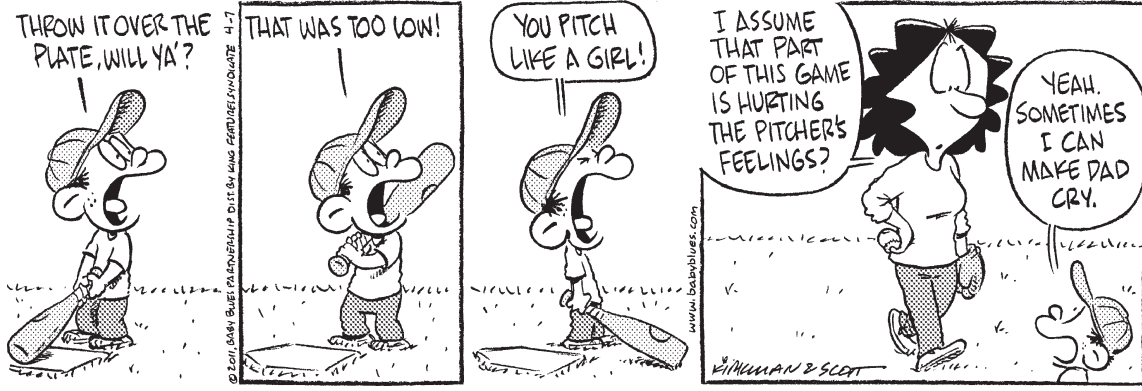
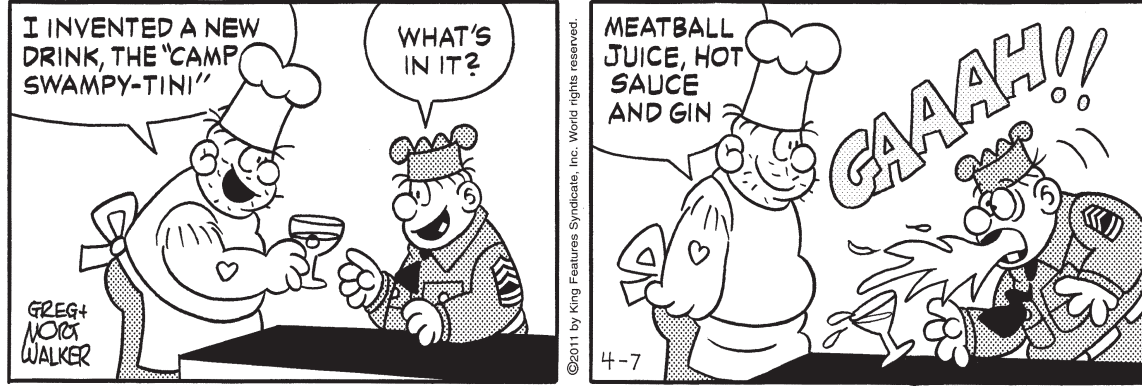


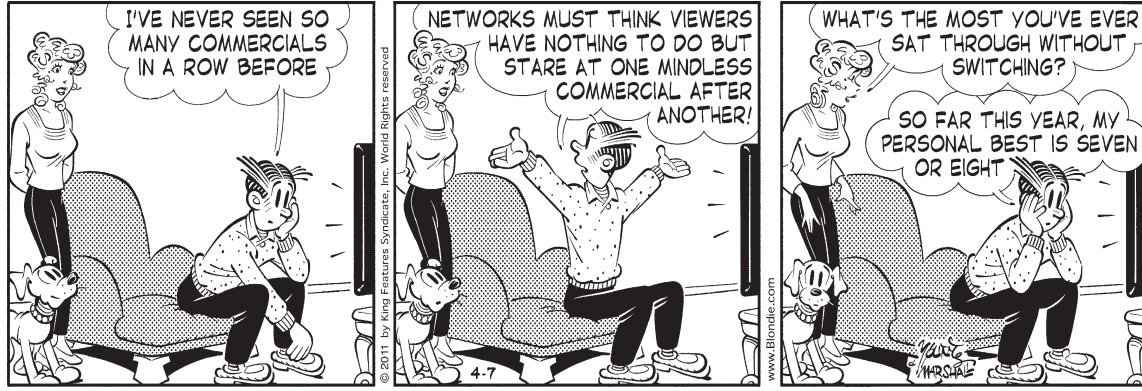
**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



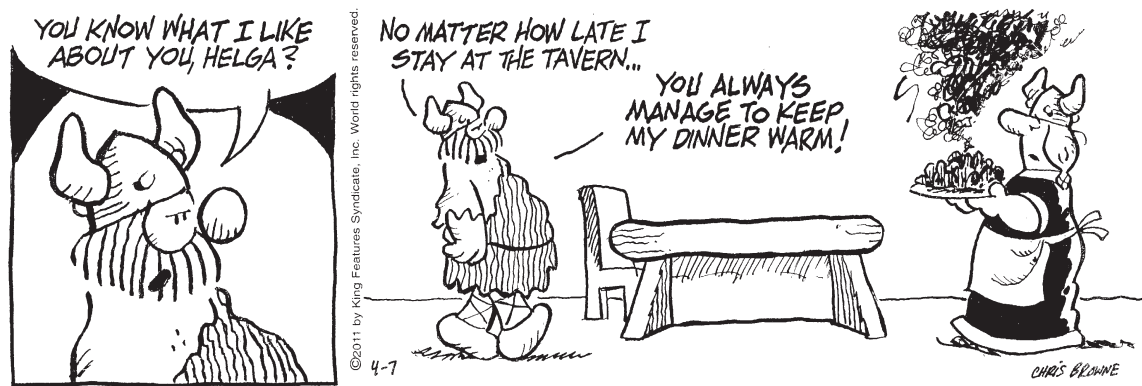
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



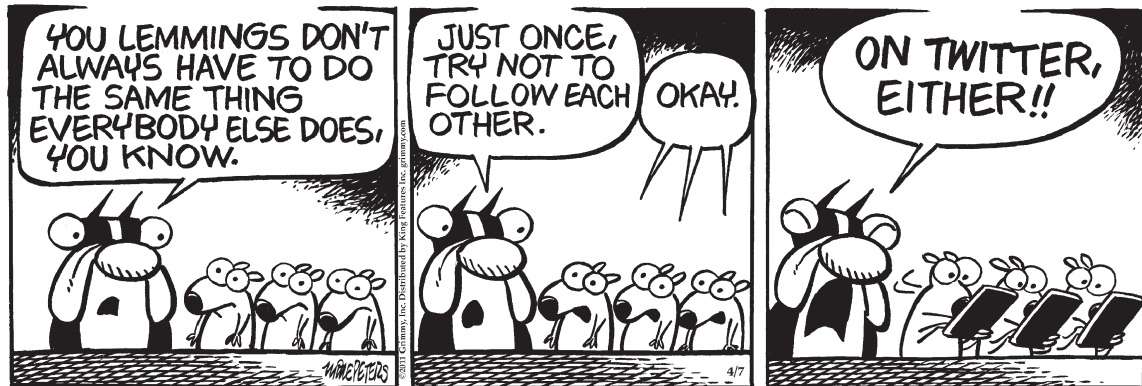
**Blondie** • Chic Young



**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  
**Skill at pool gets too complicated**

Dear Dr. Brothers: I'm a 17-year-old senior in high school. My father loves to play pool, and showed me how to play when I was very small. I've become very good. I'm not bragging when I say I've never lost a game. But Dad has been taking me places and betting on me and it's making me feel weird. Sometimes it's a lot of money. I feel creepy. — G.S.

Dear G.S.: There are a couple of issues that come to mind. First, you are a minor living under your parents' roof, and that has to figure into your responses. Surely you must be thinking about what will happen after high school, and whether you are going to college or getting a job and moving. Can you see where I am going with this? The easiest way to stop it is to make yourself scarce. If that's not an option, you may want to confront your father. It is possible he's so proud of you he doesn't see his actions as exploitive — which they are. You must let him know how you feel.

The next issue is a rather sticky one, since it involves betting and money. Whether or not it is morally or legally correct — and even winnings from gambling are supposed to be declared at income-tax time — there is a question of whose money it is, or should be. Is your father pocketing his winnings when you play? Or is he sharing with you or giving it to you or investing it in your future? These are questions you shouldn't hesitate to address with your father. Let him know you still will play pool with him — but for fun, not for profit. If he objects, you may need to work on putting space between the two of you.

Dear Dr. Brothers: My husband has always been the quiet type. Even before we were married, he was shy and unassuming, not having many friends. Now that we're married, he's basically the same way, except he has glommed on to all my friends. I feel some of them prefer his company over mine. I don't know why it bothers me, but I want it to stop. — M.L.

Dear M.L.: You need to decide what you want from your friendships: undying loyalty to you or acceptance of you and your husband as a couple — enjoying your unique personalities and the diversity you bring to the table. You would be put out if your friends had rejected your mate.

It seems there could be jealousy here. Though you love your husband, the balance of power meant he was supposed to be quiet and unassuming while you were more flamboyant. As long as he remained in his place, you were happy, but for him to garner more attention is upsetting because it messes with the dynamics of the relationship. So, there's no point in bemoaning the fact that things aren't as they should be, for even if you decided to get a new set of friends, the problem would remain. You need to be flexible enough to accept changes in relationships, and find a way to enjoy your husband's newfound popularity without feeling it detracts from your own.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



"Mommy, listen to this. Daddy's using his head to tell a story 'stead of a book!"

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/07

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

**Cryptoquip**

MLMTCGQ OLBDI KSGK  
QIBIGCZ GCC LV KSI CDIZ DP  
G ULQQTMK MQIGUSIQ'Z  
ZIQOLPZ: "MTCMDK VDUKDL P."  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN SOMEONE WORKS LONG AND HARD WRITING A USER'S HOW-TO BOOK, I THINK THAT'S MANUAL LABOR.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals L

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**  
1 Glaswegian girl  
5 Without delay  
8 Dumbfoundt  
12 Touch  
13 — de  
14 Infamous lyre  
15 Swerve  
16 Harem room  
17 Rainout cover  
18 Reach  
20 Ocean-going vessel  
22 Scram  
26 Turkic tongue  
29 Mystery author Stout  
30 Hoopsters' org.  
31 Evergreens  
32 Blossom-to-be  
33 Londoner or Liverpoolian  
34 Lennon's lady

**DOWN**  
1 Volcano outflow  
2 Help a hood  
3 Fat  
4 Shoots from  
5 plane  
5 Indiana's state flower  
6 Old man  
7 Suppressed completely  
8 Bit of tomfoolery  
9 Arms  
10 Blunder  
11 Bribe  
19 Sort  
21 Whammy  
22 or pancreas  
23 were never spoken  
24 Stage statuette  
25 Butter servings  
26 Venusian vessels?  
27 Galvanizing stuff  
28 Home of Coney Island  
32 Intermediate to  
33 Christen  
35 Bygone muscle car  
36 Weeding tool  
38 Recant  
39 Spleen or pancreas  
42 Smell  
43 Ponce de —  
44 Knighted woman  
45 Cleopatra's slayer  
46 Court  
48 Serengeti beast

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

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

**Bridge** • Steve Becker

West dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
A  
A Q 6 3  
A 8 7 5  
A 9 6 2

**WEST**  
K Q J 9 6 3 2  
9 4  
—  
Q 10 7 3

**EAST**  
10 8 5 4  
J 10 7 5  
J 10 4 2  
J

**SOUTH**  
7  
K 8 2  
K Q 9 6 3  
K 8 5 4

The bidding:  
West North East South  
3♠ Dble Pass 5♦  
Pass 6♦  
Opening lead — king of spades.

**High-Class Technique**  
A competent declarer rarely errs in handling the myriad card combinations encountered over many deals. Time and time again, he adopts the technically correct approach to each suit, adjusting his play whenever necessary if special circumstances crop up along the way.

Consider this deal where South arrived at six diamonds after West opened with three spades. Declarer won the spade lead and tackled trumps, carefully cashing dummy's ace first. This was designed to guard against East holding four diamonds, and it paid immediate dividends when West showed out.

A diamond from dummy brought the ten from East and the king from declarer. A heart to the ace was followed by another diamond, allowing South to draw both of East's remaining trumps without loss.

Declarer was not yet out of the woods, though — if the clubs were divided 4-1, he might lose two tricks in the suit. So before leading clubs, he first cashed the K-Q of hearts to see if the opposing hearts were divided 3-3. When West showed out on the third heart, the question of how to play the clubs was resolved.

Up to this point, West was known to have started with exactly two hearts and no diamonds, marking him with club length. Having determined this, declarer led a club to his king, picking up East's jack. He then led another club toward dummy, planning to insert the nine if West followed low or to take the ace if West produced the ten or queen. Either way, South was certain to limit his club losers to one and so make the slam.

Note that had declarer carelessly played a high diamond from his hand at trick two, or had he later cashed the ace of clubs instead of the king, he would have gone down. But he broached both suits in the technically correct manner and was duly rewarded for his efforts.

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