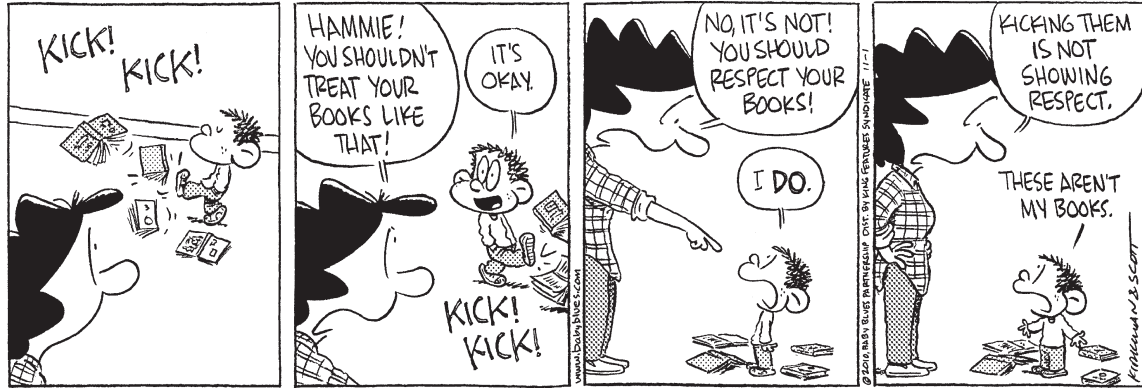
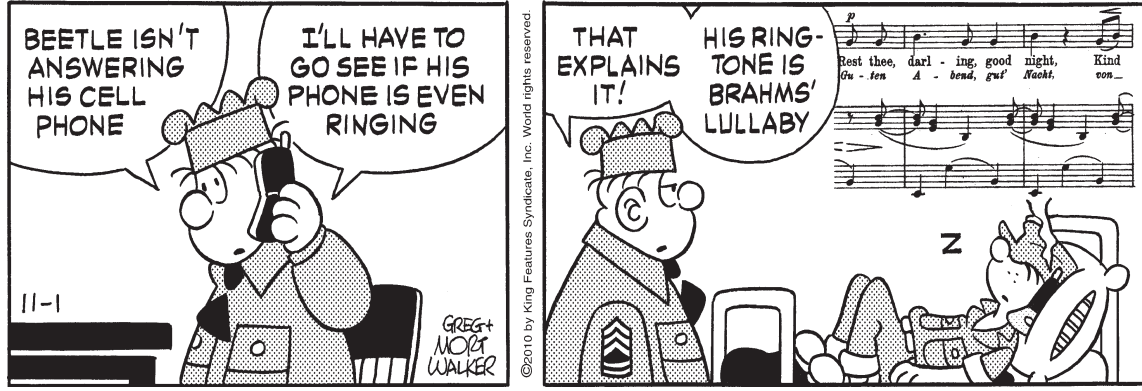


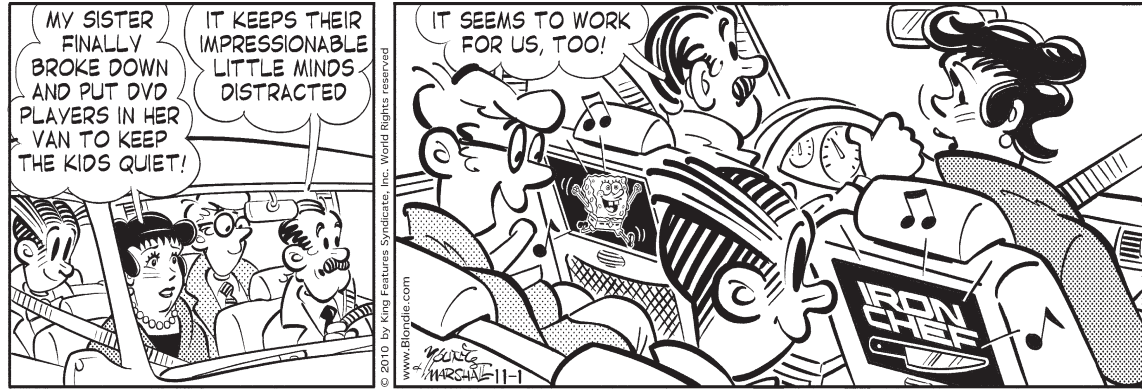
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



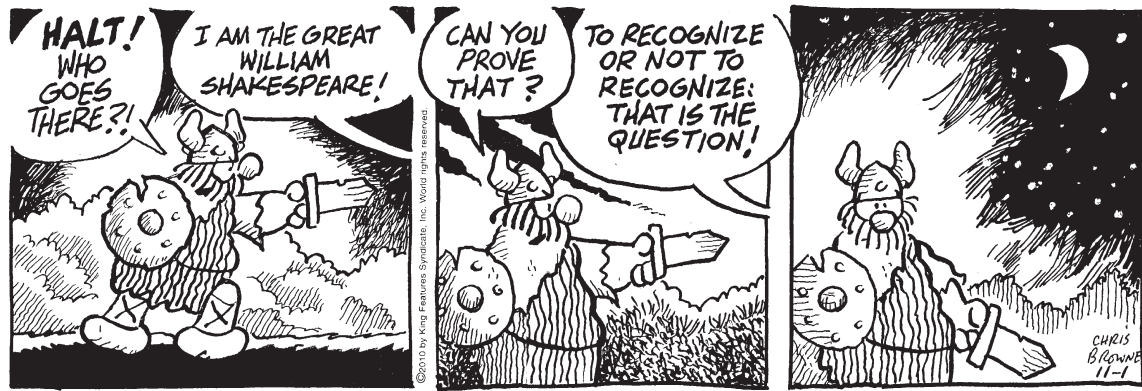
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



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
Senior fears taking a cruise

Dear Dr. Brothers: I enjoy socializing with a group in the same adult community. We're in our 60s, and enjoy shopping, movies and yoga classes. Now several of my friends have cooked up a tour of Spain, Greece and Italy. I've never been on a cruise, and it sounds frightening. I But if I skip it, I might regret it. How do I decide? — F.B.

Dear F.B.: In a way, it is a shame that someone had to come up with this plan that threatens to upset the apple cart. With the activities you already enjoy, you easily can add new things or skip something when you aren't feeling up to it. A huge undertaking like a cruise can be daunting. First, you haven't taken one before, while the others may be more experienced. This is not a bad thing — they can negotiate the pitfalls you may be worrying about. There's a lot of bad press about cruises — from illnesses to missed connections, endless lines and obnoxious fellow travelers — so the best way to put your fears to rest may be to talk to the women who have already tried this.

It is also OK to say no. If you still have a queasy feeling, there is nothing wrong with passing. You may find one or two of the others doing the same. Perhaps you can travel somewhere closer to home with a couple of friends. Just because you don't feel good about this doesn't mean you can't do things your own way. I'm sure you have years of adventures ahead of you — and if your friends dump you because you have limitations, it's time to prune your social circle anyway!

Dear Dr. Brothers: I am feeling pressure from my husband and both sets of parents to have a baby. I have never dreamed of being a mother, but I am getting nervous. We got married at 35, and I am nearly 40. I have a feeling I would feel trapped by motherhood — marriage is confining enough! How do I decide? This is so huge I don't want to make a terrible mistake. — M.E.

Dear M.E.: You seem nervous, and with good reason. You probably admire women who are sure they want to be mothers — or that they don't. But it's in your interests to talk this out with your husband, and not with his or your parents. It would be great to have grandchildren, but they don't have the right to push you into motherhood.

But you and your husband do have the responsibility of coming up with a solution. You seem worried about being tied down, and that's difficult for many mothers to come to terms with — the idea that they can't quit, or give back the child like an unwanted pet if things don't work out. Looking at a lifetime commitment is and should be terrifying. But the secret lies in taking it one day at a time and having loving family who are eager to pitch in. It sounds like you have that already. But in the end, only you can decide. Take your time. If you find marriage restricting, you might want to work through that concept first.

(c) 2010 by King Features Syndicate

Bridge • Steve Becker

When France and Italy met in the 1960 World Bridge Olympiad, Gerard Bouchotoff and Claude Delmouly were West and East for France on this deal:

West: ♠K5, ♥AKQ109, ♦AQJ765, ♣—
East: ♠Q743, ♥75, ♦K9, ♣107654

With West dealer and neither side vulnerable, the bidding went:
2♦, 2♥, 3♦, 4♥, 5♦

The French pair thus missed a good diamond slam. Two clubs was artificial and game-forcing. Two diamonds (also artificial) denied positive values. Delmouly (East) might later have jumped to six diamonds over four, since at no point in the bidding had he indicated holding the king of diamonds, queen of spades or a doubleton heart.

When Eugenio Chiaradia and Pietro Forquet were East-West for Italy, they bid:
1♥, 3♦, 4♥, 6♦

Famous Hand

They were playing the Neapolitan Club system, which enabled them to reach the slam easily. The one-club bid showed at least 17 points. The heart response (artificial) showed one king. Three diamonds was natural, and four diamonds announced that the king previously shown was in diamonds. Four hearts was natural, and four spades showed either a singleton spade or the queen. So Forquet bid six diamonds.

Sometime later, Mrs. A.L. Fleming tested a group of English experts on the hand and published the results in *British Bridge* magazine.

The twin brothers J. and R. Sharples reached six by bidding:
2♣, 2♦, 3♦, 3♣, 4♥, 6♦
Booker and Lee bid: 2♦, 2 NT, 3♥, 4♥, 6♦
Meredith and Juan neatly bid: 2♦, 2 NT, 4♥, 6♦
The Spurway brothers bid: 2♦, 2 NT, 3♥, 3♣, 4♥
Mrs. Kahn and Mrs. Jacobson bid: 2♦, 2 NT, 3♥, 4♦, 4♠, 5♦
Dormer and Swinerton-Dyer bid: 2♦, 2 NT, 3♥, 5♦, 6♦
Konstam and Mrs. Forbes were successful with: 2♣, 2♦, 2♥, 3♣, 3♦, 3 NT, 5♦, 6♦
Crowhurst and Wardman bid: 2♣, 2♦, 3♦, 4♣, 4♥, 5♦

Two other pairs reached five diamonds, and one bid six.

Although there are only two popular bidding systems in England, no two pairs of the 11 tested bid identically!

In all, five pairs reached six diamonds, four got to five diamonds, and two stopped at four hearts. (c)2010 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



© 2010 Bil Keane, Inc. Dist. by King Features Synd. www.familycircus.com

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 11/01

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

Cryptoquip

DATWKRA LNA YMF RHWVS
SR AQAZ NYXAGKM GYZ LNA
QAZB DARL YKLTVA, S HYKMF
RWB NA'R YXLS-VBRLST.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I ONLY WANT A FEW STREAKS OF DYE TO TINGE MY HAIR, SO PERHAPS I MIGHT LIKE A LITTLE RED HENNA.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals E

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Historic period
4 Argo skipper
9 Lingerie item
12 Cover
13 Greek market-place
14 Conger or moray
15 They're caught
17 Solidify
18 Kimono sash
19 Become rigid and bonelike
21 "— down the hatches!"
24 Night light?
25 "— Town"
26 Upgrade from dial-up
28 Litters' little ones
31 Raw minerals
33 Young fellow
35 Father (Fr.)
36 Civil rights org.

DOWN
1 Sprite city,
2 Brazilian city,
3 Commotion
4 Poked
5 Opposed to
6 Scale member
7 Synthetic fiber
8 Egypt's president, 1956-70
9 They're taught
10 Coral structure
11 Companion
16 Youngster
20 First course, maybe
21 Benefit
22 Emanation
23 They're sought
27 Felon's flight
29 Verifiable
30 Transmitted
32 Pond gunk
34 Fiasco
37 Foreign correspondent?
39 Laundromat machine
42 Hot box?
44 Locale for
45 Roundish hairdo
46 Aerobic maneuver
50 Some teammates of QBs
51 Potential syrup
52 Recede
53 Vast expanse

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Saturday's answer 11-1