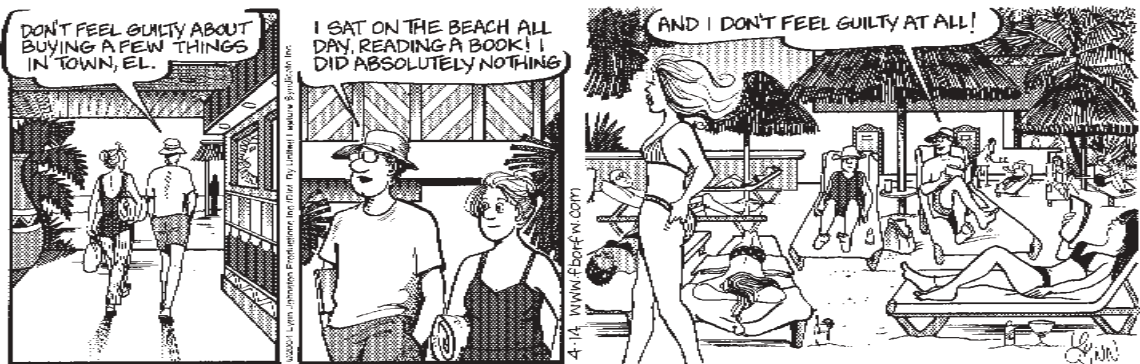


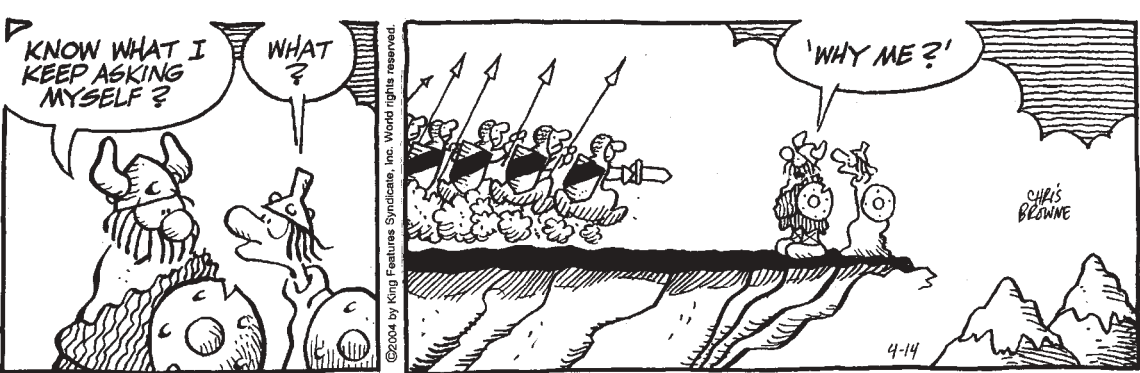
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Garfield • Jim Davis



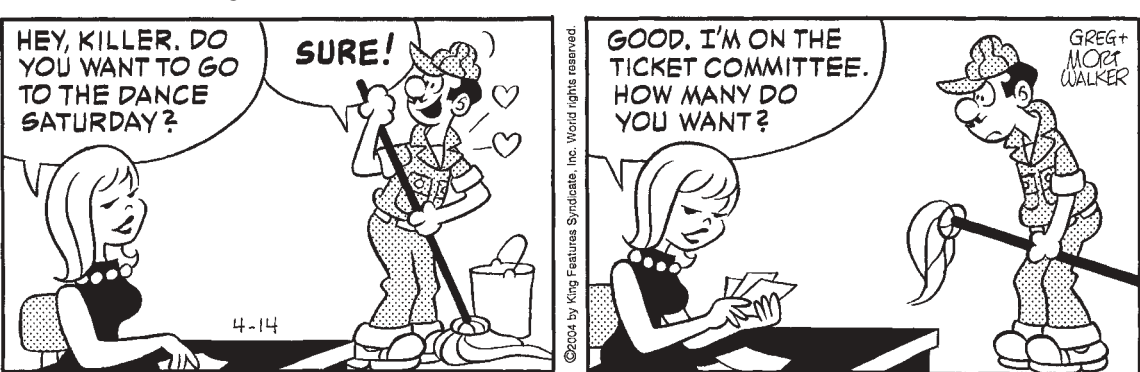
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



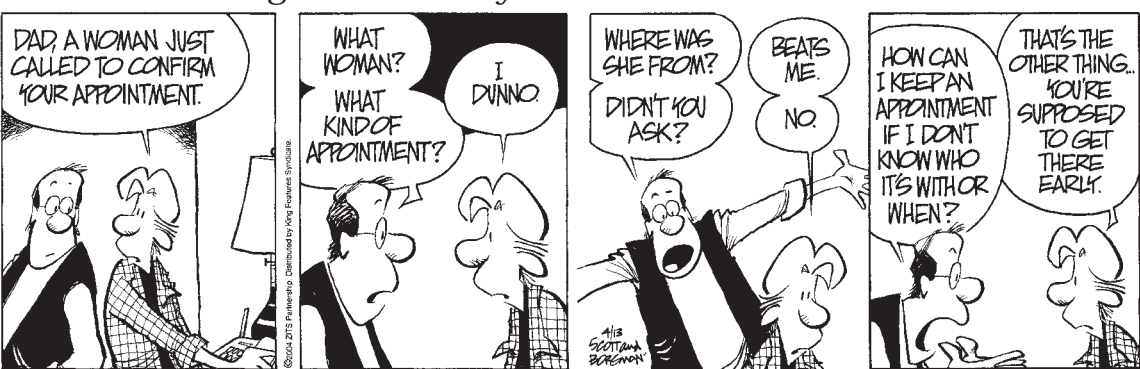
Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



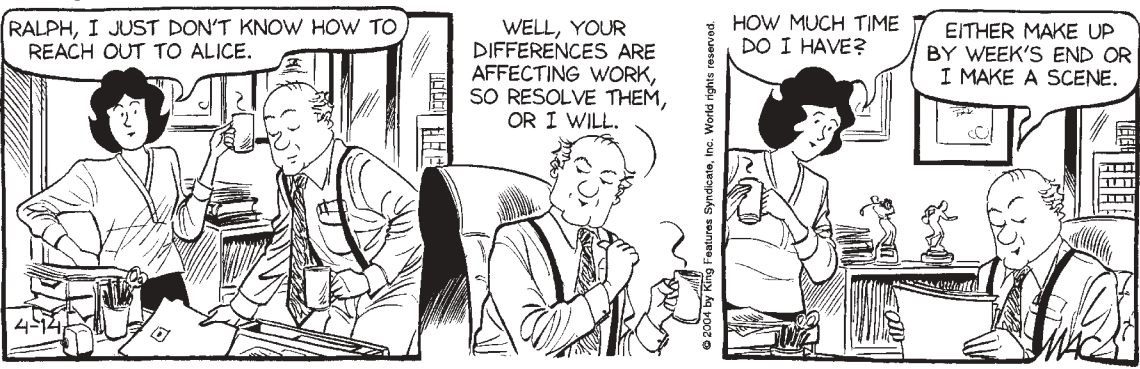
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

GRVC B QALCTVII ZVSI L XBLJY L AJVH BHQCP
B QKFCWLCZ RVBWBTRV, AIC LJPIOXCCLAIO
GKFUW DKF IBD SRBS'I HRXHC DLJQXAC HRVFQLD,
B AKDBU QBLC?
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU CAN IDENTIFY EVERY SPECIES OF SHELLED REPTILE, DO YOU HAVE TURTLE RECALL?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals S

"L DQYH DAIOH VQFFO!"
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A PRINCESS GETS A POUNDING HEADACHE, WOULD YOU SAY THAT'S A ROYAL PAIN?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals M

Crossword

ACROSS
1 One of the Three Bears
5 Omega precursor
8 "Bus Stop" playwright
12 AOL client
13 Squid squirt
14 Unctuous
15 "The View" alumna
16 Lisa
18 Beetle type
20 Clamps
21 Falsehood
22 Pot-au-feu (stew)
23 Extraterrestrial
26 Destructive insect
30 Encountered
31 Candy known for its dispensers
32 Promptly
33 Ant
36 Depend (on)

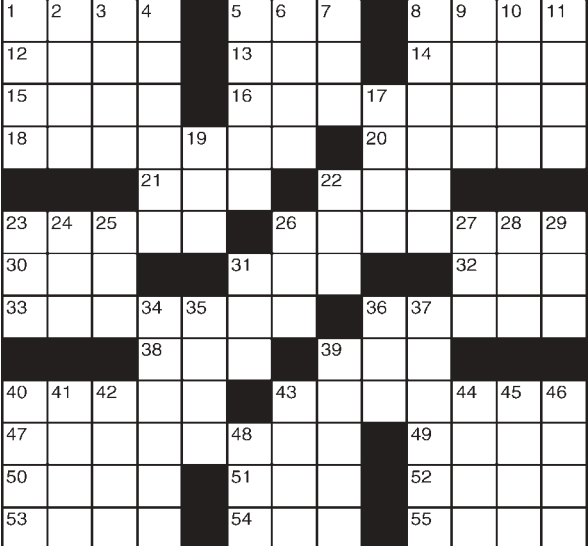
38 Com-mo-tion
39 Food fish
40 Tangle
43 Chirping creature
47 Indoor pest
49 Con
50 Inauguration
51 Agt. recitation
52 Des-cartes or Lacoste
53 Horse's halter?
54 Fre-quently
55 Out of play

3 Hang in the balance
4 Diamond pattern
5 Resentment
6 Warm and cozy
7 White House nickname
8 Radio-active thorium isotope
9 Penpoints
10 Merri-ment
11 Sight-seers?
17 24/7
19 Crib
22 Shriner's chapeau
23 Pump up the volume

24 Main-lander's memento
25 "Monty Python" opener
26 Driver's prop
27 Lodge
28 Dress (up)
29 Ram's mate
31 Expert
34 Actress Mason
35 Between jobs
36 — polloi
37 Proof of who you are
39 Under-ground chamber
40 Presenta-tion
41 Captain of the love boat?
42 Car
43 Staff leader
44 Dangling site
45 Sicilian spouter
46 Needing extra innings
48 To and —

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterdays answer 4-13



ACROSS
1 Occupation, briefly
4 CIO merger org.
7 Boy's mother
8 Radiant
10 Harbor cities
11 Investigates
13 Play double-or-nothing
16 B&B
17 Popular side order
18 Pinch
19 British pound
20 Consort of Zeus
21 Sao —, Brazil
23 Recreation
25 Cinderella's horses, really
26 Be patient

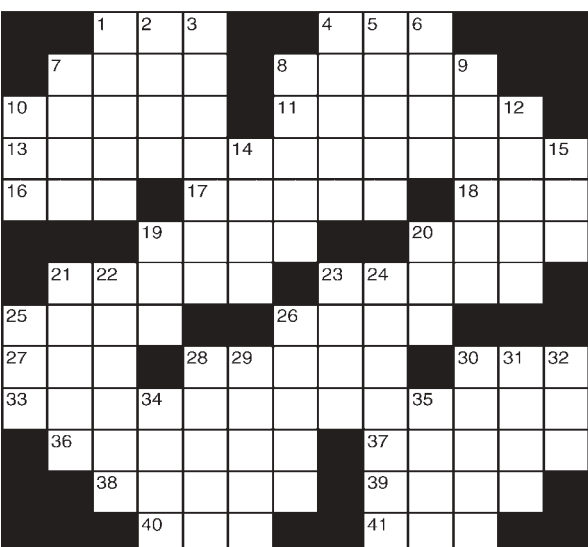
27 Model Carol
28 Benny Goodman's "kingdom"
30 Underwear with underwire
33 Totally automatic, as a camera
36 — the line (con-forming)
37 Vibe
38 Frasier's brother
39 Furniture name
40 Started
41 Actor Beatty

DOWN
1 High-power executive
2 Busy with
3 Lively
4 Correspond
5 Circulates
6 Timber wolf
7 New Testament book
8 Garden pest
9 Actor Klem-perer
10 Greek penulti-mate letter

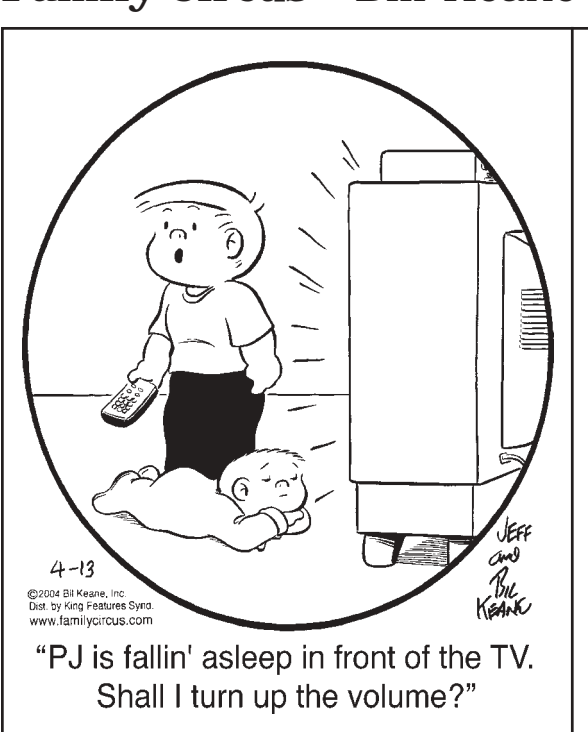
12 Circum-vent
14 Small combo
15 Resort
19 —
Sera Sera
20 Stolen
21 Cockpit occupant
22 Director's call
23 Hour-glass fill
24 Football
25 Chart
26 Sitcom set at an airport
28 Steps over a fence
29 Receded
30 Full of ennui
31 Actress Downey
32 — glance
34 Simon or Diamond
35 Cod cousin

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterdays answer 4-14



Family Circus • Bill Keane



Bridge

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A Q
♥ A 7 2
♦ 10 8 7 6 3
♣ 10 4 2

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

EAST
♠ K 5 2
♥ Q 10 6 3
♦ Q J 5 4
♣ K 7

SOUTH
♠ 9 8 7 4
♥ K 9 5
♦ A K
♣ A Q J 3

The bidding:
South 1 NT West Pass North 3 NT East All Pass
Opening lead — three of spades.

When to Cover an Honor

There is no simple rule governing the question of when a defender should cover an honor with an honor. In general, a defender covers when he can gain a trick by doing so, and does not cover when it might cost him a trick to do so.

Consider this deal where East wins the opening spade lead with the king and returns the five to dummy's ace. Declarer leads the ten of clubs from dummy, and the question is whether East should cover with the king.

In the given situation, he should. Observe what happens if he doesn't. The ten wins, and a club continuation gives South four club tricks and the contract. But if East plays the king on the ten, South makes only three club tricks and goes down one, since West's nine becomes a stopper in the suit.

East has nothing to lose by covering, but stands to gain, depending on declarer's club holding. If, for example, South has A-Q-9-3, A-J-8-3, Q-J-8-3 or his actual holding, the failure to cover costs a trick, while covering gains a trick.

Declarer can sometimes foil the defense by not leading an honor in the first place. Thus, in the present case, once South appreciates the futility of leading the ten because East will play the king if he has it, he should lead the deuce instead.

When the queen wins, South returns to dummy with a heart and again leads a low club (not the ten). As it happens, East is obliged to play the king, and South's worries are over, since he brings home four club tricks and the contract.

West dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

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

WEST
♠ A K Q 10 2
♥ 10 8 5
♦ 3
♣ Q J 8 4

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

SOUTH
♠ —
♥ Q
♦ A K Q J 9 7 5 2
♣ A K 6 5

The bidding:
West 1 ♠ North Pass East 2 ♠ South 5 ♦
Opening lead — king of spades.

Hidden Asset

It is said that necessity is the mother of invention, and certainly anyone who has played bridge long enough realizes that there are times when a player must improvise to be successful.

Take this case where South ruffed the opening spade lead and could see three potential losers — a heart and two clubs. Declarer had a choice of several lines of play to try to make the contract:

1. If the diamond ten fell on the first round of trumps, he could concede the heart queen to the ace and then use dummy's eight of diamonds as an entry to take two club discards.

2. He could lead the A-K and another club at once, hoping that if the opposing clubs were divided 4-2, he could ruff his fourth club in dummy without being overruled by the ten.

3. He could lead the queen of hearts and hope it was ducked by the defender with the ace.

Eventually, declarer decided that his best shot for the contract was to lead the heart queen at trick two. On top of the possibility that the queen might be ducked, this also allowed him to keep in reserve a follow-up plan that virtually guaranteed making five diamonds. East took the queen of hearts with the ace and returned the ten of clubs at trick three. South won with the ace and thereupon led the five of diamonds to dummy's six!

This unusual move — deliberately losing a trump trick he did not have to lose — had the desired effect. East took the six with the ten and returned the nine of clubs, but he was fighting a losing battle. South won with the king, led the seven of trumps to dummy's eight and discarded the 6-5 of clubs on the K-J of hearts to make the contract.

It isn't often that declarer intentionally gives away a trick he can't lose in order to gain two tricks in exchange, but that's no excuse for not doing it when the proper occasion arises.