

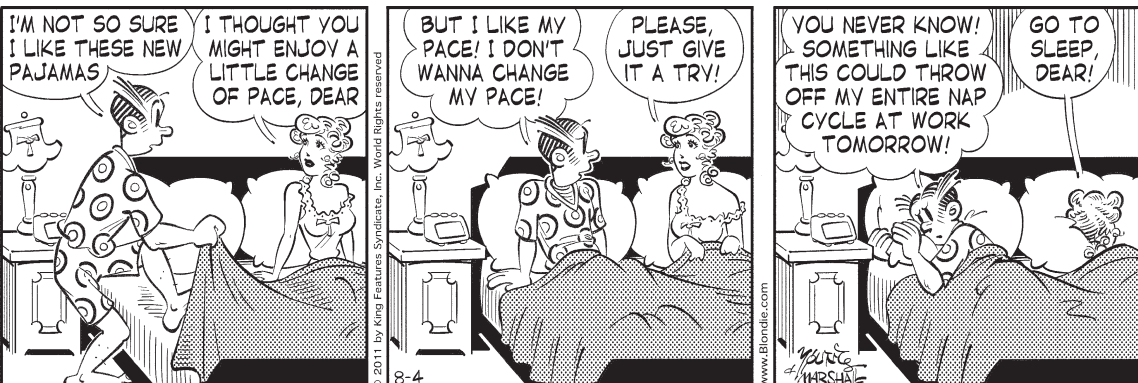
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



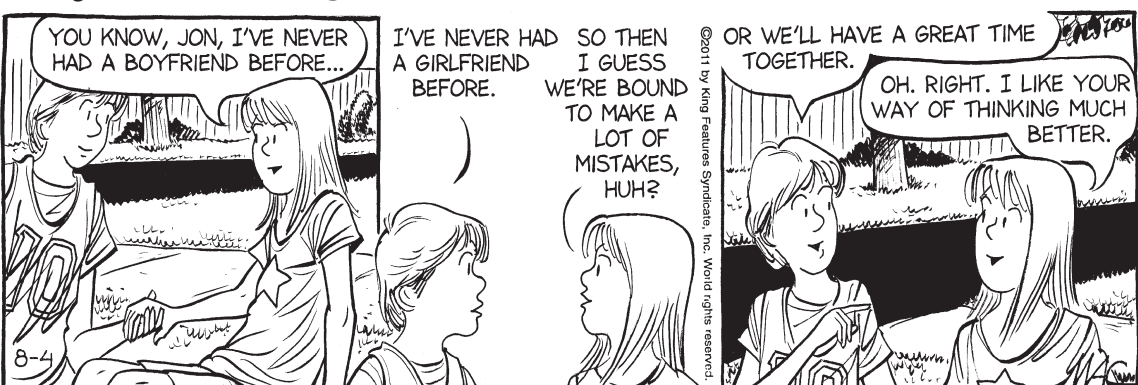
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



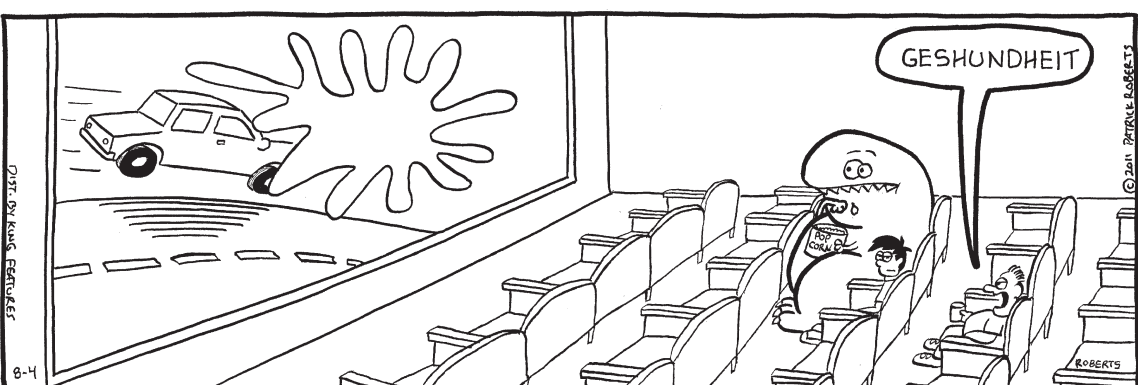
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



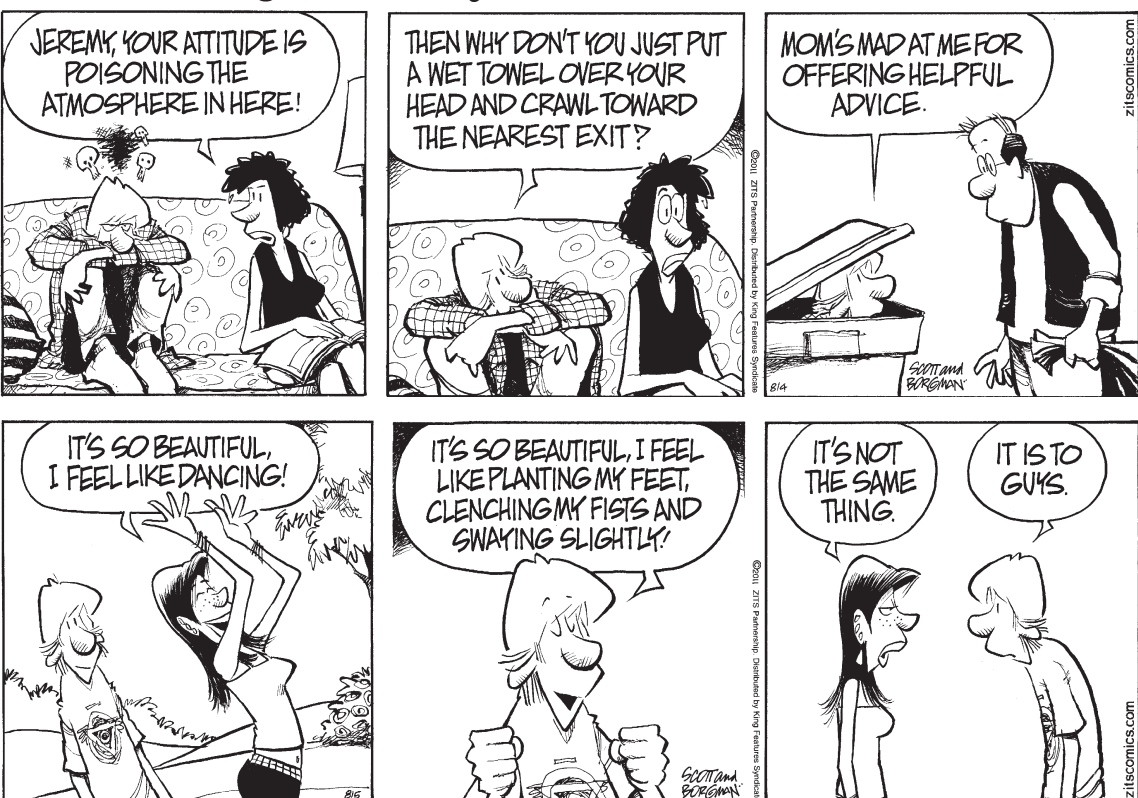
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers
• Ask Dr. Brothers

Living alone not wonderful

Dear Dr. Brothers: My dream of living in my own apartment after graduation is turning into a nightmare. I can't really afford to do anything once I have paid the rent, and my parents were awfully helpful before when it came to laundry, grocery shopping, cooking, etc. Yeah, I have privacy, but really I am pretty lonely. Should I tell my mom and dad how I feel, or just keep quiet and hope I can adjust somehow? I am 19. — D.L.

Dear D.L.: It sounds like you graduated from high school and went right into the work force, which shows you have maturity and should be proud of the independence you have shown. What you may not realize is you are facing the same struggle as people three or four years older who have college degrees to help achieve a level of income that makes things easier. Having a roommate would help take care of several stressors: loneliness, financial problems, things to do after work and even shopping and cooking.

Getting a roommate might feel like more of a successful move than one that leads back toward your parents' basement. But, as I'm sure you know, that move also is a risky one. Everything depends on your ability to pick or move in with the right person — someone you like and respect and can live with successfully. So you might try asking someone you know and are friendly with who is in the same situation. In any case, it's good you are recognizing the problems in independent living and are not just sitting home sulking, but are planning to do something about it.

Dear Dr. Brothers: It has been several months since tornadoes swept our area, and my family and I are still suffering. While we weren't hurt and didn't lose our home, we are fearful whenever a storm comes by. It is difficult for my husband and me to comfort our 8- and 10-year-old sons when we are scared ourselves. We know there isn't anything to fear from regular storms, but don't know how to stop worrying. Help! — F.F.

Dear F.F.: I'm sorry you went through such a traumatic experience and are suffering from the aftereffects. And the fact that you and your family came through unscathed doesn't mean you are able to just forget that it all happened. But there are several things you can do to make your family's transition back to a calm, happy life an easier one. Make sure you and your kids have people to talk to who understand what you have been through and can empathize with your fear and anxiety. Even school friends can be a comfort if they are feeling the same way as your kids.

Find some professional guidance if you need it — there are people whose job it is to lead you through this turbulent time. If you get back to routines and make sure your family is getting plenty of sleep and eating properly, that will help give them the reserves to handle a tough emotional load. Don't be afraid to take a vacation for a change of scenery — and pick someplace not visited daily by bad weather. Your nerves deserve a quiet, safe haven where you can recover. Take some time to help others affected by the storms — you may be surprised to find reserves you didn't know you had. And finally, give yourselves plenty of time to heal. It's not going to be an overnight process.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

East dealer. Neither side vulnerable.
NORTH
 ♠ Q 9 7 5 3
 ♥ A 9 8
 ♦ K J 10 2
 ♣ K
WEST
 ♠ A K J 2
 ♥ K 10 5
 ♦ 9 6 4
 ♣ 7 6 5
EAST
 ♠ 6 4
 ♥ J 4
 ♦ 8 3
 ♣ A Q J 10 9 4 3
SOUTH
 ♠ 10 8
 ♥ Q 7 6 3 2
 ♦ A Q 7 5
 ♣ 8 2

The bidding:
 East 3♣ South Pass West North
 Pass 3♥ Pass 3♥

Opening lead — king of spades.

A Psychological Ploy

Part of the skill in good declarer play consists of inducing the defenders to make mistakes. It is not rare for a defender to make a mistake on his own that he shouldn't have; far more noteworthy is the occasion when declarer induces him to make that mistake.

Consider this deal where South got to three hearts on the bidding shown. West led the king of spades and shifted to the seven of clubs. East took dummy's king of clubs with the ace and returned his remaining spade to partner's ace. West then played another club, ruffed in dummy with the eight of hearts.

South had lost the first three tricks and so could afford to lose only one trump trick. This was impossible to do legitimately as the cards lay, but South found a way to make the contract anyway.

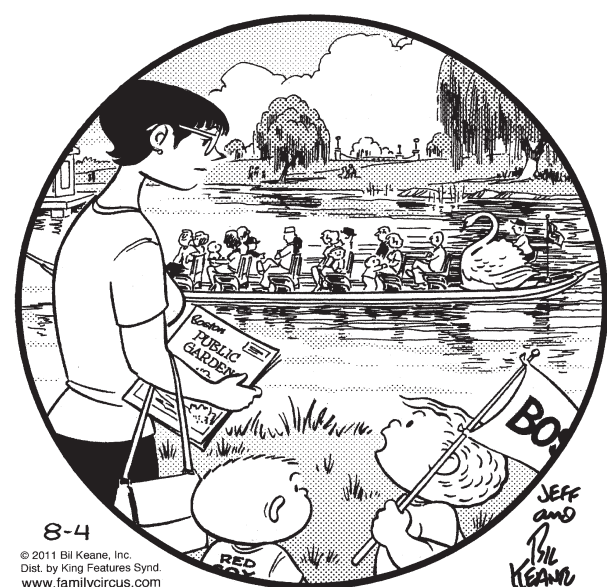
At trick five, he led the queen of spades from dummy, even though he had no use whatsoever for a discard on dummy's high spade. The ruse succeeded beautifully when East, instead of discarding, ruffed the queen of spades with the four of hearts.

South overruffed the four with the six and led the queen of trumps. West covered with the king, taken by dummy's ace as East's singleton jack fell. Declarer then led dummy's nine of hearts to West's ten.

It did not matter what West returned. South's seven of hearts eventually captured West's five, and declarer made the contract instead of going down one. The trap declarer laid by playing the apparently useless queen of spades from dummy at trick five worked to perfection.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/04

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

Cryptoquip

HVWRTO PYLVM-YE-UMO EFVPS

UAYTD U DOOI NJY WDUHDW

TK U FVRTYH PYLKUIC:

" NJVWZOC ATWVIOWW."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I BELIEVE THE ROAD CREW GUYS WHO LOVED GROOMING THEIR HAIR WERE BUSY ARRANGING TRAFFIC COMBS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals U

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN | ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Six-pack muscles | 41 Regret | 16 Piercing tool | 20 Taste |
| 4 "Huh?" | 42 Conger, e.g. | 21 Futile | 22 Staffer |
| 8 Splender | 44 Coy | 23 Sweet potato | 27 Puke |
| 12 Splice in the wrong place | 46 Puts in the | 28 Fight | 29 Fight |
| 13 Ginormous | 50 Tatter | 30 Complaints | 31 Duel |
| 14 Last few notes | 51 Help stylishly | 32 Feebly | 33 Less |
| 15 Good poker hand | 52 Vigor | 34 Embrace | 35 Old man |
| 17 Stead | 56 Paddock | 36 Ottoman bigwig | 38 Verily |
| 18 Possess | 57 "My bad" | 37 Aquarium fish | 40 Singer |
| 19 Weapon collection | 58 Writer Buscaglia | 38 Verily | 40 Singer |
| 21 San Fernando, for one | 59 Despot | 39 Pork cut | 41 Brewer |
| 24 Melody | 60 Dalai Lama | 10 Concept | 43 Disinfectant |
| 25 Have a bug | 61 Tackle's teammate | 11 Man-handle | 45 Chap |
| 26 Witted | | | 46 Spar |
| 28 Stickum | | | 47 Wading bird |
| 32 March 15, e.g. | | | 48 Antitoxins |
| 34 Central | | | 49 Old portico |
| 36 Bring to a halt | | | 53 Spinning stat |
| 37 Bold | | | 54 Coffee break |
| 39 Roscoe | | | 55 Scuttle |

Solution time: 25 mins.

DNA		DADA		SAGE				
TON		ERIC		URAL				
SAN		EIGHT		BALL				
CHAMP		YET						
		ISBN		ELDER				
STATE		AID		EASE				
URN		ANTIS		NAE				
MINK		GREAT		AUK				
SPOOR		ORNE						
		WAN		CABIN				
		WAIT		FORIT		EVE		
		AFRO		PERU		TAX		
		STEW		EDAM		ANT		

Yesterday's answer 8-4

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
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		
59				60				61		