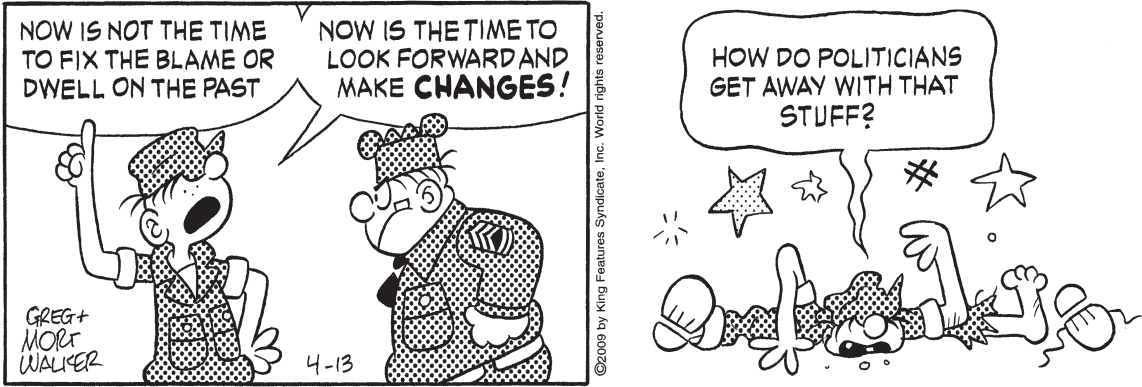


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



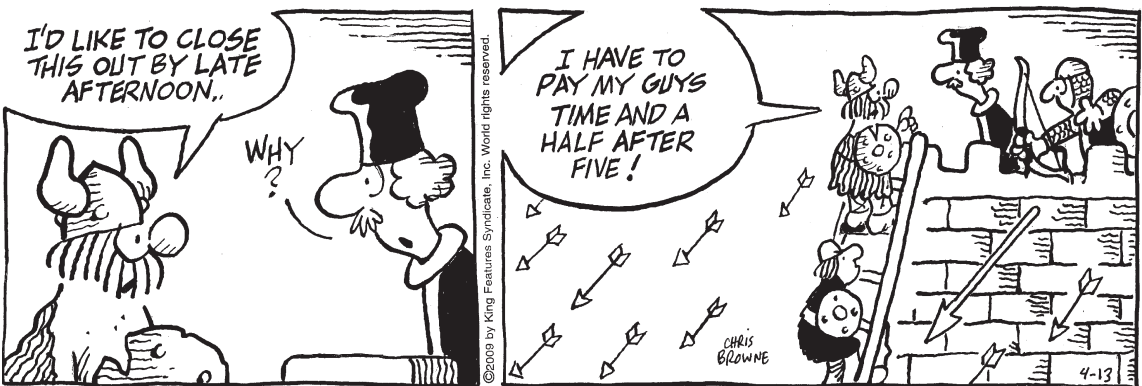
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



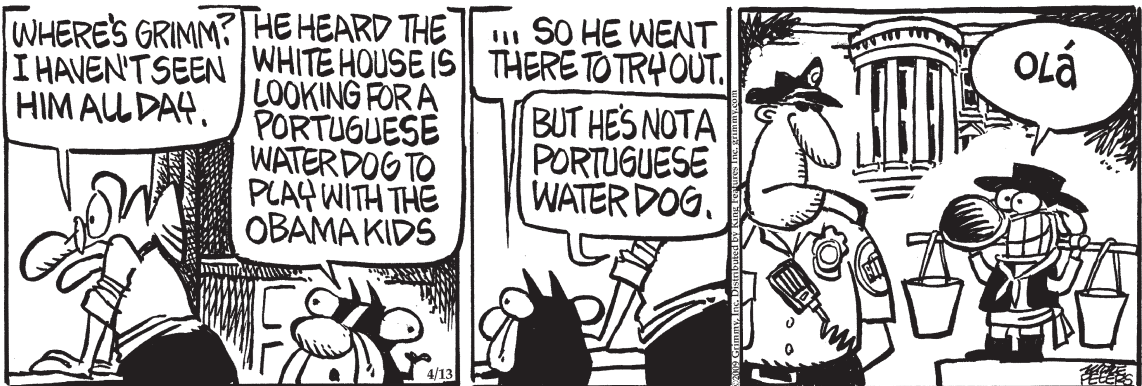
Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



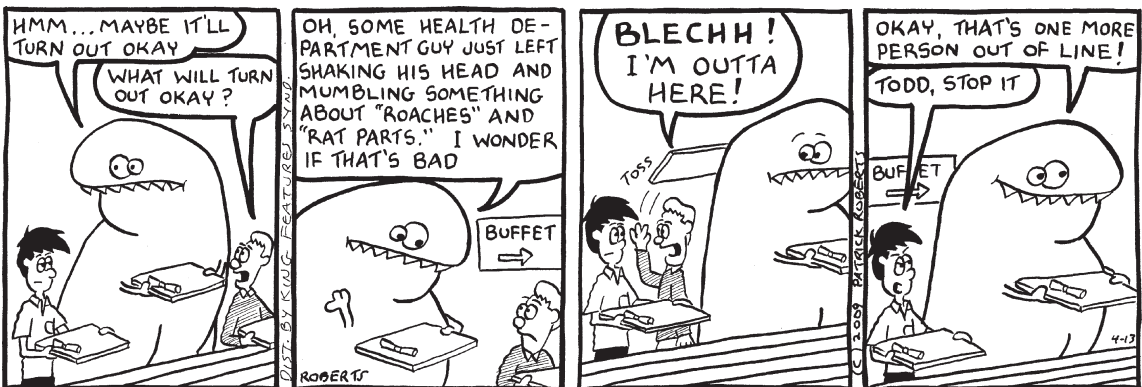
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



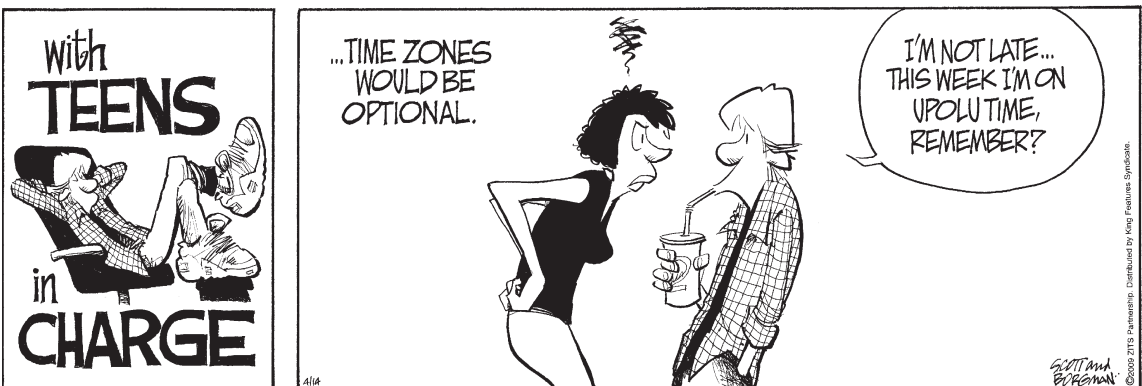
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott





Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Don't let scandal change behavior

I live in a very small town. Recently, I've been accused of some financial discrepancies, of which I am completely innocent. I didn't really think it was that big a deal – until I saw my picture on the front page of this morning's paper with a quote about a former employee's accusations underneath! Later on, the story was on the radio too. With all this attention, even I'm beginning to doubt my innocence. What should I do? – L.C.

Dear L.C.: Being at the center of a scandal is tricky business for those caught in the limelight. You may start to act awkward and nervous even if you have nothing to hide. You begin to second-guess how an innocent person would act in your shoes, and wind up looking guilty instead. Thinking about how you should act enters you into a horrible cycle of psyching yourself out – that's why I recommend that you try not to go there.

As hard as it may be, you have to keep a cool head when under the stress of a scandal. Being charged with a crime is not something to be taken lightly, and you need to hire a lawyer. Don't fall into the trap of thinking that just because you're innocent, you have no need of legal counsel. What's important to keep in mind are those who need no proof of your innocence – your family and close friends. You need to have a strong foundation on which to lean before the storm passes. Remember that scandals dissipate as quickly as they appear.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I don't know why I bother. I've been a great employee for my company for almost 15 years – always on time, with not one sick day – but what I see going on makes me livid. It seems my boss has just laid off several employees, all of whom have been there as long as I have, taking an enormous year-end cash bonus for himself. Mine could be the next head on the chopping block. How do I go to work every day, knowing I may be next on the unemployment line? – S.B.

Dear S.B.: It seems you're witnessing firsthand what we've all been seeing on the news recently. Bosses taking big cash bonuses for themselves while leaving their employees and stockholders in the lurch appears to be a commonplace symptom of our current dire economy. But in recognizing what's going on, you can take steps before you find yourself without a job. You need to channel your energy from anger and disbelief to something productive in order to feel empowered.

We need to realize that when we take a job, no matter how good an employee we may be, our employer does not owe us a lifetime position. Harsh as it sounds, loyalty is not part of the contract. You may feel entitled to your job, but sometimes fidelity to your workplace is just a one-way street. Dust off that old resume and freshen it up with all the skills and talents you've acquired through the years.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

East dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ Q 10 9 7 5 4 2
♥ 10 7 2
♦ A Q 5

WEST

♠ A K 8
♥ A 10 9 6
♦ K
♣ K J 8 7 2

EAST

♠ J 6 3
♥ K 8 2
♦ 8 4
♣ 10 9 6 4 3

SOUTH

♠ Q J 7 5 4 3
♥ A Q J 9 6 5 3
♦ —
♣ —

The bidding:

East	South	West	North
1♦	5♦	Dble	Pass
Pass	Pass	Pass	4♦

Famous Hand

The ultimate goal in bridge is to find the best answer to each problem as it arises -- even if this means choosing an action that seems contrary to the general principles of the game.

For a prime example, consider the accompanying deal played in Dublin in the 1967 European team-of-four championship. The hand arose in the match between Sweden and Italy, and the bidding shown occurred at the table where the Swedes were North-South.

Oscar Bellentani, the Italian West, began by doubling South's opening diamond bid. There was nothing remarkable about the double -- just about everyone else would have done exactly the same thing.

But Bellentani's pass of five diamonds -- holding 18 high-card points -- seems exceptionally conservative, since many Wests would automatically have doubled the 11-trick undertaking.

Not only that, but after North bid six diamonds, followed by two passes, Bellentani passed again! It would be mighty difficult to find many other players who would have exercised similar restraint. But he realized that for his opponents to voluntarily contract for slam, they had to have freakish distribution rather than high cards.

Ordinarily, declarer would have made the slam despite West's powerful hand. For example, let's suppose West had led the king of spades, which seems the natural thing to do.

In that case, South would trump the spade and ruff three hearts in dummy, returning each time to his hand with a ruff. He would then cash the A-Q of trumps and concede a heart to West's ace to score 12 tricks.

But Bellentani, recognizing that both opponents were bidding on distribution, decided to reduce declarer's crossruff potential. Accordingly, he chose the king of diamonds as his opening lead! After this start, declarer could ruff only two hearts in dummy, and he eventually lost two heart tricks to go down one.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★

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 the last Sudoku puzzle is at right.

Cryptoquip

QCYH ABEA ABQ SCH SJEZ
CLV CN EZACYH JCMQ
UTELV, TUFJV DUF NE
A'N E ZLEPQY LEPQY

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN MANY MOLLUSKS ARE MAKING A LOUD RACKET ALL AT ONCE, I WOULD SAY THAT'S CLAM-ORING.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Hawaiian island

5 Bro or sis

8 Eatery

12 Baldness

14 Operatic solo

15 Emergency care

16 Dissolve

17 Smithfield product

18 Shimmers

20 Burnett or Channing

23 Cherished

24 One

25 Ariel is one

28 Dowel

29 Star

30 Police officer

32 Ambushed

34 Kathie Lee's "Today" co-host

35 Congers

36 Church council

37 Marital felony

40 Cry loudly

41 Hebrew month

42 "The Fly" tagline, in part

47 Booth payment

48 Without equity

49 Dispatch "Gosh!"

50 "Gosh!"

51 Take out of the text

3 Perp. to vert.

4 Result

5 Con game

6 XV divided by V

7 Harassed

8 Photog's need

9 Neighbor-hood

10 Photog's need

11 Chow's down

13 List-ending abbr.

19 Gentle as a —

20 Half pint

21 From the beginning

22 Latvia's capital

23 Sandwich shops

25 Fruit tree pest

26 PC picture

27 Extinct bird

29 Skelton's Kadiddle-hopper

31 Cushion

33 Annual

34 Cross

36 Couch

37 Crazy

38 "American —"

39 Big bash

40 Secure

43 Com-pass dir.

44 Exist

45 Under the weather

46 Coloring agent

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Saturday's answer 4-13

