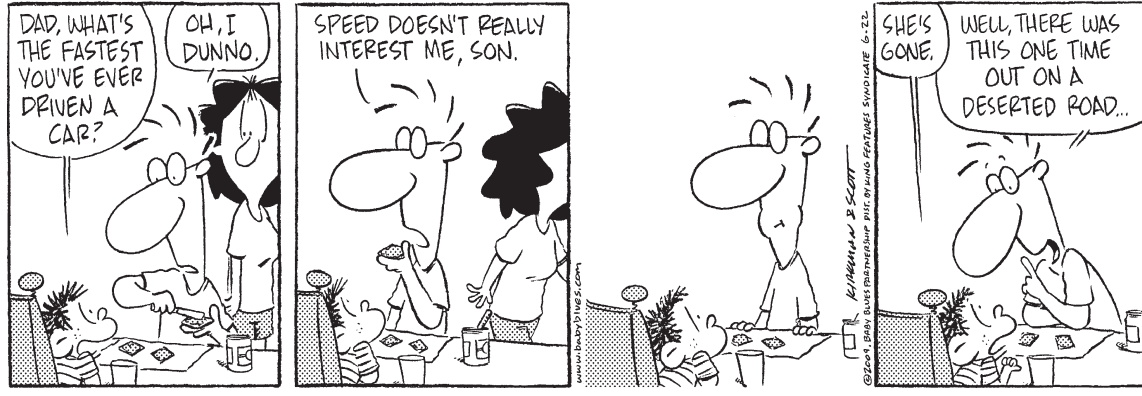


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



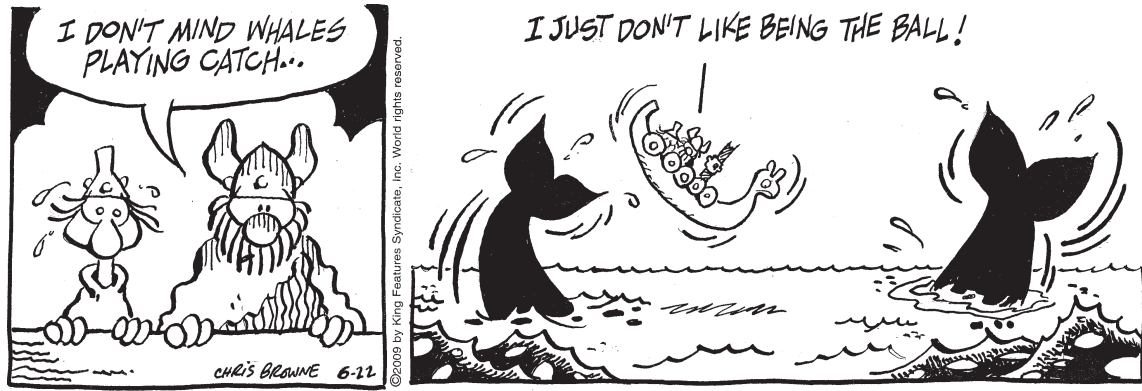
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



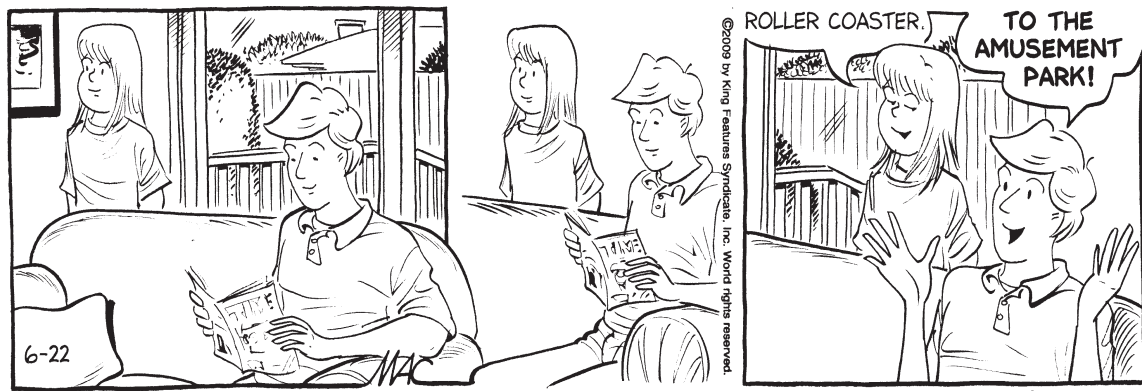
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



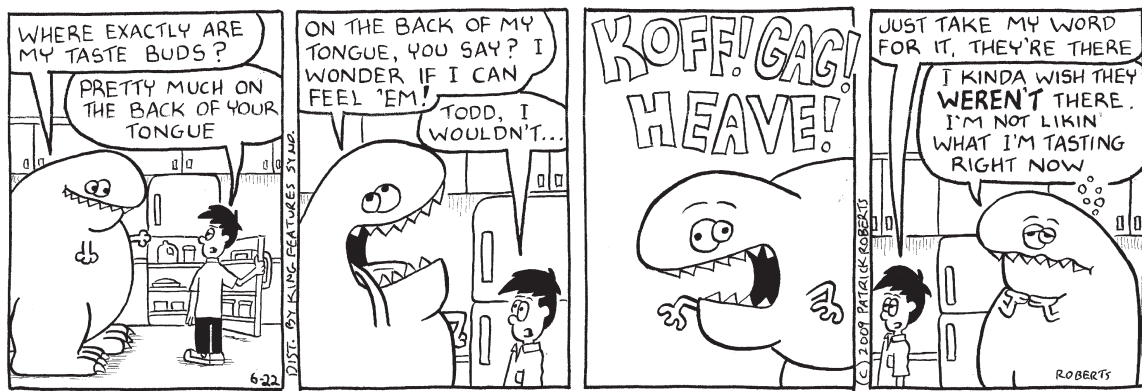
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



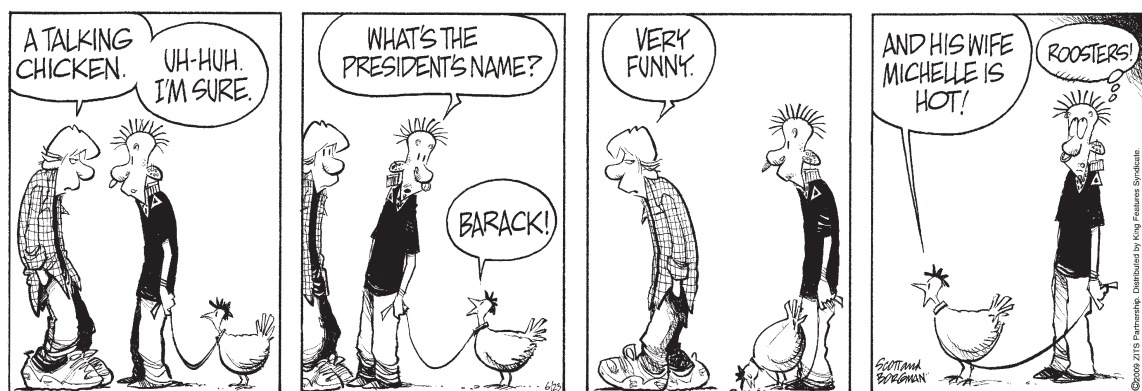
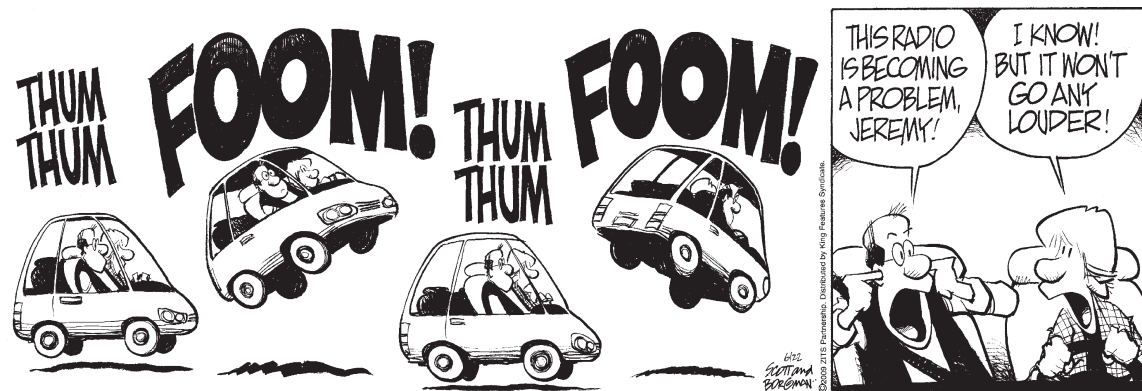
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Kids tell jokes about bullying

Dear Dr. Brothers: I am feeling a bit sick after overhearing my son and his friends joking about various children they don't like at school. These boys in my home are 10-year-old kids from good families, and I had no idea they had such mean feelings inside. More worrying is that with the way they talking about what they would like to do to these unpopular kids, I wonder if they will get in trouble. What should I do? — S.B.

Dear S.B.: It's hard for many of us to remember our childhood and how strongly our emotions influenced our behavior. It is even more difficult to imagine that our own offspring could harbor ugly thoughts and find a group of friends eager to hurt other children's feelings or physically assault them. Although it is just talk right now, as far as you know, there is a good likelihood the friends will talk each other into doing something they will later regret.

So, you need to take this overheard conversation seriously. Take your son aside and tell him what you heard. Ask him to explain. If you then sit back and listen, without interrupting, you'll see just how defiant or embarrassed your son might be feeling. This will give you a clue as to whether you need to talk to the other parents or whether he was just shooting the breeze with his buddies. Now is the time to impress upon him that bullying won't be tolerated in your family. Although it is natural to want to assert himself, he still will need to be treated like a boy in need of supervision — at the very least, by his family.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I am a single mom with a 14-year-old son who has never gotten into any kind of trouble. He is shy and quiet, and we are very close. I have found out purely by accident that he has been experimenting with drugs. I am not sure where they came from, but he has been attending an after-school political club where he has made friends with older children. I am afraid to risk alienating him with harsh punishment. What do I say to my son? — L.W.

Dear L.W.: I know you want to do be a good parent to your son. At the same time, you have a huge fear of losing him — from being too tough or having him realize that you don't trust him anymore. You are going to have to reconcile these powerful and conflicting drives. Single mothers often have a bond with their teenage sons. The son may want to protect his mother. It is difficult to maintain your authority because your roles are somewhat skewed already. But you know you must address this situation head-on.

Since you are having a hard time believing that your son could do anything to get in trouble, think of this as a health and safety issue when you talk to him. It doesn't mean he is a bad person. But both of you should be aware of health and legal consequences should he not use good judgment with this new issue in his life. Since you have built up your great relationship over many years, trust that it will continue, and let him know that you are on his side and want him to be safe. Make use of the many resources out there to help.

Bridge • Steve Becker

North dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ Q 8 7 3
♥ 10
♦ A Q 10 7 2
♣ K 8 3
WEST
♠ A 6 2
♥ A 4 3 2
♦ K 5 4 3
♣ J 9
EAST
♠ 5
♥ K Q 9 6 5
♦ J 9
♣ A 7 6 5 2
SOUTH
♠ K 1 10 9 4
♥ 1 8 7
♦ 8 6
♣ Q 10 4
The bidding:
North 1♦ East 1♥ South 1♠ West 4♥
4♠ Pass Pass Dblc
Opening lead — jack of clubs.

Famous Hand

The 1984 World Team Olympiad was won for the first time by Poland, which crushed France in the 96-deal final. The hand shown occurred on Board No.7 and helped the Poles get off to a fast start from which the French never recovered.

When the deal was played at the first table, the French North-South pair reached four spades, over which the Polish East-West pair bid five hearts. This was doubled and beaten two tricks for a score of 500 points for France.

Had North-South succeeded in making four spades for a score of 620, a 500-point sacrifice by East-West would have been a good result. But it was noted by observers that if West led a club originally, he could later negotiate a club ruff and thus defeat four spades a trick.

Sure enough, at the second table the Polish North-South pair got to four spades as shown, and was doubled by the French West. West then found the killing lead of the club jack. As can be seen, if East takes the ace and returns a club, West can win an early trump lead, lead a low heart to partner and obtain the club ruff that sinks the contract. The same result can be achieved if East ducks his ace on the opening lead.

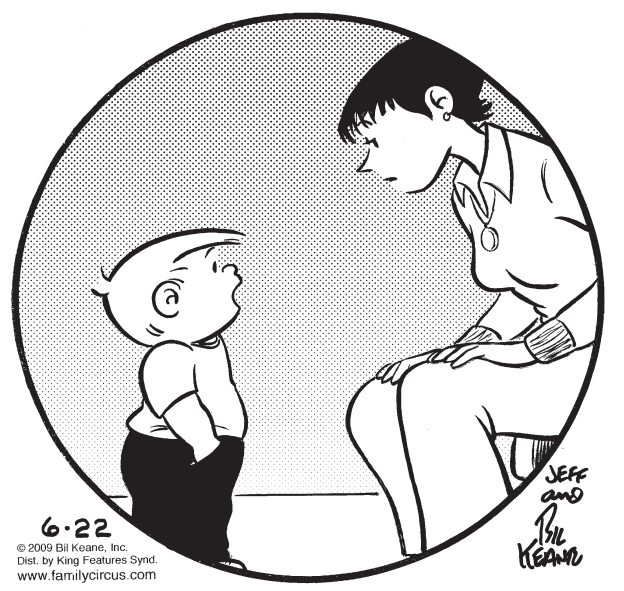
But a funny thing happened on the way to down one. When East took the jack of clubs with the ace at trick one, the Polish declarer, Piotr Gawrys, dropped the queen under the ace!

This gave East pause for thought, and the more he thought the more he became convinced that his partner had led the jack of clubs from the J-10-9-4. So he shifted to the king of hearts at trick two, thereby wrecking the defense.

As a result, Poland scored 790 points for a net gain of 290 points, or seven International Match Points. Had the contract been defeated, the French would have gained 12 IMPs instead.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"If two wrongs don't make a right, how come two odds make an even?"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

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.

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

Cryptoquip

ENXX CLNT WZGJOQ FACGFCOY
COXXOZ SFBLNQO LFQYXO
MGAZ BFTL DZGDOZXM? N
EGAXYQ'C WFQJ GQ NC!

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE A CERTAIN INSECT HAD TO SHELL OUT MONEY, PERHAPS YOU COULD CALL IT A PAYING MANTIS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals L

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 U.K. TV network (Latin)
4 King (Latin)
7 9-Down, for one
11 Came to earth
13 Corroded
14 "— Lang Syne"
15 Assess
16 Chatter
17 Note from the boss
18 Rosemary's partner?
20 Bound
22 Tiny legume
24 Fasteners
28 Graceful animal
32 Otherwise
33 Furniture brand
34 Reverence
36 Mischievous Norse god
37 Dynamite constituent
39 Authorize
41 Slow crawlers
43 Eg. and Syr., once
44 Ardor
46 Rosters
50 "Scat!"
53 Freedom, for short
55 Willy Wonka's creator
56 Chess piece
57 Victory sign
58 On the Mediterranean
59 "— Karenina"
60 Roulette bet
61 Explanation

DOWN
1 Homer's imp son
2 Mediocre
3 Metropolitan
4 Tatter
5 And others (Latin)
6 Three-masted sailing ship
7 Home of the Buccaneers
8 Regret
9 Shade provider
10 Tokyo's old name
12 Suburb of Phoenix
19 Conger, e.g.
21 Will Smith biopic
23 Carte intro
25 Winter forecast
26 Jab
27 Use a teaspoon
28 Traps
29 Related
30 Catherine — Jones
31 Ram's mate
35 Ostrich-like bird
38 Bullring bravo
40 Crony
42 Spirited attack
45 Told a whopper
47 Beauty pageant ID
48 "The Cosby Show" role
49 Cabbage salad
50 Hot tub
51 — Solo
52 Possess
54 Foundation

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Saturday's answer 6-22

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11			12		13			14	
15					16			17	
18				19		20		21	
				22		23		24	
28	29	30			31		32		
33				34		35		36	
37				38		39		40	
41				42		43			
				44		45		46	
50	51	52			53		54		55
56					57			58	
59					60				61