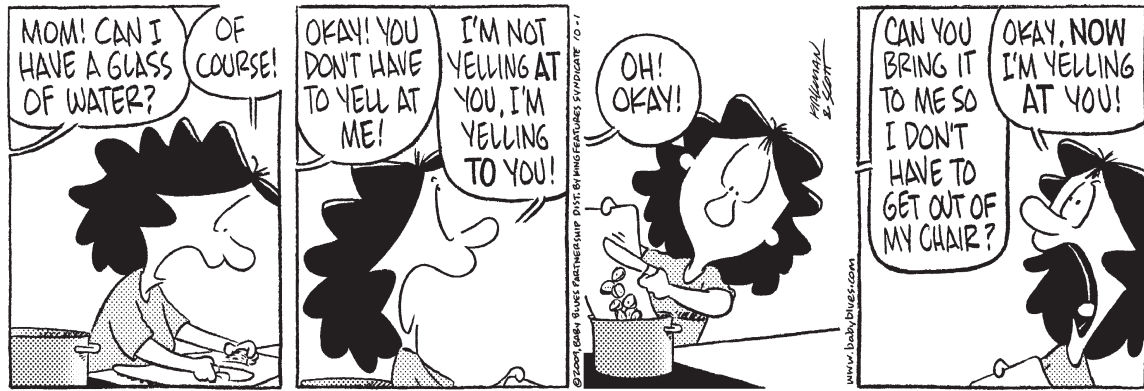
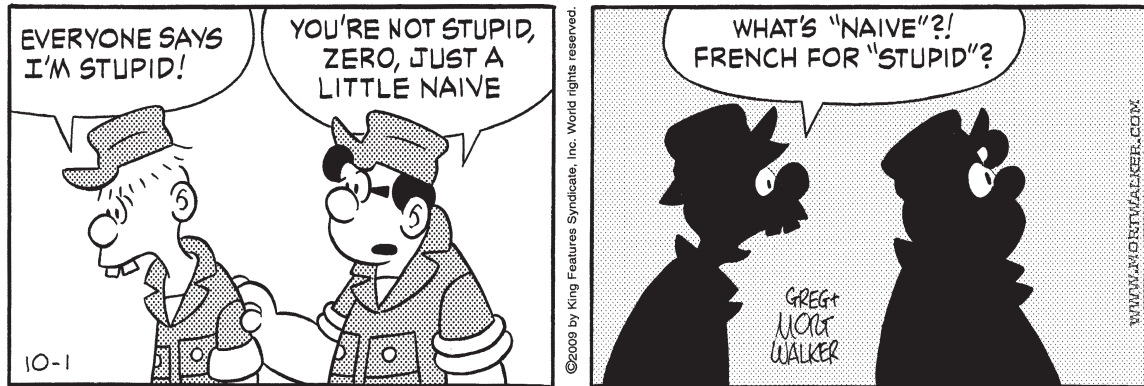


**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



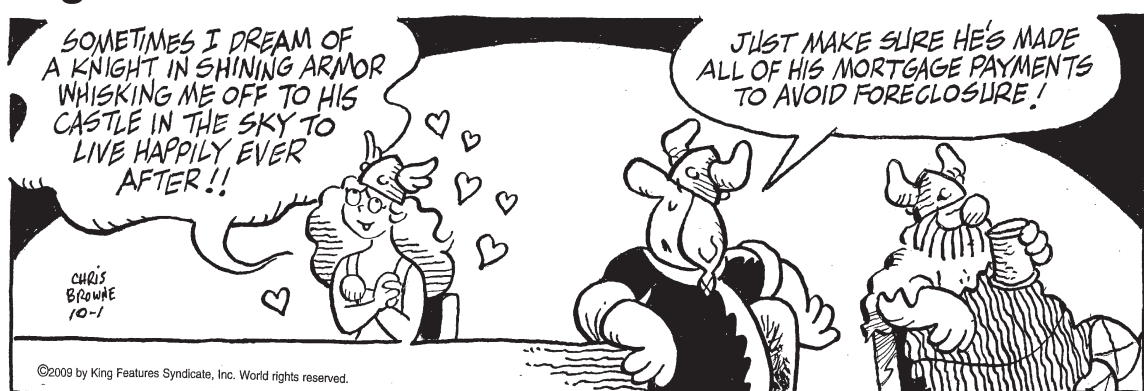
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



**Blondie** • Chic Young



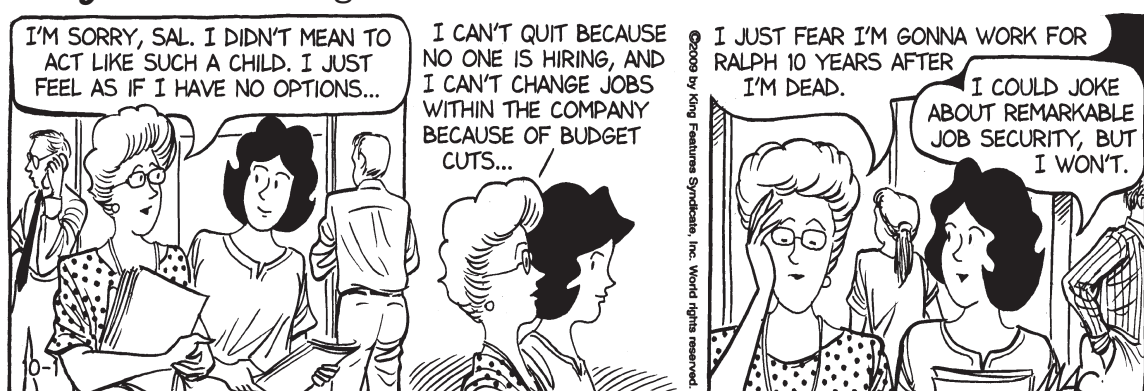
**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



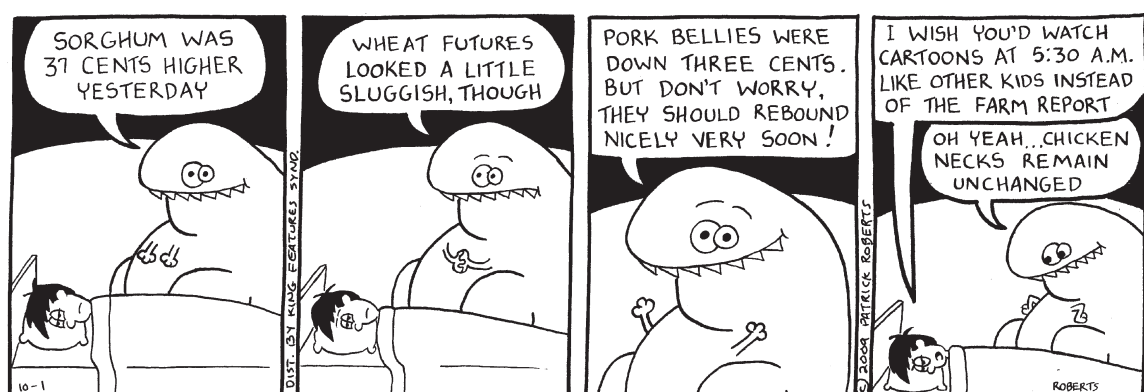
**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Dr. Joyce Brothers**  
• Ask Dr. Brothers  
**Young kids can suffer depression**

**Dear Dr. Brothers:** My husband and I have argued for weeks. We both are concerned about our 3-year-old little girl. She doesn't seem happy. But this is where we differ: I've suffered from depression, and I wonder if she could be depressed. My husband (the eternally happy type) says this is nonsense, but he is always trying to cheer her up. So, is it possible for a child so young to be suffering from depression? - D.C.

**Dear D.C.:** This is a question that would have been unheard of a few years ago. The picture of a happy, carefree little child is one that is hard to tamper with - surely there is nothing that could be wrong at that age, and besides, what child of 3 or 4 is emotionally mature enough to have sustained depression instead of momentary bad moods or occasional tantrums? But recent research indicates that preschool children can indeed suffer from depression. According to the National Institute of Mental Health, a study of 200 preschoolers between the ages of 3 and 6 showed that during a two-year period, 75 were diagnosed with major depression, and among those who were depressed initially, four different exams showed that 20 percent were depressed at all of them.

Depression in children is generally tied to a traumatic event or a mother with a depressive illness. This does not mean there is anything wrong with your mothering, but neither is the diagnosis of your husband - that it is "nonsense" - correct. Your child might benefit from a medical diagnosis and therapy, as giving psychiatric drugs to children that young is controversial since long-term effects are not clear.

**Dear Dr. Brothers:** I don't like to compare my children, but anyone could see the differences between my two boys. The oldest is 12. He's always had trouble with one nervous habit or another, and now he is trying cigarettes. In the meantime, his little brother, 8, is sunny and popular. I don't like to punish the older one, who is easily upset. How do I deal with his teen years? - L.S.

**Dear L.S.:** Let's take it one step at a time. There's a huge variation of behavior in teens, and your son is likely to change quite a bit during those times. Dealing with the present is easier to cope with. He may have used all those nervous habits to soothe himself when he was anxious, and as long as he wasn't teased or punished, he has had a chance to outgrow some of them. As he feels more mastery of his environment, he has a good chance of leaving the rest behind. Just don't pressure him to give up biting his nails or whatever he is doing. Make sure he isn't into self-destructive habits like cutting or drugs or dieting to excess. All can be tempting for a child who is anxious and has low self-esteem.

It's wise not to compare your children - and the firstborn often has it rougher when it comes to expectations. You should come down hard on the smoking, though - he may be the type who would quickly become dependent on cigarettes, not to mention the health hazard. Kids today aren't stupid - emphasize his health, and chances are he will be frightened out of becoming an addict. Sports are a good antidote to that poison.

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ 9 6 3  
♥ 10 7 4  
♦ Q 10 7 2  
♣ 8 5 2

**WEST**  
♠ Q 8 5 2  
♥ A K J 2  
♦ 3  
♣ J 10 6

**EAST**  
♠ 4  
♥ 8 6 3  
♦ 9 8 5 4  
♣ Q 9 7 3

**SOUTH**  
♠ A K J 10 7  
♥ Q 5  
♦ A K J  
♣ A K 4

The bidding:  
South West North East  
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass  
2 ♥ Pass 3 ♥ Pass  
4 ♠ strong and artificial  
Opening lead - King of hearts.

**Battle for Trump Control**

This deal was played in a four-table team match. The contract at each table was four spades, and all four Wests started by leading the A-K-J of hearts.

At the first table, declarer ruffed and played the A-K of spades. When East showed out, South could not afford another trump lead because West would win and lead another heart to establish his eight of trumps as the setting trick.

Instead, declarer played the A-K-J of diamonds, hoping to discard a club on dummy's fourth diamond. But West ruffed the third diamond, and South finished down two.

At table two, after ruffing the jack of hearts, declarer played the ace of spades and then the jack, attempting to guard against a 4-1 trump division. West took the queen and, observing that a heart lead could be ruffed in dummy, shifted to a club. South won, drew trumps and took the rest of the tricks to make the contract.

At table three, declarer ruffed the heart and also played the A-J of spades. But West countered by refusing to win the trick. South could not overcome this fine play. He led the A-K-J of diamonds, but West ruffed, and South later lost a club to go down one.

At the last table, South also ruffed the jack of hearts but came up with the only sure way to guard against a 4-1 trump division. He led the jack of spades without cashing a high trump first.

West ducked - it would not have helped him to win the trick - and South, intent upon protecting himself against a 4-1 break, continued with the ten. West took his queen, but there was nothing he could do to stop the contract. So South made four spades, thanks to his super-duper safety play.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



"Since your new camera never runs out of film, does it run out of digitals?"

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/01

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.

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

**Cryptoquip**

SB G YEJD PFA'X G B YVVD

UHVZNDW SX HDGWMSMT YA

WSKD G NSJD, ZGEND FD'HH

UVY AM KWGMSMT PFDDHX.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN YOU CATCH FORTY WINKS FOR RELIGIOUS PURPOSES, I THINK YOU'RE TAKING A SLEEP OF FAITH.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals L

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

- |                                  |                            |                       |                                   |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                    | <b>DOWN</b>                | <b>DOWN</b>           | <b>DOWN</b>                       |
| 1 Lobbyists' grp.                | 37 Bad lighting            | 1 Snapshot            | 21 Lady of Spain                  |
| 4 Essence                        | 39 Bankroll                | 2 Every crumb         | 22 Finished                       |
| 8 Rich soil                      | 41 Whopper                 | 3 Where riders lounge | 23 Scoundrel                      |
| 12 Under the weather             | 42 Scull jacket            | 4 Relay               | 27 Deviate off course             |
| 13 Sun-screen ingredient         | 46 A water sign            | 5 U.N. workers' grp.  | 29 Iron, e.g.                     |
| 14 Between jobs                  | 50 Fraud-monitoring org.   | 6 Lincoln in-law      | 30 One of HOMES                   |
| 15 Makeshift remover             | 51 Injury Chorus of a sort | 7 Soul mate?          | 31 Lascivious look                |
| 17 Rind                          | 52 Verve                   | 8 Emulate             | 33 Entry-level job?               |
| 18 -relief                       | 53 Vicinity                | 9 Praiseful pieces    | 35 Discard                        |
| 19 Naked                         | 54 Werve with              | 10 Sheltered          | 38 Siesta                         |
| 21 No, for one                   | 55 Cow's hurdle?           | 11 Pinochle           | 40 Protect                        |
| 24 Have a go at                  | 60 Fat                     | 16 Cudgel             | 43 Bright star of Orion           |
| 25 Eggs                          | 61 Satchel                 | 20 Detergent brand    | 45 List-ending abbr.              |
| 26 Eye under                     |                            |                       | 46 Counterfeit                    |
| 28 Treetop decoration, often     |                            |                       | 47 "nome" (aria from "Rigoletto") |
| 32 Dweeb                         |                            |                       | 48 Sandwich treat                 |
| 34 Trump casino hotel, for short |                            |                       | 49 Stewpot                        |
| 36 Geologist's sample            |                            |                       | 53 Corn spike                     |
|                                  |                            |                       | 54 NAFTA signatory                |
|                                  |                            |                       | 55 Plead                          |

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

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

Yesterday's answer 10-1

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				57				58		
59				60				61		