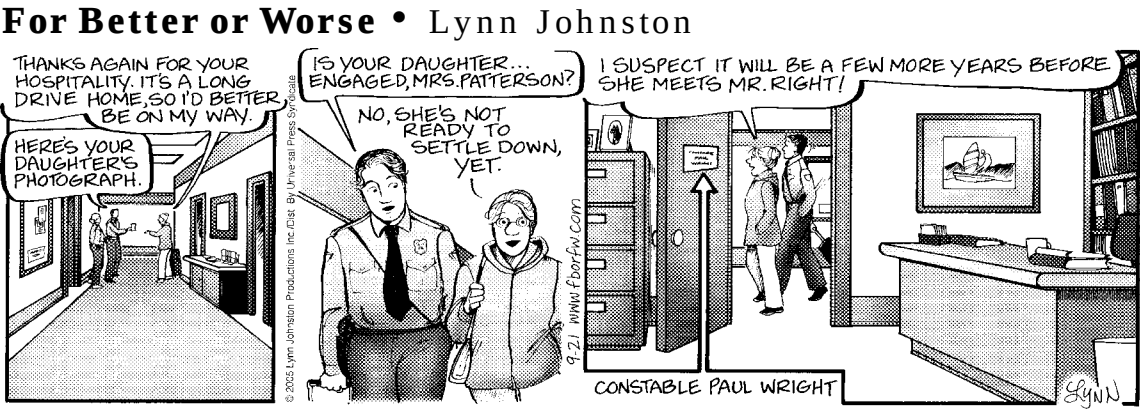
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston

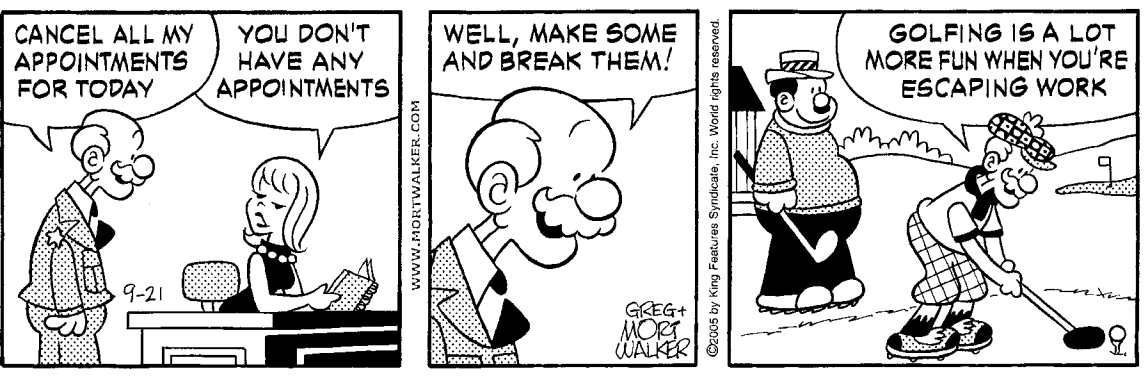


Garfield • Jim Davis

Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne

Blondie • Chic Young

Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott

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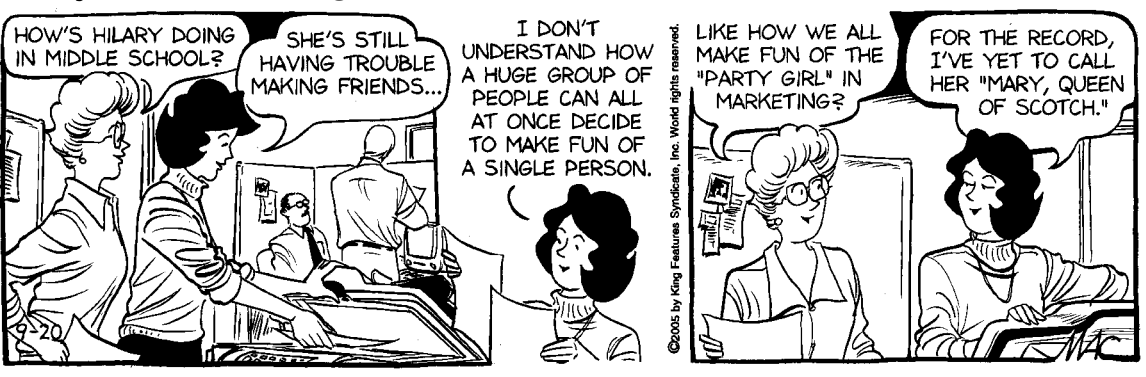
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

R'DH WHYRPRMHEO JHHP SNRPS JTEW ETMHEO. MN JH GNPHIM, R YRPW MGTM DHXO WRI-MXHIIRPS.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF ONE IS UNCLEAR ON HOW MUCH MARGARINE TO USE, I'D GUESS IT WOULD BE BUTTER CONFUSION!

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals G

MB HAPOCHXMHZ EHCPAYMHXP RCHZS PWBO RCMZSP, OTVK PTWAXR EWPO XMSVXK YCVBVC IWIH-SWHXH.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I'VE DEFINITELY BEEN GOING BALD LATELY. TO BE HONEST, I FIND THAT VERY DIS-TRESSING.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals F

Crossword

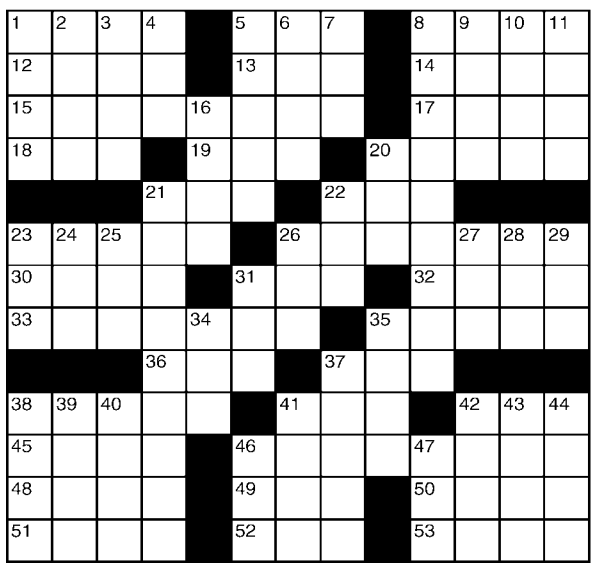
ACROSS
1 Advantage
5 Accomplished
8 Broad bean
12 Sea flier
13 Kanga's kid
14 Actor Wilson
15 Matlock's portrayer
17 Picnic hamperer
18 "Casablanca" pianist
19 Meadow
20 Fashion
21 Young fellow
22 Scrooge's cry
23 "The Chosen" author
26 Patio furniture, often
30 Grand-scale tale
31 Pooch
32 "Spamalot" creator
33 Irritated
35 "The Feast of St. Nicholas" artist
36 Caught sight of
37 "Go team!"
38 Writer's problem
41 URL bit
42 Pompous sort
45 Jeans-maker Strauss
46 Cohort of Joy and Star
48 Condo, e.g.
49 Expert
50 Garfield's pal
51 "Nonsense!"
52 Artesian appellation
53 Birthday delivery

DOWN
1 Early birds?
2 — mater
3 Source of light
4 Sprite
5 Put on the line
6 Teensy bit
7 Homer's interjection
8 Immediately
9 Vacationing
10 Conceal
11 Writer Tyler
16 Criticism
20 Despondent
21 One with a key job?
22 Entreat
23 Apiece
24 — -Locka, Fla.
25 Stannum
26 Scepter
27 Praise in verse
28 Flamenco call
29 Hideaway
31 Morning moisture
34 Once around
35 Satisfy fully
37 "Air Music" composer
38 Organization
39 Nevada city
40 Hertz competitor
41 Erté's genre
42 Verdi opera
43 Commotion
44 Undergo ecdysis
46 Bloke
47 Elmer, to Bugs

Solution time: 21 mins.

C	I	A			A	S	S		C	H	A	D
L	A	M	B		U	L	T		R	E	L	Y
A	G	A	R		K	I	R		A	X	L	E
R	O	D	E	O		T	A	L	C			
			A	W	L		P	O	K	I	N	G
B	U	C	K	L	E	D		A	T	R	E	E
O	N	I	T		G	O	T		H	O	W	L
T	I	T	H	E		T	A	L	E	N	T	S
S	T	E	E	R	S		B	O	W			
			B	A	L	D		G	H	O	S	T
M	A	J	A		A	R	C		I	D	L	E
I	C	O	N		T	U	B		P	O	O	L
S	E	E	K		E	M	S			R	E	L

Yesterday's answer 9-20



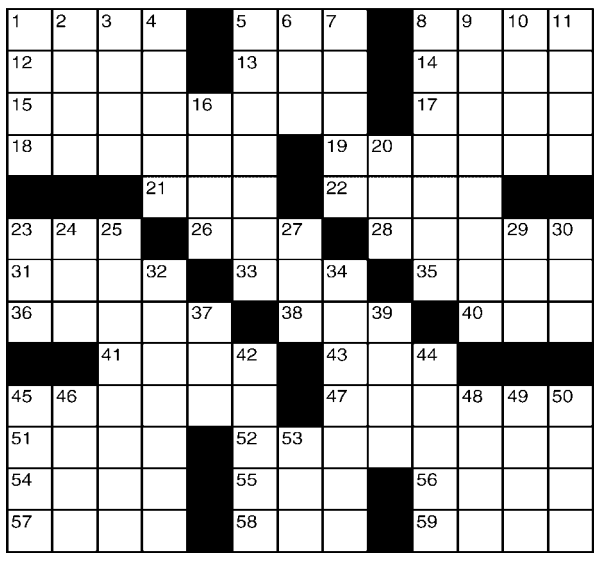
ACROSS
1 Full house, e.g.
5 Bankroll
8 Unwanted e-mail
12 Champagne bucket
13 Raw rock
14 Languish
15 Something hard to pinpoint
17 Aware of
18 Monopoly buys
19 Exxon Valdez, e.g.
21 Trench
22 Greet the villain
23 Prohibit
26 Lavatory sign
28 Pitcher for the Yankees?
31 Miners' sch.
33 Margery of nursery-rhyme fame
35 Violinist/conductor André
36 Olympian's goal
38 Church seat
40 Dad
41 Nursery item
43 TV legend Caesar
45 Esprit de corps
47 Picks up the check
51 Like two peas in —
52 First Super Bowl champs
54 React to yeast
55 Melody
56 Ky. neighbor
57 "— of the D'Urbervilles"
58 Rouen refusal
59 Lip

DOWN
1 Lofty
2 Prefix akin to 1-Down
3 Unadulterated
4 Laundromat machine
5 Broadcloth, perhaps
6 Exist
7 "— in Venice"
8 Back
9 Fire
10 Stud fee?
11 "Love — Leave Me"
16 Grad
20 Intention
23 Vagrant
24 Packed away
25 Emergency-aid group
27 Siesta
29 Late-July birth
30 "Uh-huh"
32 Thanksgiving telecasts
34 Oater
37 Abner's adjective
39 Telegram
42 Started
44 Tooth, in Turin
45 Shopping site
46 Mayberry moppet
48 Sleeping
49 Piquancy
50 "Auld Lang —"
53 Carnival venue

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 9-21



Bridge

North dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A 5
♥ A 5
♦ K Q J 9 5
♣ K Q 10 4

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

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

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

The bidding:

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

Opening lead — two of hearts.

Unusual Defensive Play

In most deals, the key to the winning defense lies in making use of information gained from either the bidding, the play or both. In the present case, for example, East has to make a very unusual play to stop declarer from making three notrump.

The first step in the right direction, after West leads the heart deuce and dummy plays low, is for East to ask himself what his partner's heart holding is likely to be.

West can't have four hearts, which would give South only the Q-x for his three-notrump bid, nor can West have a doubleton, because he would have led the higher of his two hearts rather than the deuce. East concludes, therefore, that South has precisely Q-x-x.

East's next step is to project the probable outcome if he takes the heart king at trick one and returns a heart at trick two. Declarer will almost surely attack diamonds next, forcing out East's ace. Another heart lead to South's queen will establish East's hearts but render them useless for lack of a further entry card.

Once East recognizes that playing the king of hearts at trick one will lead to a dead end, it should not take him long to find the winning defense. Accordingly, he plays the jack of hearts at trick one!

Declarer cannot survive this blow. The best he can do is take his queen and attack diamonds, losing the king to the ace. East returns a heart to dummy's ace, but declarer is fighting a losing cause from then on. He can score four diamonds, two hearts and two spades, but as soon as he leads a club, West rises with the ace and returns a heart, allowing East to collect three heart tricks to put the contract down one.

Tomorrow: A 100 percent certainty.

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North dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ K Q 10 7 5
♥ 9 3
♦ 6 2
♣ A 6 5 2

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

EAST
♠ 8
♥ J 7 5 4
♦ J 9 7 5
♣ Q 8 7 4

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

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
Pass	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	6 ♠	

Opening lead — jack of clubs.

A 100 Percent Certainty

At first glance, it appears that making six spades depends entirely upon winning either of two finesses. However, a peek at the West hand reveals that if declarer attempts both finesses, he is headed for defeat.

But a closer examination reveals that South can make the slam without attempting either finesse! Furthermore, the winning line of play should be found without looking at the opposing cards.

South wins the opening club lead with the king, cashes the ace of trumps, then leads a club to the ace and ruffs a club. After playing a trump to the king, dummy's last club is ruffed.

The stage is now set for the critical play. At trick seven, South crosses to dummy with a trump and returns the nine of hearts. If East plays low, the nine is allowed to ride, losing to West's ten.

If West returns a diamond, South wins with the queen and later ruffs the queen of hearts in dummy to make the slam. If West returns a heart instead, declarer wins with the queen and cashes the ace, discarding a diamond from dummy. The ace of diamonds and a diamond ruff in dummy then bring the play to a successful conclusion.

Note that even if East plays the jack of hearts when the nine is led from dummy, declarer prevails by covering the jack with the queen. West wins with the king, but South's A-8 of hearts effectively produce the same outcome as before. In fact, there is no possible division of the opposing hearts that can avert this result if declarer sets the stage properly from the outset.

Tomorrow: A problem solved.

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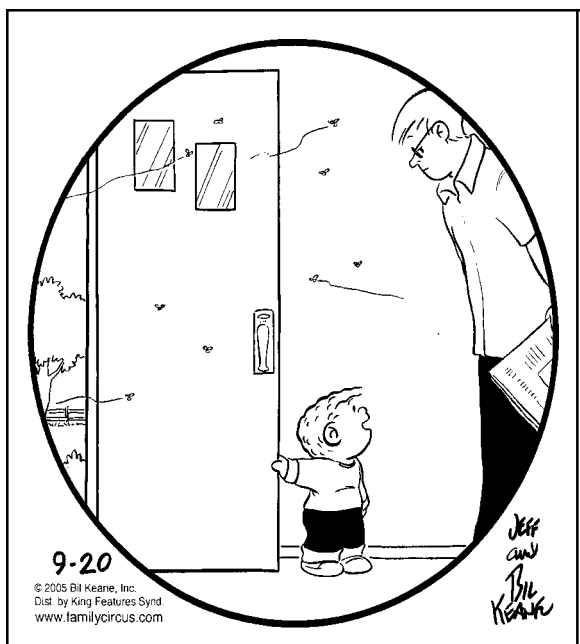
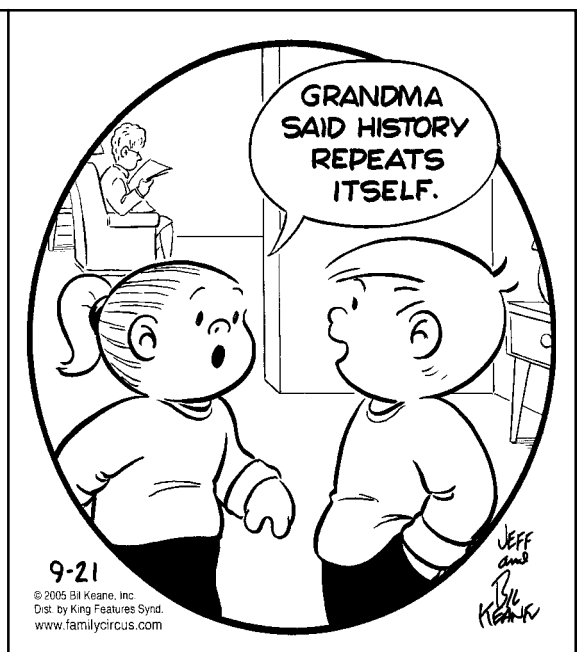
Family Circus • Bill Keane



"I'm holding the door open so the flies can get out."



"Yeah, she told us that a couple times before."