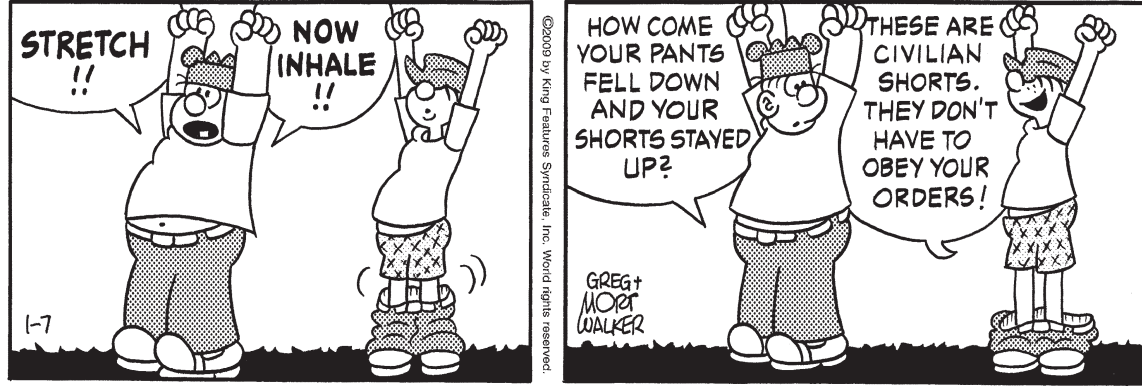


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



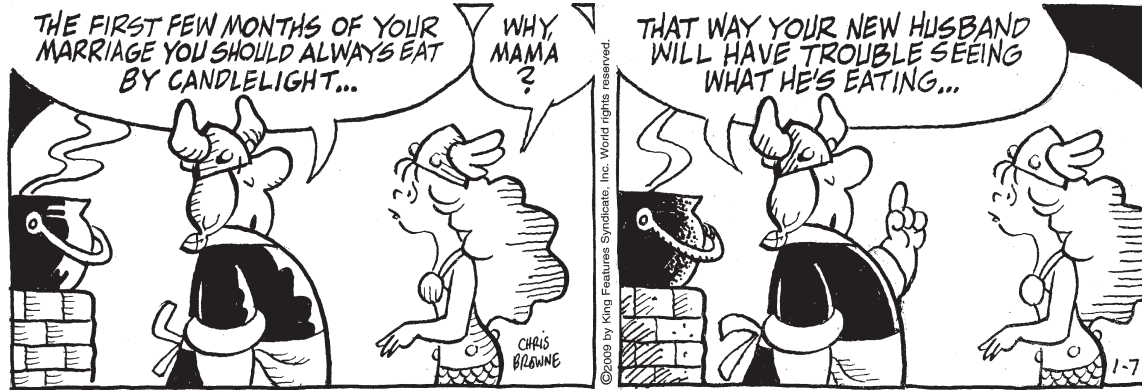
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



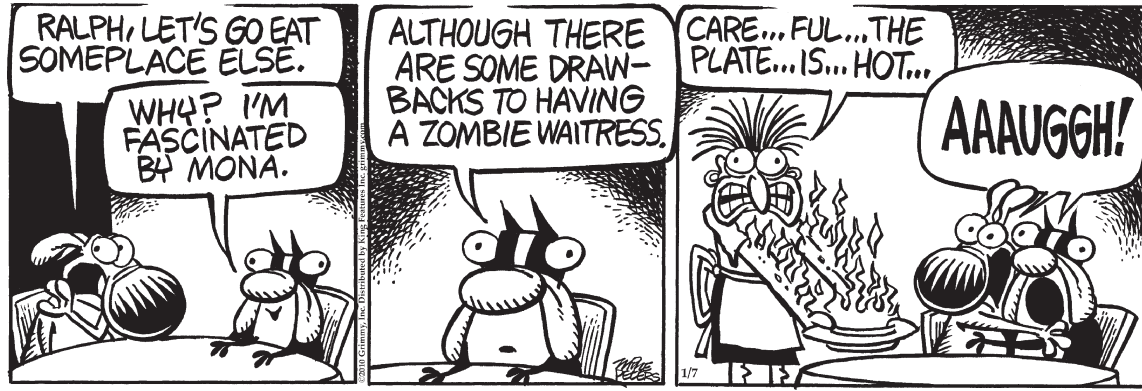
Blondie • Chic Young



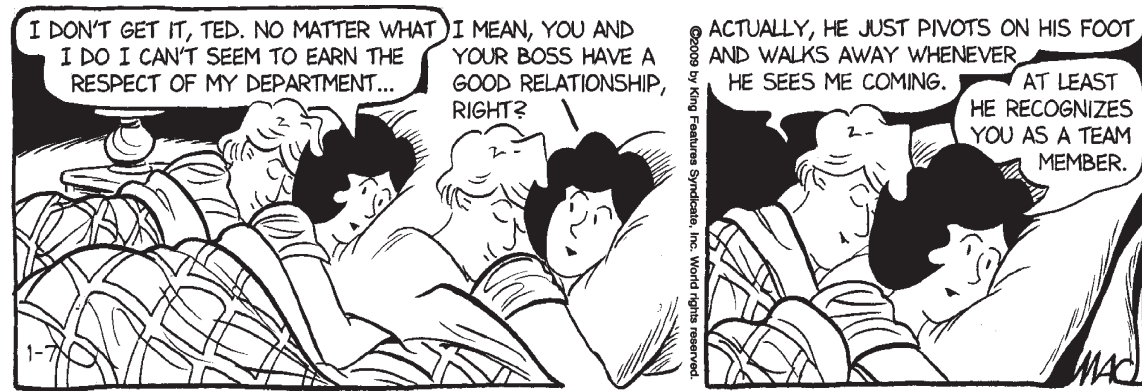
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



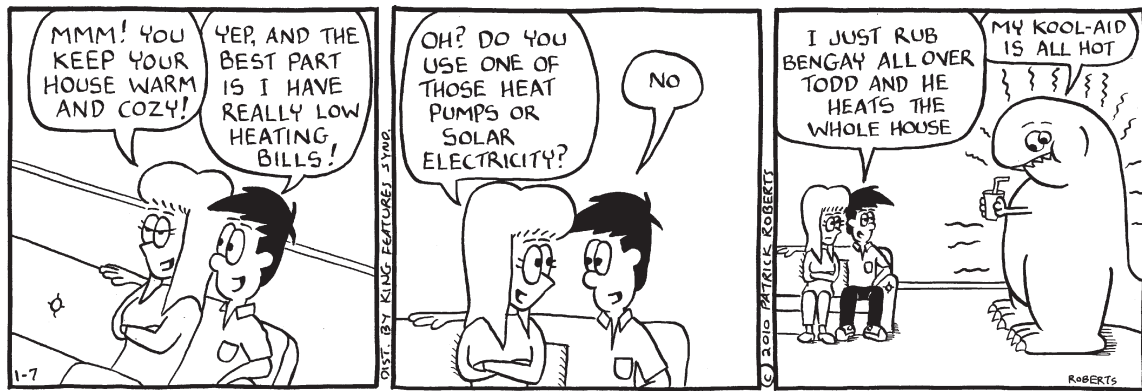
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



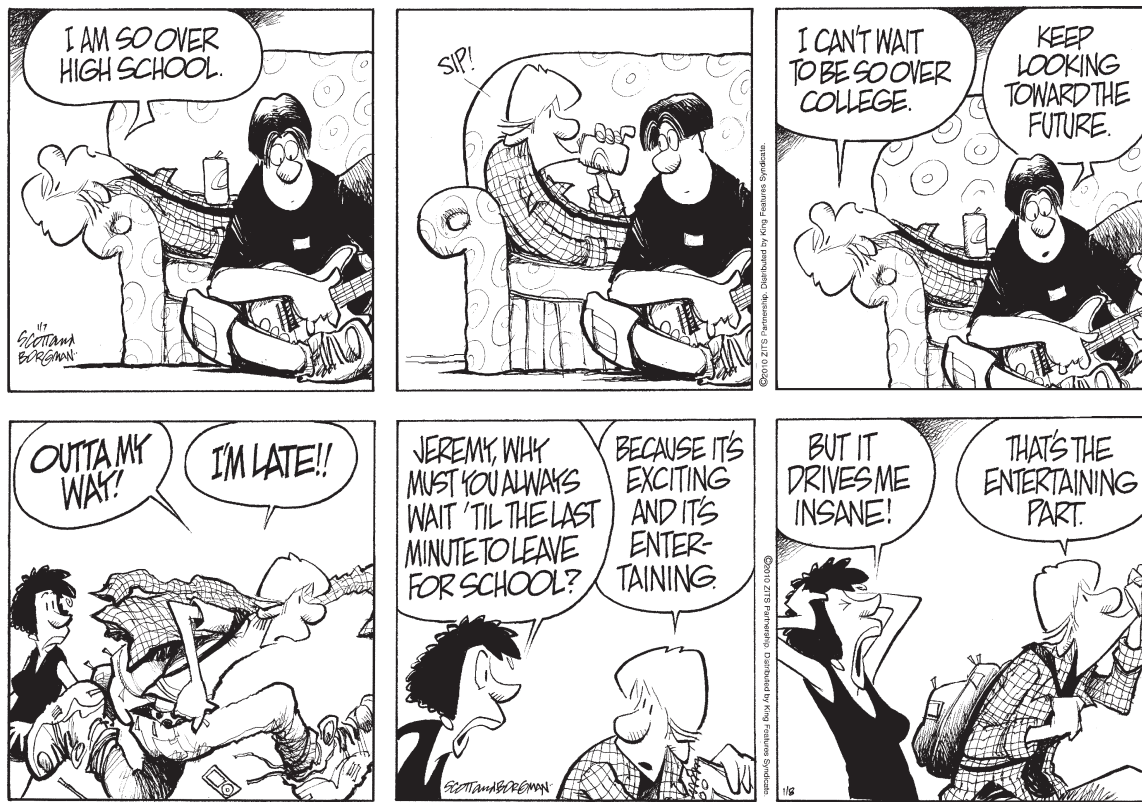
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers
• Ask Dr. Brothers
Mother worries about preschool

Dear Dr. Brothers: I am worried to death about my baby attending pre-school. Even though it took a whole lot of luck to get the little guy into this school (it's quite prestigious), I am thinking of withdrawing him before he even starts. How are they going to know what my little boy needs? They're strangers! They will probably lump my special little boy in with all the others. Do other mothers feel this way, or is it just me? — B.D.

Dear B.D.: It would be great for you to join a group of other moms with kids your son's age. Sometimes there are playgroups in which members meet at one another's home. They spend time with their kids, and sometimes spend time in another room while the children interact. This way, you can see what other kids are doing, and while it is not a good idea to be competitive about children, you might satisfy yourself there is no harm in mingling with lots of different kids.

The preschool years are ones of learning basic life skills and interactions. The less overprotective you are, the more your son will satisfy the great curiosity children his age are famous for. If his school is prestigious for its staff and programs, that's one thing, but if you are talking about the prestige of exclusivity and high tuition, I think you will be happier if you change focus to a school based on needs. He will be fine as long as you decide the "strangers" make him secure and comfortable while he expands his world. Be open to new people, and he will be too.

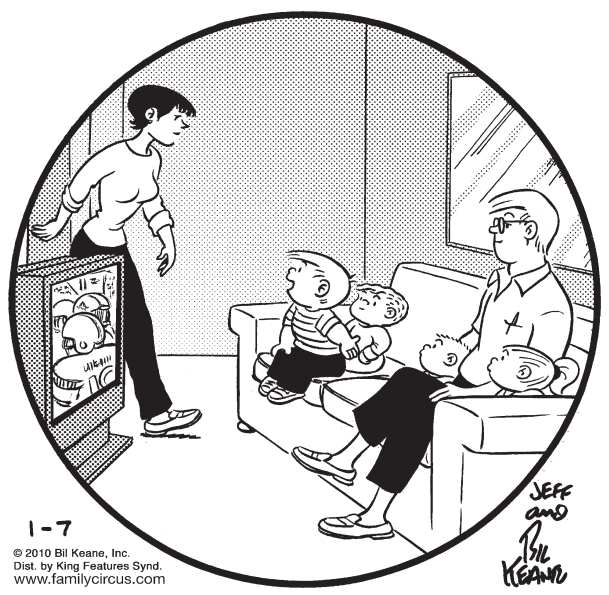
Dear Dr. Brothers: I am the grandmother of a new baby, my daughter's first. She has invited me to stay for a while and help, and I am thrilled to do so. I've raised three kids, so I think I know how to do things. The trouble is, every time I suggest something, she counters with, "Dr. Simmons says..." I think Dr. Simmons sounds very rigid and old-fashioned. Has he ever raised a child? Who knows? How do I proceed? — A.N.

Dear A.N.: I think in this situation, you need to walk a careful line between your experience and the reliance your daughter has on her doctor. Remember, she has just been through nine months of pregnancy, during which her doctor has served as an important touchstone. Pregnant women and new mothers often develop strong attachments to their doctors, for they represent everything the promise of a happy, healthy baby. That's pretty strong stuff against your common-sense grandmotherly advice! But you have a place, too ... your daughter wouldn't have invited you if she didn't need your help and respect your advice.

This is a time when your daughter's hormones are fluctuating, and it's likely she will be more emotional than usual. So you should try not to insert yourself between her and her doctor's advice, even if it strikes you as rigid. Remember there is more than one way to do things, and raising a child is not an exact science. The best outcome will be if your daughter weighs every option and goes with what she feels is best for the baby.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/07

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

Cryptoquip

CR HKW LGUGVXG V AWFG
KR XKKAMCYZ XVUSG KSLG
V ZWH, C XWNNKXG HKW'SG

TLKNGT V FVUO KY MCO.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SUPPOSING YOU WERE TO WRITE A SUPER-LONG, GRAVELY SERIOUS LETTER, IS IT A MASSIVE MISSIVE?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals V

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
1 Not barefoot
5 Let off some steam
9 Debtor's letters
12 Art-class model
13 Early pulpit
14 Spring-time mo.
15 Classic sitcom
17 Face
18 End of a sentence?
19 Obliterate
21 With 40-Across, in which case
22 Milk dispenser?
24 Eager
27 "CSI" evidence
28 Nitwit
31 Bing's pal
32 Sternward
33 Army rank (Abbr.)
34 Skelton's Kaddie-hopper
- DOWN**
1 Quick cut
2 Island dance
3 Stench
4 Lacking, with "of"
5 Low land
6 Ostrich's cousin
7 Leno's network
8 Monkey-ed (with)
9 Simon and Garfunkel song
10 Piece of work
11 Egg on
16 Sprite
20 Scarlet
22 Ill-suited
23 Social engagement
24 Easy as—
25 Abbr. on a book's spine
26 Inspirational song of 1953
27 June honorees
29 Luau bowlful
30 Shade source
35 Gibson or Brooks
37 Association football
39 Remark to the audience
40 Perch
41 Pound of poetry
42 Second in command, maybe
43 Dangling locale
44 Hardy cabbage
45 — Minor
46 Chick's comment
49 Pick-pocket
50 Galena or cinnabar

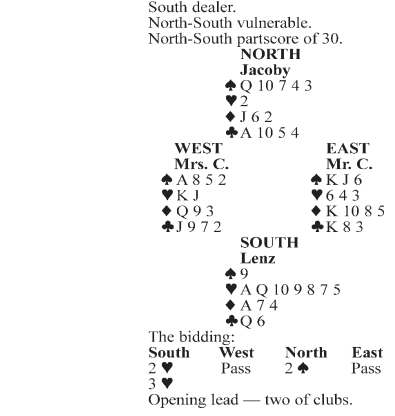
Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 1-7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13					14		
15				16					17		
18							19	20			
24	25	26		27			28		29	30	
31				32					33		
34			35		36			37			
41	42					43			44	45	46
47				48	49	50					
51				52				53			
54				55				56			

Bridge • Steve Becker



The Good Old Days
The biggest boost contract bridge ever got was the Lenz-Culbertson match held during the winter of 1931-32. The antagonists were Mr. and Mrs. Ely Culbertson vs. Sidney Lenz and Oswald Jacoby. The match was supposedly a test of bidding systems — the Culbertson approach-forcing method versus the Official (or One-Two-Three) System.

The battle lasted for the scheduled 150 rubbers, and the ultimate victors were the Culbertsons by a goodly margin. Newspaper coverage of the dramatic match was widespread. Virtually every paper in the country carried a report each day. As the match progressed, millions of cardplayers were converted to contract bridge.

Lenz had long been an auction-bridge star and had written many books that were well-received. The Culbertsons, though not as well known to the public, had compiled an enviable tournament record. The young, dynamic Jacoby was considered the best of the upcoming crop.

The hand shown, though it had little impact on the outcome, is nevertheless of interest as an example of a seldom-used play.

The bidding is hard to explain, judged by present-day standards, but was part of the Lenz-Jacoby system. The final contract of three hearts was perfectly acceptable, considering the partscore of 30.

Lenz (South) played low from dummy on the opening club lead. When East won with the king, Lenz was careful to play the queen on it! Culbertson then shifted to a diamond. Mrs. Culbertson (Jo) took the queen and continued with a diamond to South's ace. Lenz now led the six of clubs, finessed dummy's ten and discarded a diamond on the club ace. Eventually, he lost a heart and a spade to make exactly three and score a vulnerable game.

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