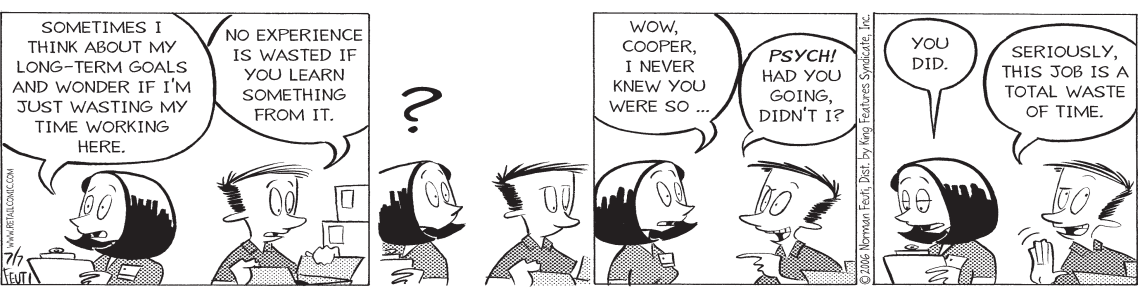
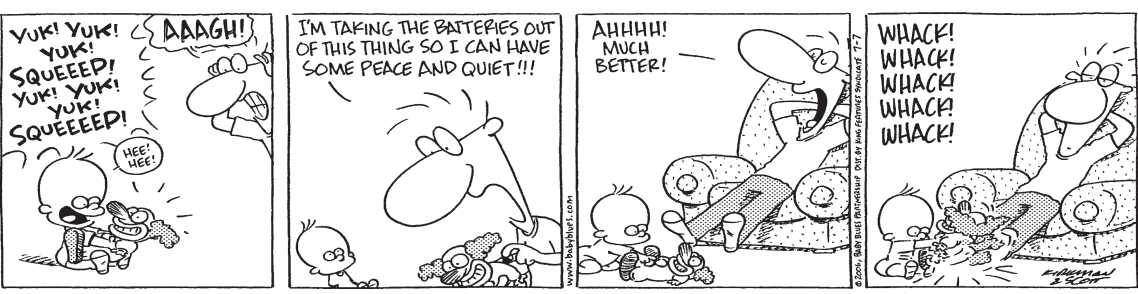


Retail • Norm Feuti (Sample)



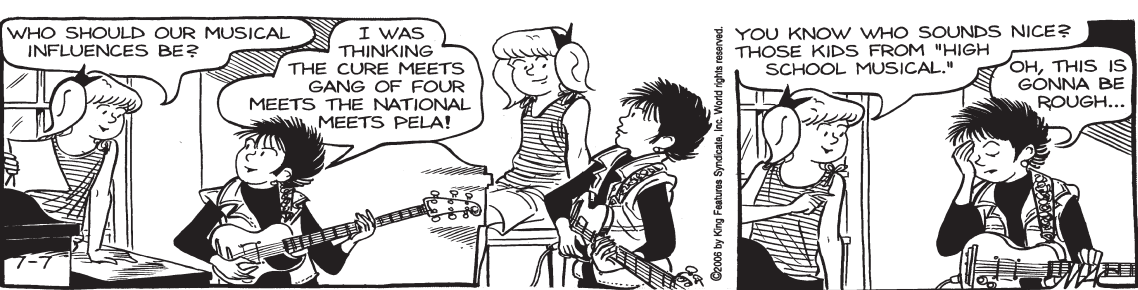
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott (Sample)



For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



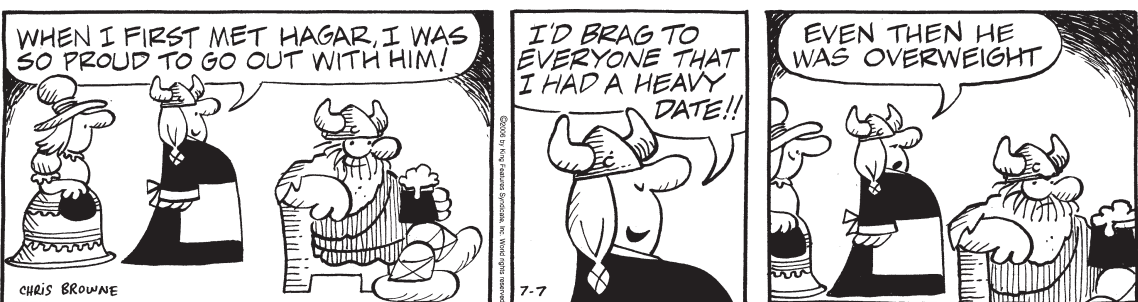
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Garfield • Jim Davis



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Cryptoquip

POJA NDQAQ QLEWS RE V YRYJRZVJ FKTFPQU
 IYOZSYN DQOJ FQDZ TKSQKQS ITNQ JVN RBVUQS
 FQDDVOUX HWDHJY PDWOS: FJVIURZ, RI UPVU

“SIY XDQHY SDQOU DELLYDV.”
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SHE LIKES WORKING IN AUTO SALES SO MUCH THAT SHE WANTS TO CHANGE HER NAME TO LISA CARR.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals P

ETKNRZV ETK NRZVP?
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: FILM DRAMA ABOUT HEISTED RAIL CARS CARRYING PURPLE FRUIT: “THE GRAPE TRAIN ROBBERY.”
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals F

Crossword

ACROSS
 1 Guitarist Montgomery
 4 Greek consonant
 8 Renders turbid
 12 “The Greatest”
 13 Rainbow
 14 On
 15 Companion
 17 Tat preceder
 18 Pt. of CEO
 19 Different
 20 Pad-locked fasteners
 22 Express mail carrier?
 24 Reverberate
 25 Change for the worse
 29 Pi follower
 30 Nibbles
 31 Rage
 32 Baffle
 34 Concept
 35 Prophet

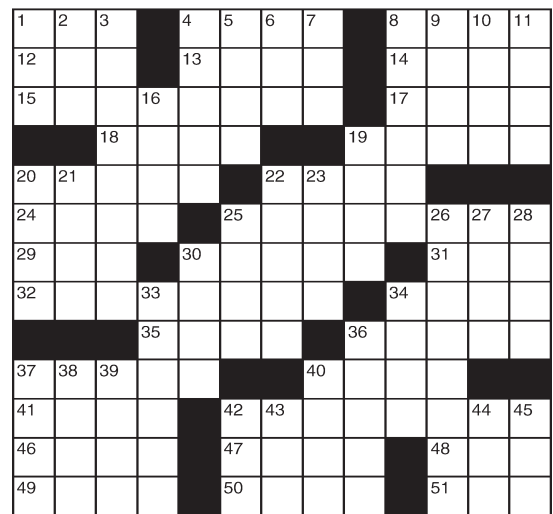
DOWN
 1 Existed
 2 Inventor
 3 Carnival attraction
 4 Tour de France equipment
 5 Idle or Ambler
 6 Spasm
 7 Request
 8 Constant sufferer
 9 Hexagonal state
 10 Grandparents often do it
 11 Sail support
 16 Public show

19 Individuals
20 KFC additive
21 Rue the run
22 Gate-keeper on high
23 Completed
25 Astronaut Sally
26 Put out of action
27 Vicinity
28 Fat-free
30 Lost intentionally
33 Weather-map line
34 Frosted
36 Not just chubby
37 Sleeping
38 Portrayal
39 Post-bath garb
40 Big bothers
42 Seek restitution
43 Conditions
44 Vast expanse
45 Stolen

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 7-7



ACROSS
 1 Devil's work
 5 Confront
 9 Biz deg.
 12 Isinglass
 13 Evangelist Roberts
 14 Shade provider
 15 Part of the loop
 16 Shaving mishap
 17 Sticky stuff
 18 Tear in two
 19 Not dis?
 20 Pool-table accessory
 21 Baton Rouge sch.
 23 Neighbor of Arg.
 25 Greet
 28 Lustrous furs
 32 Pueblo material
 33 “Angè-lique” composer
 34 Show unsteadiness

DOWN
 1 Dubai bigwig
 2 Tarzan's transport
 3 PC picture
 4 No sailor, he
 5 Dipping dish
 6 Met melody
 7 Desert plant
 8 Wapiti (Pref.)
 9 Grand-scale
 10 United nations
 11 Uncontrolled
 20 Office holder?

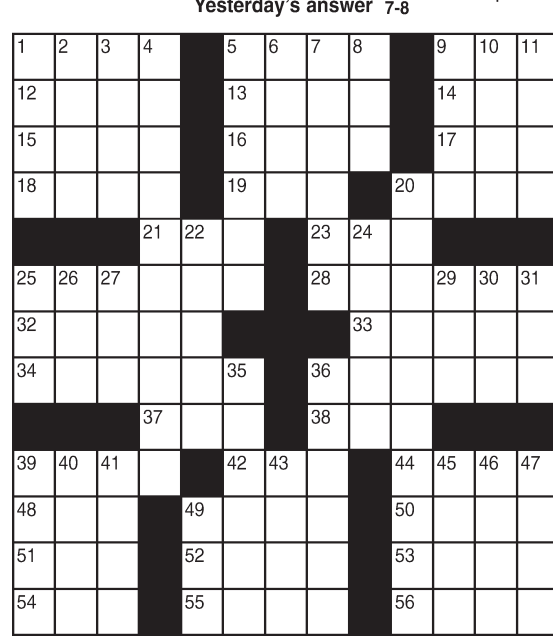
36 Apprehensive
37 Slithery one
38 U.A.R. component
39 1984, e.g.
42 “—been had!”
44 Tree covering
48 Spring mo.
49 “Yeah, right”
50 Largest of the seven
51 Profit
52 Grand
53 “Swell!”
54 Crucial
55 Shoppers' mecca
56 Valley

22 Com-memorative pillar
24 Inclement
25 2004 horror movie
26 —Annie of “Oklahoma!”
27 High-arc shot
29 Meadow
30 Stammerer's sounds
31 Pigs' digs
35 Biblical prophet
36 Handy
39 Tug
41 Duel tool
43 String instrument
45 Not in port
46 100 dinars
47 Winslet or Beckinsale
49 \$ dispenser

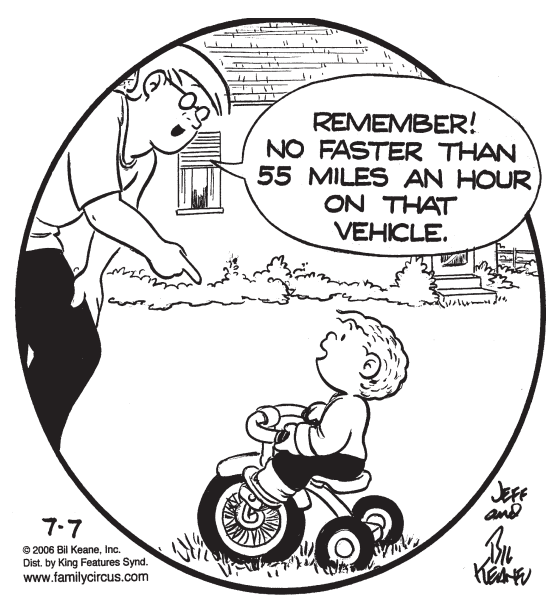
Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 7-8



Family Circus • Bill Keane



“But in the house there's no speed limit. Right, Daddy?”

Bridge — Test Your Play

1. You are declarer with the West hand at Four Spades, and North leads the queen of diamonds. How would you play the hand?
 WEST
 [S] A K J 7 3
 [H] 8 4 2
 [D] 8 5
 [C] A K 9
 EAST
 [S] Q 10 8 6 2
 [H] A Q 10 5
 [D] K 3
 [C] 7 4

2. You are declarer with the West hand at Three Notrump, and North leads the seven of hearts. How would you play the hand?
 WEST
 [S] A J 9 6
 [H] J 9 3
 [D] A 9 7
 [C] A K 8
 EAST
 [S] Q 10 5
 [H] A 6 4
 [D] K 5 4 3
 [C] Q 9 2

1. Superficially, it might seem to make no difference whether you cover the diamond with the king or not. But to make sure of the contract, it is better to duck the queen.

It is certainly reasonable to assume that South has the ace, and once this is granted, the contract is cold if you let North's queen hold. The objection to the king play is that South will win with the ace and return a diamond, permitting North to shift to a heart. If it then turns out that South has both the king and the jack of hearts, you will eventually lose two hearts and two diamonds and go down one.

But if you duck the diamond, you are safe against any attack. If North continues the suit, you win any return by South, play the A-K of clubs and ruff a club in dummy, draw trumps, then lead a heart to the ten. Even if South wins with the jack, you score the rest of the tricks against any return.

If North shifts to a heart at trick two, you rise with the ace, draw trumps, play A-K and ruff a club, then lead the king of diamonds. South wins with the ace, but whatever he returns you are home. Your only losers are two diamonds and a heart.

2. The only threat to the contract is if North has the king of spades and more than four hearts, since with any other distribution, you can't lose more than four tricks after trying the spade finesse. You start by assuming that North's seven is his fourth-best heart, which means he may have led from either K-Q-8-7-x, K-10-8-7-x or Q-10-8-7-x. (With K-Q-10-7-x, he presumably would have led the king.)

The best way of dealing with these three possibilities is to go up with the ace at trick one. This approach fails in the first case, but succeeds in the next two cases (even if the spade finesse loses) by blocking the defenders' hearts whenever South started with the K-x or Q-x. Ducking the opening heart lead in these two cases allows South to win and return a heart, unblocking the suit and defeating the contract if North has the king of spades.

South dealer.
 Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ A 3
 ♥ K 9 4 3
 ♦ A 6 2
 ♣ A 9 5 2

WEST
 ♠ 8 6
 ♥ J 10 7 6
 ♦ Q 4
 ♣ Q J 7 6 4

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

SOUTH
 ♠ K J 10 9 7 5 2
 ♥ A 2
 ♦ J 9 8
 ♣ 10

The bidding:
 South West North East
 4 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ All Pass
 Opening lead — six of hearts.

You Can Get There From Here

It isn't easy to make six spades on this deal, but it can be done and, in fact, was done when Dick Cummings, Australian star, played the hand.

He won the heart lead with the ace, played a club to the ace, ruffed a club, played a trump to the ace and ruffed another club. All these seemingly aimless measures set the stage for the winning end position later on.

After cashing the king of trumps and catching East's queen, Cummings played the jack of trumps to produce this six-card position:

North
 [H] K 9 4
 [D] A 6
 [C] 9
 West
 [H] J 10 7
 [D] Q 4
 [C] Q
 East
 [H] 8 5
 [D] K 10 7 5
 South
 [S] 10 9
 [H] 2
 [D] J 9 8

When Cummings continued with the ten of spades, West had a difficult problem. He couldn't spare a club, which would make dummy's nine a trick, so he had to discard a heart or a diamond.

Recognizing that a heart discard would allow declarer to play a heart to the king and ruff a heart to establish the nine as a trick, West parted with a diamond — fervently hoping East had the K-J of diamonds.

East had good diamonds, but they weren't quite good enough. Cummings led the eight of diamonds to the ace, picking up the queen along the way, and returned a diamond toward his J-9. East won with the king, but that was the only trick the defenders could get.