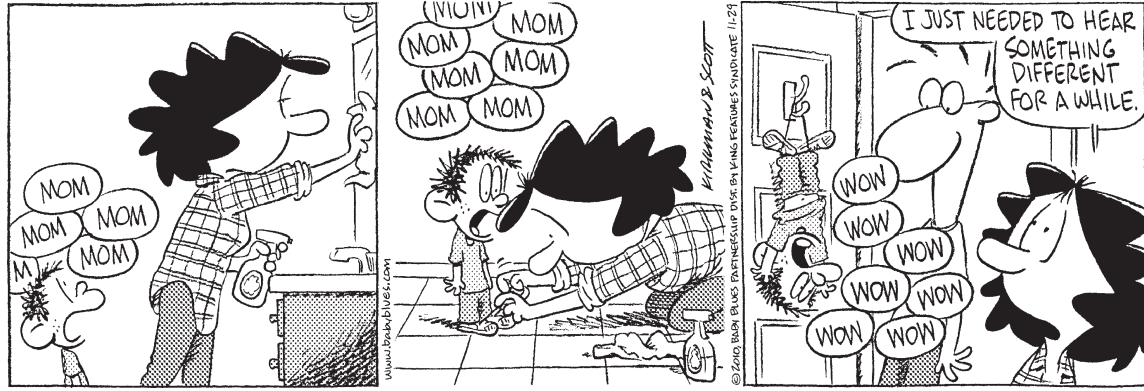
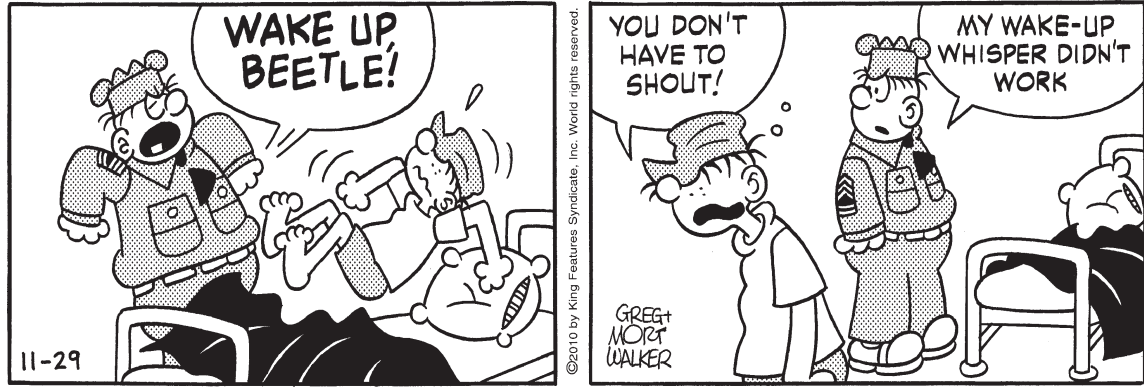


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



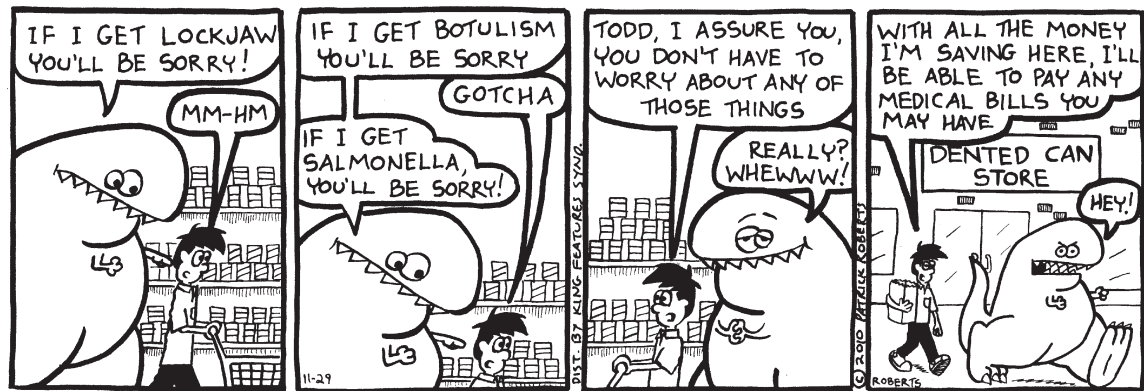
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



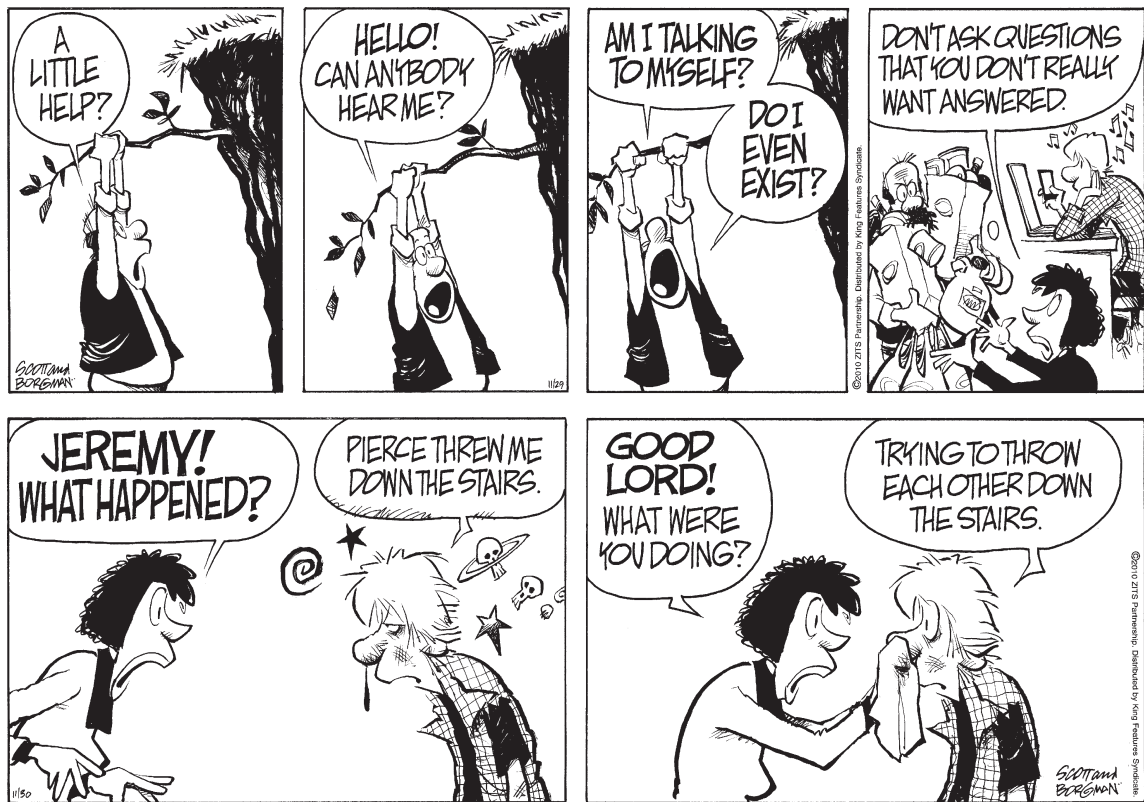
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

DiETING TOGETHER, HE CHEATS APART

Dear Dr. Brothers: My husband and I planned to go on a diet together. Overall, it's not that strict, but you have to monitor how many carbs you eat in the first two weeks. It's simple - if you don't follow the rule, you won't lose weight. My husband thinks he's getting away with something by eating right at home, then binging when he's at work. How can I get him to follow one simple rule? He just doesn't get it! - K.B.

Dear K.B.: Going on a diet together is a huge undertaking. It is almost impossible for one person to succeed on a diet, much less two! So, in the beginning you need to cut your husband a little bit of slack; many guys wouldn't even go along with the idea of trying to lose weight with rules imposed by someone else and his wife! And when you say he doesn't get it, you may be right. Maybe he's not invested in this idea. Who came up with the concept? And who picked the diet? It sounds as though your husband didn't have much involvement, so he doesn't have much now.

Be careful about not turning the venture into a game of "gotcha." Try your hardest not to be a policeman, so coming home at night doesn't turn into your husband's least favorite part of the day. He doesn't need to be grilled about compliance, nor made to feel guilty for transgressions. As you start losing weight he will have the best reminder of what can be attained if he decides to follow the rules. In the meantime, encourage him when he does something to work toward his goal. Maybe he'd rather increase his gym time than follow rules. Do some fun things together on the weekend using your bodies and your imagination!

Dear Dr. Brothers: My husband was on a game show years ago. He answered a question wrong and wound up losing a great deal of money. Last month, the show was rerun, and he's been in the dumps ever since. He keeps moping saying how stupid he is and how our lives would have been easier if he won that money. I never cared about the outcome, but I care about him. How do I get him to stop beating himself up? - G.D.

Dear G.D.: The one that got away is always difficult for some people to put to rest. It could be a fish that got away, a girl who chose someone else or the dress someone else snatched. But it is the near-attainment of a great deal of money that deals us the greatest blow. As your husband laments, money represents more; things we dream about. If only we had that money, our lives would be perfect - or at least better. As a symbol, there's little to top a pile of green bills.

In reality, the money may have been more of a curse than a blessing - bringing greedy, outstretched hands along with it. It tends to be wasted, used mundanely or frittered away. But it hurts not to have it! Your husband feels bad because he "blew it." It wasn't like not winning the lottery - it was more like having the winning ticket and burning it by mistake. So he blames himself. Keep letting him know how happy he makes you, with or without his winnings - and mean it.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

West dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ 8 5 2
 ♥ A K Q 7 5 2
 ♦ 6
 ♣ A 8 7

WEST
 ♠ A 10 9 4 3
 ♥ J 4
 ♦ A 7 5 4
 ♣ K 6

EAST
 ♠ Q 7 6 3
 ♥ 10 9 6 3
 ♦ K 10 9
 ♣ 10 9 5 4

SOUTH
 ♠ K 16
 ♥ 8
 ♦ Q J 8 3 2
 ♣ Q J 3 2

The bidding:
 West 1♠ North 2♥ East Pass South 2NT
 Opening lead - four of diamonds.

Famous Hand

This deal from the 1987 world women's team championship dramatically demonstrates how important the opening lead can be in determining the outcome of a hand. The deal occurred in the semifinal match between two teams from the United States.

The bidding was exactly the same at both tables, but that is where the similarity ended. At the first table, West elected to lead a diamond since North-South seemed unconcerned about spades.

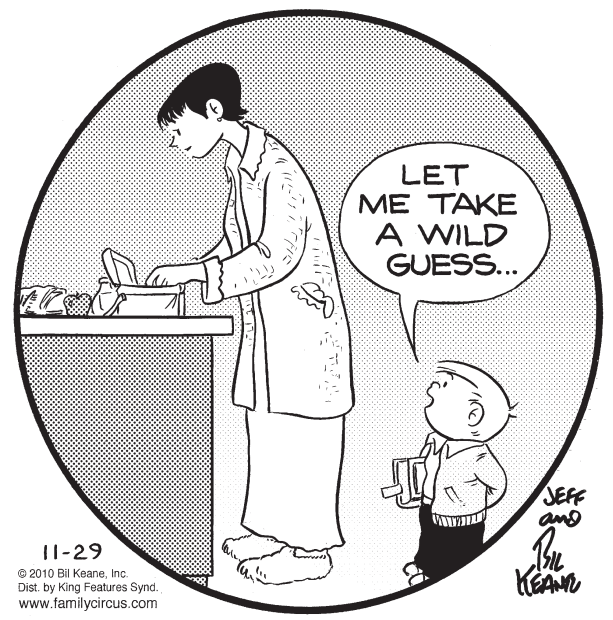
East won the first trick with the king and returned the ten, after which there was no way to defeat the contract. West could duck South's queen or win the trick with the ace and return a diamond or a spade. Regardless of West's choice, however, declarer now had the timing to score nine tricks, thanks in large part to the fall of the nine of diamonds on the third round. After this start, the only tricks the defenders could muster were two diamonds, a spade and perhaps a heart.

At the second table, West decided to lead a low spade, reasoning that if her partner had any spade honor, there would be a good chance to defeat the contract. Declarer won East's queen with the king (holding up would not have helped) and immediately led the queen of clubs, covered by the king and ace. But when she next cashed the A-K-Q of hearts and the suit failed to divide 3-3, the hand fell apart.

South tried leading a diamond to the queen, but West took the ace and returned a diamond to East's king. East cashed the ten of hearts and returned a spade through declarer's J-6, allowing West to collect four spade tricks. When the dust settled, the defenders had scored seven tricks, and the contract was down three. This gave their team a combined total of 900 points and a pickup of 14 IMPs on the deal.

What a difference an opening lead can make!
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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"... Turkey sandwich for lunch today?"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 11/29

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

Cryptoquip

SEWU D VWZZJS ZDTUHEWP
 P J N W H J K M J K D A F J U P D A
 E F P K D U H E , F P T M M J P W
 E W V J K N P V D K N V F K N P .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN THE EMINENT ARTIST EXPLAINED HOW TO MIX PAINT, COULD YOU SAY IT WAS A STIRRING SPEECH?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals H

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
 1 Harbor boat
 4 Commandment
 9 Unborn fish
 12 Gentle lamb
 13 Synagogue scroll
 14 Sample of 9-Across
 15 Light yellow color
 17 Historic time
 18 One's years
 19 Cajoled
 21 "Das Lied von der Erde" composer
 24 Humor writer
 25 Cassius Clay, now a shovel
 26 Used a nation
 31 Disarray
 33 Gist

DOWN
 2 "Zounds!"
 16 Bando of baseball
 20 Iowa city
 21 "I Remember —"
 22 Pub orders
 23 Zyrtec target
 27 Eviscerate
 29 Tend texts
 30 Profits
 32 Thin wedge of wood
 34 Implore
 37 Drops a sound
 39 Warnings
 42 Office worker
 44 Shade tree
 45 Batman's hood
 46 Reed instrument
 50 Noisy dance style
 51 Sort
 52 Born
 53 A billion years

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Saturday's answer 11-29

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