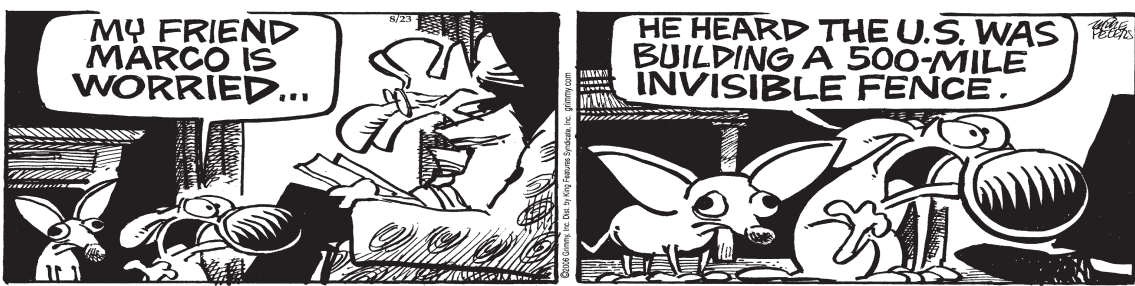
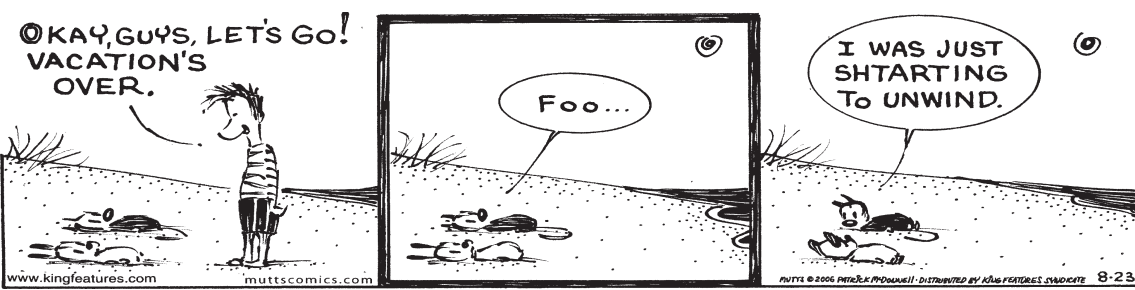


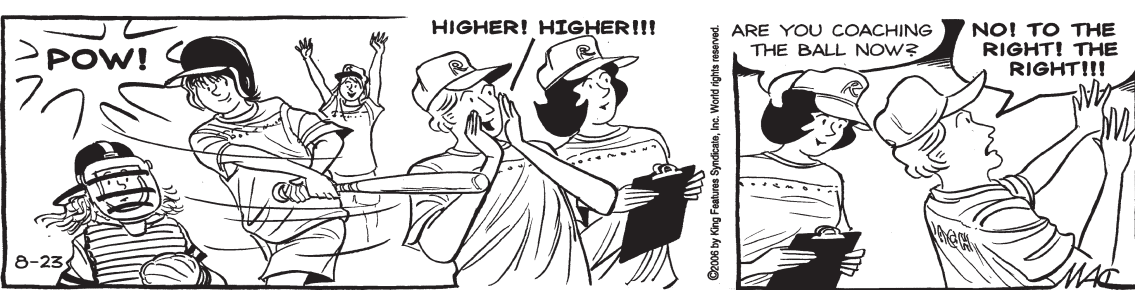
Mother Goose & Grim • Mike Peters (Sample)



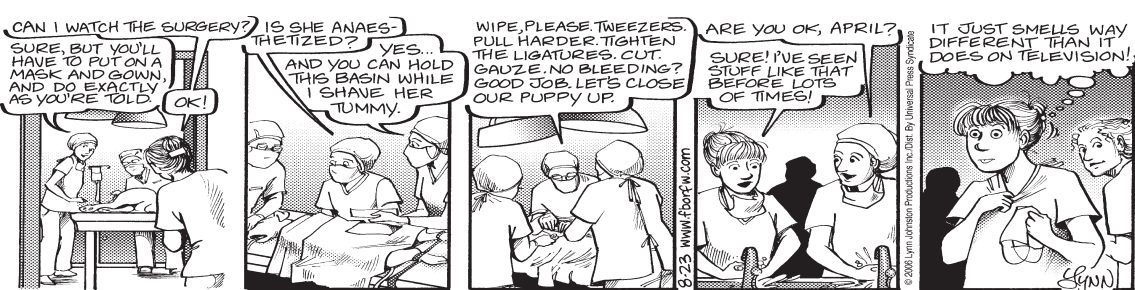
Mutts • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott (Sample)



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



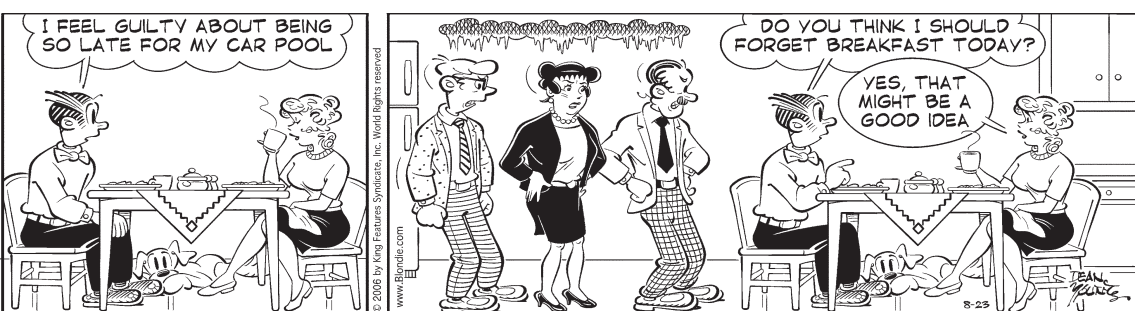
Garfield • Jim Davis



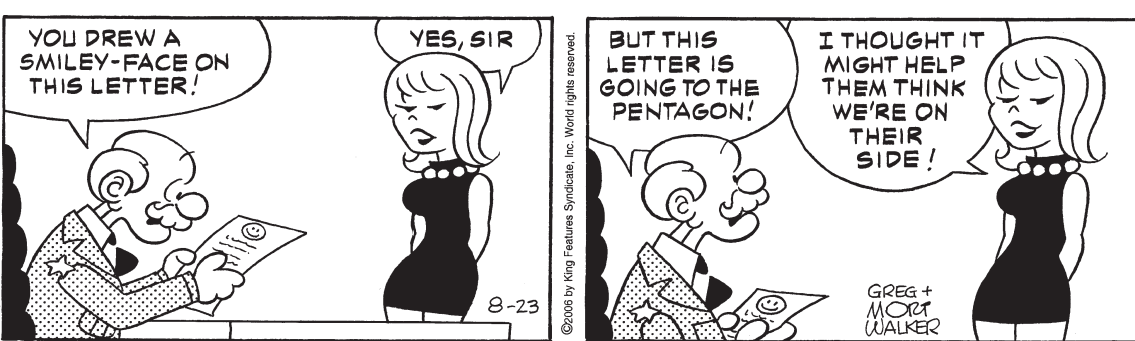
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



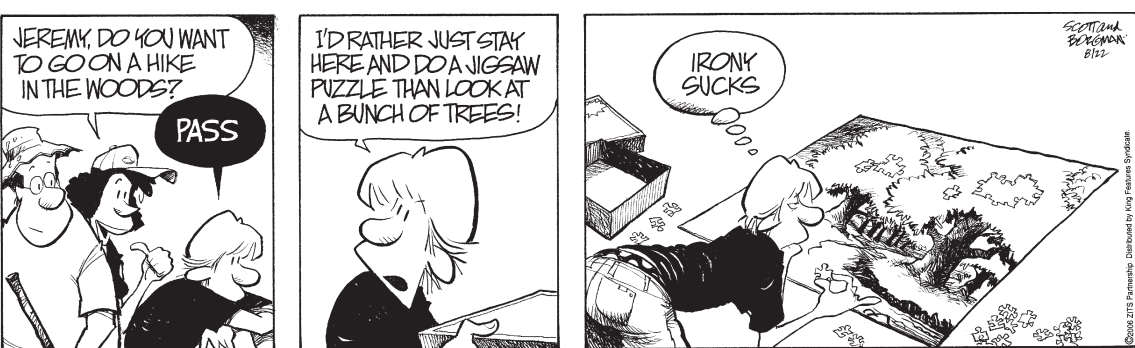
Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Cryptoquip

ZE C FHION IE NGIBIFHCNGQH NZSV BZS KRAASP ARMAZ
 EHZQTLY LIQYT'B WOZBQ ZSUW M XSSBTVY NTBZ
 PZJQ IOBYZLQHY, ZY ZTK SVBTPS BSMX, ZS
 BGCBC KPZKJ KPZWOQ? ZMW KRXS YRMUK TV XTVW.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE THE Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A GROUP OF
 CHANCES ARE GOOD YOU'LL ONE DAY BE A PHOTOGRAPHER FRIENDS DOESN'T QUITE
 THUG, I RECKON YOU'RE A LIKELY HOOD. LIKE OUTSIDERS, IS THAT A CLICK CLIQUE?
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals T Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals W

Crossword

ACROSS
 1 Evidenced an injury
 5 Hope or Seger
 8 Flight component
 12 Car
 13 Eggs
 14 Relocate
 15 Ukraine's water
 17 Gets older
 18 Right angle
 19 A billion years
 20 Meager
 21 Cow-poke's nickname
 22 Stir-fry pan
 23 Spin a baton
 26 Unprocessed statistics
 30 Midwestern state
 31 Crafty one
 32 Tourney format
 33 Sponged
 35 Chirping sound

DOWN
 1 George Herman Ruth
 2 Break in the action
 3 List-ending abbr.
 4 Dopey companion?
 5 Fenway squad, headline-style
 6 Micro-wave
 7 Ovine comment
 8 Wrestling event
 9 Frat-party garb
 10 Level
 11 Nuisance
 16 Ship's structural part

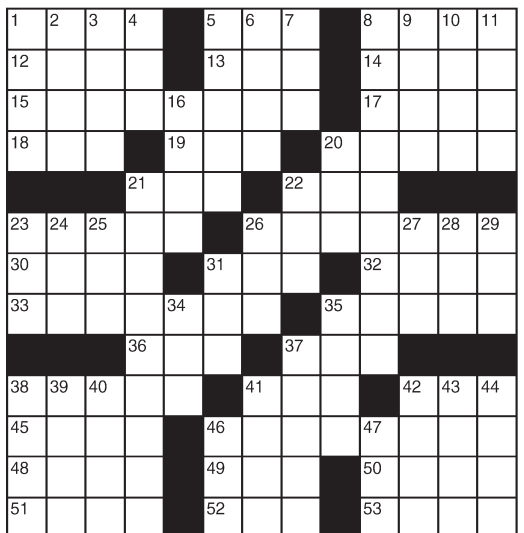
36 Relatives
37 Pale
38 Grip tightly
41 Moray, for one
42 Fool
45 Sumptuous
46 Lunatic
48 Tom Joad, e.g.
49 Melody
50 Jacob's brother
51 Criterion
52 "Partridge Family" cast member
53 Dweeb

20 Spread seeds
21 Event for Flo-Jo
22 Polish
23 Allen or Curry
24 Court
25 — Jima
26 Staff
27 Mimic
28 Shirt shape
29 Pismire
31 Swamp
34 With it
35 Body powder
37 Tired
38 Coagulate
39 New Testament book
40 Turning point
41 Ontario neighbor
42 Basilica area
43 Fly high
44 Poker variety
46 Scoundrel
47 "Jeopardy!" record-holder

Solution time: 21 mins.



Yesterday's answer 8-22



ACROSS
 1 Bit for Fermi
 5 It holds the mayo
 8 What rodents do
 12 Took the bus
 13 "I" trouble
 14 Judicial raiment
 15 Theater-goers' mecca
 17 Dumb-founded
 18 Raid
 19 Waterways
 21 Scale member
 22 Bold and provocative
 23 Handle roughly
 26 Dr. Ruth's subject
 28 Asian capital
 31 Leading man
 33 Poorly lit
 35 Stratagem

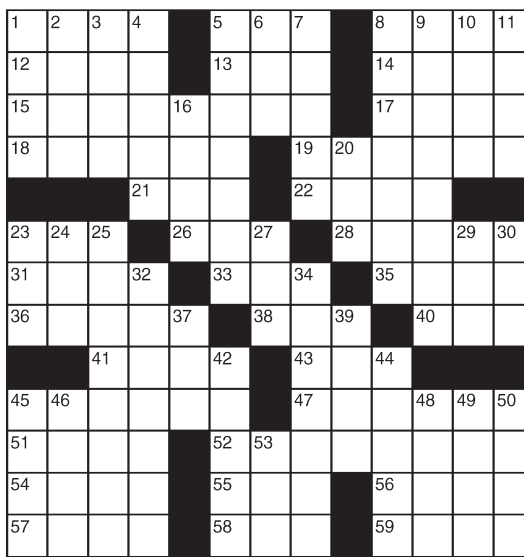
DOWN
 1 Wall Street
 16 "Vaya Con —"
 20 Billboards
 23 Crony
 24 Commotion
 25 Traveler on foot
 27 Louis — encrusted, maybe
 29 Work with
 30 Meadow
 32 Woodchucks partner
 34 Ring contender
 37 Prune
 39 Recording
 42 Mess up
 44 Might
 45 Fashion line?
 46 Cigar exporter
 48 Kegler's path
 49 "Lolita" star Sue
 50 — buco
 53 Debtor's letters

36 Trustworthy
38 Cistern
40 Earl Grey, e.g.
41 Gift-tag word
43 Spigot
45 Seafood entree
47 Harlem theater
51 Modern money
52 Laterally
54 Help a hood
55 "Cock-a-doodle—"
56 Slaughter of baseball
57 Ruins the veneer

Solution time: 21 mins.



Yesterday's answer 8-23



Bridge

South dealer.
 Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ 7 4
 ♥ K
 ♦ Q J 7 3 2
 ♣ A K 7 3 2

WEST
 ♠ 8 3
 ♥ Q 8 7 3 2
 ♦ A 6
 ♣ Q 10 6 5

EAST
 ♠ J 10 9 5
 ♥ J 10 6 4
 ♦ K 9 8 4
 ♣ J

SOUTH
 ♠ A K Q 6 2
 ♥ A 9 5
 ♦ 10 5
 ♣ 9 8 4

The bidding:
 South 1 ♠
 West Pass
 North 2 ♦
 East Pass
 South 3 NT

Opening lead — three of hearts.

A Step-by-Step Process

The play of the hand is usually an orderly process based on the evidence declarer accumulates as the play progresses. As new evidence is introduced, declarer makes adjustments, if necessary, in his original plan of action.

Take this deal where West leads a heart, taken by dummy's king. South has three long suits to attack, but a little reflection should convince him that it is futile to try to establish the diamonds because the opponents, in the meantime, are certain to score at least three hearts and the A-K of diamonds.

The spades can also be ignored for the moment because if they are divided 3-3, the contract is guaranteed, while if they are divided 4-2, their establishment would lead to only eight tricks at best.

Therefore, by a process of elimination, the suit to attack is clubs, where a 3-2 division assures nine tricks. Accordingly, declarer cashes the ace of clubs at trick two. When East produces the jack, South carefully plays the eight (or nine) in order not to block the suit if West started with four clubs.

Declarer then leads a low club to the nine. If West wins, South has nine tricks — so let's assume he ducks.

The club suit having been milked dry, declarer abandons his original plan and shifts his attention to spades. The objection to playing spades at the start is no longer valid because of the extra club trick gained in the interim.

To guard against a 4-2 spade division and to maintain contact with both hands, South leads the spade deuce at trick four! This sequence of plays is virtually certain to produce nine tricks.

North dealer.
 Both sides vulnerable.

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

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

EAST
 ♠ 2
 ♥ 6 5
 ♦ 10 9 8 7 4
 ♣ K J 8 6 3

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

The bidding:
 North Pass
 East 2 NT
 South 3 ♠
 West Pass

Opening lead — king of spades.

Haste Makes Waste

Assume you're West and your opponents get to four hearts on the bidding shown. You're unlikely to beat the contract on high cards alone, so you lead the king of spades, hoping to engineer a spade ruff for East.

When dummy shows up with three spades, your wishes are answered, since East is marked by the bidding with a singleton spade even though he plays the discouraging deuce on your king. He cannot have a doubleton spade — with that holding he would have started a high-low signal.

However, you must not be so swept away by the brilliance of your analysis that you hastily continue with the ace and another spade. East would ruff, all right, but South would then take the rest of the tricks after drawing trumps and discarding dummy's diamond loser on one of his high spades.

Instead, you should lead a low spade at trick two rather than the ace! Once you do this, South is doomed. East ruffs and returns a diamond, and you now have declarer over a barrel, since you're bound to score a spade and a diamond to put the contract down one.

In fact, South will probably go down two — 200 points — against this defense. After East returns a diamond at trick three, South will probably draw two rounds of trumps and lead a club to the queen, hoping to discard his diamond loser on the ace of clubs if the finesse succeeds. This attempt to salvage the contract would fail, and after you collect a diamond and a spade, you would have a right to congratulate yourself for a well-planned defense.

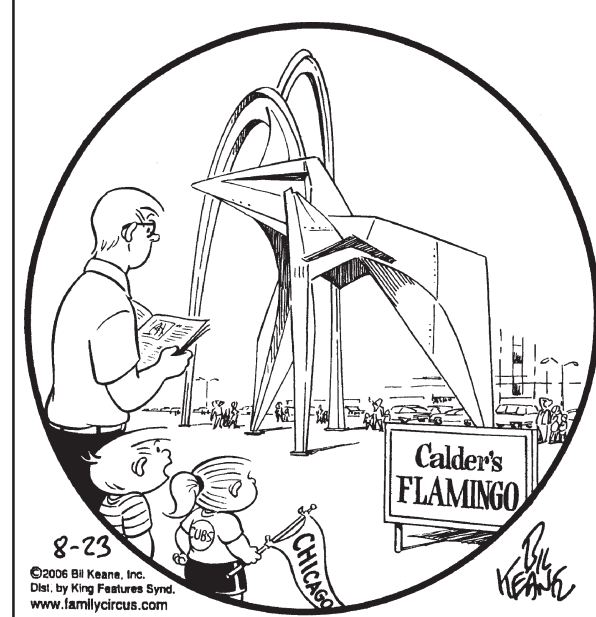
Tomorrow: The serendipity factor.
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Family Circus • Bill Keane



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"Are you gettin' the whole Sears Tower in the picture, Daddy?"



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"It doesn't look anything like the flamingos we saw at the zoo."