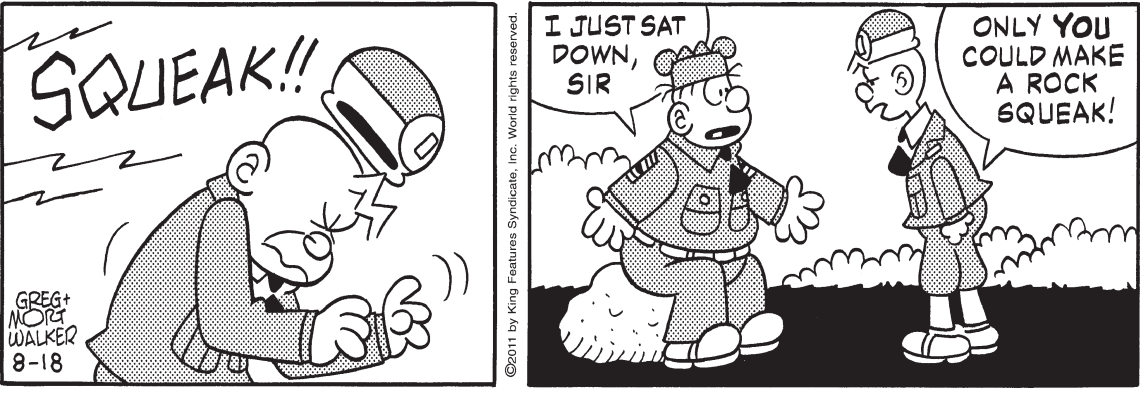


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



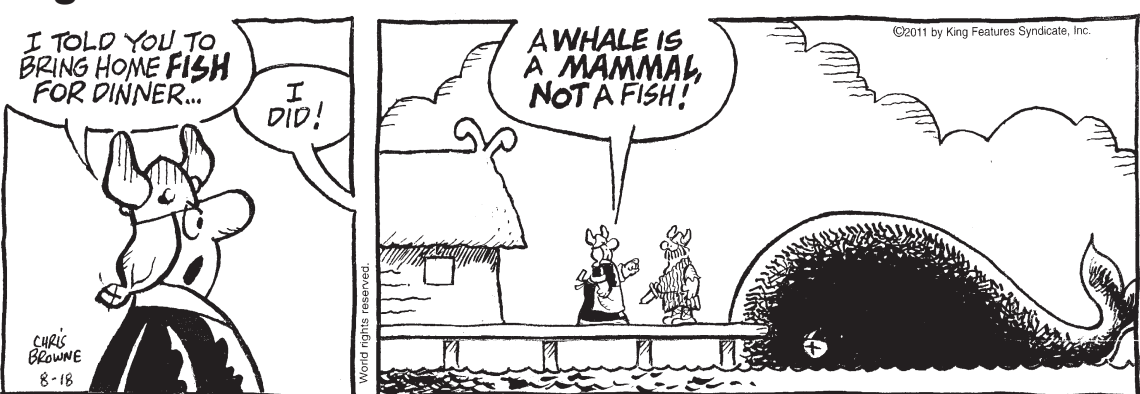
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



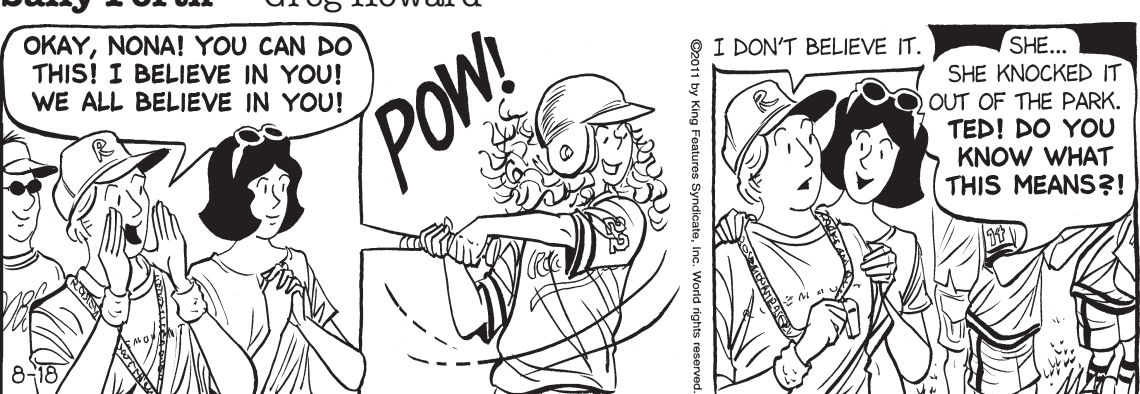
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



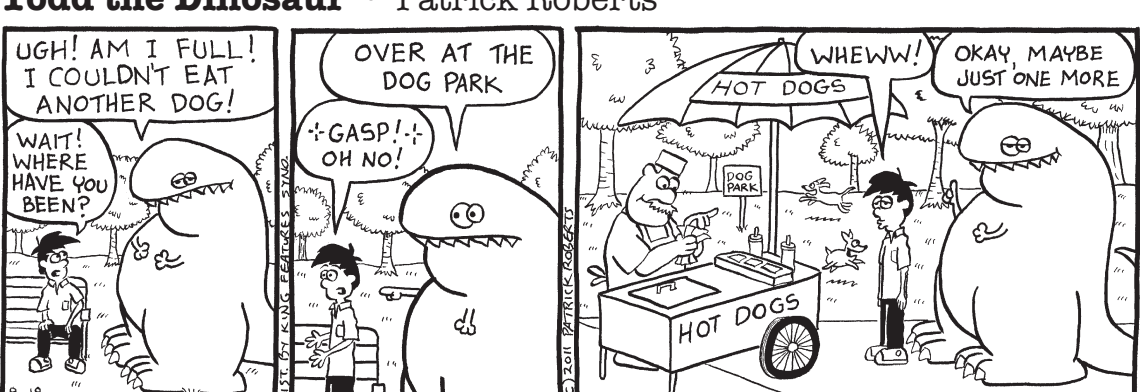
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Being a bully is exhausting

Dear Dr. Brothers: My 7-year-old daughter has always had an aggressive personality, but now that she's in first grade, it's gotten out of control. I don't know where she gets this from; neither of us parents is the bullying type. My husband is convinced it has to do with her sleeping habits. She's always had problems staying asleep the whole night. I think he's grasping at straws, and I don't know what to do. Please help. — M.I.

Dear M.I.: This could be a chicken-or-the-egg problem — does your daughter sleep poorly because she is agitated by her feelings, and acts out in the daytime whatever fantasies flashed through her mind in the night? Or is she so pumped from being a bully that all that adrenaline doesn't go away? Your husband might be onto something when he blames your daughter's lack of sleep.

In fact, the journal *Sleep Medicine* has just featured a study by University of Michigan researchers that examined the daytime sleepiness of a number of students. It turns out the part of the brain sensitive to sleep deprivation is also involved in emotional control, social behavior and decision-making. So the lack of sleep combined with a lack of self-control can result in unpleasant consequences for these kids — and the classmates they bully. If your daughter is having trouble sleeping, make sure her bedtime routine is consistent — around the same time every night — and that she gets approximately 10 to 11 hours of sleep a night. If need be, take away televisions, computers, cellphones, music-listening devices and everything else that could keep her up. Let her read a book before bed (after you read her one) and call it a day.

Dear Dr. Brothers: My sister has been married to a jerk for almost 15 years. It's like they are acting out the same script every two years. He goes into this cycle of heavy drinking, losing his job, sobering up and promising he'll change. He never does, but my sister believes him. I want her to get her life together without this loser, but I don't think she hears me. How can I help her get away from this awful person? — F.T.

Dear F.T.: You are a good sibling in a hopeless position. Your sister already knows you are there for her, and she knows the advice you have given her is sound. She also knows it is difficult or impossible for her to follow your suggestions, so she continues on this treadmill. At some point, she might feel she's had enough and it's time to get off — and that's when you need to be there for her. Right now, all you can do is sit down with her so that you two can talk and share your feelings — this will help her get through her day and help you monitor the situation.

You didn't mention spousal abuse, but as long as there is heavy drinking and out-of-control behavior, your sister should be careful about how she confronts her drunk husband. If she feels threatened or wants to see what her options would be, she can check with a women's shelter. There probably are times when your sister would benefit from attending a group meeting or a 12-step alcohol-recovery program designed for spouses. I know you have heard this before, but if the drinker doesn't want to change, he won't. If he has to hit bottom, you might have to facilitate that. You can support your sister now.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

North dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ A Q 4
 ♥ 6 5
 ♦ A 10 8 7 5
 ♣ K 6 3

EAST
 ♠ K J 7 5
 ♥ 8 4
 ♦ Q J 9 2
 ♣ J 10 9

SOUTH
 ♠ 9 3
 ♥ A K Q J 10 9
 ♦ K 3
 ♣ A 8 5

The bidding:
 North East South West
 1 NT Pass 2♥ Pass
 2 NT Pass 3♥ Pass
 4♥ Pass 6♥ Pass
 Opening lead — two of spades.

As Ye Sow, So Shall Ye Reap

In the great majority of deals, declarer cannot precisely predict the outcome at the beginning of the play. All he can do is to try to find the line of play that offers the greatest chance of success and then hope for the best.

Consider today's deal from a pairs championship. When the opening lead was not a spade, South made the slam easily. He drew trumps, cashed the K-A of diamonds and ruffed a diamond. Next came a club to dummy's king, followed by another diamond ruff that established the ten as declarer's 12th trick. The ace of spades provided the entry to the good diamond.

But where a spade was led originally, South faced a more difficult challenge. Those declarers who finessed the queen went down after East won with the king and returned a spade, killing the critical entry to dummy's fifth diamond.

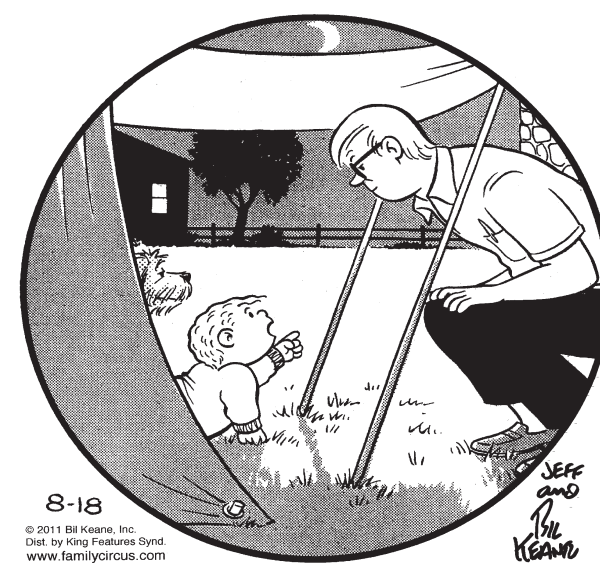
However, South can make the slam despite the spade lead by playing low from dummy on the opening trick. East wins with the jack but can do no better than return a club, taken by declarer with the ace.

South now plays three rounds of trumps (discarding a club from dummy), cashes the K-A of diamonds and ruffs a diamond. A club to the king, followed by another diamond ruff, establishes dummy's last diamond, with the ace of spades as the entry.

By adopting this approach, South makes the slam if the diamonds are divided either 3-3 or 4-2, and he still has the spade finesse to fall back on if the diamonds are divided 5-1.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



8-18
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“Don't lock the back door, 'cause somebody might want to come in and see what time it is or somethin'.”

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/18

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.

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

Cryptoquip

L TLJI DP YITLIFI DGUD
 ZIPZTI ZTUKKLLKQ DP YI
 VULTPBV GUFIDP DUJ
 UKNGPB XUKUQIXIKD NTUVVIV.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: RAIL VEHICLE ON WHICH EVERY SINGLE PASSENGER MUST CHOMP ON GUM NOISILY: A CHEW-CHEW TRAIN.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
 1 Lose it
 5 Bit of derring-do
 9 Wager
 12 Top-notch
 13 Jason's ship
 14 "Go, team!"
 15 Fictional girl detective
 17 Work with military hats
 19 Host
 21 Type measure
 22 Donny's sister
 24 Brazen
 27 Highland hat
 28 Skirt feature, maybe
 31 Shock and —
 32 Catcher's place?
 33 A billion years
 34 Accomplishment
- DOWN**
 2 Ark
 3 Faris or Paquin
 4 Ate like a bird
 5 Crazes
 6 Blunder
 7 Time of your life?
 8 Pisa landmark
 9 Martial-arts film star
 10 Facility
 11 Quaker's pronoun
 16 Thither
- 36 Dawn goddess
 37 Penny from Mayberry
 40 "Little Women" woman
 41 Less improved
 43 Mountain range
 47 A Gershwin win
 48 Super Bowl XLIV MVP
 51 Chaps
 52 Tittle
 53 Money
 54 Cauldron
 55 Vacationing
- 20 Wrong pioneer
 22 City head
 23 Iowa city
 24 Awful
 25 Haul
 26 "Sham-poo" Oscar winner
 27 Genealogy chart
 29 Charged bit
 30 Stick with a kick
 35 Two, in Tijuana
 37 Strong-arm
 39 TV, radio, etc.
 40 Triangular sail
 41 Weaking
 42 Black-and-white cookie
 43 Convince
 44 Back
 45 Leftovers
 46 Arthur of tennis
 49 Tier
 50 Greek vowel

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 8-18

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
47					48	49	50			
51					52				53	
54					55				56	