

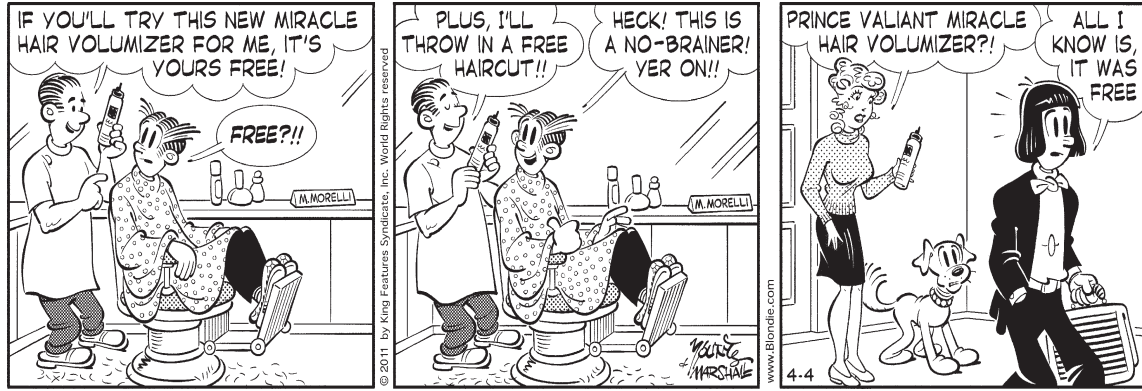
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



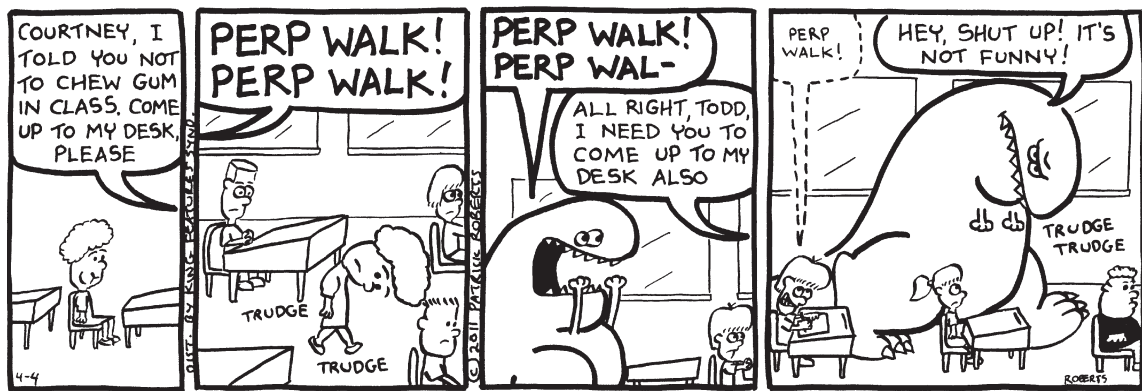
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



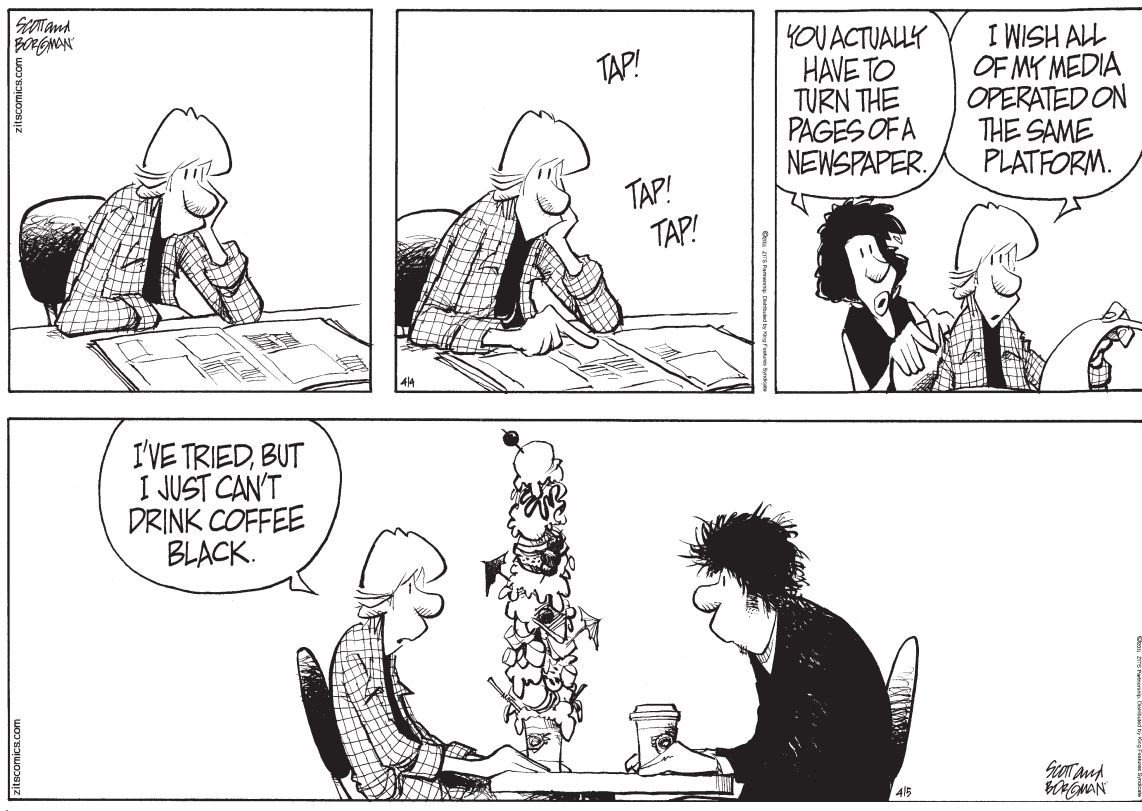
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Dad lost license but still drives

Dear Dr. Brothers: My father turned 91 this past summer. When we went to renew his license, he failed the entire test spectacularly. He's pretty cognizant, but his sight is miles away from 20/20. He took this hard and moped around for a couple of weeks. Then it seemed as if his funk suddenly lifted. One morning I found out why: He was taking my car for joy rides in the morning before I even got up! I feel horrible that I scolded him like a child, but I don't know what to do. — K.J.

Dear K.J.: This is a sad situation, but mostly it is a dangerous one. Your father is driving without a license, and if he can't see well and has slow reactions because of his advanced age, he could be putting himself and others at risk when he goes out for a secret morning spin. I am sure you are aware of the dangers of letting this continue, and if you have to hide the keys, so be it. In the meantime, it is worth reflecting on what your father is feeling and finding out if there is an alternate way of helping him to feel independent and capable. As you know, a car represents freedom and also stands as a symbol that everything is OK — if you can still drive, you must not be too old or sick.

Losing driving privileges can be a severe blow to elderly people. Others welcome the end of the stress, especially if they have started to create accidents, gotten tickets or suffered near misses. You need to find other ways to make your dad feel competent and in control. Think about things he's good at and ask him to teach you or your children a skill. Make sure someone is able to drive him so he doesn't feel deprived.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I think I made the biggest mistake of my life when I tried playing matchmaker for my sister. I thought she would get along with this friend from work, but from what I hear, the first date was a nightmare. Now my sister got a job at the same place where my friend and I work, and it's crazy. They both keep asking me what the other is saying about them, and it's driving me nuts. I can't cope, and want to go back to the way things were. — C.W.

Dear C.W.: You may be in for an even rougher time for a while, until both can forget about one another and move on. This might be a challenge, as the date was a nightmare. It could be one or both, far from being grateful, are trying to get even because they blame you for the first date train wreck. So by constantly reminding you of how awful it was, they are able to spread the pain around a little. That's what you get for not seeing what a terrible match you were making!

There are a couple of ways to address this while you are waiting. You will have to talk to both and let them know how sorry you are the date didn't work out, and that you misjudged how perfect they were for one another. Both are mad at you, and you can let them beat up on you a little bit, but make sure they know you don't want to be in the middle of a war. Tell them you are retiring from matchmaking! The next time you are tempted to put together a couple, remember you don't have much of a track record, and turn your talents to something less risky.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

North dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♦ Q 10 4
♥ Q 7 3
♠ Q 9 7
♣ A K J 5

WEST
♦ 6 2
♥ K 9 5 2
♠ 6 5 3 2
♣ 7 4 2

EAST
♦ A J 9 8 7
♥ 6 4
♠ A 8 4
♣ 10 9 8

SOUTH
♦ K 5 3
♥ A J 10 8
♠ K J 10
♣ Q 6 3

The bidding:
North East South West
1♣ 1♠ 2NT Pass
3NT
Opening lead — six of spades.

Famous Hand

A declarer's path to success is often strewn with assorted pitfalls. One of declarer's top priorities is to recognize these pitfalls when they arise and to do everything that can be done to avoid them.

Today's hand provides an illustration. The deal was played back in the '30s by Josephine Culbertson, who was generally regarded as the top woman player of that era.

She got to three notrump on the bidding shown, and West led the six of spades. Many declarers would have mechanically played the ten or four of spades from dummy, but Mrs. Culbertson played the queen!

East took the queen with the ace but now could not afford a spade return because of dummy's ten. He therefore shifted to a heart, and again Mrs. Culbertson responded with the correct play. She went up with the ace and led the king of diamonds at trick three.

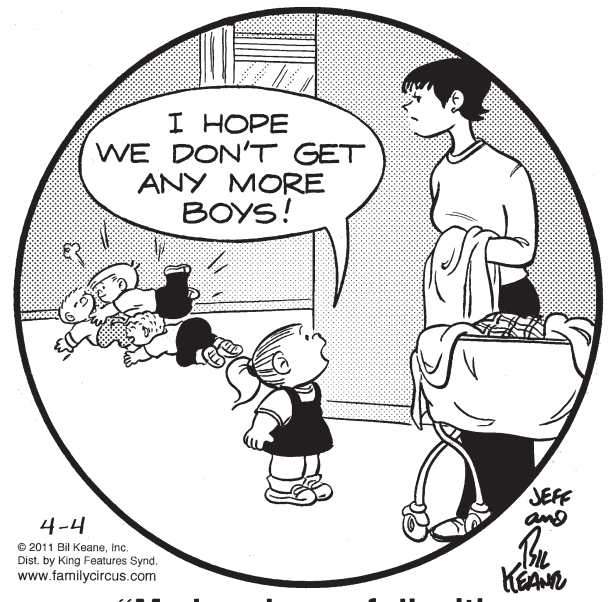
East took the ace and led a heart to partner's king, but he was fighting a losing battle. West returned a spade through dummy's 10-4, but Mrs. Culbertson won with the king and finished with 10 tricks — one spade, three hearts, two diamonds and four clubs.

Now let's suppose that the first play from dummy had been the ten (or four) of spades. In that case, East would have played the jack (or seven) to force South's king. Then, at some point later in the play, when West gained the lead with the king of hearts, his spade return through dummy's Q-4 would have set the contract.

Similarly, had Mrs. Culbertson taken the tempting heart finesse at trick two, she would also have gone down after a spade return by West. It was only by avoiding both of these pitfalls that Mrs. Culbertson was able to make the contract.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"My hands are full with three brothers!"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 4/04

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

Cryptoquip

KY Q JTUXCD KX PLKIT
WKDMYLA CY L XKDZ RCLJCDX,
RCLAM ECL XQE IBQI BT
BQX UTMTWKDZ PLQAKIKTX?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THAT AWFUL MAN USUALLY SPEAKS ILL OF ALL NEW YORK SPORTS TEAMS. HE ALWAYS KNOCKS THE KNICKS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals F

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Opposed to rival
 - 5 Central part of the foot
 - 12 Iowa crop abbr.
 - 13 Alias of Greek myth
 - 14 Erte's art style
 - 15 Grand story
 - 16 Wicker-encased bottle
 - 18 Insist on
 - 20 Served tea
 - 21 Appear to be
 - 23 Spoon-bender Geller
 - 24 Outward manner
 - 28 Slithery fish
 - 31 Eggs voice
 - 32 Male born
 - 35 Instrument of Marxism?
 - 37 Insanity
 - 39 Youngster
- DOWN**
- 1 Scored 100 on
 - 2 "Unh-unh"
 - 3 Decorate, perhaps
 - 4 If
 - 5 Aroused anger
 - 6 Eisenhower
 - 7 Moist
 - 8 Urge earnestly
 - 9 Get one's bearings back
 - 10 Rue the run
 - 11 007
 - 17 Debtor's letters
 - 19 All spruced up
 - 22 Cash
 - 24 Homer's interjection
 - 25 A Gabor sister
 - 26 Skilled shooter
 - 27 Amoricist
 - 29 Hawaiian garland
 - 30 Caribbean or Caspian
 - 33 Depend (on)
 - 36 Mountaineer's spikes
 - 38 Without dissent
 - 40 Calendar abbr.
 - 42 Not busy
 - 43 —do—well
 - 44 Lecture hall VIP
 - 46 Equestrians' game
 - 47 Maintain
 - 48 Resorts
 - 50 "Wipeout" network

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Saturday's answer 4-4

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		