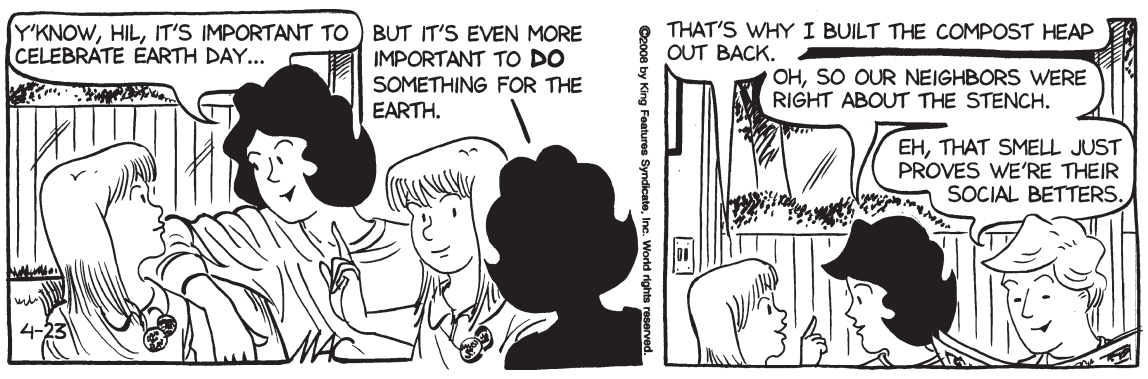
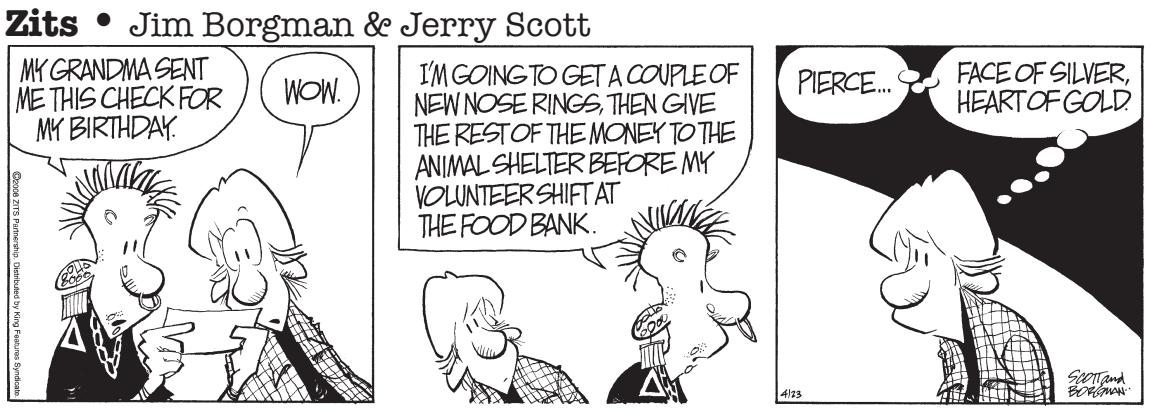
Sally Forth • Greg Howard

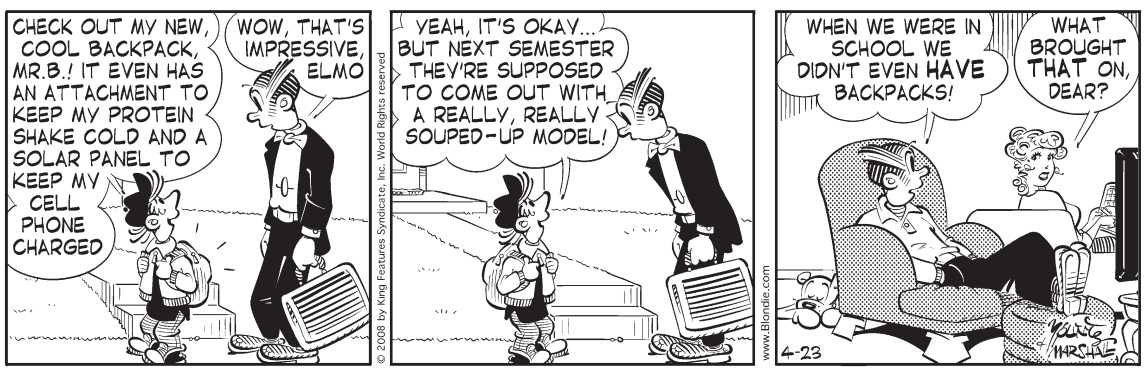


Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott

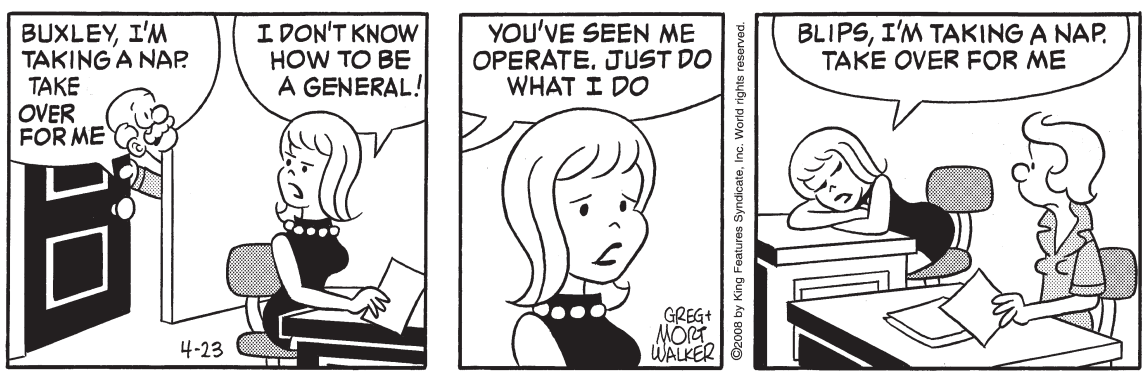


Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne

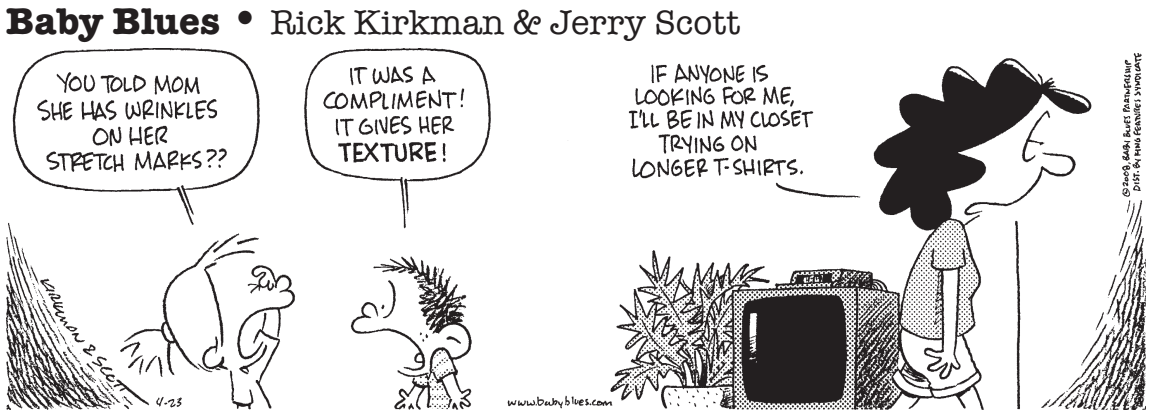
Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker

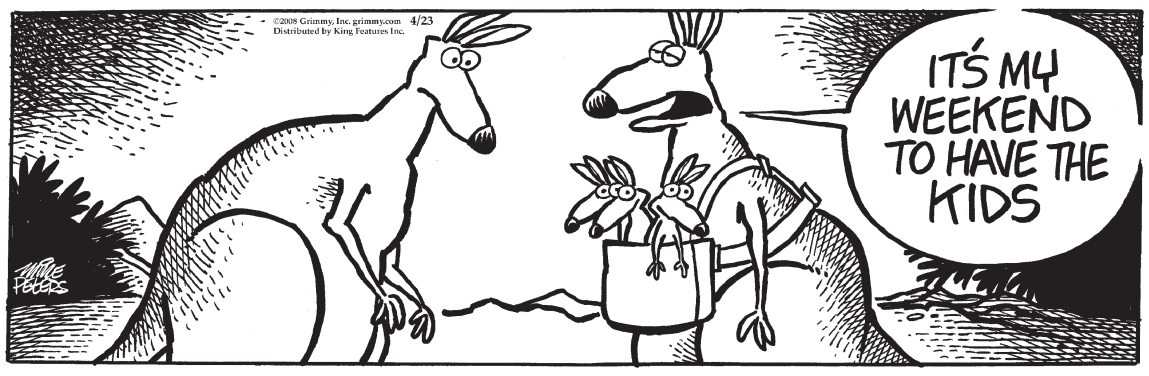


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts

Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Cryptoquip

VCZR UAGKDINKIR WQGQOQAI VZRYCKO SAD OTMQIU ZYRQGQRQKO? RCK WKTZDRNKIR AS RCK RDKZYCKDM.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: OLD AMERICAN MILITARY FIGURE WHO THREW EGGY DESSERTS AT HIS ENEMIES' FACES: GENERAL CUSTARD.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals T

KU JGL MOMMLJ GIQZV ZIIZV QLWL JI QLZ SBJWLYY UOPKBLCCI, QIOCZ S NSWKIPLJJL NSWWV SPPLJJL?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT GOVERNMENT DIVISION WATCHES FOR SPYING ACTIVITIES? THE DEPARTMENT OF THE TREACHERY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals P

Crossword

ACROSS
1 Kiddie-lit author Roald
5 Aries
8 Eatery
12 Clarinet's cousin
13 Historic time
14 Enthusiastic
15 Needle's hiding place?
17 Marathon fraction
18 Young bloke
19 Football team
21 Hemmed and —
24 Bosc, for one
25 Wan
26 Hasselhoff series
30 Conk out
31 "Will & Grace" role
32 Savings-plan acronym
33 Crosses the wrong way
35 Coagulate
36 Earthenware vessel
37 Screw up
38 Rhododendron kin
41 Weeding tool
42 Griffin of TV
43 Dawn
48 Ontario neighbor
49 Spinning rate (Abbr.)
50 Hint
51 Turfs
52 Japanese money
53 Tense

DOWN
1 Homer's outcry
2 Lawyers' org.
3 Today (Sp.)
4 Stahl of "60 Minutes"
5 Peruse
6 Joan of —
7 Ogle, with "at"
8 Photog's gear
9 Tel —
10 Manicurist's tool
11 Paradise
16 Young Mr. Lincoln
20 Croquet venue
21 Muslim's pilgrimage
22 Largest continent
23 Curds' partner
24 Anorak
26 Troubadour's skill
27 Pinball no-no
28 Gator's cousin
29 "Thirty days — ..."
31 Hardy cabbage
34 Pack members
35 Compel forcefully
37 Hope or Barker
38 Iowa city
39 Nil
40 Dry
41 Church rendition
44 Mimic
45 Bygone days
46 Summertime abbr.
47 Indispensable

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 4-22

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				16				■	17			
■	■	■	18			■	19	20				
21	22	23			■	24				■	■	■
25				■	26					27	28	29
30			■	31					■	32		
33			34					■	35			
■	■	■	36				■	37				
38	39	40				■	41			■	■	■
42				■	43	44				45	46	47
48				■	49			■	50			
51				■	52			■	53			

ACROSS
1 Winged
5 Courteous gesture
8 Dressed
12 Manage somehow
13 Hot tub
14 Easter emblem
15 On-the-go beverage container
17 Duel tool
18 Lauder of cosmetics
19 Obliterates
21 Kennedy matriarch
24 Pismire
25 Part of A&E
28 Padlocked piece
30 Wall climber
33 Mainlander's souvenir
34 Long daggers
35 Spy-novel org.
36 Mischievous tyke
37 Sans siblings
38 Read cursorily
39 This sign goes up ...
41 ... when there isn't one of these
43 Ripen
46 Idaho's capital
50 Pronto, on a memo
51 5-digit ID numbers
54 Abundant
55 Rage
56 Dregs
57 Protected
58 Feedbag tidbit
59 Benefit

DOWN
1 Rue the run
2 Clark's co-worker
3 Date with a Dr.
4 Alludes (to)
5 Badge earners' org.
6 Chances, for short
7 Respond to reveille
8 Spick 'n' span
9 Collar stain?
10 Sheltered
11 Coloring agents
16 Writer Buscaglia
20 Knocks
22 Leg part
23 Counts' counterparts
25 Liston opponent
26 Sleep phenom
27 Court officer
29 Terrier type
31 Half of XIV
32 Sweet potato
34 A Dutch one is divided
38 Bar lineup
40 Money of India
42 "The View" net
43 TV detective Veronica
44 One side of the Urals
45 Basso Pinza
47 Notion
48 Quest
49 Being, to Brutus
52 Playwright Levin
53 Favorite

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 4-23

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				16				■	17			
18					■	■	19	20				
■	■	■	21		22	23	■	24			■	■
25	26	27		■	28		29		■	30	31	32
33			■	34					■	35		
36			■	37				■	38			
■		39	40		■	41		42		■	■	■
43	44				45	■	■	46		47	48	49
50				■	51	52	53					
54				■	55			■	56			
57				■	58			■	59			

Bridge

South dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ K J 3
♥ 8 4 2
♦ Q 10 8 5
♣ A K 7

WEST
♠ 10 8 7 2
♥ K Q 10 5
♦ 6 3
♣ Q 9 6

EAST
♠ A Q 9 5
♥ J 9 7 6 3
♦ 7 2
♣ J 3

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

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♦	Pass	3 ♦	Pass
5 ♦			

Opening lead — king of hearts.

It's a Delicate Operation

Most game-going hands are played in notrump or a major suit, largely because it is easier to score nine or 10 tricks in those contracts than 11 in a minor suit. But hands do occur where the best contract is five clubs or five diamonds, and here is a case of that sort.

South opened one diamond, raised by North to three diamonds (forcing). Since South's hand was suit-oriented and his partner had avoided notrump, it seemed that the best shot for game was probably West made the normal lead of the king of hearts, and this gave declarer a chance to show his wares. He could see three potential losers -- two spades and a club -- and his primary task was to limit himself to one spade loser, if possible.

So, after winning the heart and cashing the Q-A of diamonds, he led a low club toward dummy, planning to play the seven if West followed low. But West put up the nine, forcing declarer to win with the king.

A heart was ruffed and another low club led. This time West had to play low, and the seven lost to the jack. East could do no better than return a heart, ruffed by South.

Declarer then led a club to the ace, returned to his hand with a trump and discarded two of dummy's spades on the 10-8 of clubs. As a result, his only losers were a club and a spade.

In bringing home the contract, South went to great lengths to keep the dangerous opponent -- West, in this case -- from gaining the lead while he developed his clubs. Had South instead made the lazier play of the A-K and another club, West could have defeated the contract by shifting to a spade.

North dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

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

WEST
♠ J 9
♥ 10 9
♦ J 9 8 7 4 2
♣ Q 7 6

EAST
♠ Q 7 4
♥ K 6 4 3 2
♦ 5
♣ 10 4 3 2

SOUTH
♠ A K 8 6
♥ 8
♦ A Q 6 3
♣ A J 9 8

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	4 NT	Pass
5 ♦	Pass	6 ♠	

Opening lead — seven of diamonds.

The Infernal Optimist

Some players haven't a care in the world and let nothing bother them, while others, like Atlas, carry a whole world of worries on their shoulders. Consider this deal played in a match between Poland and China. At the first table, the Polish North-South pair got to six spades on the bidding shown. Four notrump was Blackwood, and five diamonds showed one ace.

West led a diamond, won by dummy's ten, and South played a low trump to the ace, on which West produced the nine. The Polish declarer, obviously a chronic worrier, was afraid the nine might be a singleton, so to cover this possibility, he led the six of spades toward dummy's ten at trick three. This would have limited East to one trump trick had he started with the Q-J-7-4 of spades.

In the actual case, though, South's cautious approach backfired when West won with the jack and led a second diamond, ruffed by East for down one. Declarer's attempted safety play thus lost the slam by making allowance for a 4-1 spade division (which did not exist) as opposed to guarding against a 6-1 diamond division (which did exist).

At the second table, the Chinese South adopted a much more happy-go-lucky style in both the bidding and the play. The bidding went:

North	East	South	West
1 [H]	Pass	1 [S]	Pass
2 [S]	Pass	6 [S]	

Here, too, West led a diamond, taken by the ten. Declarer then played a spade to the ace and -- without a care in the world -- continued with the king. As a result, the only trick South lost was a trump, and he easily made the slam.

Family Circus • Bill Keane

"Do you take this man to be your waffley wetted husband?"