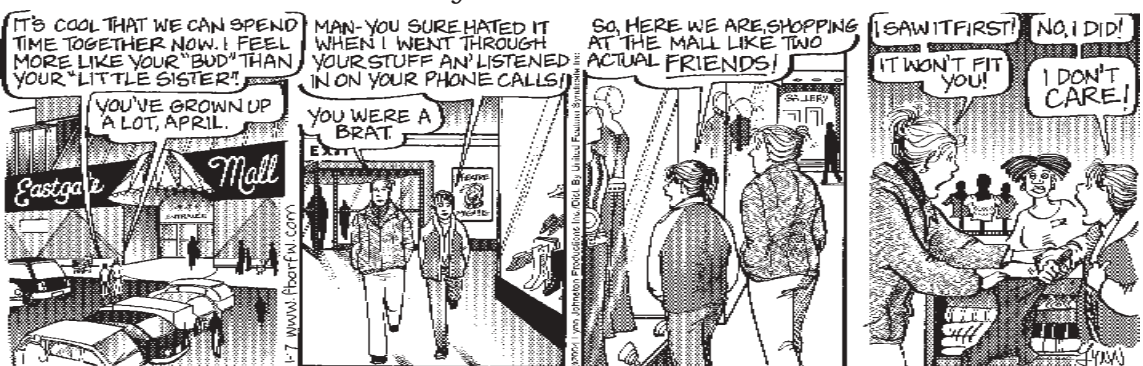


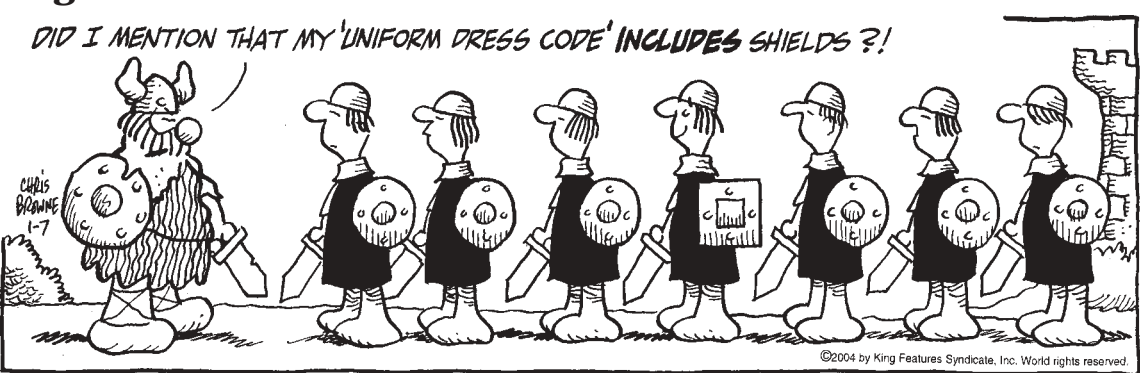
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Garfield • Jim Davis



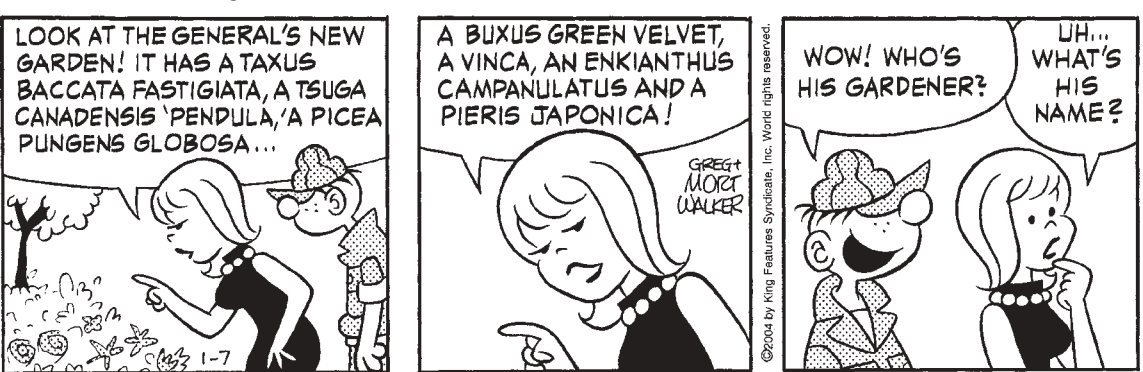
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



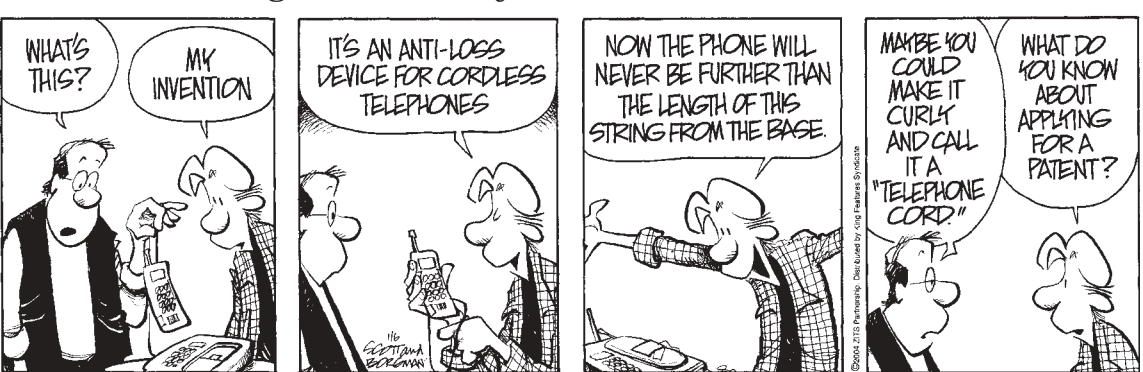
Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



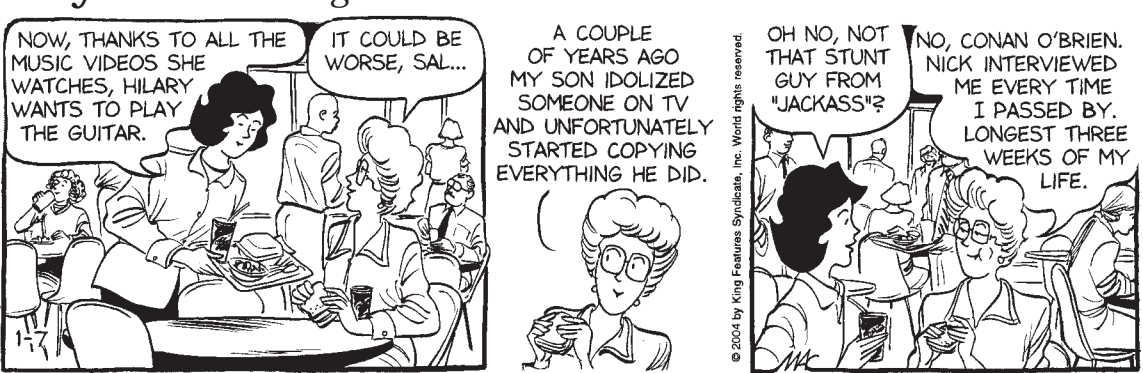
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



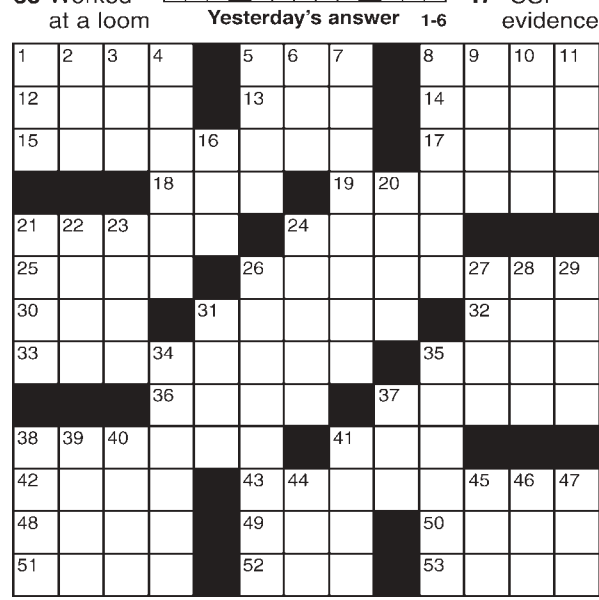
Cryptoquip

F C T L G S A ' R N Y T W L U R L M U L H L U G ' W G J T L
 R J H W W O P F N N Y H U U H Q C G C E G E G J L E W T J L J ' W
 N Y O O R B A T W P I O J Q A G Q I B J X U W U O H B M H L Q I U G C
 F R N S O I Y F Q B S U F Q F C O Y . P C L P X W E O Q R E M E O P L W .
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I IMAGINE OWLS MUST BE UNTRUSTWORTHY. AFTER ALL, THEY ARE REAL FLY-BY-NIGHTS.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals M
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: A GUY WHO'S TRULY SKILLED AT TRIMMING TREES COULD BE KNOWN AS THE BRANCH MANAGER.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals T

Crossword

- ACROSS**
 1 Brigham Young's quartet
 5 Remnant
 8 Minimal change
 12 Comic-strip possum
 13 Appomattox VIP
 14 Precinct
 15 Octagonal warning
 17 Child's play
 18 Dispersed candy
 19 "Do unto —"
 21 Source of rubber
 24 Fishing-line attachment
 25 Addict
 26 Oscilloscope line
 30 Whopper
 31 Sharp as —
 32 Theater ducats, slangily
 33 "Auld —"
 35 Worked at a loom
 36 Peeve
 37 Half a 1960s quartet
 38 Garb named for an atoll
 41 Ump
 42 Wicked
 43 Sitcom about nothing
 48 Above average?
 49 Teeter-totter quorum
 50 Slender
 51 Picnic invaders
 52 Rarin' to go
 53 Exile isle
 2 Youngster
 3 Past
 4 "Night-hawks" painter
 5 Of Shak.'s day
 6 Pos. opp.
 7 Condemn publicly
 8 Nut whose shell is poisonous
 9 Sea eagle
 10 Approximate
 11 Reveille's opposite
 16 Westheimer subject
 20 "Star —"
 21 Calm before the storm
 22 Largest of the seven
 23 Adolescent
 24 Hansen of NPR
 26 Hair-dressers
 27 Small bit
 28 Bounty rival
 29 Former mates
 31 "B" — "boy"
 34 Barbecues
 35 Equivocate
 37 Chaps
 38 Bygone VHS alternative
 39 Reitman or Lendl
 40 Gael's garb
 41 Laugh-a-minute
 44 Ram's ma'am
 45 Conger, e.g.
 46 "Rocky Horror" room
 47 "CSI" evidence

DOWN
 1 Boom times
 2 They give a hoot
 2 Footnote abbr.
 3 Pay attention
 4 Shows philanthropy
 5 Lobbyists' org.
 6 Khan title
 7 Clears the decks?
 8 Tea party guest
 9 Holes 10-18
 10 Lotion additive
 11 Admonisher's word
 16 One of the Gershwins
 20 They give a hoot
 22 Footnote abbr.
 23 Prescribed maximum
 25 Civil War general
 26 Parisian pal
 27 Do-over on the links
 29 Wooden strip
 31 Payable
 32 Request
 34 Lascivious
 38 Florentine artist
 40 Regarding
 42 Throw into the mix
 43 Amorphous mass
 44 Hum-dinger
 45 Egyptian writhers
 47 Boast
 48 Welles role
 49 Topped 90
 52 Exist
 53 Promptly



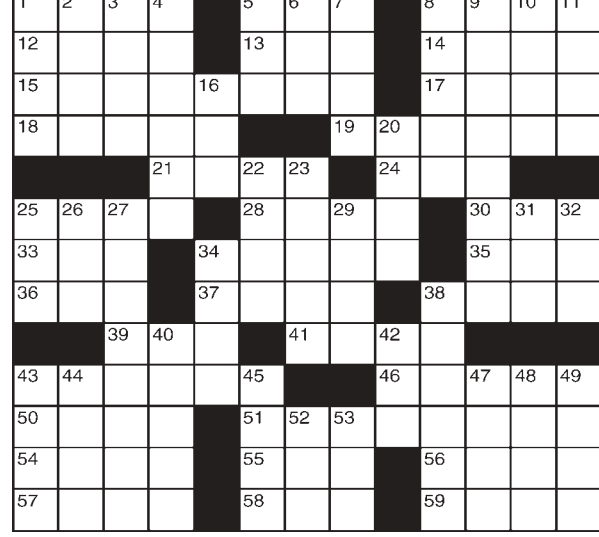
Yesterday's answer 1-6

- ACROSS**
 1 Pinnacle
 5 Singer
 8 "That's not — idea"
 12 Facial feature
 13 Way back when
 14 Composer
 15 What a scratch golfer doesn't have
 17 PC symbol
 18 Biblical witch city
 19 Bulb holder
 21 Ban-shee's cry
 24 Cyst
 25 Gets stuck
 28 Tab
 30 Turkish mountain
 33 Flightless bird
 34 Succotash beans
 35 Greek consonants
 36 Puppeteer
 37 Tend texts
 38 Techie, typically
 39 Mason's field
 41 Siamese
 43 Billie Burke role
 46 Water structures
 50 Olympic coaster
 51 Bunker
 54 "The Good Earth" heroine
 55 In favor of
 56 Sound quality
 57 Batter's tactic
 58 Wield a needle
 59 Unpaid
 20 They give a hoot
 22 Footnote abbr.
 23 Prescribed maximum
 25 Civil War general
 26 Parisian pal
 27 Do-over on the links
 29 Wooden strip
 31 Payable
 32 Request
 34 Lascivious
 38 Florentine artist
 40 Regarding
 42 Throw into the mix
 43 Amorphous mass
 44 Hum-dinger
 45 Egyptian writhers
 47 Boast
 48 Welles role
 49 Topped 90
 52 Exist
 53 Promptly

Solution time: 21 mins.

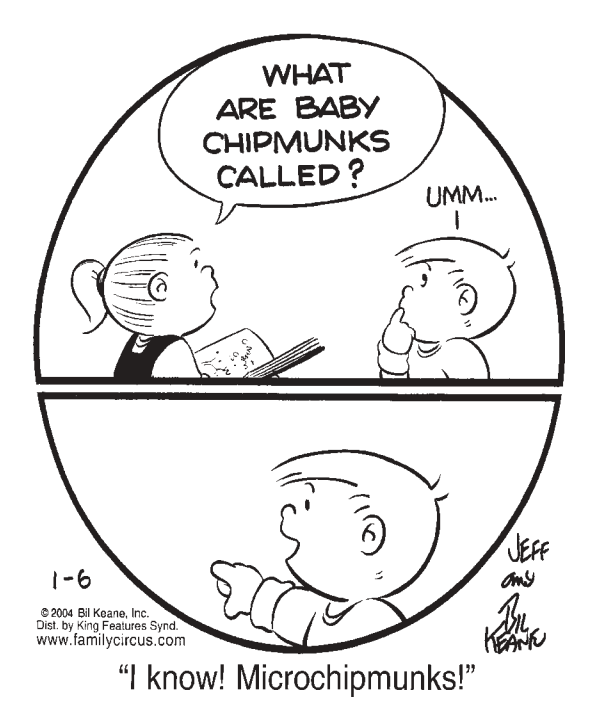
U	T	A	H	E	N	D	C	E	N	T
P	O	G	O	L	E	E	A	R	E	A
S	T	O	P	S	I	G	N	S	N	A
L	A	T	E	X	L	U	R	E		
U	S	E	R	S	I	N	E	W	A	V
L	I	E	A	T	T	A	C	K	T	I
L	A	N	G	S	Y	N	E	W	O	V
R	I	L	E	M	A	M	A	S		
B	I	K	I	N	I	R	E	F		
E	V	I	L	S	E	I	N	F	E	L
T	A	L	L	T	W	O	L	E	A	N
A	N	T	S	E	T	E	L	B	A	

Yesterday's answer 1-7



Yesterday's answer 1-7

Family Circus • Bill Keane



Bridge

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

Never Say Die

Opening lead — ten of clubs.
 Even the best players occasionally get to bad contracts — usually because of overbidding. When this occurs, declarer should not spend his time trying to allocate blame, but should do all he can to try to make the contract. Here is a case of this sort.
 North opened one notrump, and South responded three spades, which was certainly correct. But after North raised to four spades, South decided to try for slam — and this was certainly incorrect. There was almost no chance that 11 high-card points opposite 16 to 18 would produce enough tricks to make a slam.
 West led a club — lucky break No. 1 — and South had to put all his expertise to work to make the slam despite his two diamond losers. He won the club with the king, played the A-Q of spades and then cashed the A-Q of clubs, taking care to discard a heart from his hand instead of yielding to the temptation to immediately discard one of his diamond losers.
 The rest of the play was easy enough. South cashed the A-K of hearts and ruffed the seven of hearts. When the suit divided 3-3 — lucky break No. 2 — dummy's nine of hearts became a trick. A trump to the jack then allowed South to discard a diamond on the nine of hearts, and the slam was home.
 Maybe it's true that crime does not usually pay, but the fact is that in bridge it sometimes does. And while it's easy to condemn South for his optimistic bidding, it's hard to say he was wrong when the result proved that he was right.

South dealer.
 Neither side vulnerable.
NORTH
 ♠ A J 9 6 4
 ♥ J 5 2
 ♦ 8 7 4 3
 ♣ 6
WEST
 ♠ Q 10 8 7
 ♥ Q 9 4
 ♦ J 6
 ♣ Q J 10 8
EAST
 ♠ 2
 ♥ K 8 7 3
 ♦ Q 10 9 2
 ♣ 9 5 3 2
SOUTH
 ♠ K 5 3
 ♥ A 10 6
 ♦ A K 5
 ♣ A K 7 4
 The bidding:
 South 1 ♣
 West Pass
 North 3 NT
 East Pass
 Opening lead — queen of clubs.

An Unusual Safety Play

Opening lead — queen of clubs.
 There is considerable ambiguity attached to the term "safety play." At times it might refer to a play by which declarer can avoid a potential loser in a suit simply by playing his cards in the correct order.
 For example, if he has A-Q-9-3-2 and dummy has K-10-5-4, he can prevent the loss of a trick by cashing the ace first.
 If either defender turns up with J-8-7-6, declarer is then able to take the marked finesse against the jack. Observe that if declarer plays the king first, he loses a trick if his left-hand opponent started with four to the jack.
 More often, however, a safety play is employed when declarer is willing to lose one trick in a suit, but not two.
 Thus, with A-10-9-3-2 facing K-8-5-4, he can lead the two and, if the next player follows low, play the eight. This guards against losing two tricks if either defender has Q-J-7-6.
 Today's hand illustrates the latter type of play. Declarer wins the club lead, cashes the king of spades and continues with a spade. When West produces the eight, declarer finesses the nine!
 He doesn't expect the nine to win, but he takes the deep finesse because by doing so he guarantees the contract. If East produces the ten or queen, South is sure of four spade tricks, which is all he needs. As it happens, the safety play of the nine yields an unexpected overtrick.
 Without it, South goes down.
 Ordinarily, declarer would finesse the jack — the most lucrative play in the long run — but here he opts for the safety play because the deep finesse guarantees making three notrump.