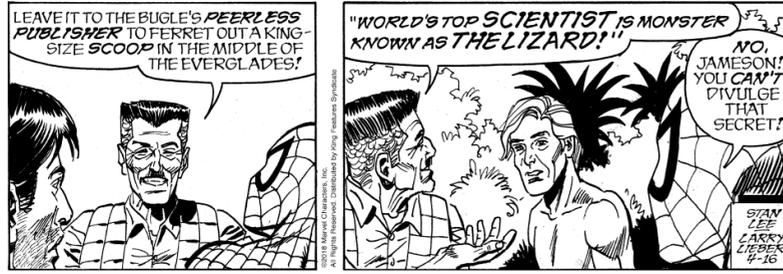


ENTERTAINMENT

SPIDER-MAN



ANDY CAPP



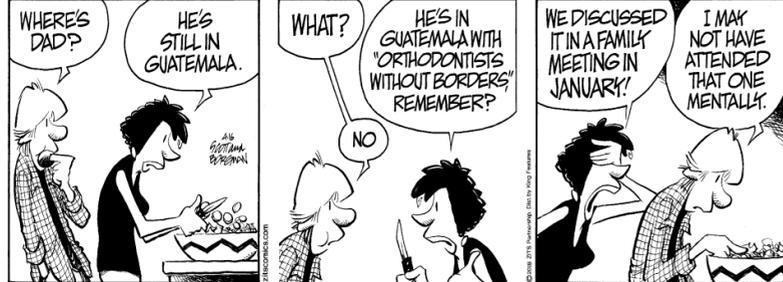
PEANUTS



HAGAR



ZITS



PHANTOM



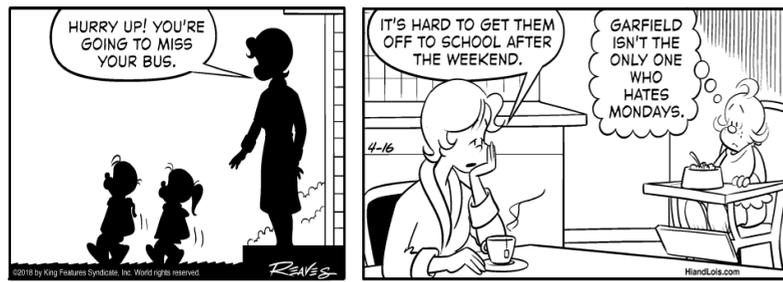
SNUFFY



GARFIELD



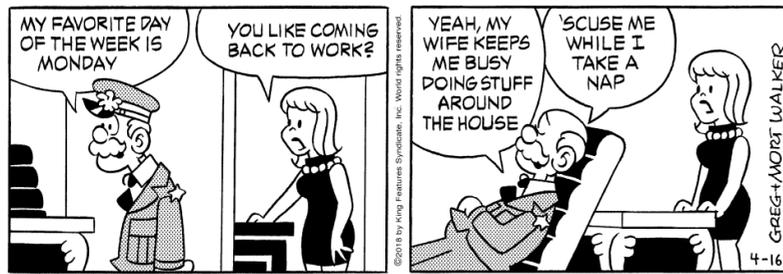
HI & LOIS



BLONDIE



PVT. BEETLE BAILEY



With Dad Out Of The Country, Boyfriend Takes On Parenting

DEAR ABBY: My husband's brother split from his wife, "Charlotte," five years ago and now works and lives in another country. The brothers are still quite close. His school-age daughters live nearby and are close to their cousins, our daughters.

Charlotte's latest boyfriend (they have been dating for 18 months) has started insisting on hanging out with my husband and trying to "bond" with him. He is also jumping with both feet into the role of step-father, especially with the younger daughter, who has just returned after living with her father for the last seven months.

It feels awkward and weird, but we are too polite to say anything to him or Charlotte because we're afraid she'll restrict us from seeing our nieces. What is your advice? -- ANXIOUS IN AUSTRALIA

DEAR ANXIOUS: Not knowing the terms of your brother-in-law's divorce, my advice is to consider that Charlotte has been with this man for a year and a half. He may be trying to form a relationship with your husband because he wants to bond with "the relatives." Your husband doesn't have to be best friends with him, but he should keep the relationship cordial -- not only for the nieces, but also so his brother can stay informed about them.

DEAR ABBY: I have an addiction to vitamin gummies. They say to eat only two a day, but I eat almost half a container a day. They're SOOO good.

This has been a problem for five years. What should I do? Do I contact my doctor?

I'm about to graduate from high school, and I think my new college friends will think I'm weird if they find out about my gummy addiction. -- LOVES YUMMY GUMMIES IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR LOVES: I am glad you wrote. Your vitamins may taste like candy, but they are NOT candy. It is important that you discuss this with your doctor. The least of your troubles could be that your college friends make fun of you. What you have been doing is dangerous because it can cause unsafe levels of vitamin A, vitamin E and minerals like iron to reach toxic levels in your system.

DEAR ABBY: I have a suggestion about how to help the child with the broken glasses mentioned in the letter from "Trying to Help in the West" (Feb. 25). I'm a member of Lions Clubs International. Our local club donates the cost of visual screening and free glasses for those in need who seek our help.

The Lions were established in 1917 by a businessman who wanted to start a service club that would help improve communities. The idea quickly spread to other communities and became international.

In 1925, Helen Keller inspired the clubs to become "knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness." Since then, Lions have worked tirelessly to aid blind and visually impaired individuals in the U.S. and all over the world. Services for the boy in the letter should be available in his area, or he can be directed to the closest local Lions Club. -- MEMBER IN WEST LONG BRANCH, N.J.

DEAR MEMBER: Thank you for reminding me -- and my readers -- about the good work the Lions Clubs do. Anyone wanting further information about this worthwhile service organization can find it at www.lionsclubs.org.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Previously

4 Coffee holder

7 Skip

11 Chemists' rooms

13 A/C stat

14 Zilch

15 Screenwriter James

16 — Diego

17 Harrow rival

18 Authority

20 Informal greeting

22 Exist

24 Convention

28 Complain under one's breath

32 Japanese city

33 Days gone by

34 Hoover's org.

36 Winter blanket

37 Unlike a rolling stone?

DOWN

1 "Sad to say ..."

2 Quite

3 Follow orders

4 "60 Minutes" network

5 Beehive State

6 Carthaginian

7 Financially secure

8 Yoga pad

9 Altar vow

10 Light brown

12 Big Bird's home

19 Sphere

21 Guffaw

23 Sprite

25 Singer

26 Oklahoma tribe

27 Cuts the grass

28 Workout venues

29 Castle

30 Celestial bear

31 Recede

35 Charged bit

38 Pro vote

40 Stir-fry pan

42 Excavate

45 Schnozz

47 Canal zones?

48 Blue-nose

49 Coin aperture

50 Buddhist sect

51 Flamenco cheer

52 Cagers' gp.

54 AAA job

Solution time: 21 mins.

Saturday's answer 4-16

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

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
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50	51	52			53		54		55
56					57				58
59					60				61

4-16 CRYPTOQUIP

V S C K F U T W Y M F V T C K " S N J

P T J N C " P M T N Q P N L V M N R

W U F V M, X E Y - E A X N C Y N Q T E A F

Saturday's Cryptoquip: WHILE PENNING A MELANCHOLY POEM, I STARTED TO ITCH AND SWELL. I THINK I HAD AN ELEGY ATTACK.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals F

CRYPTOQUIP BOOK 2! Send \$4.50 (check/m.o.) to CryptoClassic Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

HOROSCOPE

ARIES (March 21 to April 19)
Use caution with finances today, because it's easy to go overboard. If out shopping, you might think you absolutely need to have something: "I must!"

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)
Today the Moon is in your sign, dancing beautifully with other planets. This makes you passionate and energetic! You will debate politics, religion or racial issues with strong energy!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)
This is an excellent day for research or any activity that requires you to work alone or behind the scenes. Whatever you have to do, you will do easily and quickly. Someone will help you.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22)
Relationships with friends and members of groups are intense today. For some, a friendship could turn romantic. (Woot!) Whatever happens, you feel affectionate toward someone.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22)
You make a fabulous impression on parents, bosses and VIPs today. In fact, whatever you do can lead to improvements in your job and perhaps even your health.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)
This is a passionate, romantic day! It's a wonderful time for a date. Enjoy social outings, sports events and playful activities with children.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)
Invite family and friends over, because you will enjoy entertaining at home today. This is also an excellent time to discuss shared property, inheritances and how to divide duties or responsibilities.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)
It's a popular day! Everyone wants you to be on their team. Take note: Whatever you do today could increase your income or give you a financial boost.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)
Look for ways to boost your earnings, because they certainly exist today. You also might introduce improvements at work or do something to improve your health.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)
You're full of playful energy today, which bodes well for those of you who are active in sports or are busy socializing with friends, groups and even children today. Live it up!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)
You might want to do something that makes your home look more attractive today. You also might discuss real estate opportunities.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20)
This is a busy, fast-paced day. You are happy relating to others because you see that you are well-liked. You are grateful for the beauty of your surroundings. Lucky you!

Note: This column is published only as an entertainment feature for interested readers.