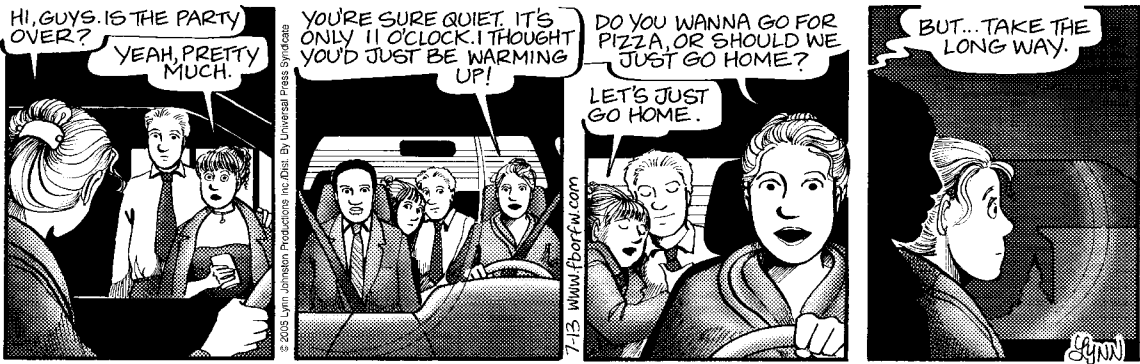


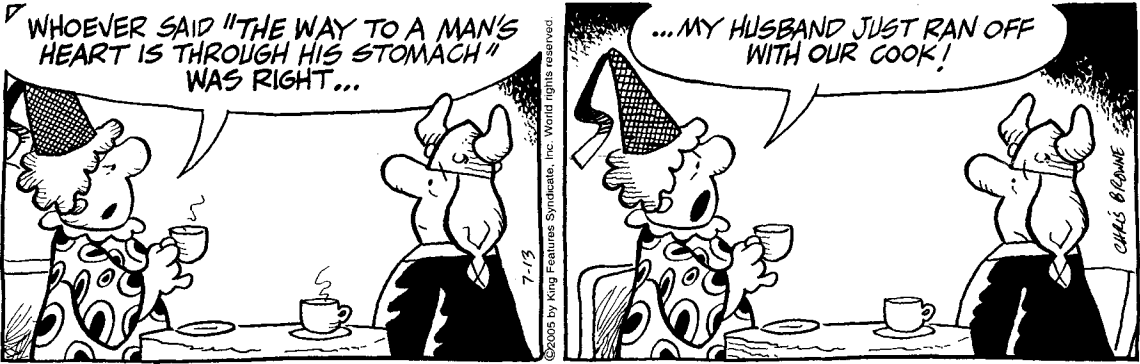
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Garfield • Jim Davis



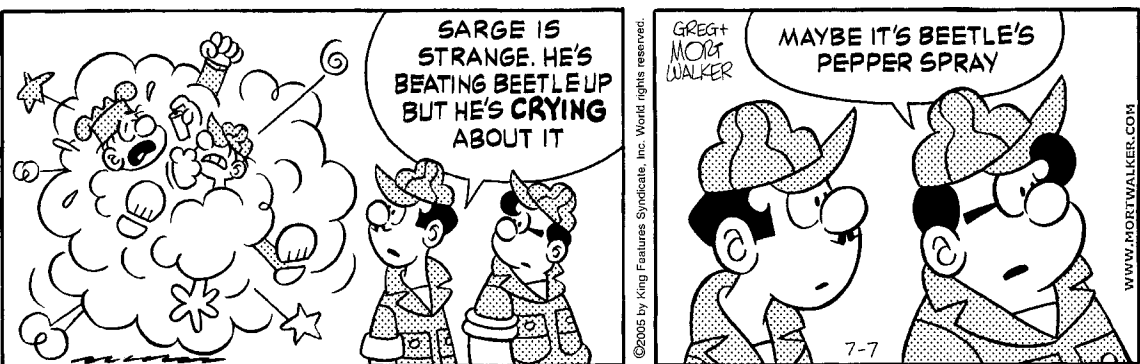
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

R CKILF COULI AJWI BWIU

R QKE EKI ARL IUXH IU

XJRPJ. IOJF HBHW 'I

LJZPJ LQBZBIL IOJZZ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF TWO PEOPLE ARE DEBATING THE MERITS OF THERMOSTATS, WOULD IT BE A HEATED ARGUMENT?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals D

HMAO EHR FANIAOEF IGNE

HGTF, W FSIIRFA EMAT

RSQME ER FWOQ "LGOQF

LRN EMA PAPRNWAF."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: A GUTSY GHOST WENT INTO A PUB BUT WAS TOLD TO LEAVE. THEY DIDN'T SERVE SPIRITS THERE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals W

Crossword

ACROSS

1 Jalopy

5 Rebuff a masher

9 "Awe-some," in rapspeak

12 Shrek is one

13 Gridlock component

14 "Norma —"

15 Tease

17 "Hail, Caesar!"

18 Wan

19 Beach blanket's kin

21 Excellent

24 Office part-timer

25 Noted nickname in baseball

26 Accomplish

30 "Mighty — a Rose"

31 Gumby's horse

32 Sportage maker

33 Refinement

DOWN

1 Go like a frog

35 Heart of the matter

36 Fir coat

37 Strong suit

38 Phantom's bailiwick

40 Cheer

42 Apiece

43 Laggards

48 Listening device

49 Seine feeder

50 "— off to see ..."

51 Desiccated

52 Plumbeous

53 Putin's put-down?

11 Sense

16 Remote

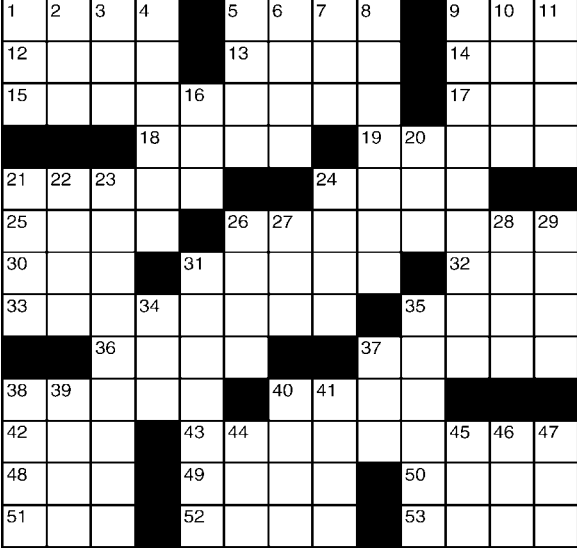
20 "Peg — Heart"

21 Bargain event

Solution time: 21 mins.

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | A | A | L | W | I | S | D | A | M | P |
| I | N | D | I | R | E | C | T | E | R | I |
| P | I | Z | Z | A | P | I | E | N | I | N |
| A | N | T | P | H | I | Z | E | S | | |
| A | W | A | R | D | P | O | O | R | | |
| B | O | N | D | | W | I | N | D | O | W |
| C | O | T | | F | I | N | I | S | E | A |
| D | E | S | E | R | E | T | | M | A | M |
| H | E | E | D | | J | O | K | E | R | |
| A | S | S | I | S | T | S | I | R | | |
| M | O | O | R | | A | P | P | L | E | P |
| M | O | L | T | | P | O | O | L | S | I |
| O | N | E | S | | S | E | T | O | P | A |

Yesterday's answer 7-12



ACROSS

1 Foot wiper

4 Unlit

8 Lotion additive

12 Parisian pal

13 Verve

14 15th-century ship

15 "Holy cow!"

16 Shortcut

18 Ink

20 Bankroll

21 "Bye Bye Birdie" song

24 Withdraw from office

28 "Phone-a-friend," e.g.

32 Actress Sorvino

33 Commotion

34 Ornamental stamps

36 Comic DeLuise

37 "Cheers" habitué

39 Schedule

41 Shimmer

DOWN

1 Amahl's night visitors

2 Congregational cry

3 Going into extra innings

4 Specs

5 "The Greatest"

6 Battering device

7 Recognized

8 Garland

9 Actress Ullmann

10 Inseparable

11 Corn spike

17 Gloomy

19 White House nickname

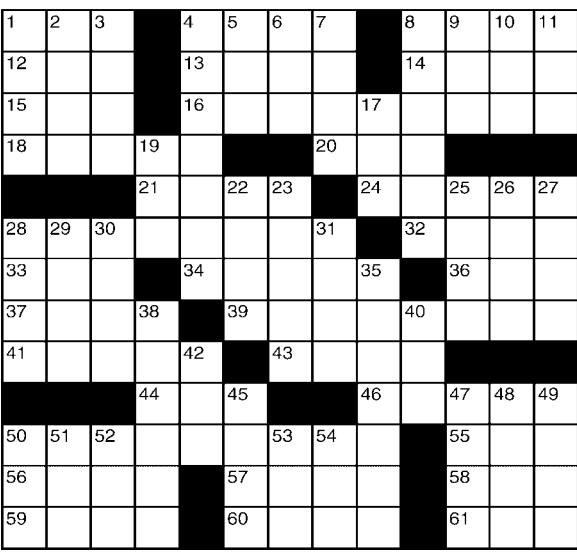
22 Regimen

23 Exemplar of slowness

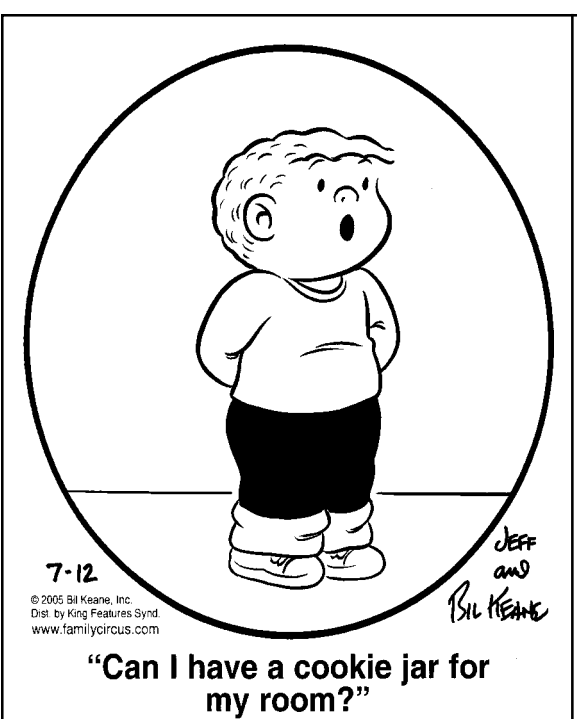
Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 7-13



Family Circus • Bill Keane



Bridge

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ K 5 4
♥ J 6 3
♦ K Q 10 5 4
♣ 10 6

WEST

♠ A 9 2
♥ K Q 10
♦ J 9 8 7
♣ 8 5 2

EAST

♠ Q J
♥ 9 8 7 5 4 2
♦ 3 2
♣ 9 7 4

SOUTH

♠ 10 8 7 6 3
♥ A
♦ A 6
♣ A K Q J 3

Final contract — six spades
Opening lead — king of hearts.

A Stunning Victory

Everyone who plays bridge has his own harrowing tale of how he and his partner managed to collapse two sure tricks into one while defending a hand. It can happen in a variety of ways, and for a variety of reasons that might seem perfectly reasonable at the time — especially if a particularly crafty declarer is at the helm.

Consider today's deal where declarer lost only one trump trick with the defenders holding A-Q-J-9-2 of trumps! The triumph — or tragedy, depending on which way you look at it — began when South got to six spades following a sequence of bids too dreadful to repeat.

West led the king of hearts, and South unhappily surveyed the dummy. Not one to give up easily, declarer concocted a scheme that at least gave him a chance to make the slam. All that was required was a very specific lie of the cards, a bit of deception and a gullible opponent — but there was no harm in trying.

Accordingly, South won the heart lead with the ace, cashed the ace of diamonds and then led a low trump toward dummy, acting for all the world like a man with the singleton ace of diamonds.

West couldn't bear the thought of South's getting rid of his (presumed) heart loser on one of dummy's top diamonds, so he climbed up with the ace of spades — felling one of his partner's honors — and tried to cash the queen of hearts. South ruffed, led a spade to the king followed by a spade to the ten, and the party was over.

East dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A 7
♥ K 6 2
♦ 10 7 6 3
♣ 10 7 5 4

WEST

♠ J 9 6 3 2
♥ 8 4 3
♦ 2
♣ K Q 9 6

SOUTH

♠ 8 5
♥ A Q 10 7
♦ K Q J 9 8 5
♣ 3

The bidding:

| East | South | West | North |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| 1 NT | 2 ♦ | 2 ♠ | 3 ♦ |
| 3 ♠ | 4 ♦ | 4 ♠ | Pass |
| Pass | 5 ♦ | Dble | Pass |

Opening lead — king of clubs.

Fine-Tuned Defense

Defensive play requires complete and unwavering attention at all times. Lapses of concentration are a prescription for disaster. Many such setbacks can be avoided by being "at the table" at the critical moment.

Take this case from a pairs contest. At several tables, North-South wound up in five diamonds (which would have gone down one). West invariably led the king of clubs, after which the defensive efforts diverged.

At one table, East signaled with the eight of clubs, and West continued with a low club, ruffed by South. Declarer drove out the ace of diamonds, won the spade shift with the ace, drew the missing trump and ran four hearts, discarding a spade from dummy to make the contract.

At another table, the defenders got a step closer to setting the contract, but still took second money. Here, East wisely played the deuce of clubs at trick one, asking his partner to switch to another suit, and West shifted to the three of spades, taken by dummy's ace.

This put the defenders in position to collect two more tricks, but East fell from grace when declarer next led the diamond ten from dummy. After East followed low and the ten held, South played four rounds of hearts, discarding a spade from dummy. East could take the diamond ace then or later, but that was the only trick he got.

At a third table, the defense functioned perfectly. East also played the club deuce on the first trick, and West shifted to the spade three. Declarer took dummy's ace and led a diamond, but East alertly rose with the ace and cashed the king of spades for down one.

Observe that once West shifted to the three of spades, the winning defense was easy to find. Since West could not have more than five spades — the three was fourth-best — East knew declarer had a second spade. To cater to the possibility that South had started with four hearts headed by the A-Q, East made sure to take the first diamond and cash a spade before the setting trick disappeared.

