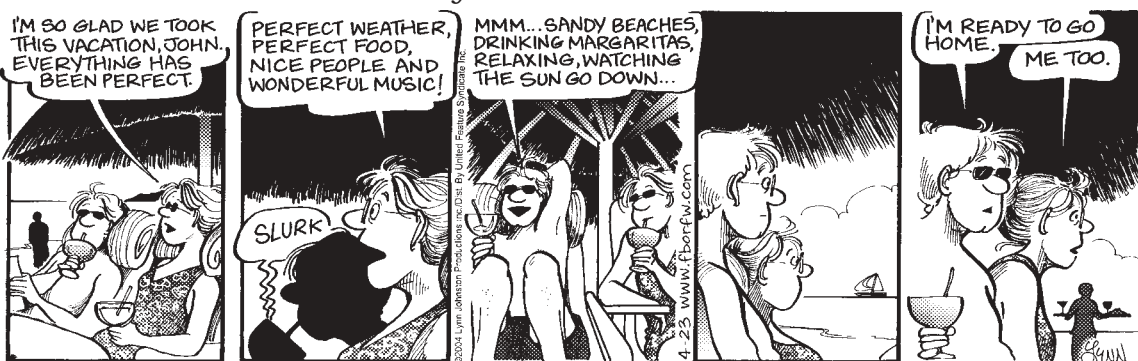
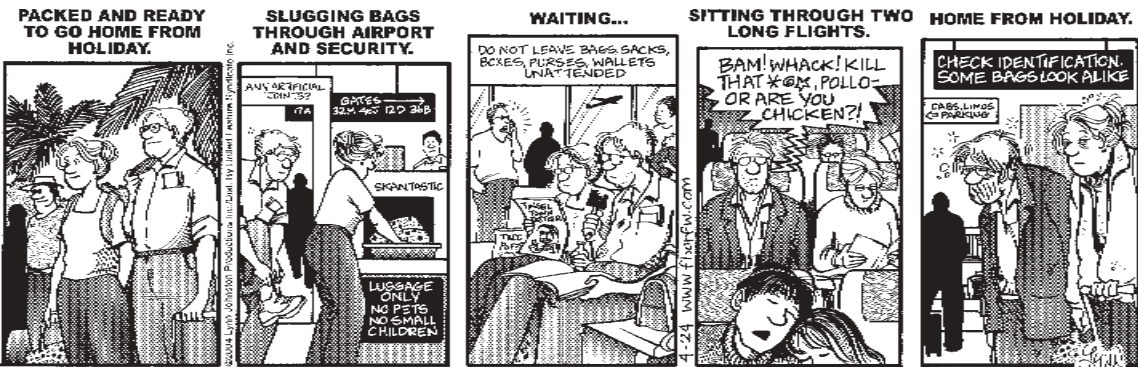


For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



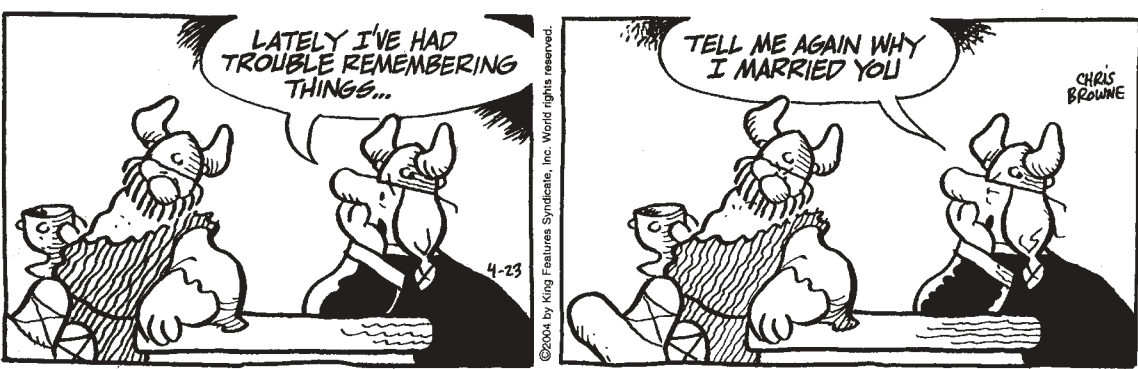
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Garfield • Jim Davis



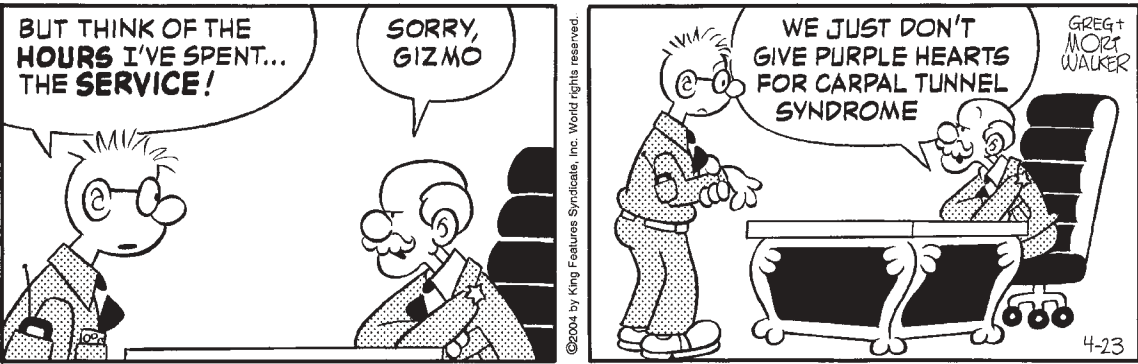
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



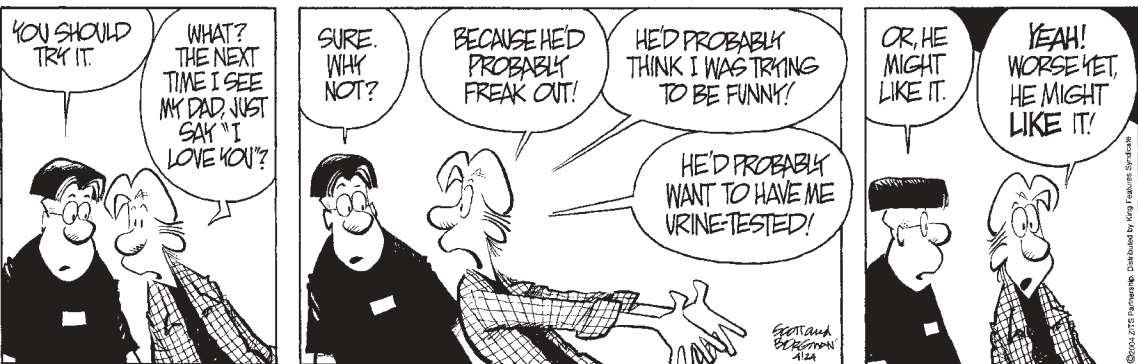
Blondie • Chic Young



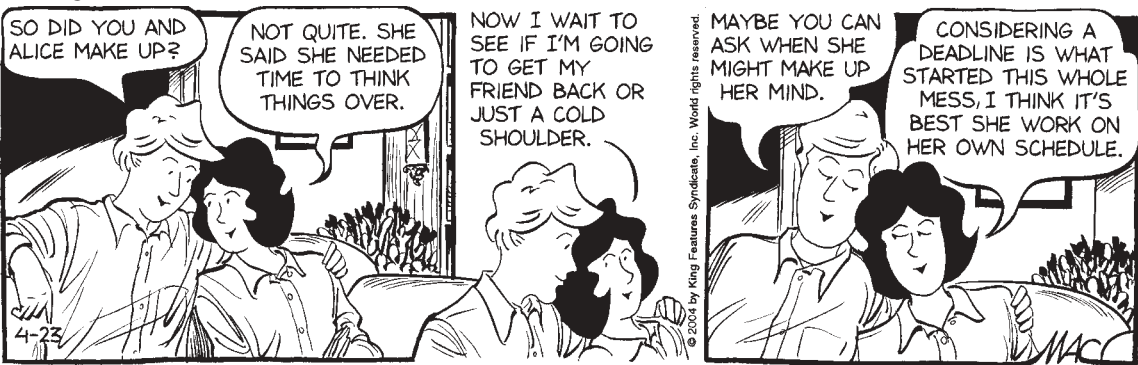
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

ABH XPCARW XWHIHWWHZ XNQO IES'GQ P JQASGFCFQJ  
AR XNA NLXPKZ TKDDC MQPHQG XFCN P CNFAT-JQC  
KLAR P IKDH DPTHDHZ ZSFHM, PGQ IES P JCEATI  
"ZNH NLAR RABHWC."  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: FINALLY OUT OF GAS, THE FUMING CAR SAID TO ITS DRIVER, "YOU COULD HAVE FUELED ME!"  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals R  
ZGETQG?  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE PASTOR PREFERRED TO PUT UNPAID BILLS INTO A FILE LABELED "DUE UNTO OTHERS."  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals S

Crossword

**ACROSS**

1 Pompous one  
4 Journey segment  
7 Winning  
12 Pouter's protrusion  
13 "Fables in Slang" writer  
14 Footballer/actor  
15 Get — for effort  
16 ATM access  
18 Mal de —  
19 Full-bodied  
20 Is obliged to  
22 Feedbag morsel  
23 Bridge game  
27 Ruin the veneer  
29 It could be a Broadway show-stopper  
31 Send quickly  
34 Charles' principdom  
35 Rainwater trough

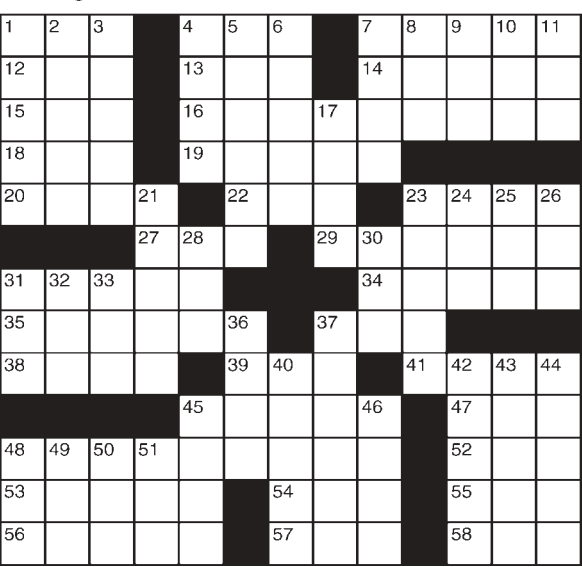
**37** Put on  
**38** Praiseful works  
**39** Mined find  
**41** Untalkative one  
**45** Office skill, for short  
**47** In olden times  
**48** Strays  
**52** Ultra-modernist  
**53** Condescend  
**54** — Aviv  
**55** Conclusion  
**56** Evade  
**57** Big bother  
**58** Opinion

**2** Source of strength  
**3** Extra  
**4** Indy circuits  
**5** Writer's arch-enemy?  
**6** Column-bus' birthplace  
**7** Touch  
**8** Buzz  
**9** Recede  
**10** Rushmore face  
**11** — es  
**17** Pecan and hickory  
**21** "L.A. Law" cast member  
**23** Old French money

**24** Grease  
**25** Guitar's kin  
**26** Scale members  
**28** Brewery output  
**30** Jefferson bill  
**31** "I" strain  
**32** Pie filling?  
**33** Noshed  
**36** Sch. mil. grp.  
**37** In need of bodywork  
**40** Cow catcher  
**42** Diane and Nathan  
**43** Rocket stage  
**44** Temperamental city  
**45** "Auld Lang —"  
**46** Scandinavian city  
**48** Continue orating  
**49** Composer Delibes  
**50** Shut-eye shutter  
**51** Quiche maker's need

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

**Yesterdays answer 4-23**



**ACROSS**

1 Jongg  
4 Garbage carrier  
8 Exhibit indolence  
12 Blackbird  
13 Recording  
14 "Would — to you?"  
15 Arbitrator  
16 First victim  
17 Turns right  
18 Beatles' song  
21 Actor  
22 Pack away  
23 Staghorn, for one  
26 Cook with fat  
27 Party bowlful  
30 PDQ  
31 Romaine lettuce  
32 Show patience  
33 Rancher's nickname  
34 Host  
35 Famed mid-1990s racehorse

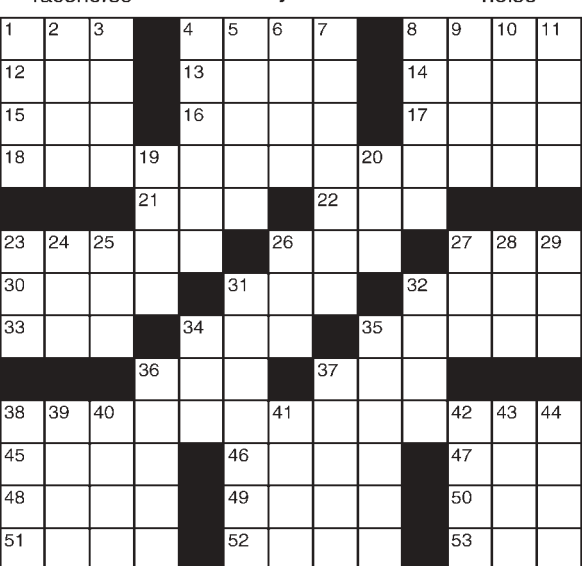
**36** — quiz  
**37** "Eureka!"  
**38** Coerces  
**45** Bear in the air  
**46** Wading bird  
**47** Overly  
**48** Tab  
**49** Piquancy  
**50** Eggs  
**51** Goblet feature  
**52** Keeps tabs on  
**53** Guys

**5** Plotting group  
**6** Tournament format  
**7** They carry a torch for you  
**8** "Who's the Boss?"  
**9** Toast member  
**10** Stead  
**11** For fear that

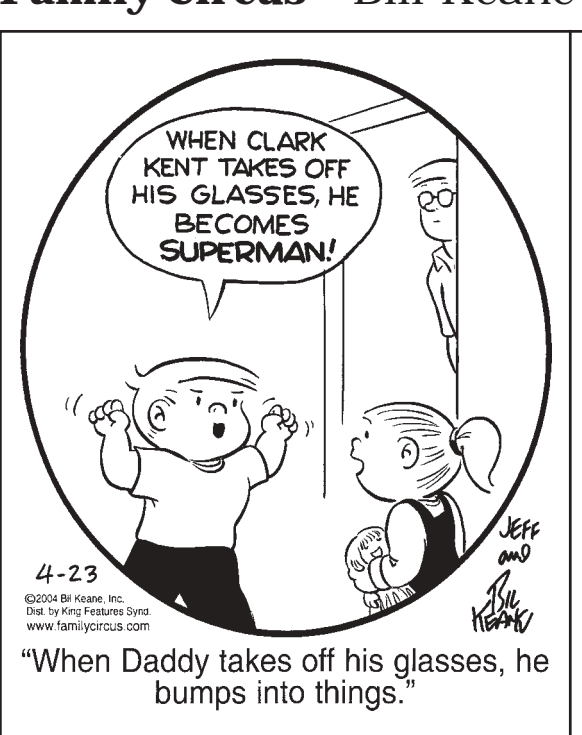
**19** Trade  
**20** Put into words  
**23** Took a meeting  
**24** Work problem

**Solution time: 27 mins.**

**Yesterdays answer 4-24**



Family Circus • Bill Keane



Bridge

Bidding Quiz

You are South in each of the following three hands. What would you bid at the point where the question mark appears?

1. [S] Q62 [H] 95 [D] AK83 [C] KJ74  
South West North East  
1 [D] Pass 1 [H] 1 [S] ?

2. [S] KQ1083 [H] KQ95 [D] K4 [C] A2  
North East South West  
1 [D] Pass 2 [S] Pass  
3 [D] Pass 3 [H] Pass  
4 [D] Pass ?

3. [S] AQJ95 [H] Q6 [D] AK84 [C] J2  
South West North East  
1 [S] Pass 2 [C] Pass  
2 [D] Pass 2 [H] Pass ?

\*\*\*

1. Pass. Partner's one-heart bid is 100 percent forcing, but you are under no obligation to bid after East intervenes with one spade. At this stage, there is no way for you to know whether partner's response was based on six, 10 or even more high-card points, nor can you tell what kind of distribution he has.

When East enters the auction with one spade, you are presented with an opportunity to tell partner, by passing, that you started with minimum values and have no clear-cut action at this point. Partner has another bid coming after East's overcall, so there is no chance of his being left at the post with a good hand.

2. Four notrump. Partner obviously has a one-track mind — he likes diamonds. He probably has seven of them to the A-Q-J or something similar, and your best bid under the circumstances is to find out how many aces he has.

Accordingly, you bid four notrump (Blackwood). You plan to pass if partner responds five diamonds, showing one ace; to bid six diamonds if he responds five hearts, showing two aces; and to bid seven diamonds if he responds five spades, showing three aces, even though there is a small risk that the grand slam might fail.

3. Three notrump. It would be wrong to bid only two notrump, since your first two bids could have been based on only 13 or 14 high-card points. Since you have 17 points and have not yet disclosed your extra values, you should identify them now by jumping to three notrump.

A two-spade bid would be incorrect on two counts. It would understate your high-card values and would also fail to describe your relatively balanced distribution.

East dealer.  
North-South vulnerable.

**NORTH**

♠ 5  
♥ A K 6  
♦ A J 7 3 2  
♣ K 8 7 4

**WEST**

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

**EAST**

♠ 7 4 3  
♥ Q J 8 2  
♦ 6 4  
♣ J 10 9 5

**SOUTH**

♠ J 8  
♥ 9 5 4 3  
♦ K Q 10 9 8  
♣ A Q

The bidding:  
East Pass South 1 ♦ West 4 ♠ North 6 ♦  
Opening lead — king of spades.

Try the Impossible

It is, of course, impossible to achieve the truly impossible, but there are many seemingly hopeless contracts that can be made by means not readily apparent. For example, take this deal where it appears South must go down one after a spade lead and a heart shift.

However, the outlook is not as bleak as it seems. West's leap to four spades was obviously based on lots of spades, and there is consequently good reason to think that East might be taxed with the burden of guarding both hearts and clubs.

So South's best plan of play — to avoid what appears to be a certain heart loser — is to exert pressure on East that he cannot withstand. After winning the heart shift with the king, declarer draws two rounds of trumps, ruffs a spade in dummy, then cashes two more trumps to produce this position:

North — [H] A 6 [C] K 8 7 4  
West — Immaterial  
East — [H] Q J [C] J 10 9 5  
South — [H] 9 5 4 [D] 10 [C] A Q

When South leads his last trump, discarding a heart from dummy, East finds himself in a pickle. Whatever he discards, declarer makes the rest of the tricks.

If he sheds a club, South cashes the A-Q of clubs and plays a heart to dummy to score the K-8 of clubs. If East discards a heart instead, South leads a heart to the ace and takes the last four tricks with the A-Q of clubs and 9-5 of hearts.

