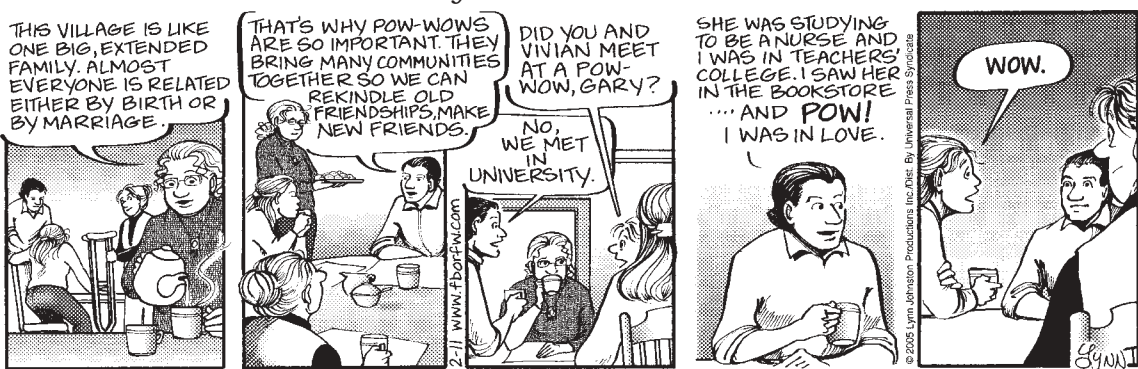
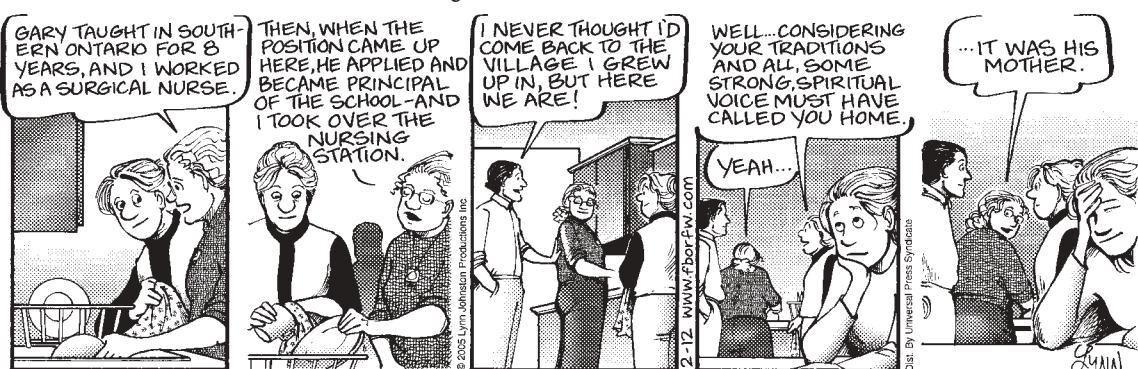


For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



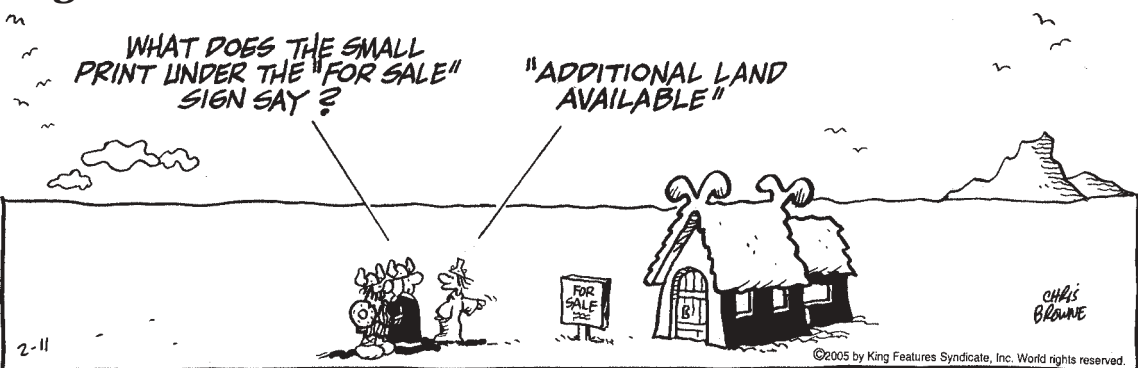
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



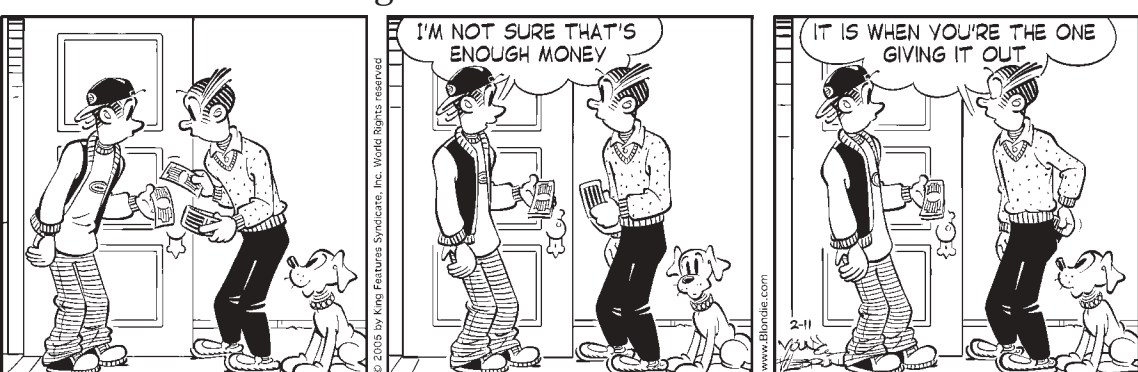
Garfield • Jim Davis



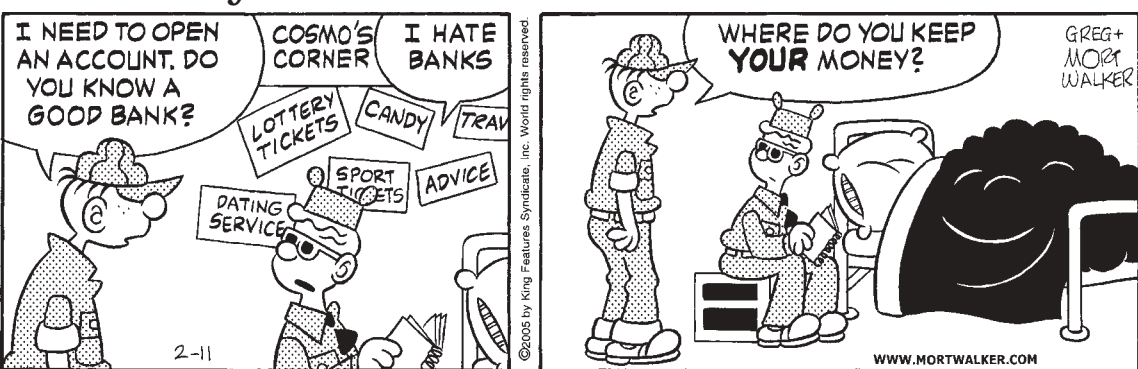
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

TS KIM'Z BSASANSB ZTS

HSMSBDK MIAS PE ZTS

XDFF, NQZ DZ'Y PM ZTS

ZDX PE TDY ZPMHQS.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: A MOTION PICTURE CONCERNING SOME MISSING PANES WAS DUBBED "GONE WITH THE WINDOW."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals M

WOQKKV NYM VISNE QOFYV

NOS RKDQYW FRR ICS

VCSKUSV. ICSD'OS

MSRQYQISKD CFI QISEV.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: HE CAN'T REMEMBER THE GENERIC NAME OF THE PILL, BUT IT'S ON THE TIP OF HIS TONGUE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals F

Crossword

**ACROSS**

1 Barbie's ex

4 Cushion inserts

8 Reveille's opposite

12 Latin 101 word

13 Acknowledged

14 Saxophone range

15 Aggressively active one

17 Let the cat out of the bag

18 "Seinfeld" role

19 Greek letter

21 — Moines

22 Midori's instrument

26 Vestige

29 Foundation

30 Mrs. McKinley

31 Legacy recipient

32 Fuel

33 Doctor's earnings

34 Curve

35 Saute

36 Blizzard aftermath

**DOWN**

1 Hardy cabbage

20 Stashed

37 Much ado about nothing

39 Seek damages

40 Go lickety-split

41 Mortar's partner

45 Popular name for poodles

48 Tie

50 Related

51 Former filly

52 Actress Jillian

53 Fender bender

54 Arctic divers

55 Mauna —

6 Painter Nolde

3 PBS science show

4 Sold temporarily

5 Trellis climbers

6 Postal Creed word

7 Turns suddenly

8 Forbidden

9 The whole thing

10 Bake-sale org.

11 Turn on the water-works

16 Duck down

23 Stead

24 Mid-March date

25 Poet Ogden

26 Persian bigwig

27 Medal earner

28 Puerto —

29 Serenade the moon

32 Anna Mary Moses' nickname

33 Shylock's demand

35 Winter woe

36 Napped leathers

38 Publish

39 Activate

42 Shipbuilding wood

43 Kegler's path

44 Sicilian spouter

45 Craze

46 White House nickname

47 Cod piece

49 H-deux-O

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

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

Yesterday's answer 2-11

**ACROSS**

1 Talent

6 Electrician, in Hollywood

12 Trinket

13 "My Cup Runneth Over" musical

14 Bawdy

15 "Gong Show" creator

16 A Baldwin brother

17 Goblet feature

19 Poseidon's realm

20 Friends and neighbors

22 Perched

24 Pro

27 Not even one

29 Senate employee

32 Sequence of causes and effects

35 One of the Jackson 5

36 Mexican entree

37 Follow relentlessly

38 Conclude

40 Grand

**DOWN**

1 Not even get a D

2 Garage job

3 By surprise

11 Artist Bonheur

12 Shape shifter?

18 Vows to inflict injury?

21 B&B

23 Quick on the uptake

24 Performance

25 Actor McBride

26 Diners

28 America's Cup activity

30 Moo — gai pan

31 Chang's closest relative

33 "And — the opposite shore ..."

34 Bill's partner

39 Evade

41 Milk dispenser?

42 Estival pest

43 Host Letterman

45 Second-hand

47 Staffer

48 Pinochle play

49 Away from NNW

51 Fornicary denizen

53 Ultramodernist

**Solution time: 27 mins.**

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

Yesterday's answer 2-12

Family Circus • Bill Keane



Bridge

Bidding Quiz

You are South, both sides vulnerable, and have this hand:

S 7 H A Q 9 4 D K 10 8 C A J 10 9 2

1. You bid One Club, West overcalls with One Spade, partner bids One Notrump, and East passes. What would you bid now?

2. You bid One Club, West overcalls with One Spade, partner bids Two Diamonds, and East passes. What would you bid now?

3. You bid One Club, West passes, partner responds Two Notrump, and East passes. What would you bid now?

4. You bid One Club, partner responds One Diamond, you rebid One Heart, and North raises to Two Hearts. East-West pass throughout. What would you bid now?

\*\*\*

1. Two clubs. Partner has about eight or nine points, including a spade stopper, for his one-notrump bid. Game is therefore unlikely, so the only question is where the best partscore contract lies. On balance, two clubs is apt to be a safer contract than one notrump.

It would be wrong to bid two hearts. This would constitute a reverse bid, indicating a much stronger hand. Such a bid could easily push your side beyond a makable partscore.

2. Two hearts. This is not a reverse, since two hearts is the cheapest bid you can make. However, you should view this hand as much more promising for game purposes than the preceding one. Partner's two-diamond bid promises at least 10 points and, because you have support for his suit, also raises the value of your hand a notch or two. For the moment, though, it is best to mark time with two hearts, planning to show your diamond support later.

3. Three hearts. You bid three hearts mainly to warn partner against notrump. North is unlikely to have four hearts, since he failed to respond one heart, although he might have bypassed the suit for tactical reasons. Three hearts should not be treated by partner as a reverse bid showing extra strength, since over two notrump, it is better used as a clarifying bid to pinpoint distribution.

4. Three diamonds. There are three possible bids — three diamonds, three hearts and four hearts — and they all make sense. The chief objection to an immediate leap to game is that if partner has the wrong type of hand, you probably won't make four hearts. And while a three-heart bid would invite partner to go on to four, it would only announce extra values without delineating what they are.

Three diamonds has the virtue of not only identifying extra values, but also describing the three-suited nature of your hand.

Tomorrow: A deducible deduction.

(c)2005 King Features Syndicate Inc.

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

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

**WEST**

♠ J 10 8 5

♥ 9 2

♦ A Q J 4

♣ 10 9 3

**SOUTH**

♠ 7 2

♥ A K Q J 5

♦ K 9 3

♣ J 6 4

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠	2 ♣
2 ♥	3 ♣	6 ♥	

Opening lead — ten of clubs.

The bidding by the opponents often helps declarer find the winning line of play. It is not uncommon for him to have a choice of several methods of play, and the final choice is sometimes strongly influenced by the bidding.

Consider this deal where South was in six hearts and West led the ten of clubs. Had declarer followed the line of least resistance, he would have gone down one. Suppose he had ruffed, drawn trumps, discarded a diamond on a top spade and then led a diamond toward the K-9. In that case, he would have lost two diamond tricks as well as the slam.

But early in the play South arrived at the conclusion that West was far more likely to have the ace of diamonds than East. West's ten lead was presumably his highest club, marking East with the A-K-Q. This made West a strong favorite to have the ace of diamonds for his three-club bid.

Accordingly, South ruffed the club lead in dummy, played a heart to the jack, ruffed another club, played a heart to the queen and ruffed his last club. When he next cashed the A-K of hearts, this became the position:

North — S A K Q 4; D 8 5; West East — S J 10 8 5 Immaterial; D A Q; South — S 7 2; H 5; D K 9 3

South then led the five of hearts, and West, who could not spare a spade, was forced to discard the queen of diamonds. Declarer thereupon discarded a spade from dummy and led the diamond three. West had to win with the ace, and South's king became his 12th trick.

(c)2005 King Features Syndicate Inc.