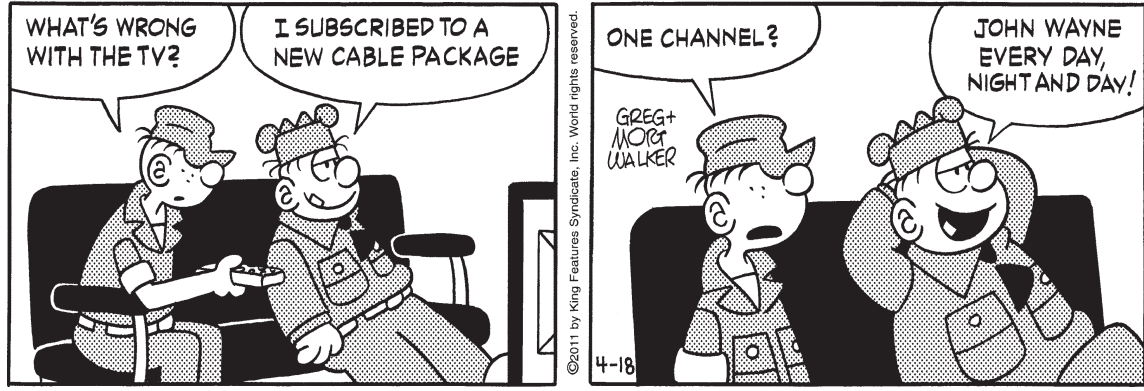


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



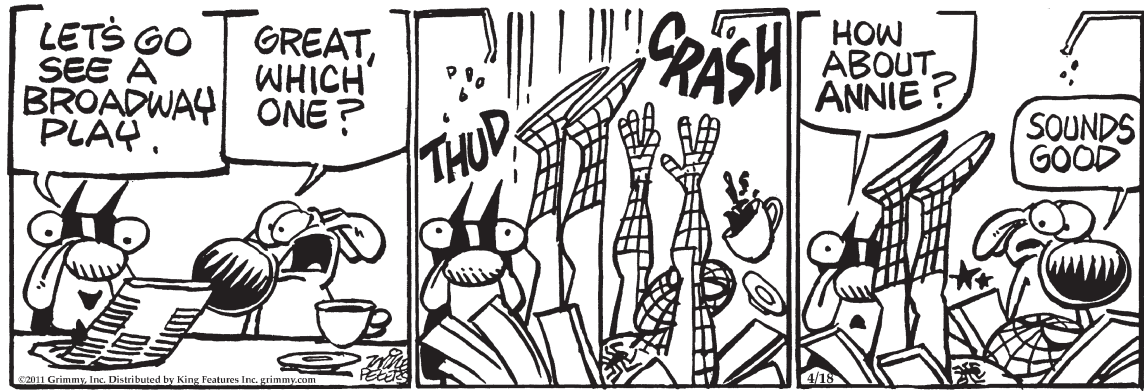
Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



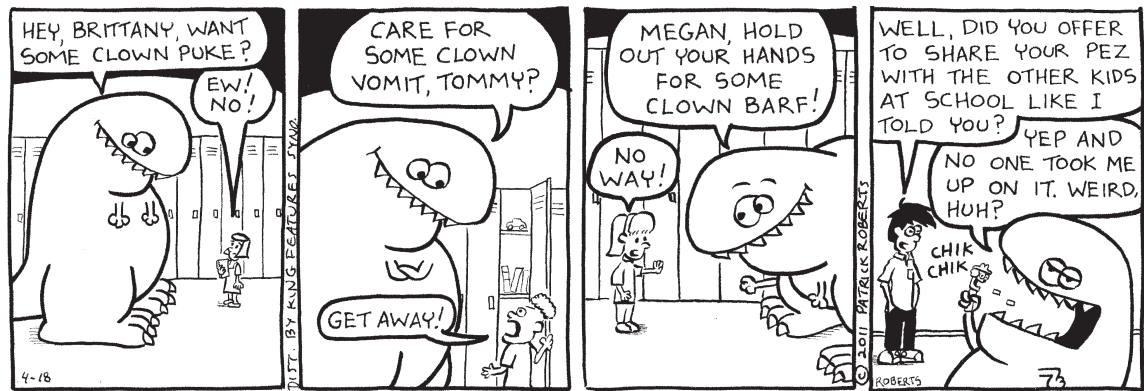
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



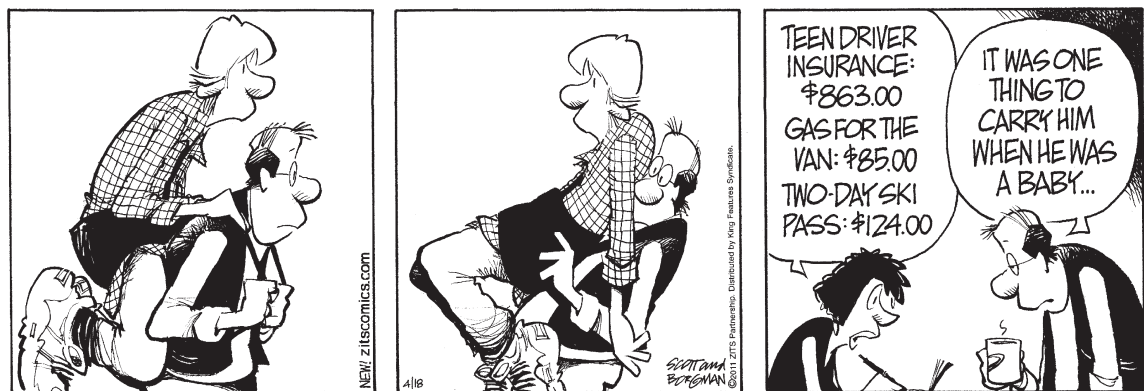
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

She can't shake low self-esteem

Dear Dr. Brothers: My problem is something I have struggled with my whole life: low self-esteem. I'm a 32-year-old businesswoman. I try to see if there was an incident that made me feel bad about myself but can't remember one. My parents never praised much, but neither did they criticize. My teachers were neutral as well. When I tell myself how great I am, I don't believe it. Could this hurt me at work? — C.W.

Dear C.W.: Low self-esteem can hurt you in all facets of your life. You wonder why you have always felt like less than a success. There are ways to gain insight if you can't remember what set you on this path. Chances are high it takes more than one incident to form a lifelong pattern. But the best way to explore this might be to find a counselor who can guide you. Since you know self-esteem is a problem, he or she can help you with strategies to keep up performance.

You mention that telling yourself how great you are usually doesn't work. Research backs up your experience: A study in *Psychological Science* found some people with low self-esteem actually felt worse about themselves after self-affirming statements. It is possible the positive statements triggered negative thoughts in those with low self-esteem — they found it impossible to believe their own press! You might too, for now.

Dear Dr. Brothers: My three sons have been active in sports since they were little, and so far I have avoided coaching. I enjoy watching and cheering for them and bringing snacks and all that, but I've never been athletic and dread having to coach. Now my youngest is begging me to coach his baseball team of 10-year-olds. I'm not even sure I understand the game well enough. How can I explain that I can't do this? — B.T.

Dear B.T.: Sounds like you've done a good job of avoiding the suburban second job of dads: coaching at least one team in elementary or middle school. It's also not unusual for a dad to avoid this. Many dads are athletic but avoid it because they are busy or don't like dealing with kids, while others weren't involved in athletics and have no confidence in their ability to know or learn the game. Some volunteer anyway and are glad they did. At this age, there's not too big a chance of being ridiculed by their sons and daughters.

If you keep avoiding coaching, you can try to make up for it with another activity with your son and his teammates — taking them to a major league game, or giving your son special lessons or participation in a league of his choice. You can explain that you are not good at coaching but you are good at helping him participate in sports in other ways. What he is looking for is just a sense of belonging, of having a dad who is involved, and he may be feeling pressure from the current coaches to have other dads pitch in. Only you can decide whether you are willing to try or would be a total disaster.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

NORTH
 ♠ A J 7 6 5
 ♥ K J 9 7 5
 ♦ A J 9
 ♣ —

WEST
 ♠ K
 ♥ Q 10 8
 ♦ 8 7 6 5 4 3
 ♣ K 3 2

EAST
 ♠ Q 10 9 8 4 3 2
 ♥ —
 ♦ K
 ♣ Q 10 9 8 4

SOUTH
 ♠ A 6 4 3 2
 ♥ Q 10 2
 ♦ A J 7 6 5
 ♣ —

Double-dummy problem. South to make seven hearts. West leads the eight of diamonds.

Famous Hand

Double-dummy problems are a department of bridge some malevolent soul invented to try to drive people crazy. At least, that's the opinion of more than a few players who attempt to solve them.

The double-dummy problem is not necessarily instructive, but it's a good way to while away your time if you have nothing else to do. You're allowed to look at all four hands because you can't find the solution otherwise.

The contract in this deal is Seven Hearts. You have to make all 13 tricks against any line of defense chosen by East-West. West leads a diamond, and you play the ace, knowing it will catch East's king.

If you want to work out the solution for yourself, stop reading at the end of this paragraph — but we caution you that the contract is very difficult to make.

After winning the ace of diamonds, you play the nine of diamonds to the ten and lead a low heart. Assume West plays the eight, in which case you finesse the nine. (If West plays the ten or queen, you win as cheaply as possible.)

Next you lead the jack of diamonds to the queen and again return a low heart. Assume West plays the ten, in which case you finesse the jack.

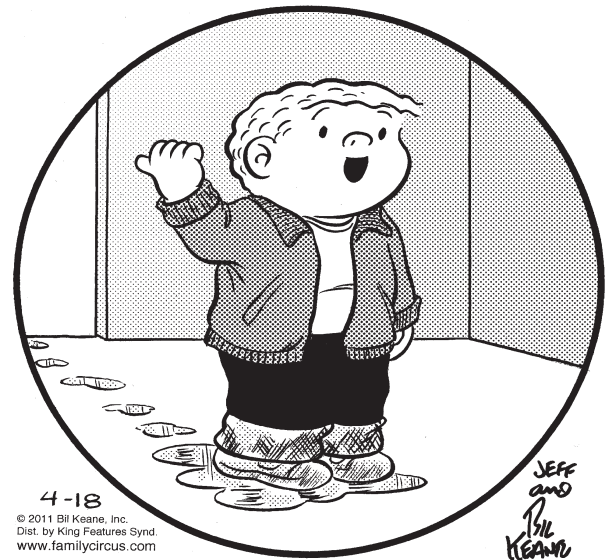
The king of hearts is now led from dummy, and what you play from the South hand depends upon East's discard on this trick. East, on the first five tricks, has presumably reduced his hand to four spades and four clubs and at this point has to make a crucial discard.

If he throws a spade, you follow low from your hand and then establish dummy's spades by ruffing a spade next and another one later. If he throws a club, you overtake the king of hearts with the ace and establish your clubs by ruffing twice in dummy.

When the third heart is cashed, East is caught in a seesaw squeeze that forces him to unguard one black suit or the other.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 4/18

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.

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

Cryptoquip

WC H CWIF AWZXSNTZ FHAX
 H PZXHN CIWSL HRTMN
 HCZWSH, GX EMJN FWPGN RX
 OWSLOHFXA EHFJX SHFXZTTO.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WALL APPLICATION USED FOR ALL THE CHURCHES WITHIN A PARTICULAR DISTRICT: PLASTER OF PARISH.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals H

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 40 — glance | DOWN | 21 Fairway warning |
| 1 — out a living | 41 Ballet frill | 1 Sprite | 22 Touch |
| 4 Macho type | 43 By chance | 2 Pond carp | 23 Dangerous |
| 9 Pigpen | 45 Reflector | 3 Ovum | 24 place to walk |
| 12 Journal | 47 Gen. | 4 Odium | 25 wrote |
| 13 Like a crone | Lee's grp. | 5 Wrote | 27 Marceau character, maybe |
| 14 Rage | 48 Tokyo's old name | 6 Wire | 29 Choir voice |
| 15 1999 Brad Pitt movie | 49 About 5.88 trillion miles | 7 Graduates | 30 Bang the door |
| 17 Pistol | 54 Mountain | 8 Space cloud | 32 Tart |
| 18 Gold, in Guadalupe | 55 Painting support | 9 Play music without preparation | 34 Moved to Sousa |
| 19 Makes a crumbly mass of | 56 Tear shirt | 10 Verifiable | 37 Some fur pieces |
| 21 Like some calves | 58 Coloration | 11 Longings | 39 Rook |
| 24 Coin aperture | 59 Upper limb | 16 Stolen | 42 Dickens' Mr. |
| 25 Japanese sash | | 20 Category | 44 Aye canceler |
| 26 Society newcomer | | | 45 Vegan's no-no |
| 28 Tapestry | | | 46 Between jobs |
| 31 Carpeting | | | 50 Fed. purchasing org. |
| 33 Poorly lit | | | 51 Historic period |
| 35 Snitch | | | 52 Melody |
| 36 Group spirit | | | 53 Spinning stat |
| 38 — -10 Conference | | | |

Solution time: 27 mins.

WEB	APP	WACKO
EVA	LEA	ALIEN
LOS	PENNY	LANE
SKI	SKIES	
HECK	EKO	CUBA
LAD	NELSON	
CRAIG	READY	
MINNOW	MAR	
TOTE	ASA	KNOT
BINGO	APR	
JENNY	LIND	DIE
ALEUT	FED	INN
GLOBE	FTS	RED

Saturday's answer 4-18

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	