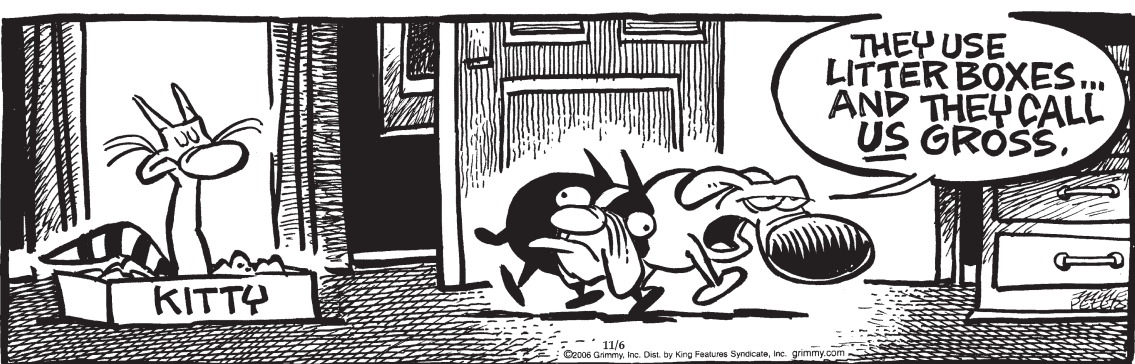


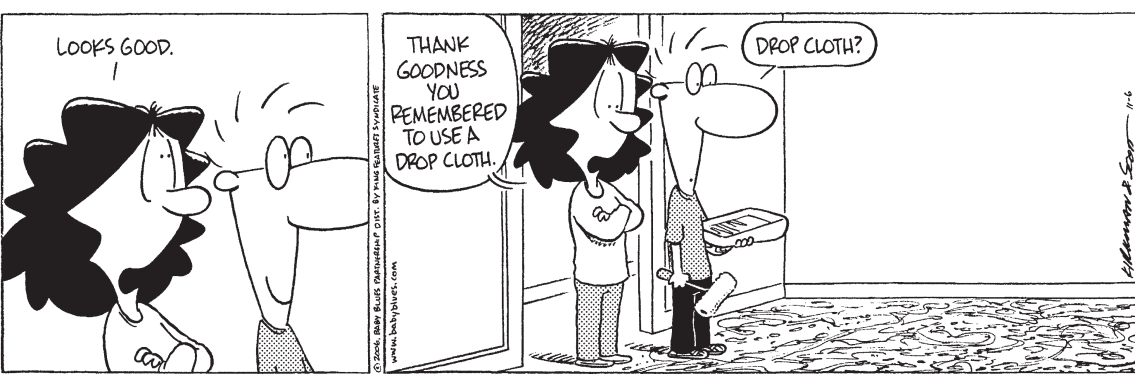
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



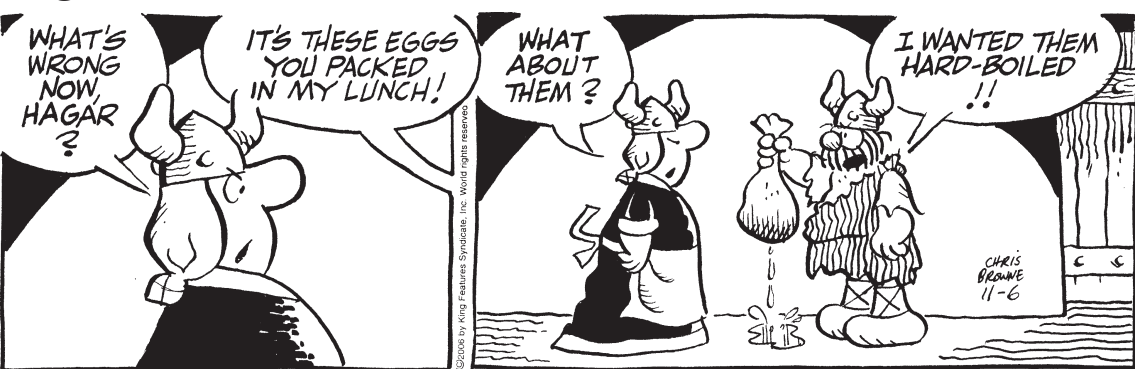
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



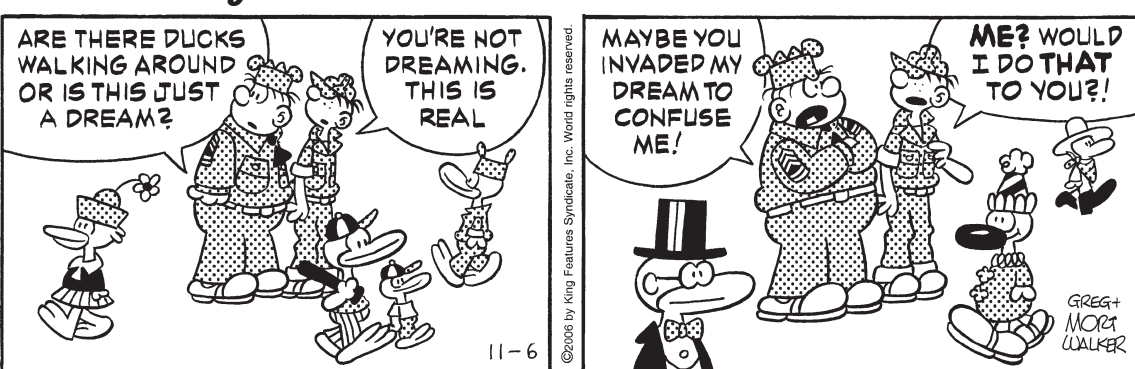
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



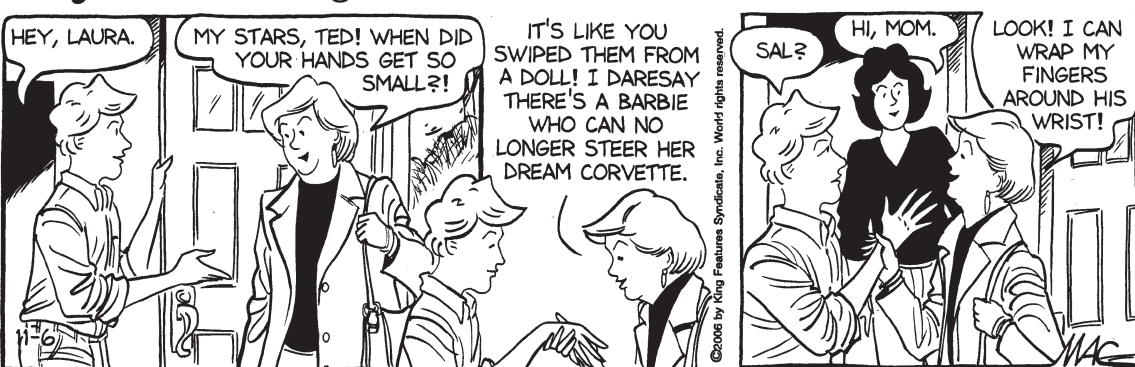
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Person afraid of being kidnapped

Dear Dr. Brothers: I seem to have developed a strange fear. I have heard of so many cases of abductions and kidnappings lately that I seem to be looking in the back seat of my car, locking my windows and doors, and practically running in and out of my workplace and the shopping mall for fear that someone is going to grab me. I know these things happen mostly to children, but I have heard of many adult abductions as well. If I was afraid of aliens, I would know I was nuts, but I am afraid of unknown real people! That is reasonable, isn't it? The world seems so unsafe. — L.L.



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Dear L.L.: I don't think you are "nuts," but you certainly show some signs of high levels of stress and anxiety.

And I believe you probably can be helped with some therapy and medication if your fears keep you from enjoying life — or keep you from being able to go back and forth to work on a daily basis without feeling that you are about to be grabbed and whisked away in an unmarked van.

But don't think that you are alone.

In this post-Sept. 11 world, our anxieties have many ways of spilling over into our daily lives; many, if not most, of us feel less secure than we used to. You have just manifested this feeling as a fear of kidnapping.

You need to try to stop focusing on abductions; if you read the tabloids or watch sensa-

tional cable TV shows that exploit those types of stories, stop. You have to realize that these are very rare. And recent research has shown that some of the most well-publicized "abductions" have turned out to be staged!

Individuals who are desperate for attention or are trying to escape from another situation sometimes make up wild stories that turn up as dramatic news items. Things are not as bad as they seem, honestly.

Dear Dr. Brothers: My husband is so irresponsible; he just won't grow up. His hijinks were fun when we were in our 20s and first got married, but lately they've seemed so inappropriate, especially now that we have a baby.

Our daughter is 2 years old — but she hasn't slowed my husband down! He rides a motorcycle; he's got a motorboat and won't give it up; he goes to Atlantic City or some other gambling destination one weekend a month.

And of course he can't keep a job. He's had seven different jobs in the 10 years we've been mar-

ried. Either he gets fired, or he quits because the job is "boring" or his boss is an "idiot." Is there any way to get him to act his age? I'm fed up. — P.A.

Dear P.A.: Another grown man with Peter Pan syndrome: "I won't grow up! I don't want to be a man!" That's your view, anyway. And I know it's frustrating to be the only one worrying about bills, your baby and your future together as a family, while your husband fritters his life away. You have my admiration for being a strong and dependable woman.

Now, what to do with your husband? He is not taking his roles as husband and father very seriously. Perhaps someone else would. I see no reason to tie yourself to this man for the rest of your life when you could be in a partnership with someone who respects your contributions to the marriage and meets you halfway in all the important places.

Stop enabling your husband — don't underwrite his care-free lifestyle, and don't take up the slack when he isn't being a father. If standing up to him doesn't turn him around — and the shock just might do it — then I say cut your losses and move on while you and your daughter are still able to find a better man to share your life and love with. Your husband can use his boyish charm to find another benefactor.

(c) King Features Syndicate

Bridge

South dealer.

Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH		EAST	
♠ A Q 10 5 2	♥ —	♠ —	♥ A K 9 8 7 6 3
♦ 10 9	♣ K Q 9 7 6 3	♦ K 5 3	♣ J 7 4 2
WEST		SOUTH	
♠ K J 9 8 6	♥ J 5 4 2	♠ 7 4 3	♥ Q 10
♦ K 5 3	♣ 4	♦ A 8 6	♣ A J 8 5 2

The bidding:
 South West North East
 1 ♣ 1 ♠ 2 ♠ 4 ♥
 Pass 5 ♥ 6 ♣ Dble
 Opening lead — three of diamonds.

Famous Hand

This wild deal occurred in the 1993 World Team Championship in the semifinal match between the United States and the Netherlands.

The bidding shown took place when Eric Rodwell and Marty Bergen were East-West for the U.S., playing against Enri Leufkens, South, and Berry Westra, North.

The auction featured a series of high-level tactical decisions, and in the end, the Dutch pair came out the winner.

Things started innocently enough with Leufkens' marginal one-club opening and Bergen's flimsy spade overcall.

Westra now had a number of options and chose to cuebid spades, implying club support and a good hand. Rodwell then leaped, reasonably enough, to four hearts, and Bergen raised to five to try to muddy the waters for the opposition.

Westra was not intimidated, however, and continued to six clubs, doubled by Rodwell. Conventionally, this asked Bergen not to lead hearts, the suit East had bid, but it left Bergen in the dark as to which suit Rodwell wanted led.

Had Bergen led a spade, Rodwell would have ruffed, and declarer would eventually have lost a diamond to go down one.

But Bergen chose a diamond, after which Leufkens won with the ace, drew trumps and double finessed in spades to bring in the slam for a score of 1,540 points.

At the other table, with Larry Cohen and David Berkowitz North-South for the U.S. and Wubbo de Boer and Bauke Muller East-West for the Netherlands, the bidding went:

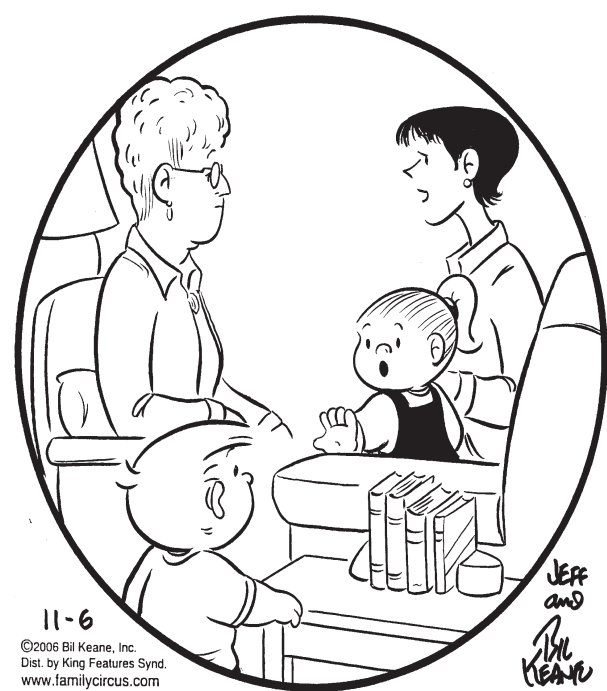
South West North East
 Pass Pass 2 [C] 4 [H]
 5 [C] 5 [H] 5 [S] 6 [H]
 Pass Pass 6 [S] Pass
 7 [C]

Here, de Boer elected to take out insurance against the impending slam by bidding six hearts, in the process assuring the Dutch a huge gain regardless of what happened next.

The American pair's decision to take out insurance of their own by bidding seven clubs — which went down one — cost little extra, and the Dutch gained 19 IMPs on the deal.

Tomorrow: Declarer dodges temptation. (c)2006 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



Crossword

ACROSS	1 Recede	4 Icy	9 Young gent	12 Storm center	13 "The Devil Wears —"	14 Nevada town	15 "Top Ten List" reader	17 Pirouette pivot	18 From here, to Scots	19 Goldie Hawn, to Kate Hudson	21 Whale variety	24 This twice follows "Que"	25 Raw rock	26 Pesticide letters	28 Lint collector	31 Catcher's aid	33 Madam's counterpart	35 "Zounds!"													
DOWN	1 Conger or moray	2 "See ya!"	3 Wager	4 Gushed forth	5 Quick, purposeful	6 Aries	7 Second president	8 Lake boats	9 Sluggish	10 Lotion additive	11 Color worker	16 Phonograph inventor's monogram	20 Sycamore, for one	21 Long pass, in football	22 Met melody	23 Deadliness	27 Gratuity	29 Big wind	30 German river	32 Of great height	34 Fidgety	37 Wagner's "Tristan and —"	39 "Night and Day" composer	42 Phantom's bailiwick	44 Taxi	45 Courts	46 Touch	50 Dress (up)	51 Historic time	52 Has permission	53 Female sheep

Solution time: 24 mins. Saturday's answer 11-6

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Cryptoquip

OSKX ESNX, HGIXE VKTVWK

WTTP GE BTI CIAKWB,

N HIKRR BTI GCK

ACGONXH WGXP REGCKR.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: I IMAGINE TASKS LIKE CHOPPING DOWN TREES AND SPLITTING WOOD MIGHT BE EXPRESSED AS AX ACTS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals P

