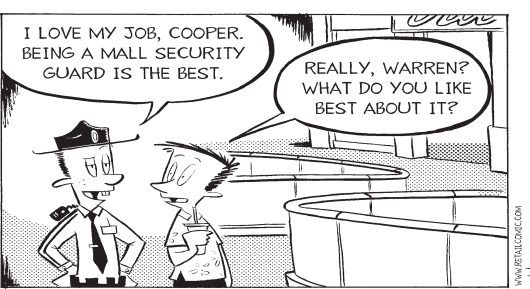
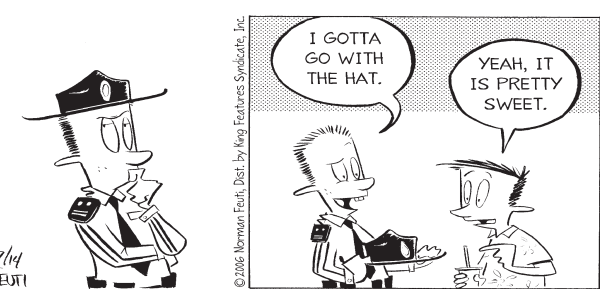


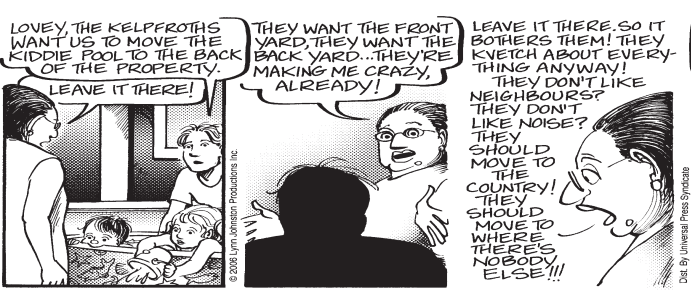
Retail • Norm Feuti (Sample)



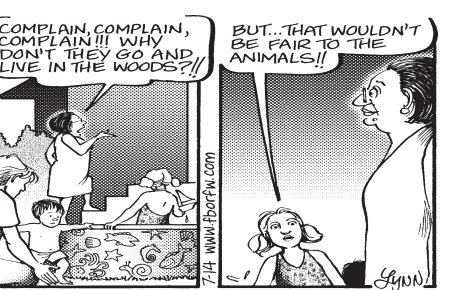
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott (Sample)



For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



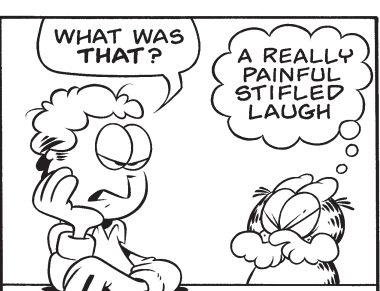
Garfield • Jim Davis



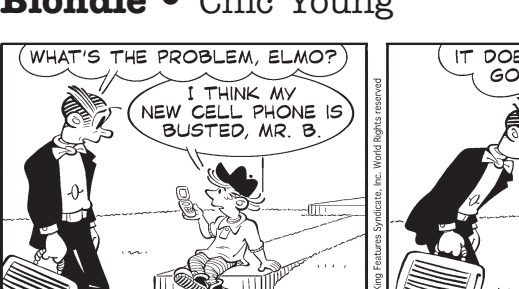
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



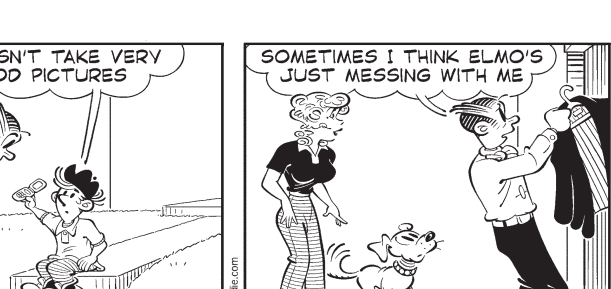
Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Cryptoquip

OKZF VSUHRGF SDZFLZ RBITRZ PXZ FQDFRFSYZ
 ESLFTKZR S YHI TSVNSHIF, GHQ XHN RTGZ AXFYNUZQ.
 HRLNNGRZ HQ OHEE YZ MXHP MTBYN XZ XHDZ
 S IAZSQ SU DZFQLAZ. SZATGZ, H PUHQRIHUZQP?
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU ARE STRUCK WHEN MADISON
 BY SOME MIFFED TORTOISES, I SUPPOSE THOSE AVENUE LAUNCHES A BIG CAMPAIGN, I
 WOULD BE TURTLE WHACKS. SUPPOSE IT WILL BE A GREAT AD VENTURE.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals L Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals T

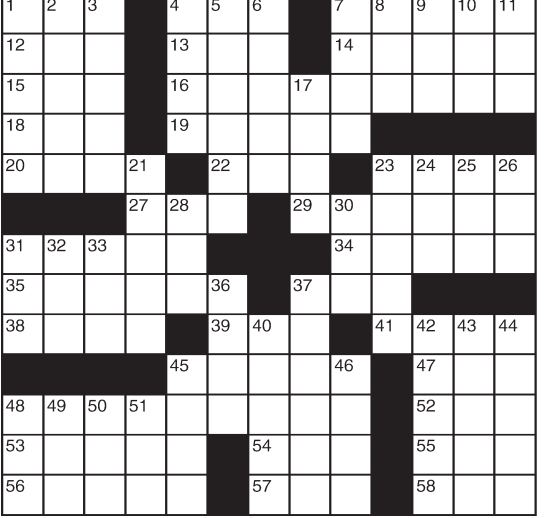
Crossword

- ACROSS**
 1 Scott Joplin's genre
 4 Kids' card game
 7 Cut into cubes
 12 Blunder
 13 Prior to
 14 Poet's muse
 15 Grazing area
 16 Certain seat
 18 Those holding office
 19 Characteristic
 20 Upper-case
 22 Additionally
 23 Float gently
 27 Grimalkin
 29 Bad odor
 31 Pursuing
 34 Recoil
 35 Plumber's tool
 37 Neither partner
 38 Occupation
- DOWN**
 1 Archaeologist's find
 2 Where the action is
 3 Clutch
 4 Cried (Abbr.)
 5 Ark landing site
 6 Showed again
 7 Over-spender's problem
 8 Indignation
 9 Has the where-withal
 10 List-end abbr.
 11 Play — "Bye Bye Birdie" song
 21 Public tantrum
 23 Bizarre
 24 Massachusetts cape
 25 Media overseer (Abbr.)
 26 Article in News-week?
 28 Joan of —
 30 Pair
 31 Puncturing tool
 32 Calendar abbr.
 33 X rating?
 36 Possess
 37 Sarge, for one
 40 Thick
 42 Open-mouthed
 43 Remove a corsage
 44 Ashtray remnants
 45 Vortex
 46 So
 48 Garfield's owner
 49 Spoon-bender Geller
 50 Hideaway
 51 Fleming or McKellen

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 7-14

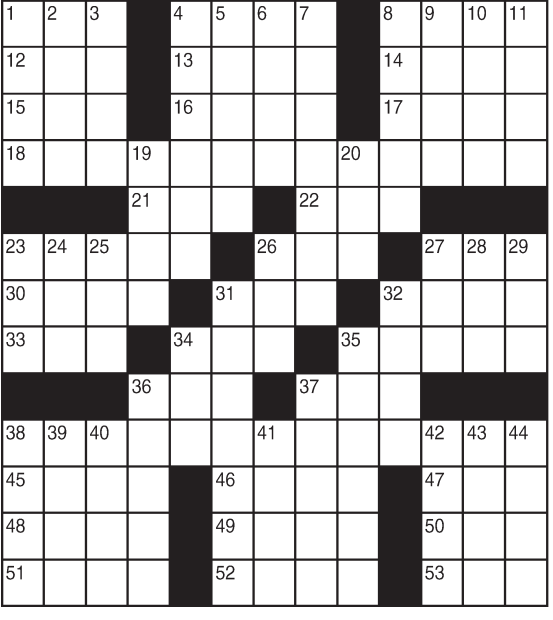


- ACROSS**
 1 Sternward
 4 Thick chunk
 8 Legal wrong
 12 Spell-down
 13 Sit for the photographer
 14 — Dei
 15 Relief
 16 Laugh-a-minute
 17 Arp's genre
 18 One-time Boston Pops
 21 "A Chorus Line" song
 22 Could possibly
 23 Confuse
 26 Still
 27 Prune
 30 Uncontrollable
 31 Existed
 32 Determination
- DOWN**
 1 "Mamma Mia" quartet
 2 Phobia
 3 Criterion
 4 Leapt
 5 French river
 6 Since
 7 Early
 8 Rum
 9 October
 10 Discourteous
 11 Autocrat
 19 Pan foe
 20 Cause corrosion
 23 Serenade the moon
 24 Flightless bird
 25 Dandy
 26 Shrill bark
 27 Cover
 28 Outmoded
 29 Thickness
 31 Dis-traught
 32 Ban-shee's cry
 34 West of Hollywood
 35 Make
 36 Chopin piece
 37 Belong
 38 Silent one
 39 Mark's replacement?
 40 Apprehend
 41 Sly
 42 Campus VIP
 43 Bridge position
 44 Waste no time

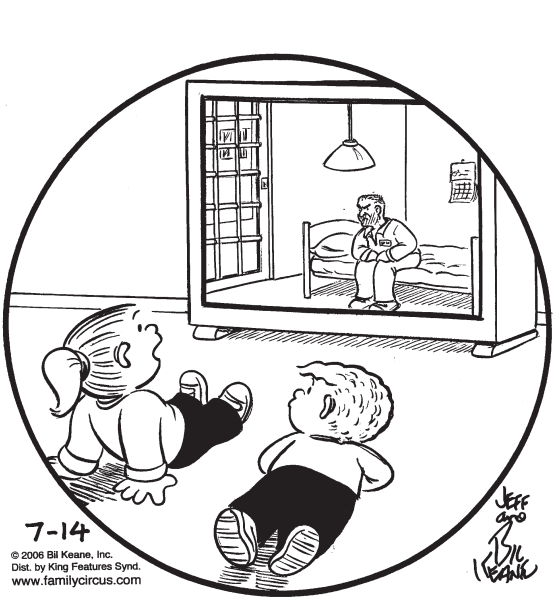
Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 7-15



Family Circus • Bill Keane



Bridge — Bidding Quiz

You're the dealer, neither side vulnerable, and have opened One Diamond. Partner responds Three Diamonds. What would you bid now with each of the following four hands?

- [S] KJ [H] AQ7 [D] KQ863 [C] KJ4
- [S] 93 [H] 84 [D] AK872 [C] AJ93
- [S] K85 [H] J7 [D] AJ94 [C] KQ82
- [S] AQ4 [H] 83 [D] J87532 [C] AK

1. Four notrump. Partner can be expected to have from 13 to 16 points for his three-diamond bid, which puts you in the 33-point zone generally required for 12 tricks. A small slam is thus practically certain, while a grand slam is a possibility. The number of aces partner holds is the key to how far to go, so you invoke the Blackwood convention.

If partner responds five diamonds, showing one ace, you pass; if partner bids five hearts (two aces), you bid six diamonds; and if partner responds five spades (three aces), you bid five notrump, asking for kings. If the response to this is six diamonds, showing one king, you bid seven diamonds.

2. Four diamonds. Here your opening bid is only slightly above a minimum, and you indicate this by rebidding in minimum terms. If partner next bids five diamonds, you pass.

If partner evinces interest in a slam by bidding four hearts or four spades over four diamonds, you bid five clubs. This cannot be construed as a strong bid because your previous four-diamond bid announced a minimum hand. Five clubs in this sequence simply indicates first-round control of clubs.

3. Three notrump. This is not a pleasant rebid, considering your weakness in hearts, but three notrump offers a better chance for game than any other contract.

It is possible that the best spot is five diamonds, but there is no sensible way of finding out whether an 11-trick contract is superior without going past three notrump. If partner passes three notrump, the odds favor making it.

4. Four clubs. A slam is decidedly possible, despite your minimum high-card values, and is surely worth investigating. Partner might have something like: [S] 83 [H] AJ5 [D] AK106 [C] Q652, and this typical three-diamond response would provide an excellent shot for six.

North dealer.
 Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ A K J 4
 ♥ 9 7 2
 ♦ A 5
 ♣ A K 7 2

WEST
 ♠ 9 6 2
 ♥ K 10 6 5
 ♦ K J 8 4 3
 ♣ 4

EAST
 ♠ 3
 ♥ Q J 4
 ♦ Q 10 9 6 2
 ♣ Q J 9 8

SOUTH
 ♠ Q 10 8 7 5
 ♥ A 8 3
 ♦ 7
 ♣ 10 6 5 3

The bidding:
 North East South West
 1 ♣ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
 4 ♣

Opening lead — four of clubs.

Bridge on a High Level

Opening lead — four of clubs.

Declarers who rely solely on percentages often find not only their expectancies shattered but also no hope for recovery. The proper approach to sound declarer play is to anticipate bad breaks and do everything possible in advance to overcome them.

Consider this deal where West led a club against four spades. Declarer saw immediately that if the missing clubs were divided 3-2, he would lose at most two hearts and a club.

But if the clubs were divided 4-1 — a possibility made more likely by West's lead of a club even though North had bid that suit — the contract was in great jeopardy. South therefore took steps to deal with that possibility.

He won the club with the king, drew three rounds of trumps, then cashed the ace of diamonds and ruffed a diamond. Next he played the ace and another heart.

East won the heart with the jack and continued with the queen, but by now the defense was helpless. If East retained the lead with the queen, he would have to return a diamond, permitting South to discard a club while ruffing in dummy, or else lead a club from the Q-J-9, allowing South to score a trick with the ten sooner or later regardless of which club East returned.

Alternatively, if West overtook East's queen of hearts with the king, he would be forced to concede a ruff-and-discard immediately. Note that the outcome would be the same if West, rather than East, started with four clubs originally.

The key to the winning line of play was South's foresight in eliminating all the diamonds and hearts from both hands in order to force a losing lead from the defenders at the tail end of the play. Had the clubs been divided 3-2 all along, South's method of play would have proved a needless exercise, but a good declarer should always be willing to expend a little extra energy when the contract is at stake.

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