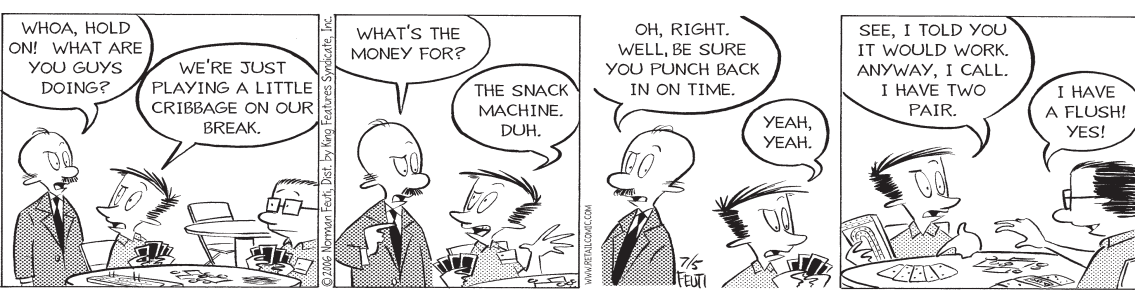
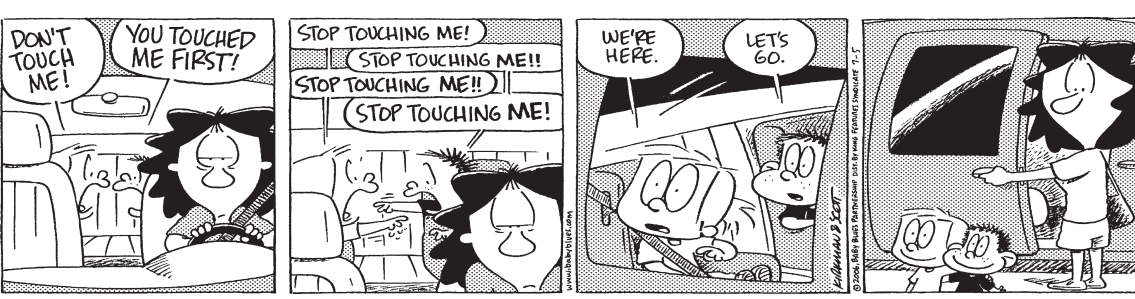


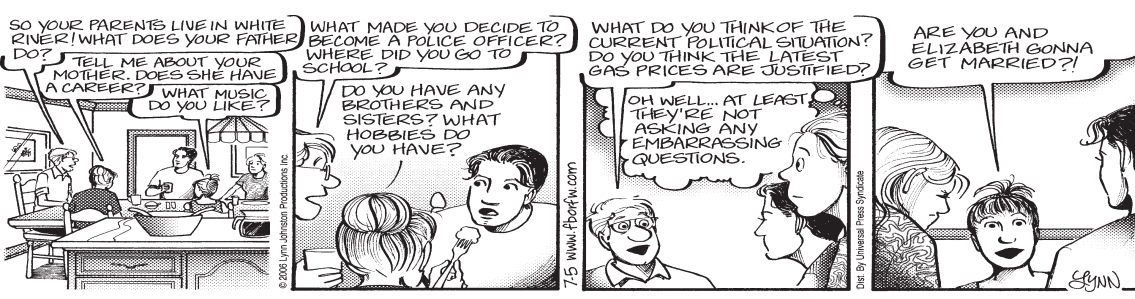
Retail • Norm Feuti (Sample)



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott (Sample)



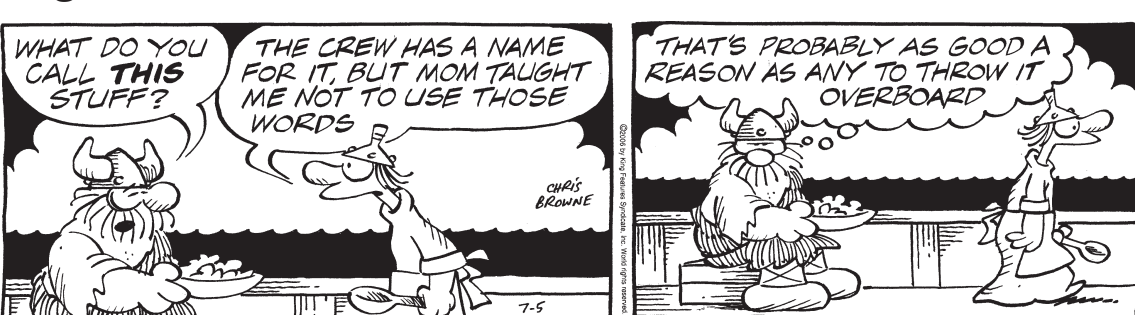
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Garfield • Jim Davis



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



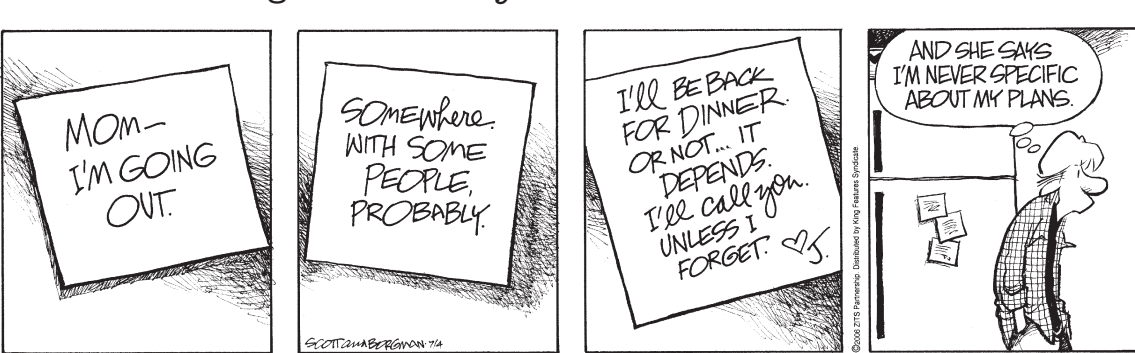
Blondie • Chic Young



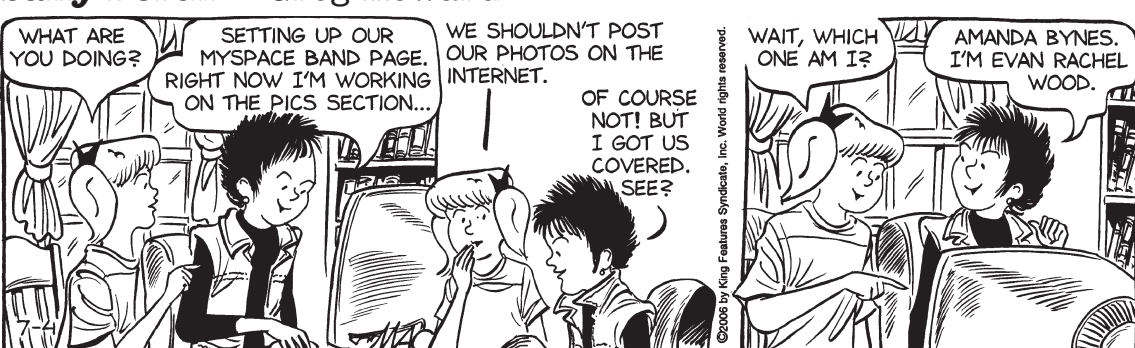
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

MERYMMEZNBW HBHCKKL LN ETQ'ZP IFZLHPS IT
 KUQN DKCBREY BHPNUFB. RPP RTKPTYP LY ETQZ
 RMNL'WN QNWL TEBDUBNT NVKLHE, L'S RVE IFVI'R
 RU PEQEPF SUKZB KESRB. ZPHVILTY PHVILTY.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF OSCARS WERE AWARDED FOR FARM-THEMED FILMS ONLY, MIGHT ONE CATEGORY BE BESTTRACTOR?
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals R

LN ETQ'ZP IFZLHPS IT
 RPP RTKPTYP LY ETQZ
 NVKLHE, L'S RVE IFVI'R
 PHVILTY.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: HITCHHIKERS USUALLY LOVE PLASTIC SURGEONS. THEY'RE VERY DISPOSED TO GIVING FOLKS LIFTS.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals T

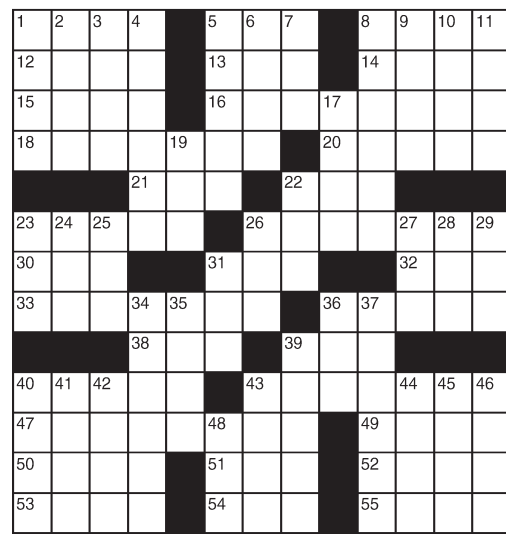
Crossword

- ACROSS**
 1 Foundry refuse
 5 Omega preceder
 8 Work-bench attachment
 12 Go down the runway
 13 Unhealthy
 14 Exam format
 15 Needing a tie-breaker
 16 One-sided contest
 18 Passage for pedestrians
 20 Elaine's last name on "Seinfeld"
 21 Petrol
 22 Woman
 23 Burr role
 26 Fall by the —
 30 Genetist's abbr.
 31 Enormous
 32 Barracks bed
 33 Revolver, e.g.
- DOWN**
 2 Volcanic outpouring
 3 Ice-skating leap
 4 — biloba
 5 Type measures
 6 Dispatch
 7 Sort
 8 "Wheel of Fortune" merchandise
 9 Boxer
 10 Post-Christmas event
 11 B.P.O.E. members
 17 Online auction site
 19 Pale
 22 Choke
 23 "— Doubtfire"
 24 Black cuckoo
 25 Blue
 26 Director
 27 Unfriendly
 28 Pal of Snow
 29 Ordinal suffix
 31 Companion, briefly
 34 Time for an egg roll?
 35 Eastern potentate
 36 Shriver of tennis
 37 Elf
 39 Box
 40 Bohemian
 41 Existed
 42 On the briny
 43 Plane-related
 44 Jeannie's port-trayer
 45 Fax
 46 Makes lace
 48 Scepter

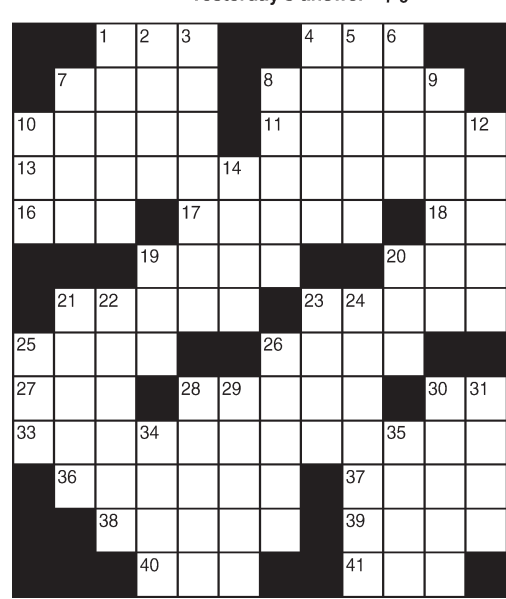
Solution time: 21 mins.

G	O	B	S	D	O	S	C	H	A	D
A	B	U	T	I	D	O	H	A	L	E
S	I	L	L	O	C	D	P	L	A	I
P	T	B	O	A	T	H	E	I	F	E
A	B	S	E	N	T	I	A	E	V	I
D	O	H	T	O	R	C	H	E	R	A
S	P	E	C	I	R	E	Q	U	I	R
S	O	I	R	E	E	D	U	E	T	
S	O	I	R	E	E	I	D	C	A	R
T	V	D	I	N	N	E	R	H	I	Y
Y	E	A	S	I	V	E	E	D	E	N
E	R	N	E	D	A	D	S	A	S	S

Yesterday's answer 7-4



- ACROSS**
 1 Beetle Bailey's sack
 4 "— Miniver"
 7 Roses, earlier
 8 — Falls, S.D.
 10 Eagle's nest
 11 Open a package
 13 Type-setting apprentice
 16 Id counter-part
 17 Smooth to the touch
 18 Lemieux milieu
 19 Quite
 20 Vegan's no-no
 21 Costume
 23 Growls
- DOWN**
 1 Unusual item
 2 Valhalla
 3 Dangerous flies
 4 Capital of Belarus
 5 Boisterous
 6 Fool-proof
 7 Titanic downfall?
 8 Menacing
 9 Band-leader
 10 Mimic
 12 Text measures
 14 Green acres?
 15 Allow
 19 Compete
 20 Chart
 21 Cluster
 22 Not alert
 23 Continue
 24 Famous
 25 Work unit
 26 Elegance
 28 Decorate
 29 Raises
 30 Malarial symptoms
 31 Hide-aways
 32 In need of repair
 34 Libertine
 35 Yuletide refrain
- Solution time: 21 mins.**
- | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | L | A | G | P | S | I | V | I | S | E |
| T | A | X | I | L | L | O | R | A | L | |
| E | V | E | N | C | A | K | E | W | A | L |
| W | A | L | K | W | A | Y | B | E | N | E |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| M | A | S | O | N | W | A | Y | S | I | D |
| R | N | A | B | I | G | C | O | T | | |
| S | I | D | E | A | R | M | P | S | Y | C |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| A | W | A | S | H | A | R | M | R | E | S |
| R | E | S | T | A | R | E | A | I | D | E |
| T | R | E | E | O | R | T | T | E | N | T |
| Y | E | A | R | D | O | E | E | N | D | S |
- Yesterday's answer 7-5



Bridge

North dealer.
 Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ K J 7 5
 ♥ A
 ♦ A Q 8 3
 ♣ Q 10 9 4

WEST
 ♠ 9
 ♥ J 8 7 4 2
 ♦ 10 9 6
 ♣ A K 7 2

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

SOUTH
 ♠ A 8 6 3 2
 ♥ K 9 5
 ♦ 7 4
 ♣ J 6 5

The bidding:
 North 1♦ East Pass South 1♠ West Pass
 3♠ Pass 4♠
 Opening lead — king of clubs.

Sorry, Wrong Number

Signaling is the most usual method by which defenders communicate with each other during the play. Correctly transmitted, the messages conveyed help the defenders decide when to stop, start or continue playing a suit. Signals are not given automatically, however. Instead, a defender should first assess all the pertinent aspects of a deal before deciding which strategy offers the best chance of attaining the desired goal — defeat of the contract.

Consider this case, for example. West led the club king and, after receiving the encouraging eight from partner, continued with the ace and another club. East ruffed, but that was the end of the line for the defense. Declarer won East's heart return, drew trumps and discarded his diamond loser on the club queen to finish with 10 tricks.

East's defense left something to be desired. He should not have signaled for a club continuation by playing the eight at trick one, even though one usually does that to indicate a doubleton. He should have realized that it was more important to suggest a diamond shift than to get a club ruff since he already had a guaranteed trump trick that did not require a club ruff to ensure it.

East therefore should have played the club three at trick one to discourage partner from continuing the suit. Forced to direct his attention elsewhere, West presumably would have found the killing diamond shift, since that was the only suit that offered any real hope of defeating the contract.

South could not have prevailed against this defense. Whether he elected to finesse the queen of diamonds or not, the defenders sooner or later would have scored four tricks — two clubs, a diamond and a trump — before declarer could come to 10.

Tomorrow: The best-laid plans may go awry.
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South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

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

WEST
 ♠ J 10 8
 ♥ J 7 5
 ♦ 8
 ♣ K J 10 5 3 2

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

SOUTH
 ♠ K 7
 ♥ A 8 3
 ♦ A Q 9 6 2
 ♣ A Q 8

The bidding:
 South 1♦ West Pass North 3♦ East Pass
 6♦
 Opening lead — jack of spades.

The Best-Laid Plans May Go Awry

Declarer should not be satisfied with adopting a promising line of play when there might be a better approach available. Any move that increases his chances of making the contract without risking it is a step in the right direction.

Take this case where West led a spade against six diamonds. South could see at once that his only potential losers were two clubs. But rather than pin his hopes solely on a successful finesse — an even-money shot — South resolved to augment his chances by attempting an endplay.

Accordingly, he took the spade with the king, drew trumps, cashed the ace of spades and ruffed a spade. He then played the K-A of hearts and ruffed the eighth in dummy.

This series of plays eliminated all the spades and hearts from the North-South hands. With the lead now in dummy, the plan was to lead a club and, if East followed low, insert the eight. This would assure the slam regardless of where the king was located, since with West on lead any return was certain to hand South the rest of the tricks.

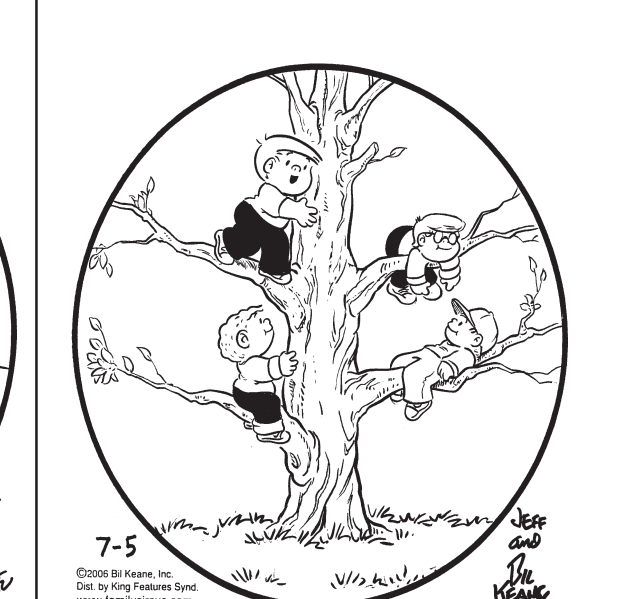
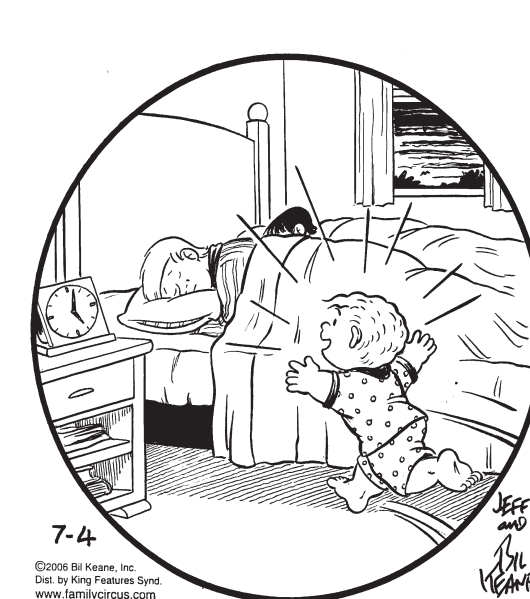
But even the best-laid plans have been known to go awry, and East upset the apple cart when he produced the nine on the first club.

However, declarer had one more string to his bow. There was no need to finesse at the moment, he reasoned, since the club finesse was still available if it became necessary.

He therefore ducked the nine — on the off chance that it might be a singleton — and it was this final flourish that did his opponents in. It did not matter whether East or West won the trick; either way the slam was in the bag.

Tomorrow: The battle for survival.
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7-4
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