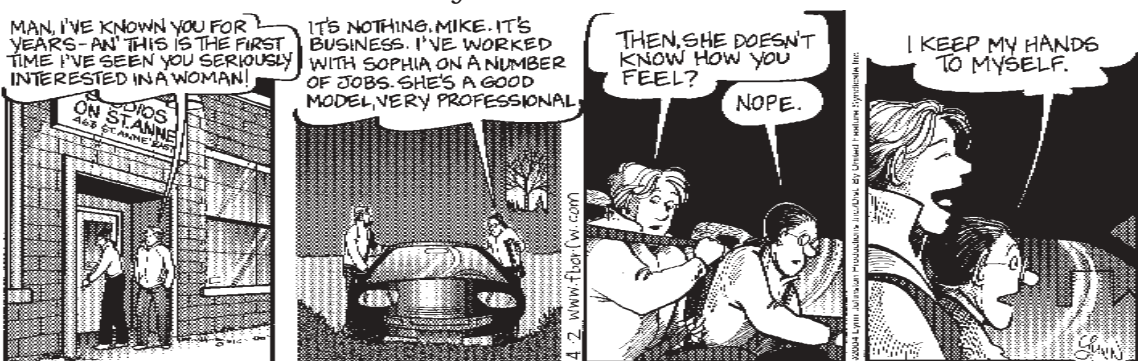
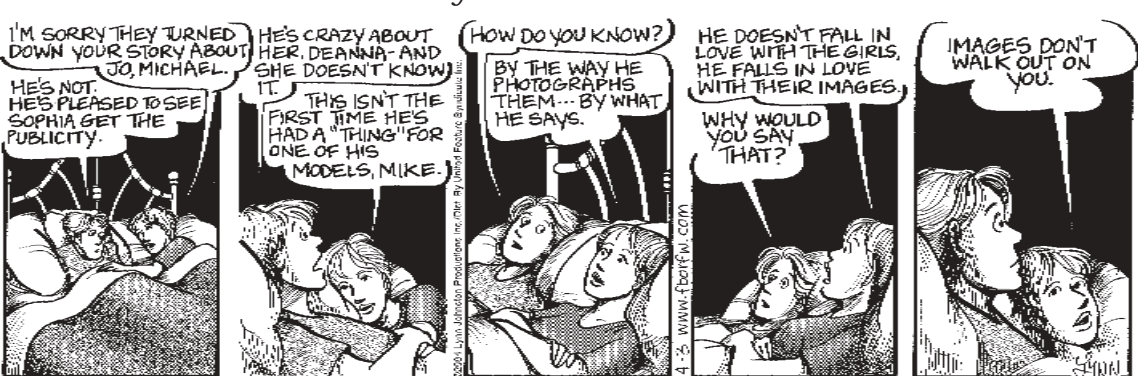


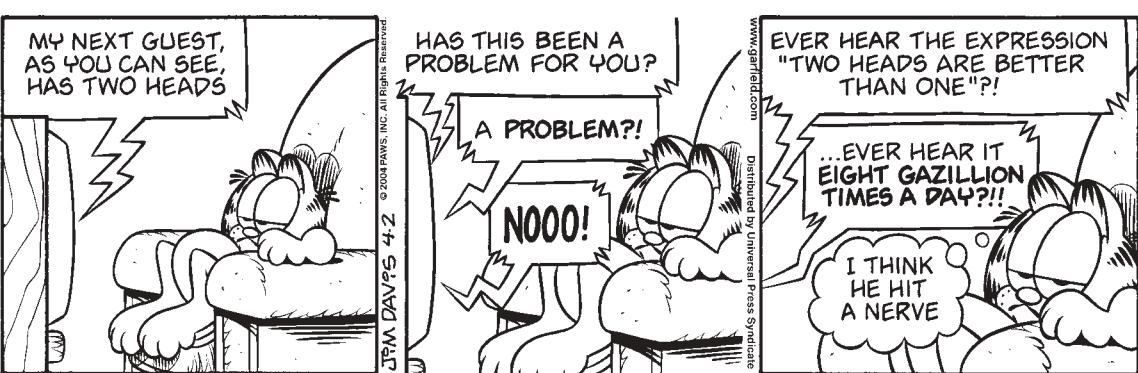
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Garfield • Jim Davis



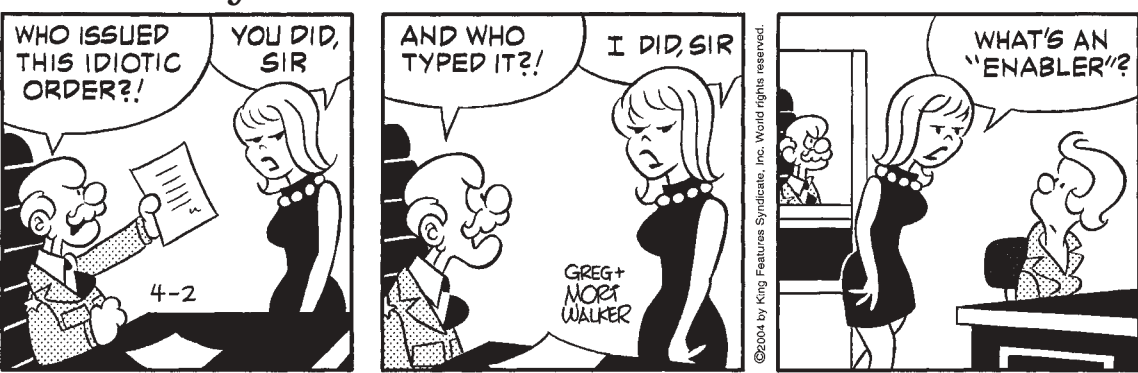
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

MP B WLZ UBA BJ BEZTOYJS

BFLT S ALOYSUMJZ, RLTQW

MS FY RBQQYW B FLJY LP

RLJSYJSMLJ?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I FOUND A RATHER CUTE NOTE POSTED AT THE TAILOR'S SHOP: "CLOSED FOR ALTERATIONS."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals N

DVK BARVKFDAT VTE T

IHO JABIXKQ AKTEHUO

DVK QZFHR. HD LTF

DVABLUHO DKQJB DTUDAZQF.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A DOG HAS AN ARGUMENT ABOUT SOMETHING, COULD IT BE CALLED A BONE OF CONTENTION?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals R

Crossword

ACROSS

1 J.S. and family

6 Suitable

9 School of thought

12 Poker

13 Raw rock

14 Wish undone

15 Line dance

16 Troughs

18 50th anniversary

20 Individuals

21 Article in "News-week"

23 Reunion group

24 — so often

25 Bireme supply

27 Barrel piece

29 Spiritualist

31 Drive-in server

35 Perch

DOWN

1 Pen name

2 Word on a Spanish Valentine

3 Scaleless eels

4 "Les Miser-ables" author

5 Pursue

6 Rouse

7 Persia, now

8 Pinochle card

9 "Me, Myself, and —"

10 Less doubtful

11 Unkempt

17 Rule

37 Cathedral section

38 Terence's tongue

41 Dawn goddess

43 Siesta

44 In due time

45 Not indifferent

47 Barbed remarks

49 Colander

52 Inventor Whitney

53 Moo — gai pan

54 Backlit theater drop

55 Calendar abbr.

56 Personal

57 Toady's responses

19 "Saturday Night Fever" venue

21 Hanks or Cruise

22 Timothy, e.g.

24 Zsa Zsa's sis

26 Sequence

28 Man of many parts?

30 Charged bit

32 Closet collection

33 Eventual aves

34 Energy

36 Add herbs

38 Enjoyed the hammock

39 Old-womanish

40 Invigorant

42 Actress Spacek

45 Boast

46 Pleasant

48 Self-esteem

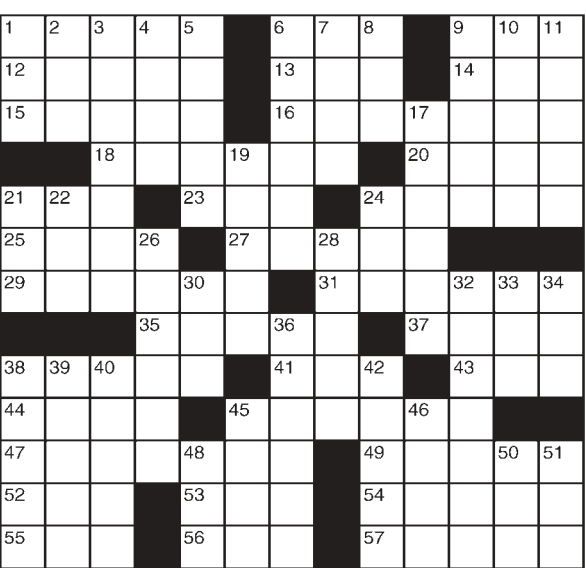
50 Compete

51 Type units

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 4-2



ACROSS

1 Muffler

6 Prima donnas

11 Like some modern music

12 Dropped a vowel

14 1995 Sharon Stone movie

15 1993 Sharon Stone movie

16 Hirsute Addams cousin

17 Eccentric

19 White House nickname

20 Use an old phone

22 Trench

23 Works with

24 Second-stringer

26 Hart collaborator

28 Director's call

30 One of the gang

31 Quarters

35 Blunder

DOWN

1 Reception problem

2 Laurel, to Hardy

3 Blackbird

4 Standing

5 You can mop it

6 Arrangement of icons

7 In a bad way

8 Evening hour in old Rome

9 Counsel

10 One on a quest

11 Low-pH chemicals

13 Decorate

39 Teen's woe

40 Staff

42 Undo a dele

43 "Waking — Devine"

44 Page number

46 Pack away

47 1999 Sharon Stone movie

49 1998 Sharon Stone movie

51 Voiced, to a phonetician

52 Ruby of Hollywood musicals

53 Minute

54 Villain's look

18 "— Town"

21 Simol-eons

23 Tangelos

25 On the other hand

27 TVA structure

29 Guttural

31 Part of a Dracula costume

32 Cougar's cousin

33 Destroyed

34 Scale member

36 "Remington —"

37 More cherished

38 Pip or Pop, on "Bear in the Big Blue House"

41 Vertebral connectors

44 Twain hero

45 Tournament format

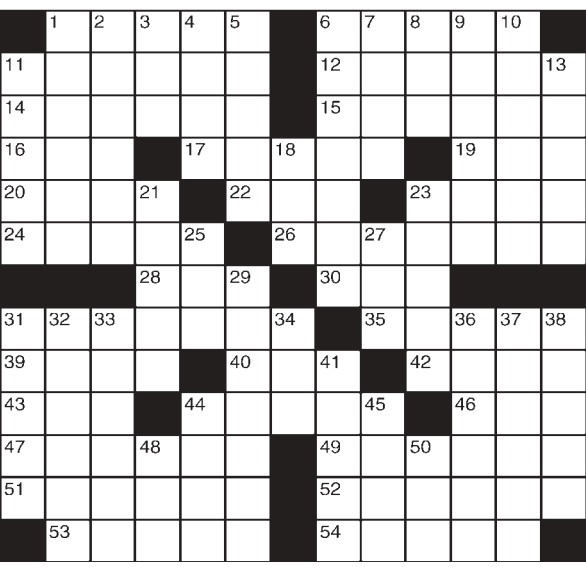
48 Actress Charlotte

50 Haw precursor

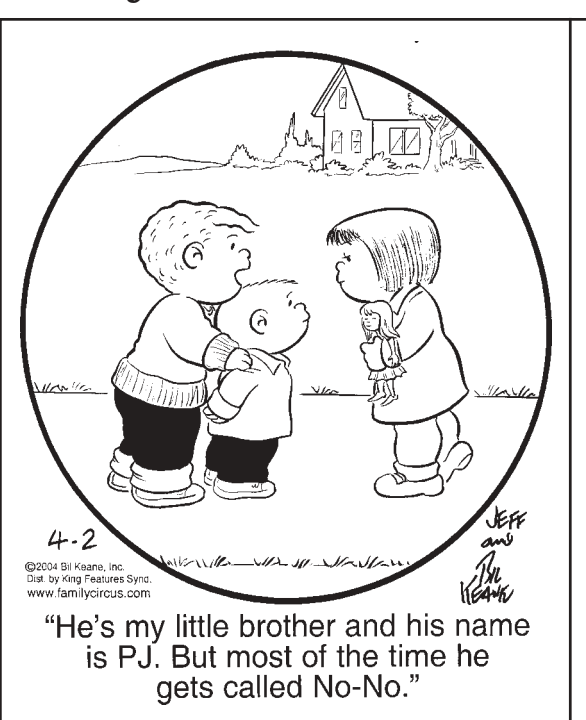
Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 4-3



Family Circus • Bill Keane



Bridge - bidding quiz

You are South, and the bidding has gone:

West	North	East	South
1 [D]	1 NT	Pass	?

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

1. [S] Q87 [H] 952 [D] 763 [C] AK93

2. [S] 853 [H] Q96542 [D] 4 [C] J73

3. [S] KQ63 [H] KJ85 [D] 9 [C] QJ74

4. [S] 942 [H] A7 [D] 82 [C] KQ9643

5. [S] 72 [H] KJ8753 [D] 7 [C] KJ92

1. Two notrump. Partner's overcall is equivalent to an opening bid of one notrump, indicating 16 to 18 points, notrump distribution and at least one diamond stopper. You should therefore raise to two notrump to invite him to go on to three, just as you would have done had he opened the bidding with one notrump.

2. Two hearts. This shows a weak hand with five or more hearts. You are saying, in effect, that two hearts is a safer contract than one notrump.

True, there are players running loose in the streets who, having overcalled with one notrump, will turn a deaf ear to your two-heart bid and go back to notrump. The best remedy for this lies not in changing your bidding style, but your partner.

3. Two diamonds. This is clearly a game-going hand, but a major-suit contract looks much more desirable than a notrump contract. Accordingly, you cuebid West's suit, asking partner to bid a four-card major if he has one. If partner retreats to two notrump instead, you will raise him to three.

4. Three notrump. That's what you'd bid if North had opened with one notrump, and that's what you should bid opposite the notrump overcall. It would be pointless to bid three clubs instead, ostensibly aiming for an 11-trick game when a nine-trick game is available.

5. Three hearts. This is also a game-going hand opposite a partner with 16 to 18 points and notrump distribution, but this time your six-card suit is a major, and partner is known to hold at least two hearts. In general, eight-card major-suit fits — 4-4, 5-3, 6-2 — are better off being played in the major rather than notrump, and with your 2-6-1-4 distribution, you have no reason to believe otherwise.

The best way to get to four hearts is to bid the game directly. You could bid three hearts instead, but since you plan to bid four hearts next if partner retreats to three notrump, you might as well bid four immediately.

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH		WEST		SOUTH		EAST	
♠	A 8	♠	Q J 10 7 2	♠	K 5 3	♠	9 6 4
♥	A K Q J	♥	4 3	♥	7 6 2	♥	10 9 8 5
♦	Q 2	♦	A J 10 9 8 6	♦	K 5 4	♦	7 3
♣	K Q 5 4 3	♣	—	♣	J 10 8 7	♣	A 9 6 2

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
Pass	1 ♠	Dble	Pass
1 NT	2 ♦	3 ♦	Pass
3 NT			

Opening lead — ten of diamonds.

Hot Potatoes

Here is a remarkable hand from a match between France and Italy in 1967. It features brilliant defense by Italian star Giorgio Belladonna, who sat West.

Belladonna, from time immemorial an aggressive bidder, opened with one spade, after which the French North-South pair reached three notrump on the bidding shown.

Belladonna made his first good move when he led a diamond instead of a spade. Declarer won with dummy's queen and returned the three of clubs. East could have settled declarer's hash then and there had he grabbed the ace and returned a diamond. But East played low, and declarer won with the jack as Belladonna discarded the queen of spades!

South realized he would surely go down if he persisted with clubs, so he shifted his attention to hearts, cashing the A-K-Q-J. Belladonna had to make two discards and threw a diamond and a spade.

Declarer's only chance for a ninth trick was to endplay West. Accordingly, he cashed the A-K of spades, planning to put Belladonna on lead with a third spade to force him to concede a diamond to the king.

But on the A-K of spades Belladonna dropped the J-10, retaining the seven. When declarer then exited with a spade, East won with the nine and returned a diamond to put the contract down one.

At the other table, the Italian North-South pair also got to three notrump, but when West chose the queen of spades as his opening lead, declarer had no difficulty making 10 tricks after forcing out the ace of clubs.