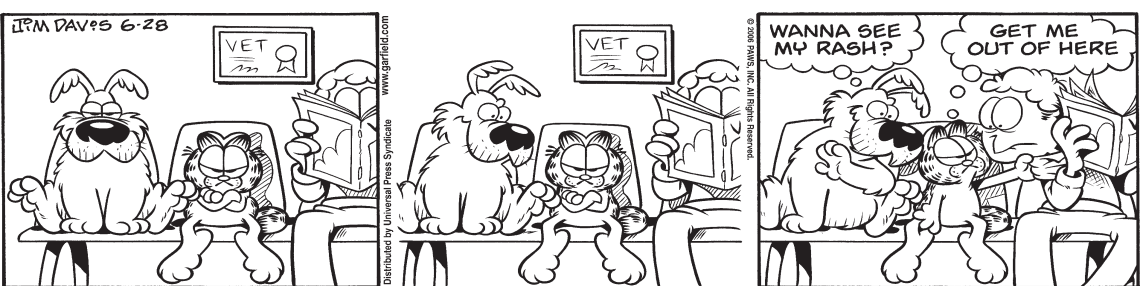
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott (Sample)



For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



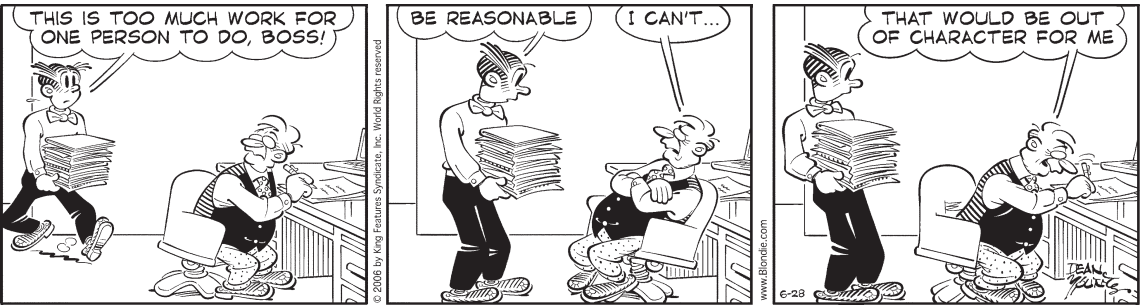
Garfield • Jim Davis



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

B SKP H Q N I Y R K R K Q O R Q
H Q E Q Z R Z Y Y R Z X O D F
M Q X E C P Z B C X B E E A S Y H Q N Y
D O Q M O B F Q I Y O C A Y - B - E Q P .
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AS AN AVIATOR
BECOMES AN ACE PILOT, I BELIEVE HE MIGHT
MOVE TO A HIGHER PLANE.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals T

P K S F Z ' C H X H B C Y T P M A
T P A T B M V D F L K F C G B G H C
N F L H D X , Y F Z D V S F Z
Q H B Q F Z M N S T Z M N H C ?
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: A BIG COMPETITION
TO COLOR TREE TRUNKS WOULD GRADUALLY
BECOME KNOWN AS OPEN DYE-A-LOG.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals R

Crossword

ACROSS
1 "Holy cow!"
5 Shadowy
8 Saucy
12 Neighbor-
hood
13 Sapporo
sash
14 Unoriginal
one
15 Let off
17 Carnival
attraction
18 Sprite
19 Irritate
20 Hatfield
foe
21 Corral
22 "Wha'dja
say?"
23 Oil of
roses
26 Order
30 Approach
31 Un-
hatched
shad
32 Pennsylv-
ania
port
33 Nave
access
35 Dead
ringer?
36 Disen-
cumber
37 Healthy

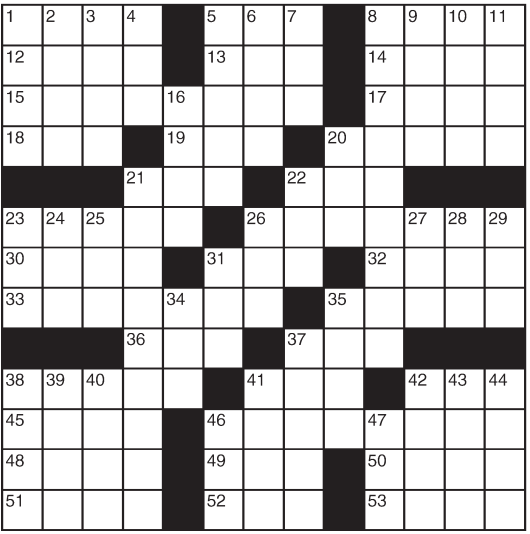
DOWN
38 Type of
card
41 Chic, to
Austin
Powers
42 Larry's
pal
45 Bygone,
to Burns
46 Root
vegeta-
bles
48 1960s
dance
49 — -tac-
toe
50 Weapon
of mouse
destruc-
tion
51 Raced
52 Pub
request
53 Sacro-
sanct
6 Mountain
goat
7 Central
8 Diploma
material
9 Grand
story
10 Take it
from the
top
11 Low card
16 Finished

20 The word?
21 Pear-tree
occupant
22 Do some
weeding
23 Raggedy
one
24 Afternoon
affair
25 Pitch
26 "Friends"
cast
member
27 Coexist
28 Zero
29 First St.
31 Crimson
34 Swat
35 "Bye Bye
Birdie"
song
37 Impel
38 Insane
39 Modern
money
40 Astigma-
tism effect
41 "You've
Got —"
42 Artist
Joan
43 October
birthstone
44 Catch
sight of
46 Sch. org.
47 To the —
degree

Solution time: 21 mins.

BAD OBIT MAGI
EXAM RUN AHAM
ALFA ELL RAMP
RETRO BASK
XIV WISDOM
GAMBLER STAGE
ALARM TAG HULA
STROP JEZEBEL
HOSTEL LOS
HALO OPERA
ISLE APT OMEN
SPUR MEN TIDE
MAGS ANT TOW

Yesterday's answer 6-27



ACROSS
1 Incite
5 "That's a
laugh!"
8 Beyond
control
12 Leeway
13 Katarina
Witt's
arena
14 Amahl's
night
visitors
15 April
bloom
17 Overdo at
the beach
18 Rate
19 Came
down in
buckets
21 Snitch
22 "Take —
Train"
23 Petrol
26 Roulette
bet
28 Bracelet
site
31 Vicinity
33 Pirates'
quaff
35 Abound
36 Schroe-
der's
prop
38 Dawn
goddess
40 Billboards

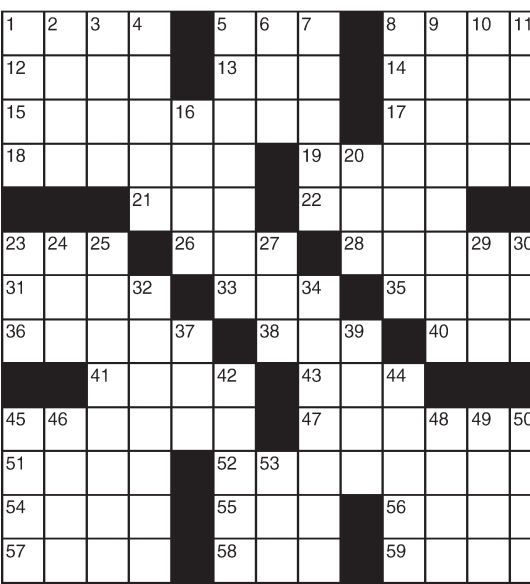
DOWN
1 Bear in
the air?
2 Tiers
3 Leaves
4 Eastern
potentate
5 With-it
sort
6 Expert
7 "Damn
Yankees"
song
8 Encom-
passing
9 Hawaiian
volcano
10 Shrek,
for one
11 Benevo-
lent
16 Autocrat
20 "Eureka!"

58 Strange
59 Meadows
23 Hiatus
24 Jackie's
second
mate
25 Seattle
squad
27 Payable
29 Started
30 Type
squares
32 Shrink
34 Papas's
"Z"
37 Tramcar
contents
39 Daytime
drama
42 Cookout
site
44 Play for
time
45 Leading
man
46 Celsius
equiva-
lent of 32
degrees
Fahren-
heit
48 Authentic
49 Lab
vessel
50 Deli
loaves
53 This
clue's
place,
aply

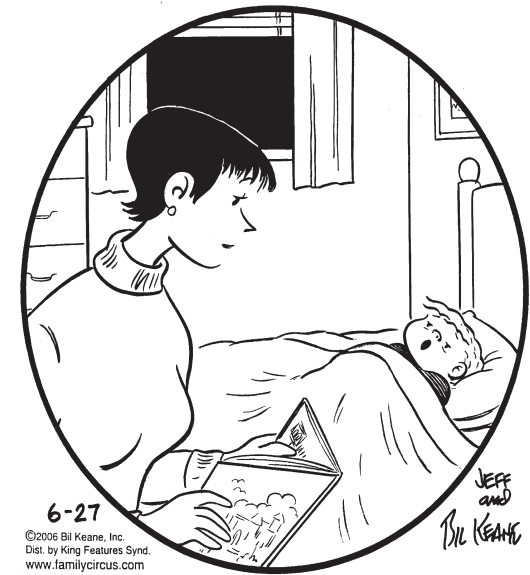
Solution time: 21 mins.

GOSH DIM PERT
AREA OBI APER
PARDONED RIDE
ELF VEX MCCOY
PEN HUH
ATTAR COMMAND
NEAR ROE ERIE
NARTHEX KNELL
RID FIT
DEBIT MOD MOE
AULD PARSNIPS
FRUG TIC TRAP
TORE ALE HOLY

Yesterday's answer 6-28



Family Circus • Bill Keane



6-27

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Bridge

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ A Q 6 5 2
♥ 4
♦ J 9 8 4
♣ 10 9 2
WEST
♠ J 9 3
♥ J 10 8 3 2
♦ K 10 5
♣ 8 6
EAST
♠ K 10 7 4
♥ 9 7 6 5
♦ 7 6 3 2
♣ 4
SOUTH
♠ 8
♥ A K Q
♦ A Q
♣ A K Q J 7 5 3

The bidding:
South 2 ♣
2 ♠
7 ♣
West Pass
Pass
Pass
North 2 ♠
5 ♦
East Pass
Pass
Pass
Opening lead — jack of hearts.

Maximizing Your Chances

Many hands offer declarer a choice of two or more lines of play. Declarer's job in these cases is to try to find the method of play most likely to win — in other words, the percentage play.

In considering his options, declarer should examine all the possibilities and not just the obvious ones. Unfortunately, the best line of play is often camouflaged by alternatives that are much easier to see.

For example, take this deal where South, encouraged by partner's positive response to his forcing two-bid, contracted for a grand slam and discovered he had a potential diamond loser. Making the slam seemed to depend on guessing whether to take a finesse in diamonds or in spades — each a 50 percent proposition. As can be seen, neither finesse would have worked as the cards lie.

But South saw a third option that offered a substantially better chance than either finesse — the possibility of establishing a spade trick in dummy by trumping spades in his own hand. Furthermore, he could pursue this possibility without relinquishing the 50 percent chance of relying on a finesse to bring the grand slam home. If the spades failed to divide favorably, he would still have the diamond finesse in reserve.

Accordingly, after winning the heart lead with the queen, declarer cashed the ace of spades and ruffed a spade high. Next he led a low trump to dummy's nine and ruffed another spade high. Then came a low trump to dummy's ten, which drew West's last trump and allowed South to ruff the fourth round of spades, felling East's king.

Declarer now ruffed the ace of hearts with dummy's deuce of trumps and discarded the diamond queen on dummy's spade queen to put the finishing touch on a well-played hand.

Tomorrow: Sylvia has trouble counting to 13.
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North dealer.
East-West vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ K Q 7 4
♥ A Q
♦ A Q 10 6 2
♣ 10 7
WEST
♠ J
♥ 10 9 6 5 3 2
♦ 9 7 5 4
♣ A 4
EAST
♠ A 10
♥ 7 4
♦ 8 3
♣ K J 8 6 5 3 2
SOUTH
♠ 9 8 6 5 3 2
♥ K J 8
♦ K J
♣ Q 9

The bidding:
North 1 ♦
4 ♠
East 2 ♣
South 2 ♠
West Pass
Opening lead — ace of clubs.

Sylvia Has Trouble Counting to 13

Most players at the club thought that Sylvia's absurd but largely successful tactics were just a matter of dumb luck. It's probably true that on most occasions her fantastic results were attributable to a kindly providence that somehow guarded her against disaster. Whatever the explanation, it cannot be denied that at times Sylvia achieved extraordinary heights that astounded and confounded the very best players in the club.

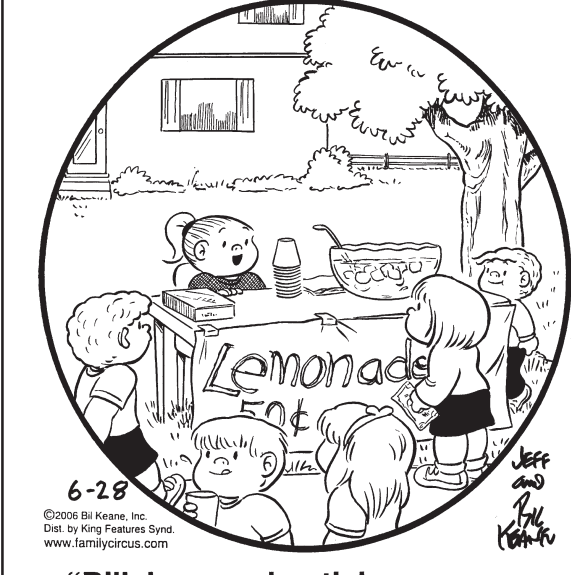
Consider this deal where Sylvia, shortly after learning the game, was playing rubber bridge with three of the club's most prominent members. She had no fear of any of them, which was a compliment these experts could hardly return.

Having become vulnerable on the preceding hand — following a series of hair-raising bids that left the table in a high state of agitation — Sylvia (East) overcalled one diamond with two clubs, undeterred by the unfavorable vulnerability and only eight points in high cards.

South bid two spades, was raised to four by North, and West led the ace and another club. Sylvia won with the king and then tried to cash the jack despite the fact that she was the only one with any clubs remaining. The term ruff-and-discard was not yet a part of her vocabulary in those days, nor, in fact, was she even aware that all 13 clubs were already accounted for.

Declarer discarded a diamond, and West, a punctilious soul, trumped with the jack, forcing dummy's queen. South then over took the queen of hearts with his king and led a spade, only to learn that he now had to lose two trump tricks. So South, a dentist by profession, was left to grind his own teeth.

Tomorrow: How to capture a knave.
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He's in the house blogging
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