

Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



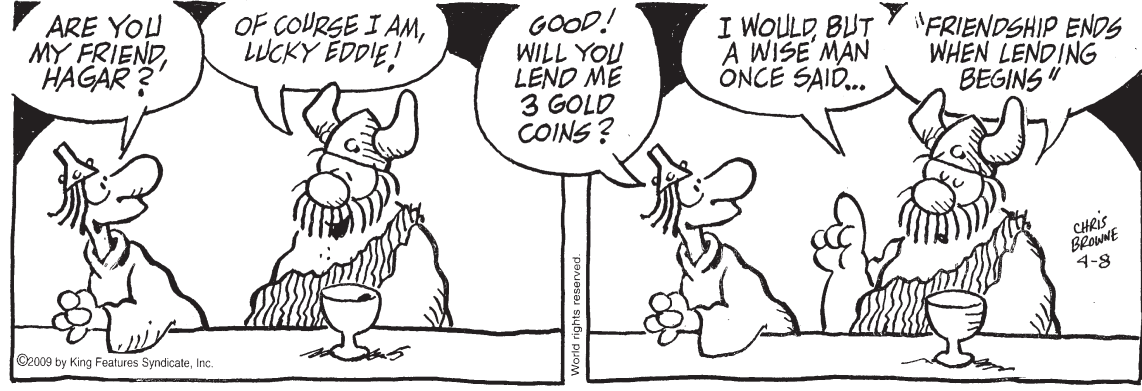
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



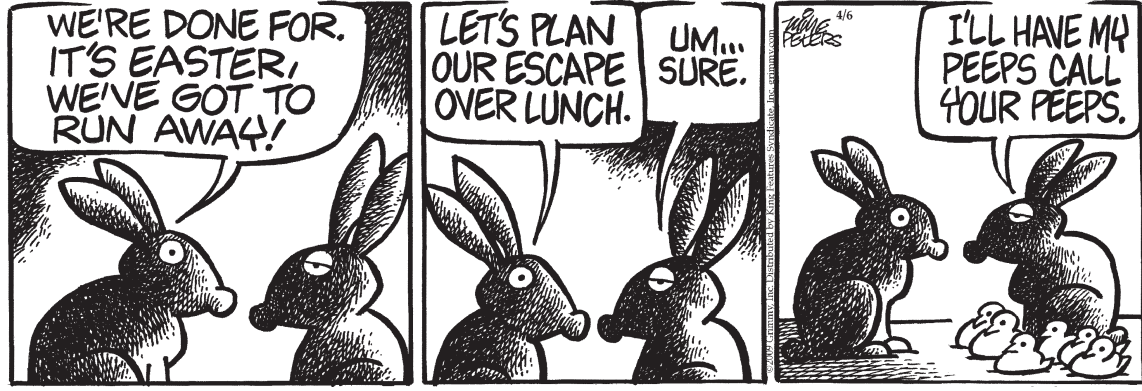
Blondie • Chic Young



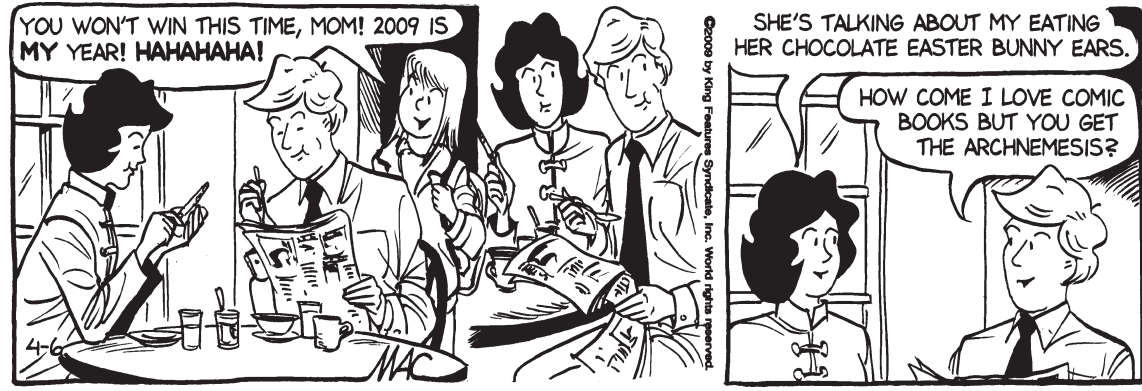
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



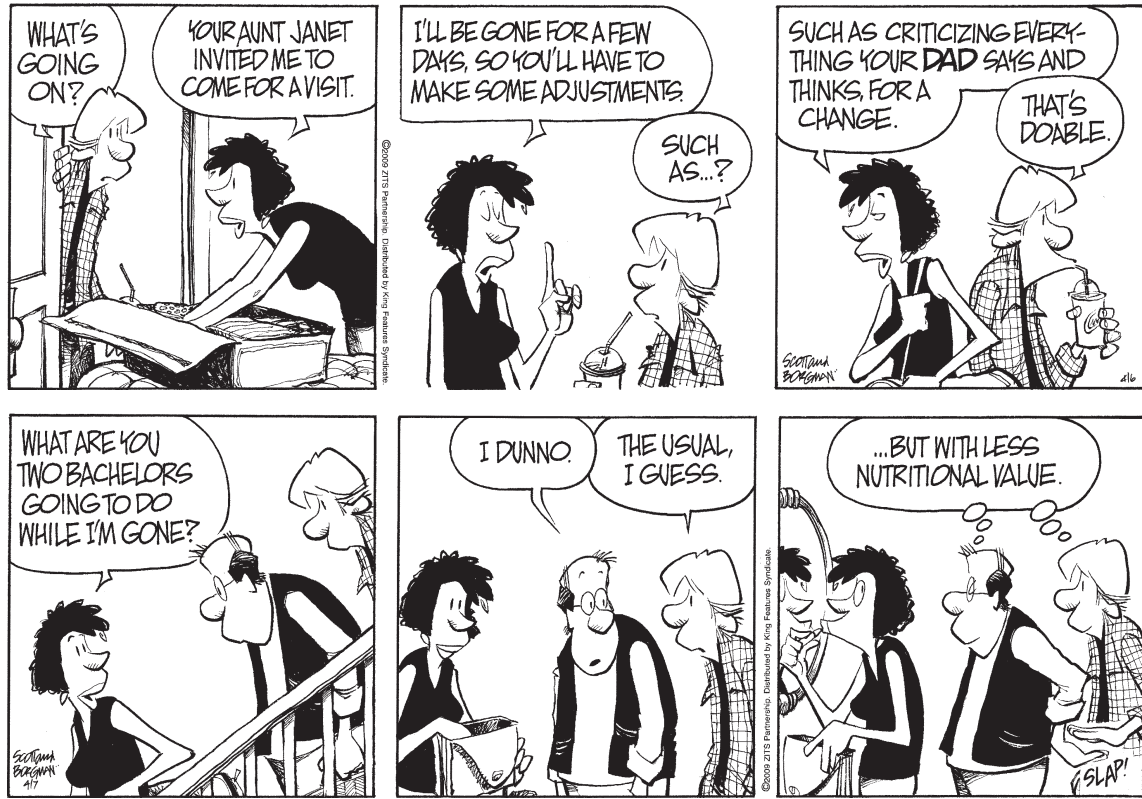
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers • Ask Dr. Brothers Intern's mom calls employer

Dear Dr. Brothers: I run a small non-profit company in a college town. I have always had a large number of students who want to come in and work as an intern during the summers...

Dear T.H.: I can see that if self-confidence, initiative and maturity are part of your job description for interns your applicant would have fallen short the minute his "helpful" mother picked up the phone...

It's really too bad that parents have taken it upon themselves to act this way. It keeps the students or graduates in a perpetual state of dependency. But until they step up to the plate, these applicants will never be able to present themselves as adults who are ready for work...

Dear Dr. Brothers: I have been planning a move across the country, forced by my husband's job problems. While I've always loved trying new places, now we have two little kids, and I find myself dreading the whole relocation thing...

Dear C.S.: It is perfectly normal to be scared to death, or just a bit nervous, before a big move across the country. Since you have moved around quite a bit already and haven't experienced this before...

I think the key to all this is your changed status of being a mother. Now you are responsible for the happiness of your children as well as your husband and yourself, or so you think. That's a big burden, but it is one all mothers feel when they are about to uproot children and take them into the unknown...

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"How much do chickens get paid per egg?"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

Sudoku grid with numbers 1-9 in various positions.

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

ZPCAU NX OQNU LUAQY PZC'S
TUYX BRCAX MPIU XQGYZ,
BQMIZ AQGML ZRX P ORTU
RC PCBUY PQY PCSUY PQY.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AFTER PLACING A COUPLE OF COCKTAILS ON HIS ROOF, THE GUY HAD TO CRY "DRINKS ARE ON THE HOUSE!"

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals N

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS: 1 Q-tip tip, 5 Silent, 8 Cold War weapon, for short, 12 Easter flower, 13 Rage, 14 - contender, 15 Initial stake, 16 White bloom, 18 "Bread" from what place, 21 Actor Baldwin, 23 Evergreen type, 24 Grow uncontrollably, 28 Moist, 31 Body of water (Abbr.), 32 The Ram, 34 Falsehood, 35 Oil cartel, 37 Skier's slowing maneuver, 39 Greek consonant, 41 Growl, 42 Aft, 45 Stuck, sort of, 49 Anne Murray classic, 51 Christmas, 52 Cattle, 53 U.S. spy org., 54 And others (Lat.), 55 Raced, 56 Type units, 57 Landlord's due, 10 United nations, 11 Sulk, 17 Kid's query, 19 Actress Jessica, 22 Adhere, 24 "No seats" sign, 25 Pinch, 26 Nuance, 27 Ancient Spartan king, 29 "O Sole -", 30 Church vessel, 33 Graceful bird, 36 Masticated, 38 Orison, 40 Sphere, 42 Requests, 43 Quick cut, 44 Pleasant, 46 Burlap fiber, 47 "Two and a Half Men" role, 48 Dissolve, 50 Edge

Crossword grid with letters and numbers.

Saturday's answer 4-6

Crossword grid with numbers.

Bridge • Steve Becker

West dealer. North-South vulnerable. NORTH: ♠ Q 3 2, ♥ K 10 6, ♦ A 10 8 6 5, ♣ 10 4. WEST: ♠ K 1 9 8 6, ♥ A 8 5 2, ♦ - , ♣ Q 9 8 6. EAST: ♠ 7 5, ♥ Q 9 7 3, ♦ K 4 3 2, ♣ J 3 2. SOUTH: ♠ A 10 4, ♥ J 4, ♦ Q 1 9 7, ♣ A K 7 5.

The bidding: West Pass, North Pass, East Pass, South 1 NT, 2♠, 3 NT. Opening lead - eight of spades.

Famous Hand

This deal occurred in the match between Italy and the United States in the 1984 World Team Olympiad. When the U.S. held the North-South cards, the bidding went as shown.

The Italian West chose to pass as dealer but, after South opened one notrump, overcalled with two clubs, indicating length in both major suits. North then went directly to three notrump, ending the auction.

West led a spade, won by South with the ten, and declarer (Paul Soloway) had to decide what to do next. Although attempting a diamond finesse seems the obvious thing to do, Soloway instead led the four of hearts at trick two. He realized that on the bidding a diamond finesse was likely to fail, and that if it did, a spade return would almost surely defeat the contract by allowing East-West to eventually score three spades, a diamond and a heart.

Soloway's reasoning was certainly sound, and the heart play left the Italians with no chance whatever of stopping the contract. After West followed low, declarer went up with the king, led a club to his ace and then lost the queen of diamonds to East's king. The best the defenders could do was to cash three hearts, after which South had nine tricks consisting of two spades, a heart, four diamonds and two clubs for plus 600.

It could be argued that Soloway was very lucky to find the hearts divided 4-4. But on a probabilities basis, West was more likely to have been dealt only four hearts rather than five. Furthermore, if West had five hearts in addition to five spades and the diamond finesse lost, the contract couldn't be made.

When the Italian North-South pair played the same hand, they stopped at three diamonds, making three, for a score of 110 points, so the U.S. gained 490 points -- 10 IMPs -- on the deal.

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