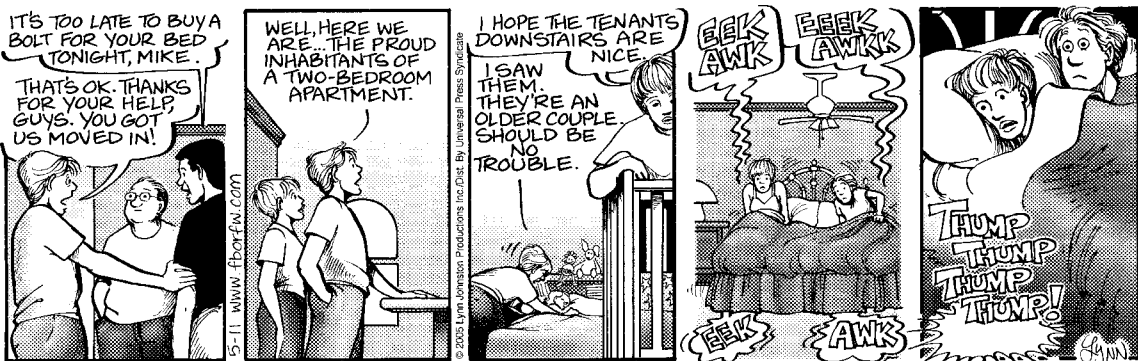
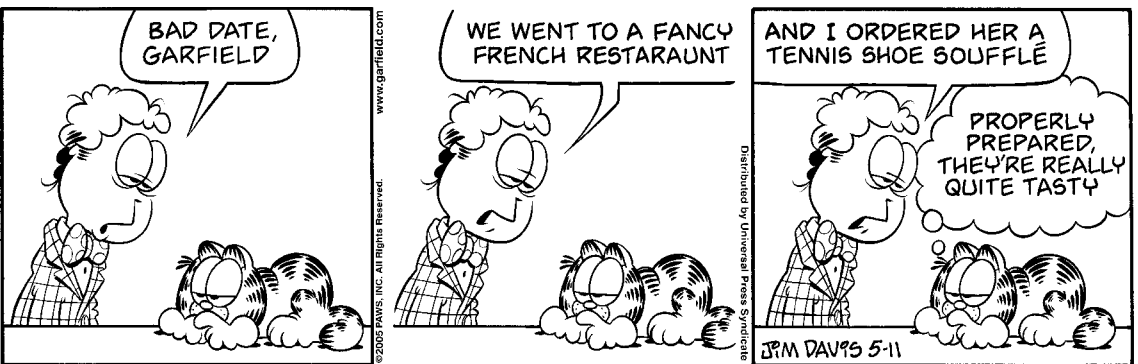


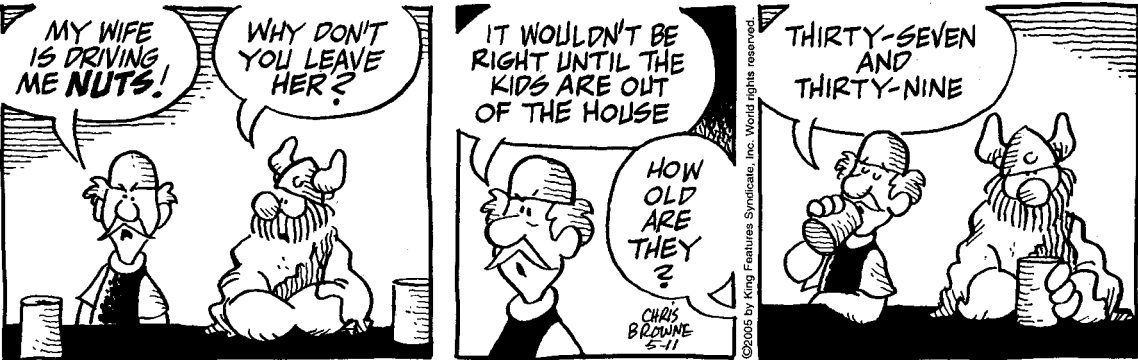
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Garfield • Jim Davis



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



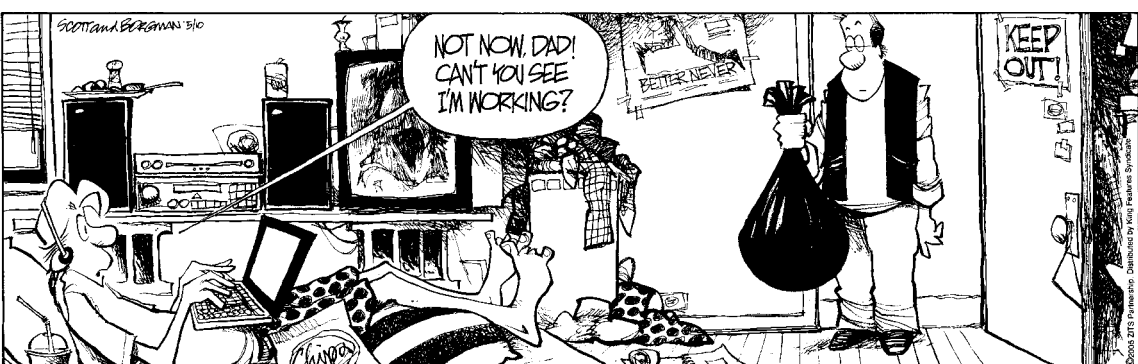
Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



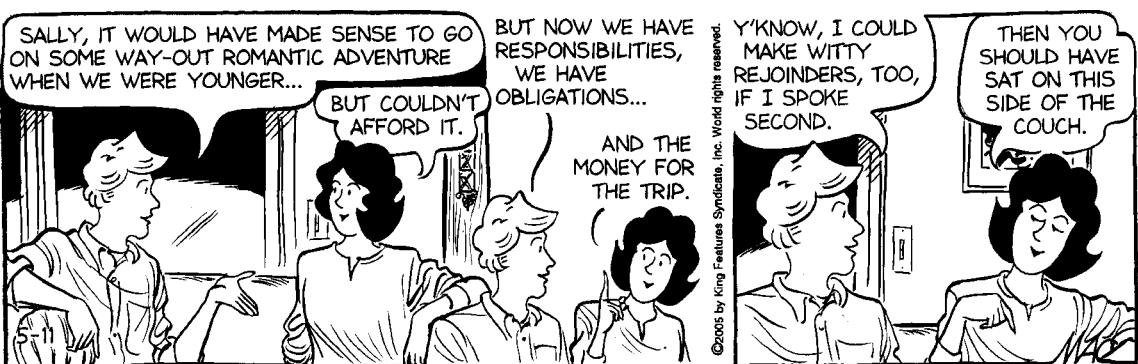
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

NZ UDH QOWOG YGOTT WAD RWEGN XTUAJ XTLX
UDHG BCD FROT, FROQ N L XMDD ZEMKDW OWE GN
THYYD TO UDH BDHCJ RKWC PD BWEAN RWMJUAK WEX
KQ NGDQ JOZNBNOQBU WB TUZ PMLAOT WBBUOD.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: DAD IS SLEEPING IN A REALLY CHILLY ROOM, SO I SUPPOSE YOU MIGHT SAY HE'S OUT COLD.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals Y

Crossword

ACROSS

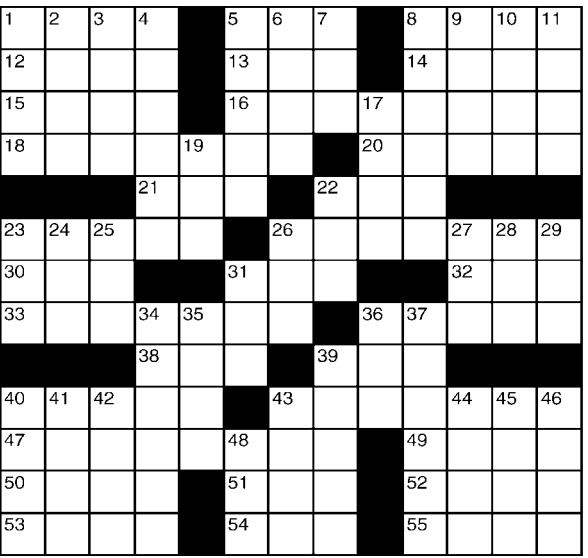
1 Settled down
5 "Naked Gun" figure
8 Actor James
12 Bygone VHS alternative
13 Have bills
14 Farm fraction
15 Maleficence
16 Page 1 eye-catcher
18 Gridiron participant
20 Wiser, maybe
21 Sister
22 Lamb's dam
23 Lan-guishes
26 Authoritative command
30 Fuss
31 Dislodge
32 Dobbin's dinner
33 — bread
36 Frighten
38 Pooch
39 Rapture

DOWN

1 First victim
2 Jeans maker
11 — do-well
17 Like this clue subj.
19 Juilliard device
22 Listening

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterdays answer 5-10



ACROSS

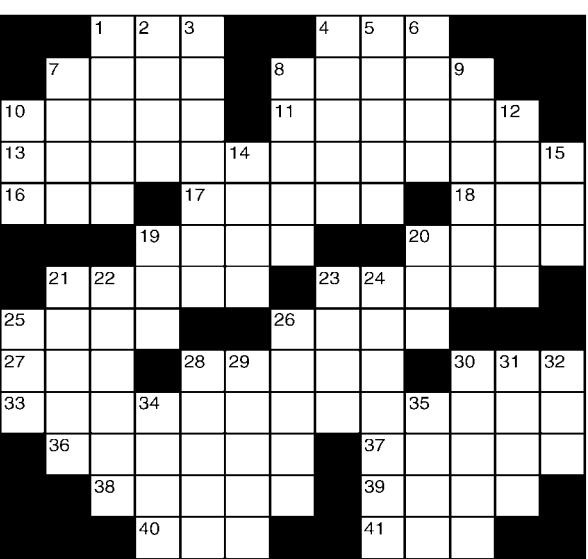
1 Scornful laugh
4 Coll. transcript no.
7 Rose or Fountain
8 Impudent
10 Oyster's prize
11 Heart lines?
13 Half a brother duo
16 White House nickname
17 Singer Simon
18 "Holy cow!"
19 Mid-June honorees
20 Poet — Wheeler Wilcox
21 Friendship
23 Breakfast item
25 "Sad to tell ..."
26 Timber wolf

DOWN

27 In favor of
28 Felt-like fabric
30 Actress Charlotte
33 Half a brother duo
36 Grosse —, Mich.
37 Water-gate evidence
38 Un, deux, —
39 Tramcar contents
40 Possess
41 Cath. or Prot.

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterdays answer 5-11



Family Circus • Bill Keane



Bridge

West dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A 7 5 3
♥ 6 4
♦ 7 5 3 2
♣ 8 5 2

EAST

♠ 10 6
♥ A 10 7 5
♦ 9 8 4
♣ 10 9 6 3

SOUTH

♠ K 9 2
♥ K Q J 9 8 3
♦ A K
♣ A J

The bidding:
West Pass
North Pass
East Pass
South 1♥
Dble 2♣
Pass 2♠
Pass 2♠
Opening lead — queen of diamonds

Spectacular but Reasonable

Card-reading is the most important single faculty required of a declarer. This is as it should be, because after all, once the location of the unseen 26 cards is known, it is seldom difficult to achieve the best result possible.

Take this case where South gets to four hearts and West leads a diamond. Declarer wins with the ace and plays the king of hearts, which East takes with the ace. East returns a diamond to the king, and South must now watch his step or he will go down one.

His proper play is to cross to dummy with a spade, lead a heart and finesse the nine! If he does, he makes the contract; if he doesn't, he fails.

It is granted that the second-round heart finesse has all the earmarks of being based on a peek at the East-West hands. A more normal play would be to cash the queen of hearts on the assumption that the trumps are divided 3-2. But in this hand all signs point to a 4-1 trump division, and the finesse is therefore the indicated play. Let's see why.

West passed originally and then doubled one heart. At trick two, East showed up with the ace of hearts, leaving West with at most 11 high-card points for his double. West could scarcely double with 11 aceless points unless he had either a singleton or a void in hearts, and on this basis, declarer should assume that a trump finesse against the ten is very likely to succeed.

Tomorrow: It's all in the spots.
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West dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ 9 3
♥ Q 8 6 2
♦ Q 7 5
♣ K Q J 5

EAST

♠ 4
♥ J 10 4 3
♦ A 9 6
♣ 9 8 6 4 2

SOUTH

♠ A Q J 10 8 6 5
♥ A
♦ 10 4
♣ A 7 3

The bidding:
West Pass
North Pass
East Pass
South 4♠
Opening lead — ten of clubs.

It's All in the Spots

The suit-preference signal has many applications. In its classic form, it is used by a defender on lead to tell his partner which of two side suits to return after the lead has been ruffed.

The mechanism is quite simple: If the leader prefers to have the lower-ranking side suit returned, he leads his lowest card for partner to ruff; if he prefers the return of the higher-ranking side suit, he leads a high card for partner to ruff.

This concept can be extended to a variety of situations that might arise during the play. Today's deal provides a typical case.

South opens four spades in fourth seat, and West leads the ten of clubs. Declarer wins with dummy's jack, leads the nine of spades and finesses. West takes his king but is faced with a dilemma. He would like to reach partner's hand in order to obtain a club ruff, but he does not know whether to lead a heart or a diamond. Both leads appear to have an equal chance of success — and an equal amount of risk.

In the actual deal, if West leads a heart at trick three, declarer finishes with 11 tricks, while if West returns a diamond, the defense scores two diamonds, a spade and a club ruff for down one.

Thanks to the suit-preference signal, West does not have to operate in the dark. East, fully aware that his partner's lead might be a singleton, can play the deuce of clubs at trick one to request a diamond return should West regain the lead. West, for his part, should be on the lookout for just such a signal from East at trick one.

Alternatively, if East was dealt the heart ace rather than the diamond ace, he would play the nine of clubs at trick one to ask for a subsequent heart return. The suit-preference signal takes all the guesswork out of the game!

Tomorrow: The vanishing trick.
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