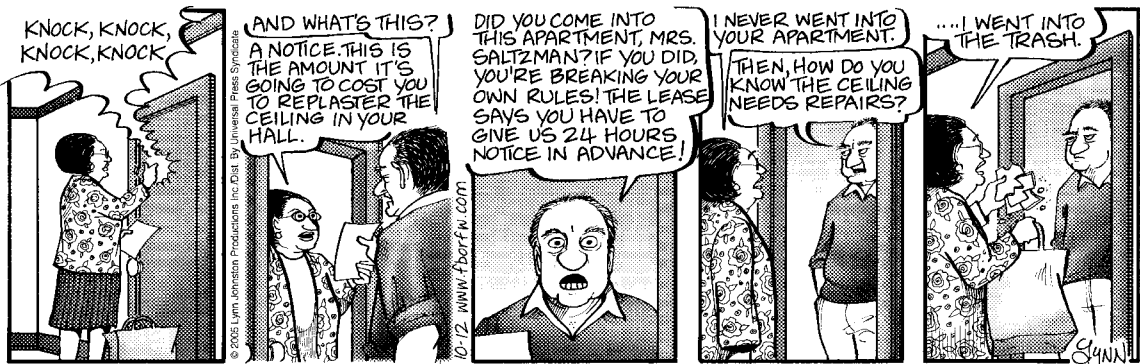
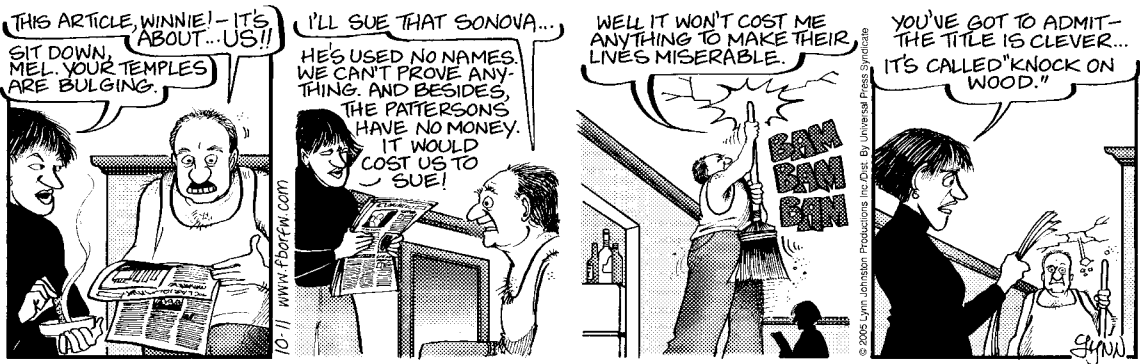


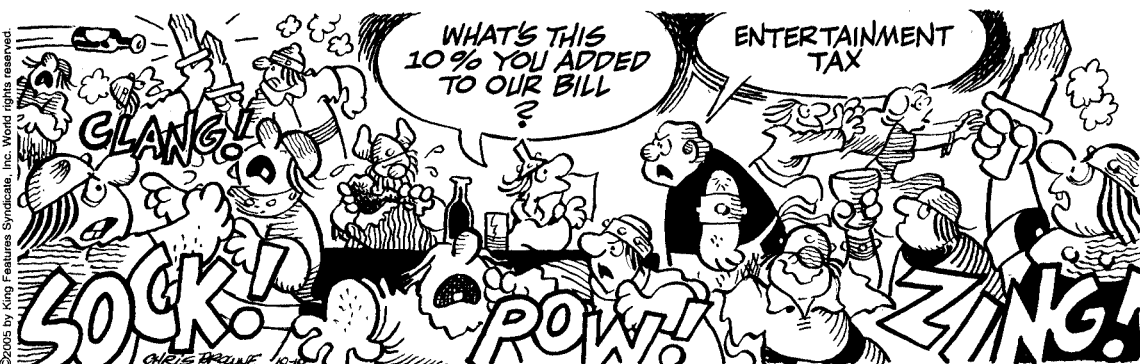
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Garfield • Jim Davis



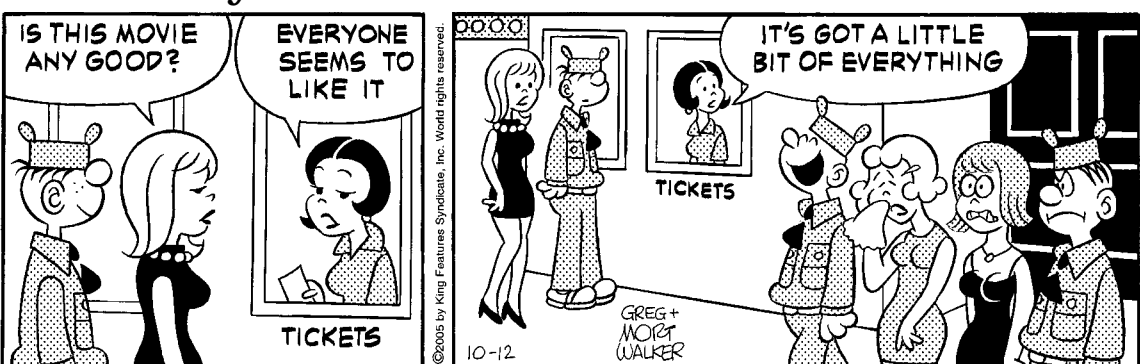
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



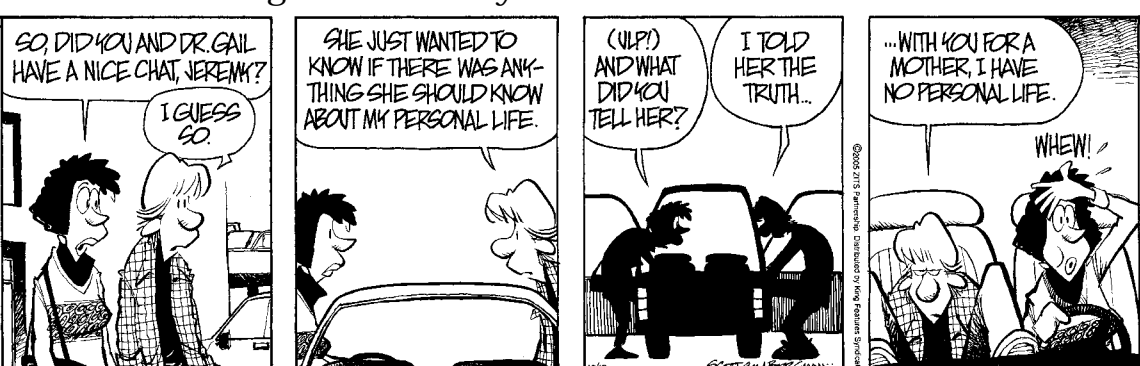
Blondie • Chic Young



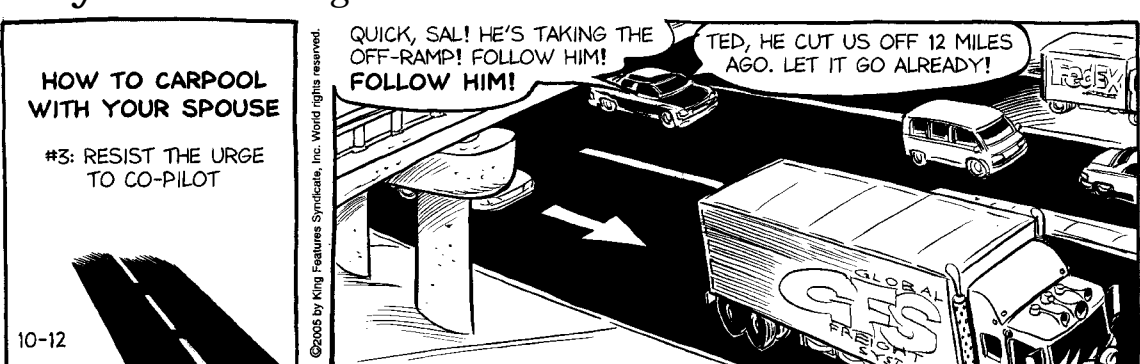
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

PJBBH BTCQ DCLMB YQKH

KZMJS DMLT KQKDWKBD

VNM VTKI BM DNMTD:

“ZKITPMMS CB SNT YKIWK.”

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: If a stray cat finds an activity he loves doing, I suppose it's right up his alley.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals N

NQ Z CZNK VQ AXUVBO

YZA SYX OZUX RIAAW,

N OICCVOX YX'A KXZJJW

RX Z UISIZJ QNXBA.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: Funny Neil Simon play about some Alaskans who wear no shoes: "Barefoot in the Parka."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals D

Crossword

ACROSS

1 Squirrels' hangouts

5 Apiece

8 Lather

12 Dud

13 Pub

14 Arm bone

15 Abusive sort

17 Ponce de —

18 Very long time

19 Hosiery

21 Task

24 Hydrox rival

25 Com-stock deposit

26 Hootie's backup

30 Conclusion

31 Hawks

32 El

33 Slide on an icy road

35 Salon request

36 Green acres

37 Retinue

38 "— not to reason why"

41 Sticky stuff

42 50%

43 Huey

Long's nickname

48 Other-wise

49 George's brother

50 Notion

51 Approach

52 Fresh

53 Astro-nauts' drink

5 Anal-gesic's target

6 Will Ferrell movie

7 Sign on for

another

8 Jam-packed with

9 Bread spread

10 Name-less writer

11 "A — home is ..."

16 Heart-break

20 English ever-greens

21 Staff leader?

22 Hagar the Horrible's daughter

23 Probabil-ity

24 Stan's pal

26 Baby-photo rug

27 Furniture name

28 Rani's wrap-around

29 Song of praise

31 Commo-tion

34 A little lower?

35 Gain

37 Dress

38 Subse-quently

39 Able-bodied

40 "Born Free" lioness

41 What rodents do

44 Anger

45 McKin-ley's first lady

46 Yen fraction

47 Crone

DOWN

1 Vacation-ing

2 Sports legend

3 Victories for

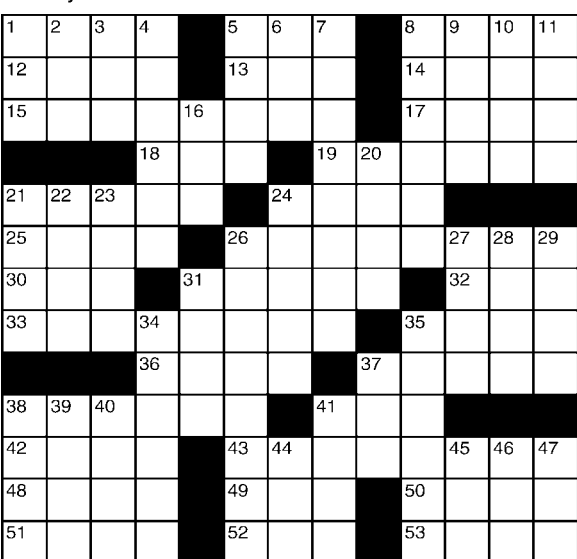
2-Down

4 Orb

Solution time: 21 mins.



Yesterday's answer 10-11



ACROSS

1 Ego

5 Scrooge's cry

8 Handle

12 Hodge-podge

13 Ostrich's cousin

14 Othello's foe

15 Large-headed fastener

17 Pickle flavoring

18 Sandy's owner

19 Confused

21 Unadul-terated

24 Punch-in-the-gut sound

25 Departed

28 Bowling venue

30 Doctrine

33 Onassis, familiarly

34 "Raiders ..."

director

35 Shelter

36 Cowboy's sweetie

37 Surround-ed by

38 Enthusi-asm

39 List-ening abbr.

41 Garr-or

Hatcher

43 McDon-ald's emblem

46 Broadway backer

50 Story teller?

51 Gin, for one

54 Farm fraction

55 Candle count

56 "Desire Under the —"

57 Protuber-ance

58 Chic, to Austin Powers

59 What beach-goers catch

DOWN

1 Pop

2 Carolina campus

3 He has his pride

4 Hungarian money

5 Actress Arthur

6 "— Blue?"

7 Luau entertain-ment

8 Youngster

9 Manicur-ist's need

10 Look lecher-ously

11 Impudent

16 Born

20 Assumes

22 Astringent

23 Unspoken

25 Trail the pack

26 Mound stat

27 3 x 5, e.g.

29 Go in ankle-deep

31 Vast expanse

32 Gibson or Brooks

34 Chantilly, for one

38 Barb

40 Crowd, it's said

42 "Awe-some!"

43 Astronaut Shepard

44 Puerto —

45 Con job

47 Big bash

48 Tube prize

49 Not so much

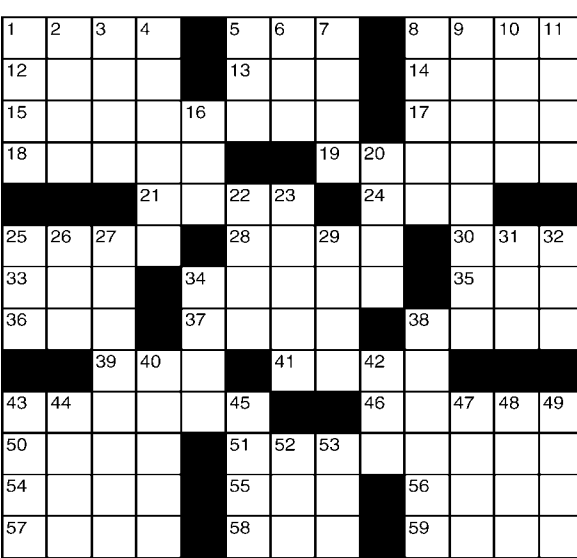
52 Past

53 Roulette bet

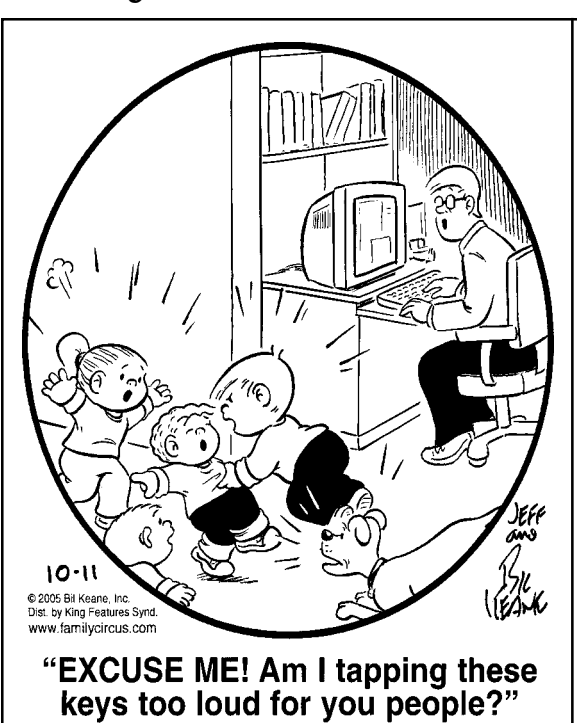
Solution time: 21 mins.

OAKS PER FOAM
FLOP ALE ULNA
FISHWIFE LEON
EON NYLONS
CHORE ORO
LODE BLOWFISH
END SELLS KAY
FISH TAIL PERM
EIRE TRAIN
THEIRS GOO
HALF KINGFISH
ELSE IRA IDEA
NEAR NEW TANG

Yesterday's answer 10-12



Family Circus • Bill Keane



Bridge

South dealer.

Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ 7 5

♥ A 4

♦ J 10 5 3

♣ K 8 7 6 4

WEST

♠ A 9 6 2

♥ K Q 10 9 2

♦ 8 6

♣ 10 3

EAST

♠ Q J 10 4

♥ J 8 7 5 3

♦ 2

♣ Q J 5

SOUTH

♠ K 8 3

♥ 6

♦ A K Q 9 7 4

♣ A 9 2

The bidding:

South 1 ♦

West 1 ♥

North 2 ♦

East 4 ♥

Opening lead — king of hearts.

You Too Can Be a Genius

There are times when declarer must do something extra-special to accomplish his mission. Usually the required play is well off the beaten path, and the difficult part lies not so much in executing it, which might be easy, but in recognizing it in the first place.

For example, take the present case where South was in five diamonds and West led the king of hearts. Declarer won with the ace and played the ace and another trump to the jack. He then led a low club from dummy, planning to play the nine if East followed low. But East put up the jack, and South had to take it with the ace.

Declarer next tried the king and another club, hoping West would have to win the third club. But East won with the queen and led the queen of spades, and South went down one.

Declarer was very much on the beam in trying to establish dummy's clubs without allowing East to gain the lead for the killing spade shift, but, unfortunately, his thinking did not go far enough. There was a way to establish the clubs without losing the lead to East, but it was not easy to see. The winning play is to refuse to take West's king of hearts at trick one!

Let's say West continues with a heart to the ace (he has no more effective play). In that case, South discards a club, cashes the A-K of trumps, then plays the A-K of clubs and ruffs a club. A diamond to the ten permits South to discard two spades on dummy's 8-7 of clubs, leaving him with only one spade trick to lose.

By willingly surrendering the first trick to West, declarer ultimately gets two tricks in return. Instead of losing a club and two spades, he loses a heart and only one spade, and that is a profitable transaction no matter how you look at it.

Tomorrow: An example of prestidigitation.

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South dealer.

Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A Q 10

♥ A Q 6

♦ J 10 3

♣ K 10 9 2

WEST

♠ 9 8 7 5 4

♥ 10 5 2

♦ K Q 6

♣ 7 3

EAST

♠ K J 6 2

♥ 9 8 7 4 3

♦ 4 2

♣ 6 5

SOUTH

♠ 3

♥ K J

♦ A 9 8 7 5

♣ A Q J 8 4

The bidding:

South 1 ♦

West 4 ♣

North 3 NT

East 5 ♣

Opening lead — nine of spades.

An Example of Prestidigitation

The outcome of many contracts frequently hinges on how the defenders' cards are divided. A bad break in a suit or the unfavorable location of a particular card can do in many a reasonable contract.

Nevertheless, there are many hands where declarer has the worst of the luck, as the cards happen to be dealt, and yet can overcome his misfortune through the use of skill. These are the hands that appeal most to students of the game.

Consider this deal where South is in six clubs. At first blush, the contract appears to depend on whether East was dealt one or both of the missing diamond honors.

The obvious approach would seem to be to draw trumps and take two diamond finesses through East, hoping he was dealt the king or queen — or both. As can be seen, this method would result in the loss of the slam.

But, promising as this line of play is, it is not the right way to play the hand. Even though declarer is a 3-to-1 favorite to make the contract in this manner, he should not stake the outcome solely on the luck of the deal.

He can increase his chances substantially by attempting an elimination play to cover the possibility of bad luck. After winning the spade lead with the ace, he promptly trumps a spade.

Two rounds of trumps are then drawn, ending in dummy. At this point, having found the clubs divided evenly, declarer can feel 100 percent certain of the contract. He ruffs the queen of spades and cashes three hearts, discarding a diamond from his hand.

He now leads the jack of diamonds and lets it ride. West wins, but has no safe return. Dummy's remaining four cards are two diamonds and two clubs, while South has three diamonds and one club. West must lead a diamond or give declarer a ruff-and-discard, and either way, the slam is home.

Tomorrow: The end justifies the means.

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