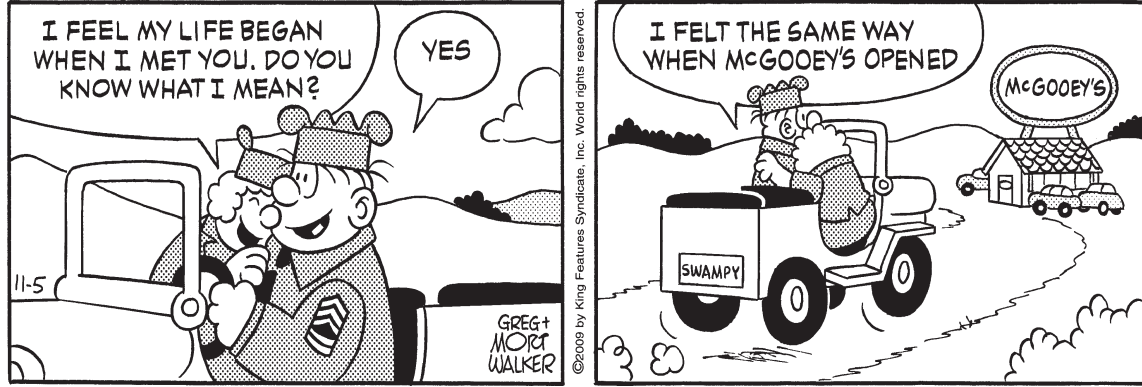


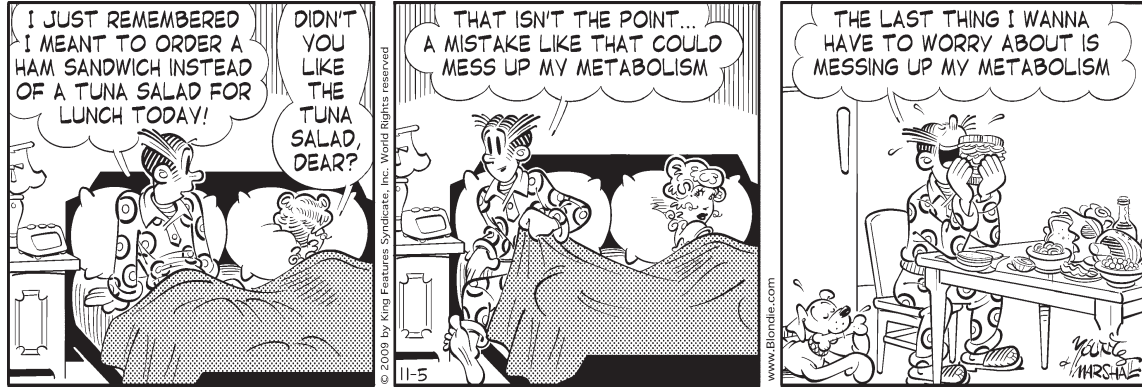
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



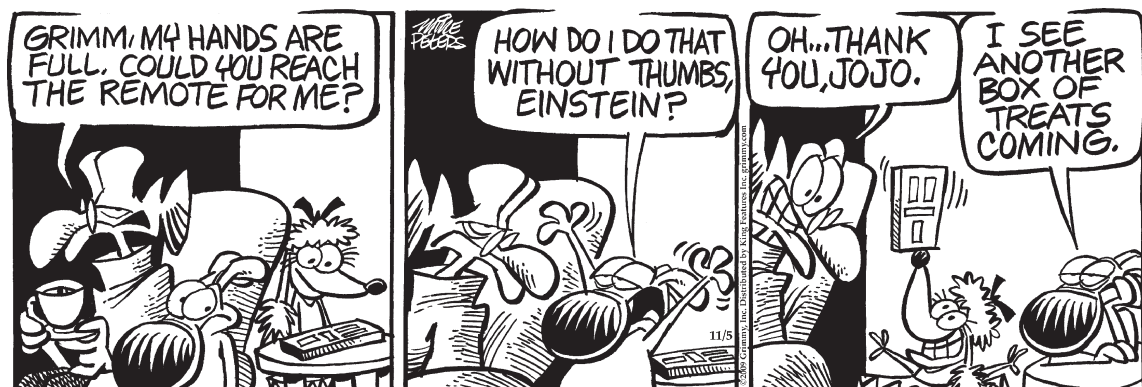
Blondie • Chic Young



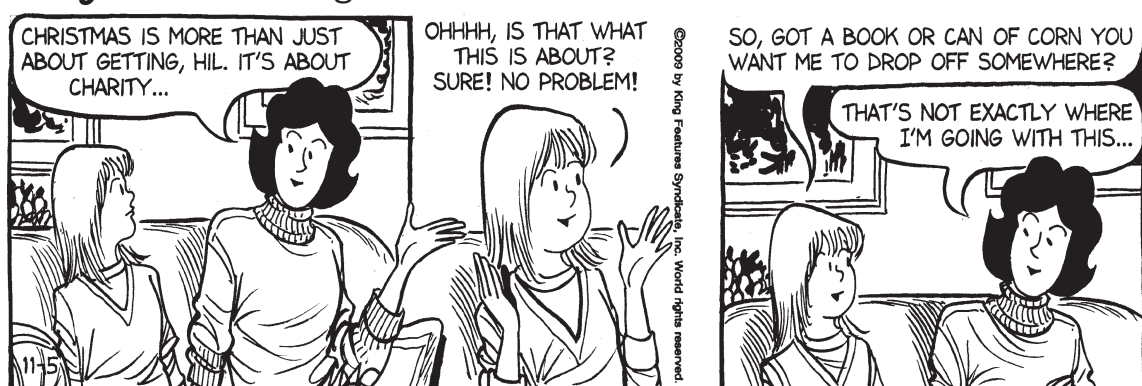
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



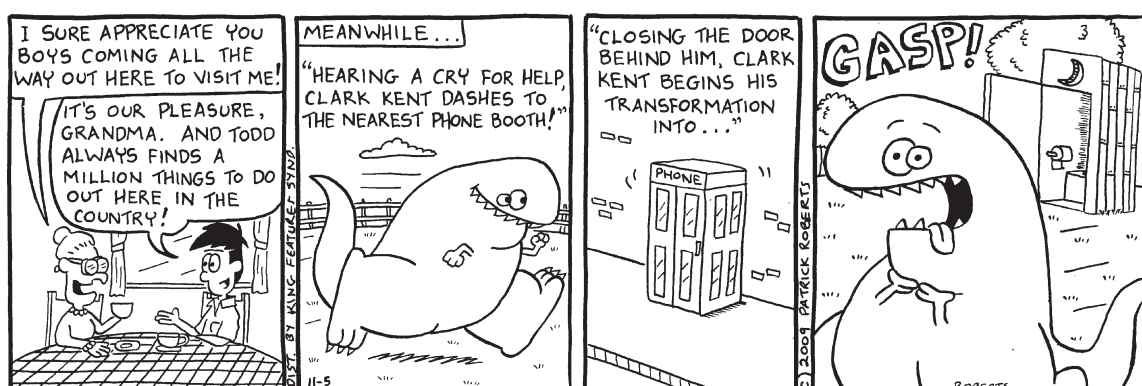
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



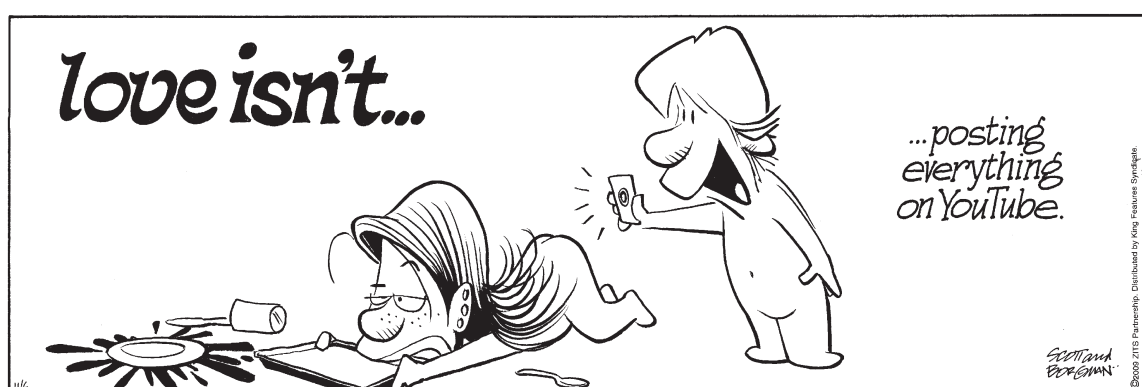
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers
• Ask Dr. Brothers
Child has strange habits

Dear Dr. Brothers: I have three kids, and until now they have all been what I would call normal and well-adjusted. But my oldest has started criticizing my cooking, and wants to do her own. She refuses everything I offer. Then, after picking out her own food, she will eat only if it is separated. Nothing can touch anything else, and God forbid if there is a bit of juice on the plate. Then she eats a hearty meal. She is 7. Help! — S.R.

Dear S.R.: It is difficult being the oldest child. You are always the guinea pig, the pioneer who sets the stage for what is considered "normal" for the children who follow. In the case of your oldest child, there's probably nothing going on that is a mental or emotional problem. I can't say that for sure, but only you know your daughter and her nature. It is possible she is setting the stage for an eating disorder. If she is a driven perfectionist, her preoccupation with having total control over her food and eating could be an attempt to have some aspect of her life under her own dominion.

Does she have plenty of outlets where she can choose her own activities, and downtime to enjoy unstructured free time? If you are sure your daughter is enjoying a stress-free life and is merely asserting herself in a culinary way, why not embrace it? She could be a chef in the making — they are known to take interest in food and its presentation from young ages. Sign her up for a kids' cooking class and see what happens. Let her take the wheel at dinnertime, and see how "picky" the rest of the family might seem! At the age of 7, your child may just be trying her wings a bit — it feels good to make choices. Keep the lines of communication open so you can judge what is normal and what isn't.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I live at home in a large family of fat people. I hate to be blunt, but that's what we are. Now I have found a program at the university that will take townies — well-supervised with diet and exercise, and I am determined to do it and take off pounds. What concerns me is that my parents, brother, sister, aunt and uncle all are fine with their fat bodies, and I don't know how much support I can expect. I'm scared. — L.A.

Dear L.A.: It is a daunting task to lose weight and keep it off when surrounded by people who are enablers and may be saboteurs to your battle with losing weight. But you are strong and determined, as well as honest about your challenges — and being scared is a perfectly reasonable reaction to the role your family might play. You could be misjudging some of them, though — I just don't know which ones. There's bound to be at least one who secretly isn't happy, and would like to join you in the program or informally follow the instructions you bring home.

Once you begin, the attitudes of your relatives will be put out there pretty quickly. Notice the people who say encouraging things, or ask to join you. This is who you should be hanging out with! Since you know the others are trying to justify being overweight, try not to take it personally when they undermine your efforts. It will be difficult, but I know you can do it. You can show by example that weight loss is possible. That will do more than anything else to bring them around.

Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A Q 10 9 3
♥ 9 5 4
♦ J 10 3
♣ Q 6

WEST
♠ 7 2
♥ A 9 7
♦ A K Q 8 7 2
♣ 5 2

EAST
♠ J 8 6 5
♥ 10 2
♦ 6 4
♣ 10 9 8 4 3

SOUTH
♠ K 4
♥ K J 8 6 3
♦ 9 5
♣ A K J 7

The bidding:
South West North East
1♥ 1♠ 2♦ 2♥ Pass
3♦ Pass 3♥ Pass
4♥

Opening lead — king of diamonds.

A Stitch in Time Saves West
One of the more colorfully named plays in bridge is the so-called uppercut. As in boxing, the term is meant to describe a maneuver in which a devastating blow is delivered from the bottom up.

The uppercut is basically the province of the defenders. Its purpose is to establish a trump trick, or an extra trump trick, that does not exist naturally. Its effect upon declarer is often disconcerting, because there is usually nothing he can do to prevent the defenders from manufacturing a synthetic trump trick.

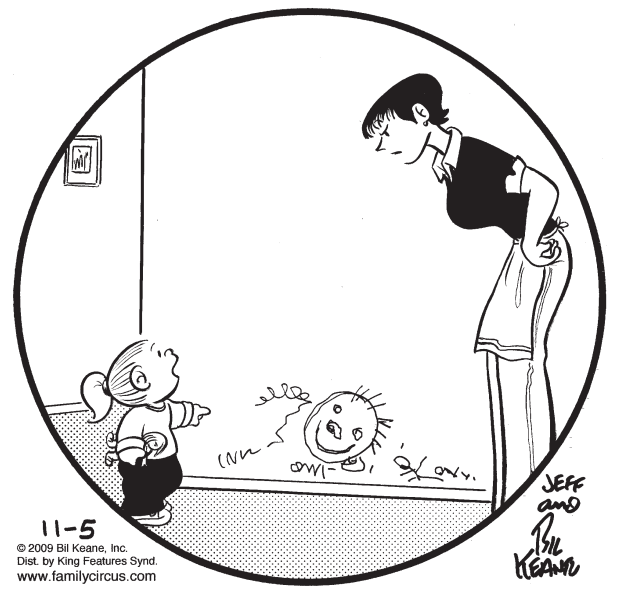
As a typical example, consider this deal where West leads the K-Q of diamonds, everyone following suit. Normally, West would continue with the ace, on which East would discard while declarer was being forced to ruff.

However, South would easily weather this storm by ruffing the diamond, leading a low heart to dummy's queen and another heart back to his jack, losing to West's ace. Declarer could then claim the rest of the tricks.

But West should not adopt this prosaic method of defense. He should realize that South must have every critical missing high card for his three bids, and that the only real chance to defeat the contract lies in establishing an extra trump trick for his side.

Accordingly, at trick three West should lead a low diamond rather than the ace, hoping his partner was dealt either the ten or jack of trumps. After East obliges by ruffing with the ten, declarer finds that he must lose two trump tricks regardless of how he proceeds, and he eventually goes down one.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



"I think Jeffy did it. That face looks like the kind he draws."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/05

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.

Cryptoquip

Y Q Z M O G R M L - O S L R V L .
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: PLANNING TO BUILD HUGE ROYAL TOMBS, I BELIEVE ANCIENT EGYPTIANS HAD TO DEVISE PYRAMID SCHEMES.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals D

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Apiece
5 Gasoline ratio (Abbr.)
8 Old card game
12 Parisian pop
13 Debtor's letters
14 Narc's measure
15 Persia, now
16 Up to, for short
17 Couple, to TMZ
18 Cafe royale ingredient
20 Spoofs on stage
22 Blond shade
23 "Howzat again?"
24 Scrooge's cries
27 Puts on a jury (Var.)
32 Inventor Whitney
33 Half of CIV
34 "To be or — ..."
35 Pigs out

DOWN
1 Grand tale
2 Aviation-related
3 Rock climber's handhold
4 Reddish-brown dyes
5 "Gone With the Wind" author
6 Luau bowlful
7 Wide gap
8 Slalom's slope
9 "Top Chef" settings
10 Sheltered
11 — River, N.J.
19 For example
21 "Eureka!"
24 Spell-down
25 Carte lead-in
26 Seeking a ride
28 "O Sole —"
29 Billy Mays, notably
30 Prune
31 Phippen
36 Quick voltage increases
37 "The — Daba Honey-moon"
38 Set sail
41 "Aloha —"
42 Puncturing tools
43 Actor LaBeouf
44 Not very spicy
46 Destruction
47 Sea flier
48 Test the waters
51 Bishopric

Yesterday's answer 11-5

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

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		