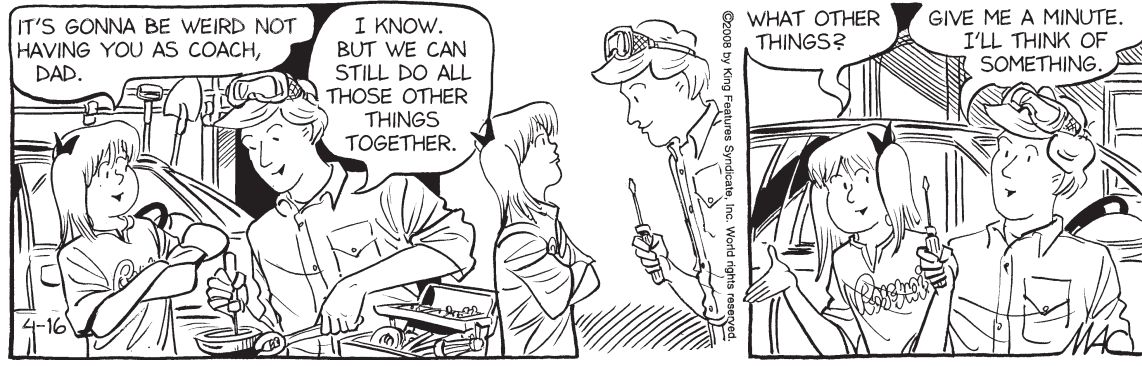
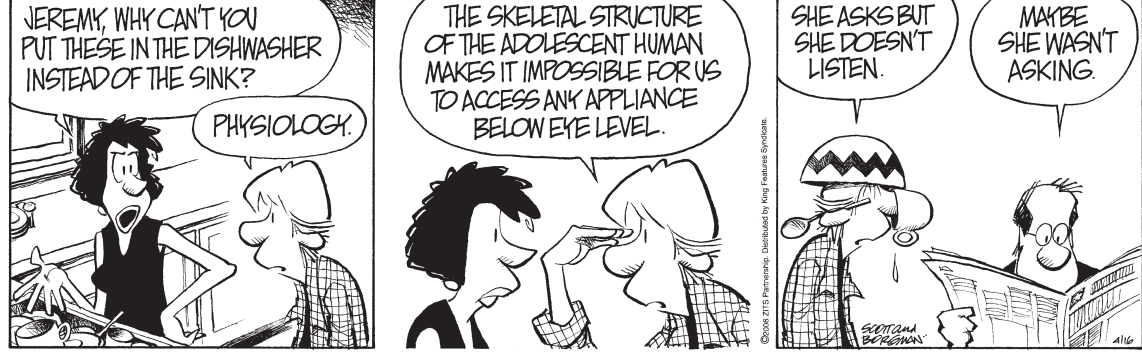


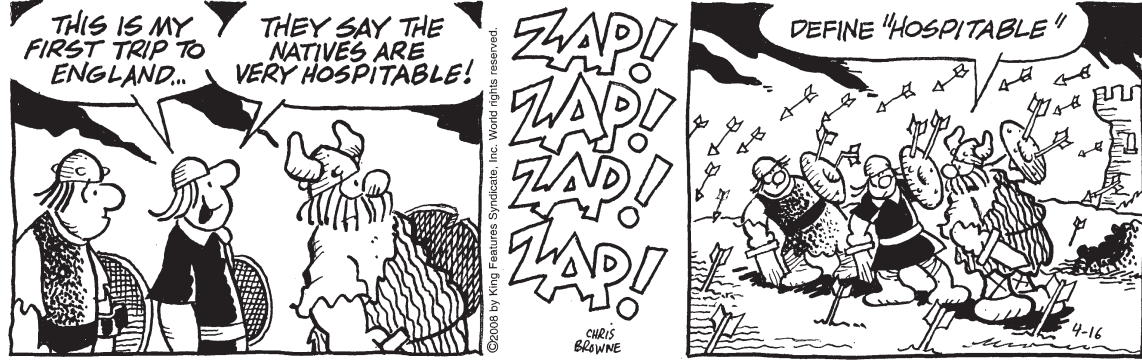
**Sally Forth • Greg Howard**



**Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott**



**Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne**



**Blondie • Chic Young**



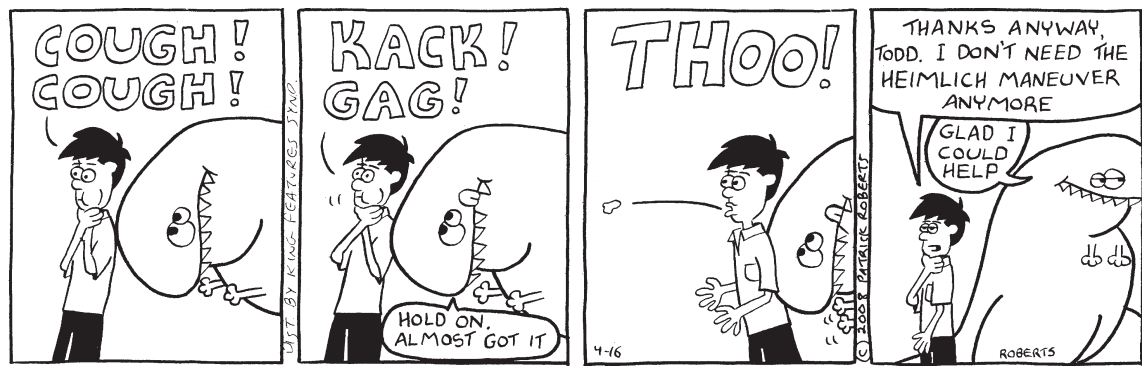
**Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker**



**Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott**



**Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts**



**Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters**



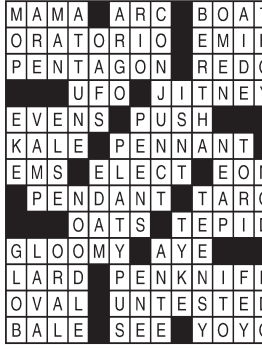
**Cryptoquip**

GL HSJ NOXQ O XQFH YSSC XNSD JT GWTGFV RSFF SZ  
 FQOPSB ZS PZQOT ZNGBYP SDTFF XNWIW RNTFWLDWTF-  
 LFSAPSAQVSCH, G'C EOTT FTXWIZK JIMKL SIW  
 ZNOZ FSVVOTQ EOJPO.  
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I PROPOSE THAT THE BOSS OF A GUILD OF MUSIC TRANSCRIBERS SHOULD GET NAMED "CHIEF OF STAFF."  
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals O  
 Yesterdays Cryptoquip: IF YOU HAVE A VERY GOOD REASON TO STEAL THINGS FROM SOMEBODY, I'D CALL THAT ROBBABLE CAUSE.  
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals L

**Crossword**

- ACROSS**  
 1 October birthstone  
 5 "Wind in the Willows" character  
 9 Treasure hunt aid  
 12 Sandwich shop  
 13 Tortoise's rival  
 14 Pub request  
 15 Emily Post's teachings  
 17 Deteriorate  
 18 Works with  
 19 Resentment  
 21 Washing vessel  
 24 Carte  
 25 "Zounds!"  
 26 Most straightforward  
 30 Astronaut  
 31 Ice bucket accessory  
 32 As well  
 33 Big redwoods
- DOWN**  
 1 Praise in verse  
 2 Favorite  
 3 Foreman  
 4 Fluid  
 5 You, once  
 6 Foe's fodder  
 7 Illustrations  
 8 Digs down  
 9 Milwaukee university  
 10 Brotherly baseball name  
 11 Sampras or Seeger  
 16 Sailors' org.  
 20 Squid squirt  
 22 Plead  
 23 Yeti's cousin  
 24 Periodicals, for short  
 26 Thwart  
 27 Genetic abbr.  
 28 Acidic  
 29 Mug variety  
 31 Drank to  
 34 Coffee shop vessel  
 35 Cowell and Wieselth  
 37 Winter-time woe  
 38 Actor Pitt  
 39 Continental coin  
 40 Rotten kid  
 41 Blue hue  
 44 NAFTA signatory  
 45 Debtor's letters  
 46 Moment, for short  
 47 Wapiti

Solution time: 21 mins.



Yesterday's answer 4-15

**Bridge**

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

**Better Safe Than Sorry**

Most hands offer declarer several options, and how he decides to handle them often determines the outcome of the contract.  
 Consider this deal where South got to four spades and West led the diamond king. Declarer now had to make his first decision -- whether or not to win the trick with the ace. In the actual case, South chose to play the six at trick one, hoping West would continue with a diamond.  
 But West, having noted his partner's discouraging deuce, shifted to the four of hearts at trick two. Again declarer had a choice: He could win the trick with the ace or finesse instead.  
 Declarer elected to finesse, and as a result, he went down one. East won the heart with the king and returned a diamond, and the defense eventually scored four tricks consisting of two diamonds, a heart and a club.  
 Certainly, if one focuses only on the heart combination shown here, declarer's best play by far is to attempt the heart finesse, since it offers a 50-50 chance of winning three tricks in the suit instead of two.  
 But, given the circumstances of this particular deal, while it was clearly right for South to duck the opening diamond lead, it was clearly wrong for him to take the heart finesse at trick two.  
 He could have virtually guaranteed the contract by going up with the ace, drawing trumps and then conceding a trick to the ace of clubs. Had South done that, his only losers would have been a heart, a diamond and a club, with his second diamond loser being deposited on one of dummy's club winners.  
 As always, declarer's first priority should have been to make the contract. The heart finesse, though tempting, was an option he should have rejected, since it risked the contract.

West dealer.  
 East-West vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
 ♠ J 9 6  
 ♥ 8 5 3  
 ♦ 9 7 5 4 3 2  
 ♣ K  
**WEST**  
 ♠ 10 2  
 ♥ K J 7 4  
 ♦ Q J 8  
 ♣ A J 5 4  
**EAST**  
 ♠ A 8 7 5 4 3  
 ♥ 10 2  
 ♦ —  
 ♣ 10 9 8 6 2  
**SOUTH**  
 ♠ K Q  
 ♥ A Q 9 6  
 ♦ A K 10 6  
 ♣ Q 7 3

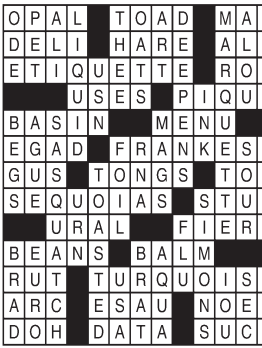
The bidding:  
 West 1 ♥  
 North Pass  
 East 1 NT  
 South 3 NT  
 Opening lead — ten of spades.

**What's in a Name?**

Nicknames abound in the bridge world, most frequently acquiring their derivation from the physical or behavioral traits of their owners. Some of the colorful titles include "The Beast," "The Snail," "The Rabbit," "The Albatross" and "The Whiz," the last being the nickname of the late Barry Crane, matchpoint wizard and TV director.  
 But perhaps the most peculiar moniker of all was the one popularly assigned during the 1980 World Team Olympiad to a Japanese player named Akio Kurokawa. Because of the letters of his first name, he became widely known as "Ace-King-Ten."  
 In this deal from one of the opening round-robin matches, Kurokawa, South, found himself staring at his name in diamonds in a three-notrump contract, reached as shown. West's spade lead was taken by the ace, whereupon East shifted to the ten of hearts, covered by the queen and king.  
 West was now at the crossroads of the play, and appeared to have found the right answer when he cashed the ace of clubs at trick three. Had he continued with another club, declarer could not have made the contract. But instead West reverted to hearts, no doubt hoping his partner held the nine.  
 Akio took full advantage of the miscue. After winning the heart return with the six, he next played his three namesakes -- the A-K-10 of diamonds -- conceding the ten to the queen and establishing three diamond tricks in dummy. As a result, he made exactly three notrump, losing a trick in each suit.  
 This proved to be a substantial gain for Japan, since at the other table Akio's counterpart played in a contract of one heart with the South cards, going down one for a total team loss of 450 points, or 10 IMPs. Incidentally, one of Ace-King-Ten's teammates at the other table was a fellow named Ohno. But that's another story.

- ACROSS**  
 1 Barbie's companion  
 4 Squashed circle  
 8 Ostentation  
 12 Historic time  
 13 Memo-randum  
 14 "Begone!"  
 15 Early bird?  
 16 Full miles in a marathon  
 18 Runner-up  
 20 Happy cohort?  
 21 Sylvester's impediment  
 24 "— New, Pussy-cat?"  
 28 Running the gamut  
 32 "Spam-a-lot" creator  
 Idle  
 33 Chit  
 34 Armstrong or Prima
- DOWN**  
 2 There-fore  
 3 Gripes repeat-edly  
 4 Facing a jury  
 5 Solemn promise  
 6 Partook at a picnic  
 7 Give tempo-rarily  
 8 Mind  
 9 Surprise  
 10 Miss Piggy's pronoun  
 11 Plague  
 17 AAA job  
 19 Shade source  
 22 Old portico  
 23 Young turkey  
 25 Speedy steed  
 26 Ocean motion  
 27 High-lander  
 28 Rasp  
 29 Defeat decisively  
 30 "That hurts!"  
 31 Goes like 70  
 35 Caught fly balls  
 38 Bow obse-quiously  
 40 Exist  
 42 Witness  
 45 Snare  
 47 Snack  
 48 Mature  
 49 Verve  
 50 Section of L.A.?  
 51 Moose's cousin  
 52 Dead heat  
 53 Under the weather  
 54 Born

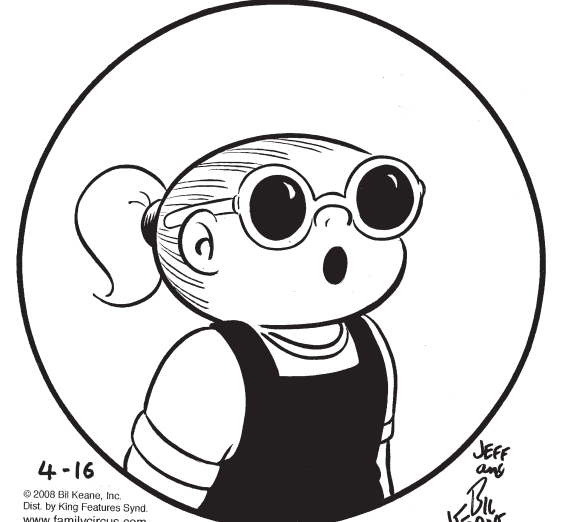
Solution time: 21 mins.



Yesterday's answer 4-16

**Family Circus • Bill Keane**

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



4-16  
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 "These glasses are too small for me. They're rubbing my eye feathers."