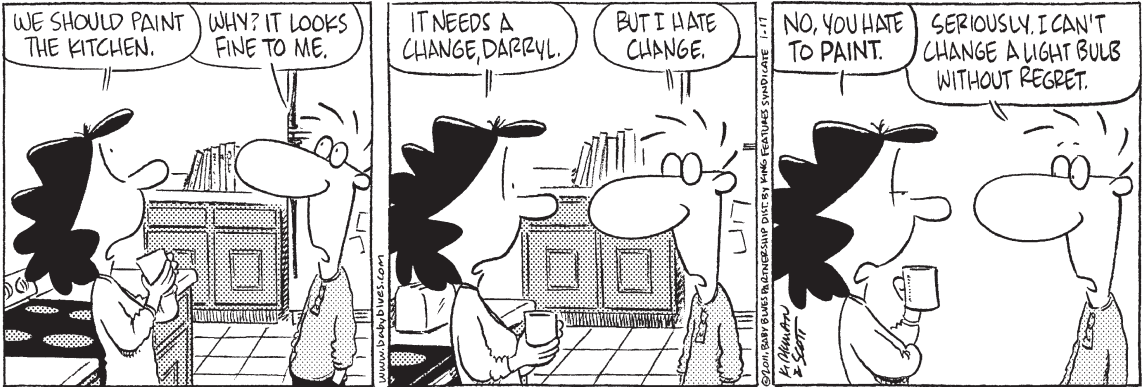


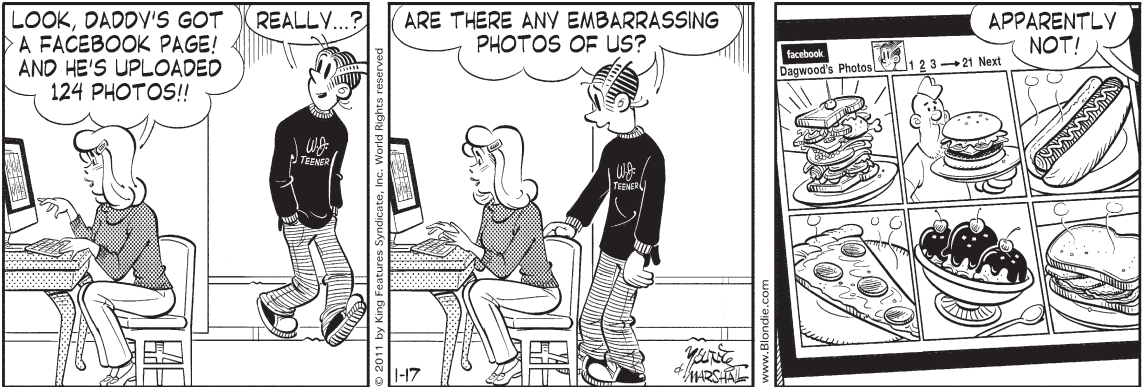
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



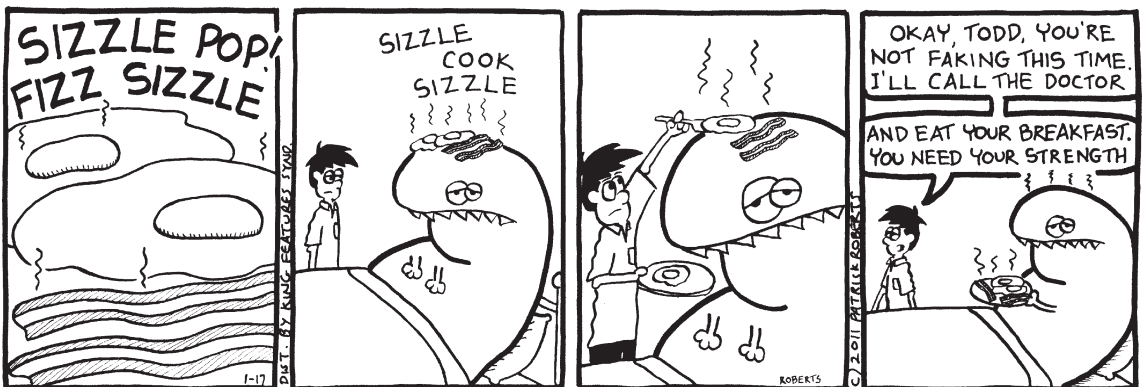
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



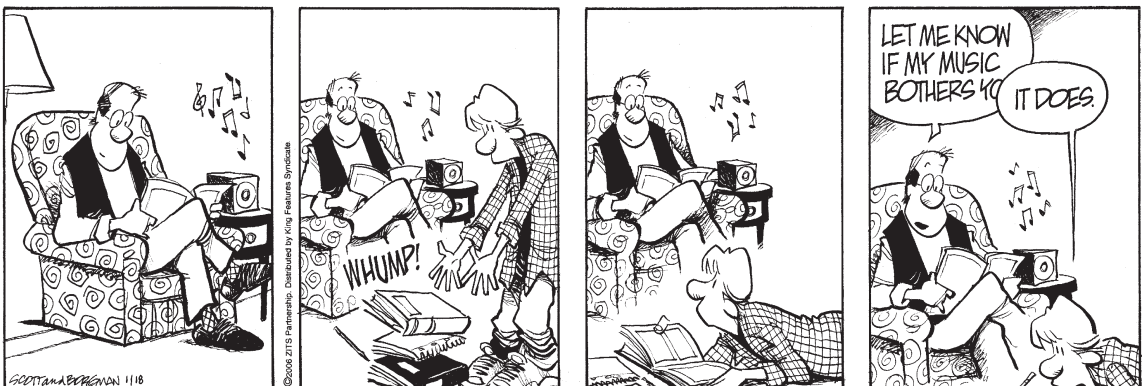
Sally Forth • Greg Howard




Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott





Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Picky eating a toddler's phase

**Dear Dr. Brothers:** My husband and I are first-time parents of a toddler, and he's suddenly become a very picky eater. One day he'll want only apple slices, and the next day it's only Cheerios. He seems to be still eating enough overall, but we're worried we're spoiling him by giving him only what he wants. Is this a normal phase kids go through, and if so, why does it happen? What can we do to get variety into his diet? — C.Y.

**Dear C.Y.:** There are developmental reasons why kids go from being ravenous infants to picky toddlers. During the first year, kids grow rapidly. Toddlers gain more slowly and need less food. They're also always onto something new and exploring, and never want to sit in one place too long, even to eat. Because of this, snacking throughout the day can be easier than sitting down to three meals. The best you can do is prepare nutritious foods and present them in interesting ways so your toddler is excited about eating. You can start by offering trays of different snacks rather than a meal you might prepare for yourself. Using colorful, fun plates and utensils can pique your toddler's interest. Kids this age love getting messy, so adding toppings, dipping sauces or other fun – and goopy – sides to meals is a good idea. Remember to keep your attempts healthy and nutritious – don't top everything with maple syrup or chocolate sauce. If he's not interested in an item, don't force it; try again the next day or find a substitute. The main thing is to relax and realize this is just a passing phase.

**Dear Dr. Brothers:** My daughter is in her last year of elementary school, and terrified of middle school. We talk a lot, and I've tried to tease out what exactly she's scared of, but it seems to be general unease about the transition and changes. Is there anything I can do to help and make her feel more confident that it will all eventually become comfortable again? — N.K.

**Dear N.K.:** The transition from elementary to middle school might be one of the hardest kids make. They usually move schools, have new peers and a new set of teachers and classes to keep track of. This can cause anxiety in kids who don't know what to expect. You can help your daughter prepare. Different kids need different amounts of intervention, but it sounds like your daughter would benefit from a lot of help. The overarching idea is to learn as much as possible about the school and new experiences, so middle school becomes less unknown and scary. Enroll early, if possible, and find out what classes your daughter will take, both required classes and electives. Visit the school, both on visiting day and individually. Practice things like locker combinations and walking between classes without getting lost. Get your daughter's school supplies well ahead of time. Make sure that once school does start, your daughter is adjusting. (c) 2011 by King Features Syndicate

Bridge • Steve Becker

West dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ Q 7 6

♥ 6 3

♦ 7 6

♣ A K Q 10 9 3

WEST

♠ 8 4

♥ K Q 10 8

♦ Q 8 3

♣ J 7 5 2

EAST

♠ A 10 9

♥ A 9 5 4 2

♦ 10 9 5 4

♣ 4

SOUTH

♠ K J 5 3 2

♥ 17

♦ A K J 2

♣ 8 6

The bidding:

West

Pass

Pass

Pass

Pass

North

Pass

2♣

2♥

4♣

East

Pass

Pass

2♥

Pass

South

1♠

2♣

2♥

4♣

Opening lead — king of hearts.

**Famous Hand**

There's no law against declarer intercepting the opponents' signals. In fact, sometimes he might be able to make better use of them than the opponents themselves.

Take this case from the 1988 Grand National Team final between Chicago and Washington, D.C. The bidding shown occurred at the table where Washington's Steve Robinson held the South hand.

West led the heart king, and East tried to steer him to the winning defense by playing the deuce. Had West shifted to a club at this point, East would win the ace of spades when trumps were led, put his partner in with the queen of hearts and get a club ruff to sink the contract.

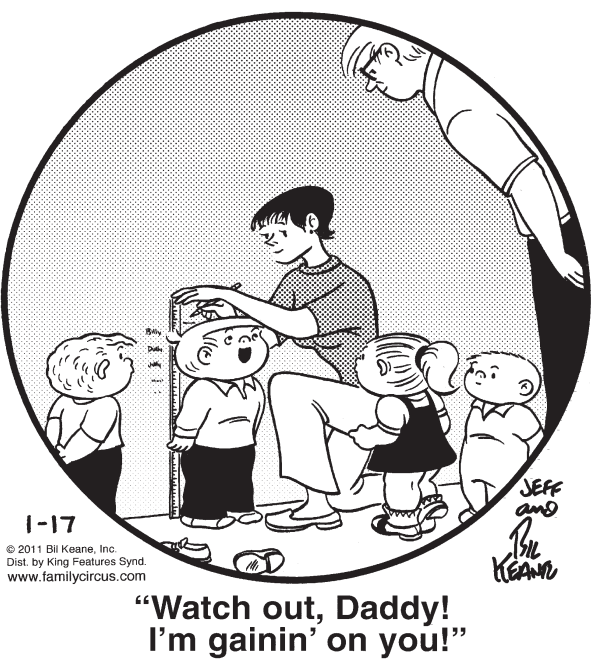
But West erred by cashing the heart queen at trick two before shifting to a club. Declarer won the club with the ace, led a spade to the king and continued with the jack. East took the ace and returned the ace of hearts, hoping dummy would have to ruff with the queen. But Robinson trumped in his hand, led a spade to the queen and returned to his hand with the ace of diamonds. He then led his remaining club.

East's play to the first trick had not been lost on Robinson, who now finessed dummy's ten to make the contract! Had he not finessed, he would eventually have lost a diamond to West's queen and gone down one.

At the second table, East found a better way to steer West in the right direction. Instead of playing the heart deuce on the king at trick one, he overtook the king with the ace and shifted to his singleton club.

Declarer saw what was going to happen if he played trumps immediately, so he made a valiant try to save the contract by leading a diamond to the jack. Had the finesse worked, he would have discarded dummy's heart on a high diamond. But when West turned up with the queen, declarer quickly found himself down two, giving Washington a gain of 820 points on the deal. (c)2010 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

Cryptoquip

DH IUUVJULJ KPZBI COJ  
IZVJ OUWXJB KUIDCDUL HUN  
VZLB BJZNI, D NJWXUL  
COZC'I Z PULQ-CJNV QUZPDJ.

**Yesterday's Cryptoquip:** ONE WOULD SUPPOSE THAT RABBITS SHOULD START LEAPING WHENEVER THEY'RE GIVEN THE HOP-PORTUNITY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Flightless flock

5 Discoverer's call

8 Impale

12 About 2.2 pounds

14 Operatic solo

15 Interweave

16 Covers

17 Remuneration

18 Andean pack

20 Sacred song

23 Line of fashion?

24 "Zounds!"

25 Become twisted

28 Angry dog's sound

29 South African statesman Jan

30 Sphere

32 Ugandan city on Lake Victoria

34 Stereo fore-runner

35 Love god

36 Undressed

37 Some kind of a nut

40 Charged bit

41 Stench

42 Interlude during a play

47 Dalai — Faith

48 Prayer ending

50 Scale member

51 Lip

3 Last (Abbr.)

4 Lathered

5 Unrestrained

6 Actor

7 Brunch entree

8 Deli meat

9 Spruce up

10 Verdi opera

11 Low voice

13 Summer-time pest

19 Rules and regulations

20 "Little Women" sister

21 Shrek, for instance

22 Mountain lake

23 Ignores

25 Shelters among vines

26 Cranny counter-part

27 Sea eagle

29 Withered

31 Physique, slangily

33 Iran's capital

34 Cope

36 Seaweed used to wrap sushi

37 Soda pop flavor

38 Leading man?

39 A handful

40 "— have to do"

43 Ultra-modern (Pref.)

44 Spanish hero

45 Dress (up)

46 Away from

Saturday's answer 1-17

OWE

HEN

MEGA

ANGEL

DOIT

ANN

REGAR

ASKEW

TIER

SAND

VOLT

OREO

AWATT

ABEL

HEIR

CIGAR

FOAL

RHEA

OPEC

GISH

IBIS

NOTE

BLEW

LOOMS

VEGANISM

SOU

MARL

REBEL

AONE

GAULLE

LEA

AIR

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			