

Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



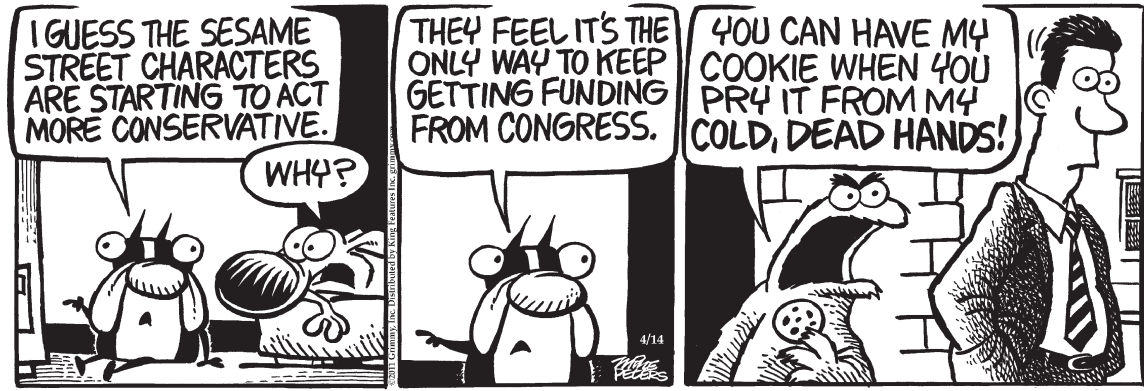
Blondie • Chic Young



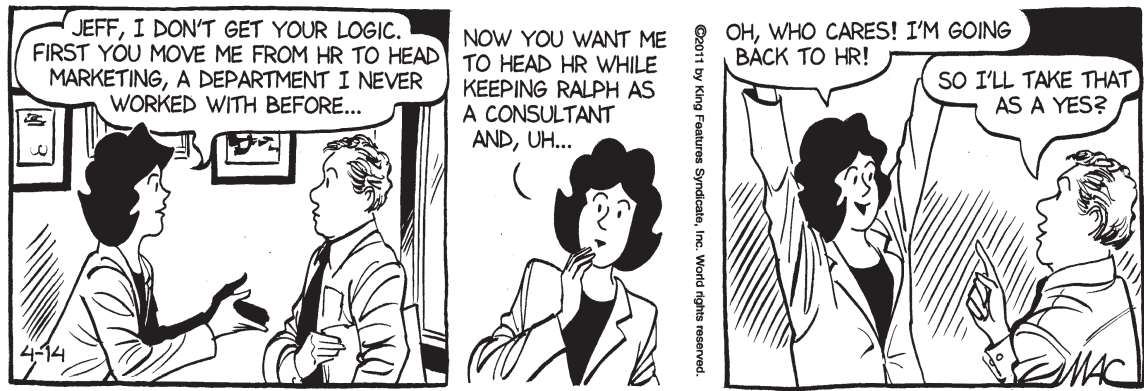
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



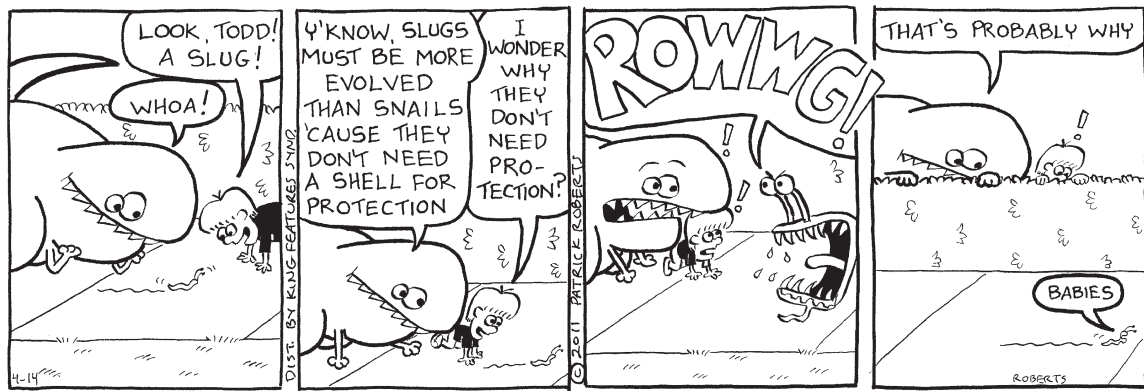
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Son refuses to wrestle girl

Dear Dr. Brothers: Our son is the captain of the junior-high wrestling team. He takes his sport very seriously. Last week he came back from school very depressed. He told his dad that in this next match, his opponent is going to be a girl and he doesn't want to wrestle her. I was shocked to hear my husband tell him he is supposed to do anything the coach asks of him. I think my son is right — what do you think? — S.E.

Dear S.E.: In a perfect world, wrestling between the sexes might be confined to young siblings having pillow fights, or couples engaging in playful foreplay. But in the real world of the 21st century, there are instances in which boys and girls wrestle against one another on school teams. Apparently there aren't enough girls in the sport to form leagues in more than a few states, so if they wrestle, they do it in whatever forum is allowed. This raises issues for guys like your son. It's something your husband should think about.

As a young teenager, your son is just forming his concepts of masculinity, femininity and appropriate behavior. It may go against his instincts to be rough and physical with a girl — he may even still be uncomfortable socializing with them! Add to that the physical difficulties should the wrestling match light a fire to his hormones and you have an unpleasant situation. You might suggest your son talk to the coach, but be prepared to back him up should he be unable to resolve his negative feelings. In any case, be proud of him for being sensitive enough to stop and think. Sometimes just following orders isn't the best idea.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I know you have heard it before, but when my son comes home from school and says the teacher hates him, can I take him seriously? I went to a conference with the teacher and she didn't have much to say about my son other than that he "indulges in attention-seeking behaviors." Anyway, what can I do to help my son change his attitude? — L.B.

Dear L.B.: I believe there definitely is a chance your son and the teacher have a personality conflict. Although everyone likes to think teachers are neutral, it's hard to come to terms with the idea your child is seen as obnoxious or needy or unappealing when you love him. But if you face facts, you will acknowledge that your son is going to have to win over the teacher if he wants to succeed. This doesn't mean sucking up, but he may need an attitude adjustment.

Explain the teacher doesn't hate him, but is having a difficult time teaching when some kids have others looking at them instead of the teacher. Help him see the class from her point of view and imagine what he would do if someone kept jumping up or calling out while he was trying to teach. Ask him to sit through just one class only listening and responding to the teacher, and have him tell you how he does. Then ask the teacher to acknowledge his efforts if he improves. With positive reinforcement, your son should believe the teacher likes him after all.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

North dealer.
North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
♦ 9 7 3
♥ 6 4
♠ J 6
♣ A K 8 7 5 2
EAST
♦ A Q J 8 6 4
♥ 10
♠ A 9 8 5
♣ 9 3
SOUTH
♦ K 10 5
♥ K Q J 8 5 2
♠ K 4 3
♣ 6
The bidding:
North East South West
Pass 1♠ 2♥ Dble
Opening lead — two of spades.

Close Call

Good defensive play is usually the result of a concerted partnership effort. Unlike declarer, who is essentially on his own during the play, the defenders must depend on partnership cooperation to achieve the best result possible. As a case in point, consider this deal from a team event some years ago.

Both Wests made a very close penalty double of two hearts in the auction shown. Defeating the contract then became a matter of precision defense.

The play at both tables began the same way. East won the opening spade lead with the ace and returned the queen. West ruffed South's king and led a diamond to East's ace. East then cashed the jack of spades for the defenders' fourth trick as West discarded a diamond.

East now had two choices. A diamond return is best if West has the king. Alternatively, a spade return puts West in a potentially desirable overruffing position, but allows dummy's remaining diamond to be discarded if the overruff occurs.

At the first table, East decided to return a diamond. South won with the king and cashed the A-K of clubs, discarding his remaining diamond. He then led a heart to the king and, after West took the ace, claimed the remainder, making two hearts doubled for a score of 670 points.

At the second table, East returned a spade at the critical point and so defeated the contract. Here, East reasoned that if West had the king of diamonds, he should have cashed it at trick three before leading the deuce in order to avoid giving East a problem. In other words, East decided to trust that his partner had not made a mistake.

East's spade return was ruffed by declarer with the jack, but West simply discarded and later scored the A-9 of hearts to register a 200-point set.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



4-14
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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/14

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.

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

Cryptoquip

N B C H B P D J T P T A R J R B D F ,
O D N Q T Z N R J R N O A R O Z F W H D C ,
W B D U R Y Q N J B Z F R P T H

N O C C R Z Y Z O C A T F U O C A T F .
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A SERIOUS ALERT IS ISSUED TO THE WHOLE WORLD, I GUESS THAT WOULD BE GLOBAL WARNING.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals O

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|------------------------|----------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|---------|----------|-------------|-----------|---------------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------|-----------|--------------------|
| ACROSS | 1 Trot | 4 Recipe meas. | 8 Agents, for short | 12 Actress Gardner | 13 Top-rated coat | 14 Seed | 15 Perform upkeep on | 17 Capri, e.g. | 18 "Kidding!" | 19 Adulterated | 21 Laundromat fixture | 24 Science workshop | 25 Slangy suffix | 26 Scepter | 28 Photo shoot VIP | 32 Beams of light | 34 Stir-fry pan | 36 Test the waters | 37 Small plateaus | 39 Bro or sis | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 41 "There's no — team" | 42 Charged bit | 44 Ate | 46 Less distinct | 50 Trawler need | 51 Oodles | 52 "The Mona Lisa," e.g. | 56 Cater-waul | 57 Teen's woe | 58 — de Cologne | 59 Convince | 60 Fast time? | 61 Spinning stat | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | DOWN | 1 Predicament | 2 Eggs | 3 Contradicts | 4 Rag | 5 Squeezing snake | 6 Fit of peevishness | 7 Punishment-related | 8 Spectrum | 9 Formerly | 10 Heap | 11 Coaster | 16 Japanese theater | 20 Cartesian conclusion | 21 Apple invader | 22 Wings | 23 Squabble | 27 Two, in Tijuana | 29 More frilly | 30 Falco of "Nurse Jackie" | 31 Impart for a while | 33 Holy | 35 Tease | 38 Drunkard | 40 Easter | 43 Kathmandu's land | 45 Drench | 46 Wray and Weldon | 47 "That was — blow!" | 48 Corn Belt state | 49 "The Amazing —" | 53 B&B | 54 Siesta | 55 Wrigley product |

Yesterday's answer 4-14

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							