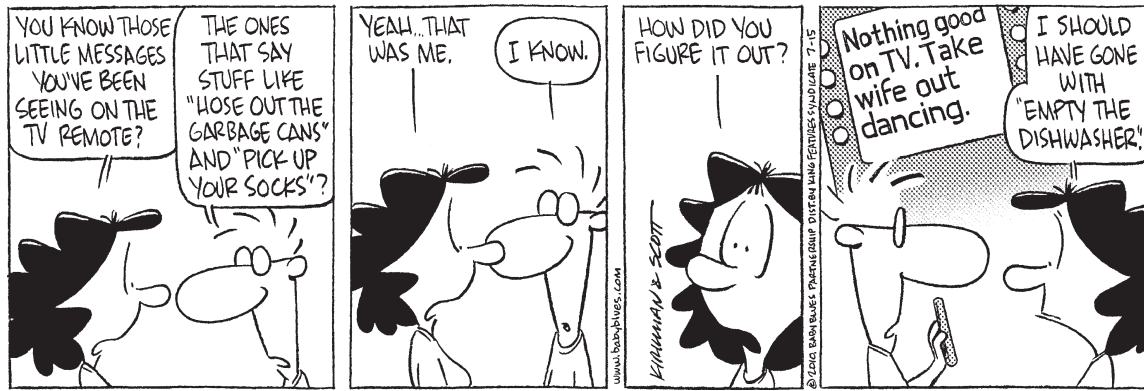
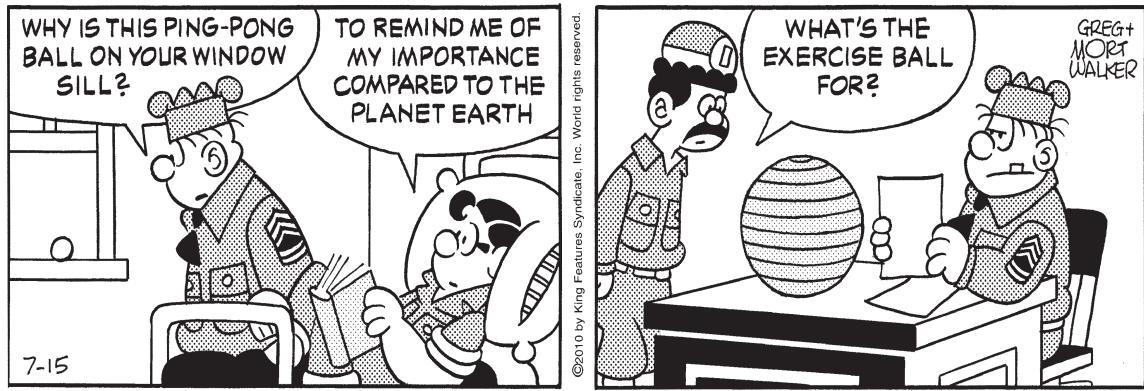


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



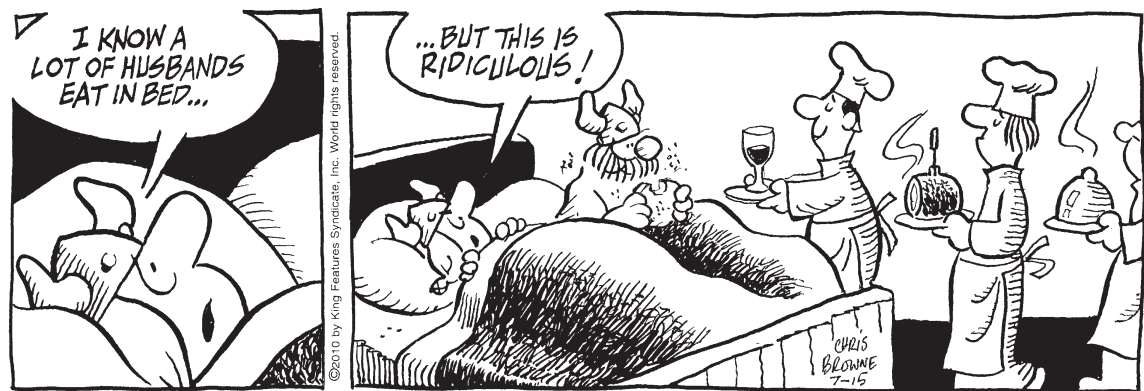
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



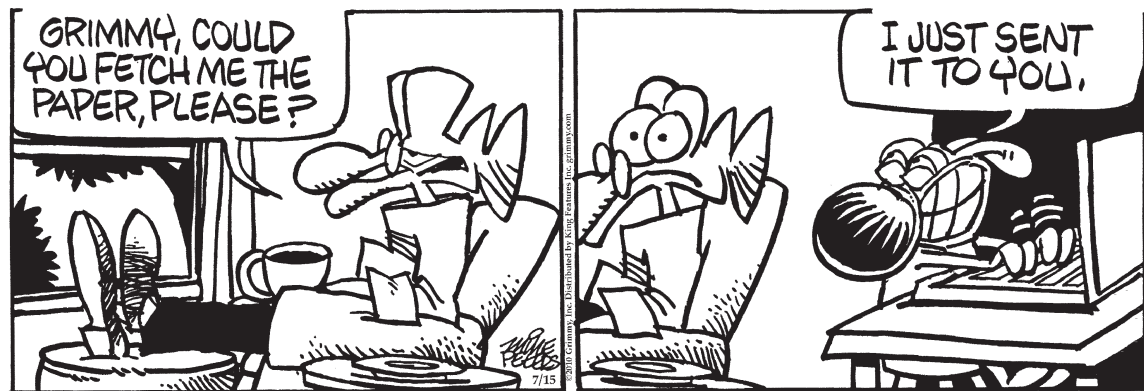
Blondie • Chic Young



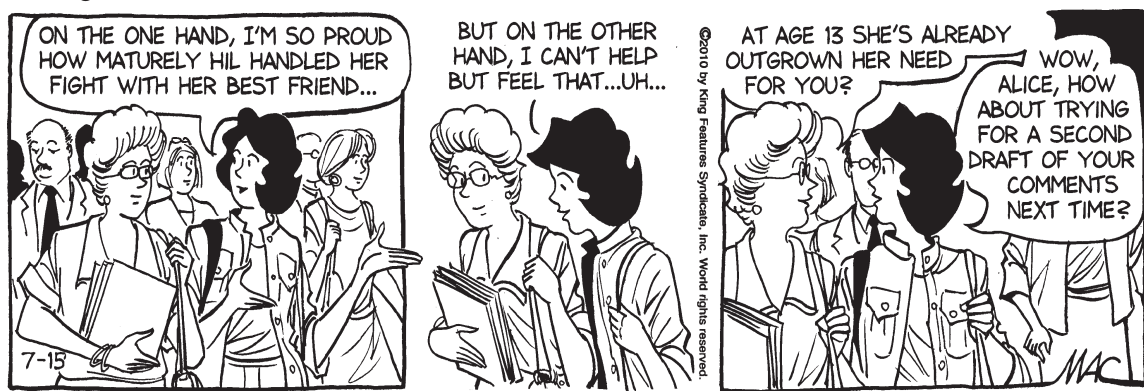
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



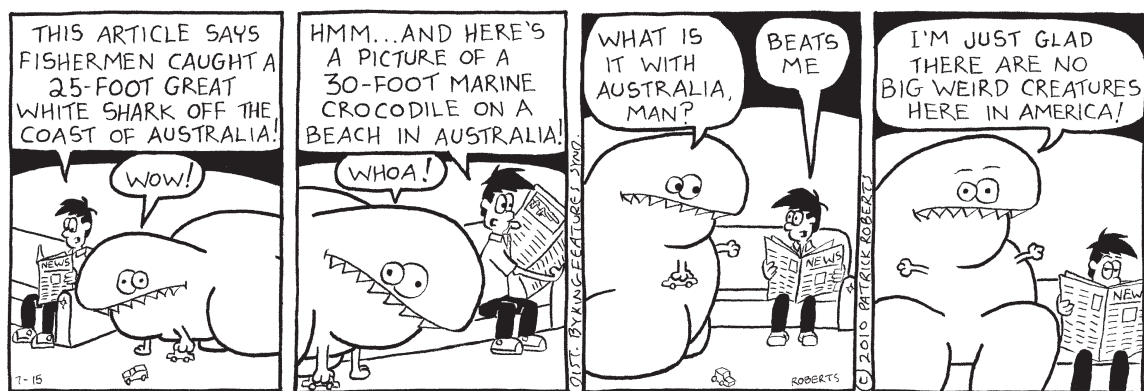
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



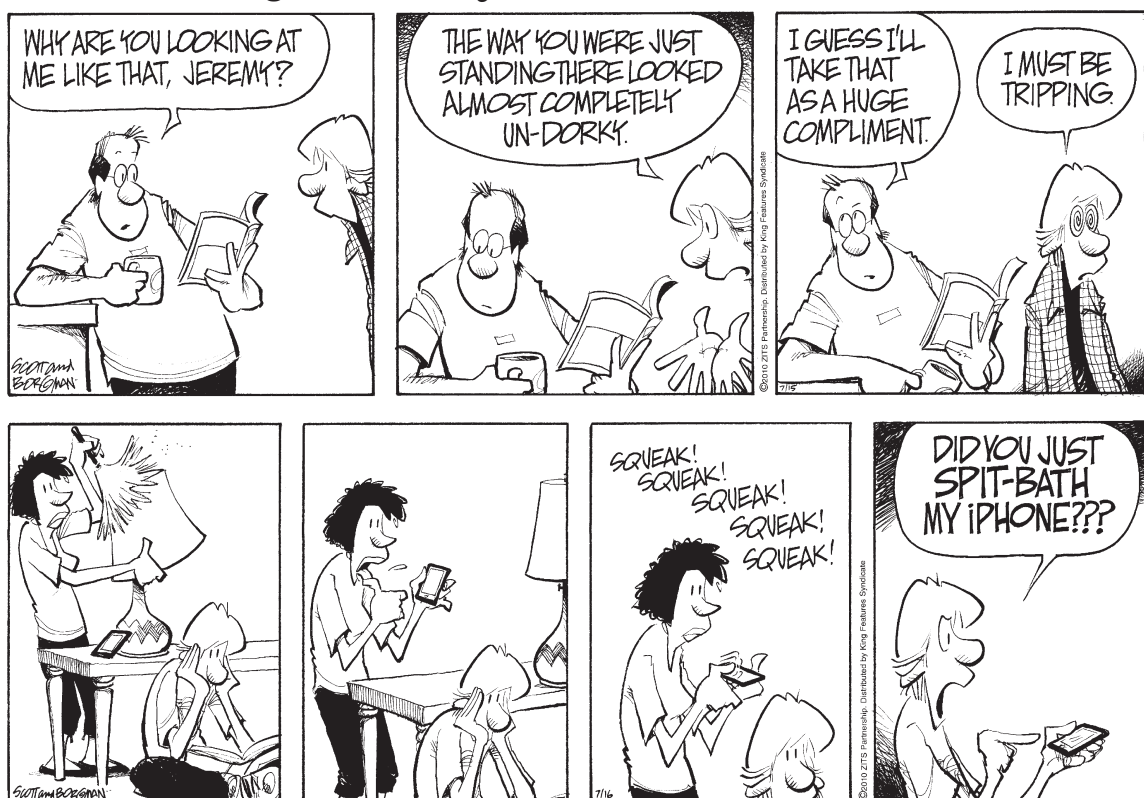
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers
• Ask Dr. Brothers
Toddler throws classic tantrums

Dear Dr. Brothers: I am the mother of a sweet 2-year-old daughter. That is, until she doesn't get her way, and turns into an out-of-control brat having world-class tantrums! I don't mind it at home - I put her in timeout or ignore her - but in a store, it is embarrassing. She throws herself on the floor, kicks and screams, and I feel like the worst mother ever. How do I get her to stop this? I just want to go out in public with my daughter and have her stop doing this to me! - N.B.

Dear N.B.: It must feel like your child is deliberately trying to embarrass you when you find yourself the center of attention with a bawling, kicking, frustrated little one. Although it may seem she is trying to get back at you, she really doesn't have ruining your life as her aim. You probably should try, during calm times, to build up mental defenses to the point where you don't take tantrums personally. Think of them as a release valve for a little girl who has reached the limits of what she can deal with - after all, she doesn't have much experience coping yet!

After you stop being emotionally involved and defensive, you can develop strategies for preventing tantrums, such as not shopping when she is tired or hungry; making sure she has things to occupy her; and responding to her needs, as long as they are expressed in a pleasant way - no giving in to whining, pouting or demanding. Ignored tantrums often lead to their extinction.

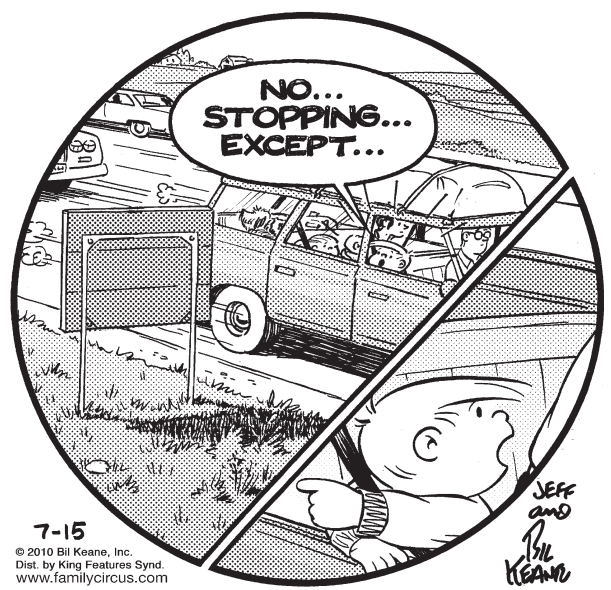
Dear Dr. Brothers: My two sons and their two cousins spend a lot of time together. They are in middle school and have earned some freedom after school. But looking around their rooms, there are some items they should not have, and I fear they are shoplifting. I feel my sister's kids are egging them on - they are the same age but more daring types. How should I handle this? - T.J.

Dear T.J.: Obviously, you must nip this in the bud before one of your sons gets into serious trouble, or learns he can get away with theft and it's OK, or even learns of some social benefit, like bragging rights to your sister's kids. There used to be a common explanation for this - the differential association theory of juvenile delinquency. Simply put, kids who hang around with kids who are misbehaving are likely to misbehave too. That is common sense. But there may be more to it.

A new study links personality to shoplifting, and may explain why your kids' cousins are instigators. Investigators, from the University of Leicester in England, sampled more than a hundred shoppers, some of whom were admitted shoplifters, and found common characteristics, which suggest it's not just who you hang around with but what you are like psychologically that makes you susceptible. Shoplifters were found likely to be younger, male, disorganized, unpleasant and unreliable. Whether that describes your nephews or your sons, now would be a good time to have a word with your sister and to cover the bases by keeping the boys apart.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/15

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

Cryptoquip

F KZQFZXZ VSZ OIAVHQ
BHPPFPZP AGOZPXFAFWJ H
BZPVHFW PZJFIW IGJSV VI KZ
BHQQZN VSZ QZVVZP SZHN.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A GUY SUPPORTS HIS FAMILY MAINLY BY SELLING MATTRESSES, WOULD YOU SAY HE'S A "BEDWINNER?"
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 "T," in Morse code
5 Carte lead-in
8 Un-altered
12 Division word
13 Cran-berry territory
14 Ski lift type
15 Ignore damages
16 Seek venipos
17 Venomous vipers
18 Lacks the skills to
20 Loathe CBS newsmen
23 Sprint
24 Bedouin liqueur
32 Tavern holder
33 Corn wiggler
35 Break periods
38 Nourish call
40 Hooter
42 East Deli sandwich
49 History
50 Recede
52 No. 1 choice, for short
53 Cold War initials
54 Exist off
55 Took in a sense
57 Frenzied
58 Longings
19 Either—
21 Blunder
1 Record mo.
2 Karenina
3 Dazzle
4 Rub elbows
5 Theoretical
28 Larry's pal
6 "Skip to My —"
7 On in years
8 Sculpture
9 Missing person?
10 Navigator's stack
11 Once, once
25 Regret
26 Graph coordinate
28 Larry's pal
29 Soaked up
30 Ball holder
31 See 7-Down
36 Verse
37 Charged bit
38 Superficial
41 Lindbergh book
42 Piece of work
43 Grate
44 Squad
46 Cotton quantity
47 Squared
48 Information
51 Support of a sort

Yesterday's answer 7-15

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		

Bridge • Steve Becker

North dealer. Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH: ♠ A J 3, ♥ K Q 9 8 5, ♦ J 7 2, ♣ 6 4
WEST: ♠ K 10 8 2, ♥ J 10 2, ♦ 7 6 4 2, ♣ A 5
EAST: ♠ 6 4, ♥ K 9 8 7 3, ♦ A 3, ♣ 9 8 4 3
SOUTH: ♠ Q 9 7 5, ♥ Q 5 4, ♦ J 10, ♣ K Q 10 6
The bidding: North 1♦, East Pass, South 1♠, West Pass, 2♦, Pass, 2NT, Pass, 3NT.
Opening lead — jack of hearts.

Long Live the King!
In the normal course of events, you are a defender half of the time and either declarer or dummy the other half of the time. It follows, therefore, that a player cannot expect to be successful without becoming a competent defender. To defend well is not always easy, though; in fact, there are times when it is extraordinarily difficult. For example, take this deal where West got off on the right foot when he led the heart jack in an effort to find his partner's long suit.

Declarer played low from dummy, losing to the king, and East returned a heart to dummy's ace. South then attacked diamonds, forcing out East's ace. East returned a heart to declarer's queen, and South eventually made 10 tricks after losing a club to West's ace. All told, South scored four diamonds, three clubs, two hearts and a spade. The defenders scored only their two aces and the king of hearts.

The contract should have been defeated, however. East missed the opportunity for a fine play. He should have ducked the jack of hearts at trick one (signaling with the nine) instead of winning the trick with the king. Had he done that, the defense would have scored three heart tricks as well as its two aces.

East should assume that West has precisely J-10-x of hearts. If that is West's holding, taking the first trick with the king may prove fatal, since East needs the king as an entry to his hearts after the queen and ace are gone and he no longer has the ace of diamonds. When West later gains the lead with the ace of clubs, his heart return sinks the contract.

It may be argued that ducking the jack of hearts would be a losing play if declarer had only Q-x. This is true enough, but that argument is not sound because it credits West with J-10-x-x — and with that holding, West would lead fourth-best initially rather than the jack.

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