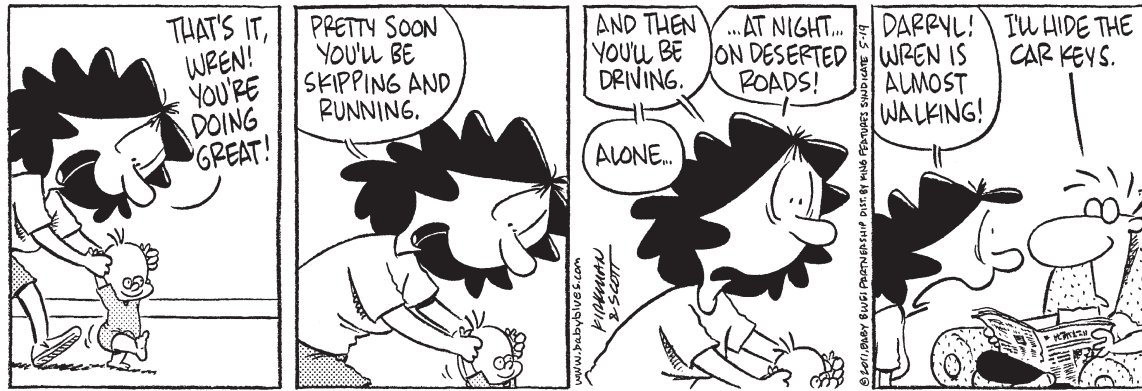
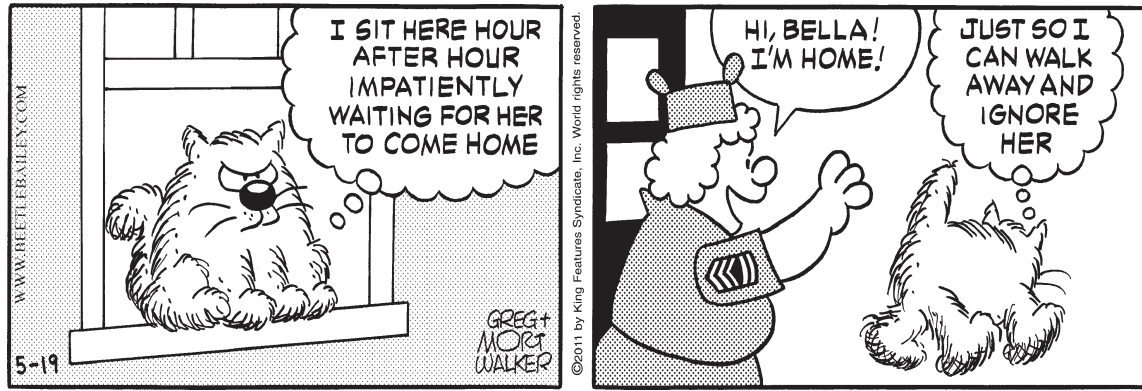


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



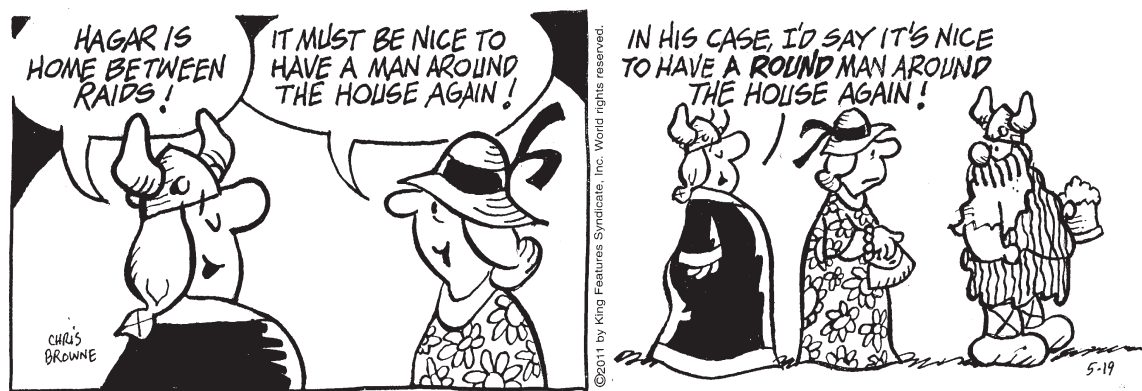
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



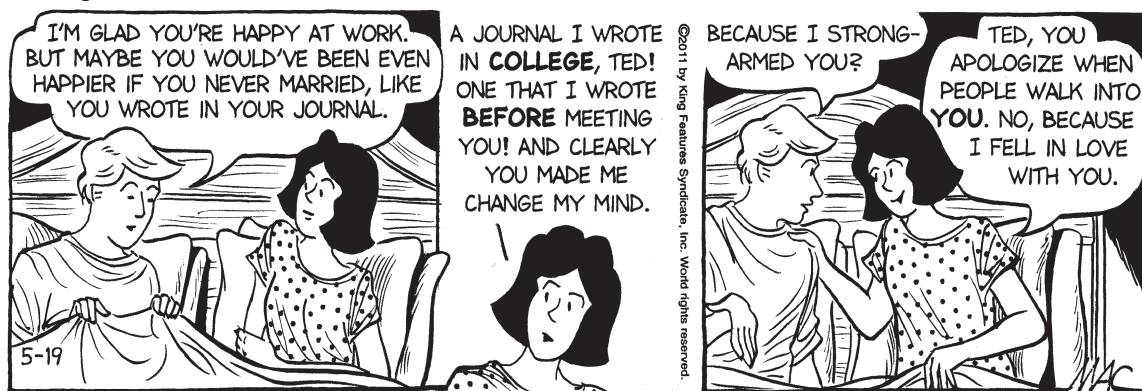
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



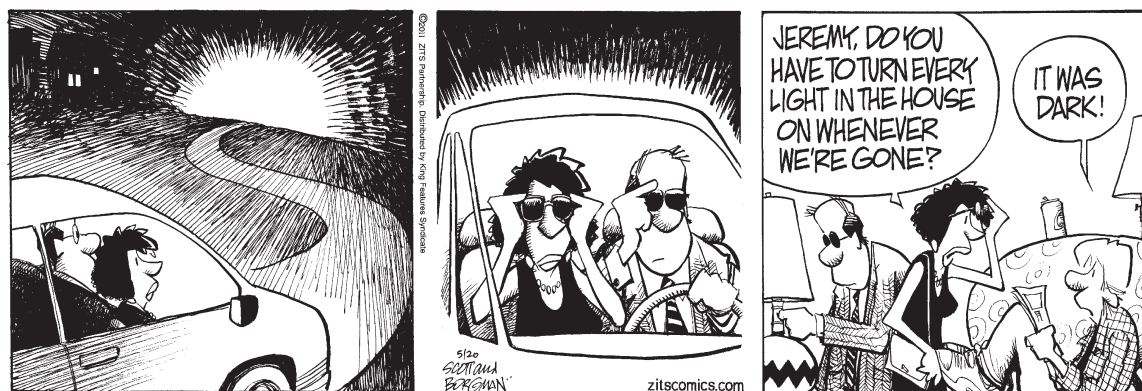
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

She wants best for sister's baby

Dear Dr. Brothers: Please settle an argument between my sister and me. She's due to have her first baby and does not see the benefits of breastfeeding. I was horrified to learn her attitude: "as long as it gets them." She's obligated to go back to work after six weeks and will hand the baby over to day care. She seems to think anyone can be the mother, and feed the baby anything! - I.H.

Dear I.H.: People who are worried about the welfare of nieces, nephews, kids of friends and others often are caught up in a fantasy in which every new mom stays home for the first two years, breastfeeding for at least one year. There'd be a job waiting, with day-care on site and the boss footing the bill. Unfortunately, the reality is a minimum of time off and a schedule will be flexible enough to get everyone through the day.

You are right about the benefits of breastfeeding, though. A variety of claims point to this as best for babies; the latest is a study of mammals, including humans, by Durham University. It found the size of the baby's brain is directly related to the amount of time the mother spent suckling the young. Whether this speaks to mother's milk or to maternal investment, humans are a large-brained species that works to provide a long lifespan and an optimal life for its babies. I'm sure your sister will do the best she can.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I don't know what it is, but my 12-year-old daughter and her dad are like two peas in a pod. They have own shows they watch together (science-fiction), and finish each other's sentences. This would be great, except for the fact that our 14-year-old son has zero rapport with his father. It's not that they don't like each other; it's just they don't click. How can I help foster the relationship for both children? - B.Y.

Dear B.Y.: I don't see where you have commented on your own relationship with your two kids - which either means it is OK and unremarkable, or that you are the observer in the family and don't see your own place as quite so important. I hope it is the former, as there should be a special place for mother in a child's life - especially if something is missing with Dad. As you know, it's often important for a boy to have a strong bond with his father. You say yours never has had one, but the fact he's now a teen doesn't mean it wouldn't be worthwhile. He's entering the years when he may want to separate from his parents, and if that is accompanied by feelings of alienation, it could have lasting effects.

It's time to talk to your husband and see if he is willing to make an effort to connect with your son before it's too late. They can pick age-appropriate guy things, depending on your son's interests. If they bond on a 50-mile bike ride, in a cooking class or at the aquarium, it doesn't make a difference. Together, they might discover things that will bring them that spark they've been missing. (c) 2011 by King Features Syndicate

Family Circus • Bil Keane



"We cleaned our rooms for nothin'!"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

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.

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

Cryptoquip

XRNI GRN UKZONIGNZ QKIYNM
RWF GRACQ XRWHN OVAIMWIY
K IKWH, W GRWIJ RN YVG
K RKCCNZRNKM FRVUJ.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF SOMEBODY'S LONG FOREARM BONE IS KIND OF FUNNY-LOOKING, I GUESS HE HAS A HUMOROUS HUMERUS.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals H

Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 9 5 2
♥ 8 7 4
♦ 4
♣ A Q 8 5 4 2

WEST
♠ Q 8 6 3
♥ 6
♦ 10 8 7 3 2
♣ K 10 3

EAST
♠ K 10 7 4
♥ J 10 2
♦ A 9 6
♣ J 9 6

SOUTH
♠ A J
♥ A K Q 9 5 3
♦ K Q J 5
♣ 7

The bidding:
South West North East
2♠ Pass 3♥ Pass
3♥ Pass 4♥ Pass
4♥ NT Pass 5♦ Pass
6♥

* artificial, strong Opening lead — three of spades.

Mandatory Falsecard
As a general rule, it is not advisable for the defenders to falsecard during the play because they run the risk of fooling each other rather than the declarer. However, there are occasions when a falsecard cannot possibly deceive partner and may lead declarer astray. In such situations, the falsecard is mandatory.

Take this case where South, clearly not from the shrinking violet school of bidding, arrived at six hearts. West led a spade to the king and ace, leaving declarer no choice but to attempt an early club finesse in order to dispose of his spade loser.

So, after drawing one round of trumps, he led a club to the queen and breathed easier when it held the trick. He then cashed the ace, on which West deposited the king as South discarded the jack of spades.

Since a diamond ruff in dummy might be necessary, it was still too soon to draw the remaining trumps. Declarer next led a diamond from dummy. But when East rose with the ace and returned the jack of clubs, South had a knotty problem. He couldn't tell whether West's play of the king on the second club was a falsecard, or whether West had really started with just the K-3.

If West began with only two clubs, the question of which heart to trump with became vital. If West had the jack or ten of hearts singleton and no more clubs at this point, the only way to get home safely was to trump high and then draw the two missing trumps. But if West had falsecarded in clubs, trumping high might cost the contract.

It is only of academic interest to note that South misguessed by ruffing high, thereby establishing a trump trick for East. The key point is that if West had played the ten on the ace of clubs, declarer would not have had any problem whatever and would have made the slam. (c)2011 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Door handle
5 Pigeon's remark
8 Wound cover
12 Modern-day money
13 That guy
14 Collins or Donahue
15 First place
16 "The Greatest"
17 Stow cargo
18 Landlord
20 In layers
22 Blackbird
23 Shell game need
24 Start of the XIIIth century
27 Backed, as a motion
32 Cheery word?
33 — jongg
34 Gabor or Longoria

DOWN
1 Ship's spine
2 Un-dressed
3 Raw rocks
4 Dwarfed punned plant
5 Special appeal
6 Lubricant
7 Skip over
8 Ill will
9 Party game
10 Staffer
11 Evidenced a pinprick
19 Operating
21 Wall St. (Abbr.)
24 "The A-Team" actor
25 Auto
26 "— of Fire"
28 Consume
29 San Diego squad
30 First lady?
31 Old man
36 If not
37 Crazy
38 Perfect place
41 Other-wise
42 False god
43 Arm bone
44 Trudge (through)
46 Very long time
47 Peace-keeping org.
48 Ollie's partner
51 Historic period

Solution time: 25 mins.

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | L | A | S | S | A | G | O | O | H | M | S |
| A | R | C | H | P | O | D | L | E | A | P | |
| M | E | A | T | H | E | A | D | A | | | |
| P | A | T | I | O | S | L | I | D | E | R | |
| | | C | E | N | T | E | E | C | | | |
| P | A | C | K | O | R | T | S | O | R | B | |
| I | D | O | G | R | E | E | T | L | O | U | |
| P | A | L | O | M | E | N | A | D | D | S | |
| | | D | A | W | S | T | I | R | | | |
| I | O | D | I | N | E | L | I | M | B | O | |
| S | P | U | R | D | U | C | K | S | O | U | |
| L | A | C | E | E | T | A | E | R | S | T | |
| E | L | K | S | N | E | W | S | E | T | S | |

Yesterday's answer 5-19

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 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 | | |