

For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Garfield • Jim Davis



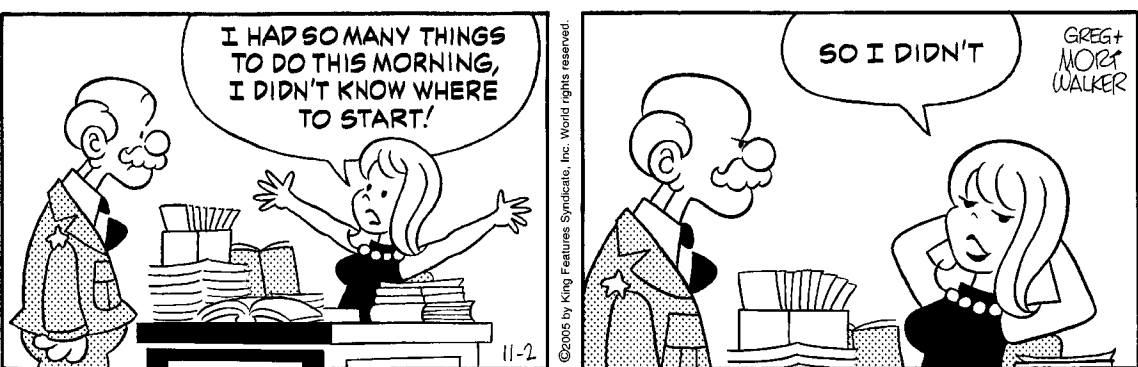
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



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Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

SW Y WHUSVH GYQ Y O APSSMAG OV'A BY BZVPBC
BRCPZ WCP HYL G CW SRB XBZV VRBV BIBH BYI GEG
USDHB, LCXUQ ZCX GYDH BVG VRGHAGCEGA MPV
Y LYR C' VSVH RYUHB?
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: DOWN AT THE LOCAL LUMBERYARD, THEY BEGAN USING THEIR NEW MOTTO "COME SEE, COME SAW!"
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals F
MX RMPAG BYI RMHG.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A FELINE HAD A STORY FOR EACH OF ITS LIVES, COULD YOU HAVE A CAT O' NINE TALES?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals T

Crossword

ACROSS

1 Clerical error? 46 Golf's — Cup 4 Menial subordi- nates 26 Symbol of craziness 8 Witticism 50 Political policy 5 Diva's problem 27 Terrier type 4 Wrestling-style 55 Cologne-label word 28 Loathe 29 Exile isle 12 Bake-sale org. 56 Malaria symptom 8 Ill will 30 "Sad to tell, ..." 13 Skewed, to Scots 57 Go sight-seeing 9 Spoon-bender Geller 35 Sound sleepers? 14 Roundup device 58 Fool 59 Start a garden 10 Calendar abbr. 38 Ready to face the day 15 Performance 59 Start a garden 10 Calendar abbr. 38 Ready to face the day 16 Lakefront border 60 On the — (disagree- ing) 17 Stock- ing stuffer 40 Deposit 42 Parched 45 Saxo- phone range 47 Trans- action 48 Like falling off a log 49 Strata- gem — de deux 51 Candle count 52 Sara of "Less Than Perfect" 53 Debtor's letters 54 Crackpot

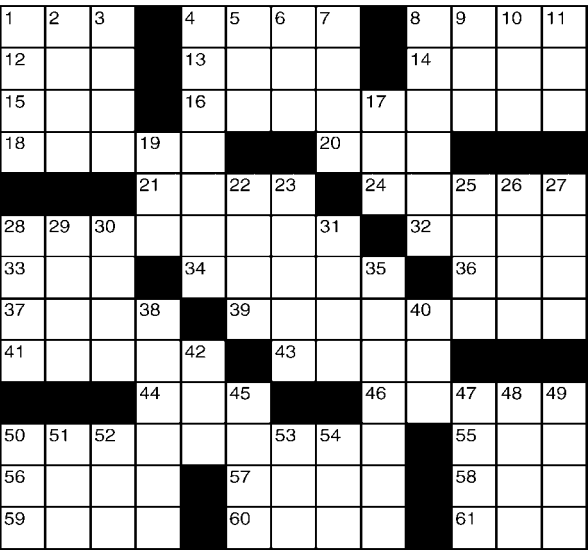
DOWN

1 Resorts 2 Longing 3 Brussels-based org. 19 Eccentric 22 Per — (daily) 23 Paquin and Wintour 25 Sites

Solution time: 21 mins.

MOLE TALC ALL
IDEM ABEL DOE
ADVERTISE VAN
REST ROADS
STAGS FINN
AIDE NARCOTIC
REV CORES AMI
ADEQUACY EGAD
RUSH SCENE
VISIT ORAL
IDA ADVOCATED
NOR RUED IOTA
ELY DONE RYAN

Yesterday's answer 11-2



ACROSS

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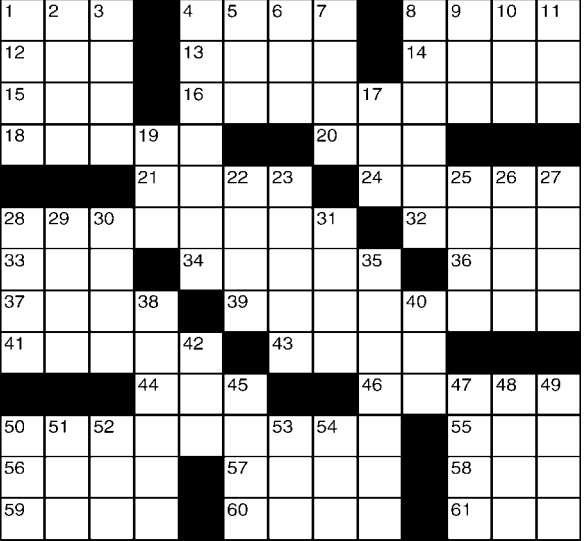
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Yesterday's answer 11-2



Family Circus • Bill Keane



Bridge

East dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ 9 6 2
♥ A Q
♦ 10 3
♣ A 9 7 5 4 3

WEST

♠ K 10 3
♥ 10 8 6 5 3
♦ J 4
♣ J 8 6

EAST

♠ J 8 5
♥ K 9 4
♦ Q 9 7 6 2
♣ Q 2

SOUTH

♠ A Q 7 4
♥ J 7 2
♦ A K 8 5
♣ K 10

The bidding:
East Pass South 1 NT West Pass North 3 NT
Opening lead — five of hearts.

Defender Avoids a Booby Trap

It is said that every weapon devised by the wit man sooner or later leads to an effective counterweapon that acts as an equalizer. I don't know whether this is literally true or not, but I do know that in bridge, many situations arise where the equivalent principle applies.

This deal occurred in a team-of-four match. At the first table, West led a heart against South's three-notrump contract. East took dummy's queen with the king and returned a heart to the ace. Declarer now played a low club to the ten, losing to West's jack, and West returned a heart to South's jack.

Declarer then led the king of clubs and overtook it with dummy's ace. When East's queen fell on the trick, South was able to run dummy's clubs and make four notrump.

The same contract was defeated at the second table also after a heart lead by West and a heart return by East to dummy's ace. Again declarer played a low club to the ten, but here West allowed South's ten to win the trick! As a result, declarer could not run dummy's clubs and finished down two.

Both declarers were very much on their toes in playing the clubs as they did. They realized that their best chance for the contract was to find East with the Q-x or J-x of clubs, in which case they would score five club tricks after losing the ten to West's jack or queen.

The second declarer ran into unusually inspired defense as West found the counterweapon to defuse South's plan. West sacrificed a club trick by refusing to take his jack, but his side got three tricks back in exchange.

Tomorrow: South performs a miraculous feat. (c)2005 King Features Syndicate Inc.

South dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A 10 8
♥ 8 6 4
♦ A J 9 7
♣ K 10 3

WEST

♠ 7 3
♥ Q 10 9 2
♦ K Q 10 4
♣ 9 6 5

EAST

♠ Q J 9 5 4
♥ —
♦ 8 6 3 2
♣ 8 7 4 2

SOUTH

♠ K 6 2
♥ A K J 7 5 3
♦ 5
♣ A Q J

The bidding:
South 1 ♥ West Pass North 2 NT East Pass
3 ♥ Pass 4 ♥ Pass
6 ♥ Pass
Opening lead — king of diamonds.

South Performs a Miraculous Feat

Performing the impossible is a contradiction of terms, but there are nevertheless hands where declarer can give a good imitation of the feat.

Take this deal where, as the cards lie, South appears to have a spade loser and two trump losers. It is of course mighty difficult to make a slam with three natural losers, but South met the challenge with ease.

West led a diamond to dummy's ace, and South ruffed a diamond at trick two, hoping the queen would fall on either this round or the next time diamonds were led.

Declarer then cashed the ace of hearts, learning to his horror that West had two natural trump tricks. Not one to panic in the face of adversity, South then took the time to work out the only distribution that would allow the slam to be made.

Accordingly, he cashed three club tricks, ending in dummy, then ruffed the nine of diamonds. With everything going smoothly, declarer crossed to the ace of spades and ruffed the jack of diamonds.

By now West was out of diamonds and clubs. When South next cashed the king of spades, West ran out of that suit also. With three tricks to go and South having won the first 10 tricks, West's remaining cards were the Q-10-9 of hearts.

At this point, South led the six of spades, and, lo and behold, the three losers he had started with suddenly dwindled to one.

West had to ruff the spade and return a trump to South's K-J, and that was that. There was no way West could avoid the endplay by which South succeeded in telescoping three losers into one.

Tomorrow: Plotting the course of play. (c)2005 King Features Syndicate Inc.

