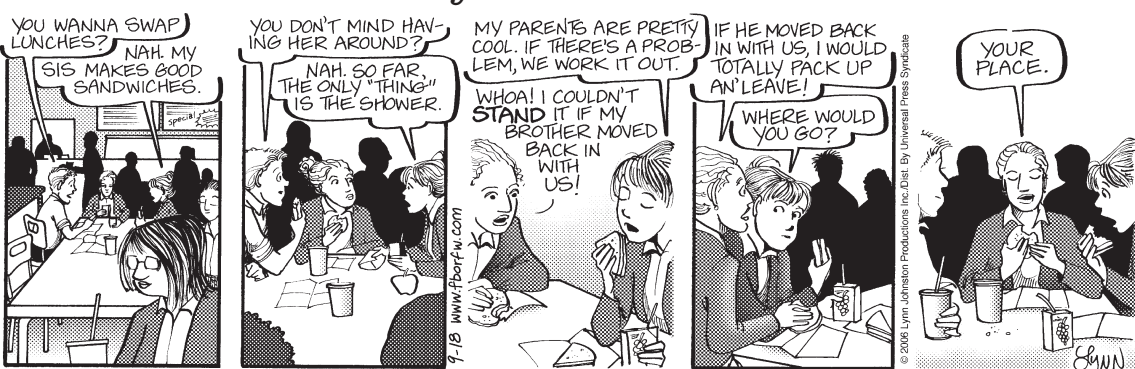
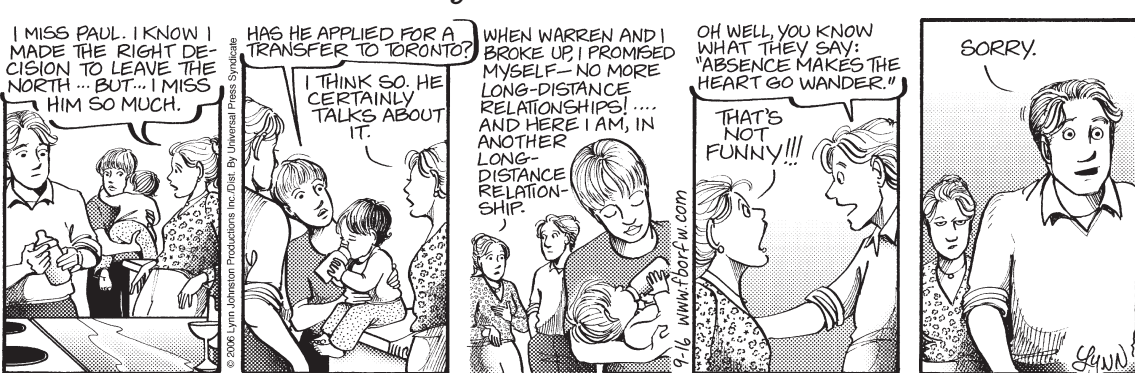


For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



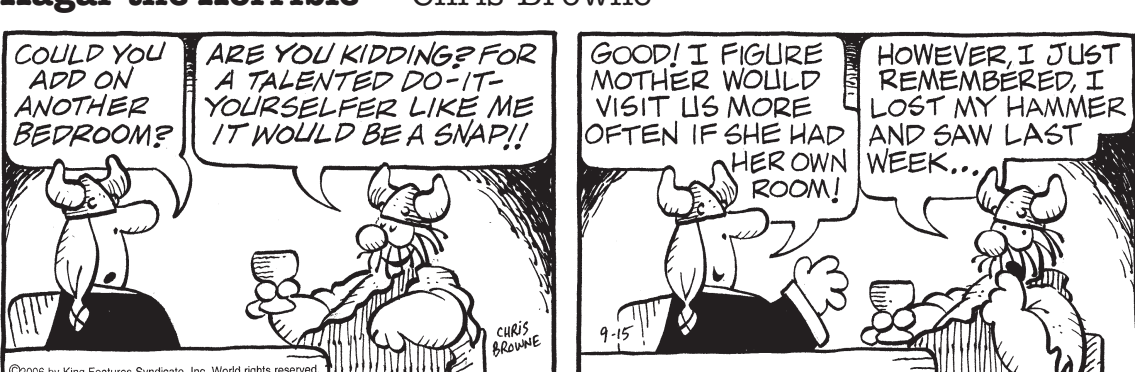
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Garfield • Jim Davis



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



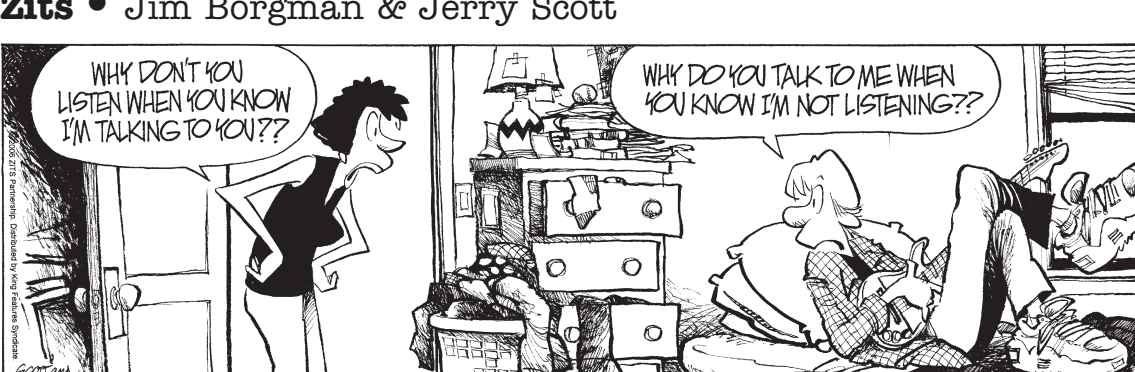
Blondie • Chic Young



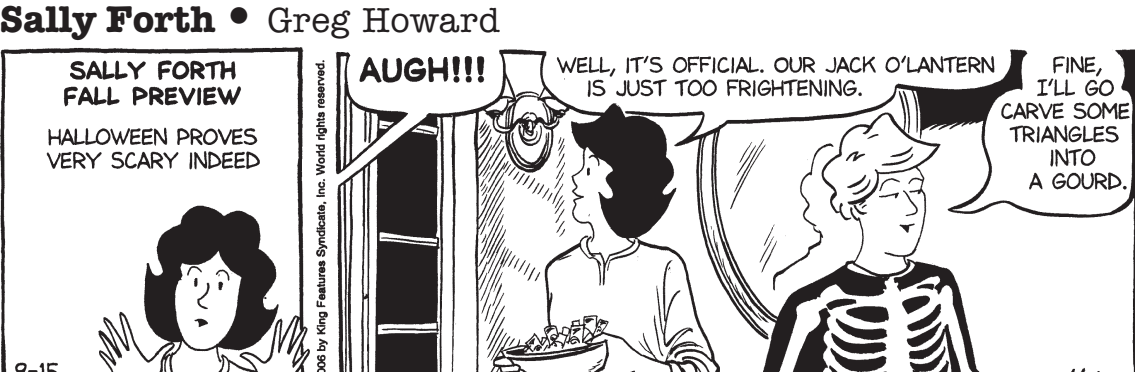
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

YOK WLDXXJ IDYOKIDYTWDE | VSEOS BM QSH I-OBWTPHK
 WNIQZDTEG YODY OTG | GEQXWEZY VBLPJ OXLYH
 ZTVK TG IKLKZJ NEK | X THAYBZ QB IHSXGH
 QLNXXKI DVYKL DENYOKL. | TPXNMLPPN? MABPEO XOEJ.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SUPERHERO PAIR THAT FLIES WITH ONLY A MINIMUM OF WIND RESISTANCE: THE AERODYNAMIC DUO.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals E

Yesterdays Cryptoquip: THE CRABBY MATHEMATICIAN COMPLAINS THAT HIS LIFE IS MERELY ONE PROBLEM AFTER ANOTHER.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals H

Crossword

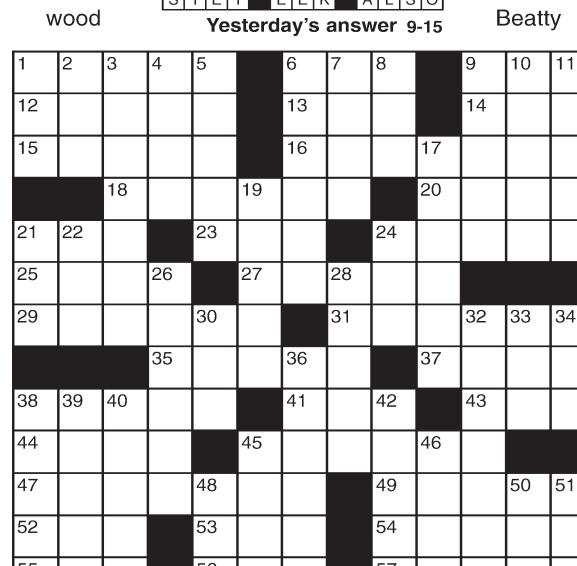
ACROSS
 1 Blue gem
 6 Filch
 9 Magna laude
 12 Addis follower
 13 Raw rock
 14 Lawyers' org.
 15 Danger
 16 Ideal
 18 Attack
 20 Ferrar
 21 Put in
 23 Brewery product
 24 Beginning of life?
 25 Quartet halves
 27 Command
 29 Church custodian
 31 Highly skilled people
 35 "Rags to riches" author
 37 TV chef
 38 Get up
 41 Archery-bow wood

DOWN
 1 One around
 2 Honest politician
 3 Contradiction in terms
 4 Wading bird
 5 Taco topping
 6 Office machine
 7 Exam format
 8 Apiece
 9 Basketball
 10 WWII vessel
 11 Virile
 17 Portuguese island group
 19 In accompaniment

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 9-15



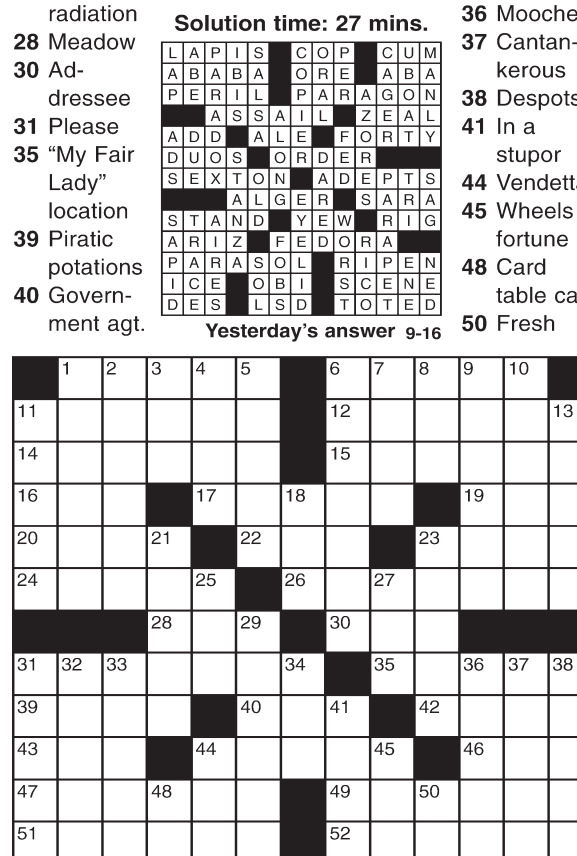
ACROSS
 1 Computer insert
 6 Matches
 11 Stingy
 12 Unexpected
 14 Hang on
 15 "Terms of Endearment" actress
 16 Blackbird
 17 Requires
 19 "Gosh!"
 20 Mongol tent
 22 Lanka lead-in
 23 Ohio nine
 24 Turn
 26 Amounts of reflected radiation
 28 Meadow
 30 Ad-dressee
 31 Please
 35 "My Fair Lady" location
 39 Piratic potations
 40 Government agt.

DOWN
 1 "Don't be discouraged"
 2 LaMotta portrayer
 3 Scott
 4 Joplin creation
 4 Tourney format
 5 Group customs
 6 Without decorum
 7 Sapporo sashes
 8 Coffee shop
 9 Yanked
 10 Swim-wear brand
 11 Sculptors' materials
 13 Lock
 18 Mound stat
 21 Isn't upright
 23 Do something else with
 25 Main-lander's memento
 27 Downy accessory
 29 Validates
 31 Ill-gotten booty
 32 July
 33 Peet or Bynes
 34 Craving
 36 Mooched
 37 Cantankerous
 38 Despots
 41 In a stupor
 44 Vendetta
 45 Wheels of fortune
 48 Card table call
 50 Fresh

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 9-16



Family Circus • Bill Keane



Bridge

You have the following hand:
 ♠ AKQ4 ♥ 102 ♦ J73 ♣ AQ85

1. You are the dealer. What would you bid?
2. Your partner deals and bids One Diamond. What would you respond?
3. Your left-hand opponent bids One Diamond, and your right-hand opponent responds One Heart. What would you bid?
4. Your partner bids One Heart, and the next player doubles. What would you bid?
5. Your partner bids One Heart, you respond One Spade, and partner rebids Three Diamonds. What would you bid now?
6. Your left-hand opponent bids One Club, and your right-hand opponent responds One Spade. What would you bid?
 * * *

Bidding Quiz

1. One club. Despite 16 points and balanced distribution, it's better to open one club rather than one notrump without a stopper in either red suit. As usual, with equal length in clubs and spades, you open with the lower suit in order to preserve bidding space.

2. One spade. Game is certain, but that doesn't mean you should make an immediate jump-response to announce it. A jump to two spades (a jump-shift) would suggest a probable slam, and your values are not quite good enough for that. Change one of your hearts into a spade or a diamond and you'd then have a proper two-spade response. One spade is, of course, 100 percent forcing.

3. Double. This indicates the values for an opening bid and support for both unbid suits. It would be wrong to overcall with one spade, which would indicate greater spade length and fewer high cards.

4. Redouble. This guarantees 10 or more points in high cards. You plan either to get to game eventually or to double the opponents for penalties.

5. Four clubs. A small slam is already certain, since partner's jump-shift promises at least 19 points, and you're on the verge of a grand slam. Four clubs is merely a waiting bid allowing partner to further describe his hand. He may have: [S] J983 [H] AKQ74 [D] AK85 [C] — or [S] 10 [H] AKJ763 [D] AKQ95 [C] 7 or other similar holdings. You'll have to wait to see what happens over four clubs.

6. Pass. The value of a hand changes as the bidding progresses, and with the opponents bidding clubs and spades, your hand has greatly diminished in offensive strength. Before the bidding started, you had reason to hope that partner might have length in either or both of these suits. That hope is now largely dissipated. The best policy is to keep quiet and hope the opponents get too high.

Tomorrow: Seven to six.
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South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

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

WEST		SOUTH	
♠	A 9 4	♠	K 10
♥	10 6 4 2	♥	A K Q 8
♦	K 9 4 3	♦	A Q J 8 7 2
♣	Q 6	♣	9

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	1 NT	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	4 ♣	Pass
4 ♦	Pass	4 ♠	Pass

Opening lead — queen of clubs.

Seven to Six

It is desirable to have at least eight trumps in the combined hands to play in a suit contract, but there are times when one must settle for less.

Consider this deal from a team-of-four match where, at the first table, South reached four hearts on a 4-3 fit. This contract was quite reasonable, even though declarer's trump margin over the defenders was only seven to six.

South won the queen-of-clubs lead with the ace and played a diamond to the queen. West took the king and led another club, dummy's eight forcing East's king, which declarer ruffed.

South ruffed a diamond in dummy and cashed the A-K-Q of trumps, leaving West with the only remaining trump, the ten. But despite his apparently commanding position, West found himself with no recourse when declarer proceeded to run his diamonds. West ruffed the fifth diamond, but then had to lead a spade to declarer's king and so hand South his 10th trick.

At the second table, South wound up in three notrump and went down one when he encountered superb defense. West led the four of spades, the unbid suit, covered by dummy's six. East then made the fine play of the five, taken by declarer with the ten. The nonappearance of the deuce or three on the first trick made it clear to West that East's five was a come-on signal. So when South entered dummy with a heart and tried a diamond finesse, West took the king and played the ace and another spade to put an end to declarer's hopes.

