

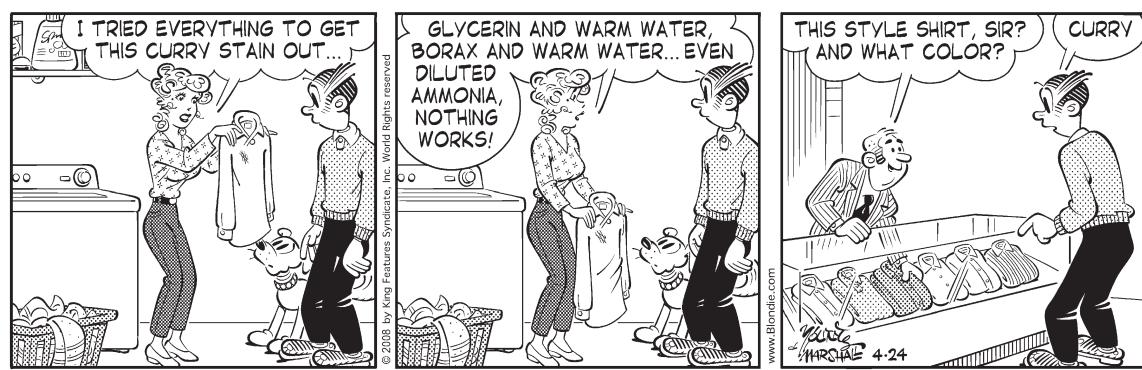
**Sally Forth • Greg Howard**



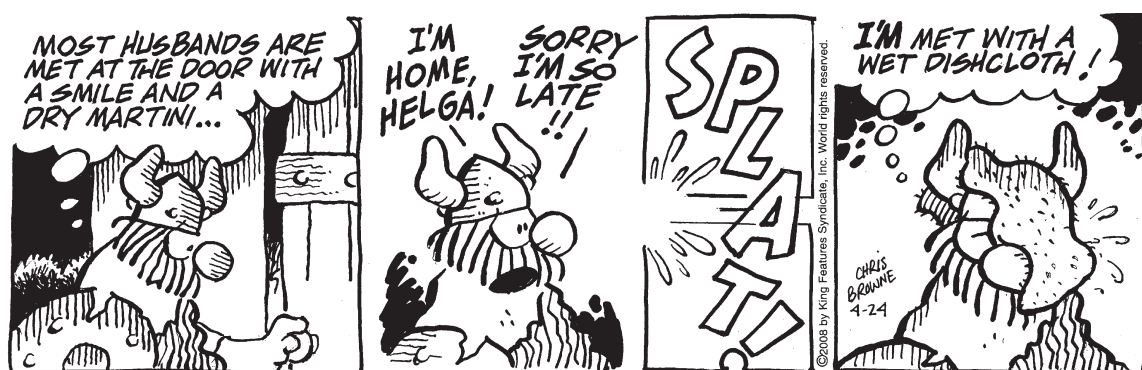
**Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott**



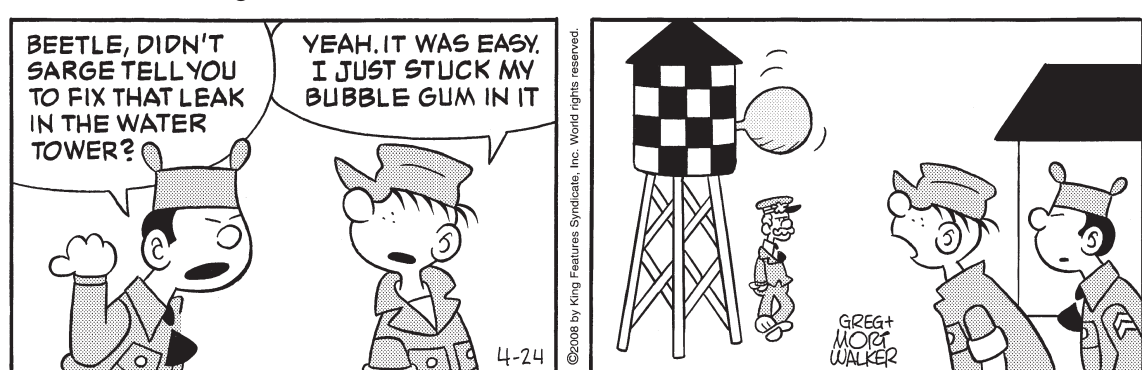
**Blondie • Chic Young**



**Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne**



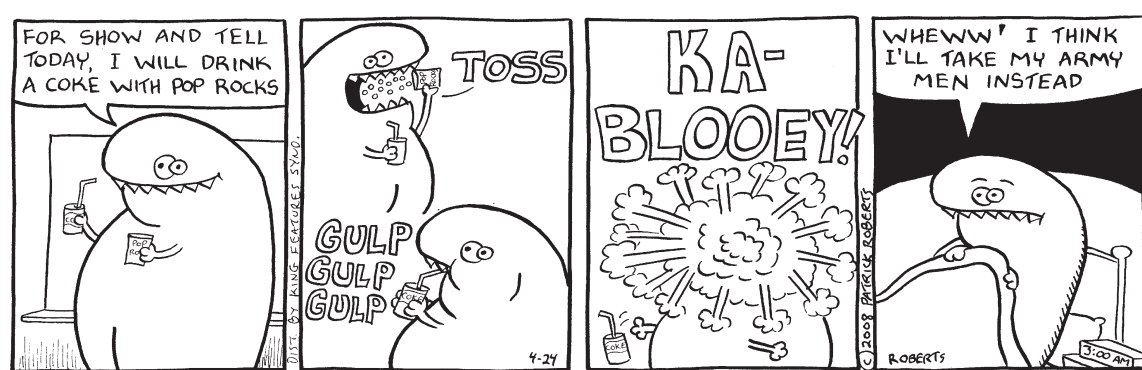
**Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker**



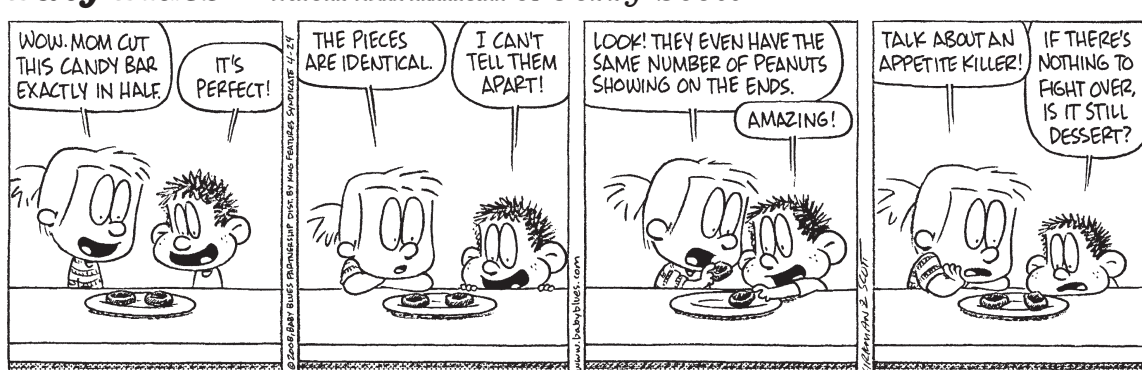
**Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters**



**Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts**



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



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**Cryptoquip**

UNWB' IOZS FYZFSHZNZD

L DNHK VJY VLB SLINZD

L ILBIP RYKKBUB: "RLHP

JLW L KNIKS FCLR."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF THE PUPPET HOWDY DOODY WERE TO WED ACTRESS FUNICELLO, WOULD A MARIONETTE MARRY ANNETTE?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals T

**Conceptis Sudoku** By Dave Green

		7		5		1		
			7	9	4			
5								8
	3					7		
2	9			1		6	4	
	7					2		
6								2
			5	2	8			
		8		4		9		

Difficulty Level ★★★

4/24

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This is a logic-based number placement puzzle. The goal is to enter a number, 1-9, in each cell in which each row, column and 3x3 region must contain only one instance of each numeral. The solution to today's Sudoku puzzle is right.

9	6	7	8	5	2	1	4	3
3	8	1	7	9	4	2	5	6
5	4	2	1	3	6	7	9	8
8	3	4	2	6	9	5	7	1
2	9	5	3	1	7	8	6	4
1	7	6	4	8	5	3	2	9
6	5	3	9	7	1	4	8	2
4	1	9	5	2	8	6	3	7
7	2	8	6	4	3	9	1	5

Difficulty Level ★★★

4/24

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**Bridge**

East dealer.  
East-West vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ K J 10 6  
♥ A 4 2  
♦ J 6  
♣ Q J 8 7

**WEST**  
♠ A  
♥ J 10 6 3  
♦ Q 7 5 4  
♣ 10 9 5 2

**EAST**  
♠ 7 5 3  
♥ 9 7  
♦ A K 10 8 3 2  
♣ A 6

**SOUTH**  
♠ Q 9 8 4 2  
♥ K Q 8 5  
♦ 9  
♣ K 4 3

The bidding:  
East 1♦ South 1♠ West 2♦ North 3♠

Opening lead — four of diamonds.

**Good Partnership Defense**

The subtleties of defense available to a pair in tune with one another can sometimes convert impending defeat into victory. The messages exchanged need only be correctly interpreted for the best result to be achieved.

For example, examine this hand played in a team match. At the first table, nothing much happened. South got to four spades on the bidding shown, and West led a diamond. East took the king and continued with the ace. Declarer ruffed, led a trump and eventually lost a club to the ace to make exactly four spades.

At the second table, the same contract was reached on similar bidding, but here the defense functioned more effectively, and South went down one.

West led the four of diamonds, just as at the first table, and East also won with the king. But at this table, East did not continue the suit. He realized from the bidding and opening lead that South almost surely had started with a singleton diamond.

So at trick two, he shifted to the ace of clubs. He was hoping to find West with the king of clubs, in which case a club continuation and a ruff would defeat the contract.

West didn't have the king and might have played the deuce on the ace to deny it, but he did have the ace of spades, a card his partner knew nothing about. Since East seemed interested in obtaining a club ruff, West played the nine on the ace, asking for another club lead.

East happily obliged, and though he was temporarily disappointed when declarer showed up with the king, he got his club ruff a short time later when West won the spade ace and returned a club to sink the contract.

**Family Circus • Bil Keane**



"...they're different colors, have strange names, but all learn to live together in the same box."

**Crossword**

**ACROSS**

- Throw a football
- Evergreen
- Call a halt to
- Part of Q.E.D.
- Onassis, family
- Corridor
- Farm fraction
- Solidify
- Norway's capital
- Civil War battle site in Tennessee
- Guffaw
- Branch
- Albanian money
- Brownish purple
- Obvious
- Get — for effort
- Mauna —
- Ultra-modernist
- Picks the wrong actor
- Mulligan, e.g.

**DOWN**

- Carrots' mates
- St. Louis attraction
- Wrap dress
- Inscribed pillar
- Muslim women's veils
- Before
- Accompanying
- Scary "Psycho" scene
- Capital of Uzbekistan
- Sch. org.
- Christmas
- Podrida
- Oxen's burden
- Obscene
- Kettle or Bell
- Tress
- Unyielding
- Moist
- Steady
- Handy pc. of Latin
- Capitol cap
- Allow

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

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

Yesterday's answer 4-24

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		