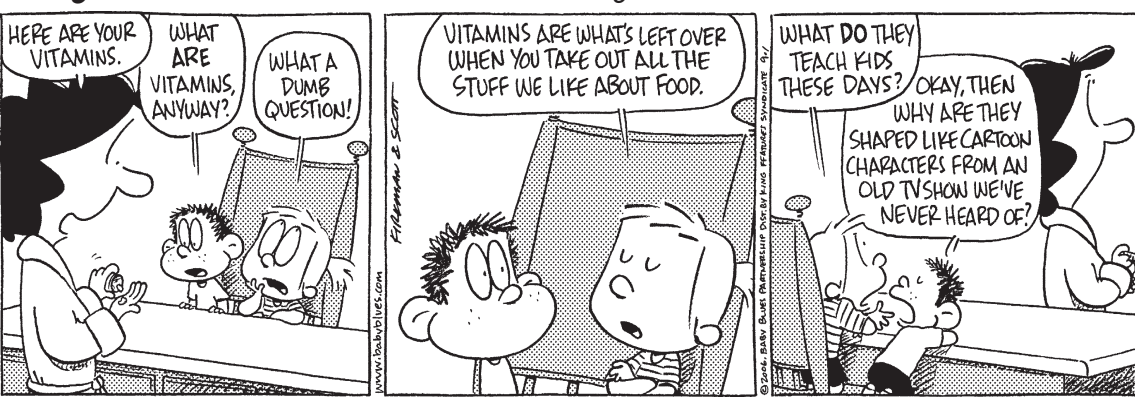


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



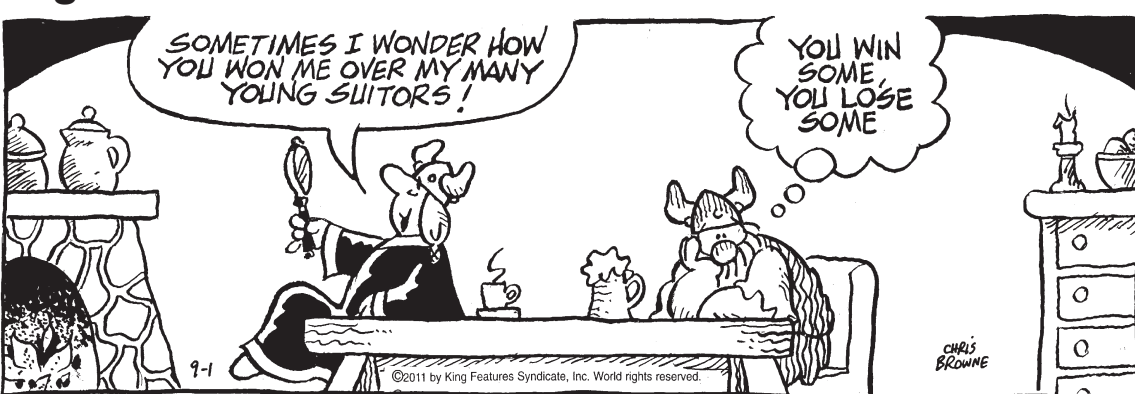
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



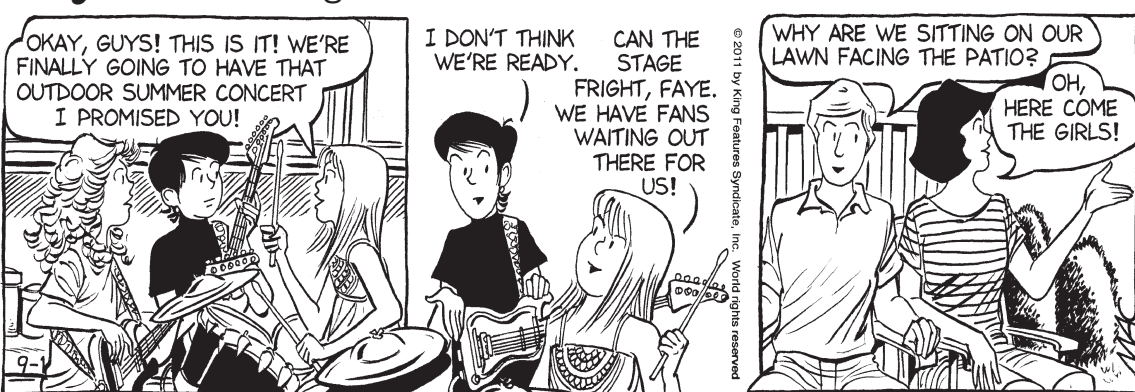
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



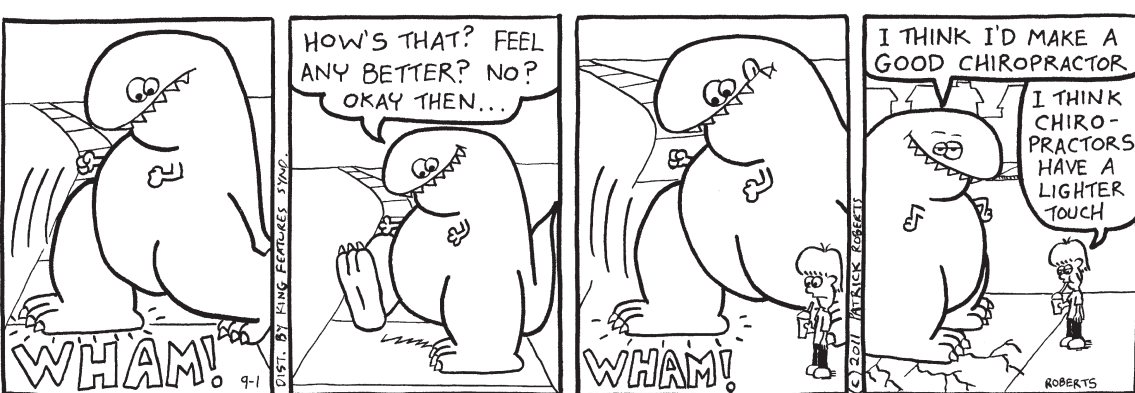
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



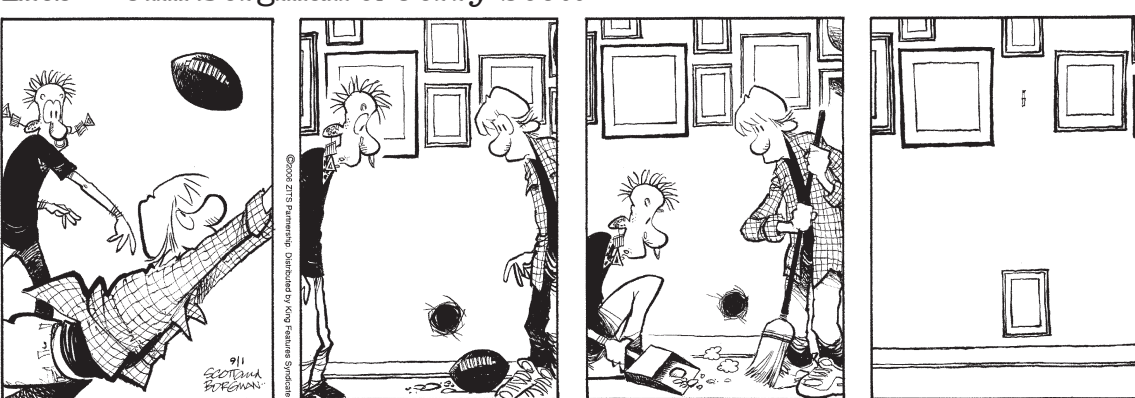
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers
• Ask Dr. Brothers
Strangers bother this only child

Dear Dr. Brothers: I'm a single mom of a great little boy who is 2 1/2. He's wonderful in a one-on-one situation, but we haven't spent much time with other children, so he's a little shy. The problem is that when people come to the house, especially a bunch of workers, he freaks out. He starts whining and crying and wants me to go to his room with him instead of talking to the workmen. Is this something he will outgrow? - M.G.

Dear M.G.: You sound like a devoted mom who is sensitive to your son's moods and his needs. Your strong bond is a good thing. But there may be a chance you are keeping your son in an environment where he is not able to get used to others. He sounds as though he may be isolated socially, and when he is presented with more than one person at a time it is overwhelming for his sensitive nature. So rather than shield him more, it might be a good idea to start gradually exposing him to people, places and things. Gradually expand his frame of reference so he can face the world with more confidence.

But your problem with the workmen might not be straightforward. By whining and crying, your son could be making his displeasure known as well as his discomfort. He wants you all to himself; it's a common reaction for toddlers and preschoolers to register unhappiness when Mommy is busy with other people. Working on a routine where you have something for him to do while you talk nearby might help him gain patience. Soon he will know that when workmen come, it's time to get out his crayons or toy cars for fun.

Dear Dr. Brothers: My daughter and I have always been close, and she had a good relationship with her father, although they didn't spend much time together. She is a middle-school student with friends and good grades. But she has started fighting with me about everything, and is now clearly partial to her dad. I asked him what's going on, and he said he is finally getting to know her. What can I do to get back her love? - E.H.

Dear E.H.: I don't think you really have lost your daughter's love. It must be very upsetting to have her pick fights about everything under the sun, and then have your husband be a silent partner in her hurtful behavior. But her behavior is typical for a young teen beginning to feel her power as a female, and who can see her formerly perfect mom as a human with flaws to be pointed out. Many young girls go through the stage until they discover who they are and where they fit into the family with another adult woman. Perhaps you had a way of rebelling that wasn't as distinct, and you probably still loved your parents.

This is not to say your daughter should learn that it is OK to say hurtful things. Remind her that both you and her dad love her, but you won't put up with behavior that is rude or mean. Your husband should join you in letting her know she will need to curtail her gratuitous attacks on you. Soon she should lower the volume and return to being someone you want to be around.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"No way! I was watchin' 'Animal Planet' and they didn't say anything about bears eating porridge."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/01

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.

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

Cryptoquip

VKPF IKP LHMCS ZSYG "Y
CPSAAN AHUP PFUPFHJYFT
OPHOAP," Y'G ZSN IKSI
VSZ S MYIYFT LHJPPFISCN.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A GEARWHEEL WERE FEELING REALLY ANTISOCIAL AND TESTY, IT MIGHT CRY "DON'T MESH WITH ME!"
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals P

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| ACROSS | 41 Tri-umphed | DOWN | 1 "Go, team!" | 16 Charged bit |
| 1 Tear screen spot | 42 Pick a target | 2 Altar affirmative | 20 Agt. Luxurious | 21 Sky-walker of sci-fi |
| 8 Speaker of baseball lore | 46 Old Glory features | 3 Father of Pochontas | 23 Bill Perule | 27 Ranch staff |
| 12 Commo- org. | 50 PBS funding | 4 Pancake make-up? | 29 Entangle-ment | 31 Mitsubishi competi- tor |
| 13 Right-hand person | 51 Hula — Street partnership | 5 Claiborne of fashion | 30 Concept | 37 Roost |
| 14 Abhor cannon | 52 Wall Troubles | 7 Mathem- atical proposition | 7 Roost | 8 Mace |
| 15 Short | 56 Neigh- borhood | 9 Reason for a tarpaulin | 8 Roost | 9 Reason for a tarpaulin |
| 17 Hibernia | 57 NASA or NATO | 10 Macy Gray hit song | 10 Macy Gray hit song | 11 Appear |
| 18 Stolen | 58 Mercury or Saturn | 11 Appear | 11 Appear | |
| 19 NASA or NATO | 59 Sheltered duration | | | |
| 21 Mercury or Saturn | 60 Reply to "Shall we?" | | | |
| 24 Yon maiden | 61 Baltimore news- paper | | | |
| 25 No longer stylish | | | | |
| 26 Uncivilized | | | | |
| 28 Bushel fourths | | | | |
| 32 Old card game | | | | |
| 34 Auction action | | | | |
| 36 Stereo alternative | | | | |
| 37 "Give me liberty ..." speaker | | | | |
| 39 Pistol | | | | |

Solution time: 25 mins.

MAO	COLT	DASH			
AUX	AREA	OBEO			
TRE	PETRO	LEUM			
LANA	ITSA	AOL			
PETRAEUS	HAREM	ROPE			
RAW	LEGIT	AIT			
ISIS	PETRARCH				
GETUP	REEF				
ROO	ATLAS				
PETRIIFIED	OIL				
OPIE	FOAL	ODE			
WAXY	SURE	PAD			

Yesterday's answer 9-1

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	

Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ A
♥ 93
♦ A943
♣ J10983
WEST
♠ KJ10972
♥ Q104
♦ 65
♣ K5
EAST
♠ 53
♥ 872
♦ K872
♣ 7642
SOUTH
♠ Q864
♥ AKJ65
♦ QJ10
♣ A
The bidding:
South 1♥ West 1♠ North 2♣ East Pass
3 NT
Opening lead — jack of spades.

Scintillating Defense

A defender should look for every clue he can find to try to overcome the natural disadvantage suffered by his side. He usually does not know the combined assets he and his partner hold, while declarer can see exactly where his strengths and weaknesses lie. To overcome this handicap, a defender should try to avail himself of every possible source of information. He always has the bidding to go on, as well as the plays already made by his partner and declarer. Often, he can draw crucial inferences from the clues that emerge.

Consider this deal where declarer won the jack-of-spades lead in dummy and finessed the jack of hearts. West took the queen and then found the only return to defeat the contract.

Gauging the situation perfectly, West led the five of clubs! South won with the ace and, after cashing four heart tricks, finessed the queen of diamonds. East took the king and returned a spade, and West cashed two spades and a club to nip the contract by a trick.

Had West led any other card at trick three, South would have gotten home safe and sound. The club lead looks suicidal, yet it was a very sound play.

West had several good clues at his disposal. He could not be absolutely certain of the location of the ace of clubs, but he calculated that the club return was safe regardless of who had it.

If East had the ace, the club play was surely right, since it would induce a spade return, while if South had the ace, it was bound to be singleton! West drew this inference from the fact that South surely would not have tackled hearts rather than clubs had he held the A-x of clubs. Declarer's failure to try to establish dummy's clubs strongly indicated that the suit was not of much use to him, and West took full advantage of that knowledge.

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