

For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston

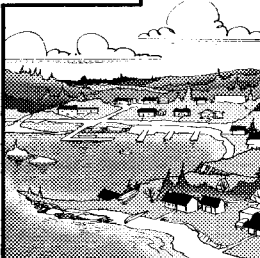
MTIWAKI HAS BEEN AN ESTABLISHED COMMUNITY FOR AS LONG AS THE OJIBWAY PEOPLE CAN REMEMBER.

THE ORIGINAL STRUCTURES ARE LONG GONE, BUT THE POWWOW GROUNDS REMAIN VERY MUCH THE SAME.

THE SACRED FIRE IS LIT WITHIN THE SAME CIRCLE OF STONES PLACED THERE BY THE ANCESTORS.

IN EVERYWAY, IT IS A PLACE OF WORSHIP.

IF WE CAN RAISE A BIT MORE MONEY, WE CAN FIX THE ROOF.



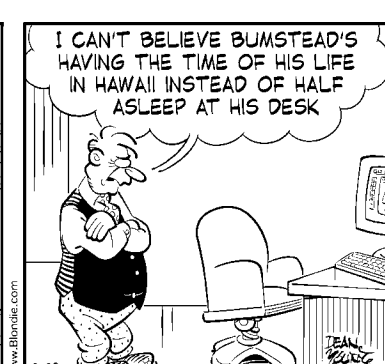
Garfield • Jim Davis



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



Cryptoquip

L MFD ZYQH LIUVS GUD SU XQ RNZ GPH RGBIXIO
 IF L CVA AFCCZVQ NQVHI BDXCH WPHFFXIO
 HUBSWLWF GUQTFB GLC IFFM YCNVDHF, X FZWVNFH RNZ
 SYSQFT "GUHF: L QULM."
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOUR FORMER HUSBAND LIKES TAKING EXTRA-LONG BATHS, YOU COULD CALL HIM A CLEAN EX.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals E

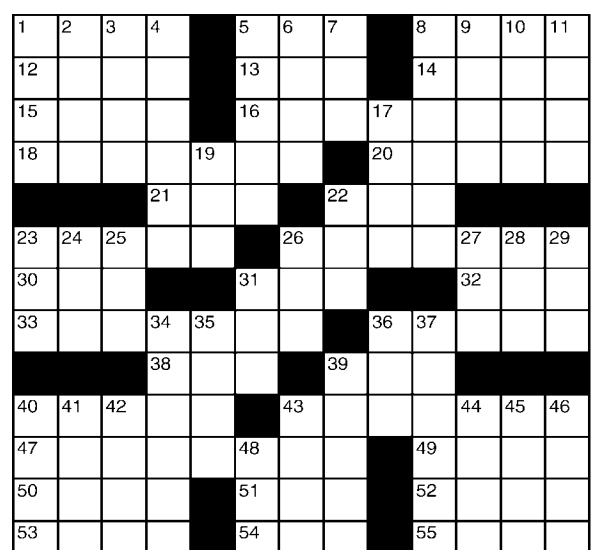
Crossword

ACROSS
 1 Bivouac
 5 Nurse a drink
 8 Greek cheese
 12 Lotion additive
 13 401(k) alternative
 14 Rainbow
 15 Pealed
 16 What to "fill 'er up" with
 18 Almond confection
 20 Late 15th-century craft
 21 Type measures
 22 By means of
 23 Pretend
 26 Direct route
 30 Qty.
 31 Storm center
 32 Adams or Johnson
 33 Synopsis
 36 Sailor's call
 38 Peculiar
 39 "— Got a Secret"
 40 Memorable mission

DOWN
 1 Complain chronically
 2 Winglike
 3 "— Lisa"
 4 Part of a pirate costume
 5 Burma Shave trade-marks
 6 "Dies —"
 7 Ballerina's step
 8 Regarding offspring
 9 Green land
 10 Coloration
 11 On the briny
 17 Mayberry moppet
 19 Hostel work environment
 22 Churchill's gesture
 23 "— Schwarz"
 24 Ostrich's cousin
 25 Hirsute
 26 "See ya!"
 27 Cretan mountain
 28 Ph. bk. info
 29 Tolkien tree creature
 31 Conclude
 34 Loch —
 35 "American —"
 36 "Hail, Caesar!"
 37 Napped fabric
 39 Perfect
 40 Scored 100
 41 Wash
 42 Vicinity
 43 From the top
 44 One way to stand by
 45 End of a Christie title
 46 Gay '90s, Roaring '20s, et al.
 48 Judge Lance

Solution time: 21 mins.

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



ACROSS
 1 AWOL's pursuers
 4 "The A-Team" actor
 7 Peter Pan foe
 8 Tierney of "ER"
 10 Click-and-drag device
 11 Whopper topper
 13 "Joy to the World" band
 16 Trinity member
 17 Stage statuary
 18 Felonious flight
 19 Umpires
 20 "Star Wars" knights
 21 Muffler
 23 Denis of "Rescue Me"
 25 Slender
 26 Ethereal
 27 Reunion group

DOWN
 2 Indulge in vowing
 3 Summer-time pest
 4 Shabby
 5 Archaeologist's venue
 6 "Star Trek: TNG" officer
 7 Yo followers
 8 Io, Europa, Gany-mede and Callisto
 9 Fisherman
 10 Peaks (Abbr.)

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Bridge

South dealer.
 North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
 ♠ 9 5 4
 ♥ K 9 7 4
 ♦ Q 6 3 2
 ♣ K 5

WEST
 ♠ K 8 7
 ♥ J 2
 ♦ K 10 4
 ♣ J 10 8 6 3

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

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

The bidding:
 South 1♥
 West Pass
 North 2♥
 East Pass

Opening lead — jack of clubs.

How to Go From A to Z

There are many hands where it is to declarer's advantage to have the opponents initiate a particular suit instead of first leading it himself.

One common holding of this type is Q-x-x in one hand opposite J-x-x in the other. If declarer has to play this combination himself, and if the opposing ace and king are split, he is likely to lose three tricks in the suit. But if either opponent leads the suit first, declarer sooner or later scores a trick simply by playing "second-hand low."

Familiarity with this principle enabled one declarer in a team contest to find a sure way to bring in four hearts on today's deal, while the declarer at the other table failed.

At the table where four hearts went down one, West led the club jack, taken by dummy's king, and South played the A-Q of trumps. Declarer then cashed the A-Q of clubs, discarding a spade from dummy, and crossed to dummy with a heart in order to lead a spade to the queen. West won with the king and returned a spade to South's ace.

Forced to attack diamonds himself, declarer now led a low diamond to dummy's queen. East won with the ace, and his diamond return to West's K-10 set the contract.

At the other table, the play followed the same course for the first five tricks. But instead of crossing to dummy with a trump to try the spade finesse, declarer next played the A-Q of spades, deliberately conceding a spade trick to the opponents.

The advantage of this method of play was that the defender who won the trick would have to lead a diamond or else yield an equally fatal ruff-and-discard.

In practice, West returned a low diamond after taking the spade king, and declarer then could not be stopped from eventually scoring a diamond trick.

Tomorrow: Playing the odds.
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South dealer.
 Neither side vulnerable.
NORTH
 ♠ K 10
 ♥ Q
 ♦ A Q 9 7 4 2
 ♣ J 9 6 3

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

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

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

The bidding:
 South 1♦
 West 3♦
 North Pass
 East Pass

Opening lead — six of hearts.

Playing the Odds

It is very common for declarer to have a choice of two different lines of play, either of which may turn out right or wrong, depending on how the defenders' cards are divided. The best a declarer can do in these cases is to adopt the play that is more likely to succeed in the long run — in other words, the percentage play.

Consider this deal where South was in six diamonds. He won the heart lead, cashed the trump king and played a low spade to the king. After cashing the A-Q of spades, declarer ruffed his last spade in dummy.

With all his spades and hearts thus eliminated from both hands, South next played the ace and another club, whereupon the defenders took two club tricks to set the slam.

Declarer's method of play would have succeeded had East held the K-Q, K-x, Q-x or singleton K or Q of clubs. South would have lost only one club trick in all of these cases and would have made the contract.

But granting the legitimacy of declarer's line of play, he would make the slam this way only about a quarter of the time — clearly not an acceptable percentage when another line of play would win half the time. The superior play at trick three is to lead the four of spades and finesse dummy's ten!

Since it is essentially a 50-50 chance which opponent was dealt the jack of spades, there is a 50-50 chance the ten will win the trick. If the ten holds, the king is cashed, and two of dummy's four clubs are subsequently discarded on the A-Q of spades, leaving declarer with only one club to lose.

The recommended approach would win about twice as often as the one actually chosen by South. This makes the finesse of the ten the clear-cut percentage play.

Tomorrow: A royal sacrifice.
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Family Circus • Bill Keane



"If you decide to go to the pet store for anything, Grandma, I'll be happy to go with you."

"Cool! Then I'll have someplace else to keep my stuff."