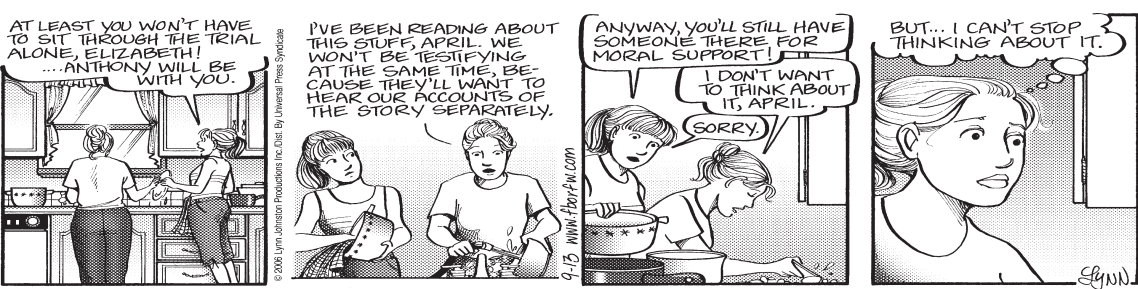
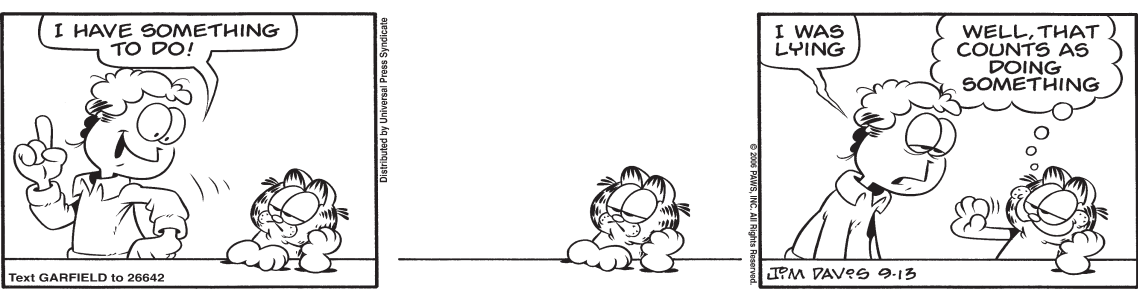


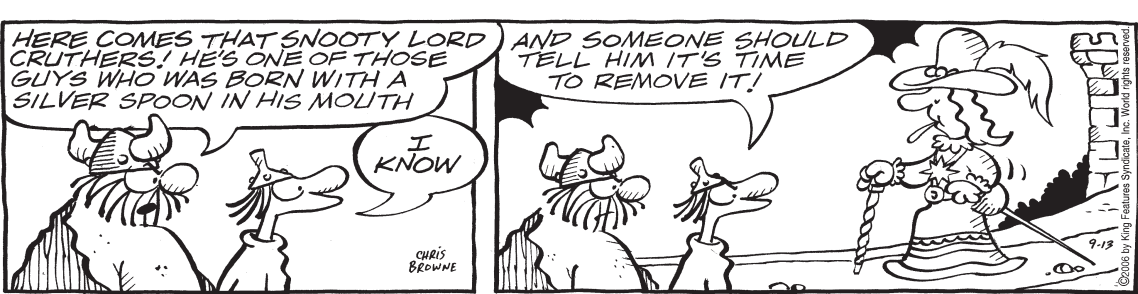
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Garfield • Jim Davis



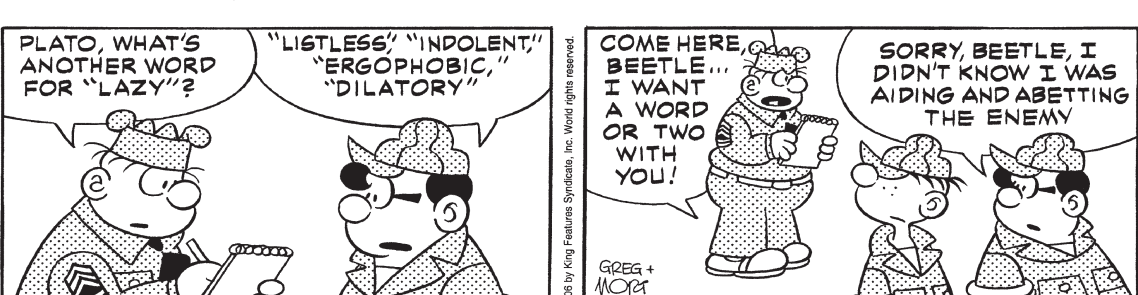
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



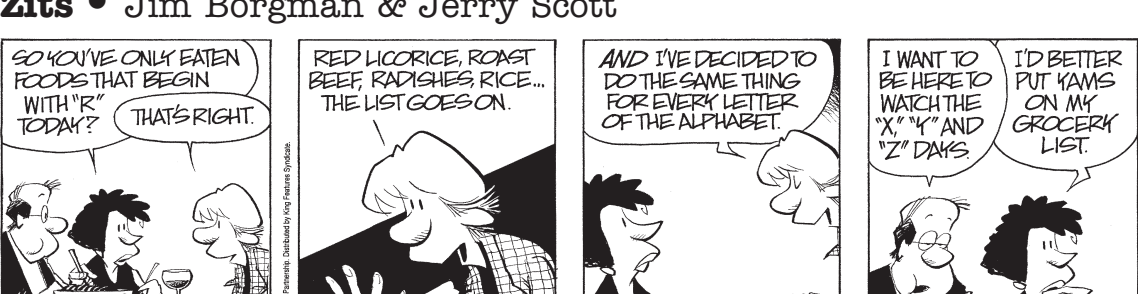
Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

QKX UHJRL HREQGOZQLG, WM RXNQ YDZBA XM
 JCILRHEKHRB JR XGGJ RQ HNFWPAFF MWQAF ZDD
 UOUHV, QLVC KHI QL XM WJF YQXMAFFWXPZD

"BXQ AJZK QL AJEHZE!"
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A WALL PLASTERER IS CONCEITED AND POMPOUS, WOULD YOU SAY HE'S STUCCO ON HIMSELF?
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals T

BXYRWFJF, WF WJ OA-FBQWHAO?
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE PIANO INSTRUCTOR, ADMONISHING AN ERRANT PUPIL, TOLD HIM TO "GET BACK TO BASICS!"
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals S

Crossword

- ACROSS**
 1 Writer Ferber
 5 Lobbyists' org.
 8 Lily type
 12 Floral neckwear
 13 Black cuckoo
 14 "— Brock-ovich"
 15 High voice
 17 Comic Letterman
 18 Exploit
 19 Aspects
 21 Intelligent
 24 Dalmatian's name?
 25 St. Patrick's home
 26 Heel type
 30 "I — Camera"
 31 Cecil's pal
 32 "A mouse!"
 33 Operatic text
 35 Paraphernalia
 36 Other-wise
- DOWN**
 37 Beta follower
 38 "Ed Wood"
 Oscar-winner Martin
 41 "That '70s Show"
 42 On the rocks
 43 South Carolina tree
 48 Basketball squad
 49 Honor in verse
 50 "Non-sense!"
 51 Paradise
 52 Affirmative action?
- ACROSS**
 53 "How silly of me"
 21 Close up tight
 22 Thorn in Drew Carey's side
 23 Speedy steed
 24 Put into words
 26 Attacks
 27 Abound
 28 Co-fish soup
 8 Tranquillize
 9 History chapters
 10 Donate
 11 Change for a \$5 bill
 16 Superlative suffix
 20 Sacrosanct
- DOWN**
 1 Sprite
 2 Goddess (Latin)
 3 Zero
 4 Guarantee
 5 Scalp
 6 Pismire
 7 Italian
 8 Tranquillize
 9 History chapters
 10 Donate
 11 Change for a \$5 bill
 16 Superlative suffix
 20 Sacrosanct
- DOWN**
 17 Gumbo ingredient
 29 Gumbo ingredient
 31 Composer Bartók
 34 Turn crimson
 35 Summer-house
 37 Jewel
 38 Biography
 39 Alkali neutralizer
 40 Actress Campbell
 41 Took off
 44 Fuss
 45 Also
 46 Recipe abbr.
 47 Surprised reactions

Solution time: 21 mins.

P	A	L	L	I	A	N	A	M	A	D
A	G	E	I	N	N	E	R	A	V	A
R	A	I	N	S	T	O	R	M	I	O
A	T	E	V	I	E	N	N	A		
B	I	G	G	E	R	E	N	D	S	
O	N	A	D	I	P	G	A	T	O	R
O	T	T	I	S	M	A	S	M	A	D
T	O	N	E	S	W	E	B	Y	I	N
R	E	A	S	O	N	O	I	L		
I	V	I	V	A	I	N	G	L	O	R
T	E	E	R	O	D	E	P	I	E	
E	R	R								

Yesterday's answer 9-12

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15				16				17		
			18			19	20			
21	22	23			24					
25				26				27	28	29
30			31					32		
33			34					35		
			36					37		
38	39	40				41				
42				43	44			45	46	47
48				49				50		
51				52				53		

- ACROSS**
 1 The gamut
 5 Anti-quoted
 8 Mini-whoppers
 12 NYC museum acronym
 13 Through
 14 From the beginning
 15 Really quickly
 17 — -tat-tat
 18 Mattress brand
 19 Blockage
 21 Missile abbr.
 24 Luau finger-food
 25 Thin branch
 28 "The Amazing —"
 30 Craze
 33 Saturn auto model
 34 Powerful businessman
 35 To and —
 36 Shell game need
- DOWN**
 37 Largest of the seven
 38 Favorable votes
 39 Third degree?
 41 Line of symmetry
 43 Repugnant
 46 Unwilling to budge
 50 Gambling game
 51 Trying not to be late
 54 Fortune
 55 Enjoyment
 56 Comet feature
 57 Wan
 58 Cable channel
 59 North Sea feeder
- DOWN**
 1 Writer Kingsley
 2 Sound quality
 3 Khayyam or Sharif
 4 Buxom
 5 Eggs
 6 Fleur-de —
 7 Willy Wonka's creator
 8 1996
 9 Before you can say Jack Robinson
 10 Alpha follower
 11 Did laps in the pool
 25 Gratuity
 26 Travail
 27 When all else fails
 29 Wheedle
 31 Exist
 32 Two, in Tijuana
 34 Singer Erykah
 38 Keen
 40 Truant
 42 Somewhat (Suff.)
 43 Tex. neighbor
 44 — ex machina
 45 Winnow
 47 Caspian feeder
 48 Nursery item
 49 Actor MacLachlan
 52 Conventual
 53 Army member

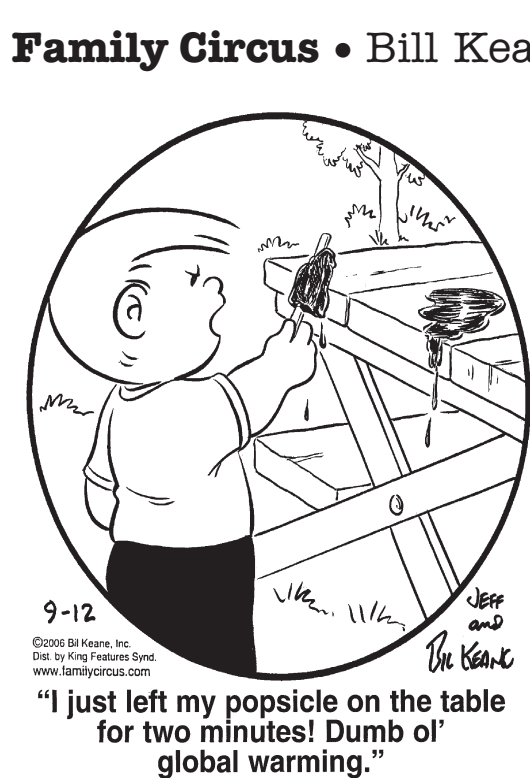
Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 9-13

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13				14			
15				16				17			
			18			19	20				
			21			22	23		24		
25	26	27			28			29	30	31	32
33				34					35		
36				37					38		
			39	40				41	42		
43	44			45				46	47	48	49
50				51	52	53					
54				55				56			
57				58				59			

Family Circus • Bill Keane



Bridge

East dealer.
 North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ 8 7 4
 ♥ 6 5
 ♦ 9 4 3
 ♣ A Q 6 5 2

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

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

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

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

Opening lead — queen of hearts.

The Magic of Good Technique

One learns early in life that it's often necessary to give in order to receive. Later on one learns that the same principle applies in bridge.

Consider this deal where declarer won the opening heart lead with the king and, with eight sure tricks in plain sight, naturally viewed dummy's clubs as the most likely source of a ninth. Accordingly, at trick two he played a club to the queen and returned a club to his king.

But when East failed to follow to the second club, South had to look elsewhere for the extra trick he needed. So he led a club to dummy's ace, returned a spade and finessed the jack. When West turned up with the queen, South was unable to score more than the eight tricks he had started with, and he finished down one.

While it is true that South ran into bad luck in both black suits, the fact remains that he should have made the contract.

Rather than cash the Q-K of clubs, he should have cashed the king of clubs at trick two, then led a low club and followed low from dummy. This play would have guaranteed the contract beyond the shadow of a doubt, since it would have assured that South would score four club tricks.

The recommended line of play is certain to succeed unless the clubs are divided 5-0 — only a 4 percent chance — and even in that event, declarer still has the spade finesse to fall back on. Note also that declarer's willingness to perhaps unnecessarily concede a club to the opponents at trick three is proof positive that it is indeed necessary to give in order to receive.

Tomorrow: Imaginative defense.
 (c)2006 King Features Syndicate Inc.

North dealer.
 North-South vulnerable.

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

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

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

SOUTH
 ♠ 4
 ♥ 3
 ♦ A K 8 6 5
 ♣ K Q J 10 9 2

The bidding:
 North 1♥
 East 1♠
 South 3♦
 West 4♠

Opening lead — two of spades.

Imaginative Defense

The armchair analyst is usually a magnificent cardplayer; he rarely makes the wrong play after seeing all 52 cards.

Certainly declarer would have fared better on this deal had he been given the privilege of a peek at the opposing cards.

As it was, though, he fell prey to an exceedingly clever trap laid by East.

The deal occurred in a top-flight rubber bridge game. West led the spade deuce against five diamonds, and East won with the ace! East then returned the six of spades (!), which declarer ruffed.

After South played the Q-J of diamonds and learned of the 4-1 trump division, he shifted his attention to clubs, playing the king. East ducked and won the next club with the ace.

East then returned the king of spades. South ruffed, reducing his own hand and dummy's to one trump while East had two trumps left. Eventually South went down two as a result of East's shrewd defense.

Had South known that East had started with both top spades, he would, of course, have discarded a club at trick two and made the contract.

However, ruffing the spade was entirely normal, as West could have had the king, and the 4-1 trump division was as yet undisclosed.

East disguised his hand beautifully with his first two plays. Had he played the A-K of spades instead of the A-6, declarer would have made the contract easily.

But East, who knew that the trumps would break poorly for declarer, led back a low spade in the hope that South would take a normal trump break for granted.

Tomorrow: With a little bit of luck.
 (c)2006 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Family Circus • Bill Keane

