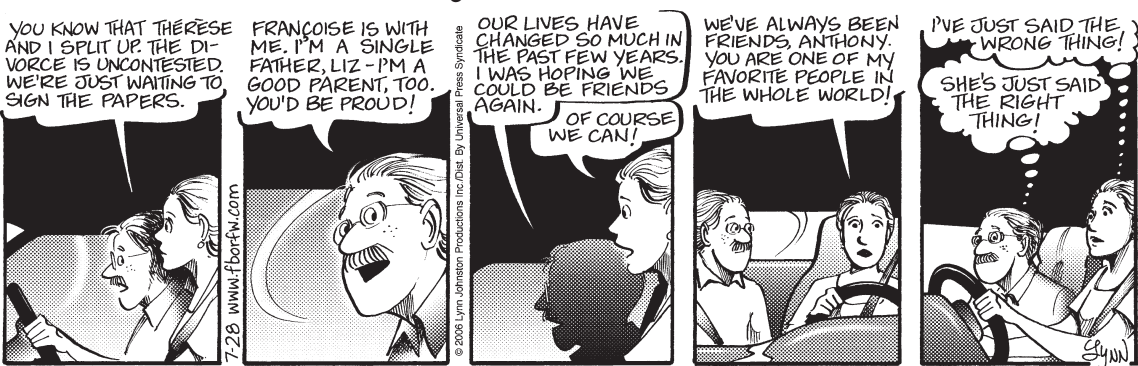
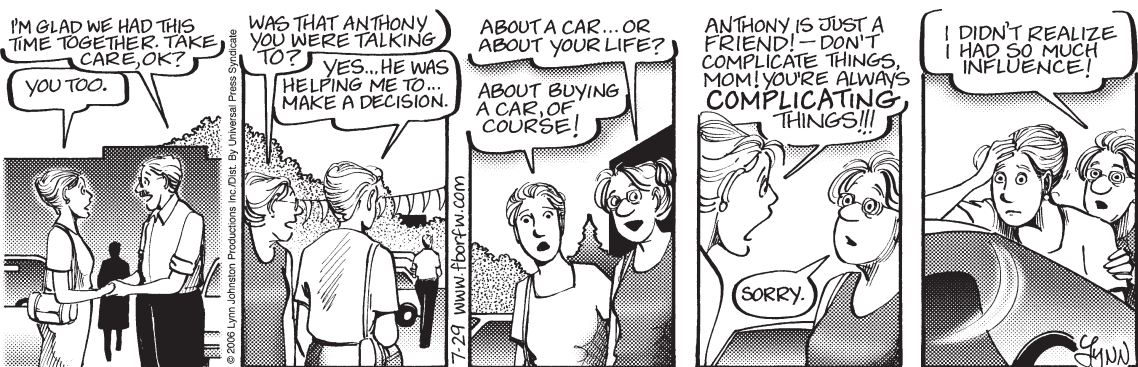


For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



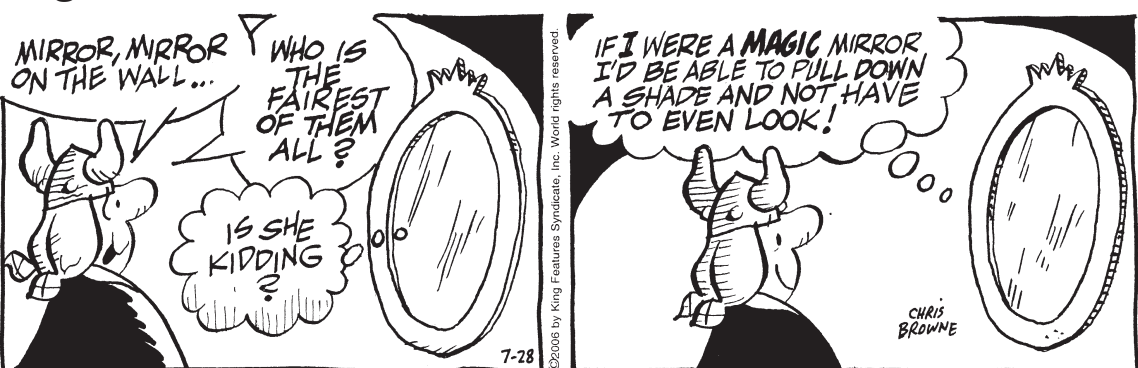
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



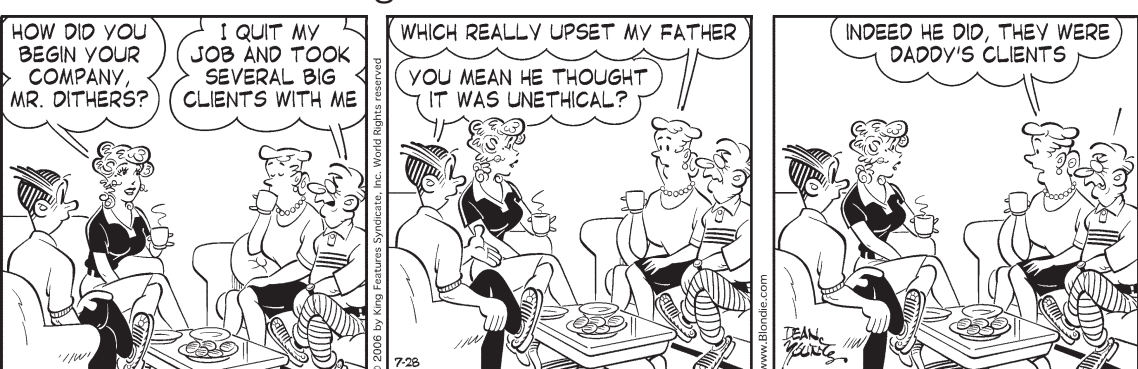
Garfield • Jim Davis



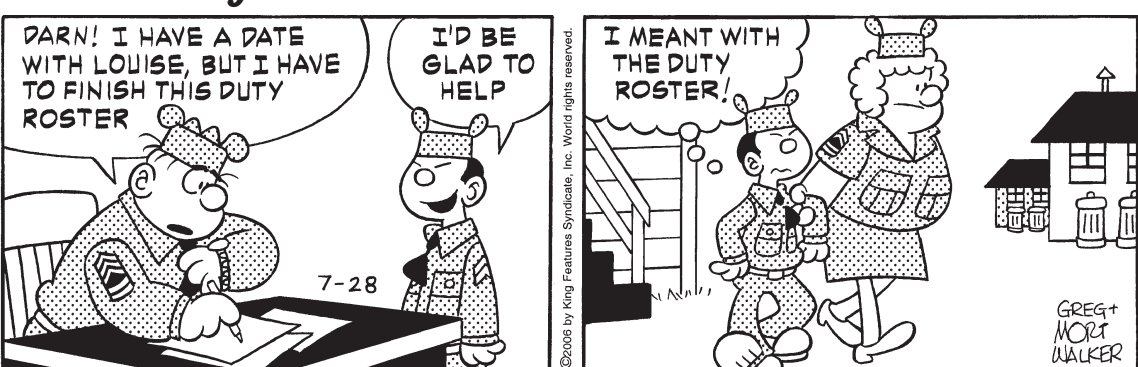
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



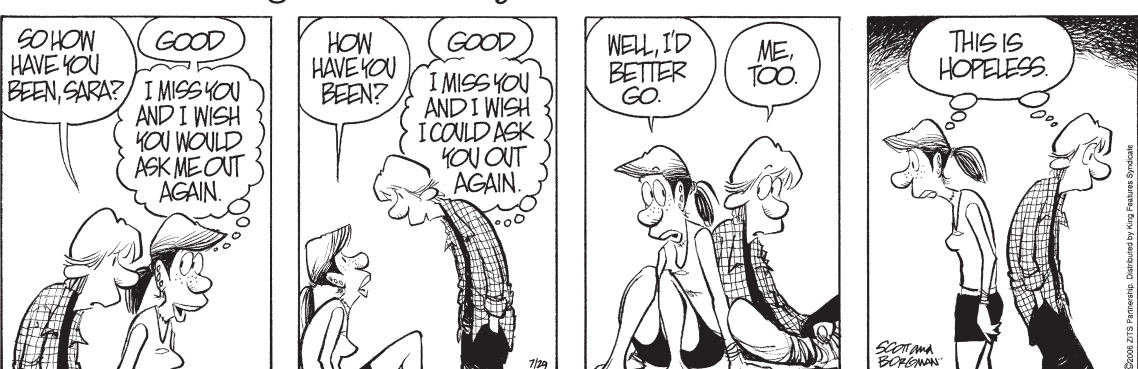
Blondie • Chic Young



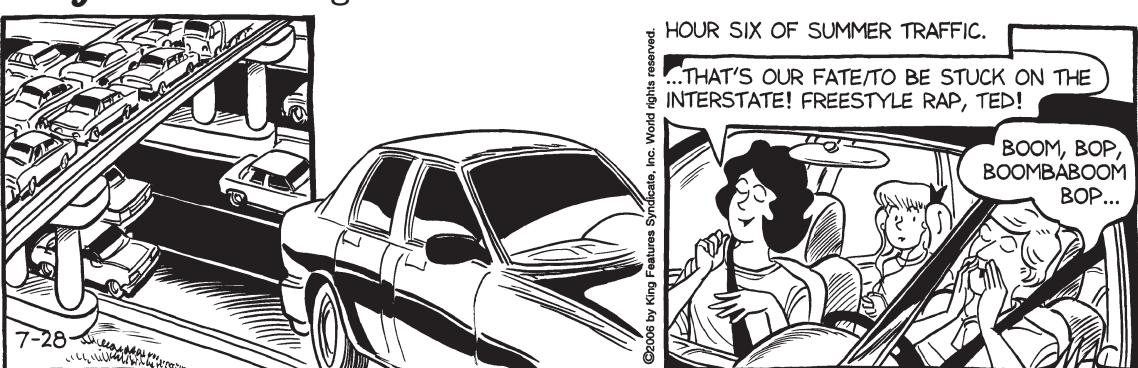
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

TE EXHJ-CNYYP EHJJZ

VJNSOHJNU SJN XM OQN

OQJXMN, VXHCP ZXH USZ TO'U

JNTYMTMY VSOU SMP PXYU?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MUSICAL ABOUT A SIAMESE MONARCH REALLY BOTHERED BY A CHRONIC NECK AILMENT: "THE KINK AND I."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals F

RFW VSFHA CZEW "VWRAWC,"

"AYSRY" RLH "DZLE"

NSLAZHWFWH WFDZLW-

SCSTX YWFDZLSCSTX?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF FOUR-LEGGED FURRY CREATURES ARE ON THE THRONE, COULD YOU SAY IT'S REIGNING CATS AND DOGS?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals O

Crossword

ACROSS

1 In olden days

4 Money of Thailand

8 Hoose-gow

12 Comic DeLuise

13 Ca-boose's position

14 Part of HOMES

15 Ordinate's counter-part

17 Writer Kingsley

18 Gilbert & Sullivan leader

19 Johnson or Cliburn

21 You can't stand to have it

22 Soak in

26 In any way

29 Snapshot

30 Cattle call

31 Parks or Bonheur

32 Crony

33 Pieces' mate

34 Mischief-maker

35 Sly one

DOWN

1 Leading man

2 Asian desert

3 Russian city

4 Re weddings

5 Man of morals?

6 Owns

7 Labor

8 Casual wear

9 It's up your sleeve

10 Midafternoon, on a sundial

11 "— Miserables"

16 Lily variety

20 Where "Lost" is found

36 Apprehend

37 Go rappelling

39 Lepidopterist's prop

40 Squid squirt

41 Stir up

45 Drink all at once

48 Worm-wood liqueur

50 Shove

51 Geology periods

52 "You've got mail" co.

53 Help a hood

54 Roy's wife

55 Cock and bull?

23 Leave out

24 Campus mil. grp.

25 "Non-sense!"

26 "Turandot" tune

27 Macabre chamber

28 Snakes

29 Bygone TV network

32 Danced to accordion music?

33 Major-ette's prop

35 Cod piece

36 Red shade

38 Two quartets

39 Twangy

42 Beehive State

43 Old woman's home?

44 Grown-up elvers

45 Book-keeper (abbr.)

46 Wheel center

47 Work with

49 Support system?

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 7-28

Bridge

1. You are declarer with the West hand at Six Diamonds, and North leads the jack of clubs. You win with the queen and lead a trump to the ace, on which South discards a heart. How would you continue?

WEST

♠ 8

♥ A Q

♦ J 10 9 8 5 4 2

♣ A K Q

EAST

♠ A Q 5 2

♥ 10 9

♦ A 7 6 3

♣ 6 3 2

2. You are declarer with the West hand at Three Notrump, and North leads the six of hearts, which you win with dummy's queen. How would you continue?

WEST

♠ 6 5 2

♥ A 8 5

♦ 9 7 4

♣ A J 6 3

EAST

♠ A K J 8 3

♥ Q 4

♦ A 6

♣ K 7 5 2

* * *

1. It looks as though you must choose whether to take a spade finesse or a heart finesse — both even money propositions — but actually your chances are much better than that.

Cash the ace of spades at trick three, ruff a spade, then play the A-K of clubs. If North follows suit or discards, you next put him on lead with a trump. If he returns the king of spades, a heart or a club, you're out of the woods, so let's say he returns a low spade. You hopefully play the queen from dummy, but even if South shows up with the king, you still have the heart finesse to fall back on.

The advantage of this method of play is that you make the slam if North has the king of spades or if South has the king of hearts — roughly a 3-1 shot in your favor. This obviously gives you a much better chance than simply relying on a single finesse and not getting a chance to try the other.

2. Cash the A-K of spades to see whether the suit is divided 3-2. If it is, continue with a spade to assure nine tricks. If South should turn up with four spades to the queen, shift your attention to clubs, planning to finesse the jack. If South has the Q-x-x or Q-x of clubs, you also have nine tricks.

If you learn at trick three that North started with four spades to the queen, lead a low club to the ace followed by a spade toward the J-8-3. This assures four spade tricks and the contract.

The one thing to avoid is a premature spade or club finesse. Cashing the A-K of spades first gives you the best chance to get home safely, because only after you do so will you know what to do next.

Tomorrow: It's so easy to go wrong.
(c)2006 King Features Syndicate Inc.

North dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ K 9

♥ 10 7 5 4

♦ A J 8 3 2

♣ A 6

WEST

♠ 5 4

♥ A K 2

♦ Q 9 4

♣ Q 10 8 5 3

EAST

♠ J 6 3

♥ J 9 8 6

♦ K 10 7 5

♣ 9 2

SOUTH

♠ A Q 10 8 7 2

♥ Q 3

♦ 6

♣ K J 7 4

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
1 NT	Pass	4 ♠	Pass

Opening lead — king of hearts.

It's So Easy to Go Wrong

A fine declarer relies more on sound technique than on fancy or complicated plays. Most deals require merely ordinary care to be successful, and it is in the handling of these run-of-the-mill hands that a player is most likely to prove his worth.

Take this deal where declarer failed to make four spades. West led the K-A and another heart, South ruffing the third round. Declarer saw he had two potential club losers and properly decided that the best way to try to avoid them was to ruff two clubs in dummy.

And so, instead of drawing trumps, he cashed the A-K of clubs and led a third club, ruffing with dummy's nine. Unfortunately, East overruffed with the jack and re turned a trump, stranding South with the jack of clubs. Eventually, declarer lost the jack to West's queen and finished down one.

It is certainly true that South ran into an unlucky lie of the opposing clubs, and he was doubly unlucky that East had the jack of spades. Nevertheless, the fact remains that he could — and should — have made the contract. All he had to do was to exercise a little extra care.

Instead of trumping the third round of clubs with the nine, South should have ruffed with the king. He could then have re-entered his hand by trumping a diamond and ruffed his last club with the nine. True, East would have overruffed with the jack, but that would have been the third and last trick for the defense.

The principle that emerges is that declarer's primary obligation is to make the contract, if possible, and that he should avoid making any plays that jeopardize it. Ruffing the third club with dummy's nine placed the contract in at least mild jeopardy, while ruffing with the king would have assured the contract beyond the shadow of a doubt.

(c)2006 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Family Circus • Bill Keane

7-28

©2006 Bill Keane, Inc.
Dist. by King Features Synd.
www.familycircus.com

"I think Katie's father is a gardener. She said he works at a plant."

7-29

©2006 Bill Keane, Inc.
Dist. by King Features Synd.
www.familycircus.com

"Go for the one with bells and whistles on it, Daddy! Sounds like fun!"