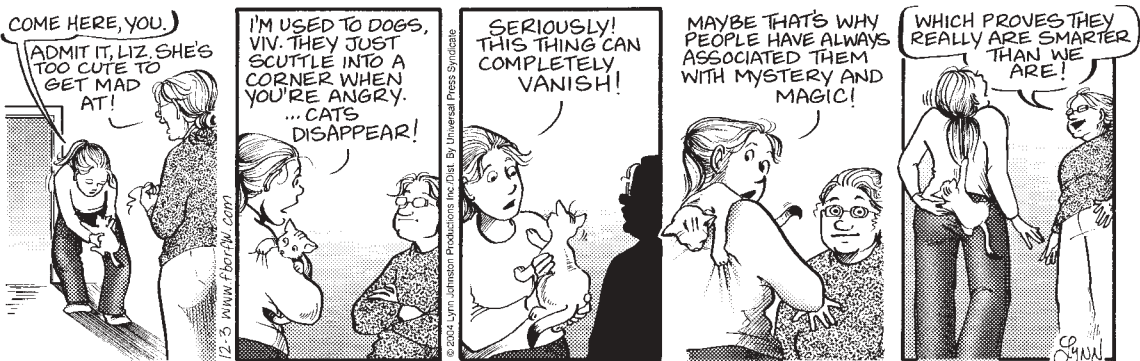


For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Geech • Jerry Bittle



Garfield • Jim Davis



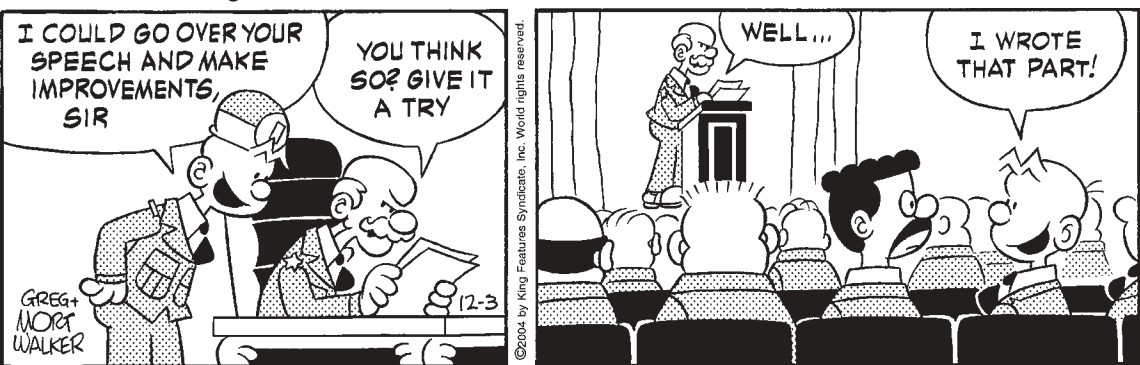
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



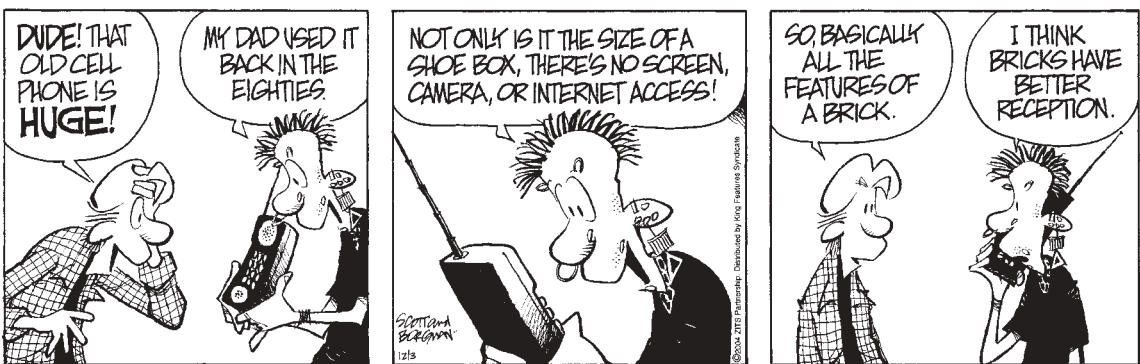
Blondie • Chic Young



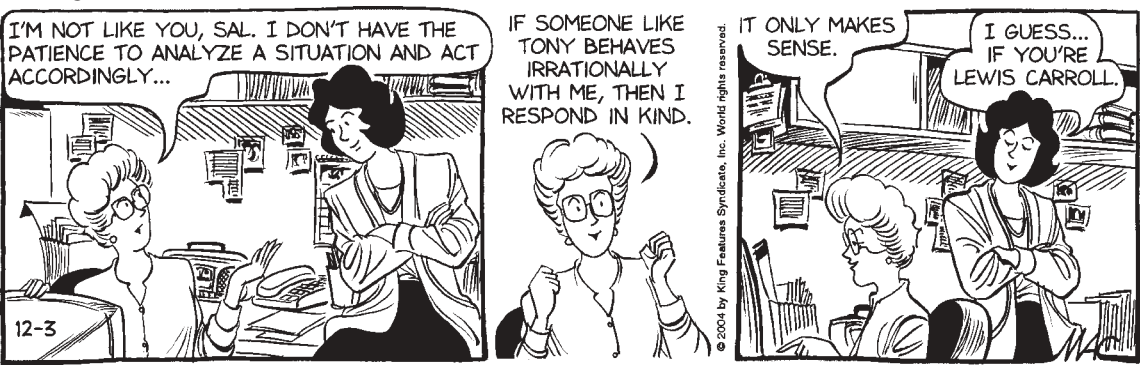
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

C ZRUWYI CM XCKKRJRV LZ D XHYGQXLou XWDMUR
SIY XJSQYW WLICUB BHWWMIDWW, MHQ'BU
PLICKSUYV. SMHYI SJJ, EHPPD PFLOS FU'R IU
HPYQ'iy PCBP ZCUWV.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A BUILDING WERE PRETTY, WITH IVY COVERING MUCH OF IT, IT WOULD BE SIMPLY DE-VINE!
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equal L
ZDOPDJPLG DP JXLSLOE.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I WONDER IF PICCOLOS ARE PLAYED DURING HURRICANES. AFTER ALL, THEY'RE HIGH WINDS.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equal P

Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Fool
- 4 Likely
- 7 Basketball play
- 12 "The — Daba Honey-moon"
- 13 Magnon preceder
- 14 Old-time market-place
- 15 Verb in a limerick's first line
- 16 Attendance check
- 18 NYC hrs.
- 19 Borden mascot
- 20 Unwilling to listen
- 22 "Monty Python" opener
- 23 Section
- 27 Resistance unit
- 29 Warning signal
- 31 Quickly
- 34 Put up
- 35 Posh
- 37 Pouch
- 38 Temple U. team

39 Curmudgeonly cry

41 Session with a shrink

45 Desires

47 Guitar's kin

48 "You betcha!"

52 Greek cross

53 Sandy's mistress

54 New Haven collegian

55 Double curve

56 Milkmaid's burden

57 1940s headline word

58 Sandra or Ruby

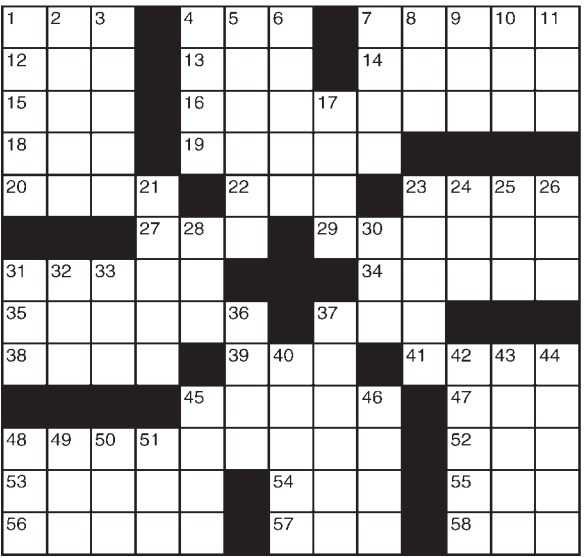
DOWN

- 1 Cut lumber
- 2 Humiliate
- 3 Trattoria selection
- 4 Dental distress
- 5 Bout before the main event
- 6 Raise a glass to
- 7 Chantilly, for one
- 8 Past
- 9 "Embraceable —"
- 10 Coffee vessel
- 11 Mr. Sajak
- 17 Interv-tebral structure
- 21 Concentrate
- 23 Shrivel with heat

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 12-3



ACROSS

- 1 Filch
- 4 Margarine servings
- 8 At a snail's pace
- 12 Citric beverage
- 13 Moises of baseball
- 14 Uris' "— 18"
- 15 Bro's counterpart
- 16 Biz letter-head abbr.
- 17 Mideast VIP
- 18 Stun
- 21 Find a tenant
- 22 "Guinness Book" suffix
- 23 Swell
- 26 Font widths
- 27 Resume
- 30 Reddish steed
- 31 Place-kicker's pride
- 32 Assistance
- 33 Request

34 Saturn auto model

35 Ex-governor Ventura

36 Blunder

37 Witness

38 Subject of an "Annie" song

45 In eager anticipation

46 "An apple — ..."

47 Sitcom star Romano

48 Hayseed

49 Toy-shop offering

50 "All the Things You —"

51 Disarray

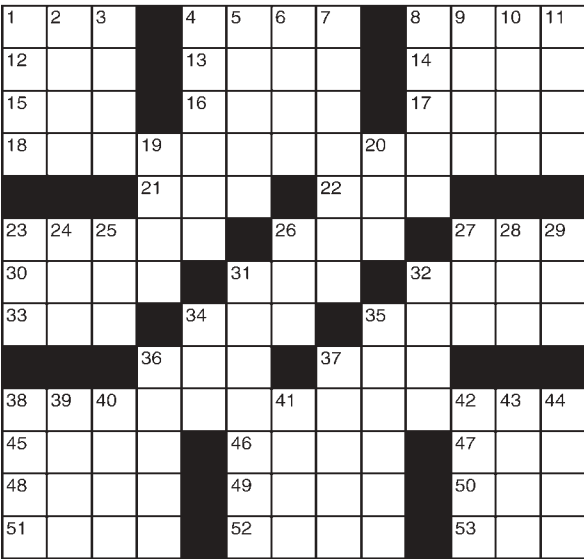
DOWN

- 1 Small barrel
- 2 Valhalla VIP
- 3 Mexican money
- 4 Mail boat
- 5 Soaring
- 6 Pamplona runner
- 7 Highest-ranking
- 8 Refine
- 9 Prom transport
- 10 Hodge-podge
- 11 Become distorted
- 19 Family
- 20 Ninny

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 12-4



Family Circus • Bill Keane



Bidding Quiz

You open One Spade and partner responds Two Clubs. What would you bid now with each of the following four hands?

- 1. S AK952 H A73 D 10 C A984
- 2. S KJ875 H KJ D AQ6 C A72
- 3. S AJ9632 H AJ4 D KQ7 C 5
- 4. S AJ863 H 4 D AJ85 C AQ5

1. Four clubs. An opening bid of one of a suit indicates about 12 to 21 points in high cards and distribution. Because this is a very wide range, the opener at his second turn is under a strong obligation to define the quality and nature of his hand. He does this by making a minimum rebid on a minimum hand, a maximum rebid on a maximum hand, or an in-between bid on an in-between hand.

This hand — with four quick tricks and attractive distribution — is not a minimum to begin with, and it rises even more in value when partner responds in clubs. Slam is now a distinct possibility, and these glad tidings are best conveyed by a jump-raise in clubs.

2. Three notrump. Here also you have values well beyond a minimum opening bid, so you leap to three notrump to indicate 18 or 19 high-card points as well as a notrump type of hand.

3. Two spades. All hands rise or fall in value as the bidding progresses. Thus, had partner responded two spades, you would have had enough for a jump to four spades. Hands that fit well rise sharply in value.

In the same way, hands that fit badly depreciate in value. While two clubs is a constructive response showing 10 or more points, it does not help your hand one bit — and, in fact, hurts it. All that can be done at this point is to rebid your spades and hope to hear from partner again. If he passes two spades, that is probably the best contract.

4. Two diamonds. Here the major effort is directed toward describing your 5-1-4-3 distribution. You plan to jump-raise clubs at the next opportunity and in this way — having bid spades, diamonds and clubs — identify your extra values and singleton (or void) in hearts.

Your 16 high-card points and club fit appear to justify an immediate jump-rebid of some sort, but this should be deferred until next time in the interests of painting as precise a picture of your distribution as possible.

Tomorrow: Card-reading par excellence.
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South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

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

WEST

- ♠ J 9 8
- ♥ Q J 9 5 4
- ♦ 7
- ♣ A 10 8 5

EAST

- ♠ Q 10 7 5 3
- ♥ K 10 8
- ♦ 8 5 4 2
- ♣ 7

SOUTH

- ♠ A K
- ♥ A 2
- ♦ K J 9 6
- ♣ K 6 4 3 2

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	1 ♥	2 ♣	2 ♥
3 ♥	Pass	4 ♣	Pass
5 ♣			

Opening lead — seven of diamonds.

Card-Reading Par Excellence

Occasionally, an expert declarer will make a play that seems foolish at the time and yet proves amazingly successful. When such a play is later analyzed, though, it usually turns out that the declarer knew exactly what he was doing, and that what appeared to be a remarkable play was actually based on simple logic.

Consider this deal where South reached five clubs as shown and West led a diamond. Declarer took the diamond with the jack and played a low trump to dummy's queen.

South then returned to his hand with a spade and led another low trump. When West again followed low, declarer played dummy's nine! After the nine held, South continued with the jack and so lost only a club and a heart to make the contract.

How did South know to finesse the nine of trumps? No, it was not because he caught a glimpse of West's hand; on the contrary, it was because he deduced that West's plays indicated he had started with the A-10-8-5 of trumps.

From declarer's viewpoint, there could be no good reason for West to lead a diamond rather than a heart unless the diamond was a singleton. This inference at trick one was reinforced at trick four when South led the second trump toward dummy's Q-9 and West followed with the eight.

It was now extremely unlikely that West had only the A-8-5 of trumps, because if he did, he would surely have gone up with the ace and tried to put his partner on lead with a heart in order to get a diamond ruff. It followed that West's original trump holding was the A-10-8-5 and that he was expecting to score a second trump trick with the ten after declarer played dummy's jack. Finessing dummy's nine was therefore the only sensible thing for South to do.

