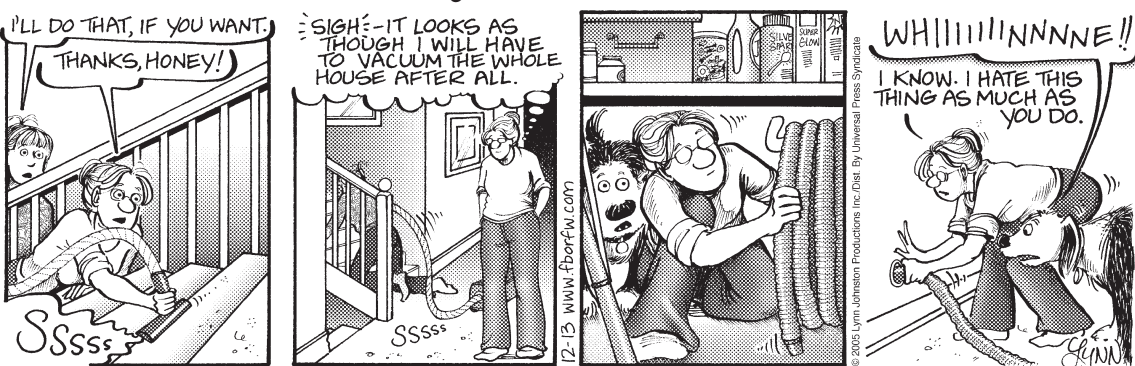
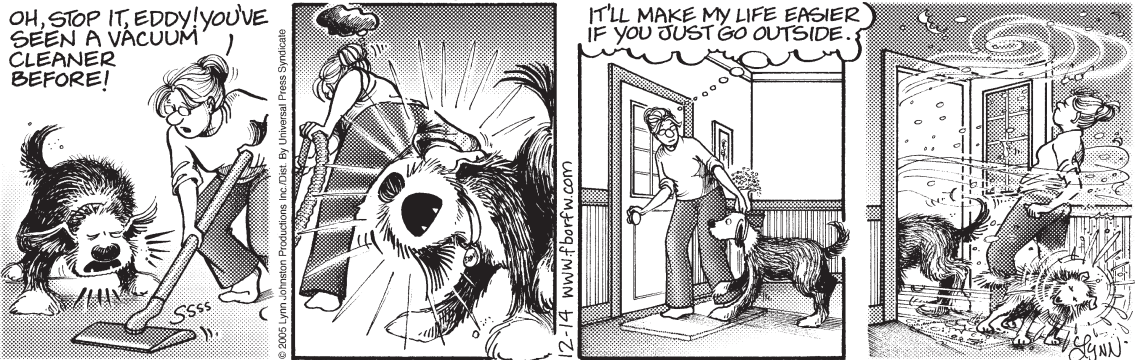


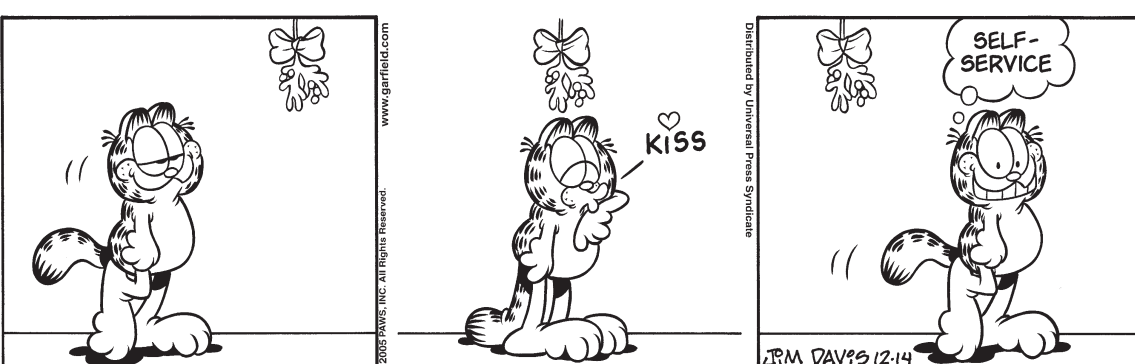
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Garfield • Jim Davis



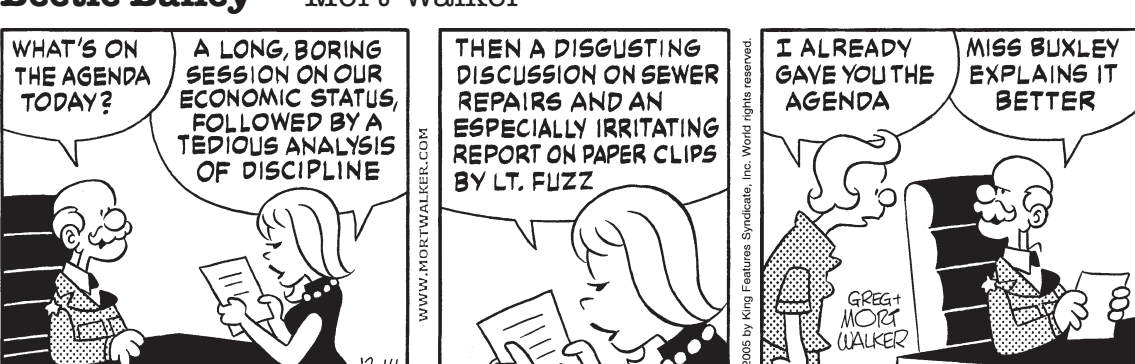
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

TZ NLPHWLAX TN RHKYMTMO | BJGL WKX BQDHG U MRUPP
 SDH KYS LZ PLBMSKTM | LKHUHDKL DL HJG RUQCDL,
 IRTPWTMO, AL SDHX NSBAX | UQG WKX CGHHDLC U
 SDHTY IRTZZ MLSHN? | BKQE DL GECGBDMG?
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN TWO PEOPLE GET MARRIED, I GUESS YOU MIGHT SAY THEY ENTER INTO AN ALTARED STATE.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals D

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF SOMEBODY IS LEARNING THE ART OF MOUNTAIN CLIMBING, DO THEY STUDY THEIR CLIFF NOTES?
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals Y

Crossword

ACROSS
 1 Told tales
 5 — Na Na
 8 Experts
 12 Pre-swam
 13 Has the skills
 14 Santa's home
 15 "Scarborough Fair" mint
 17 Blueprint
 18 Prior to
 19 On in years
 20 Tobacco-nist's offering
 21 Conciliatory bribe
 22 Anonymous Jane
 23 Bivouacs
 26 Topic
 30 Hodge-podge
 31 Droop
 32 Malaria symptom
 33 "Non-sense!"
 35 Noted Fibber of radio days

DOWN
 1 Entice
 2 Lab assistant?
 3 Other-wise
 4 Go blue?
 5 Resell for a huge profit
 6 Difficult
 7 Whatever amount
 8 Cider brandy
 9 Singer Natalie
 10 Verve
 11 Fax
 16 Barnyard sounds
 20 Short hairdo
 21 Ibis's cousin
 22 Shoveled

36 Without delay
37 Tibetan beast
38 Speedy steeds
41 Embrace
42 Omega precursor
45 Sushi wrapper
46 Wicker-cased bottle
48 Pianist
49 Cartesian conclusion
50 Fairy-tale preposition
51 Healthy condition
52 Thickness
53 Obtains

23 Corn holder
24 Carte lead-in
25 Thou squared
26 Put into words
27 Early bird?
28 Shuffle-board stick
29 Ball support
31 Wield a needle
34 Us (Sp.)
35 Amahl's night visitors
37 Delicious
38 From the beginning
39 The Eternal City
40 Domingo rendition
41 Get better
42 Urban or Innocent
43 Attempt
44 B&Bs
46 Party bowlful
47 Moon-shine container

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 12-13

Bridge

North dealer.
 North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ J 10 4
 ♥ 10 9 4 3
 ♦ 6 4 3 2
 ♣ A Q

WEST
 ♠ 9 8 7 5
 ♥ 8
 ♦ Q 10 9 7
 ♣ J 9 6 4

EAST
 ♠ 6 3 2
 ♥ J 7 6
 ♦ 8
 ♣ K 10 8 5 3 2

SOUTH
 ♠ A K Q
 ♥ A K Q 5 2
 ♦ A K J 5
 ♣ 7

The bidding:
 North Pass
 East Pass
 South 2♥
 West Pass

3♥ Pass
 4♦ Pass
 5♣ Pass

Opening lead — nine of spades.

The Line of Least Resistance

It is obviously wrong to choose a line of play that offers a 90 percent chance of success when there is a different line of play that offers a 100 percent chance.

For example, take this deal where South should not follow the line of least resistance by winning the spade lead, drawing trumps, cashing the ace of diamonds and crossing to dummy to take a diamond finesse.

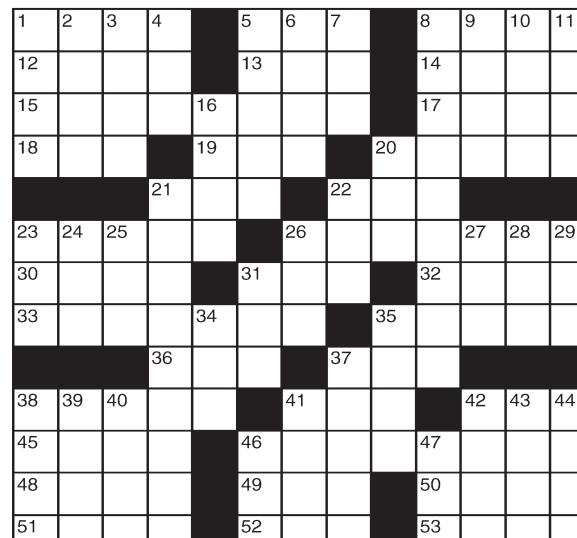
If declarer plays in this fashion, he will meet an unhappy end when it turns out that West started with the Q-10-9-7 of diamonds. Sooner or later, South will lose two diamond tricks and go down one.

Instead, after drawing trumps, South should play on the basis that the diamonds are divided either 4-1 or 5-0, since these are the only distributions that jeopardize the slam. Then, proceeding on this assumption, South should cash the ace of diamonds and his two remaining spades, play a club to the ace and ruff the queen of clubs.

With all the spades and clubs having been eliminated from both the dummy and his own hand, South next leads the five of diamonds! This play is certain to bring home the slam, regardless of how the diamonds are divided or which defender has the diamond length.

As it happens, West is the one who started with the Q-10-9-7 of diamonds. He wins the five with the nine, but whatever he returns, declarer makes the contract.

Observe that if East had started with the Q-10-9-7 of diamonds, he would have run into the same dead end.



Yesterday's answer 12-13

ACROSS
 1 Answers, on "Jeopardy!"
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 8 Interpretation
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 13 Sodom evacuee
 14 Tortoise's opponent
 15 Creamy-white steed
 17 Settled down
 18 Feeds the fire
 19 Negligent
 21 Superlative ending
 22 Navigator's stack
 23 Jazzy style
 26 Chop down
 28 Raise a glass to
 31 "As — going to St. Ives"
 33 Pen point

DOWN
 1 Venom ejectors
 2 Bed-frame part
 3 Narc's measure
 4 Piped up
 5 Shimmer
 6 Charged bit
 7 Rampage
 8 It gets in your hair
 9 Fence for defense
 10 Rainbow
 11 Profits
 16 Stocking type

35 Blood-hound's clue
36 River-mouth deposit
38 — Mahal
40 Actor Ron
41 Call on a beeper
43 Slithery squeezer
45 Zigzag downhill
47 Cowardly location
51 Earring location
52 Lessen the intensity of
54 Puncturing tools
55 Pair
56 Actress Moran
57 Come together

58 Desire
59 Famed political cartoonist

20 Tackle the buffet
23 Auction action
24 Have bills
25 So close you can touch it
27 Humor
29 Impresario
30 Take a whack at
32 Least fresh
34 Venue of materialism
37 Past
39 "Piano Man" singer
42 Void
44 Foreigner
45 Bridge coup
46 Former "West Wing" actor
48 Zhivago's love
49 Mayberry sot
50 Took off
53 Idolater's emotion

Solution time: 21 mins.

L	T	E	D	S	H	A	A	C	E	S	
U	G	L	Y	C	A	N	P	O	L	E	
R	O	S	E	M	A	R	Y	P	L	A	N
E	R	E	O	L	D	B	L	E	N	D	
S	O	P	D	O	E						
C	A	M	P	S	S	U	B	J	E	C	T
O	L	I	O	S	A	G	A	G	U	E	
B	A	L	O	N	E	Y	M	C	G	E	E
N	O	W	Y	A	K						
A	R	A	B	S	H	U	G	P	S	I	
N	O	R	I	D	E	M	I	J	O	H	N
E	M	I	L	I	A	M	U	P	O	N	
W	E	A	L	P	L	Y	G	E	T	S	

Yesterday's answer 12-14

North dealer.
 Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ A J 8 5 3
 ♥ A K 7 3
 ♦ A 5
 ♣ 10 7

WEST
 ♠ 6 4
 ♥ J 10 2
 ♦ Q 9 7 3
 ♣ A 9 6 3

EAST
 ♠ K Q 10 9
 ♥ Q 9 6 5
 ♦ 10 6 2
 ♣ 4 2

SOUTH
 ♠ 7 2
 ♥ 8 4
 ♦ K J 8 4
 ♣ K Q J 8 5

The bidding:
 North 1♥
 East Pass
 South 2♥
 West Pass

3 NT
 Opening lead — three of diamonds.

It Pays to Plan the Play

Often, the most critical point of the play comes at trick one. That is when the defense launches its attack with the opening lead, and when declarer decides on his method of play.

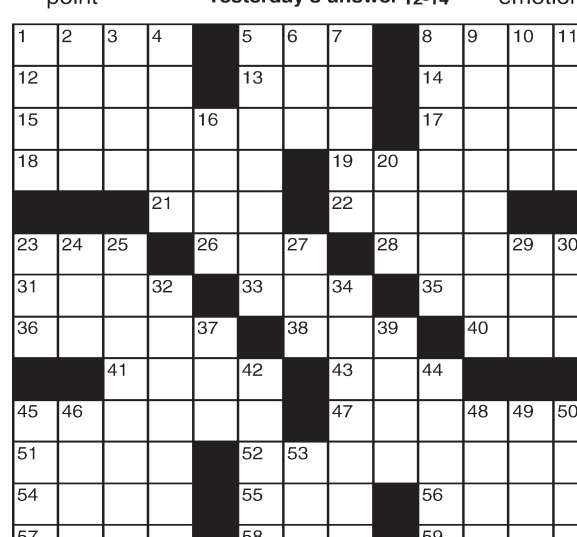
If declarer acts too hastily at trick one, even when his play seems automatic, it is an indication he is not doing his job properly. To play first and think later is putting the cart before the horse, and many a declarer has lived to regret an impulsive first play.

Take this case where West led a diamond against three notrump and declarer played low from dummy because he was getting a free finesse. He won East's ten with the jack and led a low club to the ten, which held. When he continued with a club to the king, West took his ace.

Back came a diamond to dummy's ace, whereupon South found himself locked in dummy with no way of reaching his hand to cash his three club tricks and the king of diamonds. East later scored three spades and two hearts to defeat the contract two tricks.

Had South given more thought to his first play, he would have rejected the gratuitous diamond finesse and gone up with dummy's ace. After forcing out the ace of clubs, he would have scored at least nine tricks consisting of one spade, two hearts, two diamonds and four clubs. It pays to plan the play.

Tomorrow: A wise choice of plays.
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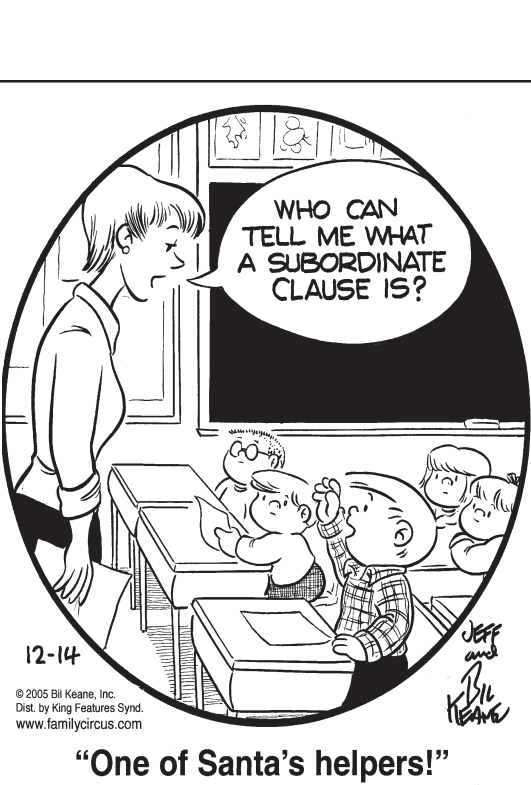
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Solution time: 21 mins.

L	T	E	D	S	H	A	A	C	E	S	
U	G	L	Y	C	A	N	P	O	L	E	
R	O	S	E	M	A	R	Y	P	L	A	N
E	R	E	O	L	D	B	L	E	N	D	
S	O	P	D	O	E						
C	A	M	P	S	U	B	J	E	C	T	
O	L	I	O	S	A	G	A	G	U	E	
B	A	L	O	N	E	Y	M	C	G	E	E
N	O	W	Y	A	K						
A	R	A	B	S	H	U	G	P	S	I	
N	O	R	I	D	E	M	I	J	O	H	N
E	M	I	L	I	A	M	U	P	O	N	
W	E	A	L	P	L	Y	G	E	T	S	

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U	G	L	Y	C	A	N	P	O	L	E	
R	O	S	E	M	A	R	Y	P	L	A	N
E	R	E	O	L	D	B	L	E	N	D	
S	O	P	D	O	E						
C	A	M	P	S	U	B	J	E	C	T	
O	L	I	O	S	A	G	A	G	U	E	
B	A	L	O	N	E	Y	M	C	G	E	E
N	O	W	Y	A	K						
A	R	A	B	S	H	U	G	P	S	I	
N	O	R	I	D	E	M	I	J	O	H	N
E	M	I	L	I	A	M	U	P	O	N	
W	E	A	L	P	L	Y	G	E	T	S	

Yesterday's answer 12-14

12-13
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