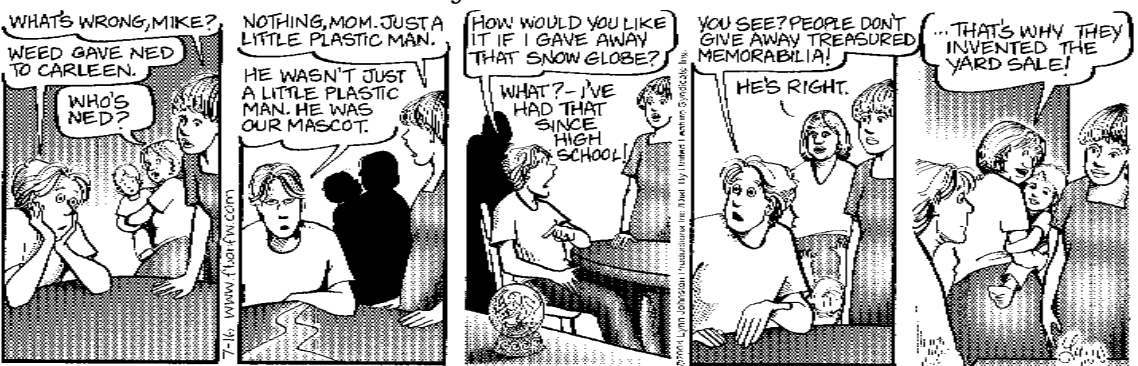


For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Tod The Dinosaur • PR Condon



Garfield • Jim Davis



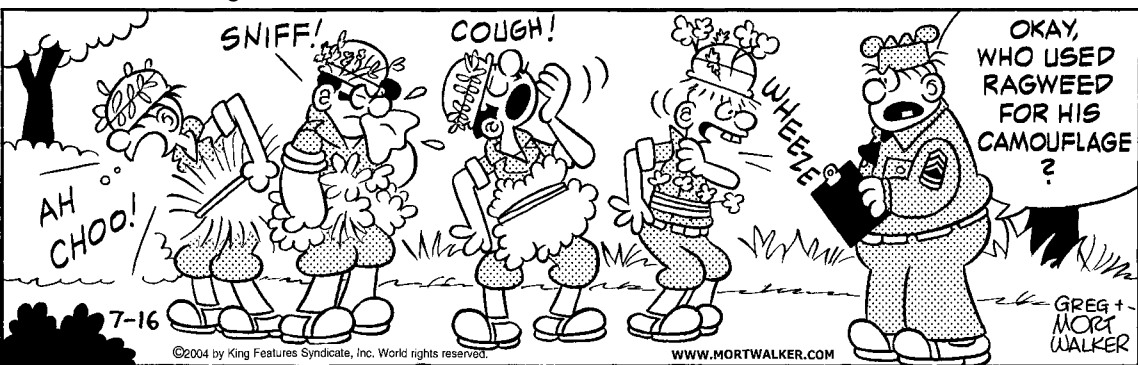
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



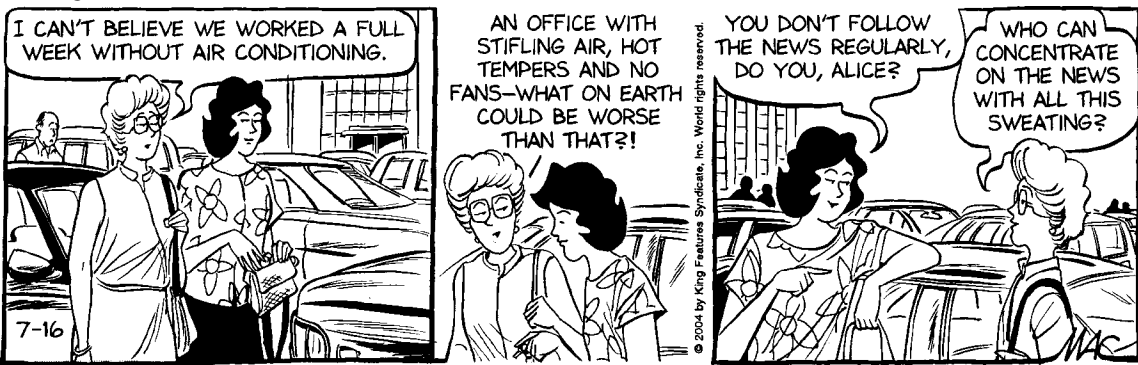
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

DGSO BDR FSPQ SKBPBS LFE PVLEKLW EF GVJJ

PISOBK IFSSB SPTG FGG EAS QSVU, EAS

RBGSF, BGSZ TRCQM WMULVHE VJPVMH SVEH

KPZ "GRCKS XB IRXOI!"

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I ASSUME A MARRIAGE THAT HAS BEEN OUTLAWED COULD BE CALLED A WEDDING BANNED.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals G

V PSJJ-QVJVLDSZ ZKSE.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN TWO REAL ESTATE AGENTS GREET EACH OTHER, THEY COULD SAY "HOUSE IT GOING!"

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals L

Crossword

**ACROSS**  
1 Anecdotal collection  
4 Spread-sheet, e.g.  
7 Trattoria  
12 Judo degree  
13 Bill's partner  
14 Slip  
15 Schlep  
16 Grassy garment  
18 Anger  
19 Poet's Muse  
20 Idea symbol  
22 Tide rival  
23 Icicle's place  
27 Blazed the trail  
29 — out (broke)  
31 Accordion feature  
34 Loves not wisely but too well  
35 Picture in pieces

**DOWN**  
37 "Friends" cast member  
38 Lady Macbeth's dog?  
39 "Eureka!"  
41 Guru's discipline  
45 Sleep soundly?  
47 Craze  
48 Bikini pattern  
52 Back  
53 Tammany Hall boss  
54 Energy  
55 Undergo recession  
56 Isolated  
57 Cunning  
58 Canape topper

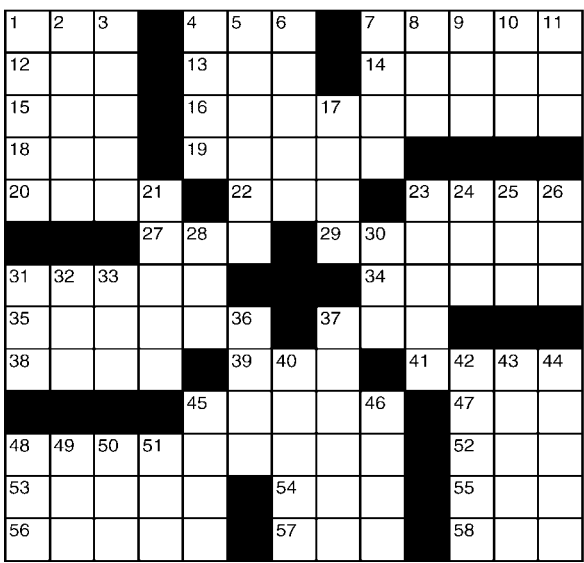
**DOWN**  
1 Improve  
2 Pleasant Island, today  
3 Roma Downey portrayal  
4 Liniment target  
5 Decanted  
6 On top of the world?  
7 Mexican money  
8 Torah repository  
9 Lanka  
10 Craggy peak  
11 Illustrations  
17 Rat tail?

**DOWN**  
21 Explosion  
23 Strong hold?  
24 Suitable  
25 Churchill gesture  
26 Mag. staffers  
28 EWR info  
30 Com-motion  
31 Nightwear  
32 Back talk  
33 Swelled head  
36 Musical staff?  
37 Industrial group  
40 B-ball  
42 Bid  
43 Mata Hari portrayer  
44 Pueblo material  
45 "Smooth Operator" singer  
46 Catch sight of  
48 Sch. org.  
49 Barn dweller  
50 Author  
51 Barbie's ex

**Solution time: 25 mins.**  

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

**Yesterday's answer 7-16**



**ACROSS**  
1 Bishop's bailiwick  
4 "M\*A\*S\*H" cast member  
8 Coppola kin  
12 Lead-in to "2, 3, 4"  
13 Skin soother  
14 Somewhere out there  
15 Bush ex-spokesman  
16 "Voom" precursor  
17 Advanced math  
18 Tabloid pic, maybe  
21 Branch  
22 Aloof  
23 Pictorial poser  
26 Golfer Ernie  
27 Gossett or Gehrig  
30 Leave out  
31 Happiness  
32 Acknowledges applause  
33 However

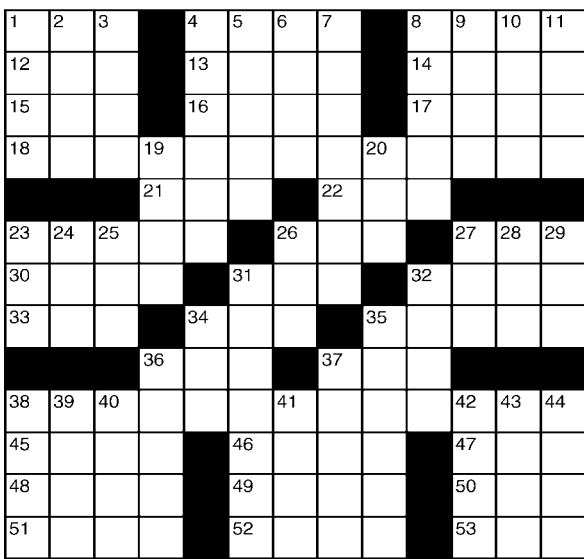
**DOWN**  
34 "— Tiki"  
35 It can arouse a GI  
36 Reaction to fire-works  
37 Mangy mongrel  
38 Sipping  
45 Historic periods  
46 Acted the stoolie  
47 Swindle  
48 Hindu royal  
49 Wind instrument  
50 Latin 101  
51 Shoppe description  
52 Requirement  
53 Fresh

**DOWN**  
20 IBM products  
23 Plagiarize  
24 Ostrich's kin  
25 Morsel  
26 Lo-o-ong time  
27 Journal  
28 Night flier  
29 Work with  
31 Part of LBJ  
32 "Ironside" star  
34 Japanese pond fish  
35 Moved slightly  
36 Actor Davis  
37 Hia-watha's transport  
38 Nephew of Caligula  
39 Caspian feeder  
40 McNally partner  
41 Kotter portrayer  
42 "— Help"  
43 Iditarod terminus  
44 Recognize

**Solution time: 27 mins.**  

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

**Yesterday's answer 7-17**



Family Circus • Bill Keane



Bridge

You are South and have the following hand:  
♠ KQ10942 ♥ 9 ♦ KQ63 ♣ A7  
1. You bid One Spade and partner responds with Three Spades (13 to 16 points). What would you bid now?  
2. East bids One Club, you overcall with One Spade, and your partner bids One Notrump. What would you bid now?  
3. North bids One Heart, and, after you respond One Spade, North bids Two Hearts. What would you bid now?

Bidding Quiz

1. Four notrump. A small slam is nearly certain — about all you need from partner are a king and two aces. In fact, there is even the possibility of grand slam — if partner has three aces and a king — and Blackwood is just about the only means of learning whether partner has that ideal holding.  
If partner's response is five diamonds, showing one ace, you sign off at five spades; if he bids five hearts, showing two aces, you bid six spades. If he bids five spades, showing three aces, you bid five notrump, asking about kings. If he then bids six diamonds, bless him, showing one king, you go all the way.  
2. Four spades. Partner was not obliged to respond to your overcall, and by doing so he evinced a mild interest in game. Since you have an exceptionally sound overcall, you should decide that game is very likely. You shouldn't hedge by bidding three spades, which partner might pass. Nor is there any advantage in bidding diamonds, since you don't want to play in that suit. High-card point count takes a back seat in hands of this type. It is true that you have only 14 points in high cards, but that would not be the right way to evaluate your hand. Contracts are made by tricks, not points, and here it is hard to imagine losing more than three tricks after partner voluntarily bids one notrump.  
3. Three diamonds. With an opening bid opposite partner's opening bid, you must make a forcing bid at this point. In view of partner's minimum rebid, slam is practically out of the question, so the only remaining problem is to find the best game contract. Three diamonds leaves room for all kinds of exploratory sequences at a safe level. What you do next will depend on partner's response to three diamonds. Tomorrow: Luck versus skill.

North dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ A Q 7 2  
♥ 5 4  
♦ A K 9 3 2  
♣ 8 3

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

**EAST**  
♠ J 9 8 3  
♥ 7 2  
♦ J 7 5 4  
♣ A J 6

**SOUTH**  
♠ K 6 4  
♥ A K 6 3  
♦ Q 8  
♣ Q 9 5 4

**The bidding:**  

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

**Opening lead — queen of hearts.**

Luck Versus Skill

There are many hands where the outcome of a contract is a foregone conclusion because declarer has the overwhelming balance of strength. But there are also other hands where skill is the sole determining factor.  
For example, take this case where West leads a heart against three notrump and South must exercise great care to get home safely. Let's say he wins the heart with the king and plays the Q-K-A of diamonds, hoping for a 3-3 split. West discards a heart on the third round, and South has to choose between persevering with diamonds or playing for a 3-3 spade division. Either way, three notrump goes down. South fails by sheer force if he leads spades first, and he also fails if he plays a diamond to establish dummy's last diamond as a trick. In the latter case, East wins the diamond and returns the jack of clubs, enabling the defense to collect four club tricks and put the contract down one.  
However, South can make three notrump by entering dummy with a spade at trick two and leading a low diamond, intending to play the eight if East follows low. In the actual case, West wins the eight with the ten but is helpless. With West on lead, there is no way the defenders can possibly cash four club tricks. At the same time, South is sure to score three spades, two hearts and four diamonds to get home safely. In effect, declarer shapes his play so as to avoid losing a diamond trick to East. By adopting this approach, declarer makes it impossible for the defense to injure him by collecting four club tricks before he can establish and cash an extra diamond trick.