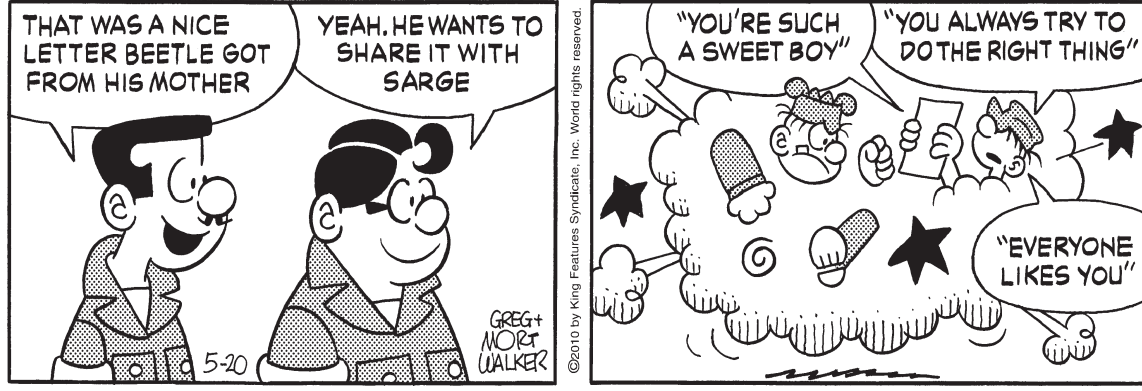


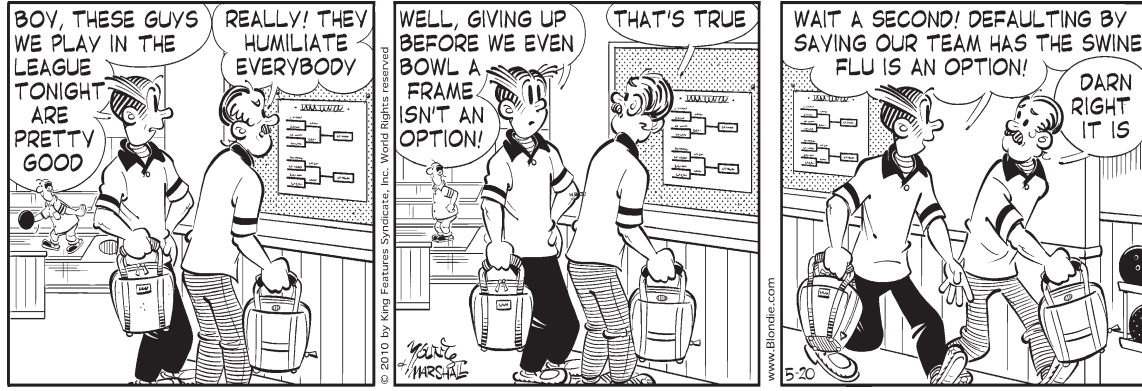
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



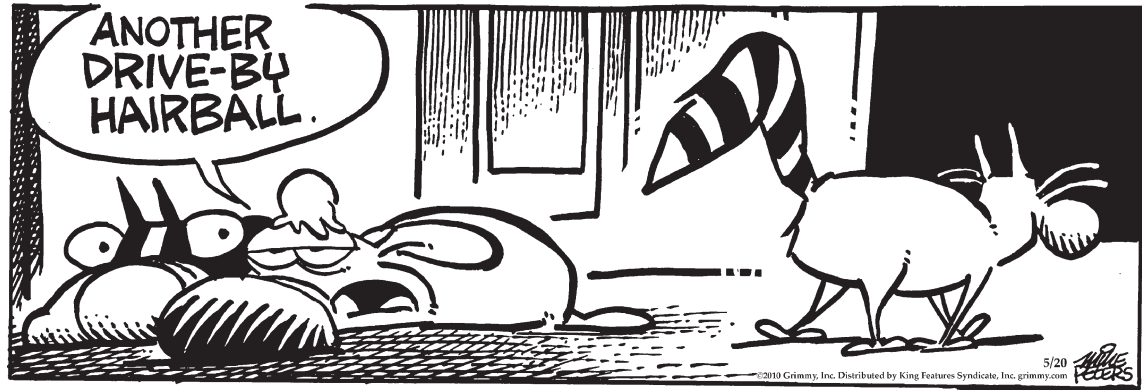
Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



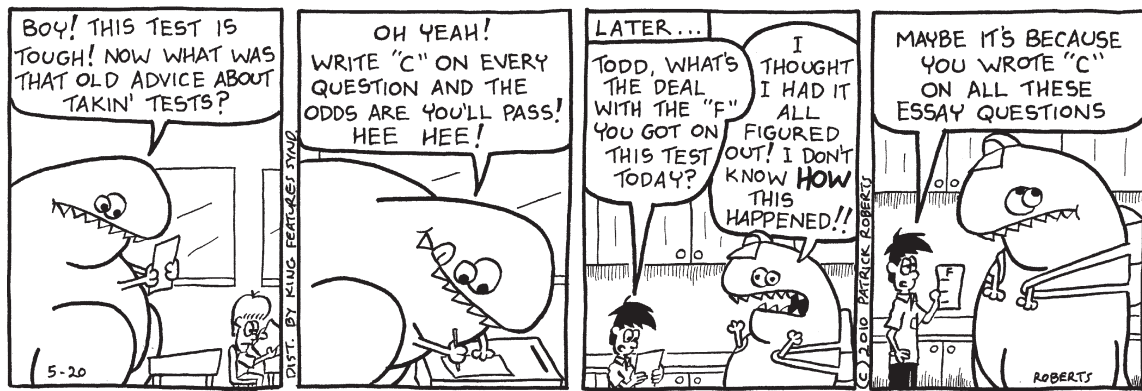
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



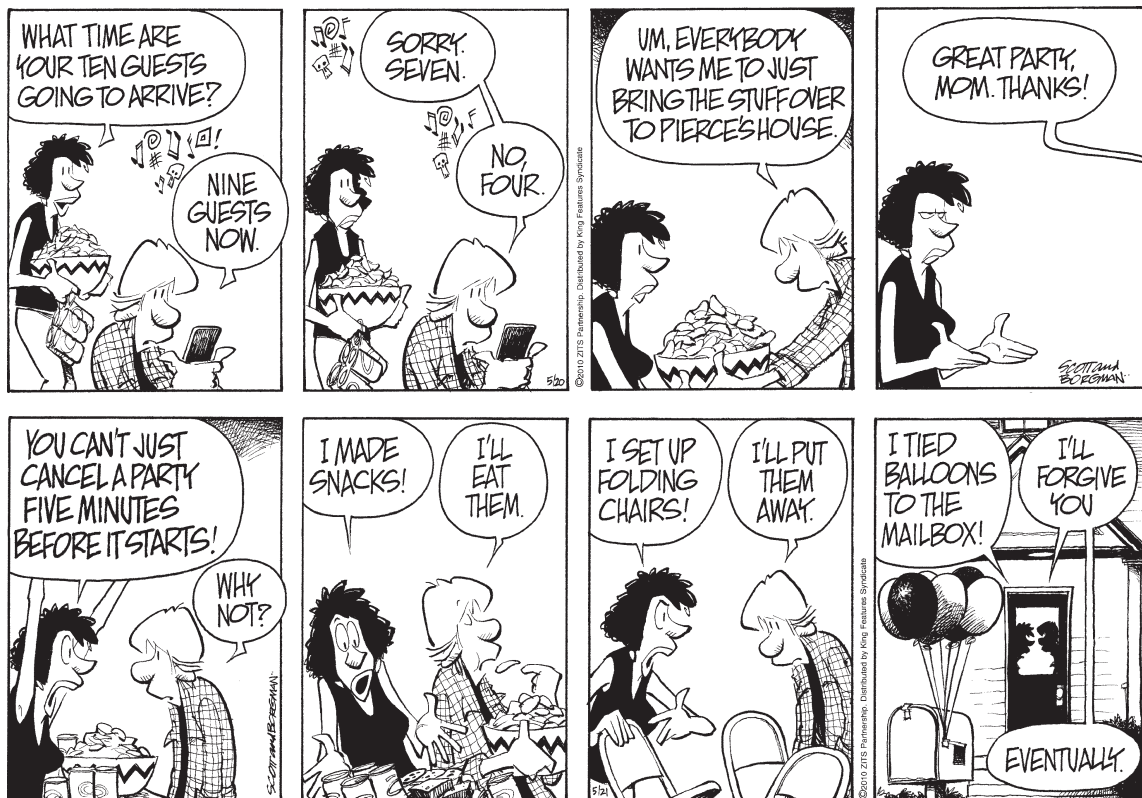
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers
• Ask Dr. Brothers
Son borrows sister's clothes

Dear Dr. Brothers: My son, who is 14 and just started high school, has developed some alarming behaviors. He is borrowing his sister's clothes to wear to school. Not skirts or dresses, just jackets and girly-looking shirts. When I ask him why, he tells me it's no big deal. I hope this isn't the beginning of a full-blown problem. — B.D.

Dear B.D.: It could be a problem for your son at school if he is wearing clothing that draws attention to him in a negative way. He could receive unwanted negative feedback or even punishment of some sort from teachers and administration. Or, he could be targeted and bullied by students. Either way, there could be serious consequences, and he should be prepared to deal with conflicts rather than brush you off. All of this presents a dilemma about how to deal with what the clothing represents to your son himself.

I imagine you are having fears about where this might lead. Has he been playing dress-up all his life? Is this just indicative of a fashion-forward individual who likes to shock? It is a good time to have a talk in an open and supportive way. If his school has an organization for students who are questioning their sexuality, he may be interested in joining but would like to know you are OK with it. So it's not the time to lay down rules of attire or question his morality. Your goal should be to be an understanding parent, offering unconditional love. It may be difficult for you, but your relationship with your son could be at stake.

Dear Dr. Brothers: Our family is still in shock about the death of our youngest boy. It happened last year so suddenly that I think we all still can't believe it. I've been in such a daze I never realized until yesterday that our oldest child, 14, has never seemed to express grief over his brother's death. He's never cried, and when I talk to him, his reactions seem uncaring. I'm worried that I didn't notice this before. — K.G.

Dear K.G.: You can be very sure that although your son has not expressed his grief in public, he has deeply felt the death of his little brother. If he was at all typical of the oldest child, he probably took some responsibility for the "baby," and even may feel responsibility for what happened to him. He also may be harboring thoughts of relief: "I'm glad Billy died instead of me." That's a horrible thought to surface and would make him feel more conflicted, as though any emotion he exhibited was for show. So it's a complicated subject, but one you have every right to be concerned about.

You shouldn't fret about not noticing your son's responses before now. You've clearly been in a state of shock, and the fact is that the time has not been so long. But now that you have noticed, you might want to offer your son some counseling in case he does want to talk to someone (other than you) about his feelings. Allow him to say no, though, and be aware he may have been more comfortable grieving in private and actually may be progressing well. He may feel he is being kind not to trigger a response in you, as well. So be flexible with him.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ A 7
♥ K J 8 5
♦ 7 5 2
♣ A 10 6 2

WEST
♠ Q 9 2
♥ 2
♦ K 10 4
♣ K Q J 9 5 4

EAST
♠ J 10 6 4 3
♥ 9 4
♦ 19 8
♣ 8 7 3

SOUTH
♠ K 8 5
♥ A Q 10 7 6 3
♦ A Q 6 3
♣ —

The bidding:
South West North East
1♥ 2♣ 3♥ Pass

Opening lead — King of clubs.

A Bit of Foresight

One of the most difficult assignments in bridge is to plan the play of the hand in advance and to visualize what the layout will look like with just a few tricks remaining to be played.

Fortunately, the task is often eased by information acquired during the bidding and/or from the opening lead. Today's deal provides a case in point.

South reaches six hearts after West has overcalled in clubs, and the king of clubs is led. Declarer sees at once that the success of the slam depends on avoiding two diamond losers. Normally, he would consider trying a diamond finesse, but in view of West's vulnerable overall, the chance of the finesse succeeding is rather slim. An alternative is therefore sought.

The ideal solution would be to force West to lead a diamond into the A-Q at some stage, which would ensure the slam. But to achieve such a de-nouement, West would have to be put on lead at a point where he had no choice but to make a losing return.

The desired position can be reached if declarer times his play correctly. The club lead is taken by dummy's ace, and a diamond is discarded. South then ruffs a club, plays the A-K of trumps and ruffs another club. The A-K of spades are cashed, and a spade is ruffed in dummy.

With five tricks remaining, the preparation is complete. Dummy has a trump, three diamonds and the ten of clubs, while South has two trumps and the A-Q-6 of diamonds. The ten of clubs is led, but instead of ruffing it, a diamond is discarded, trusting West into the lead.

West can do no better than resign gracefully. He must either return a diamond into the A-Q or lead a club, allowing declarer to trump in dummy while discarding the queen of diamonds. Either way, the slam is home.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"This'll be quicker if I wear a long-sleeve shirt tomorrow."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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.

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

Cryptoquip

FCZYT MGZZPDW LX SYTX
CPTAZ ZTYT, ZVY HBWWPDW
MBLUFDX'A CBTYLFD WFSY

LY VPA AZGLU BC FUUTBSFH.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A RUG CONNECTS UNDERGROUND WATER SOURCES, I SUPPOSE THAT'S CALLED WELL-TO-WELL CARPETING.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals M

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Dilbert's work-place
5 "Eee-www!"
8 1960s Secretary of State
12 Verve
13 Born
14 Initial chip
15 Multi-national money
16 Atlantic st.
17 June 6, 1944
18 Nebraska river
20 Needle-nose tool
22 Rocky peak
23 Rowing
24 "Hi, sailor!"
27 Teemed
32 Cleric's title (Abbr.)
33 Head of st.
34 "— the ramparts ..."

DOWN

1 Profound
2 Hebrew month
3 Detective novelist
4 Difficult to solve
5 Too young
6 "Golly!"
7 Aid
8 Angular measure
9 Likely loser
10 Celebrity organ array
19 — and fro
21 Bumped into
24 Dadaist Jean
25 That girl
26 Medley that starts a musical
28 Bklyn., e.g.
29 Cloudy
30 Conger, for one
31 Towel off
36 Sent, in a way
37 "— Impossible!"
38 Diamond decider
41 3.1416
42 Andy's pal
43 Anger
44 Four years in the White House
46 Gardener, at times
47 Rams fans?
48 Sawyer's carrier
51 Ball-bearing item

SUMS
JEST ETON HOG
OAT STARK IVE
BRA OARS SPAM
RNA ROMP

UNLIKE
RETIN STARDUST
GENE PIP ELSE
ERGS YET SPEW

Yesterday's answer 5-20

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				57				58		