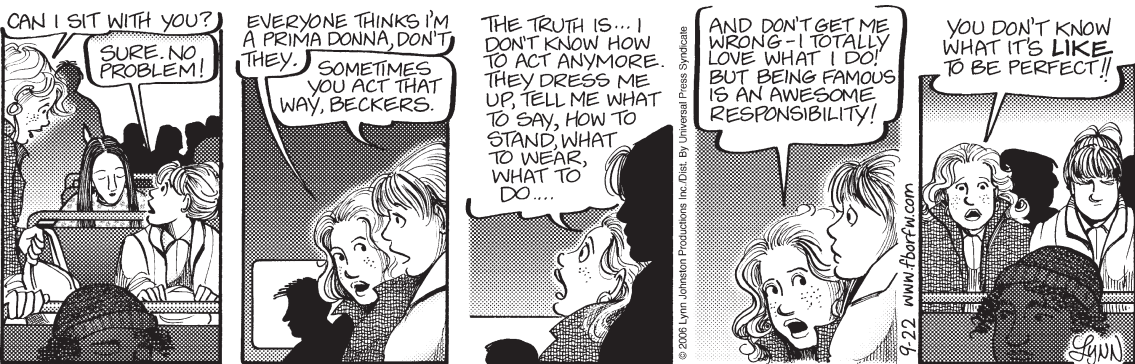
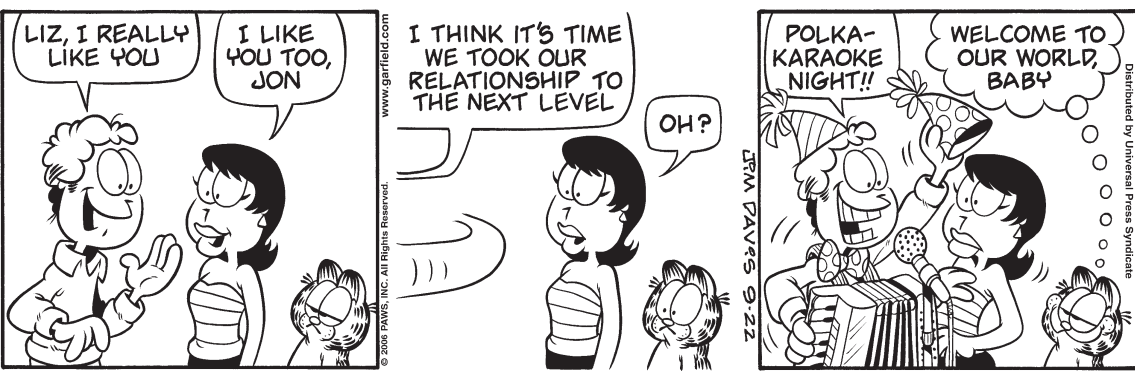


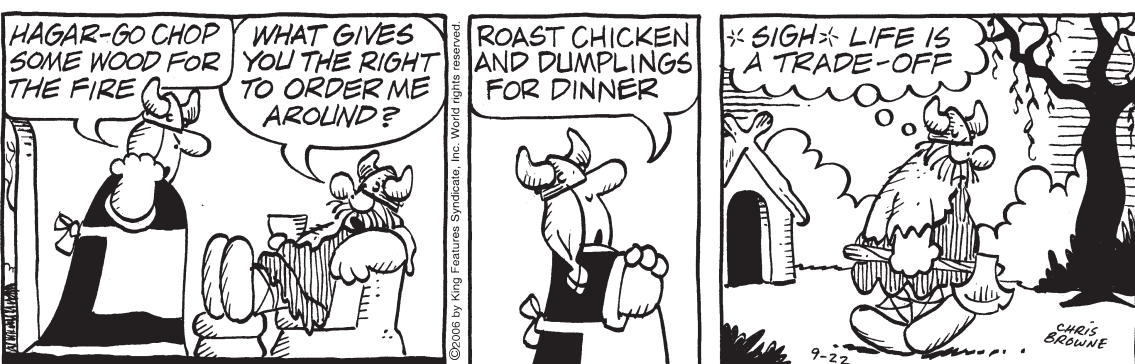
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Garfield • Jim Davis



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

ZXUYG UW WUG GVGGBP

YWIXY YWUNRK YRU GVBWZG

WQS ZGYSGP, X ZQBBWZG

WUCK PXI NXCC PGCC.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I LOVE FUZZY FRUIT SO MUCH THAT I'VE CONSIDERED SIGNING MYSELF UP FOR PEACH THERAPY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals N

WC JDL ERF R CIA WFIRO

RUDLH UGIRHEWBP WB RWG,

W OLNND OI HEIJ ADLTF

UI WBONWGWBP HEDLPEHO.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE NO ONE EXCEPT COMIC CONWAY CAN EXPOSE OUR SECRET, I SUPPOSE ONLY TIM WILL TELL.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals I

Crossword

ACROSS

1 Speedometer stat

4 Small stream

8 Counterfeit

12 401(k) alternative

13 On the briny

14 Strategem

15 "Yellow" band

17 Send out

18 No longer fertile

19 Ram's ma'am

21 Bunk-house item

22 Second showing

26 Re Ra abbr.

29 Calendar

30 Rage

31 Helen's home

32 Cover

33 \$50, in "Monopoly"

34 Past

DOWN

1 Cinderella's horses, originally

2 College employee, for short

3 Fair share, often

4 Bird of prey

5 Geographical speck

6 Grazing area

7 In tiers

8 Wield a broom

9 That guy

10 Actress

11 Bumped into

16 Rot

20 Surfing spot

23 Story teller?

24 Met melody

25 Holler

26 Impale

27 Unrestrained goings-on

28 Aerobic maneuver

29 Predicament

32 Payment plan

33 Purchase the entire stock

35 Distant

36 Arguing

38 Furlough

39 Scatter

42 Entreaty

43 Deserve

44 Black—Susan

45 — out a living

46 Back talk

47 Spell-down

49 Be indebted to

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 9-22

Bridge

You are South, both sides vulnerable. The bidding has been:

North	East	South	West
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
2 NT	Pass	?	

What would you now bid with each of the following four hands?

- ♠ AJ852 ♥ 74 ♦ — ♣ AQ9763
- ♠ AQ95 ♥ 84 ♦ 93 ♣ KQ754
- ♠ KJ94 ♥ Q63 ♦ 5 ♣ AK842
- ♠ KQ73 ♥ Q5 ♦ 8 ♣ AJ9532

Bidding Quiz

1. Three spades. The purpose of this bid is to appraise partner of your 6-5 distribution in clubs and spades. Since you are bidding spades for a second time, you are guaranteeing five cards in the suit. At the same time, partner learns that you have at least six clubs, since you would have bid spades first if the two suits had been of equal length. This would be in keeping with the principle that when holding two five-card suits, the higher-ranking suit is bid first.

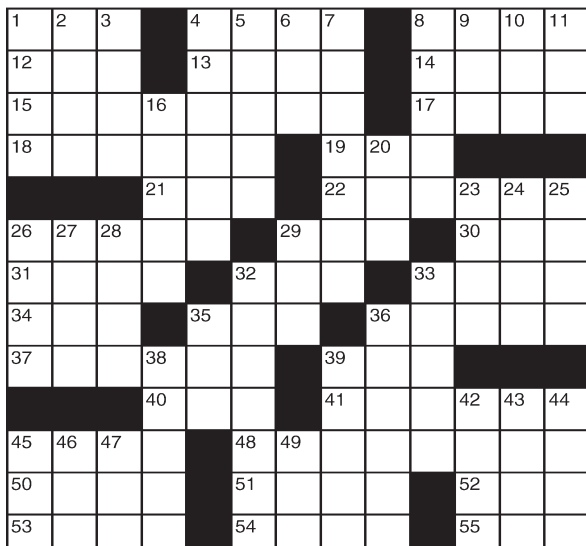
2. Pass. Given partner's bidding, this is not a game-going hand. After opening one heart, partner has twice indicated minimum values with his two-heart and two-notrump rebids. In both cases he was fulfilling his obligation to answer your two forcing bids. With more than minimum values, he could have shown more signs of life. Furthermore, you have already shown all your values and have nothing in reserve to add.

Another way of looking at the situation is to apply the general principle that it takes about 26 points to make a game. Since partner has a minimum opening bid and you have less than an opening bid, the total adds up to less than game.

3. Four hearts. Game is certain despite partner's signoffs. However, there is a mild chance for a slam, and the jump to four hearts, in conjunction with your two previous bids, is made to encourage partner to go on with a suitable hand.

4. Three hearts. It is not clear at this point whether the best game contract lies in hearts, notrump or clubs. The best way to define your shortness in diamonds, after having bid clubs and spades, is to show the ability to play in hearts also. Partner will then be in a position to select the best final contract.

Ordinarily, Q-x is not regarded as sufficient support for partner's rebid suit, since partner might have only five hearts. But because there is a good possibility that he has a six-card suit, a trial raise to three hearts (forcing) is perfectly proper.



ACROSS

1 Play-ground piece

6 Site of rapid growth

12 It comes after 23

13 On

14 Street that goes downhill?

15 Rupture

16 Egyptian cross

17 Y-chromosome recipients

19 Indispensable

20 Tournament format

22 Corn spike

24 La-la lead-in

27 Congers

29 Actress Hilary

32 "In the Navy" group

35 Competent

36 Indiana city

DOWN

1 Epidermis

2 Kerosene-lamp feature

3 Baking potato

4 San Francisco's — Hill

5 Zero

6 Physicist Otto

7 Not merely plump

8 Craggy peak

9 "Wheel of Fortune" space

10 Canal zone?

11 Crucial time

12 Resort

18 Off base?

21 Cause of royal insomnia

23 Commotion

24 1933 dam org.

25 Tease

26 Fine

28 Light rain

30 Winter woe

31 Shortest of the 12 (Abbr.)

33 Mainlander's souvenir

34 Keep tabs on

39 Code name?

41 RenFair role

42 "Family Feud" option

43 Never again?

45 Rose's place?

47 Black

48 Stagger

49 Actor Ron

51 Ump's call

53 Nosh

Solution time: 27 mins.

Yesterday's answer 9-23

West dealer. East-West vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ K 9 8 5

♥ 8 6 3

♦ J 2

♣ Q 7 5 4

WEST

♠ J 2

♥ A 10 4 2

♦ K Q 10 7 3

♣ 10 3

EAST

♠ 10 4

♥ Q J 9 5

♦ K 6 5 4

♣ K 9 8

SOUTH

♠ A Q 7 6 3

♥ K 7

♦ A 9

♣ A J 6 2

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 ♣
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	4 ♣

Opening lead — king of diamonds.

Clubbed Into Submission

The most successful declarers are those who constantly seek ways to improve on their chances. This holds true no matter how good or bad the final contract might be. Take this case where South starts out as a slight favorite to make four spades. If East has the heart ace or the singleton or doubleton king of clubs, 10 tricks are a virtual certainty.

When the deal occurred, South won the king of diamonds with the ace, cashed the A-K of trumps and exited with the diamond jack to West's queen. This forced West to return a club or a heart, both apparently beneficial to declarer's cause.

However, after West returned the ten of clubs to South's jack, declarer found he had not materially improved his position. He tried playing the ace and another club, but East won with the king and returned a heart to set the contract one trick.

Declarer was a bit unlucky to fail on this line of play, but he should have done better. When he led a diamond at trick four, he already knew that West had started with the K-Q of diamonds and jack of spades; West therefore could not hold both the ace of hearts and king of clubs, since he had passed originally. Consequently, at least one of these two cards had to be in East's hand.

To cater to the primary threat to his contract — that East had the club king and West the heart ace — South should have led a club to the jack at trick four. If the finesse lost, East would then become marked with the ace of hearts. In the actual case, though, the club finesse wins. Declarer then cashes the ace of clubs before exiting with a diamond. West wins with the queen, but must either concede a heart to South's king or lead a diamond, allowing South to ruff in dummy while discarding a heart from his hand.

The recommended approach might seem just a slight improvement on the line of play, but attention to such small details is what makes all the difference between superior and merely adequate declarer play.

Family Circus • Bill Keane

