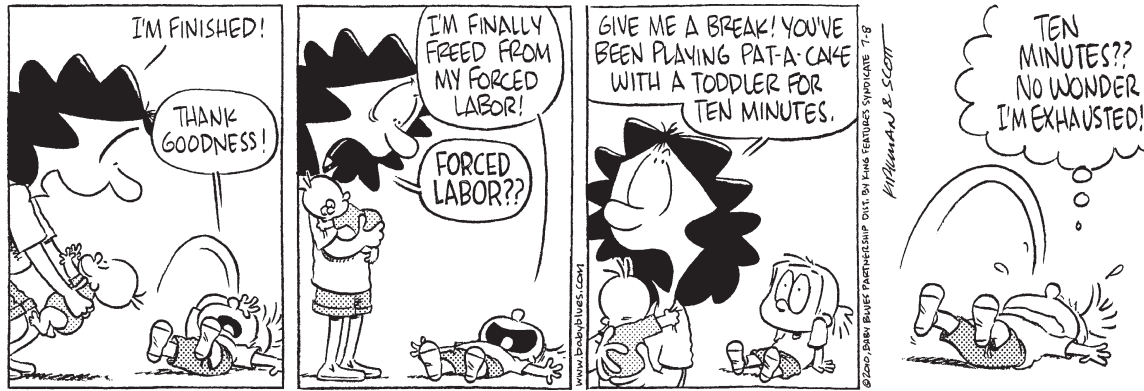


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



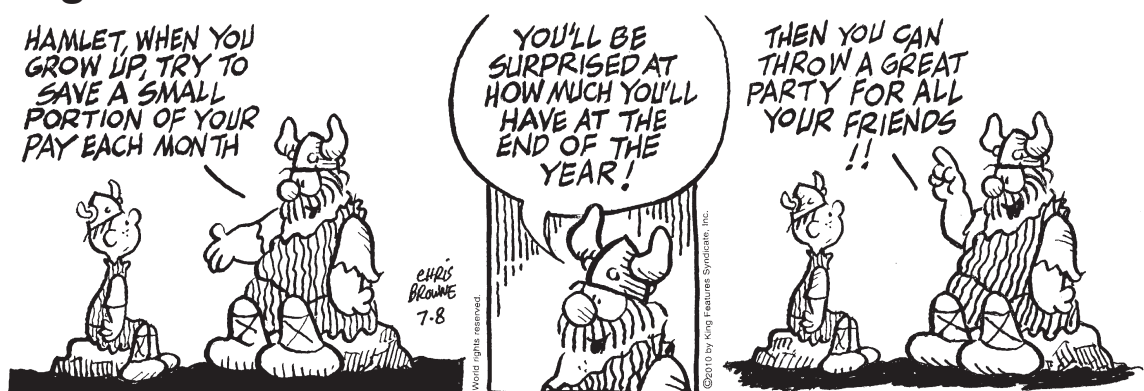
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



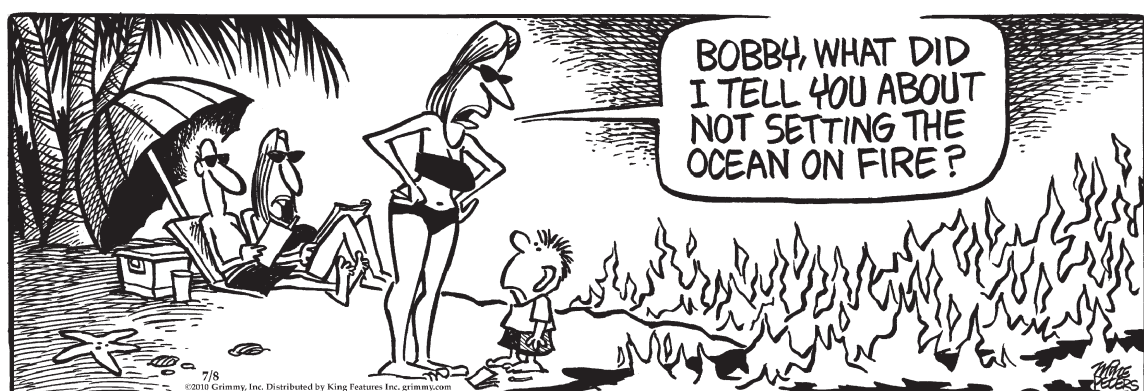
Blondie • Chic Young



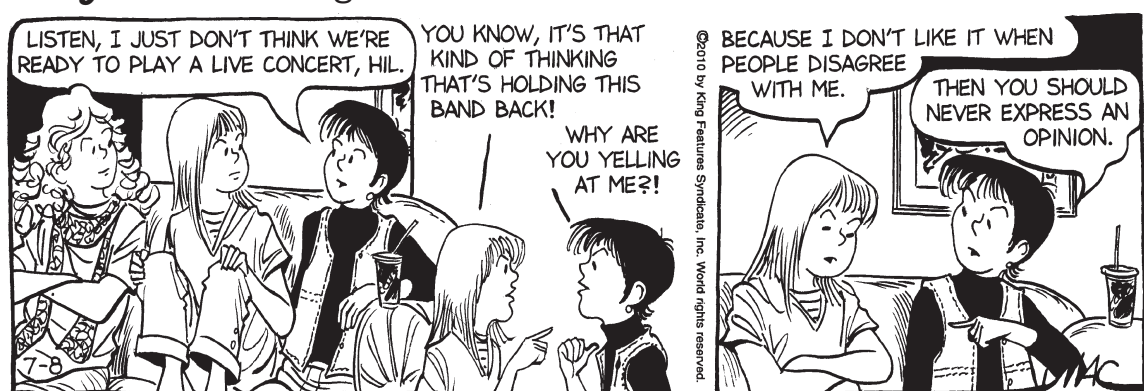
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



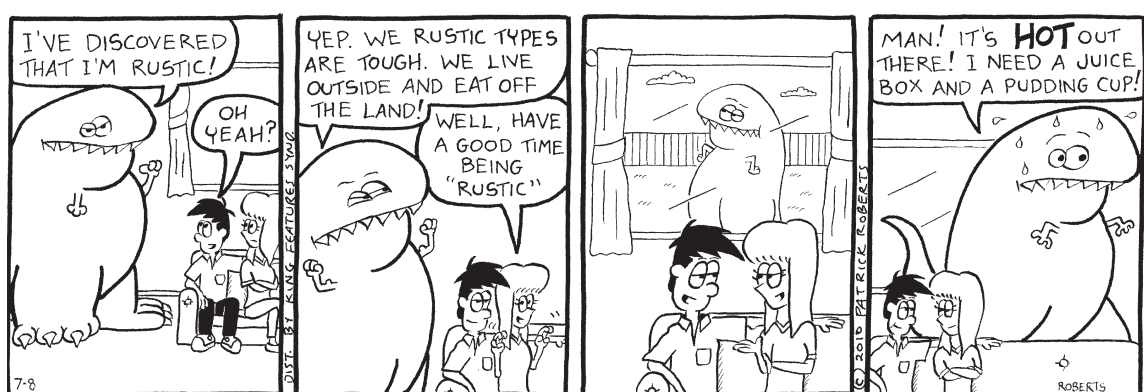
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



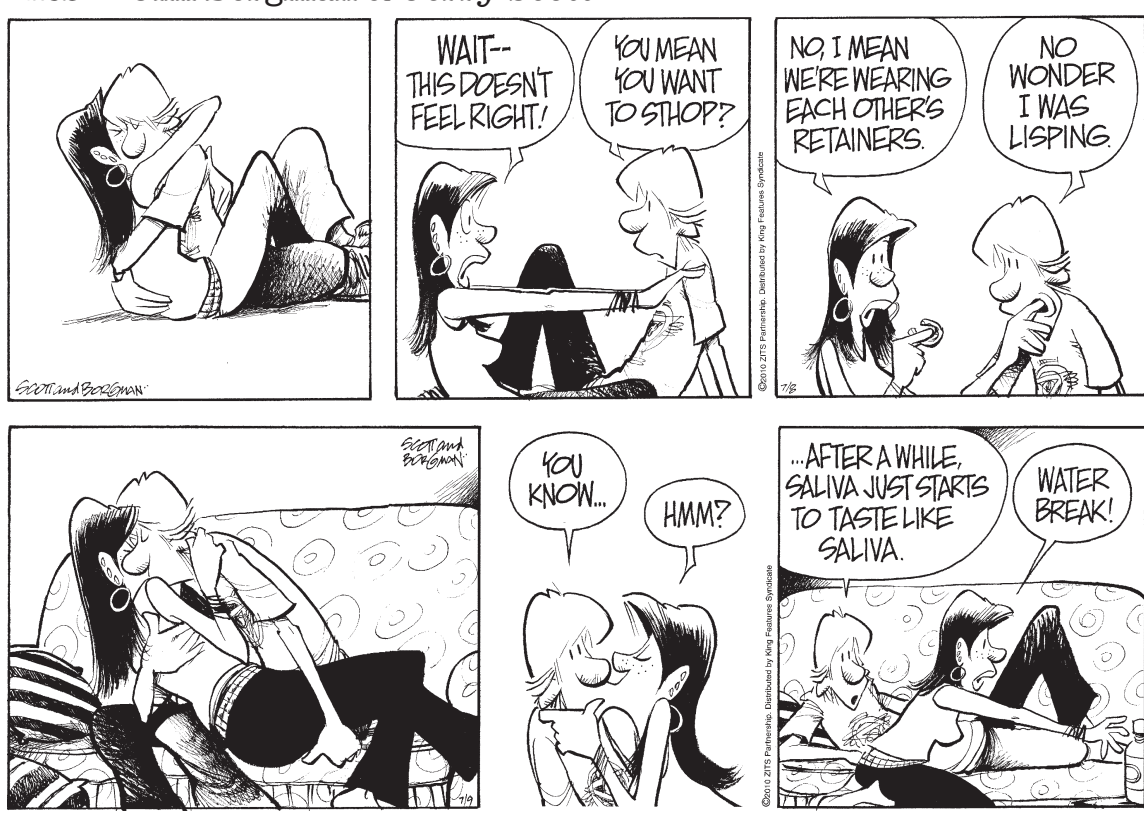
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Toilet training obsesses husband

Dear Dr. Brothers: My husband and I have been blessed with two beautiful children, a boy and a girl, 3 and 2. About six months ago, he started sending me articles from the Internet and bringing home books on quick toilet-training methods. My youngest isn't the slightest bit interested, and the 3-year-old is taking his time, too. I don't understand the rush, although I can understand how he is fed up with diapers. Should I do what he wants? - N.Y.

Dear N.Y.: It must have been quite a challenge for you and your husband to have two toddlers so close in age, and it sounds as though he is the type of guy to pitch in when it comes to baby duties. Husbands are notoriously unthrilled about changing diapers, whereas women seem to take it more in stride. When it comes to toilet training, some people - especially husbands who are used to tackling problems and solving them methodically - view the process as something they can schedule and be done with quickly. Unfortunately, the toddler doesn't always see it that way!

There are moms holding babies over the toilet, and plenty of people who point to other cultures that don't rely on diapers for an extended period. But it does seem to be best to let children tell you when they have an interest in using the potty. Often that will be when they attend a day care or preschool in which others are lining up to go to the bathroom - peer pressure starts young! In any case, if you start too early, the kids could make it a long process. So it might be best to ask him to let nature take its course.

Dear Dr. Brothers: We are a brother and sister in our 20s writing about our mother. Our dad died a few years ago, and she seems fine now. We are both still either in school or moving around for jobs, so we can't take all of our stuff from our childhood, and we want her to throw it away. She says no. She wants to keep all of our junk if we won't. Should we insist? We don't want to upset her about this. - D.H.

Dear D.H.: Your mother may be suffering from empty nest syndrome - she is still getting over the loss of your father and remembers times together as you were growing up. While kids focus on friends and activities, mothers often focus on their children, and the stuff you brought home from school is part of that. On top of the loss of your father is the empty nest. She doesn't have you anymore; all she can cling to is your things.

Although you are off to experience the rest of your lives, she is looking back. But she may be looking forward as well - few young people your age would pass up the opportunity to see and rummage through their "stuff" decades later, and few have the chance. If your mom has the room to house everything for you or store it where you can access it, why not let her? It will make her happy, and it won't be something you even need to think about. Though hard for you to understand, this might do much to make your mother comfortable about moving on. Stay close emotionally, as it sounds like she needs both of you.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
♦ Q 3 2
♥ 7 6 5
♦ 4 3 2
♣ 6 5 3 2

WEST
♦ 10 9 8 6
♥ Q 10 3
♦ J 9 7
♣ J 10 8

EAST
♦ 7 5 4
♥ 9 8 4 2
♦ 8 6 5
♣ Q 9 7

SOUTH
♦ A K J
♥ A K J
♦ A K Q 10
♣ A K 4

The bidding:
South West North East
6NT Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead - ten of spades.

Once in a Lifetime

There's no harm in indulging in fantasy, so let's imagine you get dealt the South hand and open the bidding with six notrump. West leads a spade, and the question is how to give yourself the best chance to make the slam. Remember, you don't see the East-West cards, which theoretically could be divided in millions of different ways.

The best method of play is to win the spade lead with the king and return the four of clubs! One of your main hopes is that the clubs are divided 3-3, and the safest way of probing this possibility is by leading low initially. If you started out by playing the A-K-4 of clubs and the suit broke 4-2, you'd be down before you could test any other possibilities.

Let's say West wins the club and returns the nine of spades. You win with the ace and cash the A-K of clubs. If both defenders follow suit, dummy's six of clubs becomes good, and you're within a trick of making the contract. Next you cash the A-K-Q of diamonds, and, if the jack falls, the slam is in the bag. You later discard your jack of hearts on dummy's six of clubs.

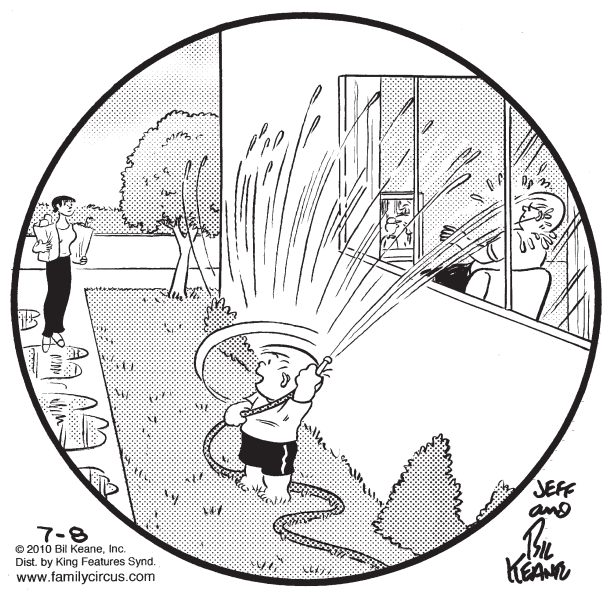
If the jack of diamonds does not fall on your A-K-Q, you plan to rely on a heart finesse after discarding the diamond ten on dummy's club winner.

If the clubs are not divided 3-3, you still have a chance, though not a particularly good one. Cash the A-K-Q of diamonds and, if the jack drops, pray that the heart finesse will succeed.

That's really all there is to the play. The idea is to give yourself three different chances to make the slam rather than just one or two. By testing the clubs as described, you cannot be defeated until all three possibilities have been explored.

Incidentally, the odds against being dealt 32 high-card points are 6 million-to-1!
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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/08

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.

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

Cryptoquip

BXEPPUB NUXZ EDGTH HMY

SGZUAEHUAL ZEXY ZYZDYQ

GN E LQGTW GN XUGAP:

"NEHMYQ GN HMY WQUSY."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: GOOD NAME FOR A BAKERY FAMOUS FOR HAVING ONLY THE VERY FINEST COOKIES: CRUMB DE LA CRUMB.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals F

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Billboards wear
 - 4 Depths
 - 8 Employer
 - 12 Drunkard
 - 13 Settled down
 - 14 Monad
 - 15 Sit astride
 - 17 Mentor
 - 18 Help
 - 19 Reduced in status
 - 21 Loathing
 - 24 Filch
 - 25 Census statistic
 - 26 Tease
 - 28 Entourage
 - 32 Anger
 - 34 "Golly!"
 - 36 Sgt.
 - 37 Wood nymph
 - 39 "CSI" evidence
 - 41 Skedaddled
 - 42 Tear
 - 44 Spreads outward
- DOWN**
- 1 Foolish sort
 - 2 Speck
 - 3 Tactic
 - 4 Firetruck-need
 - 5 On in years
 - 6 Untamed
 - 7 Handle the helm
 - 8 Imaginary object of fear
 - 9 Responsibility
 - 10 Paddock
 - 11 Gaelic
 - 16 Brother of 56-
 - 16 Across
 - 20 Spinning meas.
 - 21 Difficult
 - 22 Culture medium
 - 23 Wild a shovel
 - 27 Foundation
 - 29 Alien
 - 30 Remain
 - 31 A very long time
 - 33 Otagia
 - 35 Type measures
 - 38 Not bright
 - 40 Shock
 - 43 Turkish bigwig of yore
 - 45 Main-lander's memento
 - 46 Sit for a photo
 - 47 Mimic
 - 48 "West Side Story" gang
 - 49 Attempt
 - 53 Actress Sara
 - 54 General Arnold of WWII
 - 55 Belly, slangily
- Solution time: 25 mins.**
- | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | A | B | E | B | S | S | N | I | P | | |
| H | U | E | T | R | I | O | W | I | R | E | |
| E | R | A | H | A | N | D | L | E | B | A | R |
| F | A | U | N | A | A | I | D | | | | |
| | | | U | N | I | T | D | E | C | A | L |
| P | I | A | N | O | B | A | R | N | O | R | A |
| A | S | P | L | I | M | O | S | M | E | T | |
| S | L | E | W | S | P | A | C | E | B | A | R |
| T | E | X | A | S | A | N | O | N | | | |
| | | | L | E | A | U | D | D | E | R | |
| S | P | O | R | T | S | B | A | R | E | A | U |
| U | R | D | | | | K | I | N | G | M | R |
| N | O | D | S | | | S | T | Y | E | O | N |
- Yesterday's answer 7-8

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			