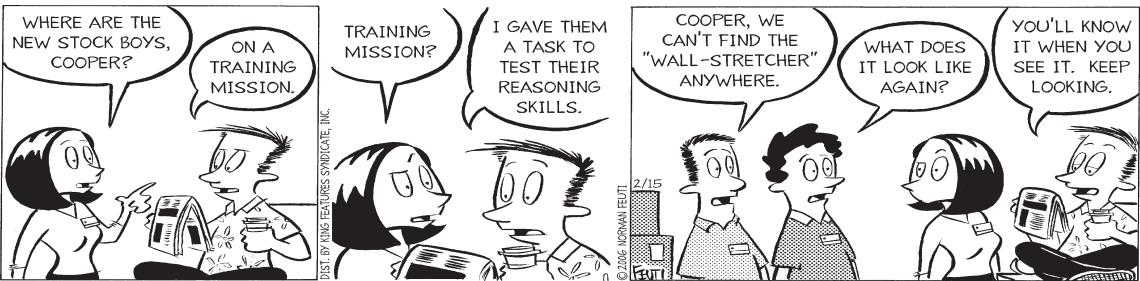
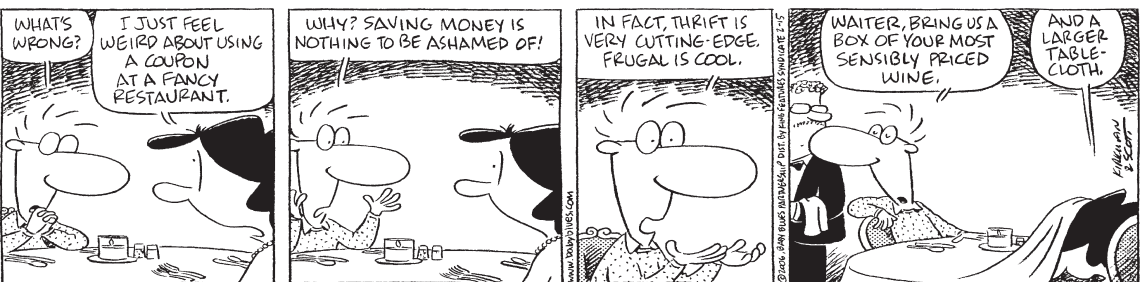


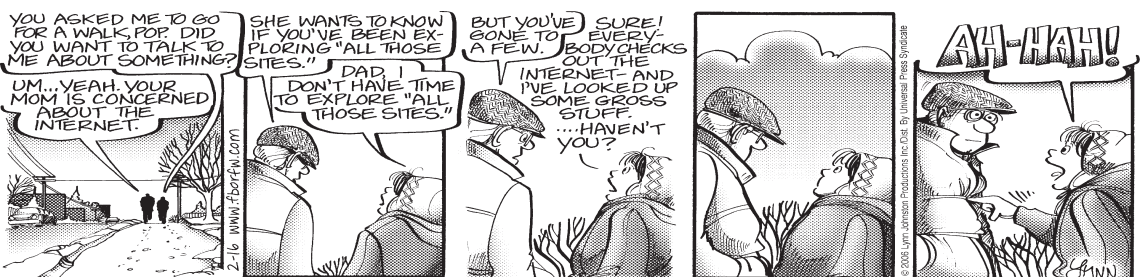
Retail • Norm Feuti (Sample)



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott (Sample)



For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Garfield • Jim Davis



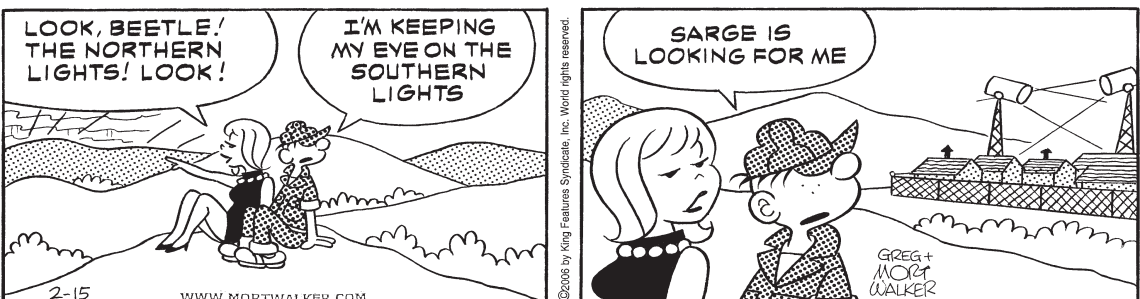
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



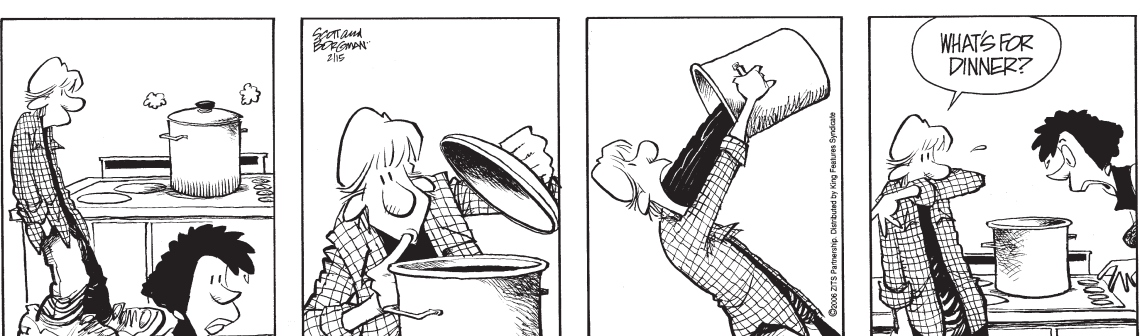
Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

WQBAK W VKLQGUGASB FS F KVEE LGN KPV EUTC
NWPPAOK XLLPASP OV FH JVOL TVK KPFH
DLOK NOPUXAP, G YAB YGOCFCZ, F'Y MVSFCFKVEL
DLO'XX YA VWPB BASPA. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOUR DRIVER'S
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOUR DRIVER'S
LICENSE GOT REVOKED, I RECKON YOU COULD
BE FEELING A BIT DIS-CARDED.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals L

Crossword

ACROSS

1 Alluring, slangily
5 Biz degree
8 Confront
12 Post-bout wear
13 German preposi-
14 Press
15 Maple genus
16 Interro-
18 Pie contents
20 Duck down
21 Eggs
22 Sheepish remark?
23 Impetu-
26 Corru-
30 Lennon's lady
31 Make up your mind
32 Debtor's letters
33 Favorably disposed
36 Jack
38 Praise in verse

DOWN

1 — Spee

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 2-14

2 Places
3 First victim
4 Dry red wine
5 Carta lead-in
6 Town
7 Movie-excel-
lence org.
8 Re off-
spring
9 Saharan
10 Traffic pylon
11 MIT grad, perhaps
17 True-blue, to
Scots
19 Wall climber
22 Morsel
23 "Explain yourself"

24 Blackbird
25 Scale member
26 Gasoline abbr.
27 Midafter-
noon, on a
sundial
28 Ph. bk. info
29 Eviscer-
ate
31 Indivisible
34 Hung about
35 Pastoral poem
36 Linden or Sparks
37 Rectan-
gular
39 Leg-of-
mutton sleeve
40 Dance lesson
41 Seed coat
42 Tragic
43 Predica-
ment
44 "Ameri-
can —"
45 Taboo practice
46 Got bigger
48 Jima prece-
der

Bridge

North dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

10 8 5 2
K 8 6 3
A 5
K 7 4

WEST

Q 7 3
A J 2
J 9 4 2
J 10 5

EAST

A 4
Q 10 9 5 4
10
Q 9 8 3 2

SOUTH

K J 9 6
7
K Q 8 7 6 3
A 6

The bidding:
North Pass
1 ♠
3 ♣
East Pass
Pass
Pass
South 1 ♦
1 ♠
4 ♣
West Pass
Pass
Pass

Opening lead — jack of clubs.

A Self-Inflicted Injury

In this deal from a club duplicate, only one North-South pair made four spades even though the contract was unstopable with correct play.

At most tables, the bidding went as shown, and West led the jack of clubs. Declarer put up dummy's king in order to try a spade finesse, losing the eight to West's queen. A second club was taken by the ace, and the king of spades then lost to East's ace. East returned a third club, ruffed by South with the nine.

At this point, virtually all the declarers drew West's last trump with the jack and attempted to run the diamonds. But when East showed out on the second diamond, the contract went down the drain. Although South could ruff a fourth round of diamonds in dummy, he would have no entry to the closed hand to collect his last two diamonds. So, after cashing the A-K-Q of diamonds, these declarers next led a heart toward dummy and finished down one, losing two hearts and two spades.

At one table, though, South saw a way to try to give himself an extra chance if the diamonds broke 4-1. After ruffing the club return at trick five, he reasoned that if the diamonds were divided 3-2, no harm could come from cashing the A-K before drawing the last trump. If both opponents followed suit to the A-K, he could then cash the jack of spades before running the rest of the diamonds. If the second diamond happened to get ruffed, the contract was doomed anyway.

The advantage of this approach can be seen in the actual deal. When declarer cashed the two top diamonds, East showed out, but was unable to ruff. South then led a low diamond and ruffed it in dummy to establish the suit. Dummy's last trump was led to the jack, and the rest of the diamonds were run. West got his heart trick at the end, and South got a well-deserved top score.

Tomorrow: The rationale of good defense.
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East dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH

K 9
J 10 9
K 10 7
Q 10 9 5 2

WEST

7 5 4 3
A 8 6 2
6 4 3
A 8

EAST

J 10 6 2
Q 7 5 4
A 9 5
6 3

SOUTH

A Q 8
K 3
Q J 8 2
K J 7 4

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

The Rationale of Good Defense

Good defensive play requires nothing more than plain common sense. A defender practically always has available to him all the clues he needs to obtain the best possible result.

It is equally important to note that a good defensive player does not permit himself to be hidebound by rigid rules. He does not always return his partner's suit, nor does he invariably play second hand low or third hand high. In short, he does not play mechanically. He adjusts himself instead to the particular circumstances of each deal he encounters, and acts accordingly.

Take this case where many players would go wrong. West leads a heart, and dummy plays the nine. If East makes the mistake of playing the queen, South has an easy time making three notrump.

Covering the nine with the queen gives declarer two heart tricks, and South simply forces out the ace of clubs to assure nine tricks. There is no possible recovery for the defense.

But if East ducks the nine (signaling with the seven to ask for a continuation of the suit), South cannot make the contract. Declarer must eventually lose three heart tricks and two aces and go down one.

Ducking the nine is a violation of the rule that third hand plays high. Nevertheless, a departure from the general rule is strongly indicated on this deal.

East reasons as follows: He knows from the lead of the deuce that West has four hearts. Hence, declarer has only two. These two can consist of A-K, A-x, K-x or x-x. In the first and third cases, playing the queen loses a trick. If declarer has A-x, nothing helps, since South will score two tricks regardless of what East does.

The only way the queen play can gain is if declarer has x-x. This is highly unlikely given that South opened with one notrump. Therefore, since ducking the queen gains in two cases, breaks even in another and wins only in one improbable instance, it is clearly the right play.

Family Circus • Bill Keane

