

Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



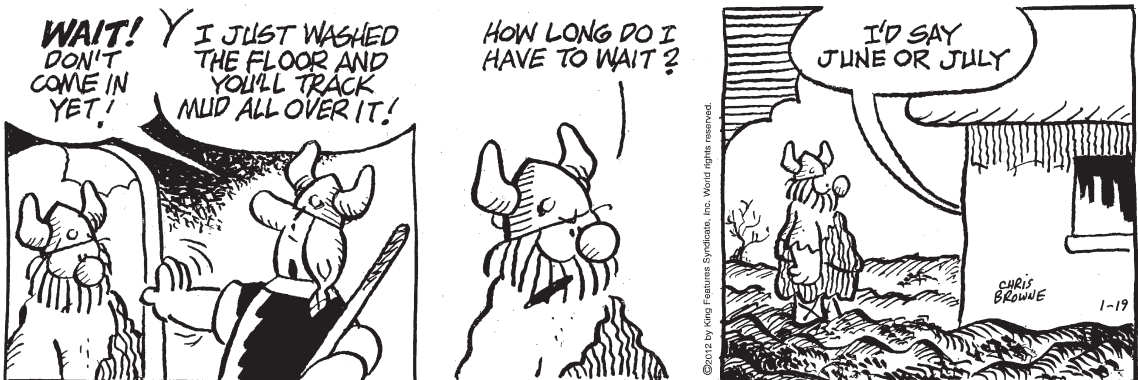
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



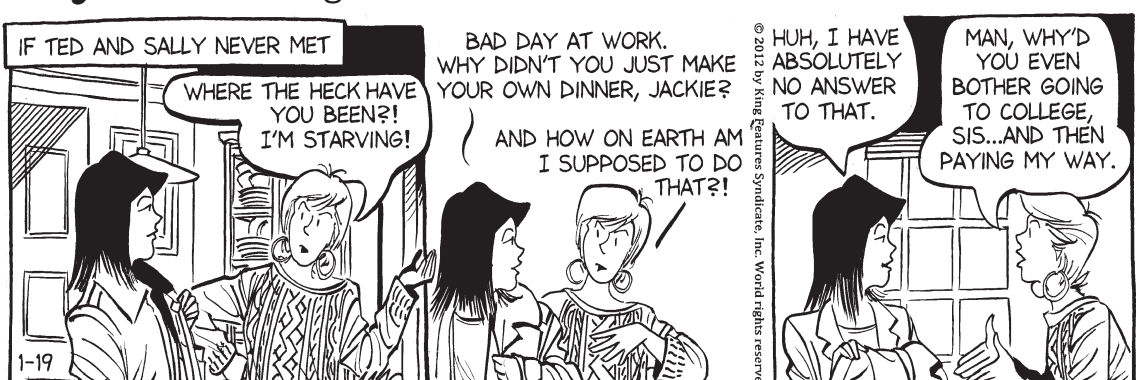
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



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's friend steals from purse

Dear Dr. Brothers: I had a little boy from first grade over to play with my son, and they were having a good time. I went into the family room, where they were playing. My son had gone to the bathroom, and I caught the 6-year-old friend with his hand in my purse. He had taken a five-dollar bill, and he quickly put it back when he saw me. I didn't say anything, but now I wish I had. Should I share this with his mother? - N.D.

Dear N.D.: I believe that since you didn't confront the thief immediately, you missed an opportunity to correct his behavior. Some parents are reluctant to discipline children who visit, for fear of overstepping their boundaries. But in a case like this, you are not doing the child or his family any favors by ignoring his behavior. I'm sure he knows it is wrong to steal, and since he is just developing self-control and an ability to distinguish between what may be OK at home and what is appropriate away from home, he needs to be told when he has made a mistake in judgment.

Having a word with his mother now would be a good idea. Perhaps he is allowed to dip into her purse at will, and you can tell her you wanted to inform her so she can review with him the way he should behave when visiting friends. You needn't come down harshly on him in this conversation - I'm sure she will be embarrassed enough by his behavior to appreciate your lack of judgment. It would be easier to just let it go, but I'm sure you'd appreciate knowing if your child did something similar. It's a good time to talk to your son about play-date behavior as well. And in the meantime, put your purse away somewhere when kids come over. That way, they will avoid temptation, and you won't be faced with a dilemma like this.

Dear Dr. Brothers: My teenage daughter seems to have become a different person during the past six months. She has become so argumentative I don't really know what to do. I am sure she treats us worse than she treats her friends, but I often hear her debating with them on the phone as well. Is this just a phase, and is there anything we can do to make it go away? - G.F.

Dear G.F.: Probably not. What she is going through is one of the most common stages of adolescence, and it's hard on parents. They suddenly discover that where they used to have their children's respect, they are now stupid, useless and even just plain old. The key is to try not to take it personally, but don't allow them to get away with cruel, abusive language either. Let them know it's fine to be argumentative if they must, but they need to respect you and allow you to present your point of view.

Some research reported in the journal *Child Development* found that teen arguments at home often carry over to school, and that the home arguments can have an effect on relationships at school. Girls seem to experience more peer conflict than boys after a blow-up at home. So be aware with your daughter that an unpleasant discussion can have ramifications at school, and do all you can to encourage her swift passage through this stage. But if she's really into it, point her in the direction of the school debate team.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

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

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

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

SOUTH
♠ A K 6 5 2
♥ A 9
♦ Q J
♣ 8 7 5 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
Opening lead — king of clubs.

The Delicate Art of Deception

Assume you're East defending against four spades after the auction shown. Your partner leads the king of clubs, and, when dummy comes down, it seems that your chances of beating the contract are very slim. South is sure to have the A-K of spades and ace of hearts for his opening bid, so it appears likely that his only losers will be a trump trick and two clubs.

Nevertheless, you have a good chance to defeat the contract if you make a very unusual play at trick one. On your partner's king of clubs, you play the jack, and when he continues with the ace, you play the deuce!

Your trusting partner naturally thinks you started with the doubleton J-2 of clubs - which is exactly what you want him to think. He therefore plays the ten of clubs next, expecting dummy to ruff and hoping you will be able to overruff.

This is where declarer, who also saw you play the J-2 of clubs, could easily go wrong. To prevent an overruff of the four by the seven, eight or nine, he might decide to ruff with dummy's ten. If he does, he will eventually regret it. Your Q-9-8-7, which guaranteed you only one trump trick when dummy first appeared, are now worth two tricks, regardless of how South continues.

Of course, declarer might not fall for your ruse and might ruff the third club with the four. Even if he does, it will not have cost you anything to have tried to fool him. Any play a defender makes that increases the chance of misleading declarer is a step in the right direction, and the more steps of this kind you take, the more often declarer will go wrong.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"So THAT'S where the ice cream man goes in the winter."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/19

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

Cryptoquip

GNTX PNAWT VZIU RTWPSDZPVQT
VXWTZPW ZSMGYTR DLAX
KU WIVX, V RTQTYALTR

ZAXPMZP P TSKVPT -VPVW.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A WOMAN WRITES PRODUCT ARTICLES FOR CONSUMER REPORTS, YOU MIGHT SAY SHE'S A LADY IN RATING.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals Y

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Vacationing abbr.
 - 4 Wasn't colorfast
 - 8 Ohio nine
 - 12 Neither mate
 - 13 Ethereal
 - 14 List-ending abbr.
 - 15 Black-mailer's task
 - 17 — mater
 - 18 Barracks bed
 - 19 Apparent
 - 21 Incalculable
 - 24 Witness
 - 25 Island neckwear
 - 26 Conclusion
 - 28 Door fastener
 - 32 Corner
 - 34 Do sums
 - 36 Salver
 - 37 Cancel
 - 39 — the season ...
 - 41 Cleo's slayer

- 2 "Family Guy" airer
- 3 Bit
- 4 Fight
- 5 Roman cry
- 6 Cupid's counter-part
- 7 Units of force
- 8 Beef, e.g.
- 9 Needle case
- 10 "Phooey!"
- 11 Smeltery refuse
- 16 Bill's partner
- 20 Conger or moray
- 21 Radius neighbor
- 22 Element no. 10
- 23 Modern-day evidence
- 27 Old insecticide
- 29 Tension caused by pulling
- 30 Moolah
- 31 Syringe, for short
- 33 Fruit used in preserves
- 35 Brief swim
- 38 Rawls or Reed
- 40 World Cup game
- 43 Gall
- 45 Eccentric
- 46 Applaud
- 47 Rem-brandt works
- 48 Beaks
- 49 Stationery unit
- 53 Singer DiFranco
- 54 Tramcar load
- 55 Cagers' org.

Yesterday's answer 1-19

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
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		