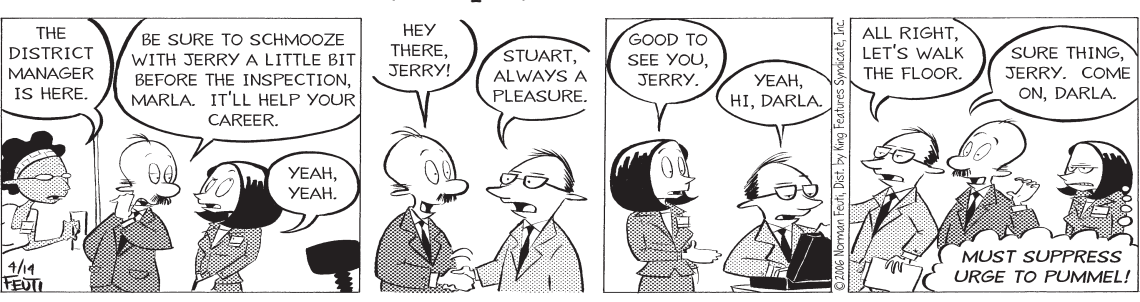
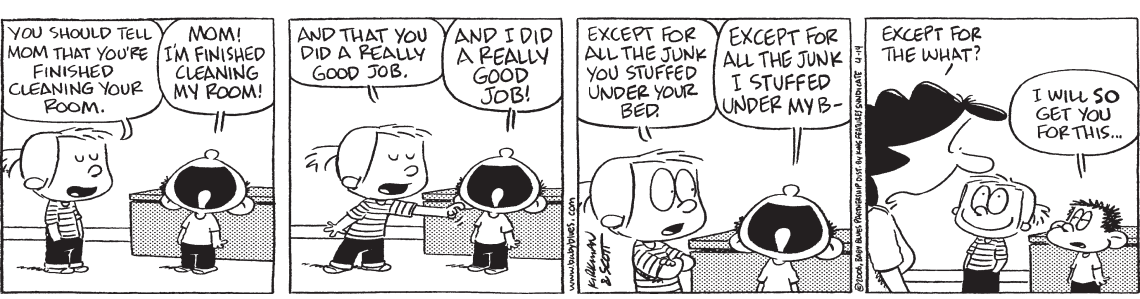


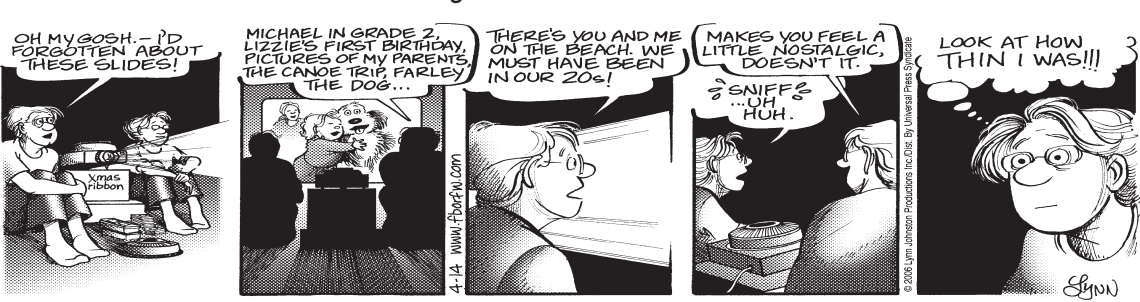
Retail • Norm Feuti (Sample)



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott (Sample)



For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



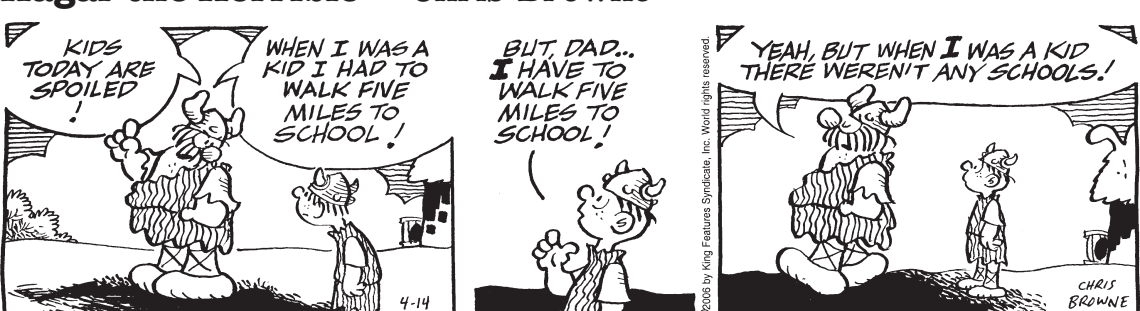
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Garfield • Jim Davis



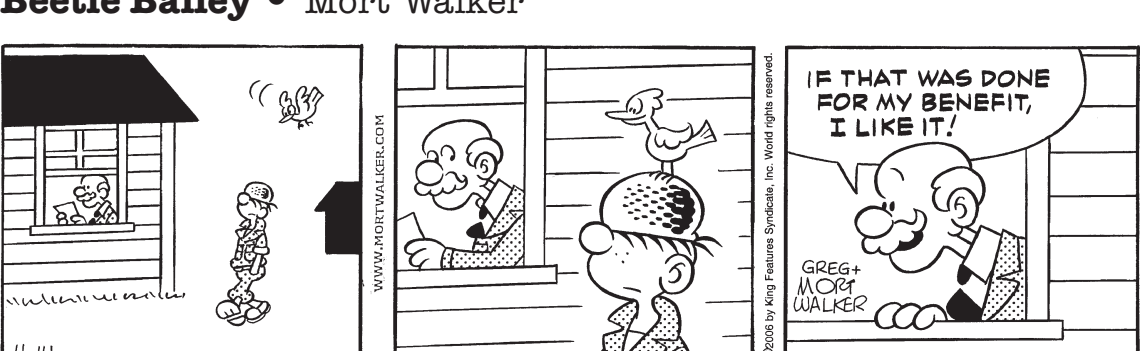
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Cryptoquip

MS X SCCR ILUXMKDU MI | MJYV QMT OHH NRSRW OJH
FXRD MK LPD KDLPDUBXKRI, | WDFYVW CM CNV WCVZ,
CKD FMWPL NXBB ML X | ZFKK QMT RV VJCVSFI
PCBBXKRDU NCBXKRDU. | CNV DMWC-WVOWMJ DVFSMH?
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I SUPPOSE ANY FIVE-STAR HEALTH CLUB FOR BIRDS WOULD DEFINITELY PROVIDE OWL SERVICE.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals L
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A FOOD STRAINER IS MADE IN THE NETHERLANDS, ONE MIGHT CALL IT A HOLLANDER COLANDER.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals D

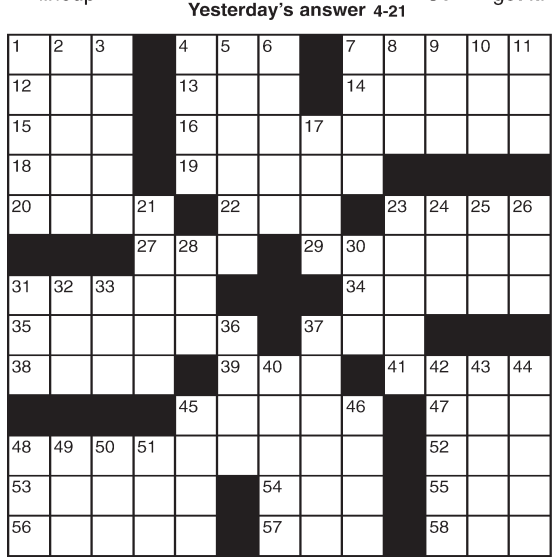
Crossword

- ACROSS**
1 Endeavor
4 Actress Gardner
7 Decline
12 Court
13 Chat-room chortling
14 Lisa Marie's dad
15 Toss into the mix
16 Archaeologist's souvenirs
18 Born
19 Open
20 "A good walk spoiled," said Twain
22 Geological time
23 Into the sunrise
27 Bagel topping
29 Church custodian
31 Farewell
34 Visitor
35 Kitchen gadgets
37 Turf
38 Piano lineup
- DOWN**
1 Nasality
2 Copland ballet
3 Make like Whittman
4 Comment re Yorick
5 Eddy
6 Sacrifice site
7 Took off
8 Carte lead-in
9 Insulation material (Abbr.)
10 Perch
11 Curvaceous character?
17 401(k) alternatives
21 Escapes
23 Ooze
24 Foolhardiness personified
25 Call for help
26 Stick with a kick
28 "— Town"
30 Id counter-part
31 Clumsy craft
32 Conk out
33 Gelid
36 Meyers or Green
37 Puts on the line
40 Got up
42 Football ref, slangily
43 Fork options
44 Magnani and Moffo
45 Rumble souvenir
46 React in sorrow
48 Past
49 Same old same-old
50 Make lace
51 "— got it!"

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 4-21

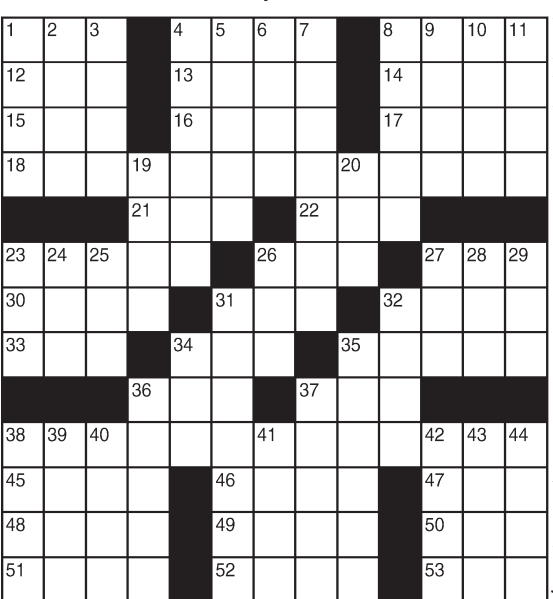


- ACROSS**
1 Hot tub
4 KFC additive
8 Cal or Georgia
12 Pouter's protrusion
13 Lotion add-in
14 Wan
15 "Monty Python" opener
16 Complain
17 Incursion
18 Trump show
21 "Gosh!"
22 Part of UNLV
23 Cavalry sword
26 Wrigley product
27 Intent
30 Dull sound
31 TV network
32 Grow weary
33 Sweet potato
34 Foundation
35 Shake-speare's Katherine
- DOWN**
1 Skirt feature
19 On in years
- ACROSS**
36 Muppet eagle
37 Vast expanse
38 Star of a short-lived version of
45 Bread spread
46 Clayey soil
47 Comic Leno
48 Ollie's pal
49 "My Name Is —"
50 Cleo's booty slayer
51 A few
52 Agile
53 Pi follower
- DOWN**
2 Heart of the matter
3 Basilica area
4 Impede
5 Choose the window instead of the aisle?
6 Bellow
7 Low Countries' union
8 Knave of Hearts' occurrence
9 Actor
10 Stylish
11 Stevenson villain
- DOWN**
20 "Full Metal Jacket" site
23 Pigs' digs
24 "Caught ya!"
25 Vagrant
26 Pantheon member
27 Football filler
28 Rage
29 Kitten's comment
31 Cow, ewe, hen, etc.
32 Spring occurrence
34 "Humbug!"
35 Attractive
36 14 pounds
37 Harrison colleague
38 Peat-bog material
39 Saxophone range
40 Quire group?
41 Afternoon TV offering
42 Open a bit
43 Impetuous
44 Glitch in print

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 4-22



Bridge — Test Your Play

1. You are declarer with the West hand at Three Notrump, and North leads the jack of diamonds. How would you play the hand?
- WEST: S 652, H A8, D Q63, C A10987
EAST: S AJ103, H KJ54, D AK52, C K
2. You are declarer with the West hand at Six Spades, and North leads the queen of clubs. How would you play the hand?
- WEST: S AJ109842, H K8, D K7, CA3
EAST: S 53, H AJ10, D AJ864, CK87

1. You start with eight sure tricks and lots of different ways to try to acquire a ninth. But to nail down the contract beyond the shadow of a doubt, win the opening diamond lead in dummy, play the king of clubs and overtake it with the ace!

Continue with the ten of clubs, forcing out the jack or queen. Regardless of who wins the trick or what is returned, you are in complete command. Sooner or later you force out the other missing club honor, thereby assuring yourself of three club tricks and the contract.

If you try any other method of play, you might succeed, but you might also fail. The only way to guarantee three notrump is by overtaking the king of clubs with the ace.

2. Obviously, the only problem is to avoid losing two trump tricks, since you have no losers in the three other suits. To give yourself the best chance, you should take the first club with dummy's king and lead a trump toward your hand.

If South produces the queen or king of trumps at trick two, your worries are over. You win with the ace, return the jack of trumps and shortly thereafter chalk up the slam. But what do you do if South follows with a low trump at trick two?

The correct percentage play — the play that will win in the long run — is the jack, planning to finesse again later if the jack loses to the queen or king. Despite anything you might have heard or thought to the contrary, the planned second finesse is far better than going up with the ace on the second round of trumps if South follows low again.

The suggested line of play is not guaranteed to succeed; it is merely the best way to play the given suit combination and offers about a 75 percent probability of losing only one trick in the suit.

North dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
A K
4 3
Q J 6 4 3 2
A K 6

WEST
Q J 10 8 5 4
6
A K 10 9 7
9

EAST
7 2
8 7 5 2
5
J 8 7 5 4 2

SOUTH
9 6 3
A K Q J 10 9
8
Q 10 3

The bidding:
North 1♦, East Pass, South 1♥, West 2♠
North 2NT, East Pass, South 3♣, West Pass
North 3♦, East Pass, South 4♥, West Pass
North 4♠, East Pass, South 6♥, West Pass

Opening lead — king of diamonds.

The Pressure Principle

Jan Wohlin of Sweden specializes in composing problems for both the amateur and the expert. Here's one that should prove interesting regardless of where you rank as a player.

Assume you're in six hearts and West leads the king of diamonds followed by a spade to dummy's king. You ruff a diamond at trick three, and East discards a spade. How would you continue?

It doesn't help much to look at the East-West hands, since you already know from the bidding that you can't make the slam by ruffing a spade in dummy. You also know, after East's discard at trick three, that West started with five diamonds headed by the A-K, which means dummy's diamonds cannot be established successfully.

Despite all these unpromising possibilities, the contract can be made by developing a squeeze against West. After ruffing the diamond, you draw four rounds of trumps and cash the A-Q of clubs, producing this position:

North: S A, H D Q J, C K
South: S 9 6, H 10, C 10
West: S Q J C, H D A 10
East: J 8 7 5

When you now lead the ten of clubs to dummy's king, West has no answer. If he discards a spade, you cash the ace of spades and take the last two tricks with the heart ten and spade nine; if he discards a diamond, you ruff the jack of diamonds and score the last two tricks with the spade ace and diamond queen.

Family Circus • Bill Keane

