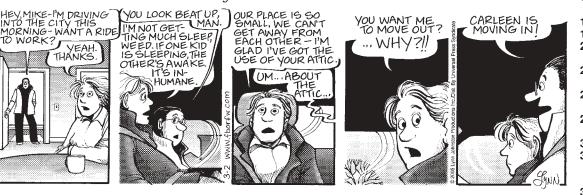
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



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KIDDING

CHRIS BROWNE

25 Ties up

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Garfield • Jim Davis



20202020

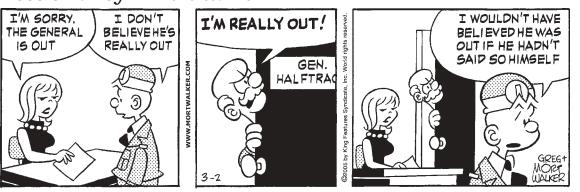
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Crossword

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Bridge

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The bidding:									
North East	South	West							
$1 \blacklozenge$ Pass	1 🖤	Pass							
2 ♦ Pass	3 NT								
Opening lead —	five of space	des.							

Bridge is essentially a game of logic. The more keenly a player reasons, the better he will do. General rules can be memorized and are certainly helpful, but they are easy to misapply unless the reasons behind them are understood.

Take this deal where it is easy to go wrong. South wins the spade lead with the king and obviously must attack diamonds, his most promising suit. But when he makes the normal play of the queen and another diamond, West shows out, and South is in deep trouble. He can now do no better than continue the suit. After East takes the jack and returns a spade, the defenders collect four spade tricks, and South finishes a sadder, if not wiser, man.

Correct play produces 10 tricks. In the given circumstances, declarer should not automatically attack diamonds in the usual fashion, but should first consider the possibility of a 4-1 division and try to protect against it.

To that end, South should lead a club to the king at trick two and return a low diamond, planning to finesse the nine. He does not mind if the nine loses to the jack, because with West on lead, the queen of spades is impervious to attack, and no other return by West can do him any harm.

As it happens, the nine wins, and South coasts home with at least 10 tricks. But note that even if the finesse loses to the jack, he is still sure of nine tricks - five diamonds, two clubs, a spade and a heart - whatever West returns.

To start the diamonds by cashing the queen is a bow to normal procedure that is not justified in the present case. The safety play in diamonds is needed to virtually assure a favorable outcome.

Tomorrow: Sylvia plays duplicate. (c)2005 King Features Syndicate Inc.

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable. NORTH 10 9 6 4 ♥Q63 🔶 K 8 6 2 🕈 Q J WEST EAST **↑** A **♥** K J 10 9 7 5 **h** 3 2 ♥ 8 ♦ Q 10 4 ◆ J 9 7 5 🕈 Â 9 8 **+**1076543 SOUTH 🔶 K Q J 8 7 5 ♥A42 A 3 ٠ **♣**K 2 The bidding: South West North East 1 🛧 2 🎔 2 🛧 Pass 4 🛧

At first, believe it or not, some members of the club claimed they could fathom the workings of Sylvia's mind. But it did not take them very long to disabuse themselves of this ridiculous notion. They discovered soon enough that Sylvia's unique interpretation of the general principles of the game resulted in an approach far different from that of any player they had ever encountered. Consider this deal from Sylvia's first duplicate tournament at the club. Perhaps she should not have been allowed to play, but most of the members felt that she would surely add zest to the game - and they certainly were not disappointed. Sylvia was West and found herself on lead against four spades, a contract that was reached at all 13 tables. All the other West players led either the jack of hearts (won with dummy's queen) or a low diamond. In every one of those cases, declarer easily made the contract, losing only a club, a heart and a spade. At this stage of her career, Sylvia had already learned the "rule" about leading the highest card from a sequence of honor cards. However, she had not yet learned the distinction between a sequence and an "interior" sequence. Accordingly, unlike the other Wests who led the jack from the K-J-10-9-7-5, she led the king! As a result of this remarkable lead, poor South could no longer make the contract. He took the king with the ace and played a trump, but he was fighting a losing cause. Sylvia won with the ace and returned the jack of hearts. East ruffed dummy's queen and returned a club, and Sylvia took the ace of clubs and ten of hearts to put the contract down one.

Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard





Cryptoquip

CY S KGSISDG PRSBTP	NANDY DXRT GXRGPARNRT
DR HDZP DY BISBTFIP	Z MPBBXQ QYX ZBQZID
CR NFJ, ECHH EF FRJ WK	DENBPD QZAEBI: "HYP
E C Z G S B I W O N M O W O O M ? Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT WOULD SOME MEAN GUYS CALL A TECHNOLOGICALLY CHALLENGED PERSON? A NINCOMPUTER. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals M	Q P Z A N R T X M H Y P T A N R . " Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A PHARAOH SNACKS ON LOTS OF CRACKERS IN BED, WILL WE END UP WITH A CRUMBY MUMMY? Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals G

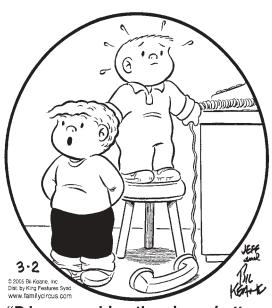
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	57					58				59				

Family Circus • Bill Keane



"When you're drawin' me, Daddy, remember I get taller every day.

Tomorrow: Steppingstone to success. (c)2005 King Features Syndicate Inc.



"PJ was pushing the phone buttons and somebody said 'hello."