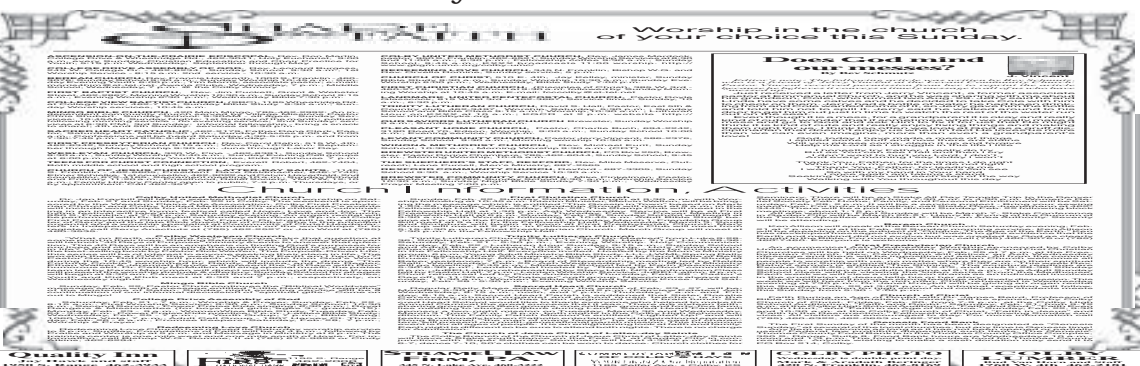
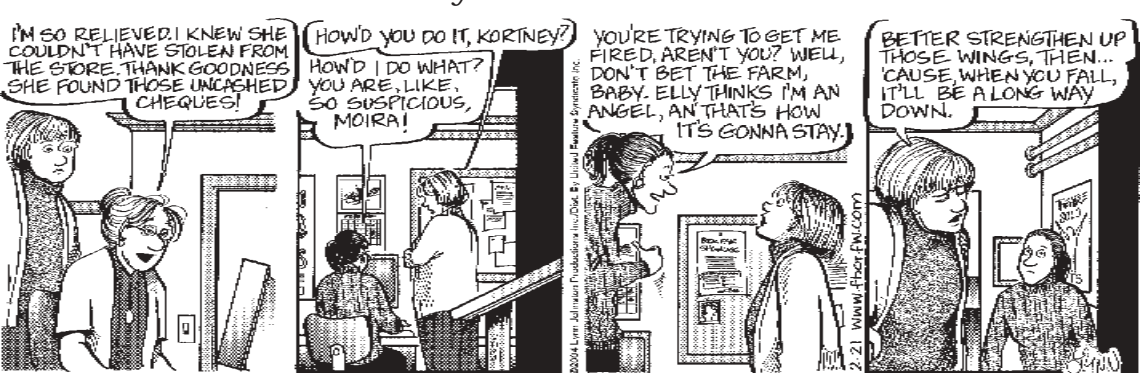


For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



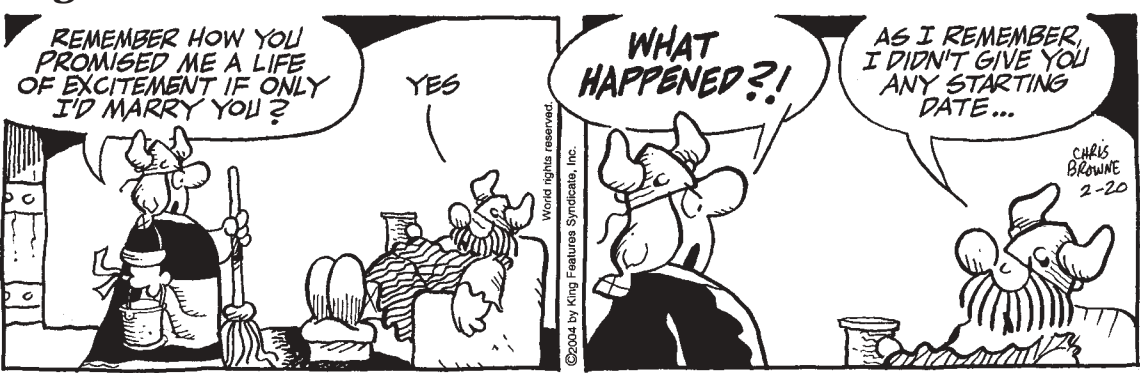
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



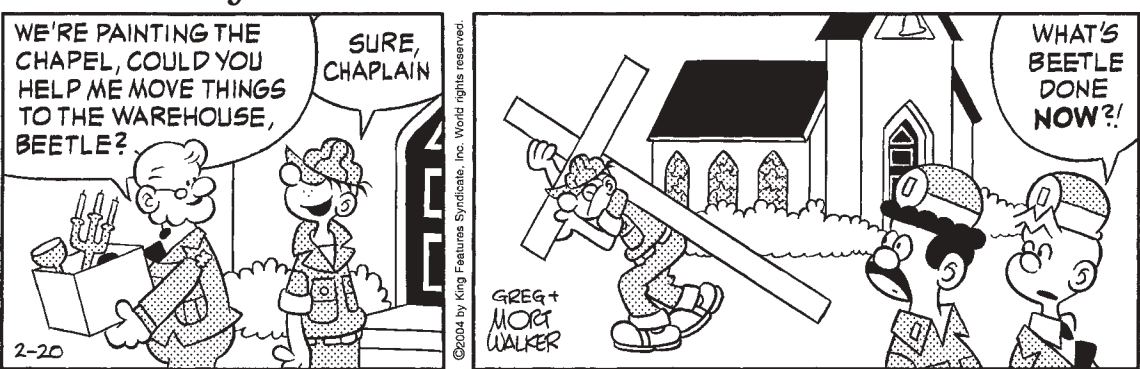
Garfield • Jim Davis



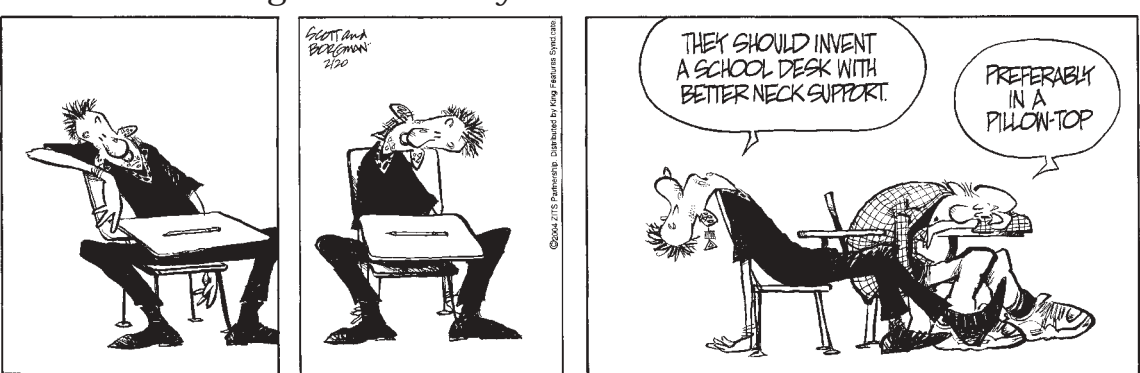
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

KH WTRQ GTC VYXXMV TA

E MKYYTJ XUXQW AKCLN,

K'G VEW WTR LEUX E

VTHN VMTN HTQ LXQ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN YOU'RE TRYING TO CURB YOUR SALT INTAKE, I WOULD RECOMMEND SHAKING THE HABIT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals L

NC KRM GPI OSGFOMAKGS

NF CGSKLTQKM, N HLMFF

RM AGLPI CNTI RNZFMPC

Q OPGKGC HGPI.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOUR DOG SLEEPS ON A PILLOW EVERY NIGHT, I'D SAY YOU HAVE A SOFT SPOT FOR HER.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals P

Crossword

ACROSS

1 Tease

5 "The other white meat"

9 High-arc shot

12 Kournikova of tennis

13 Comical Caroline

14 "— been had!"

15 PC symbol

16 Unctuous

17 Pack away

18 Lascivious

19 French pronoun

20 Story-telling dance

21 Mischief-maker

23 NASA spacewalk

25 Kent's paper

28 Countable

32 "... I wish I —"

33 Unalterable disk

34 2004 news-making two-day bride

36 Westerns

37 Daisy plucker's bad news

38 To's opposite

39 Benevolent

42 Arbiter

44 Fair share, maybe

48 Praiseful piece

49 Swing music

50 Off base

51 Fresh

52 Related

53 Clerestory feature

54 Roscoe

55 Tuesday at the movies?

56 Went blond

DOWN

1 "Monopolily" corner

2 Formerly

3 Where to find some angels?

4 Together

5 Cue

6 Louisville's river

7 Cameo carving

8 Round Table knight

9 Place

10 Racetrack

11 VHS alternative

20 Involving physical combat

22 Subway

24 Wakefield cleric

25 Evenings (Abbr.)

26 Back talk

27 Candle count

29 Dander

30 Anderson's "High —"

31 Type squares

35 Broadway show-stopper?

36 Arouse resentment

39 "King —"

40 Notion

41 Salamander

43 Satan's forte

45 Vacationing

46 Wedding-vow verb

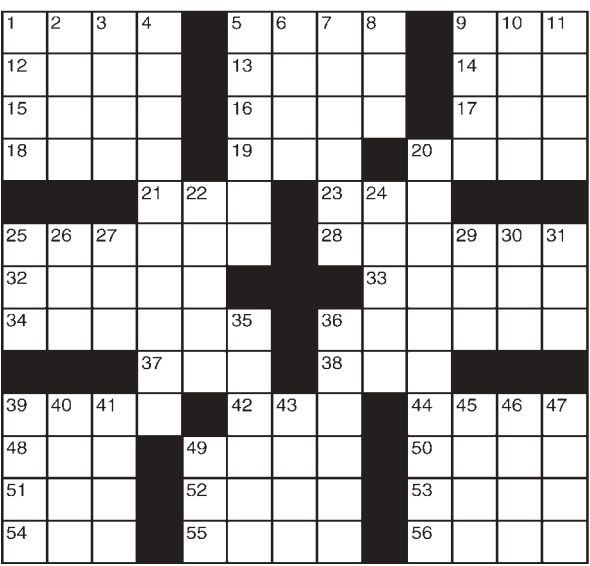
47 Took off

49 Mandible

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 2-21



ACROSS

1 Tease

5 "The other white meat"

9 High-arc shot

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13 Comical Caroline

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47 Took off

49 Mandible

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 2-21

Bridge

1. The bidding has gone:
You Partner
1 [H] 2 [C]
2 [D] 4 [H]
?

What would you bid now with:
[S] K7 [H] KQ1093 [D] KQJ64 [C] 5

2. The bidding has gone:
You Partner
1 [S] 2 [S]
?

What would you bid now with:
[S] AK10952 [H] AJ73 [D] 4 [C] 86

1. Four notrump. Partner's four-heart bid, in conjunction with his two-club response, is slam invitational. It indicates values greater than a jump to three hearts (forcing) would show. So, even though you have only 14 high-card points and no aces, you should accept partner's invitation and bid again. The key to the slam, if there is one, is how many aces he has — and that is why your best bet at this point is Blackwood. If partner turns up with three aces, you're virtually certain to make a slam.

2. Three hearts. It is often said that a partnership requires 33 points for a small slam, but while this is generally true for balanced hands, it is an inaccurate way of assessing the potential for slam on unbalanced hands. In actuality, most slams are made with hands that contain only about 28 to 30 high-card points. The chief reason these hands produce 12 tricks is that they contain distributional features that neutralize most of the 10 to 12 high-card points held by the defenders.

Consider this case where you have only 12 high-card points and partner, after opening one club, raises you to two spades. It would be wrong to jump directly to four spades on the basis that partner has a minimum opening bid and so have you — which usually means there's no slam.

However, suppose partner held:
[S] Q874 [H] K6 [D] A85 [C] KQ52
or
[S] Q863 [H] 5 [D] A82 [C] AQ743

In both cases your side belongs in a slam, and the best way to start the ball rolling in that direction is by bidding three hearts over two spades. With either hand shown, partner should cooperate with your slam try by bidding four diamonds. This shows the ace of diamonds, a good holding opposite a secondary heart suit, and a hand that is better than an average two-spade raise. With partner showing these plus features, you could either immediately or subsequently contract for six spades.

If your partner instead held something like [S] QJ64 [H] 852 [D] A8 [C] KQ102, he would make the discouraging response of three spades, and you would then close the auction by bidding four spades.

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH			
♠	A		
♥	Q 8 4 2		
♦	10 5 4		
♣	A 6 4 3 2		

WEST			
♠	J 10 6 3		
♥	6 5		
♦	K Q J 6		
♣	Q 10 8		

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

SOUTH			
♠	K Q 5 4		
♥	A K J 7 3		
♦	A		
♣	J 9 7		

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♥ Pass 2 ♣ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 4 ♥ Pass
4 NT Pass 5 ♥ Pass
5 NT Pass 6 ♣ Pass

Opening lead — king of diamonds.

Sneak Attack

When fate neglects to give declarer enough assets to work with, he can sometimes try to enlist the aid of his opponents to achieve his goal. This usually requires a smooth performance by declarer, and a good example is provided in today's deal.

West led a diamond against six hearts, and South saw at once that the slam would fail unless he could avoid losing two club tricks.

Since there were very few holdings the defenders could have that would permit only one club loser (K-Q doubleton or the singleton king or queen with West, for example), South decided to add to his chances by giving the defenders a chance to go wrong.

Accordingly, at trick two he led a club to the ace, both opponents following low. He then cashed the ace of spades, A-K of trumps and K-Q of spades, discarding two diamonds from dummy. After ruffing his last spade in dummy, the stage was set.

With fingers crossed, declarer led a club. East won with the king but had to return a diamond, whereupon South discarded the jack of clubs as he ruffed in dummy to bring in the slam.

The key play occurred at trick two when declarer led a club to the ace. East could have assured defeat of the slam by dropping the king under the ace, but he was hardly in a position to find this defense so early in the play.

Had declarer telegraphed his intentions by first stripping his own hand and dummy of spades and diamonds before cashing the ace of clubs, it would have been much easier for East to dispose of his king under the ace. West would then have been able to score two club tricks to set the slam.

To have the greatest chance of success, declarer's club play had to be made before East realized that the king was a hot potato.

Family Circus • Bill Keane

