

ENTERTAINMENT

SPIDER-MAN



ANDY CAPP



PEANUTS



HAGAR



PHANTOM



ZITS



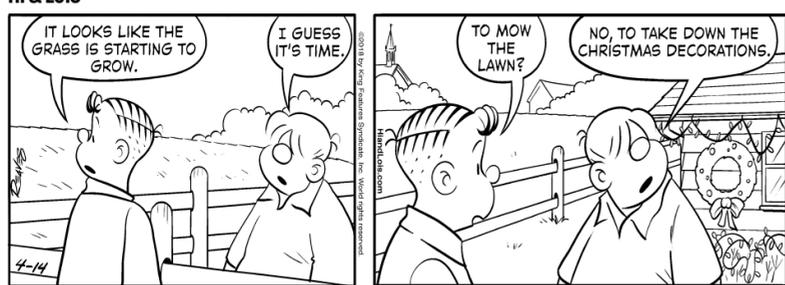
GARFIELD



SNUFFY



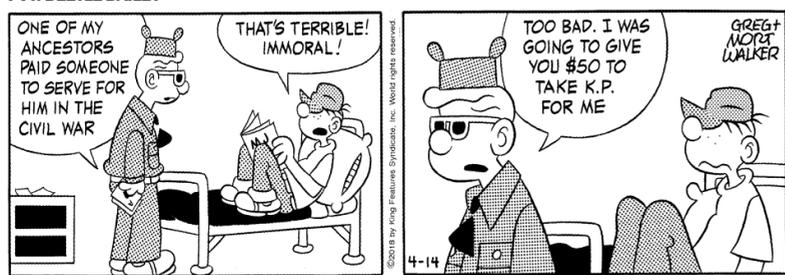
HI & LOIS



BLONDIE



PVT. BEETLE BAILEY



Serious Video Gamer Gets No Respect For Her Hobby

DEAR ABBY: I'm an avid video game player. My husband and I bond over playing games, reading and talking about them. In fact, in my spare time, I just earned a master's degree in video game culture.

The issue I have is people judge my hobby as "a waste of time" or comment that I should read a book instead. I don't tell them I read a book a week because I shouldn't have to justify what I do with my time. I have a good job and a wonderful, stable marriage, yet people consider me immature because of video games.

Abby, video games are incredible works of art that tell amazing stories and allow players to experience a host of worlds and narratives that can be inspiring. Many people make lifelong friendships through online gaming or learn new skills through educational games.

What can I say to people who dismiss my hobby as a waste while claiming that reading the latest trashy vampire book or going out every Friday and Saturday night to get wasted is "really living"? -- PROUD GAMER GIRL

DEAR PROUD GAMER: A master's degree in video game culture is impressive. People who regard you as lazy or lacking in motivation are ignorant. Video game design has become a well-established industry. In fact,

it's akin to the film industry in that the creative process requires an education similar to -- but even more extensive than -- that offered in film schools. Rather than try to convince those who tell you how to spend your time, focus your energy on what works for you and spend less of it around negative individuals.

DEAR ABBY: I have a problem: I don't have a mouth filter and haven't since childhood. I bullied people in the past because of how I was bullied and deliberately hurt people to prevent them from hurting me. At work, I did it to the point that a co-worker called me the b-word and threatened to punch me in the mouth if I did it again. I take full responsibility. I deserved it.

Abby, as an adult, I have become meaner and more bitter and hurtful than I was as a child. Please give me some advice because I'm afraid I'm going to be worse in the future. -- GUILTY AND SAD

DEAR GUILTY AND SAD: You are not going to become worse in the future because you now realize you have a serious problem and are willing to do something about it. Awareness is the first step in fixing it. An anger management class could be a good start.

With practice, you can develop a filter. Rather than reflexively lashing out, start consciously cultivating kindness. If you do that, you'll be amazed at how quickly it will grow. Rather than criticize, first ask yourself, "Is what I'm going to say true? Is it helpful? Is it kind?" And if it's not all three -- don't say it.



DEAR ABBY

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

42 Farm fraction

1 Perfect

6 Forehead fringe

11 Posture

12 Glorifies

14 Hitchcock classic

15 "Java" trumpeter

16 Back muscle, briefly

17 Strictly — nous

19 Eastern "way"

20 Awe-struck

22 "— was saying ..."

23 Play opener

24 Thus far

26 Medium

28 Aachen article

30 Ad —

31 Book of hymns

35 Ire

39 "Give it —!"

40 Understood

DOWN

1 "We're on!"

13 Unemotional

2 Ohio city

3 Env. insert

4 Rue the run

5 Hotelier Helmsley

6 Pessimistic about the market

7 Car bar

8 "Unh-unh"

9 Snafu site

10 Low clouds

11 Pie-in-the-face sound

13 Unemotional

18 Recipe abbr.

21 Pious

23 Ghana's capital

25 Drench

27 "That hurts!"

29 Boat race

31 San Diego player

32 Braces (one-self)

33 Fit for farming

34 Director Howard

36 Blame

37 Swaps

38 King of Judea

41 Plains shelter

44 "Va-va-—!"

45 Ukr. and Lith., once (Abbr.)

48 Texas tea

50 Nosh

Solution time: 26 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 4-14

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11									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				40		41		42	
43			44			45		46	
47		48				49		50	
51						52			
						53			
								54	

4-14 CRYPTOQUIP

X K Z H J G J E E Z E I W

O J H W E V K F H D G F J O Z

Y M W C M J U M F Z M V K W E U

Y X J H H Z M K Z E T Z K W U W E

J H J I D W M M W V T

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE JEWELER HAD JUST A FEW MORE FINGER ORNAMENTS THAN HE NEEDED. IT WAS A THREE-RING SURPLUS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals P

CRYPTOQUIP BOOK 2! Send \$4.50 (check/m.o.) to CryptoClassic Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

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HOROSCOPE

ARIES (March 21 to April 19)
Today is the only New Moon in your sign all year. What can you do to improve your appearance? What can you do to improve your closest relationships?

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)
Take a few moments and think about your inner values and what really matters to you. Remember - you never see a hearse pulling a U-Haul.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)
Today's New Moon is the best day of the year to think about the role friendships play in your life. Do you hang out with quality people? Your friends will influence your future; friends influence your mind and how you make decisions.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22)
This is an important day to think about your life's direction. Where do you want to be five years from now? 10 years from now? What do you have to do now to start to go in that direction?

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22)
What further schooling or training will improve your job? What further education or travel will enhance your life? Think about this.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)
Think about how you can reduce your debt. It's an excellent time to revise your arrangement with shared property or other assets owned with others.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)
The New Moon is a chance to make resolutions. What can you do to improve your closest partnerships and relationships?

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)
Think of how you can improve your health by stopping something harmful or starting something beneficial. Likewise, how can you improve your job?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)
Ask yourself if you have a healthy balance between work and play. Too much either way is not ideal. You can't just play, but then again, you can't just work, either.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)
What can you do to improve your home as well as your relationships with family members? These are important things to consider. Any bit of improvement is a good thing.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)
Are you a good communicator? Do you listen when others are speaking or are you just waiting for your turn to speak? Think about this.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20)
It's good to know what you really value in life, because then you will know the right kind of decisions to make as the years go by. Do you know what you really value?

Note: This column is published only as an entertainment feature for interested readers.

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