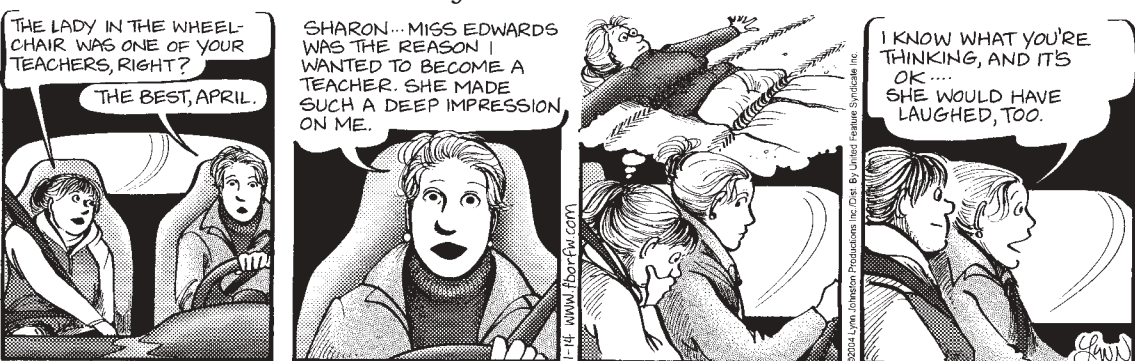


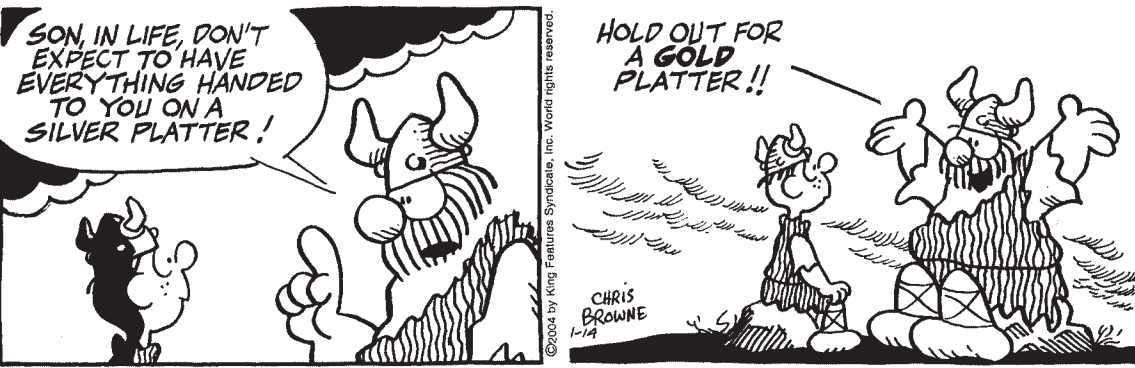
**For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston**



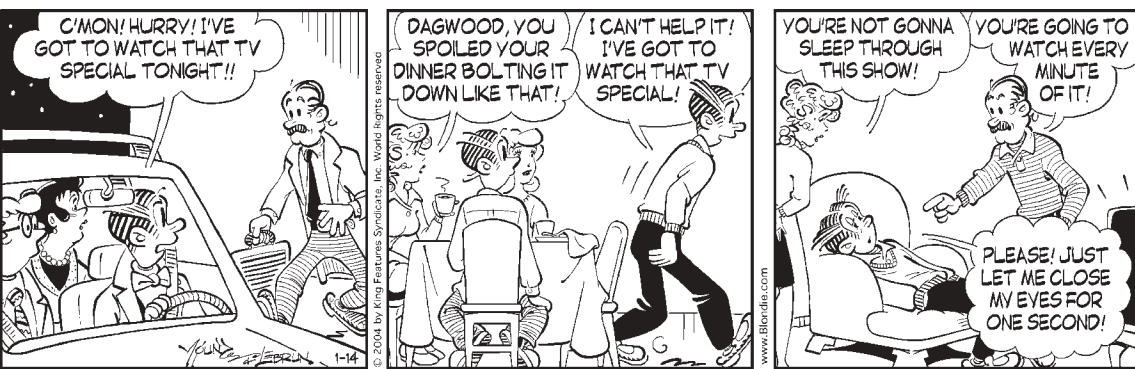
**Garfield • Jim Davis**



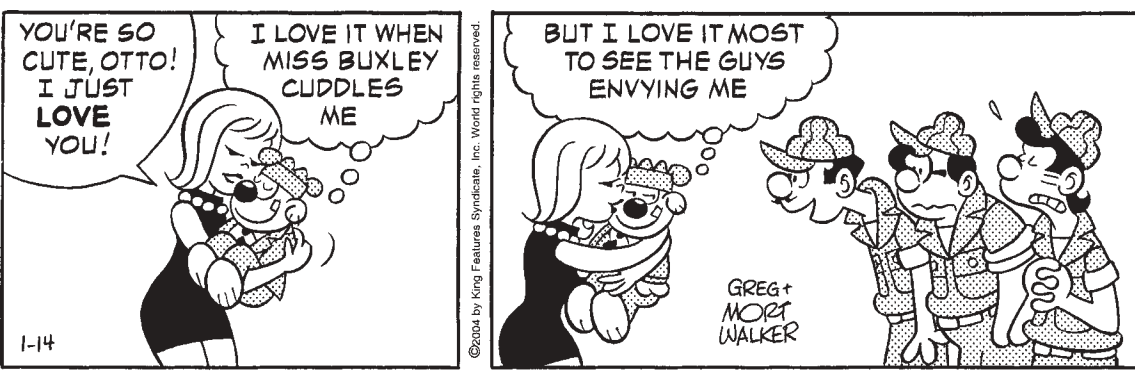
**Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne**



**Blondie • Chic Young**



**Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker**



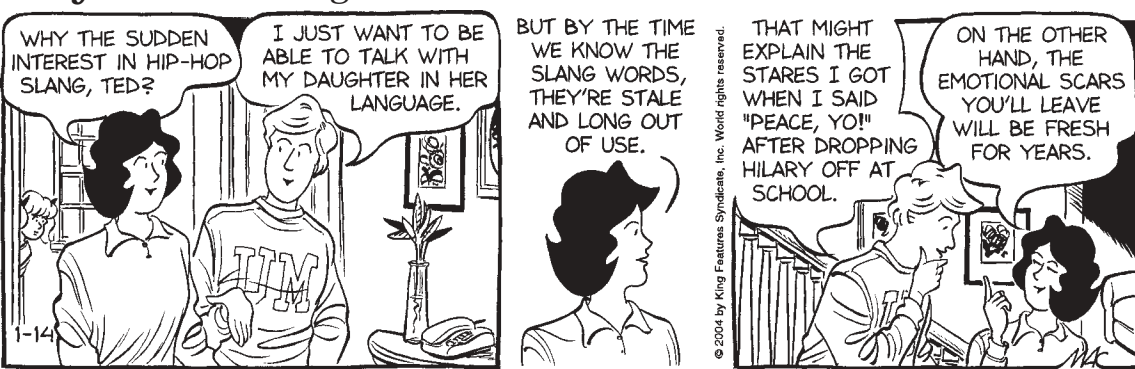
**Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott**



**Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott**



**Sally Forth • Greg Howard**



**Cryptoquip**

UZY FAPVF ZVLQ CVFAR GO F PBCXFGQ KGWGQA  
 SLFF RYDYQ EADY UA V RGCK KGDPMBWBCBK FQ  
 RYS HFVPY. LU'C V FUUTB, G AYBDD XZFX'K  
 HYQEVRYRU FAPVULAR. RB OCYGX MO XZB TMMQ.  
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MANY PEOPLE CONSIDER VITAMIN C A VERY USEFUL WEAPON FOR FIGHTING THE COLD WAR. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals L  
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE LOCAL HAIR SALON WILL NEVER MOVE TO A NEW PLACE. IT'S A PERMANENT LOCATION. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals R

**Crossword**

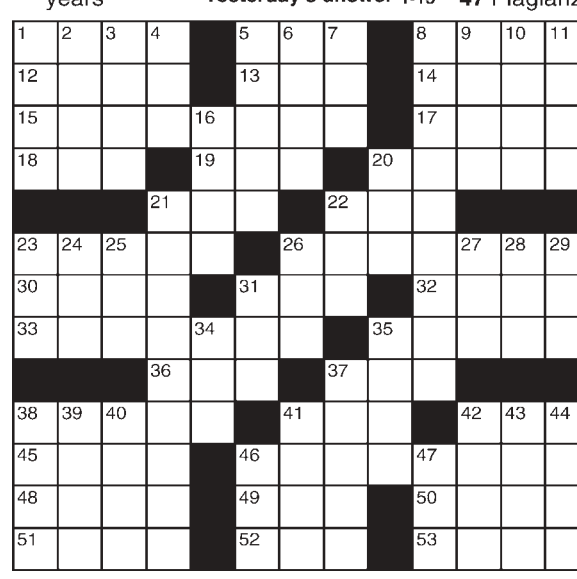
**ACROSS**  
 1 "Fargo" actor  
 5 Retiring  
 8 In such a manner  
 12 Field parcel  
 13 Itty-bitty  
 14 Symbol of Ireland  
 15 Stage  
 17 "— quam videri" (N.C. motto)  
 18 Chop  
 19 Tackle's teammate  
 20 "Poppycock!"  
 21 Play-ground game  
 22 Royal insomnia cause  
 23 Skirmish  
 26 Habitue  
 30 Wile E.'s supplier  
 31 Nail with a ray gun  
 32 React to yeast  
 33 The Beatles, e.g.  
 35 Betrayer  
 36 A billion years

**DOWN**  
 1 Numbers racket?  
 2 Longing

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

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

Yesterday's answer 1-13



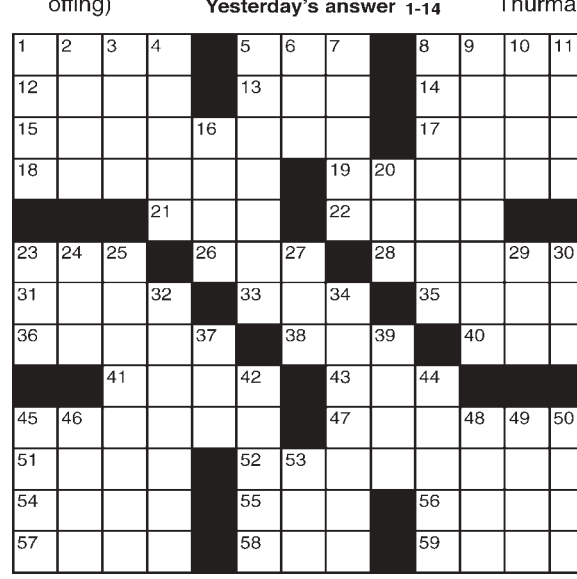
**ACROSS**  
 1 Datum  
 5 Solidify  
 8 High point  
 12 Melville novel  
 13 Veneration  
 14 Hotel employee  
 15 Booklet  
 17 Plus-size fashion model  
 18 Midwestern city  
 19 Paul Newman movie  
 21 Wye follower  
 22 Leave a lasting impression  
 23 Early hrs.  
 26 Ad-dressee  
 28 Catcalls?  
 31 Picks up the check  
 33 Gridiron grp.  
 35 Let fall  
 36 Beat  
 38 Grease  
 40 Firmament  
 41 Down the — (in the offing)

**DOWN**  
 1 Dandies  
 2 Part of a Latin 101 trio  
 3 Freebie  
 4 November birth-stone  
 5 Commercial sailing ship of yore  
 6 Dolly the clone, e.g.  
 7 River of forgetfulness  
 8 Fined  
 9 Anti-insect compounds  
 10 Non-speaking performer  
 11 "Broadway My Way" singer  
 16 Long of Louisiana

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

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

Yesterday's answer 1-14



**Family Circus • Bill Keane**



**Bridge**

**North dealer. East-West vulnerable.**

**NORTH**  
 ♠ 5  
 ♥ K Q 10 7 3  
 ♦ A K Q 8 2  
 ♣ J 5

**WEST**  
 ♠ A 3 2  
 ♥ 5 2  
 ♦ 9 6 4  
 ♣ A K 8 6 2

**EAST**  
 ♠ J 10  
 ♥ J 9 8 4  
 ♦ J 5 3  
 ♣ 10 9 7 3

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ K Q 9 8 7 6 4  
 ♥ A 6  
 ♦ 10 7  
 ♣ Q 4

**The bidding:**  
 North 1♥  
 East Pass  
 South 1♠  
 West Pass  
 North 2♦  
 East Pass  
 South 3♠  
 West Pass  
 North 4♦  
 East Pass  
 South 4♠  
 West Pass

Opening lead — king of clubs.

**A Little Bit of Rope**

Among other things, good card play includes the ability to induce your opponents to make mistakes. And it goes without saying that the more opportunities you give them to make mistakes, the more mistakes they'll make.

Assume you're West in today's deal, defending against four spades. You cash two club tricks and shift to a heart.

You don't think your partner can have the ace, but you hope you're wrong.

Declarer wins the heart with dummy's queen and leads the five of spades.

East produces the ten and South the king, whereupon you should follow smoothly with the deuce! If you do, you might defeat the contract, while if you take the king with the ace, declarer is sure to get home safely.

Let's first assume you took the king with the ace, which is what might happen if you weren't paying close attention to your knitting.

No matter what you did next, declarer would sooner or later cash the queen of spades, felling East's jack, and so finish with 10 tricks.

But if you duck the king of spades, South will have a tough problem to solve.

He won't know whether East started with the A-10 (in which case playing a low trump next makes the contract) or the J-10 (in which case playing the queen wins).

South might guess right even if you hold up your ace at trick two, but the point is that he can't go wrong if you take it at your first opportunity.

**South dealer. North-South vulnerable.**

**NORTH**  
 ♠ Q 4  
 ♥ K J 5  
 ♦ A 10 8 5 3  
 ♣ Q 6 2

**WEST**  
 ♠ J 8 5  
 ♥ 7 4 2  
 ♦ —  
 ♣ A K J 9 8 4 3

**EAST**  
 ♠ 10 9 6 3 2  
 ♥ 6  
 ♦ J 9 6 4  
 ♣ 10 7 5

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ A K 7  
 ♥ A Q 10 9 8 3  
 ♦ K Q 7 2  
 ♣ —

**The bidding:**  
 South 1♥  
 West 4♥  
 North 4♥  
 East Pass  
 South 5♦  
 West Pass  
 North 5♦  
 East Pass

Opening lead — king of clubs.

**A Grand Slam**

Let's say you're declarer in seven hearts and West leads the king of clubs. You ruff and see that you're sure to make the contract unless the missing diamonds are divided 4-0.

Even in that case, the grand slam can be made by playing the diamonds correctly.

Thus if West has the J-9-6-4, you can first cash the king and later finesse dummy's ten to nullify his diamonds. If East has the J-9-6-4, you can start the suit by playing dummy's ace first and in that way pick up the suit without loss.

Your only problem, therefore, is to try to discover which defender, if either, might have all four missing diamonds. This is not a difficult task if you go about it the right way.

You draw three rounds of trumps, noting that West started with three of them.

You next play the ace of spades, both opponents following suit, and at this point your correct course of play becomes crystal clear.

West surely must have had at least six clubs for his four-club bid, and since he's already shown up with three hearts and a spade, he cannot possibly hold four diamonds.

So, if either opponent has four diamonds, it must be East.

Accordingly, you lead a low diamond to dummy's ace at trick six. After West shows out, you continue with the ten. When East covers with the jack, you win with the king, cross to dummy's carefully preserved queen of spades and then lead another diamond, this time finessing against East's nine, to bring home the grand slam.

Note that if you had started the diamond suit by first playing the king from your hand, the grand slam would have gone down the drain.

