

Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



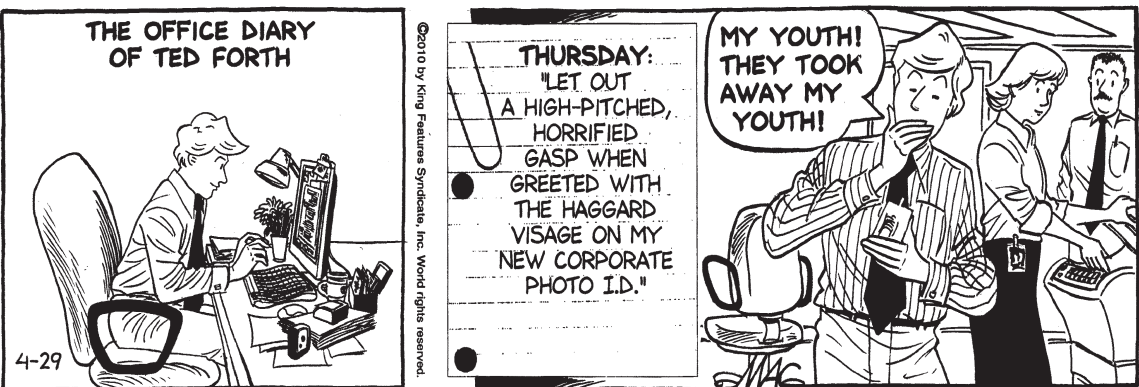
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



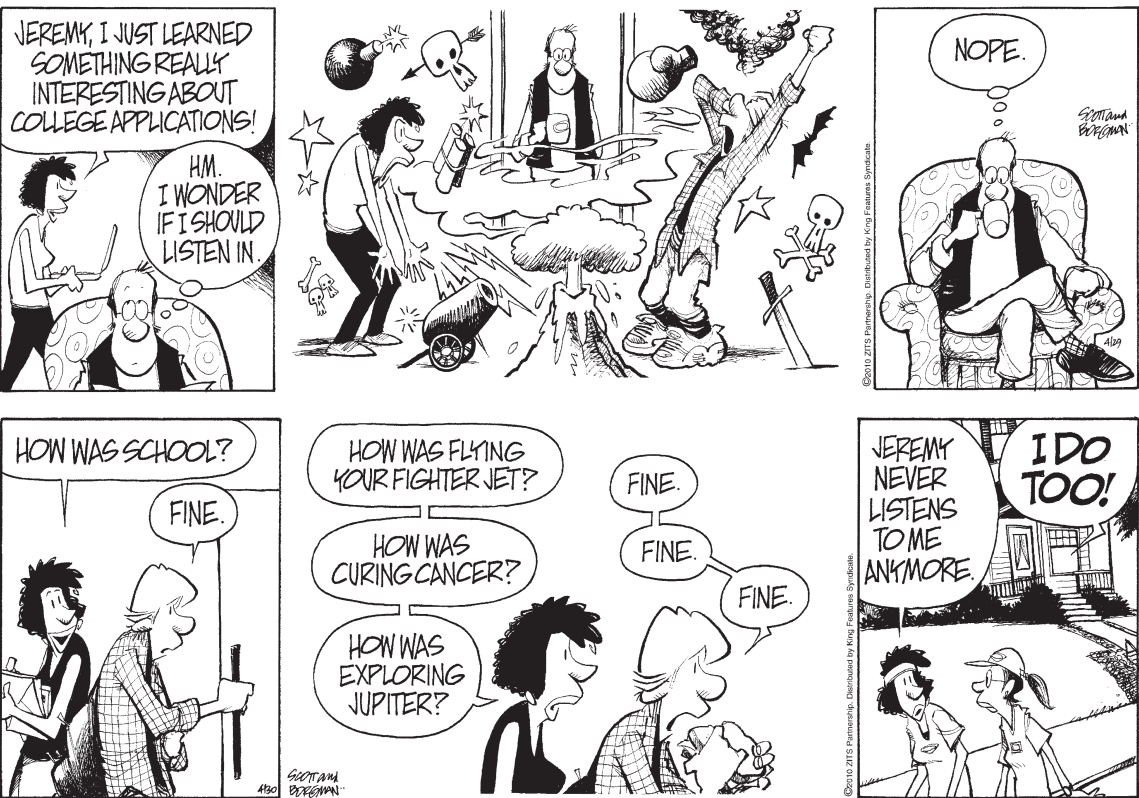
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers  
• Ask Dr. Brothers  
She doesn't want to be like others

Dear Dr. Brothers: I am 14 years old and just started my freshman year at high school. I wanted to make a break with my old group of friends, but now I'm worried I will never make a new friend again. I don't know what's wrong with these girls. They dress like they're going to the beach, and all they talk about is TV. I know I should try to adjust, but I really don't want to become "one of them." What can I do? — B.W.

Dear B.W.: You are at a very interesting crossroads. When you enter high school, it's a new world, and you have the opportunity to reinvent yourself if you choose. You could keep your old group going, and would always feel that you fit in. You'd never feel alone, and you'd have friends to do things with. But if you judge them and their interests, they would begin to distance from you. So you may as well be the one to make the break! Being true to yourself is important, even if you are not exactly sure where you are going or what kind of person you really are. Today it is enough to know what kind of person you aren't!

That said, you don't need to go on this journey of self-discovery alone. Now is the time to look around at other possibilities for friendships, male and female. One of the best ways to find a group of compatible people is to develop interests of your own — in athletics, music, art, the "green" movement, anything you find worthwhile — and pursue that. I think friends will follow almost automatically, based on common goals and experiences. That will be a group with a solid foundation and with plenty to discuss beyond TV.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I feel like I've turned into my father. First, loud music bothered me, then motorcycles driving by my house, and now my own son makes me feel like a grumpy old man. I can't believe he wants more time off from his new job and a raise when he gets back from vacation. The audacity of this kid! We would never act like this when I was young — what the heck is wrong with him? — S.G.

Dear S.G.: Old-fashioned values like a strong work ethic, loyalty to the company and other staples of careers we may have enjoyed seem to be on the wane, if not dead. There is no point in blaming your son for wanting to share in the good life; his is the first generation in a while that isn't guaranteed to surpass their parents in accomplishments, income and perks. Today it is quite a coup just to land a job after college — never mind what kind of job, or its pay and benefits.

Though times are tough, lots of kids just don't get it. It's when unrealistic expectations crop up that work can turn sour. In fact, The Conference Board in a recent study found that job satisfaction among workers under 25 dropped substantially in 2009 for the recently employed, or underemployed. And your son is hardly out of step. Many new grads value time away from work and a big salary more than ever. The trick is adjusting to reality without losing his job. If his expectations don't line up with the ability of his employer to reward him, he's going to suffer.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH		EAST	
♦ Q J 7 3	♠ A K 9 5 2	♦ 10	♠ J 6 3
♥ A K 9 5 2	♣ 8 7 6 2	♥ J 6 3	♠ 10 8 4
		♦ A K Q 10 5 3	

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

SOUTH: ♦ A K 8 6 5 ♥ 7 4 ♠ A K Q 5 2 ♣ 9

The bidding:  
South: 1 ♠, 3 ♣, 6 ♣  
West: Pass, Pass  
North: 2 ♥, 4 ♠  
East: Pass, Pass

Opening lead — jack of clubs.

Diablolical Defense

It may be hard to see how South could fail to make six spades on this layout, but that is exactly what happened when the deal occurred. Moreover, given the circumstances he encountered in both the bidding and the play, we suspect that quite a few others would have fallen into the same trap.

East laid the initial groundwork for declarer's eventual undoing when he elected to remain silent throughout the auction. West then did his part by leading his doubleton jack in the unbid suit, clubs.

It was now East's turn to take advantage of what he knew and declarer didn't. Instead of making the normal play of overtaking the jack with the queen and continuing with the king, East won the first trick with the ace and returned the queen! This sequence of plays was designed to create the impression in declarer's mind that West had led from a club holding headed by the K-J-10.

The payoff came a few tricks later. After ruffing the queen, South trumped a diamond in dummy, then played the queen of spades and a spade to the king. A second diamond was ruffed with the jack of spades, bringing declarer to the critical position.

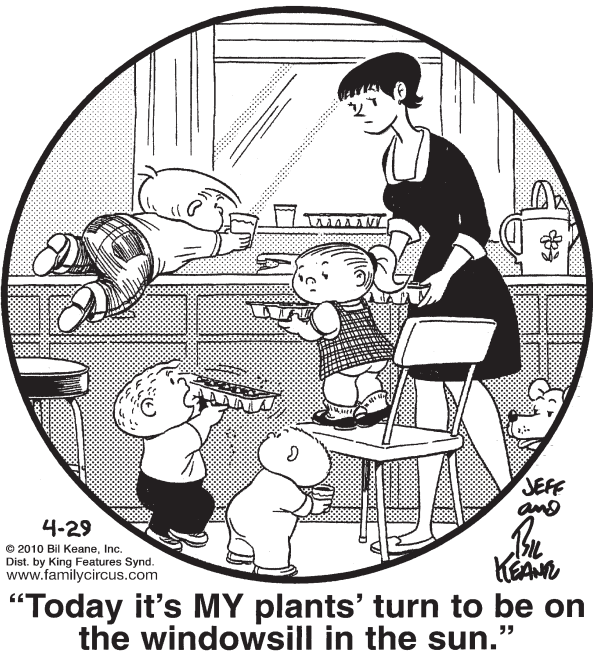
With no more trumps in dummy, South had to guess how to get back to his hand. The threat, of course, was West's nine of spades, which could score a fatal overruff.

It was here that East's earlier deceptive plays came to fruition. Afraid that West might overruff a third round of hearts and certain that West had at least one club remaining, South elected to ruff a club, and the nine of spades came home to roost.

Perhaps another declarer might have made the winning decision, but the actual South is certainly deserving of our sympathies.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

Cryptoquip

B LBLP'U MRPU UJ XGRPTK

UJ HDBPT UGBD FZRPL-PKM

FJMSBPT FRSS, FHU B

LKXBLKL UJ ZJSS MBUG BU.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MOVIE ABOUT A RABID MOTORIST DRIVING VERY DANGEROUSLY ON NEVADA HIGHWAYS: "WEAVING LAS VEGAS."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals D

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

<b>ACROSS</b>	<b>32</b> Lustrous black	<b>55</b> Actress Schneider	<b>11</b> Unadorned
<b>1</b> Amorphous mass	<b>33</b> Vast expanse	<b>56</b> Turn on a pivot	<b>16</b> Commotion
<b>5</b> Soothing agent	<b>34</b> Tittle		<b>20</b> Chatroom chortling
<b>9</b> Hoover, for one	<b>36</b> Fool	<b>DOWN</b>	<b>22</b> Top of a wave
<b>12</b> Top-rated	<b>37</b> Charon's water	<b>1</b> Talks and talks	<b>23</b> Feedbag fill
<b>13</b> Shaving cream additive	<b>40</b> "I see"	<b>2</b> LummoX	<b>24</b> Schuss
<b>14</b> Supplement, with "out"	<b>41</b> Temptress	<b>3</b> Never again?	<b>25</b> Writer
<b>15</b> Romania's capital	<b>43</b> Obliterates	<b>4</b> Command	<b>26</b> Buscaglia
<b>17</b> Evergreen type	<b>47</b> Praise in verse	<b>5</b> Saloons	<b>27</b> Not shut tight
<b>18</b> Trusty horses	<b>48</b> Most gentle	<b>6</b> Hearty quaff	<b>29</b> Tina of "30 Rock"
<b>19</b> Unaccompanied	<b>51</b> "— Miserables"	<b>7</b> —	<b>30</b> Levy
<b>21</b> "And I should care ... why?"	<b>52</b> "Holy mackerell!"	<b>8</b> Gold, silver or bronze	<b>35</b> Pink-slip notes
<b>22</b> Shade	<b>53</b> Stage presentation	<b>9</b> Kelley who played McCoy on "Star Trek"	<b>37</b> Musical
<b>24</b> Skirt feature	<b>54</b> Chow down	<b>10</b> Related	<b>39</b> Go in
<b>27</b> Coach Parseghian		<b>Solution time: 25 mins.</b>	<b>40</b> Raw rock
<b>28</b> Took off			<b>41</b> Dover fish
<b>31</b> Barbie's companion			<b>42</b> Concept

Yesterday's answer 4-29

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

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	46
47				48	49	50				
51				52			53			
54				55			56			