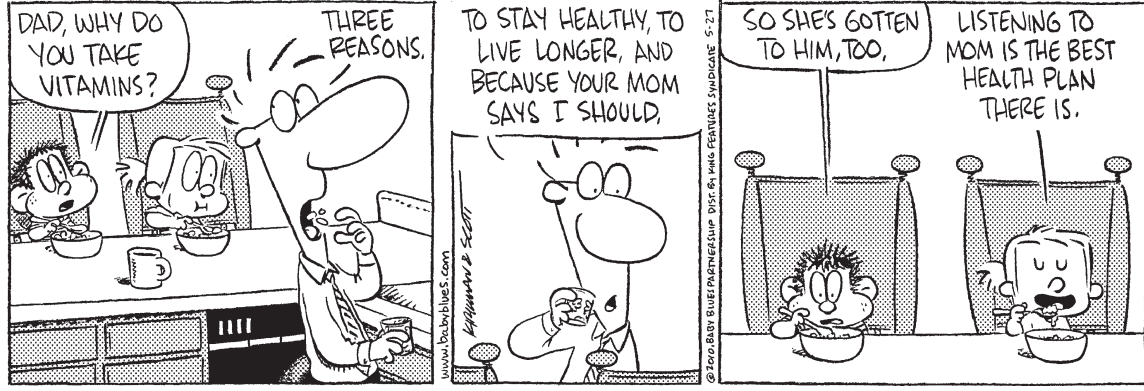
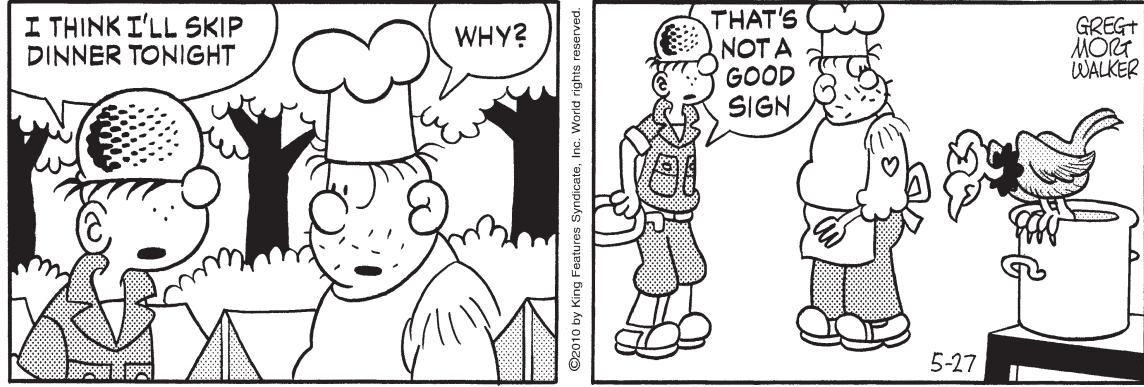


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



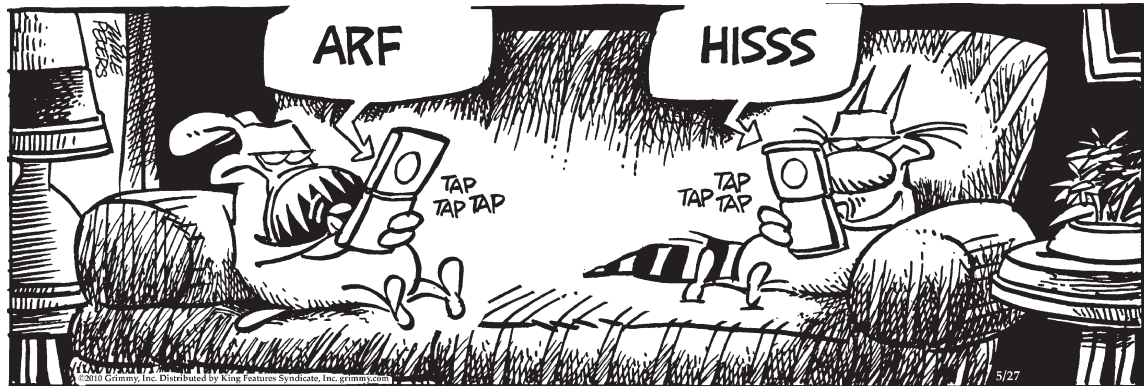
Blondie • Chic Young



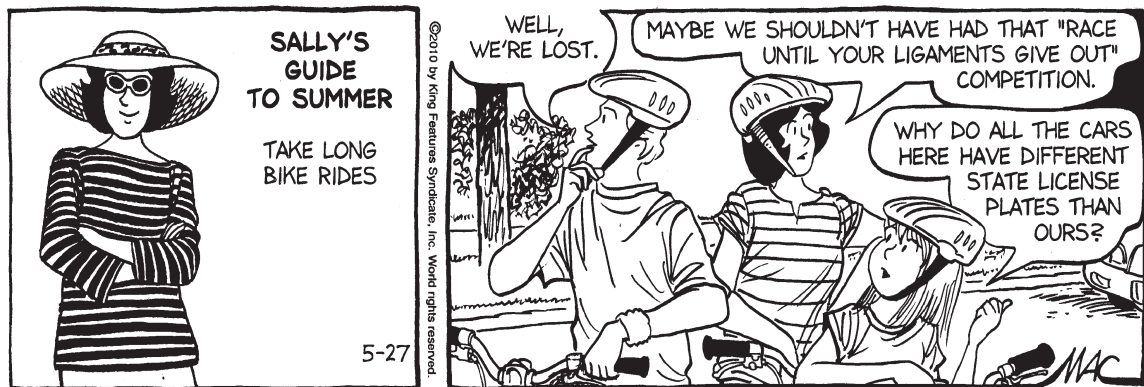
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



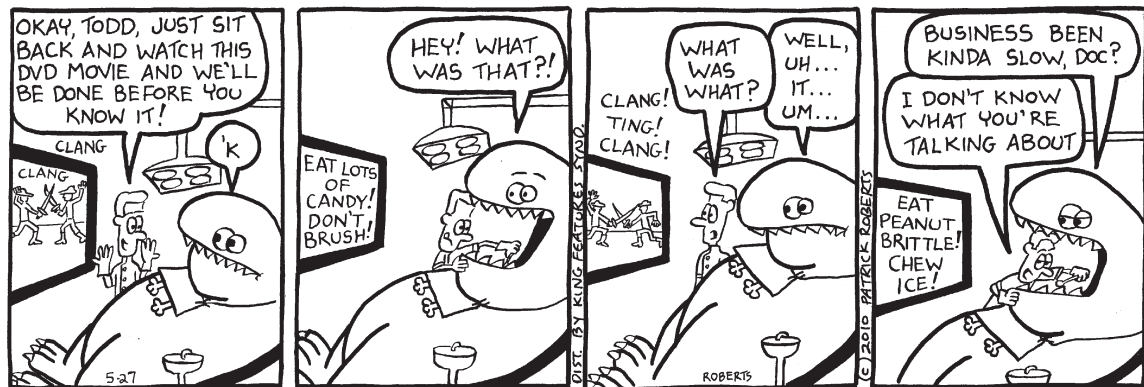
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



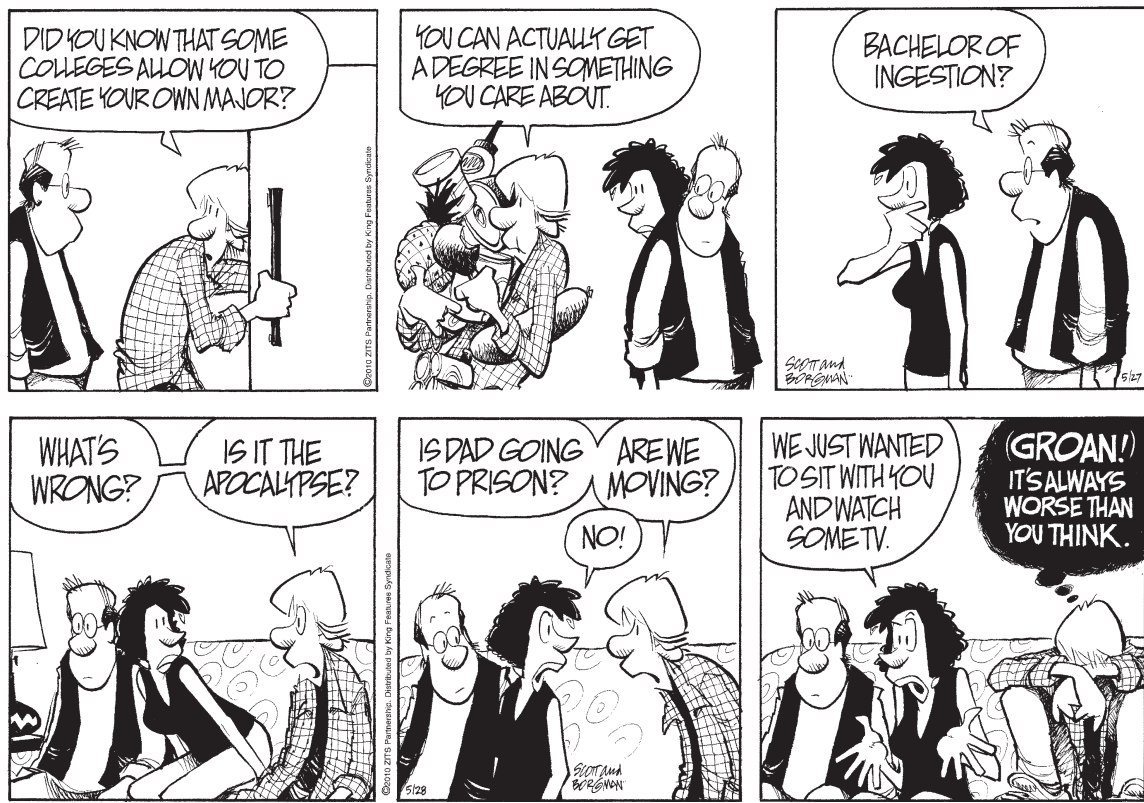
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

It's hard to see future for son

Dear Dr. Brothers: I've been completely devastated recently to find out my 7-year-old son likely will completely lose his sight by the time he's in his teens. He's been told and is being very brave. He's such a considerate and compassionate boy. He breaks my heart, telling me it will be OK. But I worry about his future - how he will make a living and find a girl. But I don't want my worries to overcome him, or me. - J.S.

Dear J.S.: You have a long row to hoe, but you also have some time. And because your son is so young, he will have plenty of opportunity to prepare himself with skills to live his life fully while taking his future restrictions into account. It is sad for you to witness, undoubtedly. But for his sake, carry on without dissolving in tears or treating him with pity. Your job is more important now than ever, as his mother, and it wouldn't be a good idea to spend the next years falling apart when he is being so brave.

So get yourself some counseling if you need it, and take advantage of all the services available for your son and your family, provided by organizations that help families cope with blindness. They will be an invaluable resource, and both of you may make some important friends there. It is unreasonable to expect your son to carry this burden by himself or in the same way he is facing it now. He will have times when he is scared, depressed or otherwise challenged, and shouldn't feel he has to take care of his mother as well as himself when it comes to emotions. So do all you can to take that burden off of him. If you have to set aside time to go somewhere and cry, do it. But save the broken heart for your private time.

Dear Dr. Brothers: My 12-year-old daughter loves animals but doesn't seem to understand all the care that goes into keeping a pet. She wants a puppy, but couldn't handle the responsibility of having a fish. The poor thing died because she never fed it. I want to teach her to be responsible, but I don't want to put a dog's life on the line. I also don't want to wind up taking care of the pooch myself! Where can I find balance? - A.H.

Dear A.H.: This is the age-old problem: Almost all kids want pets, but don't want or can't handle the responsibility that goes along with pet ownership. Mom and Dad don't want to deprive them of a companion animal. But the reality of the situation usually stinks, unless the parents are gung-ho to be taking care of a dog. And not many have the time and energy to help the child in this new role without a lot of nagging, yelling and eventual defeat. Unfortunately, the one who suffers most usually is the dog or cat, who is let out the back door or taken to the animal shelter. But things don't have to be this way! If your child really is old enough to take on this job, she will agree to learn about in dog care, and help you make a chart showing the chores and who is assigned to them or who has volunteered. You can discontinue this after it becomes routine (if it does), but your daughter is old enough to be held to her word and understand the consequences if she falls short. If she won't agree to this in advance, then she doesn't want to be held accountable, and I wouldn't take a chance on her right now. See if she can start out with some pet-sitting for neighbors, for a taste of what's in store.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ Q 10 9 5
 ♥ 8 6 2
 ♦ A
 ♣ A K Q 10 4

WEST
 ♠ K 8 4
 ♥ 10 7 4 3
 ♦ 9 8 7 5
 ♣ 6 2

EAST
 ♠ J 6 2
 ♥ Q
 ♦ K J 6 4 3
 ♣ 9 7 5 3

SOUTH
 ♠ A 7 3
 ♥ A K J 9 5
 ♦ Q 10 2
 ♣ 8

The bidding:
 South West North East
 1♥ Pass 3♦ Pass
 3♥ Pass 4♥ Pass
 4♦ Pass 5♦ Pass
 6♥

Opening lead - nine of diamonds.

Look Before You Leap

It is very good practice to form a plan of play as soon as dummy appears. But it is also important to remain ready to alter that plan if something unexpected happens along the way. Take this case where West leads a diamond to dummy's ace, at which point declarer begins formulating his preliminary plan of play. There are several courses of action available to South, any of which might succeed, but as good a prospect as any is to lead a trump from dummy, intending to finesse the jack.

This will virtually assure the slam even if the jack loses to the queen, provided the trumps are divided 3-2. Declarer's 12 tricks will consist of a spade, four hearts, a diamond, a diamond ruff in dummy and five club tricks.

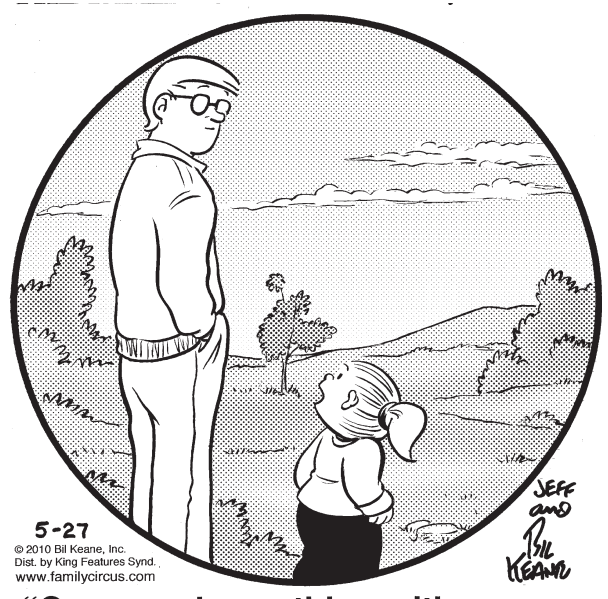
But when the trump is led from dummy at trick two, East unexpectedly produces the queen. It would seem absolutely normal to win this trick and ruff two diamonds in dummy, but if South attempts this line of play he later runs into a dead end and eventually goes down one.

However, declarer can ensure the slam by ducking East's queen of hearts at trick two. This is a difficult play to make for two reasons. One is the natural urge to win the queen with a holding of the A-K-J-9-5. The other is that it is psychologically difficult to abandon a course of play formed just one trick earlier.

If declarer lets the queen hold, he is completely out of the woods. There is no return East can make that will stop South from ruffing a diamond in dummy to produce 12 tricks.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



“Can you do anything with scenery besides look at it?”

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

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.

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

Cryptoquip

QFBO ASWFO MXZ YBGG OFD
 YFBLD OX DBO ADBGR
 QSOFXZO B YDKOBSL WKBSL?

B KSYDGRD XVVXKOZLSOM.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU HOSE A PERSON OFF WITH COLD WATER ON A SCALDING SUMMER DAY, ARE YOU SPRAYING FOR MERCY?
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals Y

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
 1 Fusses of
 5 Thick slice
 9 Do some lawnwork
 12 Former frosh
 13 Head light?
 14 Mimic
 15 Longtime partner of Mike Nichols
 17 "Uh-huh"
 18 In cahoots
 19 Minimum part
 21 Infinitive
 22 Short-hand developer
 24 Staffer
 27 "Chances —"
 28 Non-sense
 31 Miss Piggy's pronoun
 32 Has the skill
 33 Corn spike
 34 Shove
 36 Cambridge sch.

DOWN
 1 On the briny topic
 2 Barbie, e.g.
 3 October stone
 4 Certain Muslim
 5 Molt
 6 Felon's flight
 7 Chicken — king
 8 Peter of "Young Frankenstein"
 9 Puerto Rican port city
 10 Piece of work
 11 Cried
 16 Opposite of paleo-
 20 Early bird?

22 "The Da Vinci Code" topic
23 Land-lord's due
24 Pump up the volume
25 Debtor's letters
26 Robbed of resolution
27 Wile E.'s supplier
29 Distant address
35 Glutton
37 Show Beat
40 Every crumb
41 Neighborhood
42 This way
43 Roundish do
44 Vacation-ing
45 R&B singer
46 Crude craft
49 Melody
50 "Of course"

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 5-27

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		