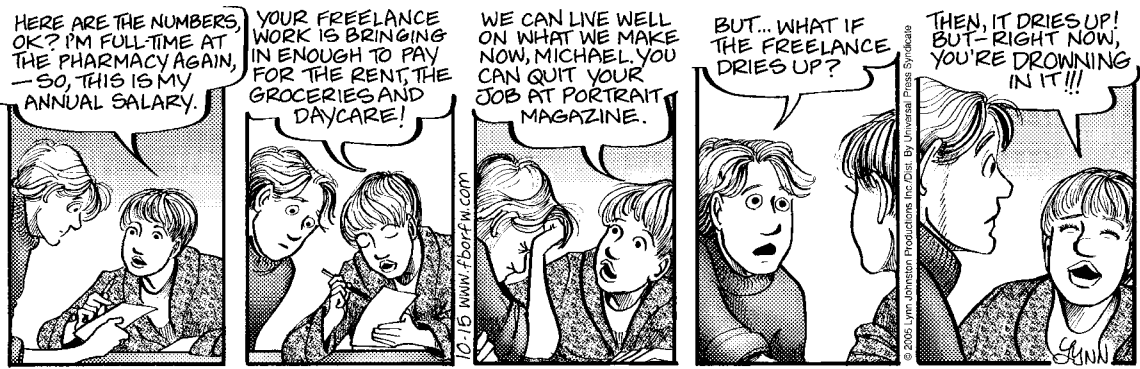
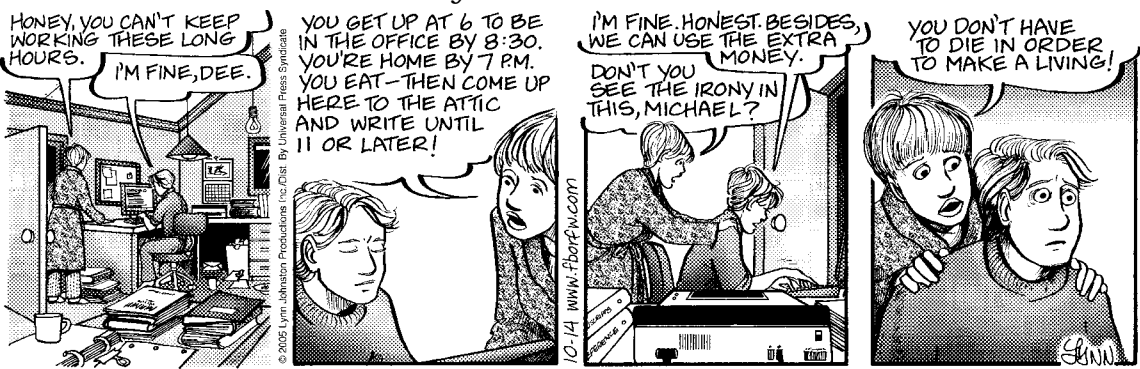


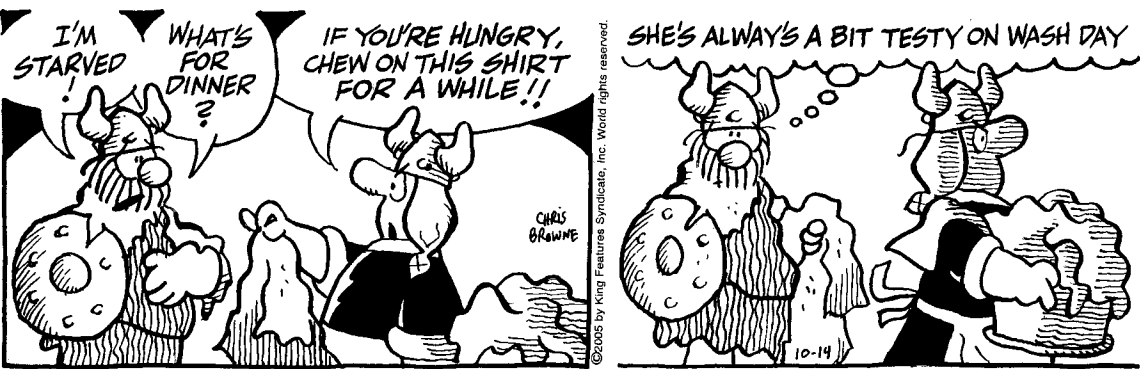
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Garfield • Jim Davis



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



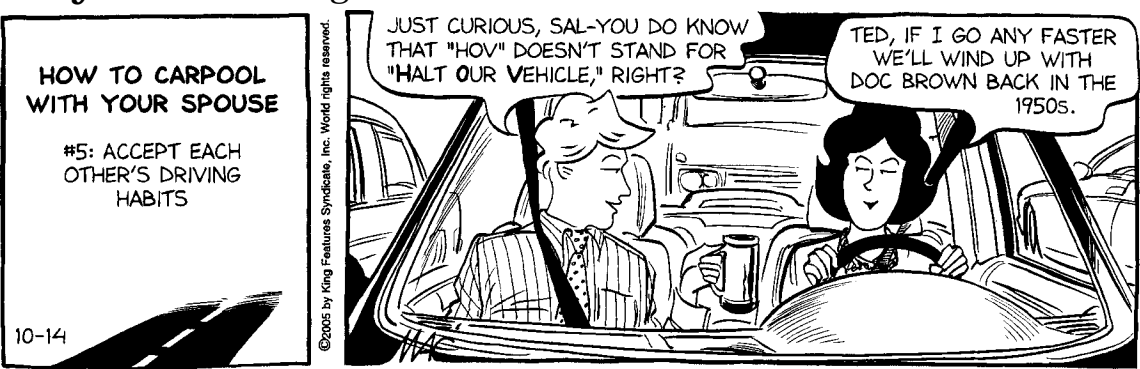
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

ZO Z BDCCSCX M YTR IAR

LMX DT ZDOYACDSM, Z

WACBB ZR HZWLR IC HAUL

MULTT MITAR DTRLZDW.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I'M A TRUE CONNOISSEUR OF SEAFOOD. I SUPPOSE THAT SOME COULD CALL ME AN AFISHIONADO.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals S

FYM GDFHZJGXHFC NQQI

H TYMTIMU QLF PGO XMJC

GNOQJNHDZ. H OHKVRC

TQLRUD'F VLF HF UQPD.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF I SNEEZED A LOT BUT HAD NO INFLUENZA, I GUESS IT MIGHT BE MUCH ACHOO ABOUT NOTHING.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals O

Crossword

ACROSS

1 Comic Atkinson

6 "Lord —"

9 Pack away

12 Out, of sorts?

13 Altar constellation

14 Seesaw quorum

15 CIA ex-boss George

16 Kate of "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom"

18 Hit

20 Make

21 Pointed tool

23 Indivisible

24 Hangs in the balance

25 Bard

27 Football Hall-of-Famer Hank

29 Main dish

31 Comical Tracey

35 Praise to the skies

DOWN

1 Snitch

2 Bullring bravo

3 Kate of "Titanic"

4 Drive the getaway car

5 Explosive liquid

6 Coat

7 "Dies —"

8 Navigation aid

9 Frome or Allen

10 Trophy or medal

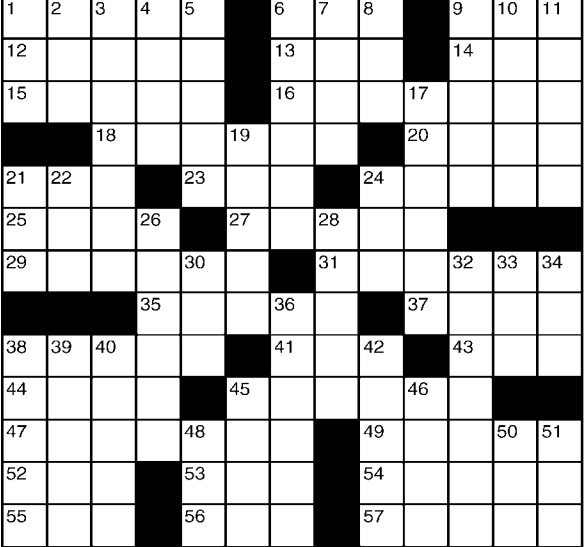
11 Suburbs, usually

17 Attractive

19 Smaller 8-Down

Solution time: 25 mins.

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER 10-14



ACROSS

1 Destroy

6 Not upright

11 Fall, e.g.

12 Proportions

14 Costume ball

15 Islamic temple

16 Ant.

17 Entreaties

19 Coffee-shop vessel

20 Three—

22 Young fellow

23 Certain student

24 Over

26 Knights' tunics

28 Part of UCLA

30 Muppet eagle

31 They don't belong

35 Type of card

39 Trapped in —

DOWN

40 Deterioration

42 Kegler's path

43 B-F link

44 Artist's poser?

46 Ultimate

47 Blue

49 Shellfish soup

51 Familiarize

52 Guarantee

53 Llamas' home

54 First U.S.-born saint

11 Struck

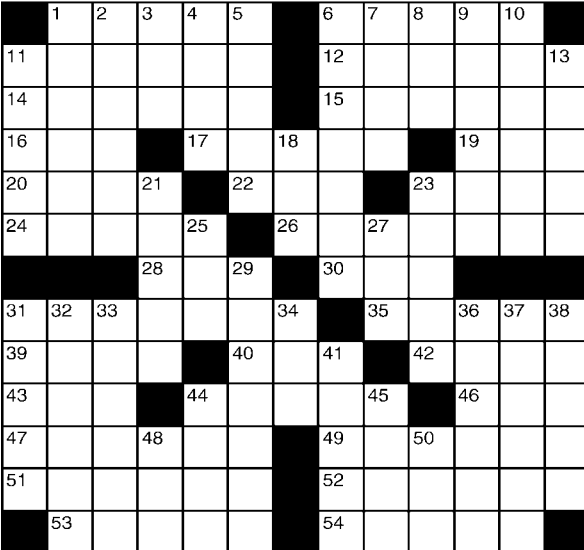
13 Faxes

18 Corrode

21 Dutch earthenware

Solution time: 27 mins.

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER 10-15



Family Circus • Bill Keane



Bridge

You are South, and the bidding has gone:

West	North	East	South
1 ♥	Dble	Pass	?

What would you bid now with each of the following four hands?

- ♠ 8753 ♥ A74 ♦ 952 ♣ J63
- ♠ KJ84 ♥ 92 ♦ 9764 ♣ AQ6
- ♠ Q6 ♥ KJ84 ♦ KQ832 ♣ J5
- ♠ Q854 ♥ — ♦ AJ63 ♣ KJ872

* * *

Bidding Quiz

1. One spade. You might not like the looks of your spade suit, but the fact is that you're not responsible for the quality of the suit you bid when you respond to partner's takeout double. The doubler is expected to tread gingerly opposite a forced response unless responder makes a strength-showing bid.

It is better to bid one spade than one notrump. The latter response is generally reserved for hands of about seven to nine points in addition to at least one stopper in the opponent's suit.

2. Two spades. This hand is obviously much stronger than the preceding one, and you are obliged to inform partner of that fact by making a jump-response. If you were to bid only one spade, partner would have no way of knowing that you have 10 high-card points and a decent suit. He might pass one spade, and this could cost you a game. In general, the responder to a takeout double makes a single jump-response in his best suit with nine to 11 points (with 12 or more points, some stronger bid must be made).

3. Three notrump. Once partner has doubled, it is highly likely that there's a game in the hand. With 12 high-card points facing at least an opening bid, you should make a jump-response to identify your values.

The best game contract probably lies in notrump, which is why it's better not to respond with three diamonds, an invitational bid that partner might pass. With hearts double-stopped, it would seem to make more sense to aim for the nine-trick game rather than an 11-trick one.

4. Two hearts. You ought to feel very bullish about game prospects with this layout opposite a takeout double. However, at this point it is uncertain where the best game lies. Instead of trying to guess which suit will serve best as trump, you can force partner to make the choice by cuebidding West's suit.

You intend to go to game in whichever suit partner chooses to bid. It is also possible that the combination of your cuebid and subsequent jump-raise to game will arouse partner's interest in a slam.

South dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ 5

♥ A K Q

♦ A 10 6 5 4

♣ Q 10 9 8

WEST

♠ K J 9 8 6 3

♥ J 7 3

♦ K Q 7

♣ 3

EAST

♠ 10

♥ 4 2

♦ J 9 8 3 2

♣ 7 6 5 4 2

SOUTH

♠ A Q 7 4 2

♥ 10 9 8 6 5

♦ —

♣ A K J

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	3 NT	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	5 ♥	Pass
6 ♥			

Opening lead — king of diamonds.

One Up Down Under

Here is a neat hand played by Bruce Bell, New Zealand expert. It features a rare sequence of plays that led to a most unusual ending.

West led a diamond against six hearts, and Bell had to choose between two methods of play. He could try to ruff spades in dummy, which seemed likely to leave him short of his goal, or he could attempt a dummy reversal, which would require little more than a 3-2 trump division. Bell selected the latter approach and made the slam as a result.

The principle underlying a dummy reversal is that declarer uses his own trumps to ruff dummy's losers, instead of using dummy's trumps to ruff his losers. Properly executed, a dummy reversal produces more trump tricks than declarer would normally be able to make.

Bell ruffed West's king-of-diamonds lead, played a heart to the queen, ruffed another diamond, led a heart to the king and ruffed a third diamond. Having exhausted the trumps in his own hand, he next led the jack of clubs to the queen. Then he cashed the ace of trumps and ace of diamonds, on which he discarded the A-K of clubs!

After unblocking the clubs with these discards, Bell was able to cash the 10-9-8 of clubs to bring himself to 11 tricks, and the ace of spades accounted for the slam-going trick.

In all, Bell scored four clubs, the ace of diamonds, the ace of spades and six trump tricks to escape what appeared to be certain defeat as the cards lie.

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