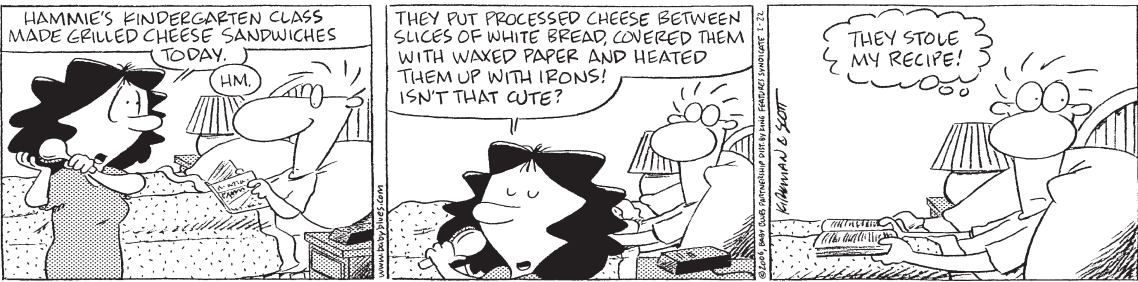


Retail • Norm Feuti (Sample)



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott (Sample)



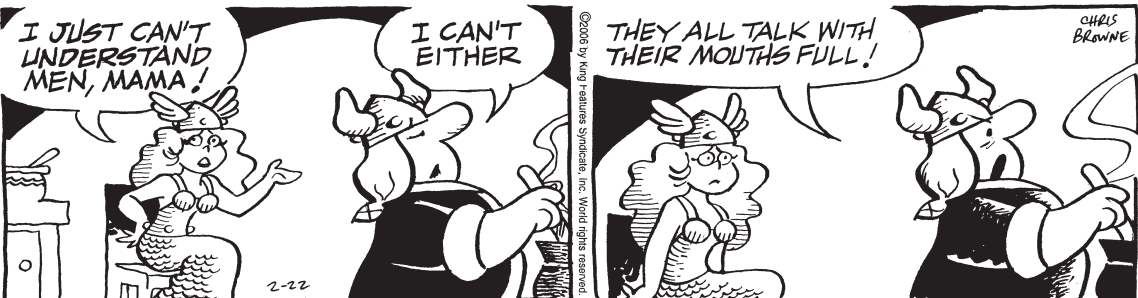
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Garfield • Jim Davis



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



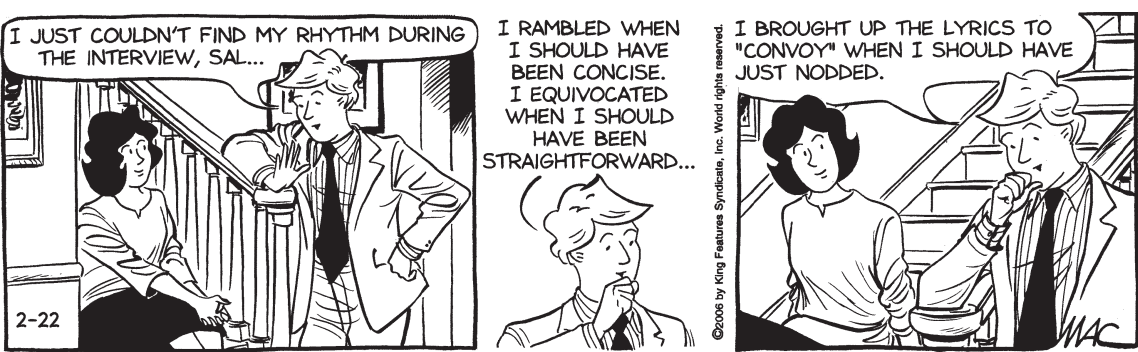
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

WQBAK W VKLQGUGASB FS F KVEE LGN KPV EUTC
NWPPAOK XLLPASP OV FH JVOL TVK KPFH
DLOK NOPUXAP, G YAB YGOCFCZ, F'Y MVSFCFKVEL
DLO'XX YA VWPB BASPA. ZFJFCZ LGN MVT TUOCFCZ.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOUR DRIVER'S Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AFTER A PROFICIENT
LICENSE GOT REVOKED, I RECKON YOU COULD MASSEUR LOOSENS UP YOUR MUSCLES, I BET
BE FEELING A BIT DIS-CARDED. YOU'LL BE PAST TENSE.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals L Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals M

Crossword

ACROSS

1 Gravy vessel
5 Touch
9 Showbiz job
12 Relaxation
13 Lounge about
14 Battering device
15 Big race
17 Khan title
18 Tablet, maybe
19 Mortise's mate
21 Specialized lingo
24 Bit in Muffet's bowl
25 Rent
26 Repeated
30 Eggs, zoologically
31 Hag
32 In need of repair
33 Inclination
35 Brass member
36 College VIP
37 Impressive grouping

38 Of
primary importance
40 Barn-roof attachment
42 Down-under bird
43 Bridge coup
48 Rocky peak
49 Into the sunrise
50 Missile housing
51 Wild blue yonder
52 Deli loaves
53 Squeal

2 Scull prop
3 Smile center
4 Tough tissue
5 St. Bernard's beat
6 Exposed
7 9mm sub-machine gun
8 Tactile characteristic
9 Extensive journey
10 Shake-speare rogue
11 Fed component
16 URL

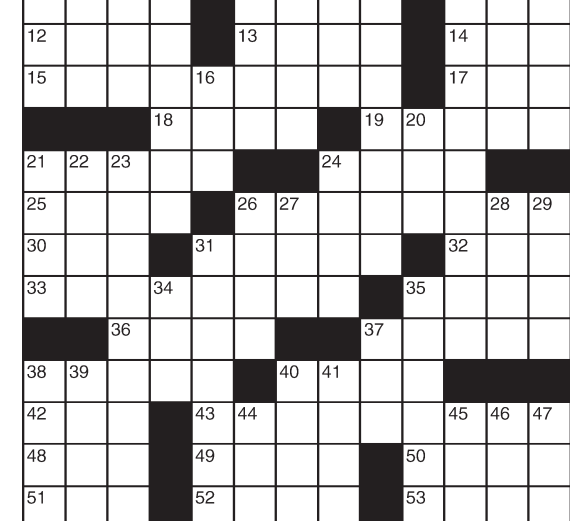
21 On
22 Bush adviser
23 Court group
24 Minimal change
26 Persia, now
27 Heavy weight
28 Exile isle
29 Decisive time
31 Battle horse
34 Brass member (Abbr.)
35 Having luxurious hair
37 Moreover
38 Shea squad
39 Beyond control
40 Florist shop item
41 Picnic intruders
44 Bob's longtime partner
45 Whopper
46 The whole enchilada
47 Swabbie's tool

DOWN

1 Pass the plate
2 Mound stat

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 2-21



ACROSS

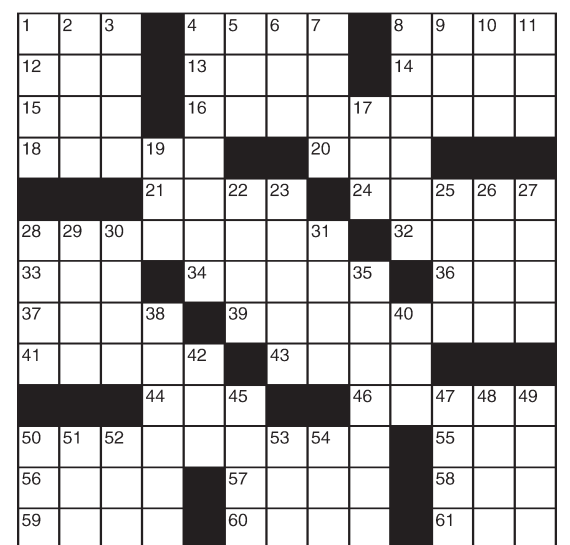
1 Cook-book verb
4 Low voice
8 Rebuff a masher
12 Resumé
13 Instrument the band tunes up to
14 "Battle Hymn of the Republic" writer
15 Work with
16 Saline solution?
18 Pitch
20 Turf
21 D.C. workers
24 Jerry and Dottie
28 Hangout for deer
32 Presentation
33 Prior to
34 Nocturnal primate
36 Palindromic title

37 "Dead man's hand" pair
39 Save
41 Bush
43 Academic tables
46 Insurrectionist
50 All-female rap group
55 Actress Longoria
56 Satan's forte
57 Enthusiastic, plus
58 Started
59 Relinquish
60 "Unh-unh"

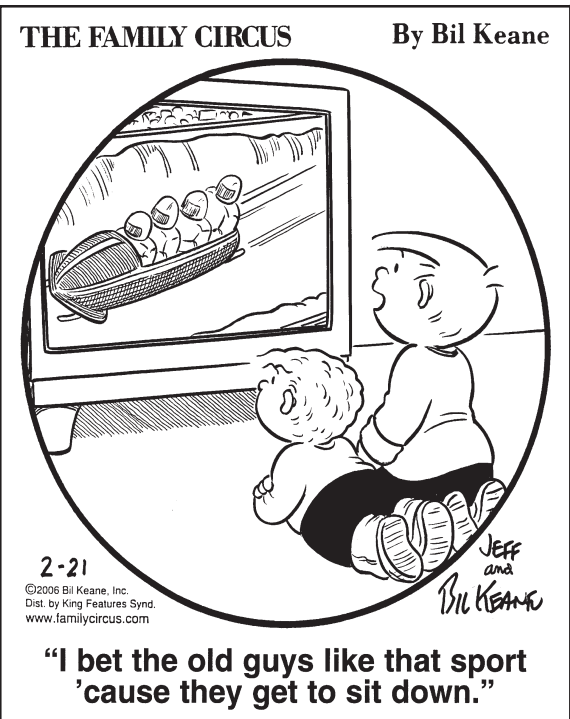
61 Take a shot at
DOWN
1 Touch
2 Platter
3 Active one
4 Johnson biographer
5 Lawyers' org.
6 Costa del —
7 Congeals
8 Sunglasses
9 Destiny
10 Astonishment
11 Apiece
17 "Holy mackerel!"
19 Frequently

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 2-22



Family Circus • Bill Keane



Bridge

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

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

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

EAST
♠ Q 9 4 3
♥ 10 5
♦ K 7 6 2
♣ 10 7 3

SOUTH
♠ K 5
♥ A J 9 6 2
♦ Q 9 5
♣ K J 4

The bidding:
South 1♥
West Pass
North 3♥
East Pass

Opening lead — jack of spades.

Simple Solution to a Quandary

The two-way finesse is usually associated with a missing queen, but sometimes declarer finds him self faced with guessing which opponent has a crucial jack or ten.

If the North-South diamonds in today's hand are examined, it can be seen that declarer must lose tricks to the missing ace and king. But he may also lose a trick to the ten, unless he successfully guesses which opponent has that card.

When the deal occurred, declarer won the spade lead with the king, drew trumps, led a spade to the ace and ruffed a spade. Next came a club to the ace, followed by a club to the jack, losing to the queen. West exited with a club to South's king, bringing declarer face to face with the diamond suit and a critical guess for the ten.

He started by leading a low diamond toward dummy, West following low. Had South played the eight, he would have made the contract. But when he played the jack instead, he had to lose three diamond tricks and go down one.

Though one may sympathize with declarer's misguess, the degree of sympathy should be tempered somewhat, since he missed a sure way to make the contract. Had he played correctly, he could have avoided the diamond guess altogether.

The proper procedure after drawing trumps and ruffing a spade is to lead the A-K-J of clubs, declining the finesse in that suit. This leaves the opposition in a hopeless position.

Whichever defender wins the trick must yield a ruff-and-discard or else return a diamond. In the latter case, declarer simply plays low from the next hand, guaranteeing that either the queen or jack will become a trick.

Guessing is quite often unavoidable, but why guess when you don't have to?

South dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 7 6 4
♥ Q J 10 3
♦ Q 9 4
♣ 6 5 3

WEST
♠ A J 9 5
♥ 9 4
♦ 10 2
♣ A K 10 9 7

EAST
♠ Q 8 3 2
♥ 7 6 5
♦ 7 6 3
♣ Q J 4

SOUTH
♠ K 10
♥ A K 8 2
♦ A K J 8 5
♣ 8 2

The bidding:
South 1♦
West 2♥
North Pass
East Pass

Opening lead — king of clubs.

It is usually more difficult to defend correctly than to play the dummy correctly. This is mainly because declarer starts out knowing exactly how much high-card strength he and dummy have in the combined hands, and exactly the number of cards his side has in each suit.

Conversely, each defender starts without knowing his partner's high-card strength or the number of cards partner holds in each suit. Nevertheless, if the defenders work as a team, they will nearly always score every trick they're entitled to make.

Here's an example of good partnership rapport. West leads the king of clubs, on which East plays the queen. East's queen play indicates the ability to win the next lead of the suit, either because he holds the jack or because the queen is a singleton.

Accordingly, West next leads a low club, knowing his partner will win the trick unless declarer has no more clubs. East takes the jack and, realizing West would not have bid two clubs with fewer than five of them, shifts to the deuce of spades.

West takes declarer's king with the ace and, because East's fourth-best-spade return marks South with a doubleton spade, continues with a spade to set the contract. In doing so, West resists the temptation to try to cash the ace of clubs at trick four.

Observe how smoothly East-West cooperated to find the killing defense. East had to signal with the queen at trick one to induce the crucial low club return by West at trick two. East also knew the futility of continuing with a club at trick three, which would have handed declarer the contract. His shift to the spade deuce at trick three simultaneously told partner how many spades South had and enabled West to put the last nail in the coffin at trick four.

Tomorrow: Declarer makes a key play.

