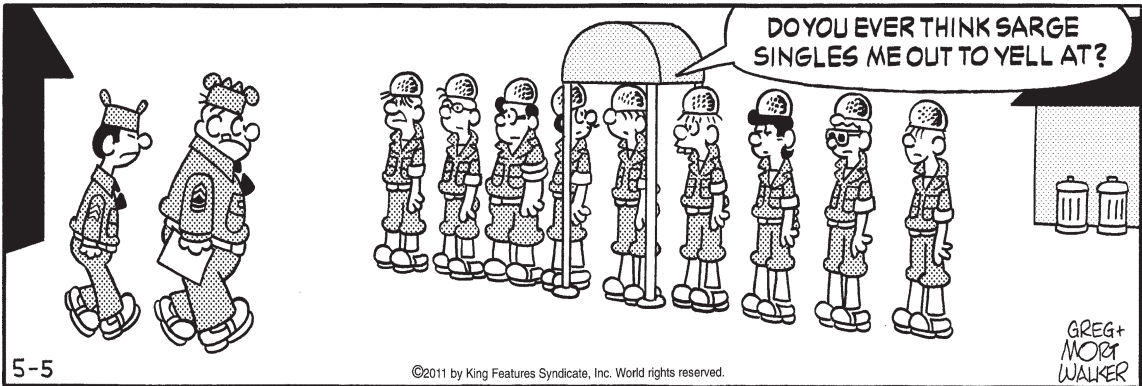


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



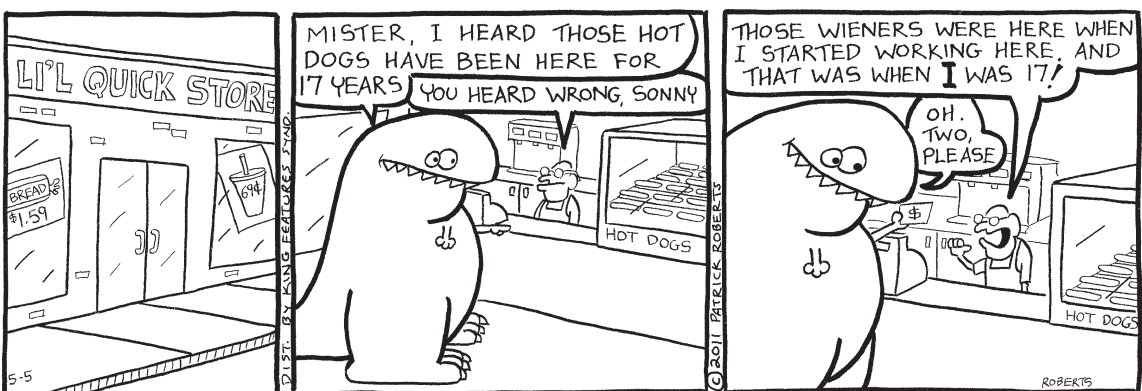
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



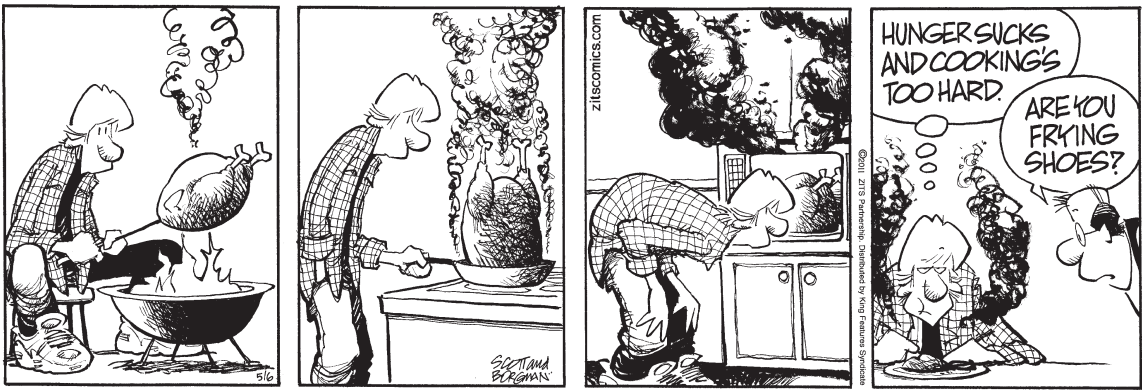
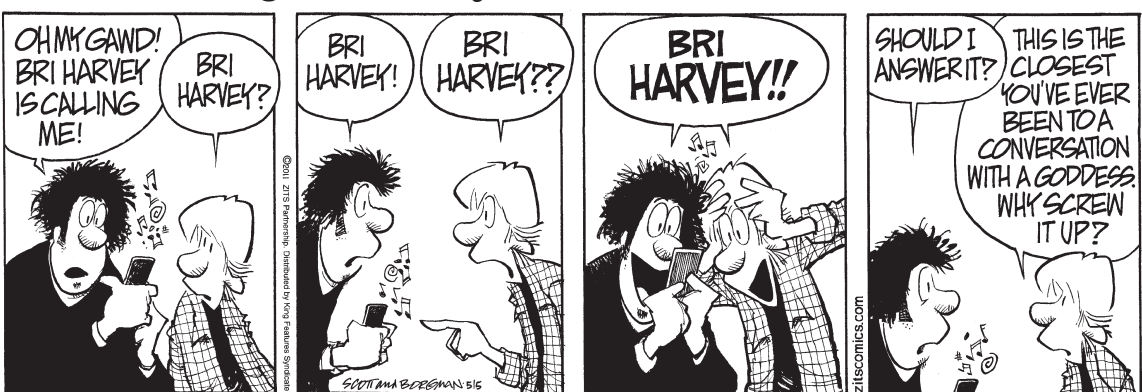
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers • Ask Dr. Brothers

Teen boy likes to shock people

Dear Dr. Brothers: My 17-year-old loves to up the ante. He thrives on controversy – wearing T-shirts with slogans he says represent his right to freedom of expression. He started a politically conscious band he says is going to change the world. Now he is wearing eyeliner at school. I don't know what his sexual preference is, and I'm not worried about it; it's just all this abrasive behavior that concerns me and his father. – H.D.

Dear H.D.: It's wonderful the way nature throws things into the mix and comes out with families that don't always meld together. Your son sounds like someone who should be the off-spring of radicals who push the envelope. But that doesn't seem to be the case! Sometimes kids of quiet, neutral parents shock them just to get a rise out of them. Or if parents are extremely conservative, kids do things just to rebel. Your son's behavior may have little to do with you, and more to do with formulating himself – not an entirely unknown pastime for high-school-age boys.

Whatever the cause, your job is to make sure he sets boundaries that result in positive things happening. He needs to know the consequences for breaking laws, alienating school officials or other negative outcomes aren't worth it. He's developing his own persona as he enters adulthood, and letting him try his wings can be a good parenting idea. Rather than worrying, help guide him to the people and places that will nurture his creative side, his politics and his lifestyle choices? Your son sounds like someone who loves life and isn't afraid to live it – there's a lot to be said for that.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I was speechless when I saw my brother spank his 4-year-old son. I felt I should have done something, but was wrestling with whether it was right to interfere. I talked to his wife later to ask if everything is OK, and she told me my brother has been depressed recently. She suggested he seek counseling, but he doesn't want to hear it. Our parents never spanked us as children. What's can I do? – J.W.

Dear J.W: There are two problems here your brother's wife and you can help with. If your brother is depressed and it affects his relationship with his child, he should seek help. If he doesn't want to go to counseling, it's helpful for his family to be there for him, and you can suggest he see his primary physician. As far as the spanking goes, it is not surprising, in light of a survey in the journal *Pediatrics*. A study of new fathers showed those who suffered depression were four times as likely to spank their children. Forty percent of depressed men had spanked toddlers, as opposed to 13 percent without depression.

Spanking continues to be controversial, with many parents saying kids occasionally need a swat and that's OK. Others opt for timeouts or other non-physical punishments, and the jury is still out on whether spanking can leave psychological scars. But to err on the side of caution, it's a great idea for you and your sister-in-law to make sure your depressed brother doesn't go off the deep end. Depressed people tend to have less tolerance for frustration, so help out with some baby-sitting until your brother is feeling better. (c) 2011 by King Features Syndicate

Bridge • Steve Becker

North dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ A K Q 7 6 5  
♥ 5  
♦ 5  
♣ A 6 5 4 3

**EAST**  
♠ 4 2  
♥ 5  
♦ Q 9 8 7 4  
♣ K Q J 9 8

**WEST**  
♠ J 10 9 8 3  
♥ A Q 3  
♦ 16  
♣ 10 7 2

**SOUTH**  
♠ K J 10 8 7 6 4 2  
♥ A K 10 3 2  
♦ —  
♣ —

The bidding:  
North East South West  
4♦ Pass 5♥ Dble  
Opening lead — ace of hearts.

**Thrust and Counterthrust**

There is no way of knowing for sure whether this deal, sent by a reader, really was bid and played the way it was described, or whether embellishments have been added. However, the actual facts are not really that important, since the hand provides a good story -- whether you choose to believe it or not.

South got to five hearts doubled on the bidding shown. Probably West doubled hoping to jockey North back into spades, but North very wisely passed. West led the ace of hearts, which proved to be an exceptionally good lead. Had he led a spade, a diamond or a club, South would have made the contract easily, losing just two trump tricks.

Declarer had the presence of mind to drop his four of hearts on the ace, a play that eventually proved to be crucial. West then shifted to the jack of diamonds, again choosing the best line of defense.

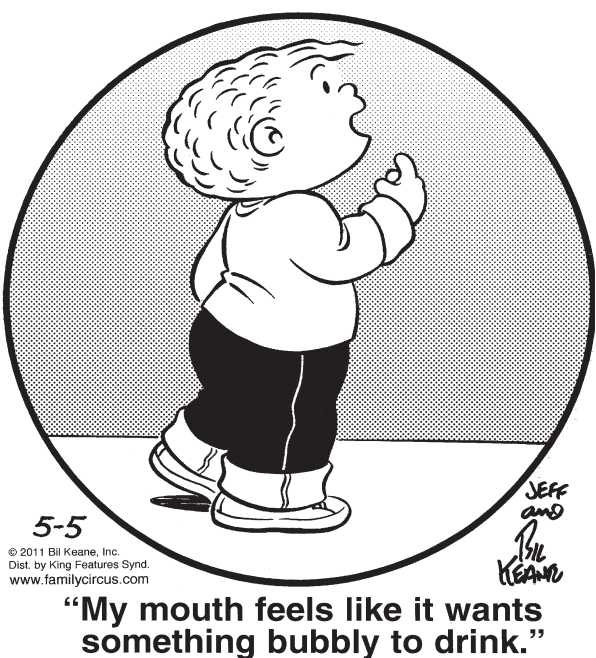
South won with the ace and led the king of hearts. Once again, realizing what might happen to him if he followed low, West made an excellent play by dropping his queen under the king in order to avoid later being thrown back on lead with a trump.

When East showed out, it was not difficult for declarer to diagnose the reason for West's extraordinary play of the trump queen. So South cashed his king of diamonds and then exited with the deuce of hearts!

West had to win the trick with the three and had no choice but to return a spade or a club. This allowed South to dispose of his three diamond losers on dummy's high cards, so he made five hearts doubled.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/05

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.

Cryptoquip

F USQFSZS CGS HJVA XHSR

MDBO RGJ QJZSA MHJJNFPM

CGSFH GVFH RSHS UDOB

VHHVPMFPM CHVTTFX XJNUO.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A THRIFTY PERSON TENDS TO NEVER OVERSPEND, WOULD YOU CALL THAT WALLET-Y CONTROL?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals E

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Painter  
5 G-men's org.  
8 Somewhere out there  
12 Hexagonal state  
13 Part of UCLA  
14 Location  
15 Short skirt  
16 Listener  
17 Coaster  
18 Smother  
20 Son of Eve  
22 New Year's Eve figure  
26 Jazzy style  
29 In the manner of  
30 Campaigner, for short  
31 Destroy  
32 9mm submachine gun

**DOWN**

33 Antitoxins  
34 Playwright  
55 Litter  
35 Indivisible  
36 Bygone  
37 Principal supply  
40 Aesopian also-ran  
41 Utter foolishness  
45 Troubles  
47 Piercing tool  
49 Adhesive  
50 Academic  
51 Female deer  
52 H.S. subj.  
53 Hardly muscular  
54 Hebrew letter  
55 Pith helmet  
21 Support system?  
23 Ted Key's cartoon maid  
2 Persisting word  
3 Hindu royal  
4 Sheer silk fabric  
5 Armada  
6 Feathery accessory  
7 Tel Aviv resident  
8 No liability  
9 Flicked a finger  
10 Dined  
11 Scarlet

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

Yesterday's answer 5-5

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			