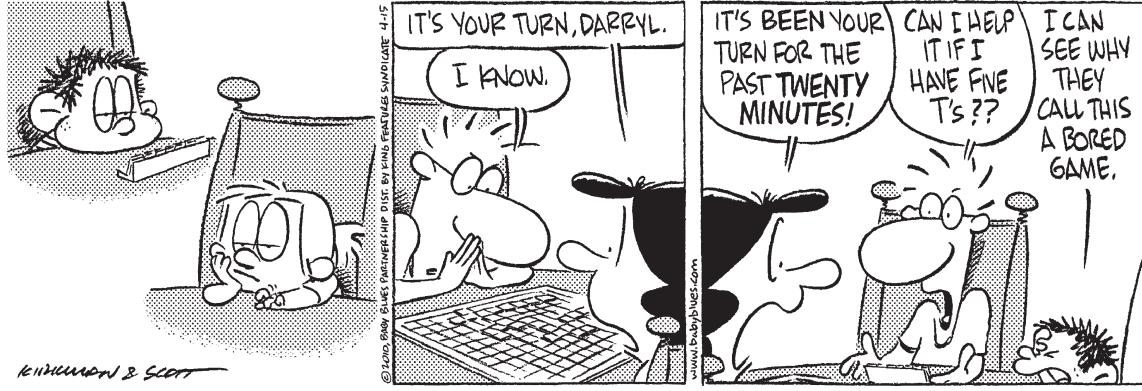
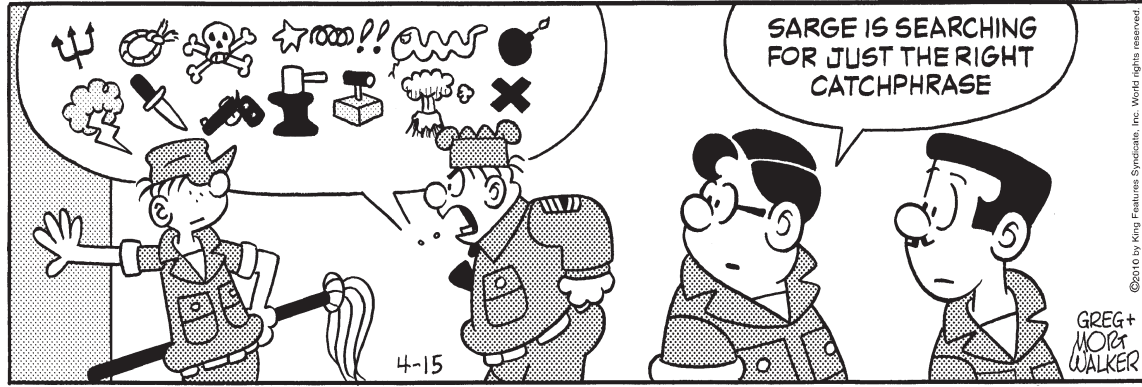


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



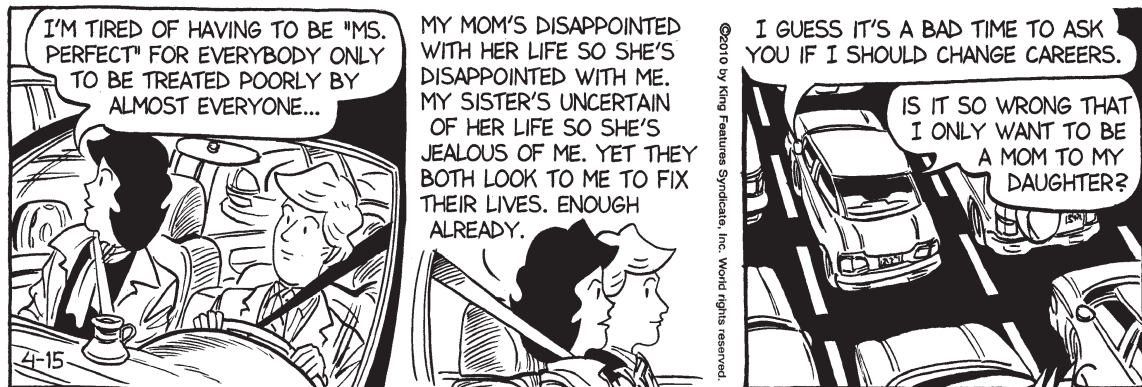
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



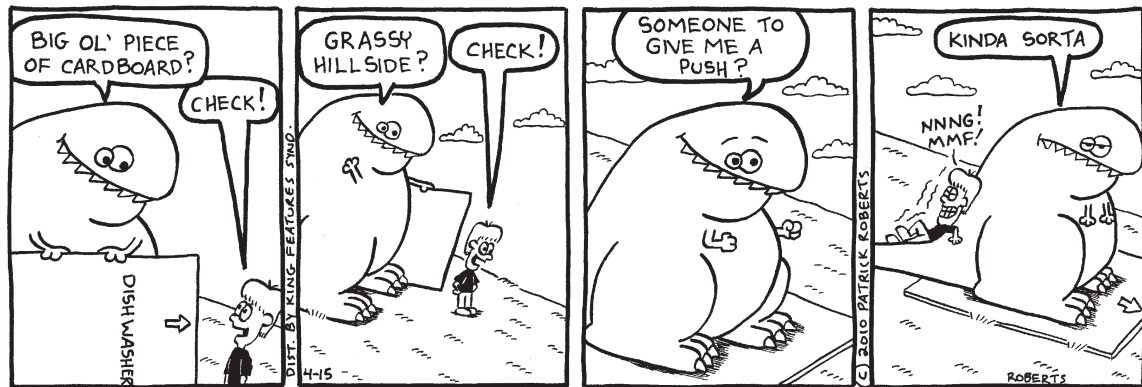
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Teen drinker baffles parents

Dear Dr. Brothers: We're at the end of our rope. Our 17-year-old son was just arrested for driving while intoxicated - his second in two years - and has lost his license. My husband and I cannot fathom where we went wrong; we've given him everything he wanted and more since he was a baby. We feel like we are watching his life spin out of control from behind glass. We're sick of feeling helpless. What can we do? - S.J.

Dear S.J.: Your son needs to have alcohol counseling and follow through with whatever the court has ordered. He may try to paint these arrests as unlucky, or bad judgment, but he has shown he is not ready to be trusted with responsibility for his own life or that of others when it comes to driving. Loss of his license is not the biggest tragedy in the world. Many kids take drinking for granted - their parents have never let them know it is not acceptable. Do you fall into this category?

You seem to miss the point when it comes to what went wrong. By giving the child everything he wanted, you have failed to teach him patience, loss, self-denial, working toward goals or postponement of gratification. There is little wonder he felt entitled to drink and drive - what was your response the first time? A slap on the wrist? While your son works on his issues you could use parenting training of your own. Although your son soon will no longer be a minor, and theoretically you will be off the hook, his behavior will continue to resonate unless you all change. Wake up!

Dear Dr. Brothers: I haven't spoken to my brother in 25 years. It's not that we hate each other; it's just that we lead different lives. He's a very earthy person and lives in a commune, while I'd rather die than live with more than three people. That's why I was shocked to get an invitation to his wedding. I should go, but I don't know how to deal with the whole thing. Any tips? - P.A.

Dear P.A.: I think it would be good to consider showing up at the wedding. Remember, this is not about you - it's about your brother and his soon-to-be wife, and it is doubtful that much attention will be directed at you. The members of the commune may have curiosity about you, but it's possible they will see you as just another wedding guest. This is not the time to get into anything hot and heavy with your brother. If he chose to extend the hand of friendship after all these years, just be warm and accepting, and try to make plans for getting to know them.

If they will continue to live in the commune, there is no reason you can't invite them to your home or meet in a neutral place. Or just swallow your feelings about communes and visit there. It probably would feel good to reconnect. All you have to do is go along with it. There may be other relatives you have lost touch with at the wedding. This would be a good time to start a new way of looking at your family as a diverse group.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Why did you wait till the last minute to do your homework?"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/15

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.

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

Cryptoquip

IOG QPA IBXGF IS NBGPC
XAIS IOG MSQZPAU'T
MSQZKIGB TUTIGQ, NKI OG

TXQZRU MSKRFA'I OPMC XI.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT DID THE "STAR TREK" OFFICER USE TO GET POWER THROUGH HIS ELECTRICAL CORD? A SPOCK PLUG.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals T

Bridge • Steve Becker

West dealer. East-West vulnerable.

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

WEST
♠ K 10 8 7 4
♥ —
♦ Q J 9 4 2
♣ K Q 10

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

SOUTH
♠ A J 5
♥ A 1 9 8 7 2
♦ 6 3
♣ 5 2

The bidding:
West North East South
1♣ 2♠ 2♠ 4♥
Opening lead — king of clubs.

Optical Illusion

Assume you become declarer at four hearts on the auction shown. West leads the K-Q-10 of clubs. You play the jack from dummy and ruff East's ace. How would you continue?

It's easy to see, looking at all four hands, that the winning play is to lead a heart to dummy's king and, after West shows out, finesse against East's queen on the return. Eventually you lose a spade, but you make the contract.

Without seeing all four hands, however, you might easily play the ace of hearts first and end up down one. The outcome therefore seems to depend on a straightforward guess as to how to tackle the hearts. But there is a bit more to the deal than at first meets the eye.

When the hand was played in a team contest, declarer realized that the only threat to the contract was a 3-0 heart division. After East turned up with the club ace, South decided that West was likely to have the queen of hearts for his opening bid. He therefore cashed the ace of hearts and that was that - down one.

While it may be true that West was more likely to have the heart queen for his bid, declarer missed a surefire way to make the contract. He should have reasoned that cashing the ace first would sink the contract if West showed out, but the same was not true if he cashed the king first and East showed out.

Had East not followed to the heart king, declarer could next have led a heart to the ace, played the A-K and ruffed a diamond and then exited with a heart. After taking the queen, West would have been forced to return a spade or a diamond (the earlier plays in clubs had marked him with just three cards in that suit), either of which would hand South the contract.

Guessing which way to play the hearts was therefore an illusion. The contract was a sure thing so long as declarer played dummy's king first.

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Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 In need of repair
4 Used a loom
8 Parisian pals
12 Prepare Easter eggs
13 Help a hood
14 Aching
15 Raze
17 No mere prank
18 Pussy-cat's partner
19 Cause for revolution
21 Hosts
24 "Pink Panther" actor
25 Ever-green variety
26 Jerry's pursuer
28 Moistened with drops
32 Snare
34 Violinist's need
36 Ms. Moore
37 Arrangement

DOWN
1 Peculiar
2 Caustic solution
3 Barack Obama, e.g.
4 Billfold
5 Japanese sash
6 Third piece?
7 — alcohol
8 Guilt-ridden
9 July 1969 landing site
10 Dr. Seuss' "If — the Zoo"
11 Alluring
16 Have debts
20 Filch

21 Small salamanders
22 Spongy terrain
23 Weep loudly
27 Broom closet item
29 Loss of a stripe
30 Eastern bigwig
31 Skater
33 Creamy dessert
35 Kids' card game
38 Luau bowlful
40 Famed operatic trio
43 Fragrant wood
45 Baltimore newspaper
46 Coral structure
47 Common pc. of Latin
48 Emanation
49 Lily variety
53 Wrestling surface
54 Last letter
55 Work unit

Solution time: 25 mins.

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER 4-15

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					57	58
59				60						61