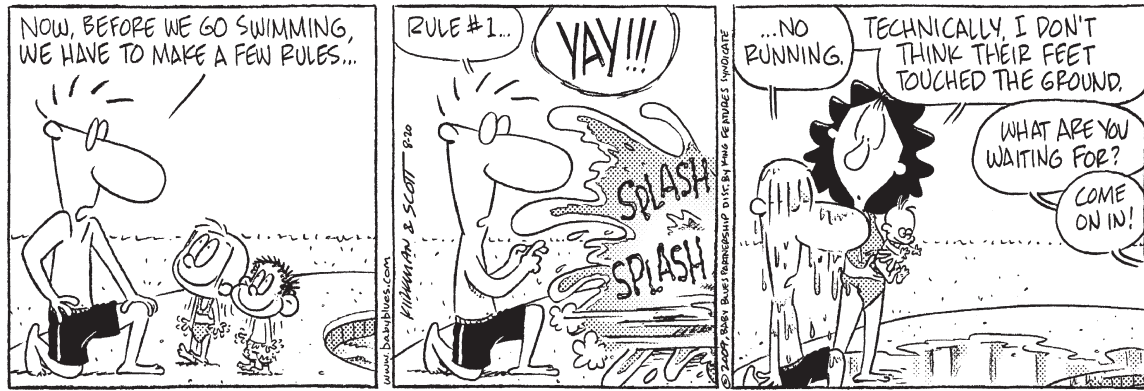


**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



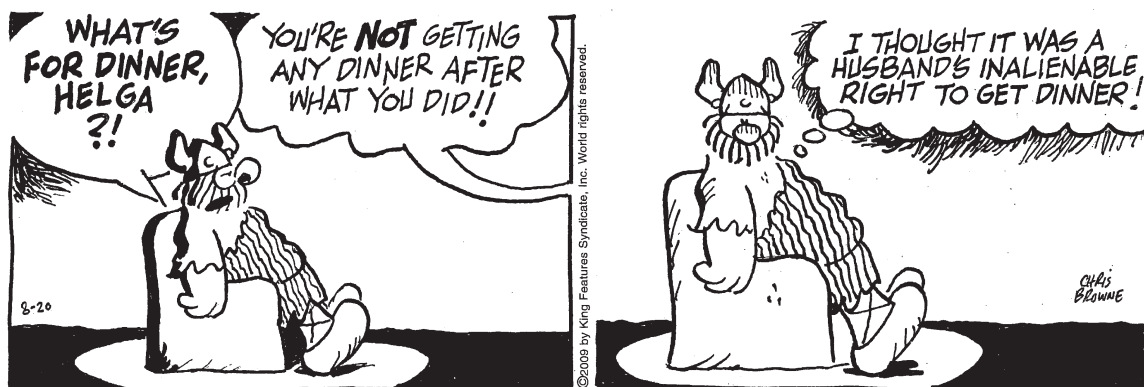
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



**Blondie** • Chic Young



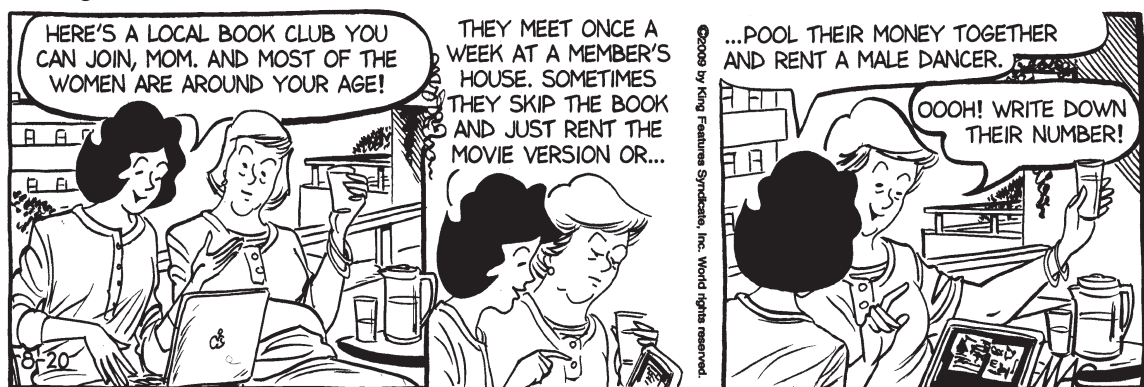
**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



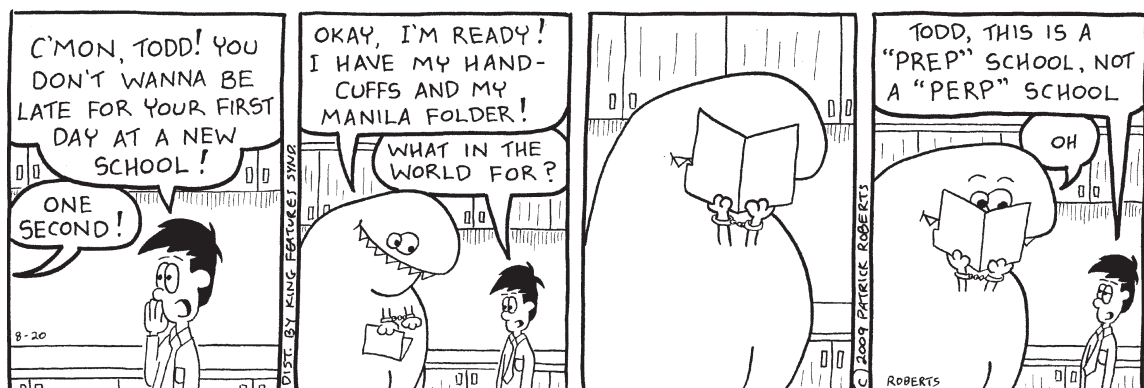
**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



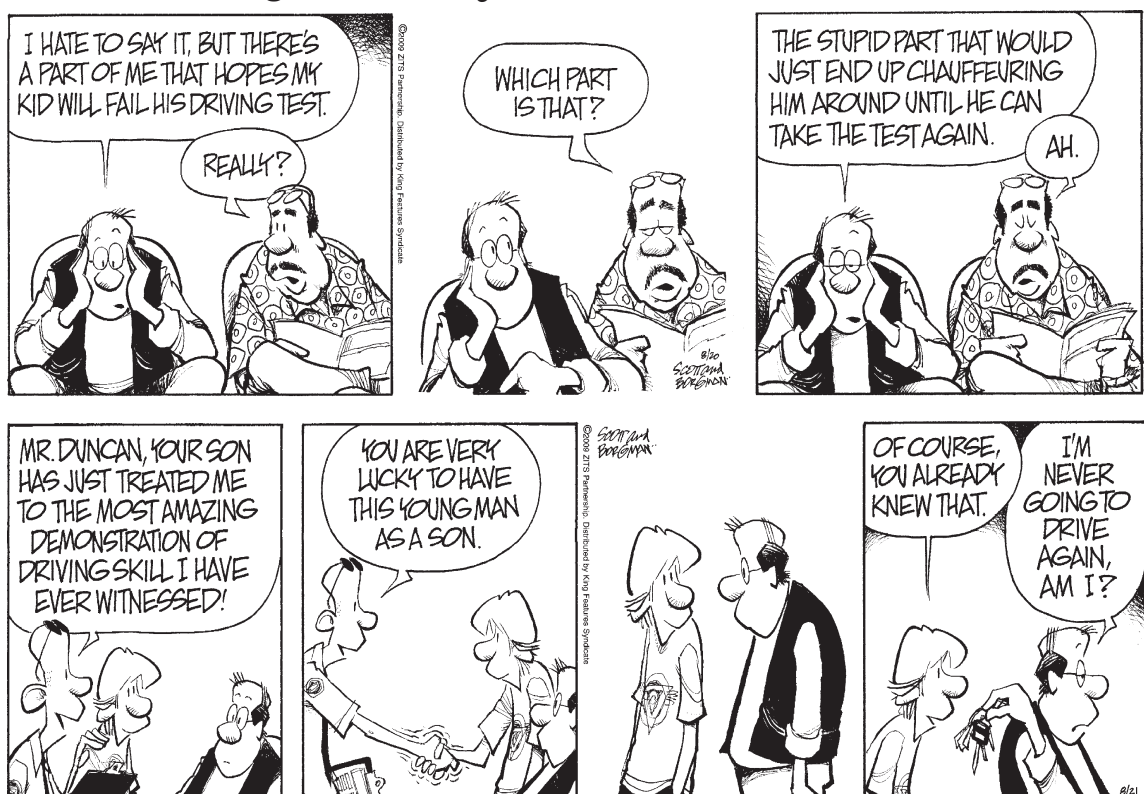
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Dr. Joyce Brothers**  
 • Ask Dr. Brothers  
**New stepsister gets all attention**

**Dear Dr. Brothers:** I am in one of those families that someone has named "blended," but I call it mashed together. There is no way I would ever choose to live with these people if my mom hadn't married this guy. He's OK, pretty much looks dramatic? A little bit of kindness actually this new so-called sister of mine (evil stepsister), my mom is gushing over and making me be "nice" to. We are both in middle school. Do you think I can get away with ignoring her in school? - C.C.

**Dear C.C.:** I'm sorry you are having to adjust to a brand-new "sibling" whom you don't like and don't want to hang out with. It is too bad your mom hasn't taken the time to let you get to know each other on your own terms, instead of saying you must be friends. But you may be exaggerating her desires. Maybe she actually does just want you to be nice, especially if your instinct is to be mean - is she really gushing, or are you just being dramatic? A little bit of kindness actually might go a long way toward your relationship - she is likely to return it, and your stepfather may feel less like looking right through you as well. While you don't seem to care right now, it would not be a bad thing if the two of you could have a cordial relationship instead of an invisible one.

So, can you be "nice" at home and ignore this girl at school? I suppose so, but that probably would end up taking more effort than you wish to put into it. Why not at least think about letting your relationship develop naturally? No one can blame you for these emotions ... but they will admire you if you get them under control and face your new family with maturity. Think it over.

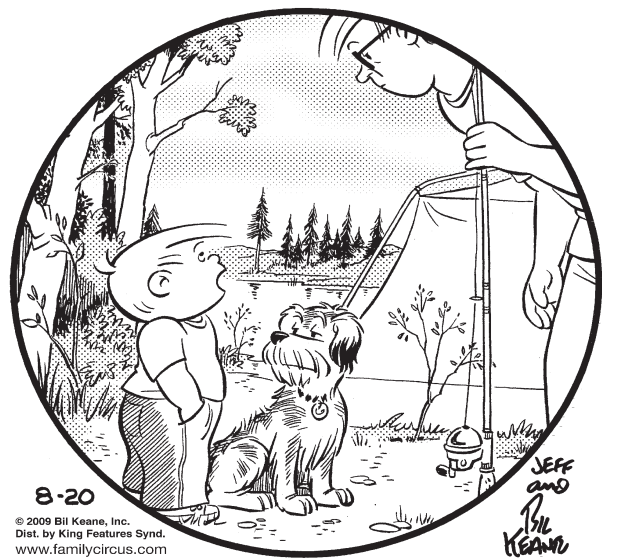
**Dear Dr. Brothers:** When I was a kid, I had two sets of aunts and uncles. I didn't know who was my "blood" and who wasn't, as they were all aunts and uncles and we were one big, happy family. It wasn't till I was in college that I even realized that one half of each of these couples was my relative by marriage. But today, everything is different. My sister has a child, but my husband refers to him as "your" nephew and makes it clear he isn't "really" related. He has no nephews of his own. How can I change his attitude? - S.J.

**Dear S.J.:** Just as you remember how you were treated, your husband may have very different memories. I wonder if you have talked over his experiences. Chances are his relatives were uninvolved, or there was a very clear case of who was whose sister or brother. He may have been treated differently by the related aunt or uncle. So in his worldview, only the blood-related relative was family. If this is the case, you are up against a tradition that you want him to now drop.

Back off a bit. Your husband might take to being an uncle if you let him do it his own way. The goal, after all, is to have a family in which everyone enjoys one another. Don't push your husband on your nephew, but let him know how much you appreciate his involvement even though he had a different experience. When the child starts calling him "uncle," he may develop a new attitude!

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



"Where can I buy a postcard? Grandma said to be sure to send her one."

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/20

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

**Cryptoquip**

M SXI SERCU MFX UAHRR  
 VRMHTHWN AJMA AJX VEWNM  
 KFDT HU WEA YFECXW, YDA

H IEDRKW'A YXMA EW HA!  
**Yesterday's Cryptoquip:** IF A FATHER NOTICES HIS CHILD GETTING OUT OF BED, I SUPPOSE HE COULD BE SEEING THE RISING SON.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals T

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**  
 1 Lady of the Haus  
 5 Channel marker  
 9 To the — degree  
 12 Deserve  
 13 Nabisco product  
 14 Playwright Levin  
 15 Victoria Beckham, e.g.  
 17 S nip  
 18 Plays for time  
 19 Strike zone's lower boundary  
 21 Exist  
 22 Sits for the paparazzi  
 24 Joker, e.g.  
 27 Scepter topper  
 28 Horse's halter?  
 31 Kyoto cummerbund  
 32 Pirouette pivot  
 33 Resistance measure  
 34 Wear a rut in the rug

**DOWN**  
 1 Parker who played Daniel Boone  
 2 En-grossed  
 3 Met melody  
 4 Nude  
 5 Marshy areas  
 6 Swiss canton  
 7 "the fields we go"  
 8 Whites' counterparts  
 9 Basketball "bravo"  
 10 Verifiable  
 11 Milliner's wares  
 16 Shade source  
 20 Just out  
 22 Verify  
 23 Do as you're told  
 24 Officer-grossed  
 25 "The — Daba Honey-moon"  
 26 Sake  
 27 Elevator name  
 29 "Looky here!"  
 30 Pump up the volume  
 35 Sea eagle  
 37 Sew  
 39 Jetsons' dog  
 40 Eisenhower  
 41 Pub missile  
 42 Lotion additive  
 43 Rue the run  
 44 Oliver's request  
 45 Astigmatism factor  
 46 Probability  
 49 False hood?  
 50 Capades venue

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

PODS SOW ITEM  
 AREA PHI MESA  
 TEASPOON BASS  
 HONSHU GARRET  
 HAT WAD EERIE  
 IDEA LOU SORT  
 PSALM END PEA  
 CLAD HOG  
 ADHERE ERASER  
 BRIG TEAMMATE  
 LANE ERR INNS  
 EGGS RED NEAT

Yesterday's answer 8-20

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	46
47					48	49	50			
51					52				53	
54					55				56	