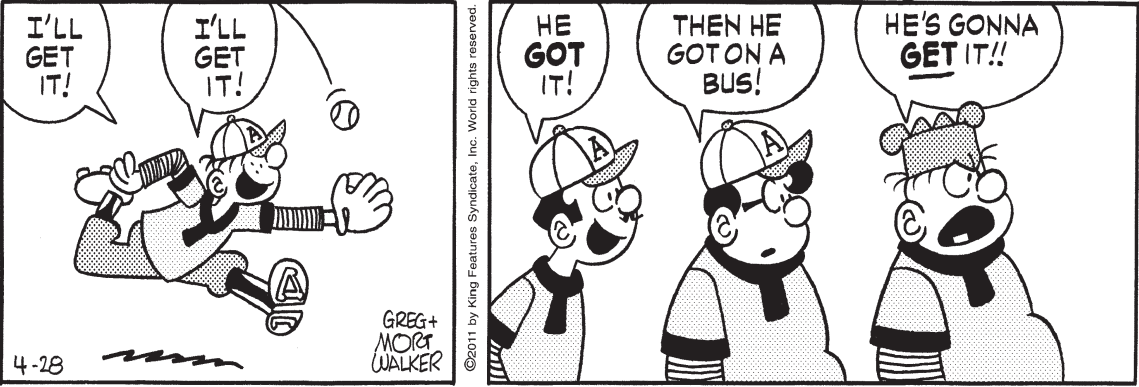


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



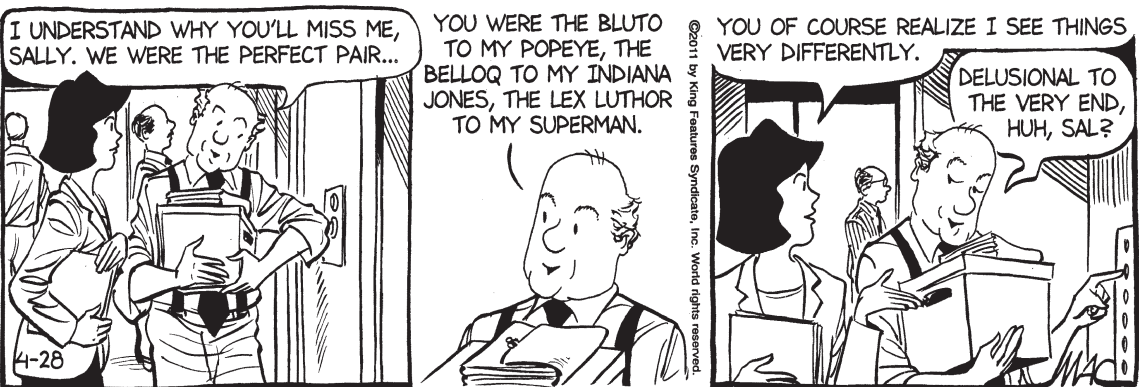
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



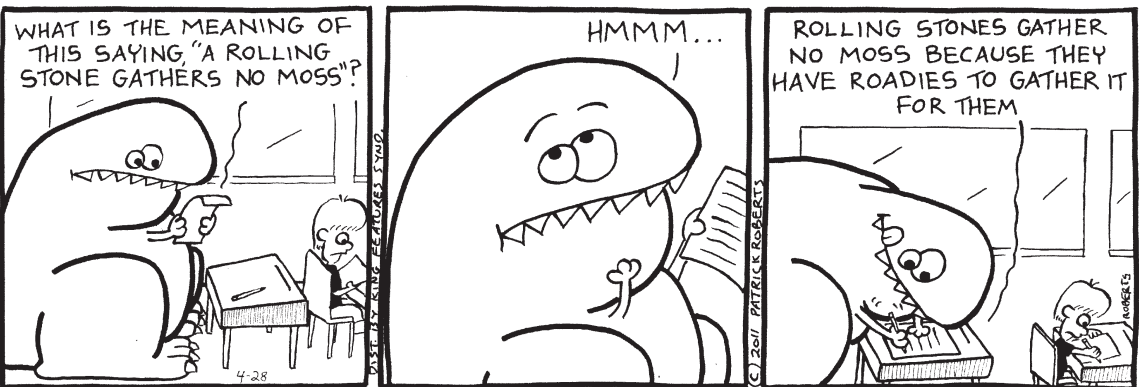
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



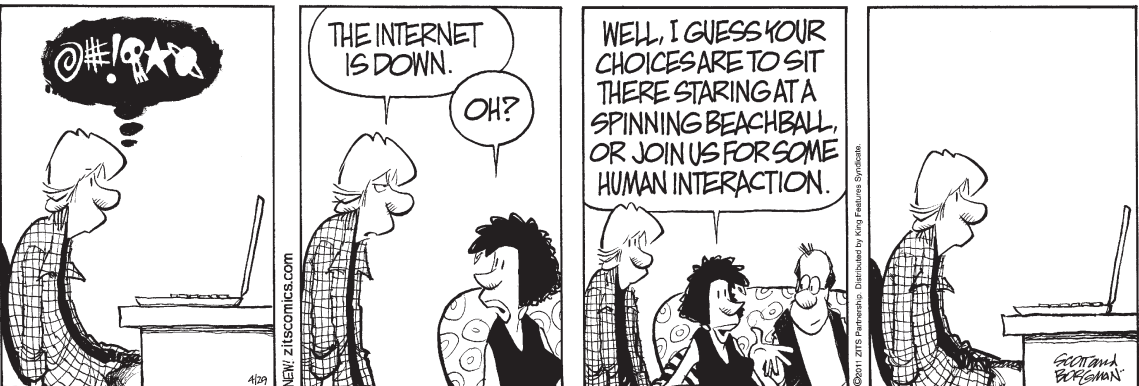
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers • Ask Dr. Brothers

Kid can't sleep in his own bed

Dear Dr. Brothers: As first-time parents, my husband and I decided to play parenthood by ear. I think we screwed up along the way. Our son always crawled into bed with us to sleep, but now he's almost 12, he shows no signs of being an independent sleeper. Our friends tell us he is too old to do this. When we try to get him in his own room, he freaks out. What can we do? – N.C.

Dear N.C.: Yes, you probably missed windows of opportunity to change a pattern. Your son is on the fast track to puberty, and the issue probably will resolve itself when he starts feeling grown up. But if this is the only way he has ever looked at bedtime, don't be surprised that he hates sleeping on his own. Though difficult, if your attitude is firm he will see you are serious.

Redo his room for the teen years, to make it where he wants to spend time, including sleep time. He can spend time reading before bed (I don't recommend a TV or computer in the room). Be there for him – except as sleepmates. If he wakes and wants to join you, don't allow it.

You must know your son well – I'm sure if he is shy, depressed, emotional or anxious, you would seek a mental-health expert to speak with him. If he is well-adjusted and has just never broken the habit of sleeping in his parents' room, there's no time like tonight for taking that first step. Let him know you're on his side, if not by it.

Dear Dr. Brothers: While on vacation last summer, my husband and I were approached by a modeling agent, who told us what a great "plus-size" model our 17-year-old daughter would make. After researching him online and finding out he's legit, we got into a fight about how to handle it. I think it would do wonders for our daughter's self-esteem; my husband thinks it would be insulting to tell her someone thought of her as "plus-size." Please be our referee! – B.T.

Dear B.T.: It is a good thing that you have done your homework and not let your daughter be led into a scam. But there are many issues to consider when looking at a career in modeling. Has your daughter expressed an interest? Is she interested in college or the working world? If she is intrigued, do a lot more research into what kind of mental toughness goes into a successful career in this grueling world. Also, find out what mobility there is between the worlds of plus-size and traditional models – and how your daughter would react to being stereotyped and stuck with an image.

So, it's not about you and your husband. You're going to have to deal with your daughter sooner or later if you want to find out how serious she is about this opportunity. If she's gung-ho, realistic and has a vision of herself as a model, plus-size or not, that's one thing. But if she's not comfortable in her own skin and is constantly dieting or exercising, help her change – rather than lock in – her image. She wouldn't make a good model if she has to fake it.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer. East-West vulnerable.

NORTH  
♠ A Q 7 2  
♥ 8  
♦ K 10 2  
♣ Q 8 5 4 3

WEST  
♠ J 9 3  
♥ Q J 7 6 3  
♦ Q 8 5 4  
♣ 2

EAST  
♠ K 10 8 4  
♥ K 10 5 2  
♦ A J 9 6  
♣ 9

SOUTH  
♠ 6 5  
♥ A 9 4  
♦ 7 3  
♣ A K J 10 7 6

The bidding:  
South: 1 ♣, 2 ♣, 5 ♣  
West: Pass, Pass  
North: 1 ♣, 4 ♣  
East: Pass, Pass

Opening lead — queen of hearts.

Indemnifying the Contract

The fate of many hands is determined primarily by how the opponents' cards are distributed, rather than by the skill of the declarer. But before a declarer decides that the outcome is purely a matter of luck, he should review all of his options.

Consider this deal where making five clubs appears to rest on the location of the ace of diamonds and king of spades. If West has both of those cards, declarer can make 12 tricks by taking the spade finesse and later leading up to the diamond king.

Alternatively, if each opponent has one of the vital cards, declarer loses either two diamonds or a diamond and a spade.

But if East has both key cards, it would seem that South must lose a spade and two diamonds and go down one. Yet closer inspection reveals that, with proper play, declarer can make his contract regardless of how the adverse cards are distributed.

South wins the first heart, ruffs a heart in dummy, leads a trump to the ace and ruffs his remaining heart. The closed hand is then entered with a trump, and a diamond is led.

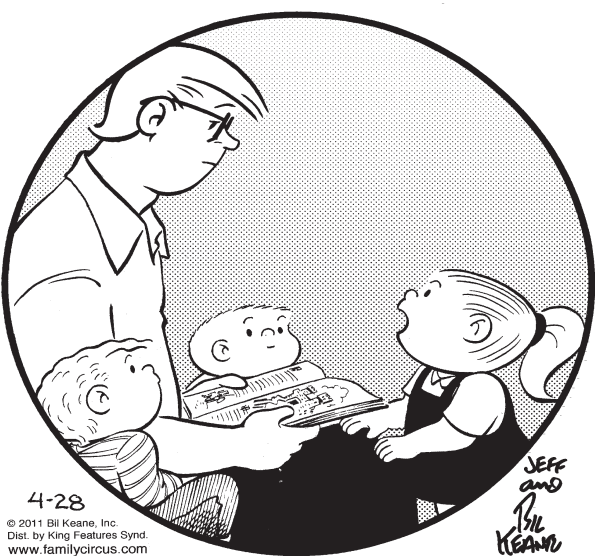
If West follows low, dummy's ten is played, and East wins with the jack. If he now cashes the ace, he establishes dummy's king, on which declarer can park his spade loser. South also succeeds if East leads a heart, yielding a ruff-and-discard, or returns a spade into the A-Q.

Observe that it doesn't help if West puts up the queen when the diamond is first led. In that case, declarer simply covers with the king, and East finds himself in the same unpleasant position.

Nor does it matter if West actually has the ace of diamonds. As long as dummy's ten is played after West follows low, or the king is played if West produces the queen or jack, the defenders are helpless.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Fairy tales have lots of kings and queens, why don't they have any presidents?"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/28

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

B KIBLJ KIDK D SNMZ X'H

CBXT NLZ-KPN ARLVI PNREG

AZXIDAH SZ DL ZMDTAEZ

N C D GNRSEZ - GZVJZX.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: A MONTHLY MAGAZINE ALL ABOUT CERTAIN STRINGED INSTRUMENT PLAYERS COULD BE "HARPIST'S BAZAAR."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Locate for 15- Across

5 Society newcomers

9 Opposite of "trans-"

12 Vicinity

13 Eastern nurse-maid

14 Blackjack part

15 Meat-eater

17 Deteriorate

18 Last

19 Food from heaven

21 Exist

22 Syrup provider

24 Chantilly, e.g.

27 Kenny G's instrument

28 On in years

31 "I — Rock"

32 Luau music provider

33 "— been had!"

34 Lancaster foe

36 Roulette bet

37 Option for 15- Across

38 "Unsafe at Any Speed" author

40 Italian river

41 "Remember the —!"

43 Water-boiling device

47 Off-roader, for short

48 Boutonniere, often

51 — jiffy

52 Floor in the ring

53 Show the way

54 Texter's intro

55 "Pygmalion" writer

56 Sea flock

DOWN

1 Confront

2 Tehran's land

3 Dweeb

4 Viennese waterway

5 Jay's rival

6 Comic Philips

7 Prohibit

8 Brother of Moe

9 — Hall

10 PC picture

11 — good example

16 Anger

20 Carte

22 Smith

23 Pink-slipped

24 Deposit

25 Latin 101 word

26 Fair

27 Foolproof

29 Leading lady?

30 3, on the phone

35 Neb.

37 Perfume holder

39 Adorns

40 Shell-game need

41 Letters and such

42 Periodic Table fig.

43 Recognize

44 Layer

45 Bank transaction

46 Odds' mates

49 "That feels so-o-o good!"

50 Scandinavian rug

Solution time: 25 mins.

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER 4-28

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			