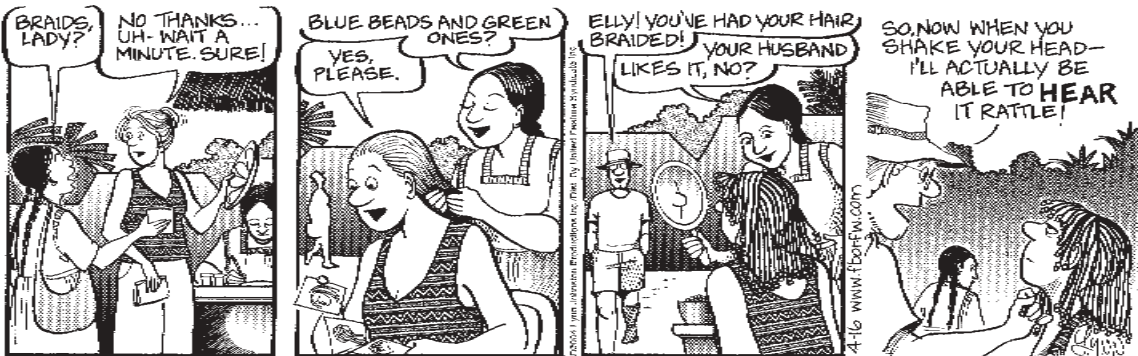
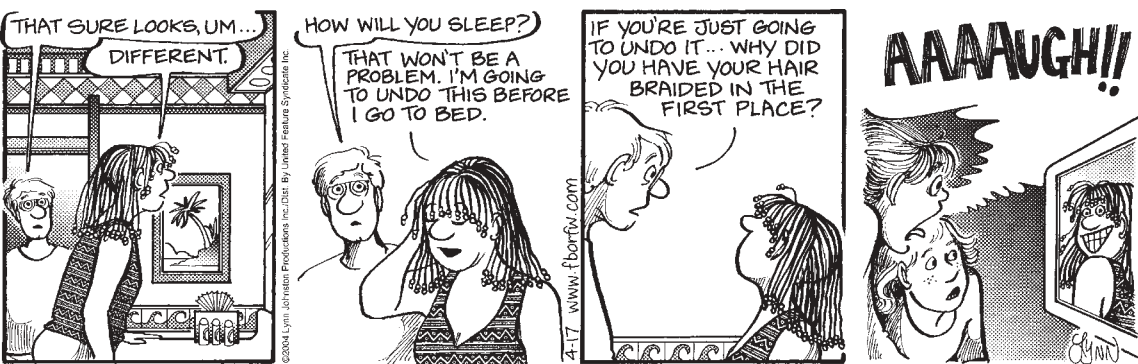


For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



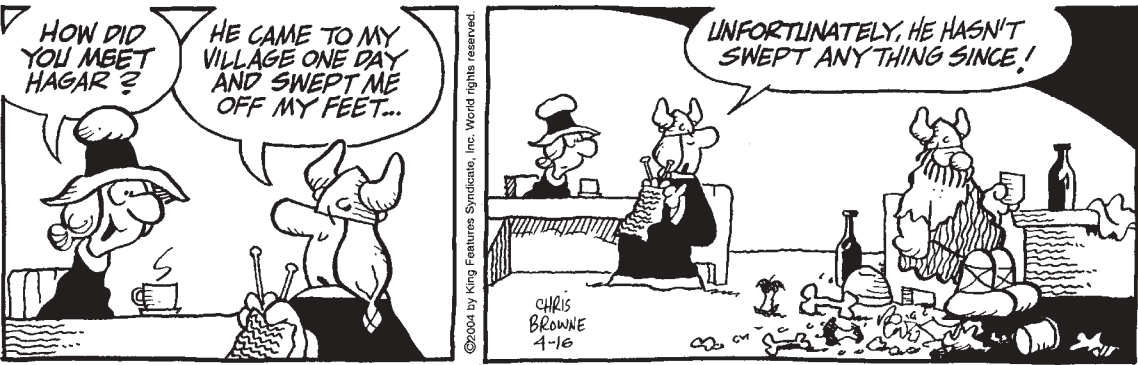
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Garfield • Jim Davis



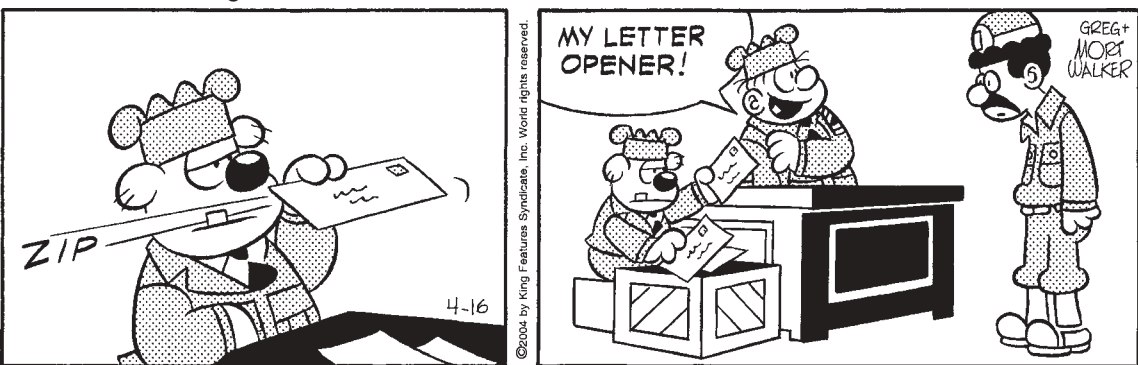
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



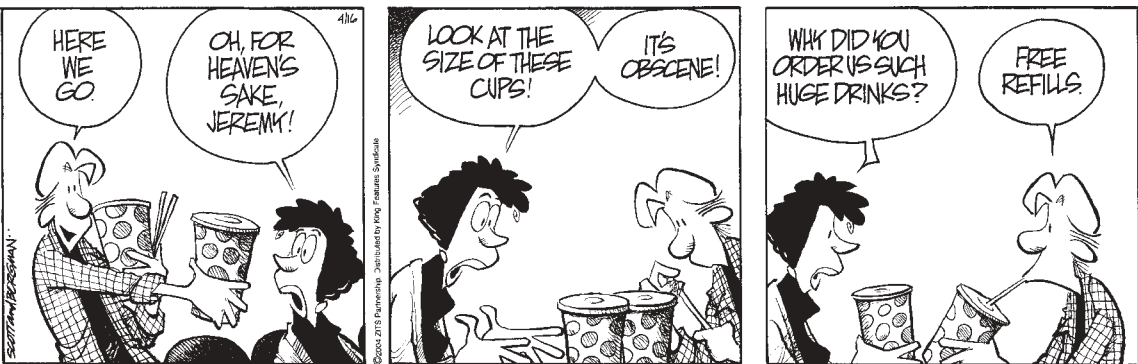
Blondie • Chic Young



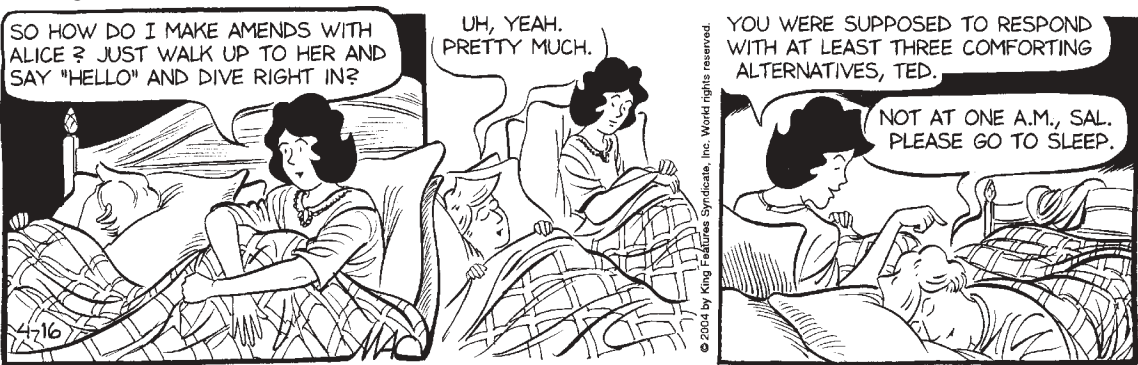
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

FALBZGA R DASW DM HZS
BHMZSW TAWUAG B XMD,
R IRUTD FA WAAIAW B
XBSWGLBKA KBSDAH.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF SOMEONE REALLY
LIKES TO STUDY SHARKS, I SUPPOSE YOU
COULD CALL HIM A FINATIC.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals N

HA LX TGTPLYUN BLFGT
QXLZZTC HX MLGA, H
QEZZUQT YMT NHCTNQ
DUEGC FT CUDXBLQY.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE I TEND TO
RUN AROUND HEDGES A LOT, I MIGHT BE
DEEMED A LANDSCAPE PANTER.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals P

Crossword

ACROSS

1 Barbecue treat
4 Cilium
8 Thin
12 Green, in a sense
13 Wheeling's river
14 Pop choice
15 Evergreen growth
17 Unattractive
18 Skirmish
19 Cosmetic item
20 Dexterity
22 Plumbing problem
24 Take on
25 Hum on the line
29 Buy now, pay later
30 "GWTW" surname
31 Cover
32 Turkey part
34 Rank crossing
35 "The Music Man" locale
36 Perk (up)
37 Condition
40 Catnap

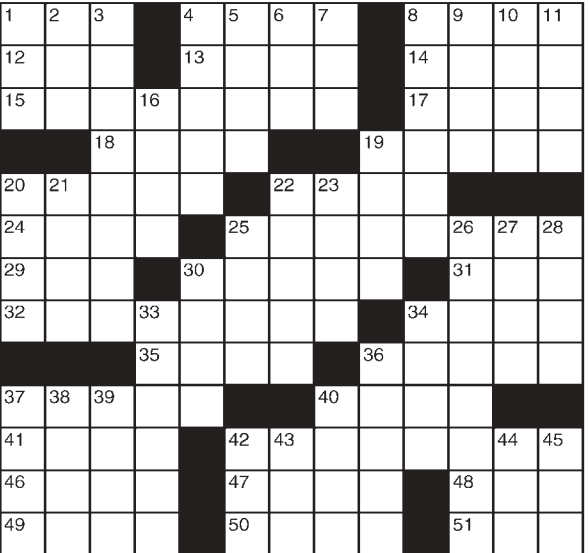
DOWN

1 Ten-percenter (Abbr.)
2 "— on parole francais"
3 Conflagrations at celebrations
4 Stopping everywhere
5 "Hi, sailor!"
6 Sermon subject
7 Weeding tool
8 Make a bust
9 Trade-mark symbol
10 Afflictions
11 "The Say Hey Kid"
16 — Stanley Gardner
19 Arizona river
20 Third place at Pimlico
21 New Zealand bird

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 4-16



ACROSS

1 MP's quarry
5 Takes blades to blades
9 M divided by IV
12 Amahl's night visitors
13 Andrea Bocelli album
14 Trigger's rider
15 Messes up
16 Fax
17 "Newhart" setting
18 Undo a dele
19 Massachusetts cape
20 Mountain goat
21 Swelled head
23 Last (Abbr.)
25 Easter accessory
28 Dowager's pet, maybe
32 Hot under the collar
33 Dejection
34 Give testimony

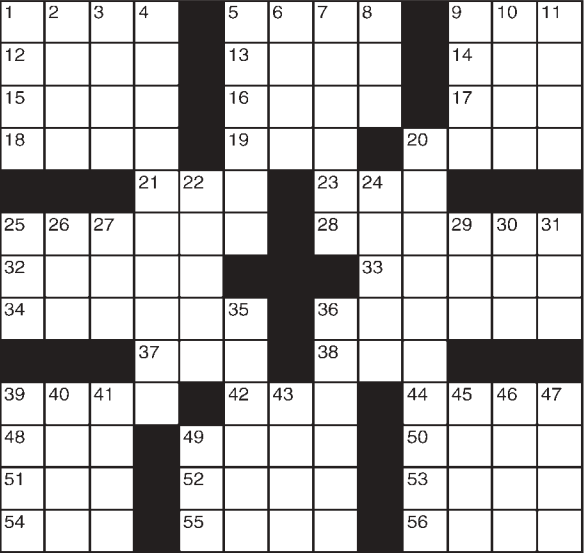
DOWN

36 West Pointers
37 Tex- cuisine
38 Whatever amount
39 Hampton Court attraction
42 Ball-bearing item
44 Mitch Miller played it
48 Dos Passos trilogy
49 Bankrolls
50 Incite
51 Clerical error?
52 Kournikova or Karenina
53 Broker's advice

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 4-17



Family Circus • Bill Keane



Bridge

Bidding Quiz

Your partner opens Two Notrump (21-22 points, balanced distribution). What would you respond with each of the following five hands?

- [S] J863 [H] 952 [D] Q74 [C] J62
- [S] 732 [H] AQ8 [D] KJ64 [C] Q96
- [S] 85 [H] A98743 [D] 732 [C] 54
- [S] Q974 [H] J52 [D] AJ6 [C] K83
- [S] 10 [H] 86 [D] KQ875 [C] AQ953

1. Pass. Since partner has 21 or 22 points, it could be argued that your combined holding might be 26 points, so you should raise partner to three. But another factor must also be considered — namely, that partner will have trouble reaching dummy to take any finesses he might need. This lack of communication is likely to prove fatal even if partner has 22 points. While it is true that 26 points usually produce a good play for game, this is frequently not the case when one player holds practically all of his side's points.

2. Six notrump. This is strictly a matter of arithmetic. Partner's 21 or 22 points added to your 12 bring your combined total to 33 or 34 points, which is what you ordinarily need for a small slam. You should therefore bid six.

3. Four hearts. You have only four points in high cards here, but your six-card suit is worth several points more in terms of playing strength. You can probably win five or six tricks with hearts as trump, and your prospects should be appraised in that light. The four-heart bid should be treated by partner as a shutout. If you were interested in slam, or had only five hearts, your proper response initially would be three hearts.

4. Four notrump. This is not Blackwood; rather, it is a raise in notrump inviting partner to bid slam with a maximum, and to pass with a minimum. Holding 11 points, you have no way of telling whether your combined total comes to 32 or 33 points, so partner is asked to make the final decision.

5. Three diamonds. Your 5-5-2-1 distribution and 11 high-card points strongly suggest a slam in one of the minor suits, and your intention is to find out which one partner prefers. To this end, you should follow the usual procedure of naming the higher-ranking of two five-card suits first. If partner rebids three notrump, you bid four clubs next, planning to bid six of whichever suit partner supports.

North dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ J 8 4
♥ K 10 6 3
♦ K J 8
♣ A K 5

WEST

♠ A K 9 7 3 2
♥ 5
♦ A 6 5 3
♣ Q 4

EAST

♠ Q 10 6
♥ J 9 8 4
♦ 9 7 2
♣ J 10 2

SOUTH

♠ 5
♥ A Q 7 2
♦ Q 10 4
♣ 9 8 7 6 3

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♠	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
4 ♥			

Opening lead — king of spades.

It Ain't Over Till It's Over

When declarer appears to be in a hopeless position, he might do well to remember the old baseball adage "The game isn't over till the last man's out." South did exactly that in today's deal, and as a result succeeded in a situation that many would have considered a lost cause.

He ruffed the second spade lead and cashed the A-Q of hearts. When West failed to follow to the second heart, it appeared declarer would have to lose a trick in each suit and go down one.

South did not give up, however, and continued to play on in the hope that East had started with 3-4-3-3 distribution, in which case the contract could still be made. At trick five, he led the queen of diamonds, losing to West's ace. West's spade return was ruffed by South with his last trump, and the K-J of diamonds were cashed, East following suit to both.

At this point, East was known to have started with four hearts and at least three diamonds and three spades. Declarer had to hope that East did not have another spade or the 13th diamond, which would leave him room for at most two clubs.

With five tricks remaining to be played, declarer cashed the A-K of clubs and then, fingers crossed, led a third club, hoping East would have to win the trick. When East unhappily won with the jack, he found himself compelled to lead from the J-9 of hearts into dummy's K-10 at trick 12, losing his "sure" trump trick — and the contract — in the process.