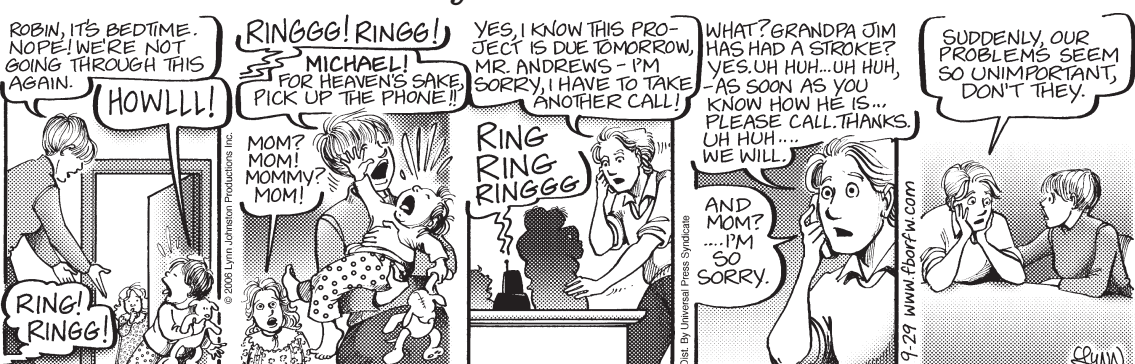


For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



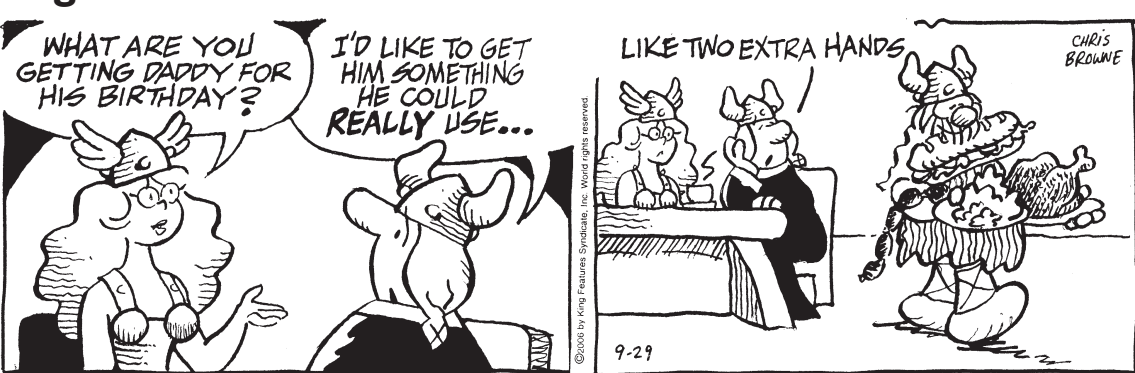
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Garfield • Jim Davis



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



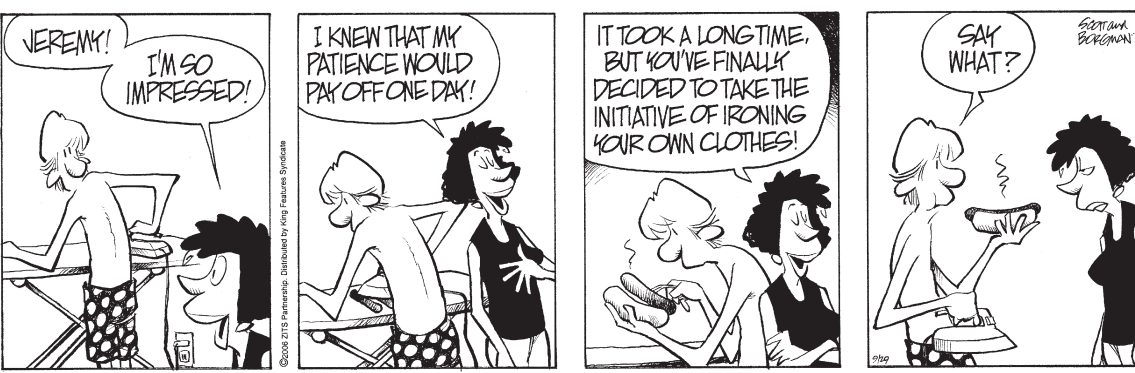
Blondie • Chic Young



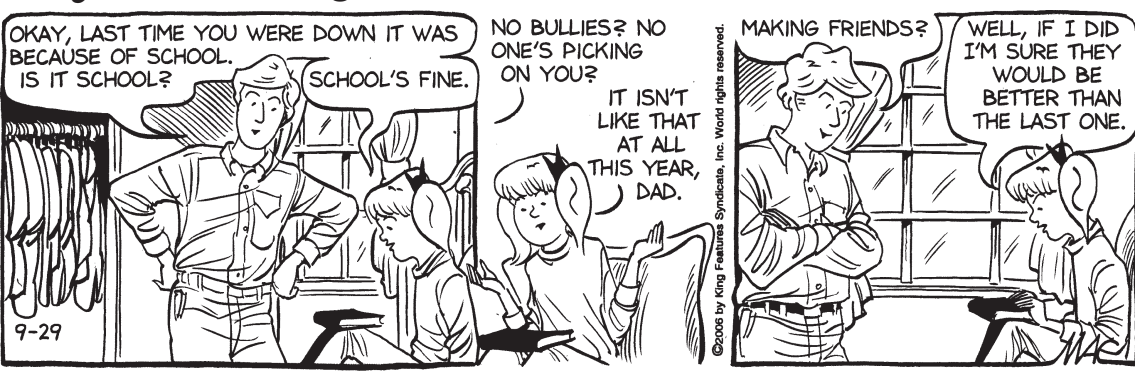
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

DSHK W MHWPHSBMYHE GNXWNYW NYQW GZHO
JLHDP W IBJLH BE W NJ SMZS ZYV HYWIRWLHWYQWO
PSBD, DBZMY QBZ PWQ RMNSNPLZRMWL XBGS SLV
NSWN'P EHKNH-NWLKIHKN? SN PWS XNLW WIRNGBLW.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU WERE IN LONDON AND NEEDED A LIFT, I GUESS YOU MIGHT CALL THE WESTMINSTER CABBYY.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals V
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A LEASEHOLDER VIEWS A MOVIE OR A TV SHOW, WOULD YOU SAY THAT'S RENTER-TAINMENT?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals T

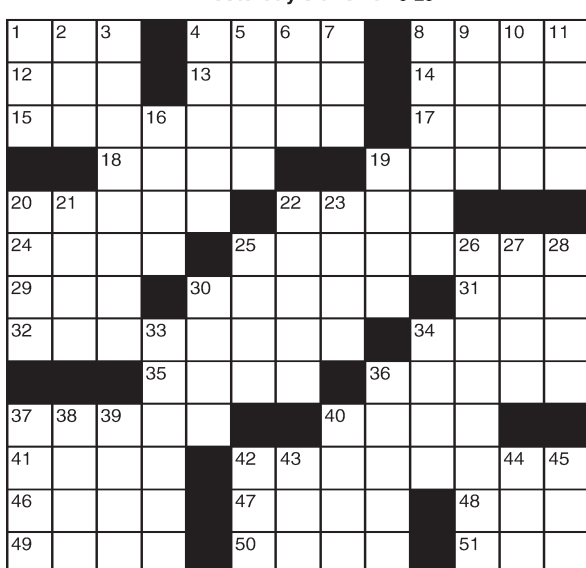
Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Occupation
 - 4 Bruins' sch.
 - 8 In addition
 - 12 Ms. Gardner
 - 13 In addition
 - 14 Engine sound
 - 15 Hiker's carryall
 - 17 Eastern potentate
 - 18 Recognized
 - 19 "Murder, She —"
 - 20 Lattice-work shelter
 - 22 Stylish
 - 24 Ducklike bird
 - 25 Like an innocent babe
 - 29 Attila, e.g.
 - 30 Blog, essentially
 - 31 "— was saying, ..."
 - 32 Will VIP
 - 34 "Get lost!"
 - 35 Robert of "Airplane!"
 - 36 Tea variety
 - 37 Fisherman's basket
 - 40 Cruise the Internet
 - 41 Feeble, as an excuse
 - 42 Talk nasty about an absentee
 - 46 Hertz rival
 - 47 Uncontrollable
 - 48 Carnival city
 - 49 Apportion
 - 50 Hayworth or Moreno
 - 51 Still, in verse
- DOWN**
- 1 Poke
 - 2 Eventual
 - 3 Firmness of character
 - 4 Superior
 - 5 Talon
 - 6 Robitaille of hockey
 - 7 Request
 - 8 Insight
 - 9 Wheels of fortune?
 - 10 Peevishness
 - 11 Shrek, e.g.
 - 16 Entanglement
 - 19 Lean and vigorous
 - 20 Rue the run
 - 21 Sauce thickener
 - 22 "War of the Worlds" effect
 - 23 Man of the Haus
 - 25 Metropolis
 - 26 Go wrong
 - 27 Golfer
 - 28 Give as an example
 - 30 Two-way
 - 33 Photog's request?
 - 34 Kosovo resident
 - 36 Authentic
 - 37 One unwilling to talk
 - 38 Four-star review
 - 39 Send out
 - 40 Highlander
 - 42 Prohibit
 - 43 Parisian pal
 - 44 Reason for "sudden death"
 - 45 A billion years

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 9-29

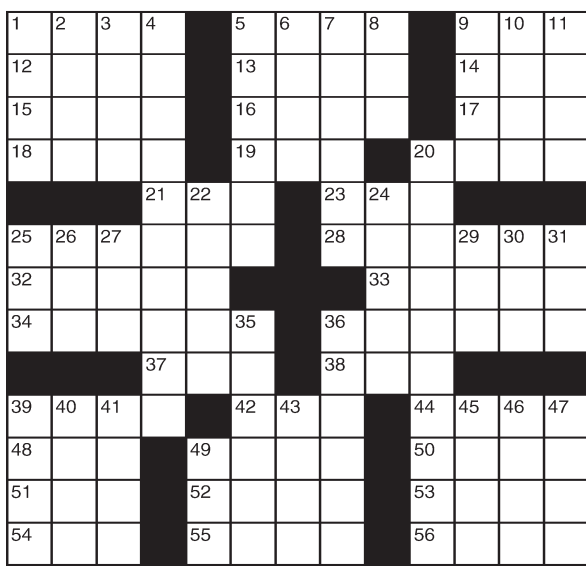


- ACROSS**
- 1 Sound of contentment
 - 5 Semaine portion
 - 9 Digital readout (Abbr.)
 - 12 Duel tool
 - 13 Partner in crime
 - 14 Stout cousin
 - 15 Puts one over on
 - 16 Write a footnote
 - 17 Delivery truck
 - 18 Gordius' poser
 - 19 Pond carp
 - 20 Kirk or Queeg, for ex.
 - 21 Wanted poster abbr.
 - 23 Cattle call
 - 25 Get more gas
 - 28 Burning
 - 32 "Moon-struck" subject
 - 33 Chasing
 - 34 Diego Rivera art
 - 36 Nap letters
 - 37 Big Apple
 - 38 Incense
 - 39 Make sport
 - 42 U.K. fliers
 - 44 Trade
 - 48 Pump up the volume
 - 49 Transmitted
 - 50 Aesopian also-ran
 - 51 Through
 - 52 Scalp
 - 53 Finished
 - 54 \$ dispenser
 - 55 In the thick of
 - 56 Moun-taineer's goal
 - 6 Nap
 - 7 Big Apple
 - 8 Incense
 - 9 Make sport
 - 10 U.K. fliers
 - 11 Trade
 - 12 Pump up the volume
 - 13 Transmitted
 - 14 Aesopian also-ran
 - 15 Through
 - 16 Scalp
 - 17 Finished
 - 18 \$ dispenser
 - 19 In the thick of
 - 20 Moun-taineer's goal
 - 21 Fender bender
 - 22 Breakfast site
 - 23 Singer Smith
 - 24 Where the elated walk
 - 25 Aries
 - 26 Flightless bird
 - 27 Supporting
 - 29 "Monty Python" opener
 - 30 On pens.
 - 31 History chapter
 - 35 1996 Wes Craven movie
 - 36 Used a colander
 - 39 Al Hirt hit
 - 40 Release
 - 41 Unwanted e-mail
 - 43 Con
 - 45 Bleachers choreography
 - 46 Neck of the woods
 - 47 Fringe benefit
 - 49 Resort
- DOWN**
- 1 Quick kiss
 - 2 Word often following "once"
 - 3 Former attorney general
 - 4 Dinner site
 - 5 Dog's wild kin
 - 6 Hodge-podge
 - 7 During the previous month
 - 8 Catcher's place?
 - 9 Stromboli spillage
 - 10 Applaud
 - 11 Fender bender
 - 12 Breakfast site
 - 13 Singer Smith
 - 14 Where the elated walk
 - 15 Aries
 - 16 Flightless bird
 - 17 Supporting
 - 19 "Monty Python" opener
 - 20 On pens.
 - 21 History chapter
 - 22 1996 Wes Craven movie
 - 23 Used a colander
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 - 31 Resort

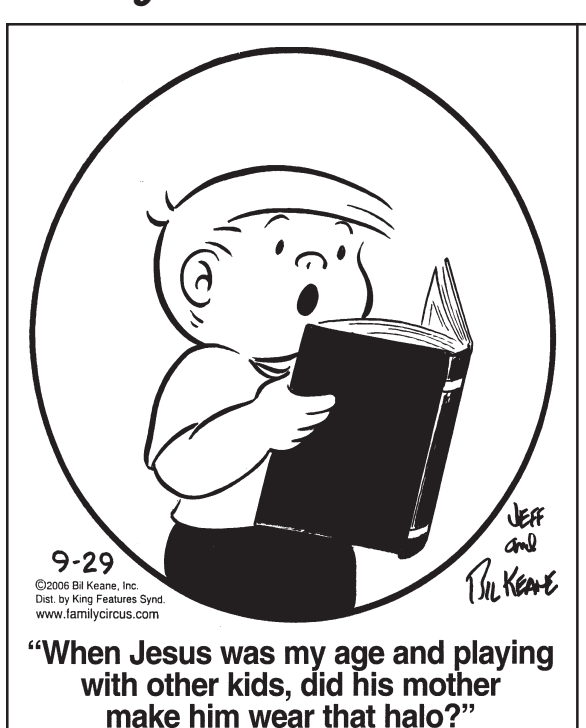
Solution time: 27 mins.



Yesterday's answer 9-30



Family Circus • Bill Keane



Bridge

1. You are declarer with the West hand at Three Notrump. North leads the four of spades, and you win South's ten with the king. How would you play the hand?

West

♠ A K
♥ 8
♦ A Q 7 5 4
♣ J 8 5 2

East

♠ 9 6
♥ A K Q 5
♦ 8 6 3
♣ 10 9 7 4

2. You are declarer with the West hand at Six Hearts. North leads the ace of diamonds. How would you play the hand?

West

♠ Q 5
♥ K J 10 9 2
♦ K 3
♣ A Q 7 4

East

♠ A J 8 4
♥ A 7 6 5 3
♦ —
♣ K J 9 2

Test Your Play

1. The first problem is whether to tackle clubs or diamonds, but it shouldn't take long to recognize the futility of trying to establish the clubs. If, say, you led a club at trick two, a spade would come back, and when you then led another club, the defenders would cash enough spades to set you at least one trick.

You therefore turn your attention to diamonds, where you have to decide the best way to tackle the suit. Oddly enough, the correct approach is not to lead a heart to dummy first, which would force you to cash the remaining top hearts prematurely before trying a diamond finesse. Instead, you lead a low diamond from your hand at trick two, postponing the diamond finesse until the second round of the suit.

After winning the spade return at trick three, you cash the A-K-Q of hearts and then take a diamond finesse. If South started with two or three diamonds including the king — which is essentially your only chance — you are home.

2. It is impossible to go down unless you lose a spade trick (because South has the king) and a trump trick (because one opponent has all three missing trumps). The problem is to make the slam even if both of these conditions exist.

Ruff the diamond and lead the five of hearts to the king. If both defenders follow suit, your troubles are over. At worst, you lose a spade trick.

Now let's assume one defender shows out on the first trump lead. If it's South, you have no problem, since you can pick up North's queen with a finesse. If instead North shows out, you will lose a trump trick, all right, but you will still make the contract by cashing the king of diamonds and ace of hearts followed by four rounds of clubs.

If South ruffs a club at any point, he will be forced to make a losing return, while if he does not ruff, you next throw him on lead with a trump to accomplish the same result.

Note that if you make the mistake of playing the heart ace at trick two, the contract fails if South has the king of spades and no hearts.

South dealer.

North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ 9 8 7 5 3
♥ A 8 5 4
♦ K Q 8 7
♣ —

WEST

♠ 4
♥ K J 10 9 6
♦ 6 2
♣ Q J 7 5 3

EAST

♠ K Q J 10
♥ Q 3 2
♦ 5
♣ 10 9 6 4 2

SOUTH

♠ A 6 2
♥ 7
♦ A J 10 9 4 3
♣ A K 8

The bidding:

South 1♦ West 1♥ North 1♠ East Pass
3♦ Pass 5♦ Pass
6♦

Opening lead — four of spades.

Magic Act

One of the neatest plays in bridge is known as the "loser on loser," wherein declarer finds a way of telescoping two potential losers into one.

Six diamonds was a poor contract, though it should be noted that the A-K of clubs facing a void was an unfortunate duplication of values.

West led a spade, and when East played the ten, the indications were very strong that West had led a singleton. Declarer won with the ace and was faced with the problem of what to do with one of his two spade losers.

The only information available at this point was that West had overcalled with one heart and probably had only one spade. Starting with this as a basis, South embarked on a course of play designed to make the contract if it could be made.

He began by leading a heart to the ace and ruffing a heart. Then, after playing the ace and king of diamonds, he ruffed another heart. The A-K of clubs were next cashed, two spades being discarded from dummy, and a club was ruffed.

Dummy's last heart was then led, and when East showed out, South discarded one of his two spade losers. West won but had to return a heart or a club. This allowed declarer to ruff in dummy as he discarded his other spade loser, and the slam was made.

The end result was due to careful planning. The loser-on-loser discard had to be timed so that the North and South hands had no hearts or clubs left when dummy's last heart was led.