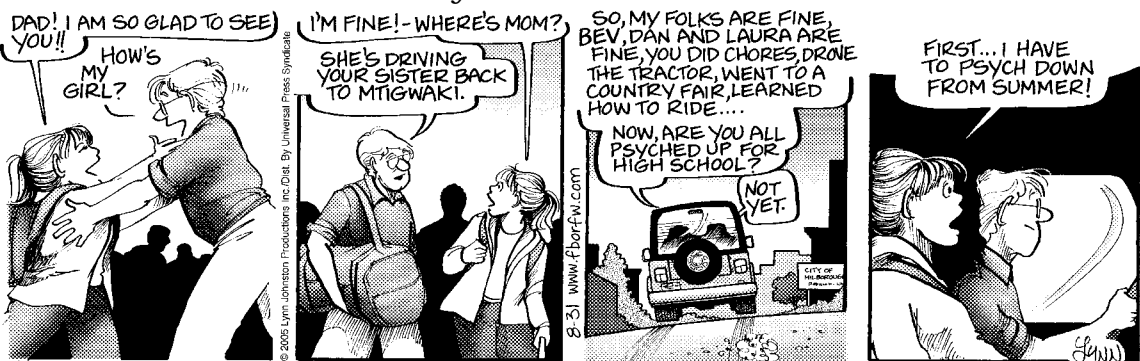


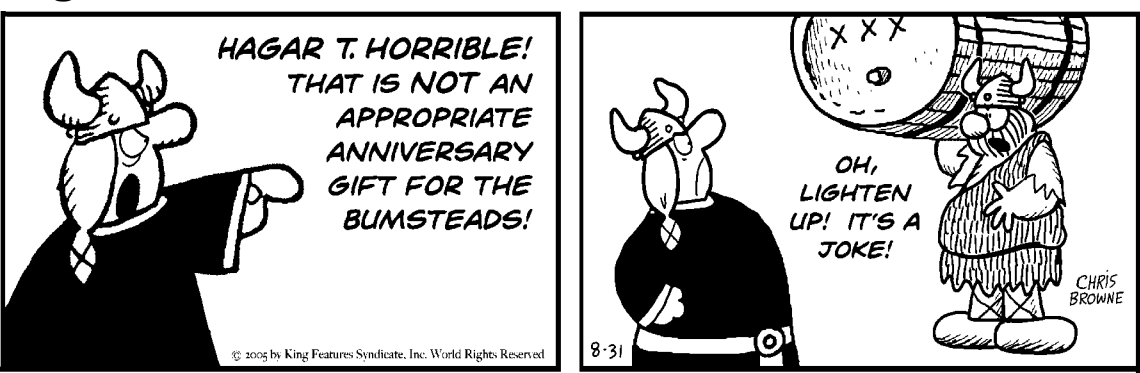
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



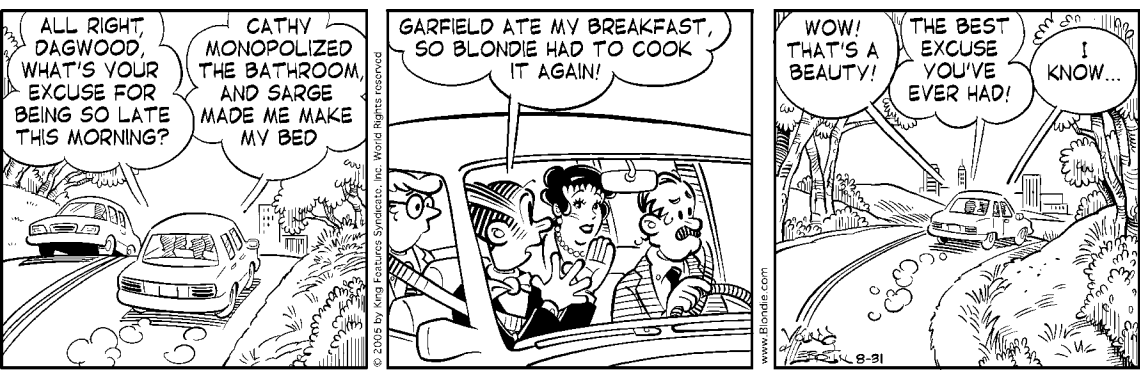
Garfield • Jim Davis



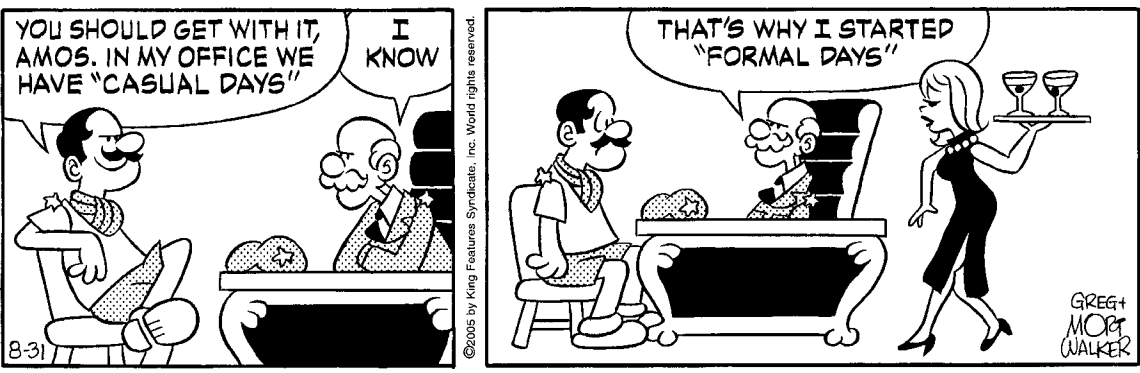
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



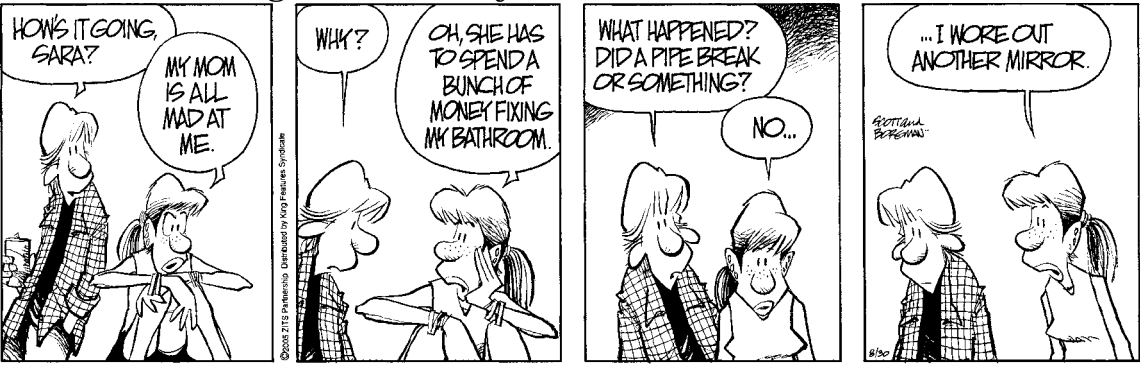
Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



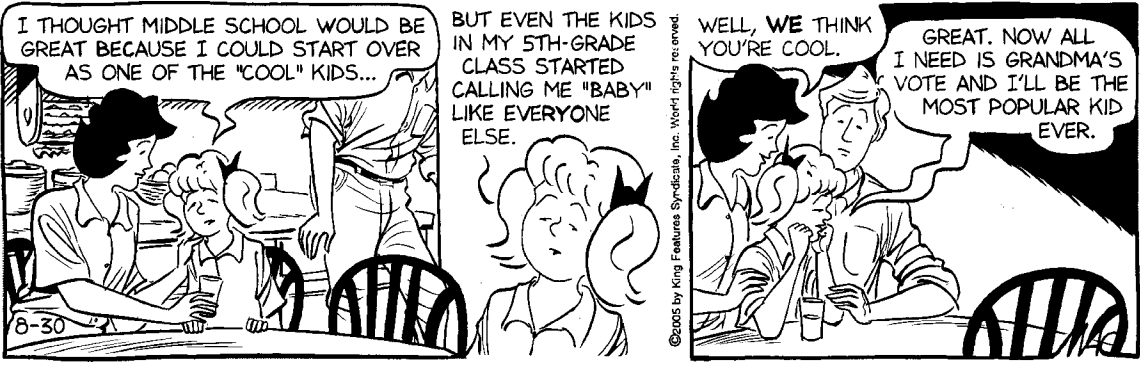
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

GUPBDF P IDA GPUCB

DA VQC BPTCU'A IDPVCU.

YMCAA FRM HRMNB ADF

P IDA YPECT VQC ZRRVQ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU TRAIN A BUNCH OF BIRDS TO SHARPEN THINGS, COULD YOU CALL THOSE HONING PIGEONS?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals S

TK N VAYHSKHYXW LSHS

OXYLX KYH TWV IHSNZ

INOSHTSV, DYJ BYJUZ BNUU

TW WAS DSNVW BYNVW.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: FRIDAY I WAS FIRED AS THE DINER'S WAITER. GUESS YOU COULD SAY I WAS GIVEN THE BOOTH.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals E

Crossword

**ACROSS**

1 "Price Is Right" guesses

5 Scenery chewer

8 Put together

12 Tend texts

13 Sapporo sash

14 Holly

15 Ogler's look

16 Terrier type

18 Rogers' partner

20 Comes in second

21 Neither Rep. nor Dem.

22 Round Table address

23 Campus bigwigs

26 Ran the meeting

30 Mess up

31 Has permission

32 Eg. and Syr., once

33 Like Snow White

36 Bash

**38** CIA fore-runner

**39** Billy Ray Cyrus series

**40** Trattoria offering

**43** Native of Egypt's capital

**47** Broken

**49** Portent

**50** Trim

**51** Conclusion

**52** Chinese (Pref.)

**53** Mrs. Shake-speare

**54** Pigs' digs

**55** Mulligan, e.g.

**2** Fateful Senate day

**3** Regiment

**4** Overexert

**5** Stash a supply

**6** Rose's love

**7** Russian space-craft

**8** One-name violinist

**9** "Sad to say, ..."

**10** Take out of context?

**11** Alimony recipients

**17** Director Kazan

**19** Office-holders

**22** Timid

**23** Dict. explanation

**24** Historic period

**25** Jackie's second mate

**26** Heathcliff, e.g.

**27** Play with robots

**28** Chow down

**29** Desiccate

**31** Drafts (Abbr.)

**34** Spin

**35** Actor Morales

**36** Luau bowlful

**37** Not this way!

**39** Mid-June honoree — colada

**40** Congregation's cry

**42** Bridge

**43** Minimal change

**44** Send forth

**45** Hawaiian goose

**46** Sufficient, old-style

**48** — judicata

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

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

Yesterday's answer 8-30

Bridge

South dealer.  
North-South vulnerable.

**NORTH**

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

**WEST**

♠ Q J 9 7  
♥ Q 8 5 2  
♦ 6  
♣ K Q 7 4

**EAST**

♠ K 10 8 5 4  
♥ K 10 9 3  
♦ 7 4  
♣ 5 3

**SOUTH**

♠ A 3  
♥ 6  
♦ K Q J 10 8 5 2  
♣ A J 8

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
3 ♦	Pass	4 ♦	Pass
5 ♦			

Opening lead — queen of spades.

The Long-Term View

From the time dummy appears in today's deal, declarer should be concerned that West might have both missing club honors and that the contract will go down if he (South) relies on two club finesses. South should then seek a way to overcome that possibility if it exists. Further analysis should lead South to conclude that his best chance is to try for an elimination play that will assure a favorable outcome regardless of where the club honors are actually located. Accordingly, he wins the opening spade lead with the ace, plays a heart to the ace, ruffs a heart, enters dummy with a trump, ruffs another heart, leads a second trump to dummy and ruffs the jack of hearts. When South next exits with the three of spades, the defenders are helpless. If West wins the trick, he can do no better than return a club, automatically limiting South's losers to one spade and one club. If West returns a spade instead, South ruffs in dummy and discards a club from his hand to hold himself to one club loser. Alternatively, if East wins the spade lead, declarer simply follows low on the club return. After winning the trick, West then has the choice of returning either a club or a spade, handing South the contract. By adopting this line of play, South can guarantee a favorable outcome as soon as the missing trumps divide 2-1. But to attain the desired result, declarer must begin to lay the groundwork for the prospective endplay from the very outset, making sure to trump a heart in his hand at every opportunity. Tomorrow: Uncommon common sense. (c)2005 King Features Syndicate Inc.

**ACROSS**

1 Excommunicate

4 Hosp. supply

7 Hedge-podge

8 He hit 61 in '61

10 In different places

11 Colored ring

13 Like Nat's summer days

16 — -de

17 That is (Lat.)

18 Calendar abbr.

19 Tackles' team-mates

20 Towel designation

21 Puts one's feat in one's mouth

23 Staffordshire ceramic ware

**25** Jog

**26** Year-end celebration

**27** "Hollywood Squares" win

**28** Spacious

**30** Home-office equip.

**33** "Dirty Dancing" star

**36** "Fiddle" follower

**37** Earthen pots

**38** "The Absinthe Drinker" artist

**39** Above and beyond

**40** Swamp

**41** "— Kapital"

**DOWN**

1 Conflagration

2 Ethereal

3 It's the least you could do!

4 "The Bells of St. —"

5 Upright

6 A-line creator

7 October birthstone

8 Lab rats' challenges

9 On the schedule

10 "The Greatest"

**12** Blue hue

**14** Finds 23-Down

**15** "Undeniably"

**19** Pack away

**20** Weeding implement

**21** Far-reaching

**22** Implanted

**23** Arithmetic results

**24** Hurricane-zone purchase

**25** Upper surface

**26** Symbols of servitude

**28** Former head of the DHS

**29** Sea

**30** Ernie and Gomer

**31** Despot

**32** French possessive

**34** Coral structure

**35** Part of T.A.E.

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

B	I	D	S	H	A	M	M	A	D	E
E	D	I	T	O	B	I	L	E	X	
L	E	E	R	A	I	R	E	D	A	L
A	S	T	A	I	R	E	L	O	S	E
			I	N	D	S	I	R		
D	E	A	N	S		C	H	A	I	R
E	R	R		M	A	Y		U	A	R
F	A	I	R	E	S	T	P	A	R	T
			O	S	S	D	O	C		
P	A	S	T	A		C	A	I	R	E
I	M	P	A	I	R	E	D		O	M
N	E	A	T		E	N	D	S	I	N
A	N	N	E		S	T		S	T	E

Yesterday's answer 8-31

Uncommon Common Sense

The inferences a declarer can draw during the play sometimes border on the fantastic. For example, take this deal where West led the queen of clubs against four hearts. Declarer ducked the queen but won the next club with the ace, East playing his king on the trick. A low trump to the king was followed by a spade to dummy's queen, which lost to East's king. Back came a low club to West's ten, and West exited with a spade to dummy's ace. By now, South had lost three tricks and had to take the rest to make his contract. Declarer's prospects were not very good at this point, but he managed to get home safely anyhow. He led the queen of diamonds from dummy, which won the trick, and then the jack, which also won the trick as East again followed low. Now, continuing his good work, South led a trump from dummy and went up with the ace, deliberately spurning the finesse. This caught West's unguarded queen in the process, and, as a result, declarer made the contract. Rejecting the trump finesse was not as strange a play as it might seem. South realized that if East had held the Q-x-x of trumps in addition to the king of diamonds, he would certainly have covered dummy's jack of diamonds with the king in order to assure himself of a trump trick and defeat of the contract. (Dummy had no further entries at that point.) East's failure to cover the jack left South with no alternative but to hope that West had started with the Q-x of trumps. Tomorrow: The Grand Slam Force. (c)2005 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Family Circus • Bill Keane

