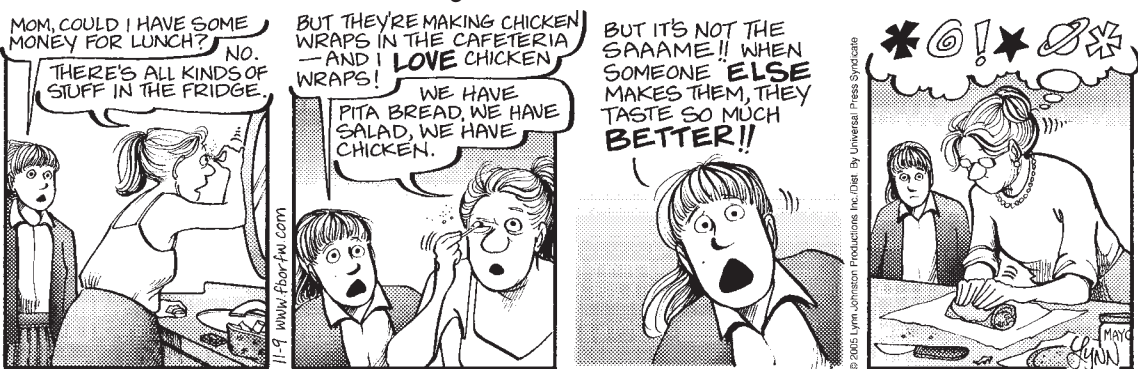


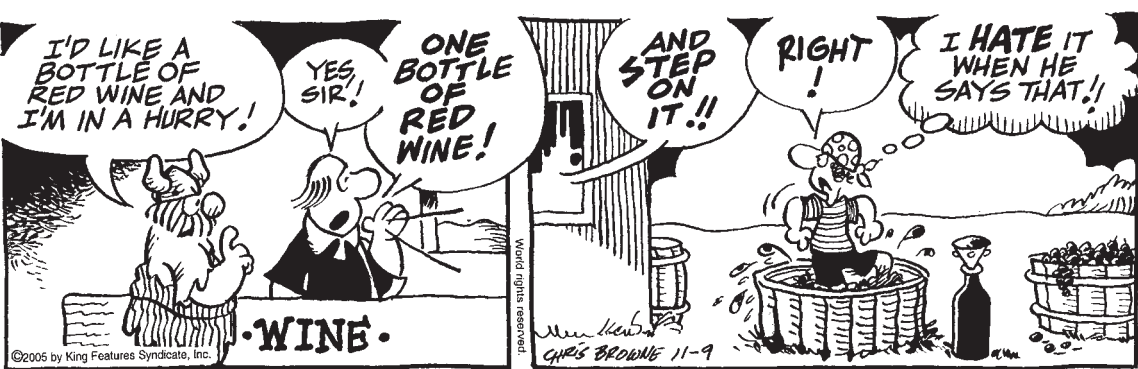
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



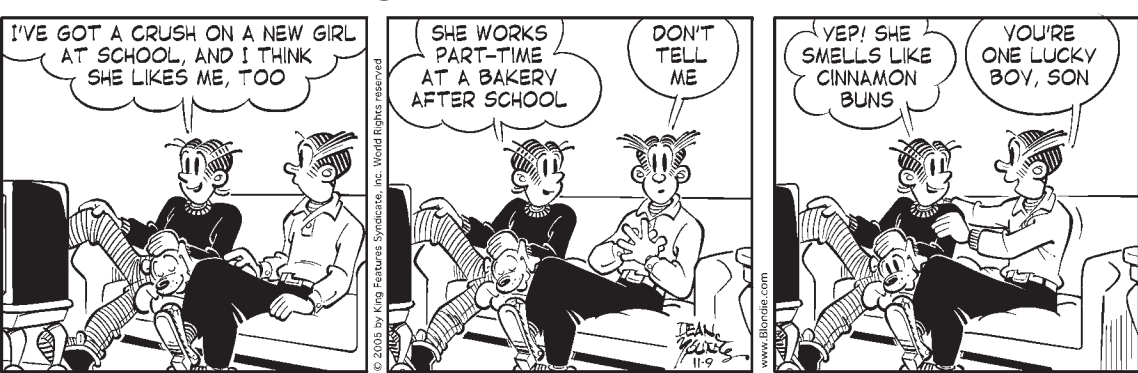
Garfield • Jim Davis



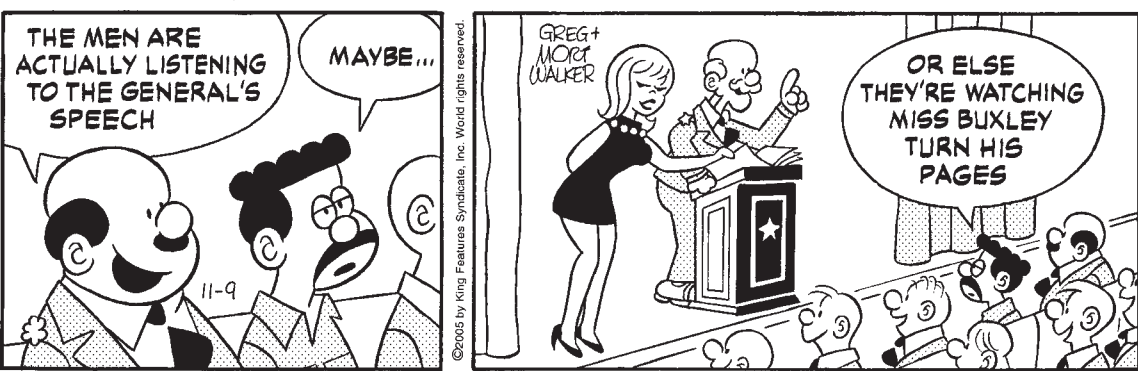
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



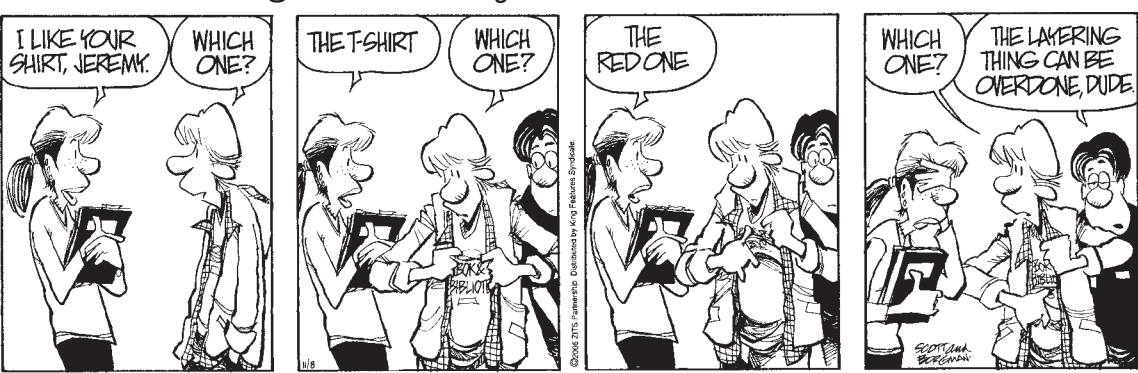
Blondie • Chic Young



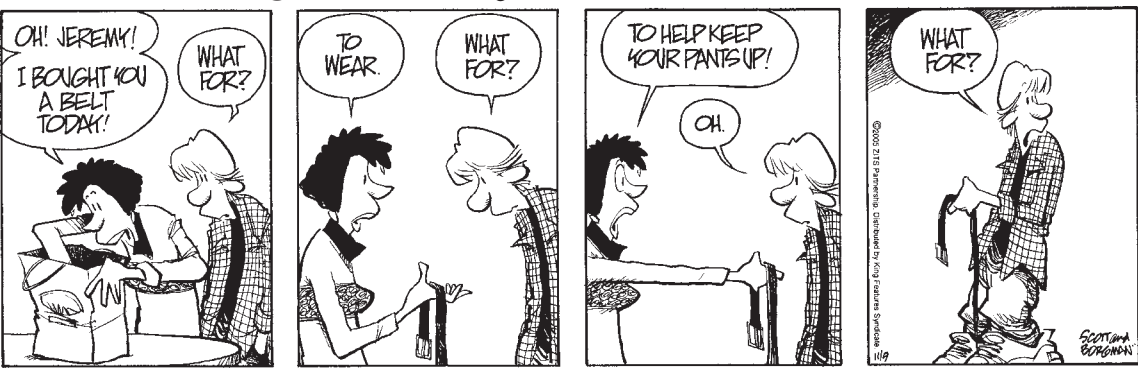
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

W D K F W P , K N F L D T C F T H B P G N X G U D M V M X H Z E G X  
Z V R J T T P Z M X D W J K X M V Q F U , H Y N F V V P G N ' E  
C J T F J L K F M . N F N D V B H Z E P G N U V F O B G Z L Q F  
C D M P X T J R Z M X A J M A F T M V . G N L V H E F O G G D H Z Y H Z .  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A BEAR WERE ALLOWED TO PREPARE COFFEE OR TEA, COULD YOU THEN SAY HE WAS BRUIN?  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals H  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: LATELY, THE FARMER IS WORRYING A LOT MORE OFTEN. HE HAS MANY GROWING CONCERNS.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals U

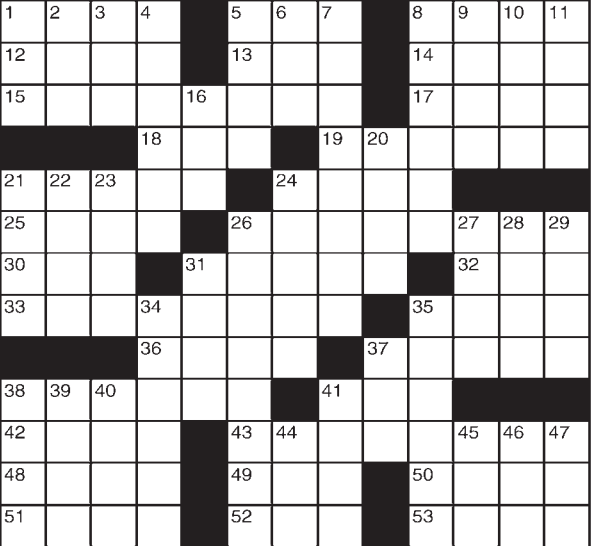
Crossword

ACROSS  
1 On in years  
5 With 8-Across, lng play  
8 See 5-Across  
12 Portrayal  
13 Superlative ending  
14 Walt Kelly comic  
15 Visit casually  
17 Exceptional  
18 Stipend  
19 In the same place (Lat.)  
21 "10" star  
24 Lady Macbeth's haunter  
25 Devastation  
26 Flip  
30 Grecian vessel  
31 Norton's work-place  
32 Blackjack part  
33 Aggressive one  
35 Tragic  
36 Jell-O form  
37 Hoedown seating?  
38 Department  
41 End of a "Sesame Street" lesson  
42 Mimic  
43 Acquire  
48 Sound of a large bell  
49 Mauna — Yuletide refrain  
51 Poker stake  
52 Dozens of mos.  
53 Alumnus  
23 Pugilism venue  
24 Emulated  
26 Hit pay dirt  
27 Do surveillance on  
28 Farm fraction  
29 Dregs  
31 Old portico  
34 Become known  
35 Stupefying  
37 "See ya"  
38 Ali —  
39 Word often following "once"  
40 Land-lord's due  
41 Grand opening day?  
44 "— the fields we go, ..."  
45 Neither mate  
46 Afternoon social  
47 See 1-Across

Solution time: 21 mins.



Yesterday's answer 11-8

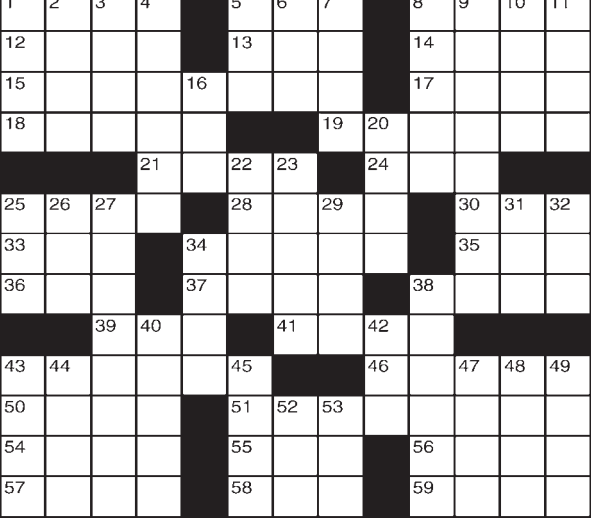


ACROSS  
1 What the rat in Jack's house ate  
5 Omega preceder  
8 Not up yet  
12 Screen-writer James  
13 Took off  
14 Challenge  
15 St.  
16 Patrick's Day symbol  
17 Sigmund Freud's daughter  
18 Pleased  
19 Added alcohol  
21 Lascivious  
24 Bobby of hockey  
25 Estate measure  
28 Exam format  
30 Of long standing  
33 Moo — gai pan  
34 Bunch of nonsense  
35 DiCaprio, to fans  
36 Pussy-cat's partner  
37 Take the wheel  
38 Metal refuse  
39 Grant's foe  
41 Plumbing problem  
43 Sam — belt  
46 Pictorial poser  
50 Jeans-maker Strauss  
51 Saturday Evening Post cover artist  
54 Arabian gulf  
55 "— Town"  
56 Sicilian spouter  
57 McEnroe competitor  
DOWN  
1 Sitcom set in Asia  
2 Eastern potatoe  
3 Observe 2/29?  
4 Mormon church  
5 For  
6 Pouch  
7 Cartoonist's supply  
8 Legend-ary firefighter  
9 Wad  
10 Sea flyer  
11 Out of play  
16 End of a Salinger title  
20 Mexican War president  
22 Sported  
23 Whimsical  
25 Past  
26 Intimidate  
27 Reinvest  
29 Pinnacle  
31 Meadow  
32 Follow relentlessly  
34 "Big Brother" host Julie  
38 Spit in the food  
40 "Dallas" surname  
42 Actress Joan Van —  
43 Spill the beans  
44 Start over  
45 Piccadilly statue  
47 — noire (bugaboo)  
48 Radius's neighbor  
49 Rebuff a masher  
52 Chic no more  
53 Turn on the water-works

Solution time: 21 mins.



Yesterday's answer 11-9



Bridge

South dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.  
NORTH  
♠ A K J 2  
♥ 8 5 4  
♦ 10 6 4 3 2  
♣ A  
WEST  
♠ 8 6  
♥ J 10 7 3 2  
♦ —  
♣ Q J 8 7 4 2  
EAST  
♠ 5  
♥ Q 9  
♦ J 9 8 7  
♣ K 10 9 6 5 3  
SOUTH  
♠ Q 10 9 7 4 3  
♥ A K 6  
♦ A K Q 5  
♣ —  
The bidding:  
South 1 ♠  
West Pass  
North 3 ♠  
East Pass  
Opening lead — queen of clubs.

What Can Defeat Me?

It took North-South only four bids to arrive at their best contract. South's five-notrump bid was the Grand Slam Force, asking North to bid seven spades if he held two of the three top trump honors, and North, of course, complied.  
Though South's bidding was first-rate, his play of the hand was not. After giving the matter only superficial thought, he won the club lead with dummy's ace and discarded a heart. He then drew two rounds of trumps and cashed the ace of diamonds. When West showed out, South had no way to avoid a diamond loser and so went down one.  
Declarer's downfall occurred when, immediately upon seeing dummy, he assumed there was nothing at all to the play. He did not follow the tried-and-true procedure of stopping to ask himself whether there was any lie of the cards that could possibly jeopardize the contract. Had he done so, he would have realized that if either opponent held all four missing diamonds — a 10 percent chance — he would have a serious problem.  
To cater to that possibility — slim as it was — South should have discarded a diamond on the ace of clubs, instead of a heart. After cashing the A-Q of trumps, he would then cash a high diamond. If both opponents followed suit, the battle would be over, since the heart loser could then be discarded on one of dummy's good diamonds.  
But if, as in the actual case, either opponent showed out on the first diamond, declarer could next cash his other two diamonds, cross to dummy with a trump and ruff a diamond. He would then re-enter dummy with a trump to discard his heart loser on the ten of diamonds and so make the grand slam.

North dealer.  
North-South vulnerable.  
NORTH  
♠ 9  
♥ Q 5  
♦ Q 10 5 2  
♣ A K Q 9 8 3  
WEST  
♠ 10 7 6 5 2  
♥ J 10 8 6 3  
♦ A 6  
♣ 4  
EAST  
♠ A J 4 3  
♥ 9 7 4 2  
♦ 8  
♣ J 10 6 2  
SOUTH  
♠ K Q 8  
♥ A K  
♦ K J 9 7 4 3  
♣ 7 5  
The bidding:  
North 1 ♠  
West Pass  
South 2 ♦  
East Pass  
North 5 ♦  
South 4 NT  
West Pass  
Opening lead — four of clubs.

Road Map to Winning Defense

The opportunity for a suit-preference signal comes up more often than one might think. And, when it does, it can be employed with devastating effect.  
Consider this deal where South was in five diamonds. He naturally had visions of a slam after his partner opened the bidding and raised diamonds. But the Blackwood response of five diamonds, showing only one ace, put a quick end to South's ambitions.  
West led his singleton club. East had no trouble diagnosing the lead as a singleton, not only because West had led dummy's suit, but also because the four was the lowest club and would not have been led if West had held, say, the 7-4. (In that case, West would have led the seven.)  
Declarer played the queen from dummy, and on it East played the jack! This was a suit-preference signal intended to indicate that East had an entry in spades.  
Accordingly, when declarer led a diamond from dummy at trick two, West took the ace and returned a spade. East won with the ace and returned a club roughed by West, and South went down one.  
It will be noted that without East's suit-preference signal, West would have had to guess whether to lead a spade or a heart after he took the ace of diamonds. If he had chosen a heart, South would have made the contract.  
The convention is easy enough to use. When the potential for a ruff exists, the play of an unnecessarily high card in the suit led indicates an entry in the higher-ranking of the two side suits. (There are always only two suits to consider, since the trump suit and the suit to be ruffed do not count.)  
In the same way, the play of a low card indicates an entry in the lower-ranking suit. Thus, if East had held the ace of hearts instead of the ace of spades, he would have played the two of clubs on the opening lead to direct West to the winning defense.  
Tomorrow: A tactical maneuver.  
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Family Circus • Bill Keane

