

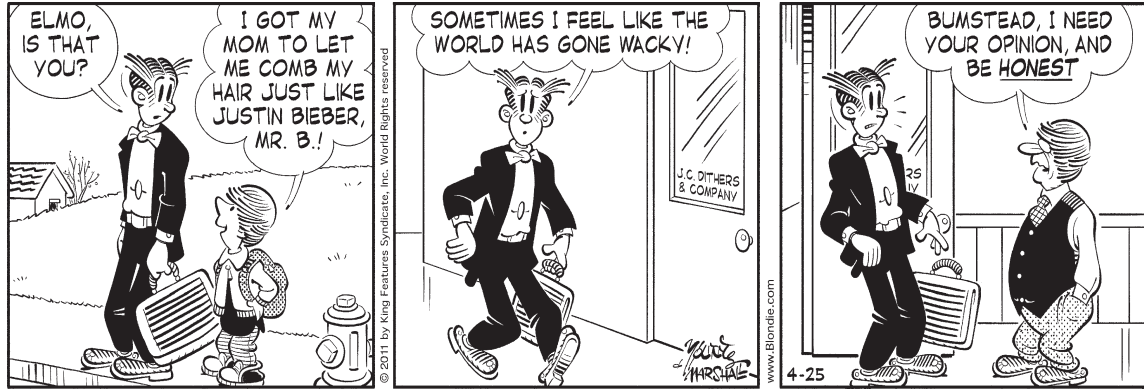
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



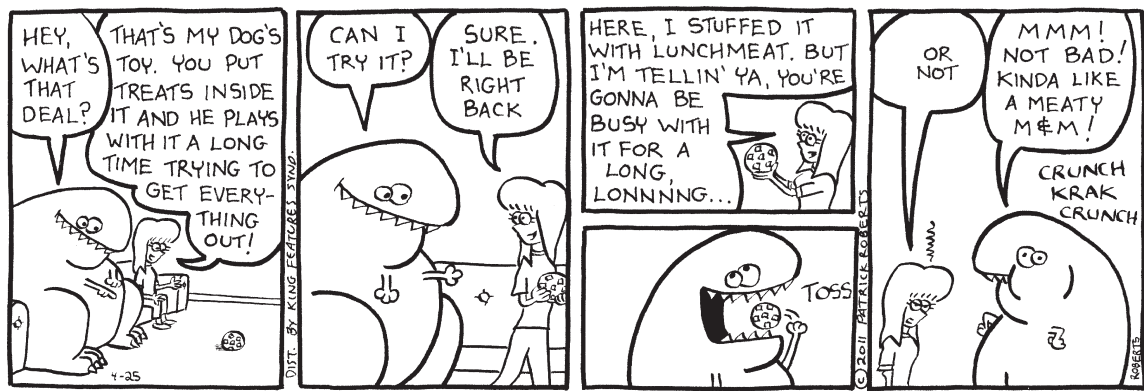
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



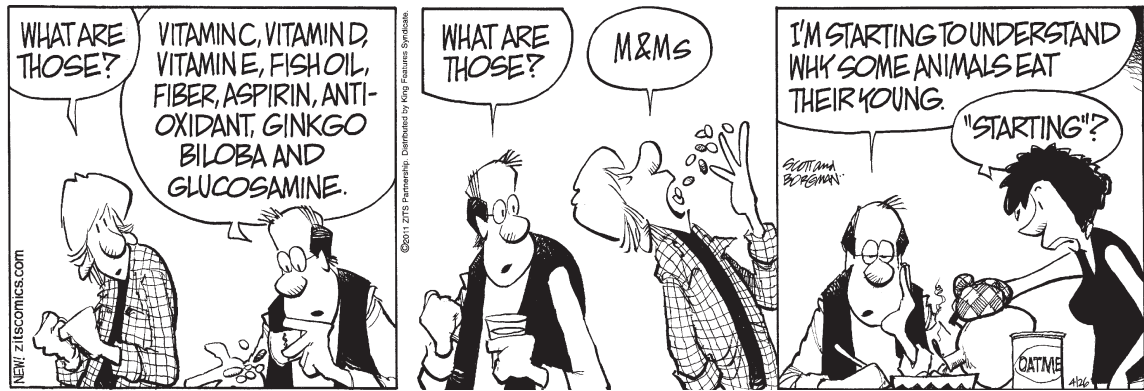
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Monkey see, monkey smoke

Dear Dr. Brothers: I've been trying to quit smoking for five years. I've mostly conquered the things that make me want to light up. But the thing that always gets me is when I watch movies. If I see characters light up, I have an urge to do the same. I usually do, and feel awful afterward. How weird is this? — B.H.

Dear B.H.: I don't know your age, but if you've been smoking a long time, you have a different history with movies than today's young people. You probably remember when you would take your popcorn and soda and cigarettes into the theater and light up during the movie. Now you can't even smoke in the lobby. So, although things are healthier, cigarettes haven't been banned from the film. In fact, according to the Centers for Disease Control, about half contain images of smoking. And with more viewing at home these days and a lack of "no smoking" signs in your home, the temptation is worse.

You needn't feel it is weird to want to smoke after seeing it in a movie. A study in the *Journal of Neuroscience* confirmed this as common. Smokers who watched onscreen smokers and underwent MRIs showed increased brain activity in the area that controls their smoking hand; earlier studies show watching smoking increases cravings. So the best course might be to stay away from smokers in movies. You seem to be doing well with quitting, so don't let this set you back.

Dear Dr. Brothers: My husband just received an offer to move his business to Japan. We're concerned about what effects a move would have on our 5-year-old. She's well-adjusted and would have no problem making friends in another state — I'm just not sure she'll deal with a different culture. How worried should we be? — A.A.

Dear A.A.: Congratulations on your move and your willingness to take on such a change! It is appropriate you have questions about adjusting — I'm sure it will be a change for all of you, not just your child. It might be worthwhile to immerse yourselves in Japanese culture before you go — see if there are language classes or online activities you can do to introduce yourselves to this culture you are about to enter. It would be good to find friends from home once you get there as well so you have a support system.

In terms of your daughter and her vulnerability to being in a whole new culture, you might find she has less trouble than you anticipate, because of the resiliency common in young people. A new study published in *Psychological Science* tends to confirm this positive aspect of moving to a new country. It finds that children up to age 15 have a much easier time with acculturation, and the younger they are when they move, the more they will identify with the new culture. You and your husband can prepare your daughter so the move is exciting. She will pick up on it if you look at the move as a problem.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

East dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ AK 10
♥ 10 9 5 4
♦ K 10 8 2
♣ 6 2

WEST
♠ Q 9 5 4 2
♥ J 7 6 3
♦ 4
♣ 10 8 4

EAST
♠ J 8 6
♥ A 2
♦ Q J 6
♣ Q J 9 7 5

SOUTH
♠ 7 3
♥ K Q 8
♦ A 9 7 5 3
♣ A K 3

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

Famous Hand

A defender must be ready at all times to seize any opportunity presented to him. Once he has done so, he must then be careful not to relinquish the advantage he has gained.

Consider this deal from the final of the 1988 Spingold Teams. South was world and national champion Paul Soloway, pitted against Bart Bramley and Lou Bluhm.

Bluhm led a low spade against three notrump, and Soloway elected to play the ten. This play — which might have been right on another lie of the cards — proved to be the only break Bramley needed, and he exploited it to the hilt.

After his jack of spades held, Bramley reasoned that West could not have more than two points in addition to the queen of spades he was already known to hold. There was consequently no point in returning the suit, since West would have no entry to his spades after they became good. So Bramley shifted to a low club, and from then on, declarer was fighting a losing battle.

Soloway ducked the club, won the club continuation and crossed to the king of diamonds in order to lead a heart. But Bramley, fully on top of the situation, rose with the ace and returned a club, dislodging South's remaining stopper.

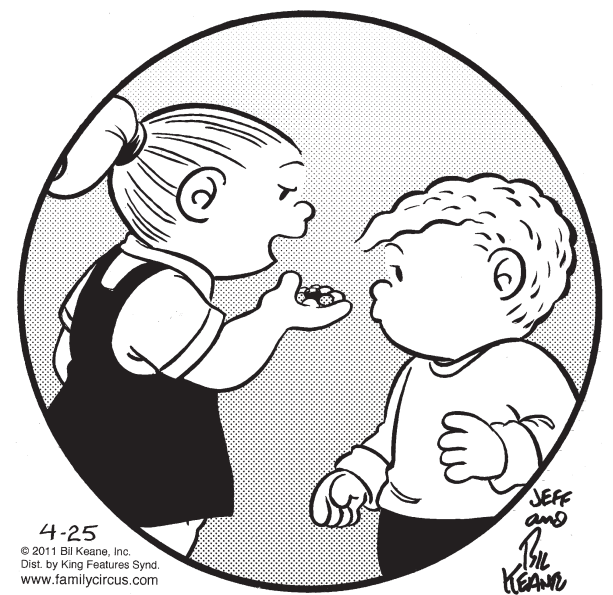
Soloway cashed the K-Q of hearts, hoping the jack would fall. He then tried the ace of diamonds. When that suit also failed to break, leaving him with just eight tricks, he had to go down one.

Note that if Bramley had ducked the first heart lead, declarer would have won and established his diamonds to secure nine tricks.

At the other table, Michael Becker also received a spade lead against three notrump but decided to win the trick with the ace. He then led a heart. Here East could not gain by taking the ace, since South still had two club stoppers. After East ducked, declarer switched to diamonds, and the contract was assured.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Jelly beans are good for you. They're both a fruit and a vegetable."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 4/25

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.

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

Cryptoquip

X K Q J L I V Q G R V G Y B B
W Y X V X L V Q L H C R V R Y K B Q Q W.
X V J U U Q V R Q L R N Q J B I N Y B B
H C R G Q N R Y L N J W W Y L H V.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: A PERIODICAL ABOUT TAKING CARE OF TINY, FURRY PET RODENTS MIGHT BE CALLED "GOOD MOUSEKEEPING."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals O

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Sugar meas.
 - 4 Historic time
 - 7 Jump
 - 11 Oil cartel
 - 13 Fresh
 - 14 Part of the foot
 - 15 "Why not?"
 - 16 "CSI" evidence
 - 17 "Monopoly" card
 - 18 "Get lost!"
 - 20 "Why not?"
 - 22 Scarlet
 - 24 Takes pleasure in
 - 28 Capistrano bird
 - 32 Block the flow of
 - 33 Cab
 - 34 Chatter
 - 36 Egypt's river
 - 37 British —
 - 39 Completely engrossed
 - 41 Brownish-gray antelope
- DOWN**
- 2 Detail, for short
 - 3 Bartlett or Bosc
 - 4 Conclusion
 - 5 Nevada city
 - 6 Not sleeping
 - 7 Nine-day queen of England
 - 8 Before
 - 9 Expert
 - 10 Third degree?
 - 12 Schulz lad
 - 19 Tillis or Torme
 - 21 More-over
 - 23 Pooch
 - 25 Leave out
 - 26 Christmas
 - 27 Raced
 - 28 Use a swizzle stick
 - 29 Cleanse
 - 30 Wheel-base
 - 31 Series of battles
 - 35 Chest protector
 - 38 Old French coin
 - 40 Solemn promise
 - 42 Butter-fingers
 - 45 Needle case
 - 47 October birthstone
 - 48 Pianist Peter
 - 49 Mannered bloke
 - 50 Performance
 - 51 Greek P
 - 52 Calf's mama
 - 54 Omelet need

Solution time: 27 mins.

REPRO	TEL	OCT							
ETHOS	ICE	RHO							
SHIVA	PHILBIN								
LEGATO	AIDE								
ANT	ELO	UTTER							
TEEM	LEASE								
MORENO	GOSPEL								
ROWAN	THEY								
TEAMS	DEW	IRE							
ETNA	REWARD								
PHINEAS	THIEF								
EEL	ACT	CEASE							
ERE	TEE	HASTY							

Saturday's answer 4-25

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
37						38			39
41						42			43
						44			45
						46			47
50	51	52				53			54
56						57			58
59						60			61