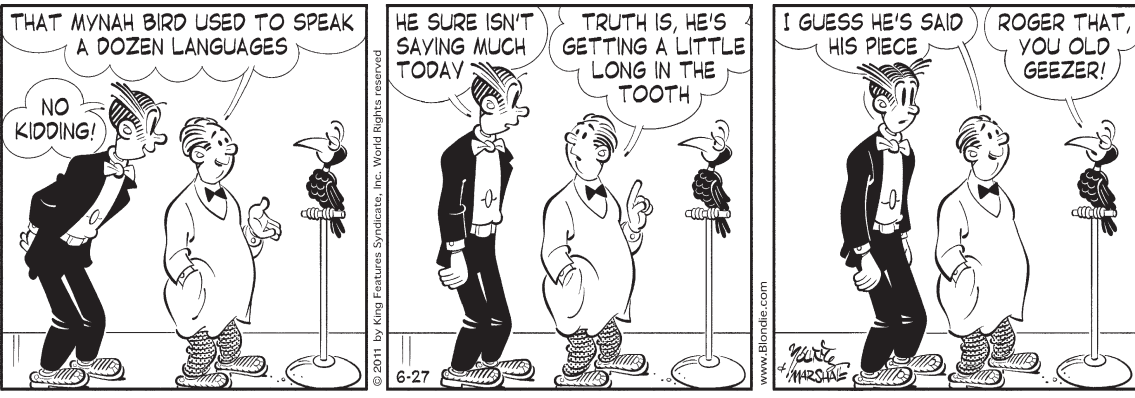## Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker

Blondie • Chic Young

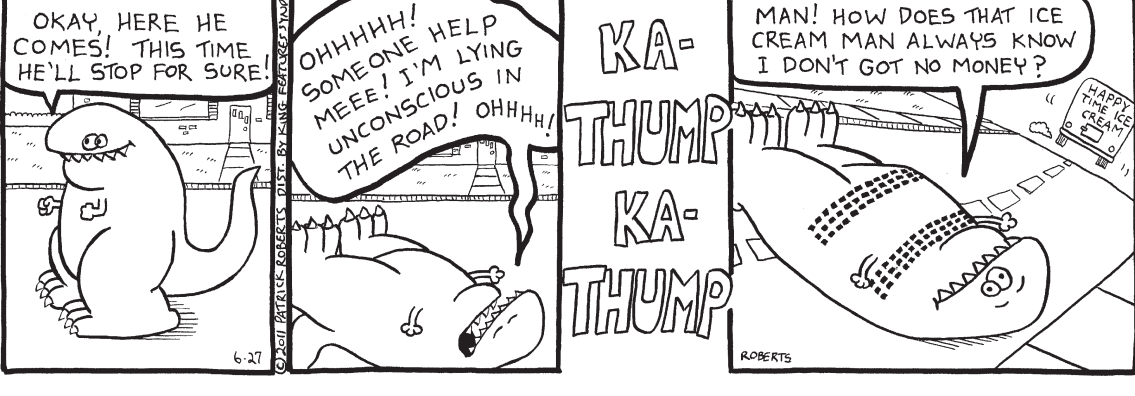## Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne

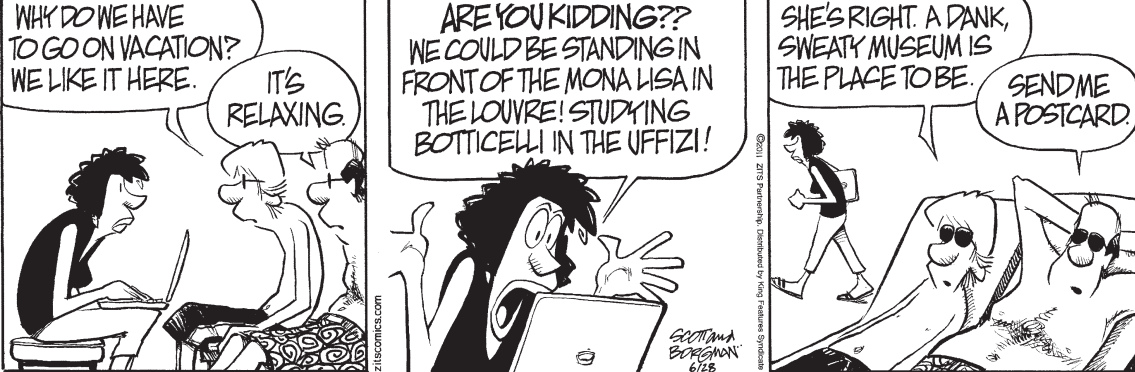## Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters

Sally Forth • Greg Howard

Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts

Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott

Dr. Joyce Brothers

● Ask Dr. Brothers

She's accused of being entitled

Dear Dr. Brothers: I got into a fight with one of my co-workers the other day, and she accused me of being overly entitled. It's been nagging at me, especially since I'm not sure what she meant. I've always thought of myself as a good person, who deserves good things, but this shakes that belief. What does it mean to be overly entitled, and how can I tell if I am guilty? – B.W.

Dear B.W.: You probably have an idea of what it means to be seen as overly entitled, even if you can't put your finger on a definition. The entitled response to any given situation usually is a negative one, and the entitled person is always focused on him- or herself. This person is always playing the victim, and sees the world as out to get him or her – never appreciating the good things in life but focusing on what's wrong or how he or she has been slighted or unappreciated. A good check for yourself can be to imagine the brattiest, most exasperating teenager you've ever had to interact with. Now imagine that teen's response. If the response you're imaging resembles your own, you may be acting with a sense of entitlement – teens (and toddlers) are notorious for doing so.

The best way to decrease your own sense of entitlement is through empathy and gratitude. Studies have found that people who focus every day on something they are grateful for are far happier than those who spend their time dwelling on things they find unpleasant. Gandhi may have expressed this best when he said, "Be the change you wish to see in the world." If you act with others in mind, you'll leave entitlement behind.
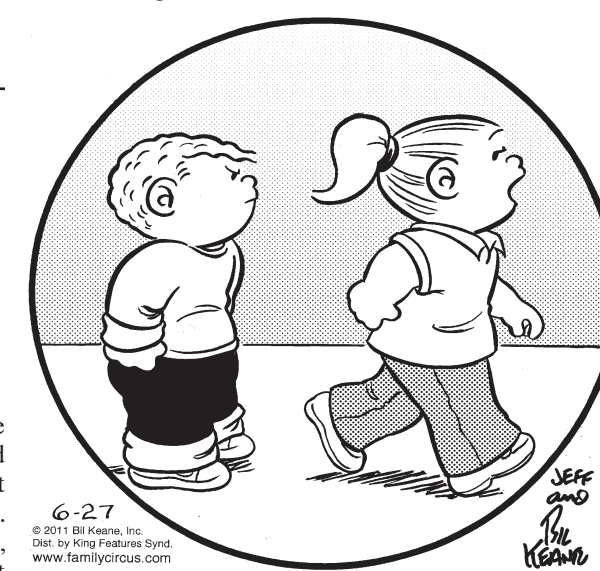
Dear Dr. Brothers: I've have been a puppy raiser for a guide-dog organization to help with service dogs for blind folks. I read about dogs being used as service animals for people with psychological problems like depression and bipolar disorder, and it got me interested. Do people with these problems benefit from specially trained service animals, or is it more important for them to have a loving companion? – L.H.

Dear L.H.: That's great that you are able to raise service dogs. The use of service animals is more widespread as people realize the benefits of the human-animal bond. The answer to your questions is both. There isn't a clear-cut dichotomy between companion and service animals. While a seeing-eye dog may be on duty while walking down the street, he is as cuddly and loving as any pet when it comes time to relax.

Animal-assisted therapy takes advantage of the positive psychological changes animal interaction brings. For some people, this can mean owning a pet, but for those who can't be a pet owner, it is possible to reap the benefits just by visiting with a dog or cat – or a well-trained alpaca or goat – for an hour or two. There also are specially trained service animals that can help people deal with problems like depression or bipolar disorder. These service animals can help restore joy to a person suffering from a psychological disorder.

(c) 2011 by King Features Syndicate

Family Circus • Bil Keane

"Sorry, that's how it is. I'm your sister, so you're always gonna hafta be my brother."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★   6/27

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★   6/24

Cryptoquip

F LOONVR CJROBFLSO HJE

JLI XRLKSRI CJRFK PKLWC

WKEV LPCKROO BLNXL HRKR

BKRSCFOO' LBBKRSCFPRO.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SUPPOSING YOU INTERFERE RUDELY AT FOUR IN THE MORNING, IS THAT THE MEDDLE OF THE NIGHT?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals S

Bridge • Steve Becker

West dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A 5
♥ A 10 5
♦ A 10 8 4
♣ J 10 6 5

WEST
♠ K J 8 7 4
♥ K 2
♦ K Q 7 5 3
♣ 9

EAST
♠ Q 3 2
♥ J 9 7
♦ J 9 2
♣ K 8 7 4

SOUTH
♠ 10 9 6
♥ Q 8 6 4 3
♦ 6
♣ A Q 3 2

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥
1 ♠	2 ♥	2 ♠	3 ♣
3 ♠	4 ♥	Pass	4 ♥

Opening lead — seven of spades.

Famous Hand

There are some deals where the whole does not seem to be composed of the sum of its parts. Today's deal from the 1988 Spingold Teams provides a case in point.

South was Bart Bramley, who arrived at a shaky four-heart contract following the highly competitive auction shown. Bramley ducked the opening spade lead to East's queen, whereupon East shifted to the diamond deuce.

Declarer took the queen with the ace and led a low heart to the queen, losing to West's king. West returned a low diamond to the eight and nine, ruffed by South.

Bramley now led a trump to the ace, hoping the jack would appear. When it didn't, he turned his attention to clubs, successfully finessing the jack. The ten of clubs was then covered by the king and ace as West discarded a diamond.

At this point, it seemed Bramley was certain to lose four tricks – a club to East's eight, the jack of hearts, and the heart and spade tricks already lost. But Bramley proceeded to prove otherwise.

After taking the club ace, he led a spade to the ace and ruffed a diamond. He then ruffed the spade ten and led dummy's last diamond.

By this time, 10 tricks had been played, and Bramley had won eight of them. East's last three cards were the 8-7 of clubs and the jack of hearts, while South had the Q-3 of clubs and eight of hearts. No matter what East chose to do on the diamond lead from dummy, Bramley could not be prevented from scoring the queen of clubs and eight of hearts, and the game was home.

What happened to East's two "sure" tricks at the end? Well, dear reader, we leave it to you to figure out how four tricks for the defense and 10 for the declarer can add up to 13.

(c) 2011 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Forum garb
5 Life story, for short
8 Snake's tooth
12 Grand tale
13 Conclusion
14 Operatic rendition
15 Painter Chagall
16 Being philanthropic
18 Dull indifference
20 Soda-shop treat
21 Dire prophecy
23 Two fives
24 Try
28 Antelope's playmate
31 Meadow
32 Weary
34 Firmament
35 Departed
37 Check beneficiary
39 Dandy
41 Garbage barge
42 Anchored
45 It gets the lead out
49 Ingratiated
51 Staff member?
52 Use a teaspoon
53 Eggs
55 Two-way
55 14-Across, e.g.
56 Apiece
57 Partner in wartime

DOWN
1 Office part-timer
2 Colorful fish
3 Child without a Y chromosome
4 Give consent
5 2007 film featuring Seinfeld's voice
6 Hostel
7 Probability
8 Was obsequious
9 Sahara-like quality
10 1492 ship
11 "Eleni" author Nicholas
17 See 29-Down
19 Capricorn
22 Early periods
24 Right angle
25 Born
26 Jonquil's cousin
27 Fragrant wood
29 With 17-Down, supplement
30 Deli bread
33 Entrance
36 Matador
38 African nation
40 Carrot companion?
42 Disarray
43 Aware of
44 Let fall
46 "Heart and —"
47 List-ending abbr.
48 Depend (on)
50 First lady

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Saturday's answer   6-27