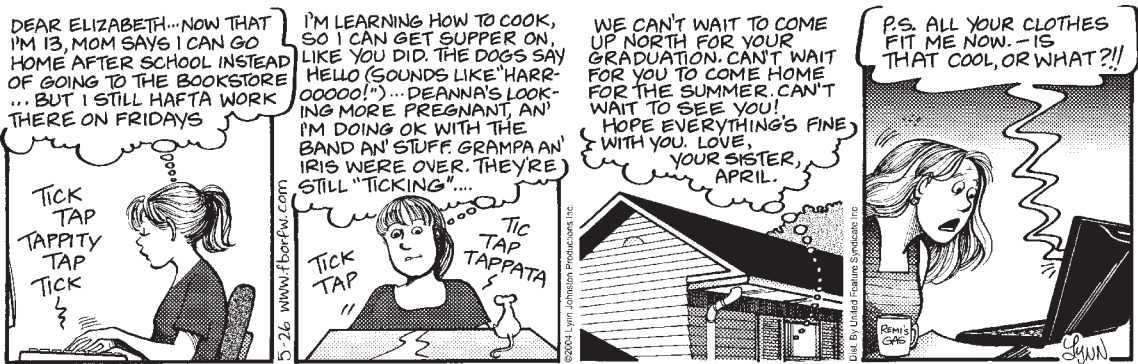
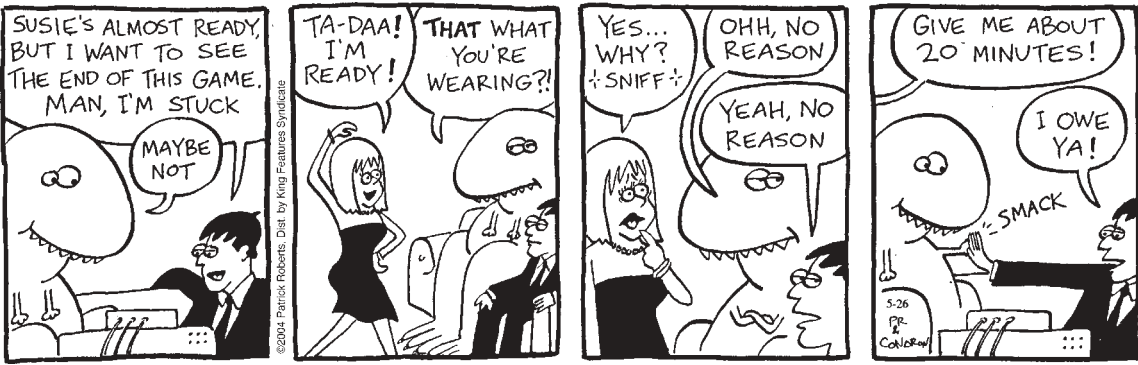


For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Tod The Dinosaur • PR Condon



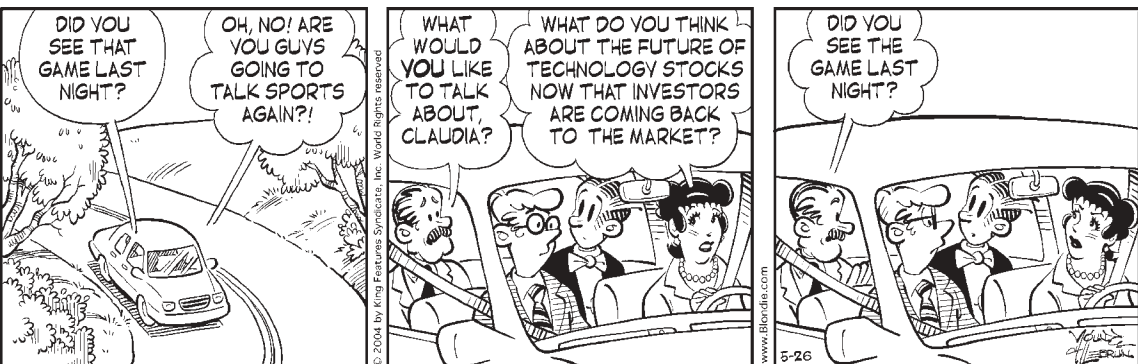
Garfield • Jim Davis



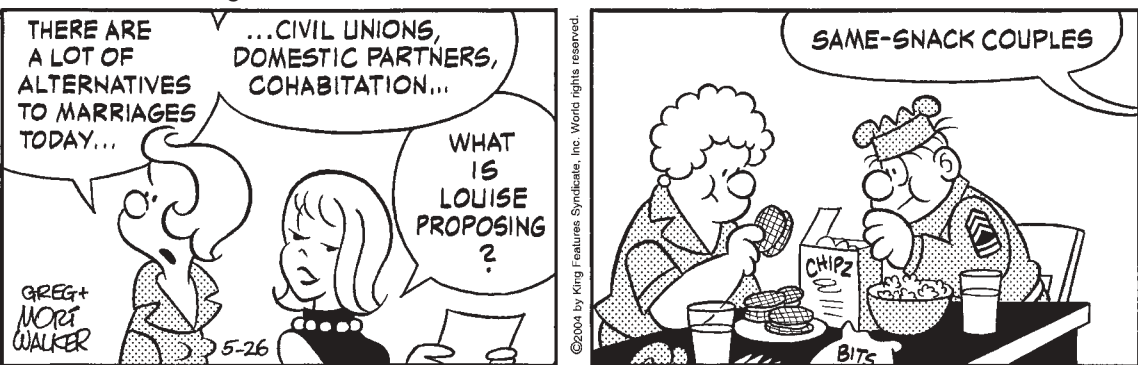
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



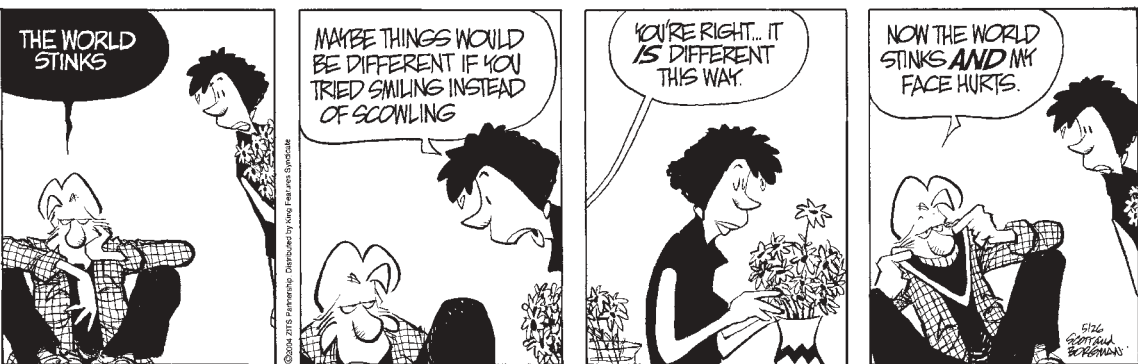
Blondie • Chic Young



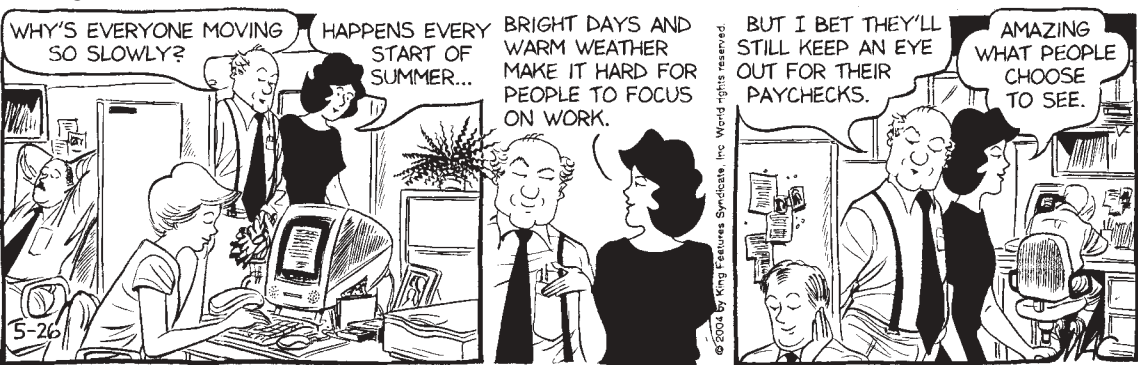
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

XDK ZKVKH VCHQKH PCX

UOJJKS XCSOL DK ZBGFIL

UCNISJ'X QKKF DBZ

GBJS BJ XDK PNXXKH.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE THREE SKILLED FLAMENCO DANCERS WE SAW LAST MONTH WERE FINGER-CLICKIN' GOOD.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals T

CK P QZDER DK RZPQEA

HCMCSAOB PZA BAHZAMJX

HDOHAPJAI, PZA MUAX

HPHUI HSAHUB?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE SEWER WORKER GOT CANNED TODAY. HE SIMPLY COULDN'T KEEP HIS MIND IN THE GUTTER.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals C

Crossword

**ACROSS**  
1 Creche trio  
5 Energy  
8 Disarray  
12 "So be it"  
13 One in a row?  
14 Foil's cousin  
15 Beat  
17 Tragic  
18 Unconscious  
19 Venusian's vessel?  
21 Absolute  
24 Mas-sages  
25 Physicist Otto  
26 "The Way Things Ought to Be" author  
30 Guitar's kin  
31 Less nutty  
32 Dove's call  
33 Unquestioning followers  
35 Astrigent  
36 Curved lines

**DOWN**  
37 Winged  
38 Furthest point of an orbit  
41 Rock concert need  
42 Fruitless  
43 "Auld Lang Syne" band-leader  
48 Lecher-ous look  
49 Resistance measure  
50 First murderer  
51 Into the sunset  
52 Addition-ally

**Solution time: 21 mins.**  
J I M W E E D S B O A  
A D O A L G A E E L F  
B A L L R O O M S L E A  
A M P P A R L O R  
N I B B L E S M U T  
A H I Y R S E M O T E  
B O L T S A C S W I G  
S P L I T T O W E N G  
A G U E C O U R T S  
A L B E R T H E N  
B I O B U L L F I G H T  
U R N A D I E U Y O U  
T A G N E P A L M E T

**Yesterday's answer 5-25**  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11  
12 13 14  
15 16 17  
18 19 20  
21 22 23 24  
25 26 27 28 29  
30 31 32  
33 34 35  
36 37  
38 39 40 41  
42 43 44 45 46 47  
48 49 50  
51 52 53

**53** Basilica section  
**20** This ans. is one  
**21** Syna-gogue  
**22** Accept  
**23** Attention getter  
**24** "The Lord of the —"  
**26** Camelot hero  
**27** Bruins' sch.  
**28** Big-toe woe  
**29** Base-runner's goal  
**31** Paddock papa  
**34** Metal drawer?  
**35** Vicuna's cousin  
**37** Diplomat (Abbr.)  
**38** Acknowl-edge  
**39** Senate staffer  
**40** Rem-brandt works  
**41** Bullets  
**44** Cry of surprise  
**45** Knock  
**46** Insult  
**47** Insepa- rable

Bridge

South dealer.  
East-West vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ A Q 6  
♥ 9 2  
♦ J 7 3  
♣ A 9 8 7 4

**WEST**  
♠ 10 9 7 4  
♥ Q 10 6 5  
♦ A 10 9 2  
♣ 10

**EAST**  
♠ J 5  
♥ J 8 3  
♦ K Q 8 6 4  
♣ Q J 3

**SOUTH**  
♠ K 8 3 2  
♥ A K 7 4  
♦ 5  
♣ K 6 5 2

The bidding:  
**South**  
1 ♠  
3 ♥  
5 ♣

**West**  
Pass  
Pass

**North**  
3 ♣  
4 ♣

**East**  
Pass  
Pass

Opening lead — ten of spades.

Gazing Into the Future

Bridge is at times a volatile game. One minute you're flying high, confident of success, and a moment later you find yourself crashing to earth in flames.

That's what happened to declarer in this deal, though in fact he had no one but himself to blame for getting shot down.

He won the spade lead with dummy's queen and saw that if the trumps were divided 2-2, his only loser would be a diamond. South also saw that in the more likely event that the trumps were divided 3-1, he might still score 11 tricks.

Accordingly, he cashed the A-K of trumps and, upon finding the suit divided 3-1, next led his single-ton diamond. East won with the queen, cashed the club queen and exited with a diamond, ruffed by South with his last trump.

Declarer now had to hope the spades were divided 3-3 to bring home 11 tricks. But when he cashed the A-K of spades, the suit proved to be divided 4-2, and he later lost a diamond trick to go down one.

It's not hard to see where South went wrong. He neglected to prepare properly for a 3-1 trump division. The best line of play is to cash the club king at trick two and then lead a diamond toward dummy. Let's say East takes the diamond and returns a trump.

Declarer wins with dummy's ace, disclosing the 3-1 break in the process.

He then ruffs a diamond, leads a spade to the ace and ruffs dummy's last diamond with his last trump. His only remaining loser is a trump trick, and the contract is home.

Tomorrow: The sweet smell of success.  
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South dealer.  
Neither side vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ 7 4  
♥ K 6  
♦ A K Q J 8 6 3  
♣ A 10

**WEST**  
♠ A Q 10 9 8 6 2  
♥ 7  
♦ 5  
♣ Q J 9 4

**EAST**  
♠ 5 3  
♥ J 9 4 3 2  
♦ 9 7 4  
♣ 6 5 2

**SOUTH**  
♠ K J  
♥ A Q 10 8 5  
♦ 10 2  
♣ K 8 7 3

The bidding:  
**South**  
1 ♥  
5 ♦

**West**  
4 ♠  
Pass

**North**  
4 NT  
6 ♦

**East**  
Pass

Opening lead — ace of spades.

The Sweet Smell of Success

Opening lead — ace of spades.

Lee Hazen and Sam Fry were playing in the Vanderbilt team championship many years ago when this hand arose. Fry, South, opened one heart, and West jumped to four spades.

West's overall posed quite a problem for Hazen. He certainly had reason to believe there might be a small slam, and he also could not dismiss the possibility of a grand slam.

At the same time, though, Hazen couldn't even be certain that there was more than a game in the combined hands. It all depended on the nature of Fry's opening bid.

Hazen finally chose the bid that was most likely to cover all contingencies: four notrump. Fry read this as Blackwood — even though there had been no firm agreement on which suit was trump — and he bid five diamonds, showing one ace.

Hazen now had a new problem. He realized that the opponents had an ace, probably in spades, but he had no way of knowing whether they could also cash a second spade trick.

He decided — all factors considered — that there was a good chance Fry had either the king of spades or a singleton spade. He therefore bid six diamonds, despite the risk attached to that bid.

Fry did not let him down. First of all, he had the good sense to pass, though he could hardly have felt comfortable winding up as declarer with only the 10-2 of trumps. But even more importantly, Fry had the decency to have the king of spades, and he easily made the slam.

Had Hazen played the slam from his seat, the contract would quickly have gone down with a spade lead.

Family Circus • Bill Keane

