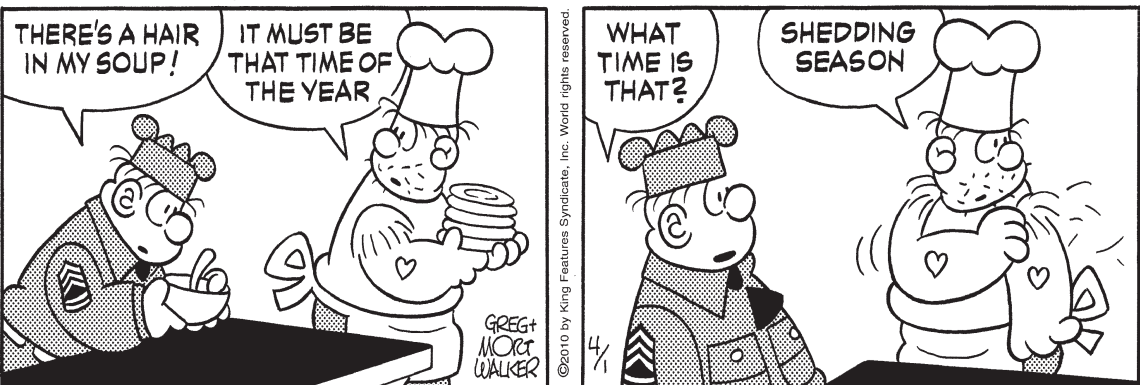


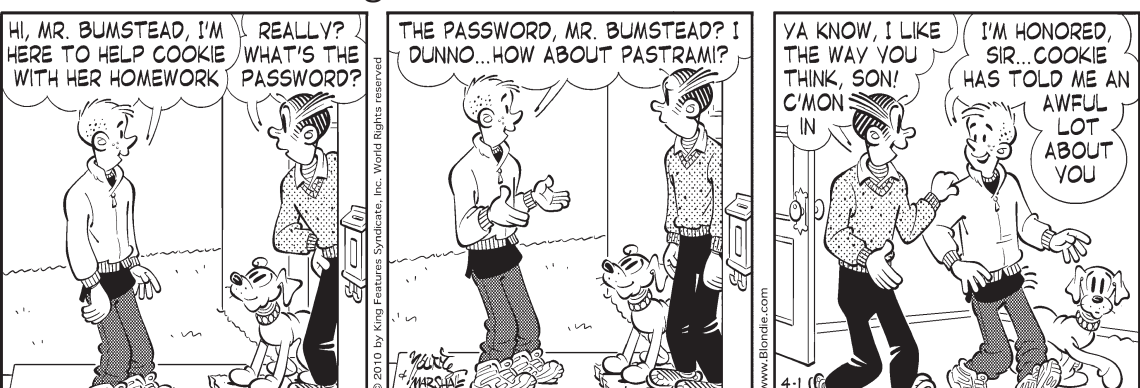
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



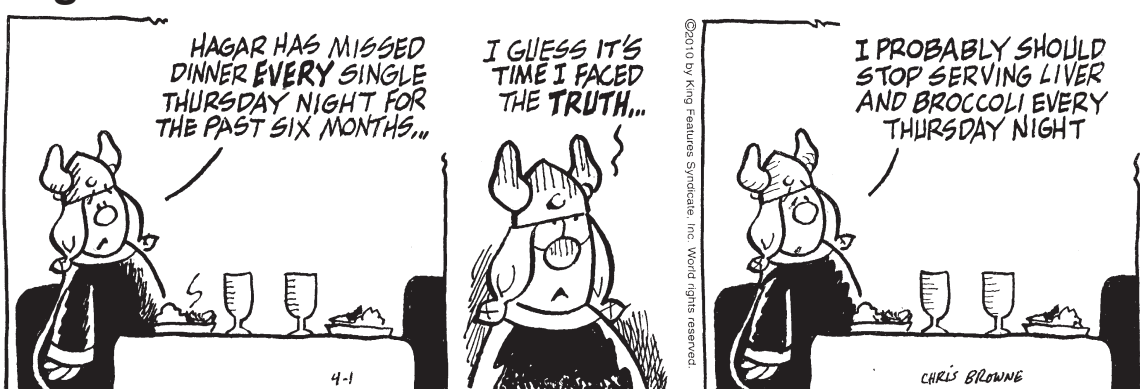
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



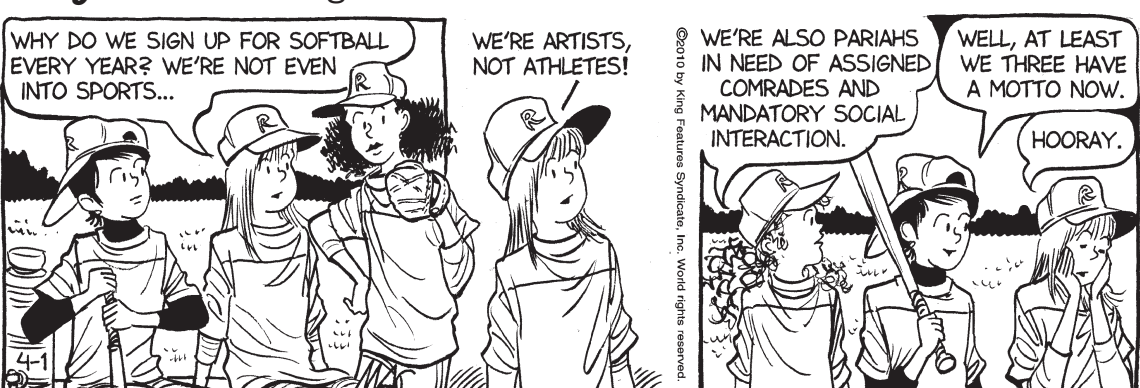
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



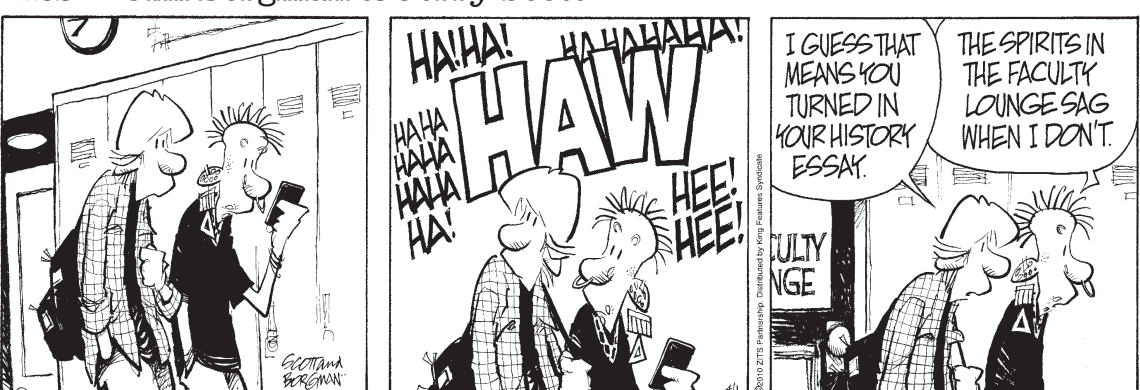
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Neighbor takes fridge privileges

Dear Dr. Brothers: My 7-year-old daughter made a new friend at school. She was excited to have the girl's mother drop her off. Well, the kid was great, but the mother ... not so much. She started acting like we have been best buddies for years. Now every time she drops off her kid, she stays for hours and blabs away. She helps herself to the fridge. I'm going crazy. — K.D.

Dear K.D.: I'm afraid you need to become more of a moving target. Instead of being trapped inside your home while this woman checks out your groceries, why don't you take the girls out for ice cream, or to a playground? Just don't be available when the other mother shows up ready for an extended visit. Or, if she shows an interest in following you around, ask her to take the girls herself while you run errands. When you do stay home, get a teen mother's helper to come in and play with the kids or at least do the supervising, while you slip away for some "me" time.

There is perhaps a better way, but it involves more risk. I know you don't want to impact your daughter's friendship, but it may suffer if the woman takes offense. At any rate, you should feel comfortable taking her aside and saying to her: "Look, you are a really nice person and I'm so happy our kids are friends, but I find on the days you come by that I'm not getting everything done because of the time we spend chatting. Do you think you could just drop your daughter off?" Wait for her response, and you'll find out how much you have to push back.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I've always been a believer in karma and that what goes around comes around — and I don't want to spread bad vibes — but I feel I should tell my friend she's making a mistake. A girl I introduced her to has asked for a favor and I know once she says yes, she'll be trapped! This girl we both know is a leech who never quits. I don't want to talk trash about anyone, but should I warn my new friend? — C.C.

Dear C.C.: As a new friend, you seem to be entrusted with introducing your companion to a group of people she might not otherwise meet. Since you introduced her to a girl you describe as a "leech," you might have been expecting to sit back and wait for something unfortunate to happen — and it has. Now you are in a position of either having to warn her about the girl or else letting her get sucked into some obligations you know she doesn't want or need. You probably are thinking you never should have introduced the new girl to anyone!

But wait a minute. Maybe she is looking for involvement — and if she holds the power to do the leech a big favor, it might make her feel good! She is capable of saying no if the favor makes her uncomfortable. If you want to warn her in a subtle way, you could say something like: "Pam and Holly also did Lisa big favors. She's lucky to have friends like you guys." This way, she will get the picture and you haven't been badmouthing anyone. Once she's been clued in, she can decide just how far to take the friendship.

(c) 2010 by King Features Syndicate

Bridge • Steve Becker

West dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

**NORTH**

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

**WEST**

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

**EAST**

♠ 5  
♥ K 10 6 2  
♦ A K Q 10 3  
♣ K 8 2

**SOUTH**

♠ A J 10 9 8 7 3  
♥ A J 5  
♦ 7 4  
♣ A

The bidding:

West North East South  
Pass Pass 1♦ 4♠  
Opening lead — eight of diamonds.

**Haste Makes Waste**

Everyone has at one time or another made a play that he wished he could take back as soon as the card hit the table. While such mistakes are only human, those who aspire to improve their game must learn to exercise the self-discipline needed to avoid this type of error.

Observe South's play in today's deal. West led the eight of diamonds against four spades, and East's ten and queen scored the first two tricks. East then continued with another high diamond, which declarer ruffed with the jack. West overruffed with the queen and returned a trump, after which South had to lose a heart trick at the end for down one.

Since declarer actually had 10 ironclad tricks after the third diamond lead, this was not a very good result. Furthermore, South realized his error even before West overruffed the jack of spades with the queen.

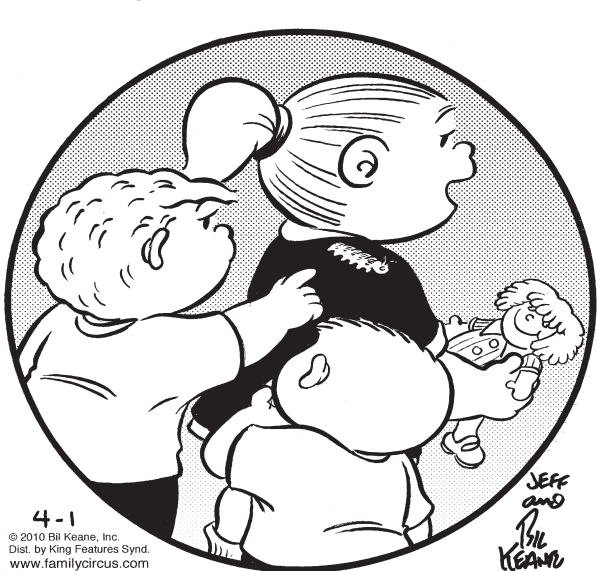
The proper play is to ruff the diamond return with the ace of spades at trick three. The ace of hearts is then cashed, and a heart is ruffed in dummy. Declarer re-enters his hand with the ace of clubs and ruffs the jack of hearts with the king of spades.

This sequence of plays gives up any chance of capturing the queen of spades, but that shouldn't bother South in the slightest, since all he can then possibly lose are two diamonds and a spade.

It is true that, as the cards lie, East can set the contract by returning a trump at trick three. West withholds his queen from this trick, giving declarer a Hobson's choice: He can draw trumps and lose two hearts at the finish, or ruff one of his heart losers with the king of spades and eventually lose a spade and a heart. But this is by no means an obvious defense, and once the defenders didn't find it, declarer should have taken full advantage of the opportunity presented him.

(c)2010 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



4-1  
© 2010 Bil Keane, Inc.  
Dist. by King Features Synd.  
www.familycircus.com

“NO WAY! I’m not gonna fall for that. You can’t April Fool me.”

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/01

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.

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

Cryptoquip

Y T X T V C Y F K I D I G O H I K  
O V G I L I K U F H J H G E O S I C I Y N  
X N Y O F I I X V E S O O X J

UYCCIL “RXV’FI KX DIHGR.”  
Yesterday’s Cryptoquip: IF DOROTHY’S DOG IN “THE WIZARD OF OZ” OWNED BALLET GARB, I GUESS THEY’D BE TOTO’S TUTUS.

Today’s Cryptoquip Clue: R equals Y

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Rum cake  
5 Kennel noises  
9 Sharknord  
12 Actor John who wed Shirley Temple  
13 From the start  
14 “Yecch!”  
15 Hero sandwich  
17 One of the guys  
18 Restrain  
19 Following  
21 Freudian concept  
22 Western movie  
24 Quick  
27 Doctrine  
28 Changes direction suddenly  
31 Old French coin  
32 Conk out  
33 Bill’s partner  
34 Unpaid amount  
36 Still, in verse
- DOWN**
- 1 Take pleasure (in)  
2 Chills and fever  
3 Sweetie  
4 Axilla  
5 Knitting need  
6 Singer DiFranco  
7 Corral  
8 Perspiration  
9 Take away  
10 Shrek, for one  
11 Son of 53-  
16 Succor
- 20 Shriner’s chapeau  
22 Basketry willow  
23 Congregation’s cry  
24 Nourished  
25 Expert  
26 Summon to court  
27 Notion  
29 Moo — gai pan  
30 Bribe  
35 Jerry’s pursuer  
37 Woe  
39 Surgical instrument  
40 Pouch  
41 Vicinity  
42 Castle  
43 “Tiger in your tank” brand  
44 Broad-legged wader  
46 Debonair bloke  
49 Guitar’s cousin  
50 Stein or Stiller

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday’s answer 4-1

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	26			27			28	29	30
31					32				33	
34			35		36			37		
			38		39			40		
41	42					43			44	45
47					48	49	50			
51					52				53	
54					55				56	