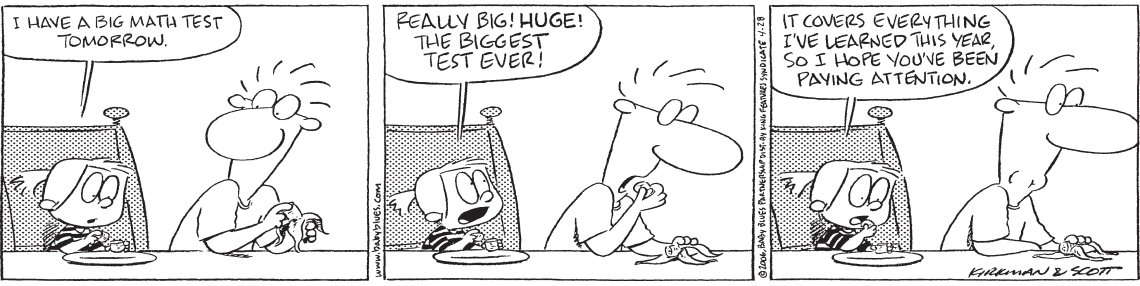


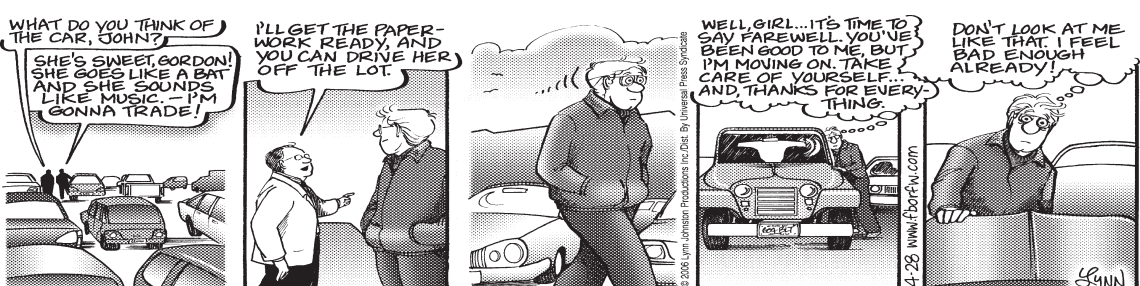
Retail • Norm Feuti (Sample)



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

YTDP E FTJIM JO SDJPN | HC VJ ARMJMBHR OGMNYS
SGLP, J JRENJPD BGK | NHIOTVZAN V XHS MC
FGKIM YJOT QTD RGQTDL | ISGVJDAJAI, HS RMYTN XA
E TEAAB IESGL MEB. | V RMBBMNHSZ MNNHSZ.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: NEW FILM ABOUT A PERSON WHO STUDIED BABY SHEEP FOR MANY YEARS: "SCIENCE OF THE LAMBS."
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals P
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A CHILD IS BEING BORN, I IMAGINE YOU COULD WISH THE MOTHER A HAPPY LABOR DAY.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals I

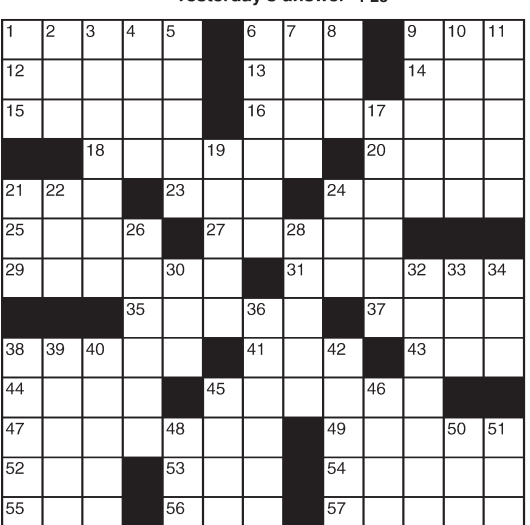
Crossword

ACROSS
1 Entourage, slangily
6 Purchase
9 "Kinder-garten —"
12 Barber-shop quartet member
13 In olden days
14 Timetable abbr.
15 Kitchen outpouring
16 Toronto athlete
18 Sushi condiment
20 Car
21 Gear for a roadie
23 Right angle
24 Lou Grant portrayer
25 Panorama
27 Handed out hands
29 "Seinfeld" role
31 Vow
35 Echolocation method

DOWN
1 Sch. group
2 "— the ramparts ..."
3 Chinese-food veggie
4 Body of an organism
5 Wipe out
6 Talk on and on
7 Tango variety
8 Addressee
9 Bayou cuisine
10 Speechify
11 Wilder co-star, often
17 Time for an egg roll
19 Standish
21 Rd.
22 Thou squared
24 The whole enchilada
26 With sagacity
28 Cook's attire
30 Without further ado
32 Sharpshooter
33 Milk buy (Abbr.)
34 Sprite
36 Toughen
38 Inverted "e"
39 Made pigeon noises
40 Angered
42 Has to have
45 Architect
46 Acknowledge
48 Slight taste
50 Born
51 Big-bang cause?

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 4-28



ACROSS
1 Snap
6 Music org. founded in 1914
11 Rosy?
12 Magical priest
14 Flint-stone's pal
15 Little rock
16 B&B
17 They're Scotch and water
19 Tall tale
20 Enthusiastic
22 Hot tub
23 Fax
24 Give a counter-argument
26 Pollen sensitivity
28 Bribe
30 Dance style
31 Leather leggings
35 Flip out
39 Protec-tion (Var.)

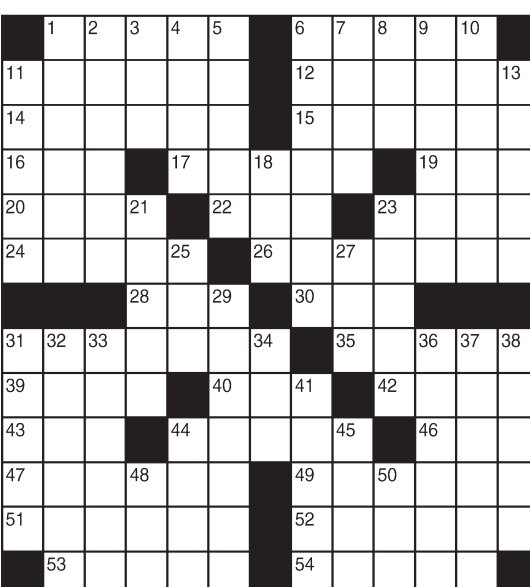
DOWN
40 Afternoon affair
42 Luke's mentor
43 Shade source
44 Magnificent
46 Deterioration
47 Coarsely ground grain
49 Talk turkey?
51 Episodic tale
52 AOL mes-sages
53 Tears in
54 Scans

1 Dive deep
2 Mingle
3 Scepter topper
4 Lofty
5 Spreads of a sort
6 Paving material
7 "— Leaving Home"
8 Urban transport
9 Adventure novelist
Eric
10 Fence makeup
11 Tuck, e.g.
13 Poor

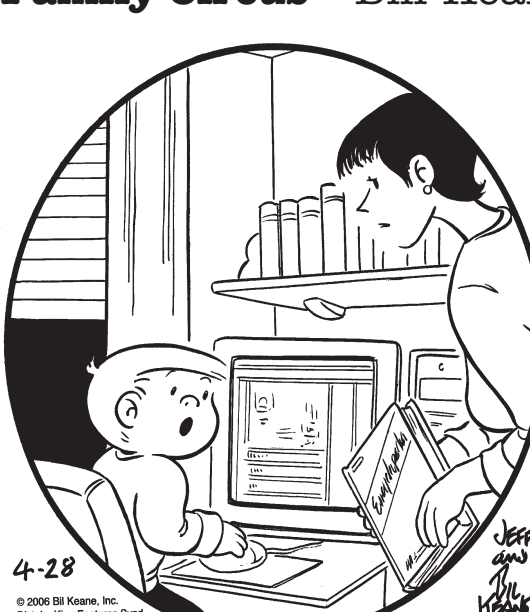
18 Figure head? (Abbr.)
21 Sudden rushes of wind
23 Soldier of India
25 Pirouette pivot
27 Trail the pack
29 Long-winged birds
31 Quick looks
32 Less attractive
33 Sound quality
34 Venue for 29-Down
36 Grue-some
37 Ibsen's "— House"
38 Appoint-ments
41 Rage
44 Pleased
45 Cupola
48 Crib
50 Ovine

Solution time: 27 mins.

Yesterday's answer 4-29



Family Circus • Bill Keane



"It's easier to Google people than to find them in the encyclopedia."

Bridge — Bidding Quiz

1. You are South, and the bidding has gone:

	South	West	North	East
1 S		2 H	3 C	Pass
3 D		Pass	4 S	Pass
?				

What would you bid now with:
S AQJ105 H 72 D AK983 C 4

2. You are South, and the bidding has gone:

	East	South	West	North
3 C		4 H	Pass	6 H
Pass		?		

What would you bid now with:
S AK H AQJ843 D 10 C A982

1. Five diamonds. Your partner has bid rather strongly, and there is no doubt you're close to a slam. However, you can't undertake the slam unilaterally with two heart losers, nor would Blackwood solve the problem if partner responded five diamonds, showing one ace. Conversely, you can't pass because it might easily turn out that slam is ice-cold. Since you can't tell just how high to go, your best shot is to leave the decision to partner. He will know you're trying for slam when you bid five diamonds, because otherwise you would have passed four spades. He might have any of the following four hands, consistent with his previous bids, and will know exactly what to do over five diamonds:

1. S K963 H J4 D Q5 C AKQ82
2. S K764 H 9 D Q104 C AKJ93
3. S K872 H K5 D 6 C AKJ1075
4. S K94 H A83 D Q7 C AK982

With the first hand, containing two heart losers, he would sign off at five spades, which you'd pass. But with the next three hands, which contain first- or second-round heart control, as well as other key values, he would bid six spades.

2. Seven hearts. This is one of those cases where you do or you don't, and the nod here goes to do. It's hard to imagine a hand partner might hold where you wouldn't have a good chance for seven, and you shouldn't try to talk yourself out of bidding a grand slam just because it's possible to concoct a hand partner might have that would make seven a risky bid. In effect, you're faced with a mathematical proposition. To undertake a grand slam, the odds have to be 2-to-1 or better in your favor. You don't have to be 100 percent sure of a favorable outcome, as some players contend; all you need is the conviction that partner will produce a hand that is likely or certain to yield all the tricks. You start by assuming partner can't have two club losers; there's no way he could jump to six hearts with such a holding. Nor could he bid six with an aceless hand, regardless of what he held in clubs. He is far more likely to leap to six with any of the following hands, and you would make seven with each of them:

1. S Q93 H K972 D AKQ72 C 5
2. S Q72 H K1065 D AQJ843 C —
3. S QJ84 H K972 D AK93 C 7

East dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 6 5
♥ Q 9 7 6 4
♦ Q 10 8 6 5 3
♣ —

WEST
♠ 8 7 4 2
♥ A K 10 8 3 2
♦ J 9
♣ 5

EAST
♠ A K J 10 9
♥ J 5
♦ K 7 2
♣ J 8 2

SOUTH
♠ Q 3
♥ —
♦ A 4
♣ A K Q 10 9 7 6 4 3

The bidding:
East 1 ♠ South 5 ♣ West Dble North All Pass
Opening lead — king of hearts.

Oh, Those Opening Leads!

This deal occurred in a high-stakes rubber bridge game. South's five-club overall was certainly a good tactical measure. Not only was there a good possibility he could make the contract on its merits, but there was also a good chance that by cramping the bidding, he would make matters extremely difficult for the opponents.

As expected, West had a tough decision to make. He thought five spades was by no means certain to be made (it would probably have gone down one) and felt he simply couldn't afford to pass with the A-K of hearts as potential tricks.

A spade lead would surely have defeated the contract, but West wanted to first "take a look" at dummy and so led the king of hearts. West had his look, but it was short-lived. Declarer ruffed the heart and proceeded to reel off every one of his trumps, on the last of which East had to choose a discard in this position:

	North	South	West	North
H	Q 9			
D	Q 10			

West
S 8
H A10
D J

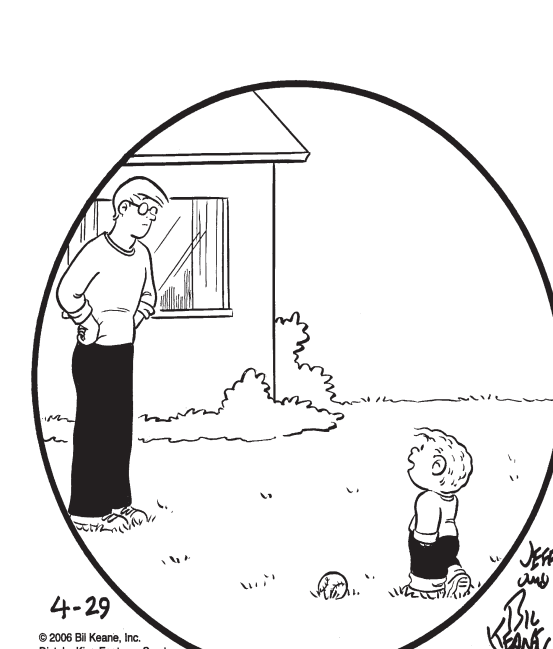
East
S AK
H J
DK 7

South
S Q 3
DA 4

If East discarded a heart, South would next lead a spade, compelling East to return a diamond from his king after he cashed his second spade. And if East discarded a diamond, South would cash the ace and queen of diamonds.

If East discarded a spade instead, declarer would simply lead a low spade, establishing his queen as a trick. South would then discard his diamond loser on East's forced heart return and so take the last two tricks.

Once West led a heart, there was simply no way the defenders could prevent declarer from scoring 11 tricks. (c)2006 King Features Syndicate Inc.



"Instead of throwing me the ball, couldn't you just hand it to me?"