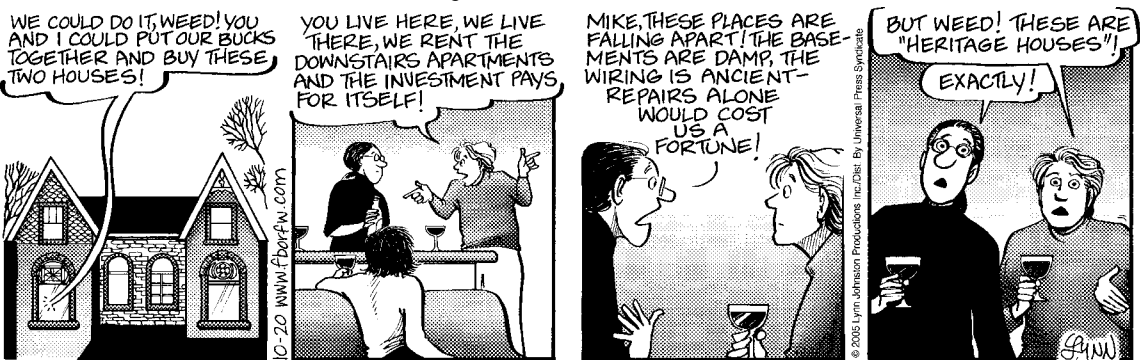
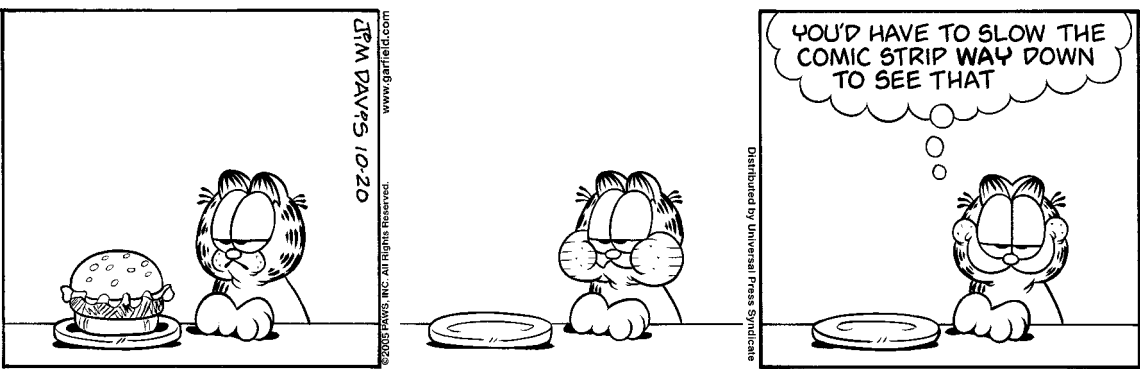


For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



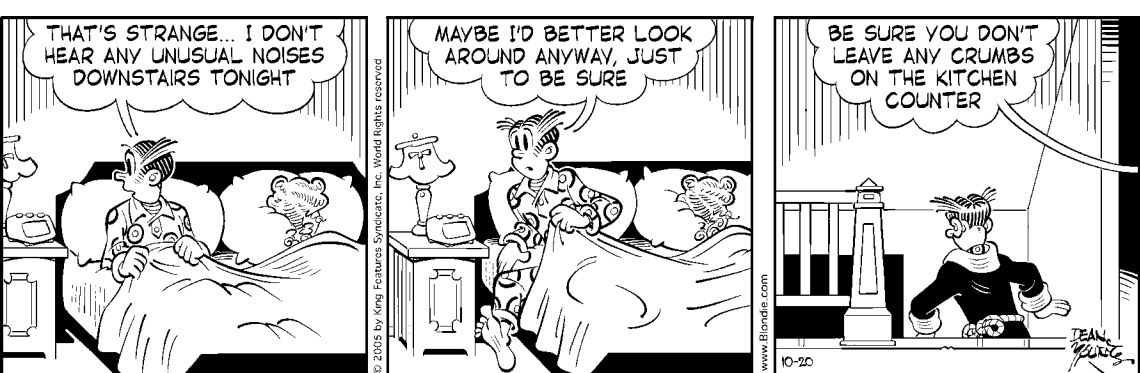
Garfield • Jim Davis



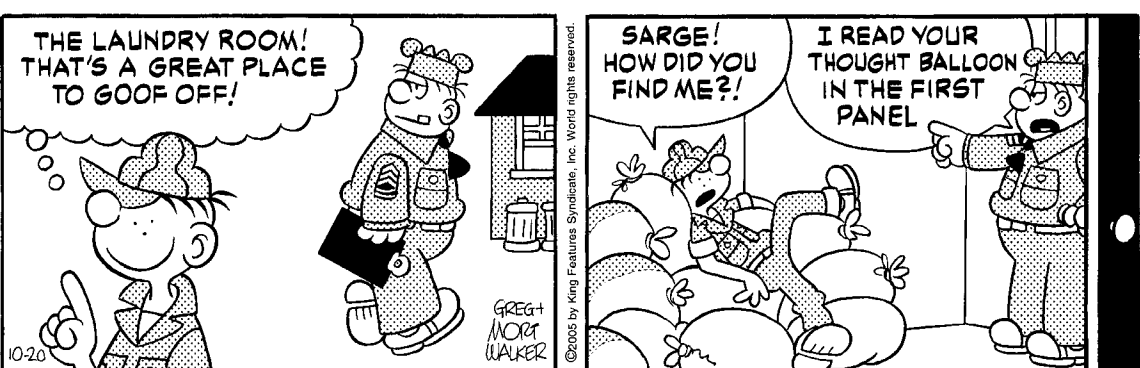
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



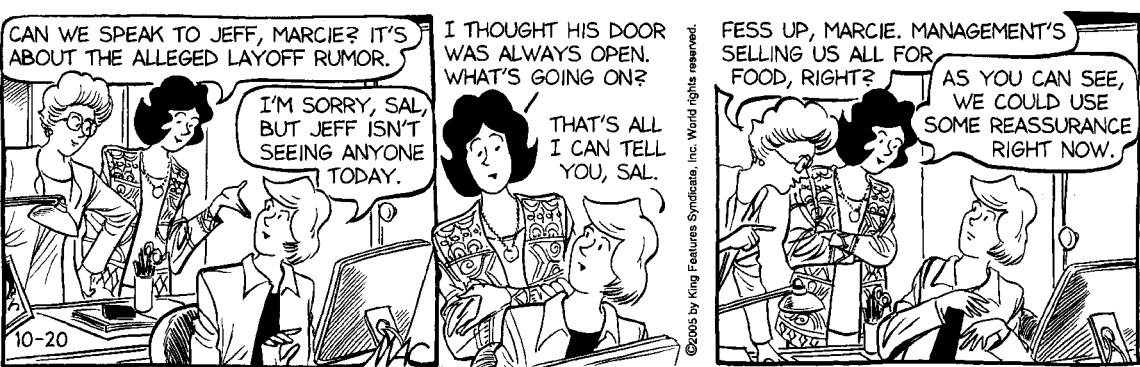
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

KEKSADP RQLXEC DTESL D

MZDALIB D P D T D F G I Q R

M Q H Z D F G X I Q A G P Z F :

“EQA QF LIZ HDCQAB.”

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU THOUGHT ACTRESS JANE WAS JUST INCREDIBLE, I GUESS YOU WOULD BE REALLY FONDA HER.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals N

Friends share blame in car crash

DEARABBY: “Lost in San Mateo” asked how she should deal with her longtime friend, “Heather.” The two of them had been drinking, and Heather, who was driving, got into a car accident. Now Heather refuses to discuss the accident, and “Lost” asked you, “Don’t you think I’m the victim?”

Although you counseled “Lost” well in how to deal with her friend, you failed to point out her own responsibility in that accident. Although Heather was at the wheel, they were both responsible for not arranging their outing to include a designated driver. Therefore, they should equally share the blame for what happened.

In my opinion, not starting out the night with a clear plan of who would remain sober was a mistake made by both of them.

—OFTEN THE DESIGNATED DRIVER, WINTERS, CALIF.

DEAR DESIGNATED DRIVER: That’s true. (And it’s an all-too-common mistake.) You are one of many readers who felt that “Lost” had a hand in her own fate. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: “Lost” refers to herself as a “victim.” She is only the victim of her own stupidity! She was drunk and got into a car with another drunk, so she’s just as guilty as her friend. The other girl feels guilty. That’s the reason she didn’t come to visit. Would you want to look at your busted-up friend while you had no visible injuries? The anger that “Lost” is feeling is only because she got hurt and her friend didn’t.

—SEEN IT BEFORE, YUKON, OKLA.

DEAR ABBY: “Lost” got into the car. She was willing to let her friend shoulder the responsibility



Abigail Van Buren

• Dear Abby

of driving, and now claims she was too drunk to know how smashed her friend was. Baloney! If that is the case, she should allow her friend to use the same excuse. What would have happened if “Lost” had not been injured?

Would she have helped with the fines, jail time, damaged car or raised insurance rates? Her friend probably does feel guilty, but there were two “victims” here, and both are equally to blame. Now “Lost” is willing to end a 20-year friendship because she can’t own up to her own part in all of this? Some friend!

—TIRED OF EXCUSES, HELENA, MONT.

DEAR ABBY: Rather than being angry and resentful against her friend, “Lost in San Mateo” should thank the Lord that she’s still alive and vow not to get herself into that situation again. A responsible adult does not allow herself to become incapacitated. No one forced alcohol down her throat against her will.

I am an ER nurse. We see these drunk party girls all the time, and it’s typical for everything to be someone else’s fault. What they fail to realize is that when they become that impaired, they are prime targets not only for car accidents, but for carjackers, purse thieves, date rapists, and worse.

Those two got by easy this time. I hope they regard it as a wake-up call!

—SHERRILL IN SAN JOSE, CALIF.

DEAR ABBY: Both girls should take a hard look in the mirror and admit their own guilt. They are both lucky to be alive and that no innocent people were maimed or killed because of their foolishness.

—RECOVERING IN MINNESOTA

DEAR ABBY: I am a 14-year-old teenager who likes to baby-sit. I’m a hard worker and keep the children easily amused.

One of the families that I baby-sit for has a difficult child who is rather bratty, but I can control him very well.

Recently, when they paid me, I noticed the amount was less than what I usually get. It is not the first time this has happened, and I have a feeling it won’t be the last.

How do I tell this family they are underpaying me? And should I drop them?

—OVERWORKED AND UNDERPAID

DEAR UNDERPAID: The next time you are asked by the family to baby-sit, remind the parent that you charge so much an hour. Explain that you are saying this because you were not paid the full amount the last time, and you will expect to have the balance added to this bill. If the parents are cooperative — fine. If not, you have every right to drop them as customers and let them amuse their own “difficult, bratty” child on a night when they’d rather be doing something else.

Bridge

South dealer.

Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ K 8 5 3 2  
♥ K 4  
♦ A Q 10 4  
♣ J 5

**WEST**  
♠ Q 9 7 6  
♥ J 2  
♦ 9 8 3  
♣ Q 7 4 2

**EAST**  
♠ J 10 4  
♥ Q 8 7 5  
♦ 6 5 2  
♣ 8 6 3

**SOUTH**  
♠ A  
♥ A 10 9 6 3  
♦ K J 7  
♣ A K 10 9

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	3 ♦	Pass
3 NT	Pass	6 NT	

Opening lead — nine of diamonds.

The Percentage Play

When all is said and done, bridge is essentially a game of percentages.

You make a bid because you think that in the long run that bid will work out best; you make a particular play because you think it is the one most likely to succeed.

It’s really just that simple.

Consider today’s deal, for example. South reaches six notrump, and West leads a diamond. Declarer can count 10 sure tricks — two spades, two hearts, four diamonds and two clubs — leaving him two tricks short of his mark.

South can see two different sources for the extra tricks he needs.

One is clubs, where he has a finesse available. If East has the queen, the lead of the jack from dummy, followed by a second club to the ten if the jack is not covered, will do the job very nicely.

The alternative lies in hearts, where declarer appears to need a 3-3 division of the opposing hearts to land the slam.

If this is as far as South goes in his thinking, he might very well choose the club finesse, since most players have learned that a simple finesse is a 50 percent proposition, while a 3-3 break is not nearly as likely (36 percent).

This would be a gross oversimplification of South’s actual chances, however, because it does not take into account another lie of the opposing hearts that would be beneficial — namely, that either opponent might have been dealt the Q-x or J-x of hearts.

In that case, the play of the K-A would drop one of the missing honors, allowing declarer to establish four heart tricks by conceding the ten to the missing honor.

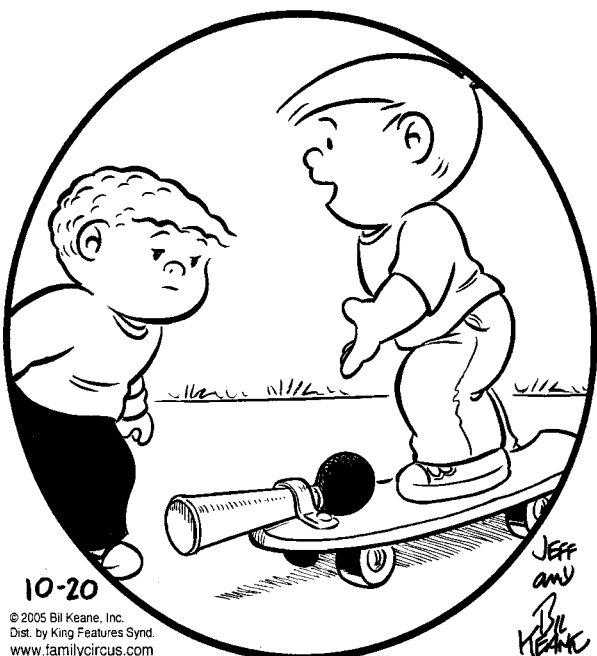
This possibility, when added to the chance of a 3-3 break, would give South a total chance of 61 percent to make the slam — significantly better than that offered by the club finesse. (If an honor does not fall when the top hearts are cashed, declarer’s best percentage chance would be to continue with a third round of hearts.)

In the actual deal, the recommended approach solves declarer’s problem very quickly, while the contract would have virtually no play after the club finesse loses.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



“If somebody’s in the way, I step on the horn.”

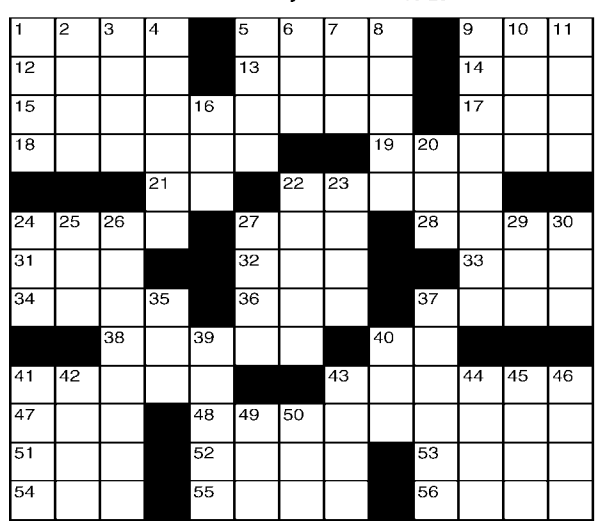
Crossword

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Cushions	1 Selection
5 Engage in	2 King of comedy
9 Flatfoot	3 Ms.
12 “— a Song	4 Wonder or Nicks
Go Out of My Heart”	5 Occupations
13 It takes the cake	6 Rd.
14 Mimic	7 Apiece
15 Soft cheese	8 Keyboard key
17 Wrestling surface	9 Lingerie item
18 Cutlery	10 Milky gem
19 Banish	11 Sampras or
21 Tagged one	Seeger
22 Gives a hoot	16 Bumped into
24 Pleasant	55 Undo a dele
27 Discor-dance	56 Logical
28 Remove a cap	
31 Mound stat	
32 “What Kind of Fool —?”	
33 Rawls or Reed	
34 Office part-timer	
36 Letter from London	

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 10-20



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