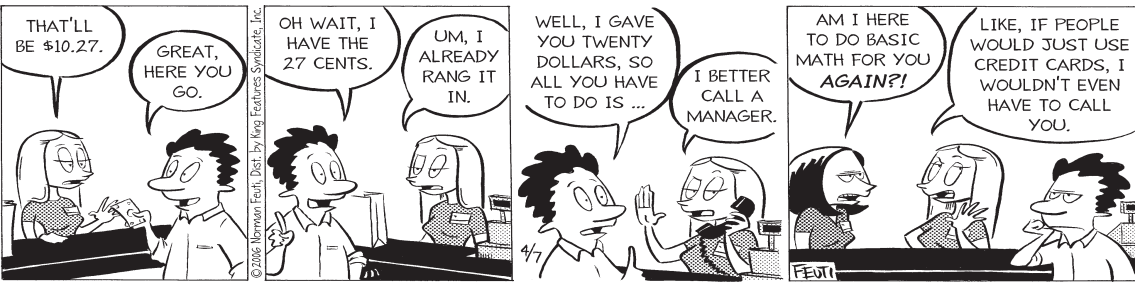


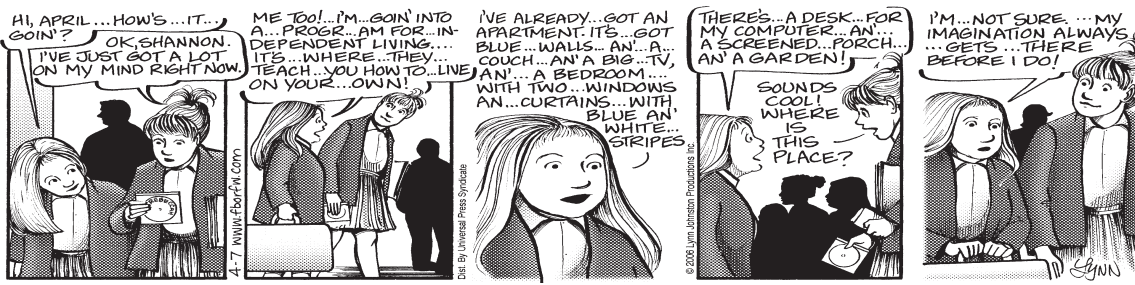
Retail • Norm Feuti (Sample)



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott (Sample)



For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



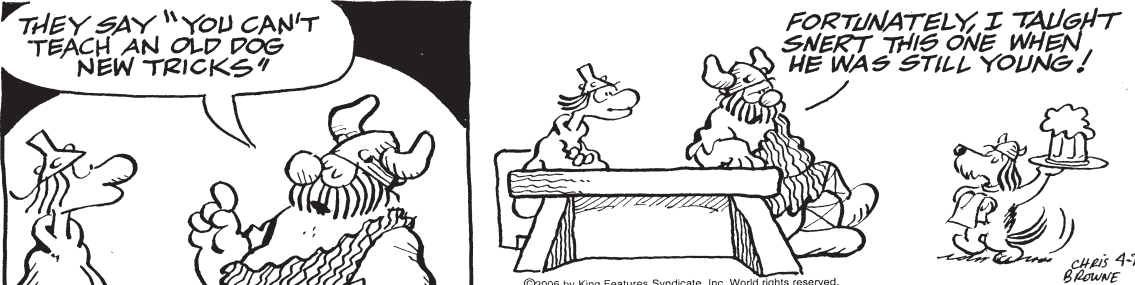
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Garfield • Jim Davis



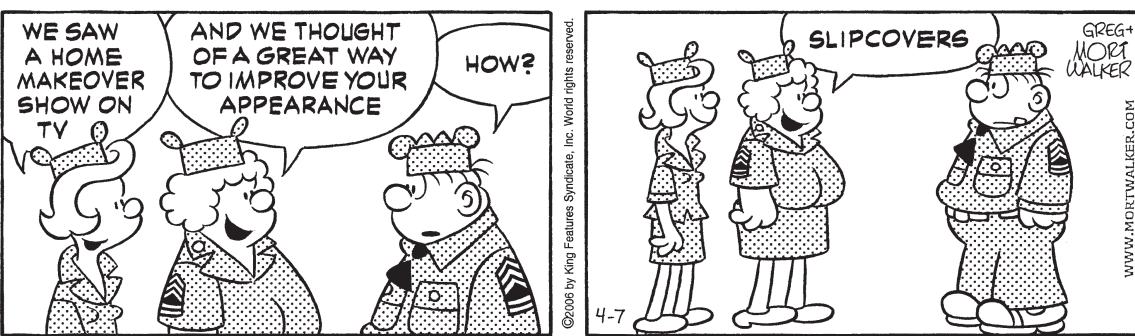
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Cryptoquip

ND T FMQHTNE GMEFNB LR ERS JSVVRJQ MQRHQITE
GTVHNJM AMQM DRBB KD ZBKAKRGZLRJ HKMUI
GQKDTENHNMV, N'W FTBB NH MQI Z IUTKCC RSI RB
T FQKVV AKQWV GRPPBM. JQQKGM Z IRIZC QCCKVJQ?
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHY DO YOU THINK THE DOCTOR WAS TAKING THEM OUT. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A CERTAIN PENCIL PASTIME WERE FULL OF PROFANITIES, I'D CALL IT A CROSS WORDS PUZZLE.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals F Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals Y

Crossword

ACROSS

1 Insecticide letters
4 Generous slice
8 Plumbum
12 Carnival site
13 Forum garb
14 Harvard's rival
15 Likely loser
17 "— have to do"
18 Wingless blood-sucker
19 Coop dweller
21 Indivisible
22 Fairway bend
26 Word on the street?
29 Zero-star review
30 Geological period
31 Sluggish
32 Stashed
33 Departed
34 Id counterpart

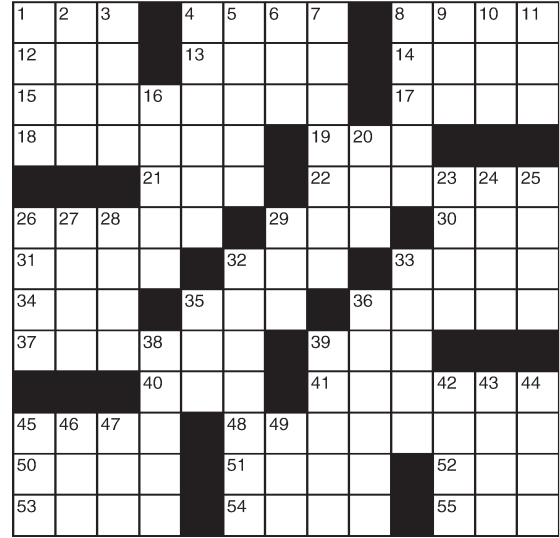
DOWN

1 Defeat decisively
2 Gourmandize
3 One of Taylor's
4 Threaded
5 Get stuck
6 Past
7 Tigris city
8 Dishonest
9 Take the cake?
10 The whole
11 Costa-Sol link
16 Black board?
20 Many millennia

23 Dregs
24 Sea eagle
25 Trade-agreement acronym
26 Coaster
27 Biz symbol
28 Eager, plus
29 Wrestler's coup
32 Main road
33 Cardiff populace
35 Petrol
36 Ill will
38 Housecat
39 Must, jocularly
42 Between jobs
43 Implement
44 Early birds?
45 Siesta
46 Swiss canton
47 Welcome sight?
49 Hearty brew

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 4-7



ACROSS

1 Excited, with "up"
6 Bagatelle
12 Ingratiate
13 Virgil epic
14 Cancel out
15 Immobilized
16 Venison source
17 Booty
19 Fella
20 Houston acronym
22 Ph. bk. data
24 Expert
27 Church service
29 Siamese
32 Movie about
35 Paul's footstep-following daughter
36 Falco or McClurg
37 Part of FWIW
38 Amino-acid suffix

DOWN

1 Dangling site
2 Advantage
3 Long
4 Pack away
5 Equine display
6 Spanish appetizer
7 Hold sway
8 Hostel
9 Art of furniture placement
10 Stead
11 Vortex
12 Tackle's teammate
18 Part of a home-maker's schedule
21 "— Blue?"

23 Coopers-town Giant
24 After-hrs. bank
25 Ill. city
26 Goose-bump-inducing quality
28 Heel type
30 Sternward
31 Conditions
33 Operated
34 Prepared
39 Obliterate
41 Beginning
42 Lean and supple
43 Duel tool
45 Revue segments
47 Being, to Brutus
48 TV Batman portrayer
49 Crafty
51 Post-USSR assn.
53 Curved path

Solution time: 27 mins.

Yesterday's answer 4-8



Family Circus • Bill Keane



Bridge — Bidding Quiz

You are South, both sides vulnerable, in each of the following four hands. What would you bid at the point where the question mark appears?

1. S AQ H AKQJ863 D Q942 C —
South West North East
1 H Pass 2 D Pass
?

2. S 94 H K83 D KJ85 C QJ92
North East South West
1 NT 2 D ?
3. S AQJ4 H 62 D Q3 C AQ972
North East South West
1 H Pass 2 C Pass
2 H Pass 2 S Pass
3 H Pass ?

4. S AK983 H KQ62 D Q8 C A5
South West North East
1 S Pass 2 D Pass
2 H Pass 4 H Pass
?

1. Five notrump. This is the "grand slam force," compelling your partner to bid seven diamonds if he has two of the three top trump honors (diamonds are treated as trumps in this sequence). If partner has only one top honor, he responds six diamonds. In either case, you plan to play the hand in six or seven hearts after partner clarifies his diamond holding.

2. Double. East will probably go down 800 or 1,100, and you shouldn't let him off the hook by bidding three notrump instead. You don't often get a chance to extract such a big penalty at the two-level, and it would be foolish to let the opportunity pass you by.

3. Four hearts. You have a very sound opening bid facing partner's opening bid, which means there's almost certainly a game somewhere. With partner unable to support either clubs or spades, and apparently unwilling or unable to play notrump, there is no other choice but to undertake game in hearts. Partner might have any of these three hands:

S K73 H AKJ983 D J6 C 86
S 986 H KQJ7543 D A8 C 10
S K5 H AQ98754 D K7 C 63

and you would surely want to be in four hearts on each of them.

4. Four notrump. Partner has jumped to four hearts without knowing you have significantly more than an opening bid. You would have bid the same way without, say, the ace of clubs and queen of diamonds. These two treasures are almost surely worth two extra tricks, perhaps even more, so a slam is very likely. Even if partner responds five diamonds, showing only one ace, you should still bid six hearts.

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♦ A Q
♥ 7
♦ Q 7 6 4 3
♣ J 8 7 5 2

WEST
♦ J 10 7 4 3
♥ Q 8 3 2
♦ 10 5
♣ K 10

EAST
♦ 9 8 6 2
♥ J 9 6 5 4
♦ A J 9
♣ Q

SOUTH
♦ K 5
♥ A K 10
♦ K 8 2
♣ A 9 6 4 3

The bidding:
South 1 NT
West Pass
North 2 NT
East Pass
3 NT

Opening lead — four of spades.

The One and Only Way

To play good bridge, certain good habits have to be developed. One of the most important of these is to count winners when playing a notrump contract.

Consider declarer's approach to this deal. He won the spade lead with dummy's queen and led a club, taking East's queen with the ace. South then conceded a club to West's king, and West returned a second spade to dummy's ace.

Although the clubs were now established, declarer had only eight tricks he could cash — four clubs, two spades and two hearts. When he eventually led a diamond, East took the ace and returned a spade to chalk up a one-trick set.

When South's line of play is analyzed, it becomes clear that his approach could never have succeeded in making the contract. He had to lose a club and a diamond before he could score nine tricks, and since he also had to lose at least three spades after surrendering the lead twice, he was bound to fail.

If declarer recognizes this problem at trick one, he should see the merit in leading a low diamond from dummy at trick two. In the actual case, if East goes up with the ace, declarer acquires four diamond tricks and easily makes the contract. So let's say East plays the nine and South's king wins the trick.

Having "stolen" a diamond trick, declarer can now play the ace and another club. West wins and returns a spade to establish the suit, but his cause is already lost since South now has nine tricks consisting of four clubs, a diamond, two hearts and two spades.

Of course, if West happens to have the ace of diamonds, this line of play fails. But leading a diamond at trick two at least offers a reasonable chance for the contract, while tackling clubs first offers no chance at all.

