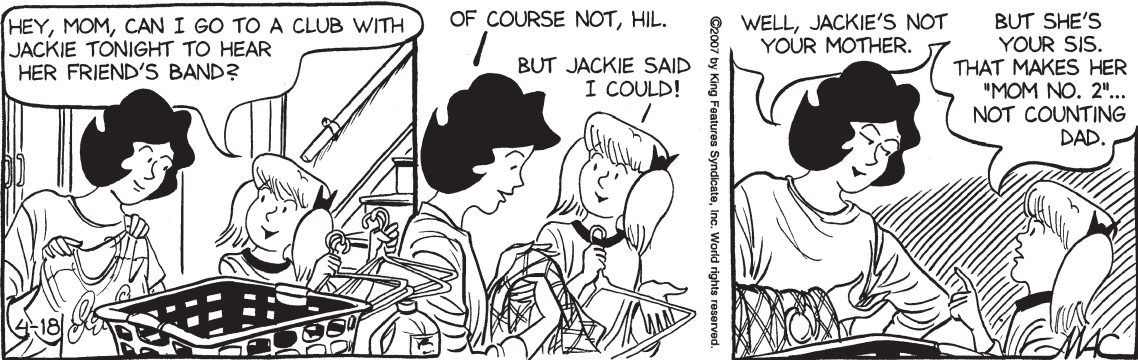
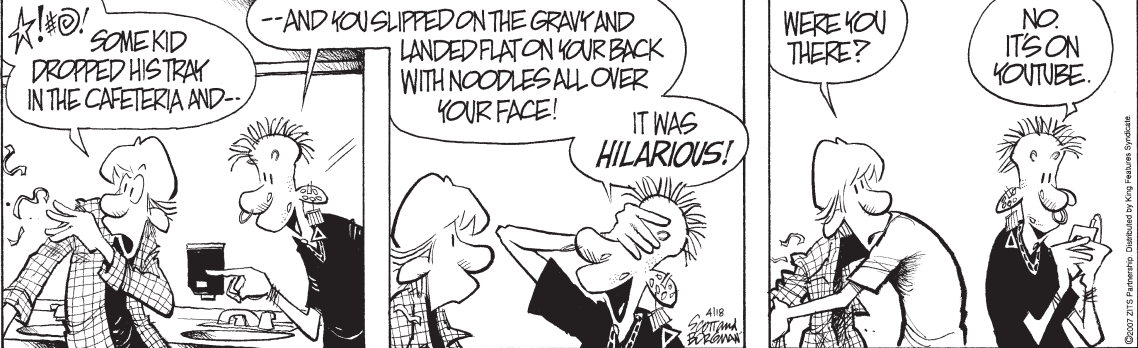


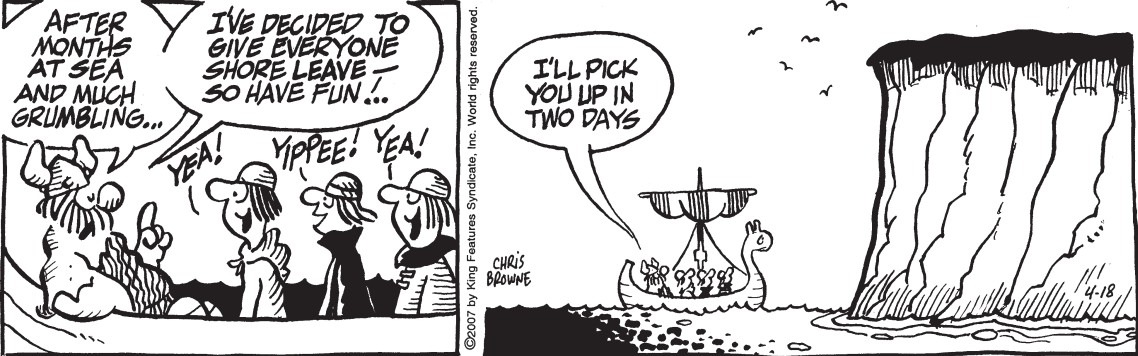
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



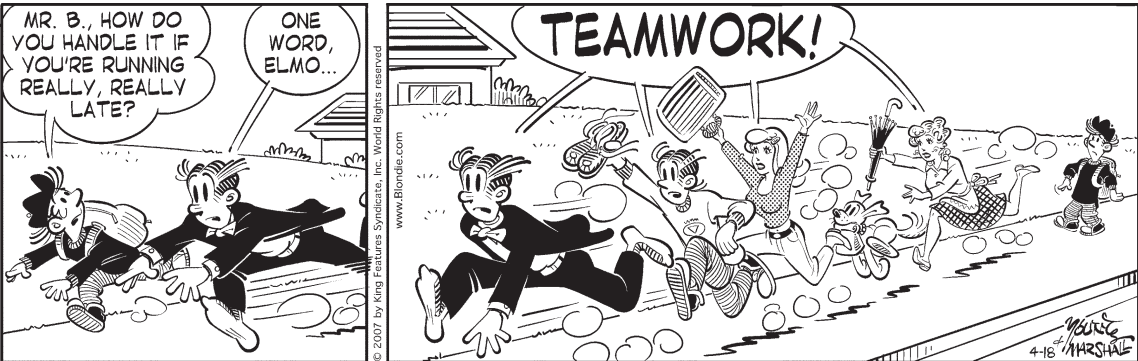
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



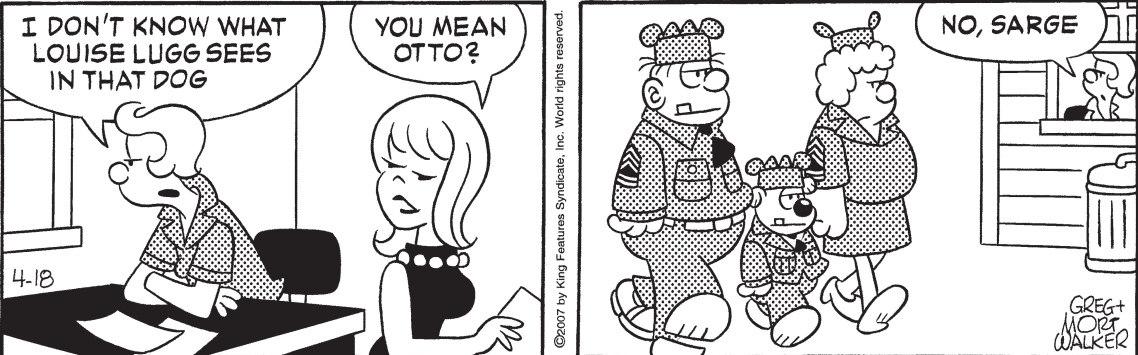
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



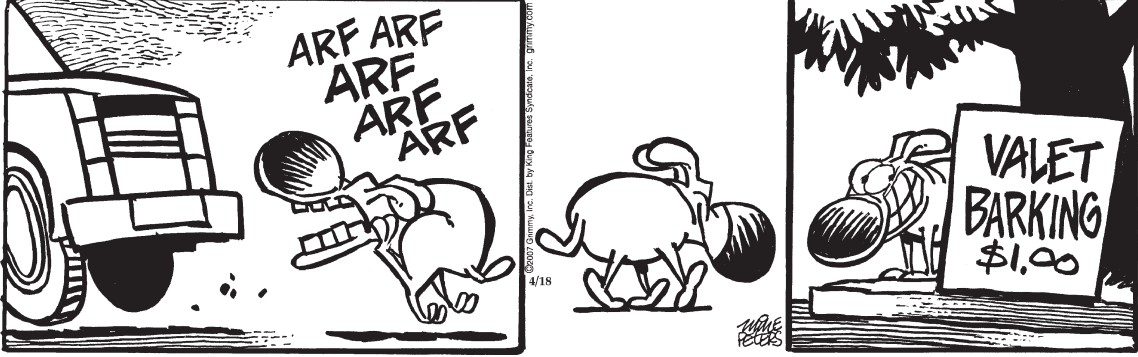
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Cryptoquip

DN KLR ZDJC UN LWBSFTMZA

LTX T BTQR UNNASYDJC,

HUWQX LR FR MTQQRX

KLR SYDJMR UN HLTQRA?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN SOMEONE ANSWERS "NO" TO "WILL YOU MARRY ME?", I SUPPOSE THAT'S PROPOSITION OPPOSITION.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals F

CKGBX ZJMRA Z WGCANU

WNBXM QEM WYML RT AM

JN Z QEGF-JZDW BZYTNDANY:

"AEN KGFZYU MC LZQL."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF THE KING OF HUMBACKS HAD A MALE OFFSPRING, WOULD HE BE CALLED THE PRINCE OF WHALES?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals W

Crossword

ACROSS

1 Plate

5 BLT

9 Spot on a domino

12 Vicinity

13 The yoke's on them

14 Equal (Prefix)

15 Theater balcony

17 Buddhist sect

18 Performances

19 Demolished

21 Chaplain

24 Rice-A--

25 Saharan

26 Trimmed with wide ruffles

30 Emerald City VIP

31 Disgusting

32 Lawyers' org.

33 City of Galilee

35 Teensy bit

36 "Dies --"

37 Sustained hum

38 Star of Cygnus

40 Prompted

42 Have bills

43 Techno-jargon

48 More (Sp.)

49 Actor Morales

50 Littlest of the litter

51 Em halves

52 Actress Diana

53 Remain

2 Rage

3 "— who?"

4 Sand trap,

5 Billings' st.

6 Line of symmetry

7 Longing

8 Burden-some

9 Played without a bow

10 "Gotcha"

11 Walden, for

16 Expert

20 Massa-chusetts cape

21 Chess soldier

22 La Scala

23 Vertigo

24 --

26 Gratis

27 Parcel of land

28 Black, in verse

29 Knighted woman

31 Snatched

34 Exist

35 Intense feelings

37 Morning moisture

38 Capitol cap

39 Actor McGregor

40 Despot

41 Sub-machine guns

44 GI entertain-ment org.

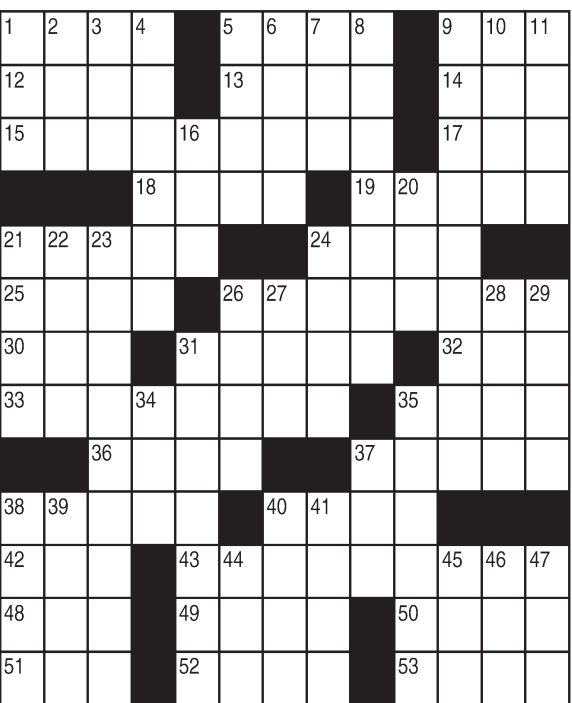
45 Trench

46 "CSI" evidence

47 Pigs' home

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterdays answer 4-17



ACROSS

1 Upper limit

4 Little demons

8 Be in charge of

12 Colora-tion

13 Appear-ance

14 Shrek, for one

15 Refuge craft

16 Erich Segal novel

18 Hymn of praise

20 Bankroll

21 Nuisance

24 Veranda

28 Furniture for two

32 Mediter-ranean strip

33 -- out a living

34 Dieter's entree

36 Forefront

37 Broad-casts

39 Small parrot

41 Skewered meal

43 Pleasant

44 To and --

46 Jockey's handful

50 Tomato

55 Siesta

56 Satan's field

57 Geneal-ogy chart

58 Book-keeper (Abbr.)

59 On the tainted side

60 Fax

61 Fix a cuff

2 Emana-tion

3 Lap dog, for short

4 Doctor's concern

5 Cattle call?

6 Angle (Abbr.)

7 Distort

8 Frank

9 Id

10 counter-part

10 Timetable abbr.

11 Susan of "L.A. Law"

17 Easy mark

19 Mimic

22 Caulk

23 Claw

25 Sitarist Shankar

26 Autocrat

27 Full house, e.g.

28 Secrecy thwarter

29 Tom Joad type

30 Hit or miss?

31 "Rikki-Tikki--"

35 Issued a fiat

38 Without risk

40 Spell-down

42 Support system?

45 Makes a decision

47 Part of the foot?

48 Scruff

49 Unwant-ed e-mail

50 Journey segment

51 Eggs

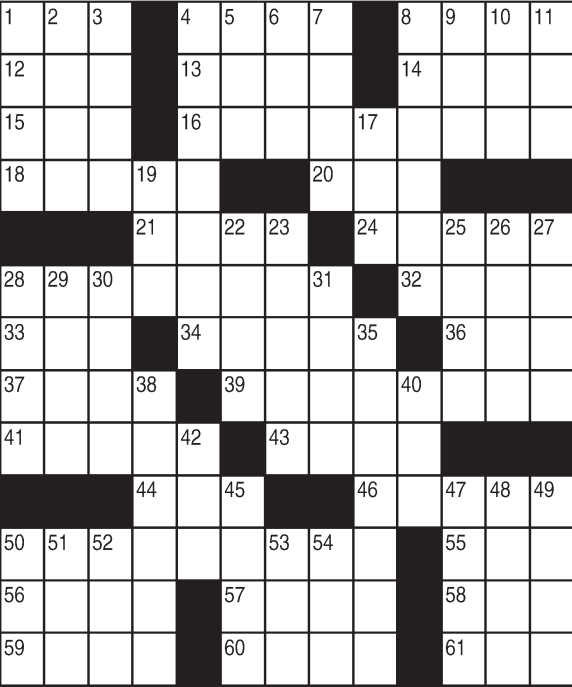
52 Energy

53 Ante-

54 Writer Deighton

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterdays answer 4-18



Bridge

South dealer.

Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

J 10 3

J 6 3

9 5

A 6 5 4 2

WEST

A Q 5 4 2

Q 7 2

J 10 7 2

8

EAST

9 8 6

K 9 5

Q 8 6 4

J 10 3

SOUTH

K 7

A 10 8 4

A K 3

K Q 9 7

The bidding:

South 1 ♣

West 3 NT

North Pass

East Pass

Opening lead -- four of spades.

Beware of Greeks Bearing Gifts

If a declarer unexpectedly hands you a trick, or a whole batch of tricks, you should view his generosity with at least a modicum of suspicion.

Suppose you're West in today's deal and lead a spade against three notrump. Declarer wins with dummy's ten, cashes the K-Q of clubs, then leads the king of spades, which you win with the ace.

This is an astonishing development, you might say to yourself, since South is allowing you to cash four spade tricks. But when you take time to study South's physiognomy, you realize he doesn't particularly resemble Santa Claus. In fact, on further thought, you might conclude that there may be something very nefarious about South's extraordinary display of magnanimity.

If you fall for declarer's scheme and start cashing your spades, you immediately become a dead duck as soon as you cash the first one. Instead, you should shift to a low diamond at trick five. If you do, South will be unable to take more than eight tricks.

What's the explanation for this? To appreciate declarer's problem, examine his hand. He appears to have nine tricks -- one spade, one heart, two diamonds and five clubs. However, appearances can be deceiving. The fact is that South can't score five club tricks because after he cashes the K-Q of clubs, he will have the 9-7 still in his hand, blocking the suit and preventing him from collecting dummy's fifth club.

So South leads the spade king at trick four, hoping West will play the A-Q and give him the opportunity to unload a club from his hand.

But if you were West, you wouldn't unwittingly fall into this trap, would you?

West dealer.

Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

Q 7

K Q K 6 2

8 5

A 10 6 4 2

WEST

A K J 10 6 2

10 9

9 6 4

K 3

EAST

8 5 3

J 8 7 4

7 2

J 8 7 5

SOUTH

9 4

A 5 3

A K Q J 10 3

Q 9

The bidding:

West 1 ♣

North Pass

East Pass

South 5 ♦

Opening lead -- king of spades.

Sylvia Hits the Jackpot

Sylvia had only the foggiest notion of what constituted a finesse when she started to play at the club. Of course, there were other areas of the game in which she was equally ignorant, to put it mildly, but that did not stop her from playing in the expert game.

It would, of course, have made more sense for Sylvia to play with the less-competent players in the club. But, regrettably, she was driven from the start to master the game by playing with only the best play You can judge how Sylvia (South) played in those days by examining the bidding and play of this hand. Her five-diamond bid was clearly correct in her view, since she felt she had an excellent hand and saw no reason to bid less than game. She considered the marvelous dummy that came down to be no more than her due.

West cashed two spades and shifted to the ten of hearts. Sylvia took the ten with the ace and, dimly remembering something called a finesse, led the queen of clubs. She reasoned that if West had the king, her queen would win the trick, since she planned to play low from dummy.

However, West covered the queen with the king, forcing Sylvia to win with the ace. Undaunted by this setback, she next cashed all her trumps, retaining only the K-Q-6 of hearts in dummy. On the last trump lead, East, who at this point held the J-8-7 of hearts and jack of clubs, had to make a discard.

He could not spare a heart, so he discarded the jack of clubs. Sylvia was not absolutely sure her nine was the high club, but she was sure enough to lead it next, and when it held the trick, she wound up making five diamonds. Consciously or unconsciously, Sylvia had executed one of the rarest plays in bridge -- a transfer squeeze!

Family Circus • Bill Keane

