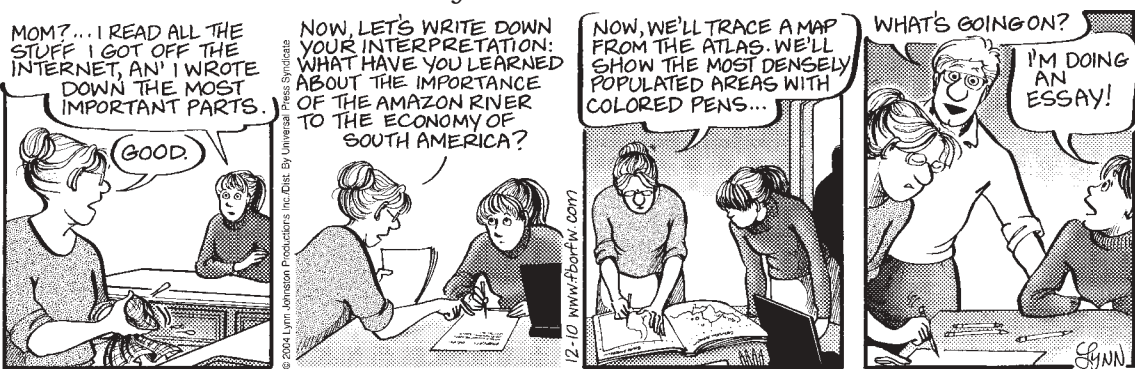
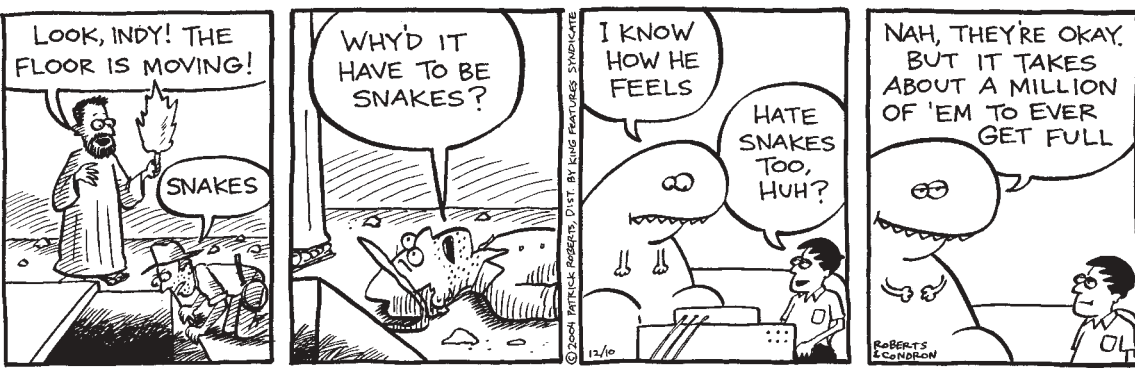


For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Tod The Dinosaur • PR Condon



Garfield • Jim Davis



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



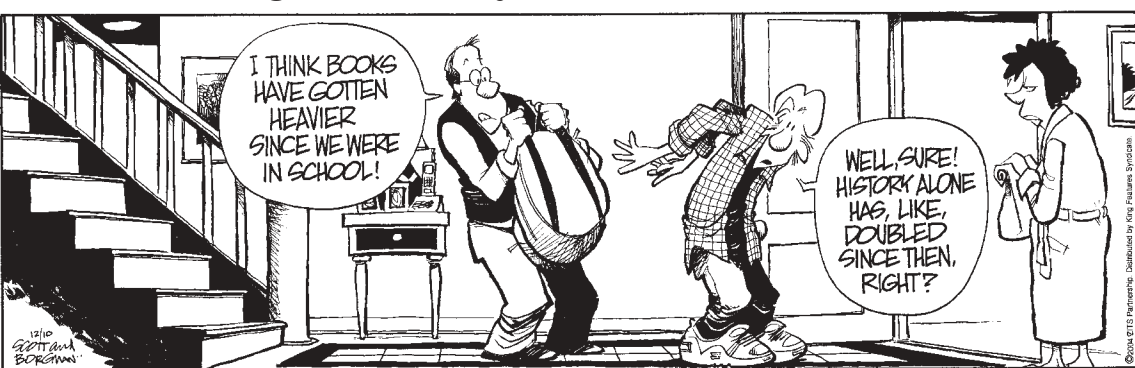
Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

ML SP KMUCD OEYNC MR BCWX MCV M EVQQDU
LQXD - WQDUC DCK, M UZN CVJMW H MCW TXZBLVX,
RXOOQRC PQX WQXEK RYP ZXW LDR CM TVF QEZT MF
M CYN RGXYDC SCYER. BVT TMZNNWH UZJH.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: DO YOU BELIEVE IF MY DINNER PLATE
THAT A VERY POPULAR SOAP OPERA SHOULD IS FOUR-CORNERED, I SUPPOSE YOU COULD
BE DUBBED A HOT SERIAL? SAY I EAT SQUARE MEALS.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals S Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals F

Crossword

ACROSS
1 Ready to rumble
6 Pinafore abbr.
9 Wrong (Pref.)
12 Schroeder's prop
13 Verily
14 Hostel
15 Rum recipe
16 "Evita" star
18 Gilligan's home
20 Bad aroma
21 Pompous sort
23 Zsa Zsa's sis
24 Torment
25 "Let's Make a Deal" option
27 Spritlike
29 Family namesake
31 Errand-running assistant
35 Delicious
37 Icicle's place
38 Opening night
41 Bambi's aunt
43 Drops on the grass
44 Corn lily
45 Snarl
47 Fill-in-the-blanks game
49 Hold the scepter
52 Bygone days, once
53 West of Hollywood
54 Goose-bump-raising
55 Pigs' digs
56 Museum stuff
57 Wipe out
DOWN
1 Suitable
2 "Flying Down to —"
3 Fourth President
4 Remnants
5 Holmes' creator
6 Choir book
7 Anthropologist
8 Blue
9 Clementine's dad was one
10 More central
11 Serpentine
17 Valencia, e.g.
19 States with conviction
21 N. modifier
22 Old French coin
24 Waste no time
26 Ceremony
28 Swash-buckling star
30 Bran source
32 Portuguese wine
33 "Hail, Caesar!"
34 Fresh
36 Wonderland service
38 They ain't worth a nickel
39 Praise to the skies
40 Hen
42 Match
45 Ski lift
46 Ogler's look
48 "— Yankee ..."
50 Joe's barracks mates?
51 Born

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 12-10

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			54			
55				56			57			

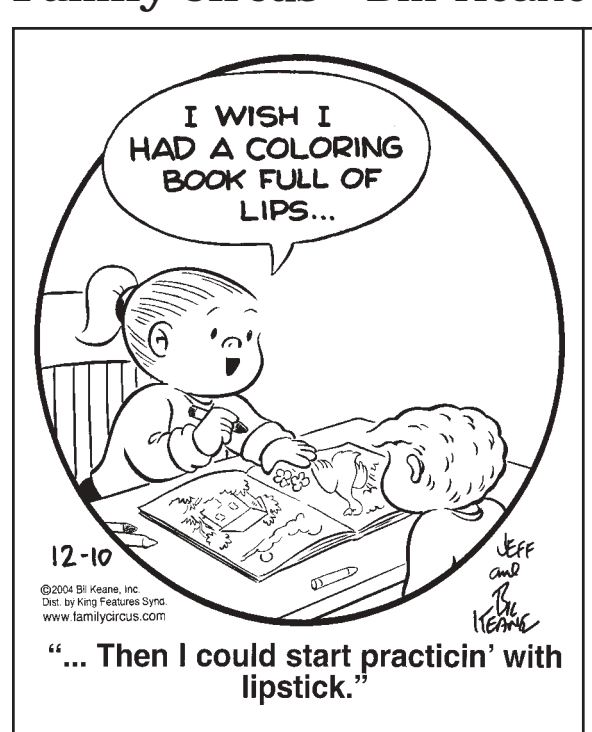
ACROSS
1 "Get lost!"
6 Half a 1960s quartet
11 In
12 Wards off
14 South American land
15 Mideast-ern land
16 Posses-sive pronoun
17 —
19 numeral
21 Greek vowel
20 It takes the cake
22 "Platoon" setting
23 Not loose
24 Brought back
26 Tastes
28 Insult (Sl.)
30 Scale member
31 Any old person
35 Kid-lit author Dahl
39 LPs, CDs, etc. (Abbr.)
40 Chaps
42 Branch
43 "You — There"
44 De-squeaked
46 Khan title
47 European land
49 Mediter-ranean land
51 Merchant
52 Cutlery
53 Cowardly one
54 They often battle
DOWN
1 Endeavor
2 Went after
3 Cartoon-ist
4 Eastern potatoe (Var.)
5 Cren-shaw, e.g.
6 Nightwear
7 Shake-speare's river
8 Apiece
9 Zealous
10 Museum piece
11 Detest
13 Unex-pected problems
18 Treasure seeker's aid
21 Some are real posers
23 Corporate division
25 King Louis —
27 Fate
29 Wine descrip-tion
31 Covers com-pletely
32 Medal earners
33 Peacock-tail spots
34 Cath. or Prot.
36 Suffer from depriva-tion
37 Medley connec-tors
38 Pile up
41 Parts of guitars
44 Individ-uals
45 Unit of force
48 Hirt and Gore
50 Snaps

Solution time: 27 mins.

Yesterday's answer 12-11

	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						54					

Family Circus • Bill Keane



Bidding Quiz

You are South, both sides vulnerable. The bidding has been:

East	South	West	North
1 H	Pass	2 H	Pass
Pass	?		

What action — if any — would you now take with each of the following four hands?

1. S AJ10 H 7642 D K93 C K85
2. S J9853 H J76 D Q72 C AK
3. S Q874 H 10 D K853 C A1096
4. S AK6 H KJ95 D 108742 C 7

1. Double. Competitive bidding for partscores receives short shrift from most teachers and writers, partly because game and slam hands are far more interesting to discuss than partscores. However, considering that half the deals in bridge contain no game for either side, partscore hands merit far more attention than they customarily receive.

Let's say that in a given hand you can make three clubs and the opponents can make two hearts. If you let them play two hearts unopposed, they will score 60 below the line instead of your scoring 60. Since this will then make it that much easier for the opponents (rather than you) to score a game on a subsequent deal by completing the partscore, your total loss in the average rubber will come to about 300 points. Your savings will be somewhat smaller if you fail to make your contract, but since you will have prevented the opposition from making theirs, you will still be significantly better off.

Such swings are substantial and emphasize the importance of fighting for and against partscores. Here partner is bound to have some of the missing high cards — judging from the opponents' reluctance to venture past two hearts — so a double for takeout is strongly indicated. Partner probably has a singleton heart and is therefore likely to have a five-card suit. It would be a serious mistake to sell out so cheaply.

2. Two spades. Ordinarily, this would be a dangerous overall, but the risk has been diminished by the inference that partner has some values and no more than two hearts. To permit East-West to make a comfortable partscore, when you yourself might have one, would be an even greater risk, and you should not close your eyes to it.

3. Double. True, you have only nine high-card points, but the hand will be worth much more than that after partner responds in one of your suits. Partner is almost certain to have seven to 11 points, and he can probably make eight or nine tricks in a suit contract.

4. Pass. You don't always have to compete when the bidding dies at a low level, and whether to do so naturally depends on your hand. Here a pass is indicated because (1) you have good defense against two hearts and (2) it is too dangerous either to double for takeout (partner might respond in clubs) or to bid three diamonds on such a shabby suit.

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

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

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

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	4 NT	Pass
5 ♥	Pass	7 ♠	

Opening lead — jack of diamonds.

Unwelcome Assignment

Skillful card play can compensate for a multitude of sins committed during the bidding. Consider this deal where North became so enamored of his hand after his partner opened the bidding with one spade that he contracted for a grand slam after determining only that his side held all four aces. The small matter of how to take 13 tricks was left to poor South to resolve.

Declarer was naturally disappointed when dummy appeared, since a heart loser seemed inevitable. He had been to the wars before, however, and recognized that the situation was not entirely hopeless.

Accordingly, after taking the opening diamond lead with dummy's king, declarer cashed two rounds of trumps, then played the ace of diamonds and ruffed a diamond in dummy. Next came the A-K of clubs and a club ruff, followed by another diamond ruff in dummy. Declarer then led dummy's last trump to his queen to bring about this position:

North [S]	A 5; [C] 8
West [H]	K 10; [C] J
East [H]	J 9
South [S]	10; [H] Q 7

As South hoped, West had started with the king of hearts and at least five clubs. Having taken care to exhaust East of clubs in order to put the burden of guarding that suit entirely on West, declarer now led his last trump. This left West without recourse, and the slam was home.

Unfortunately, it also left North with the impression that he had bid the hand brilliantly, much to the consternation of the opponents — and his poor, beleaguered partner.

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