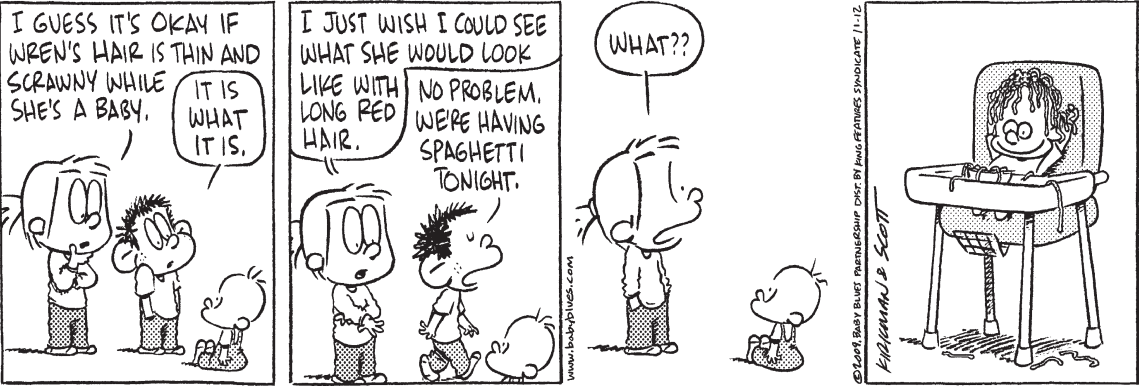
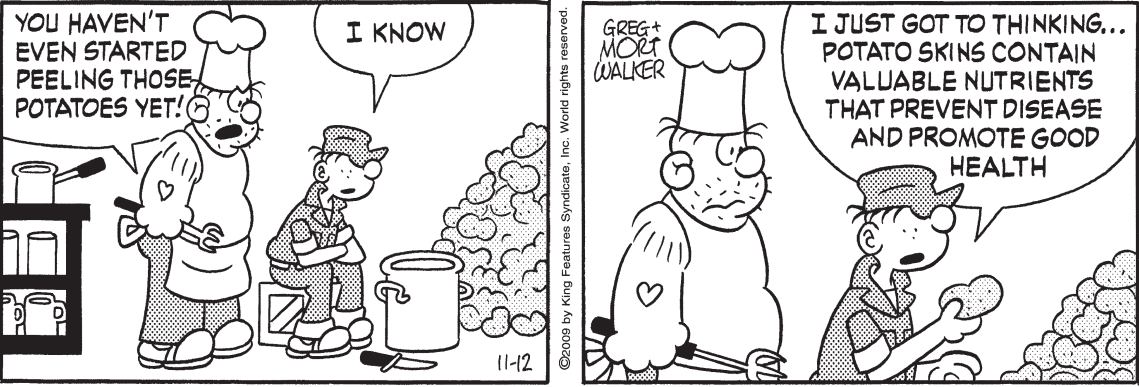


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



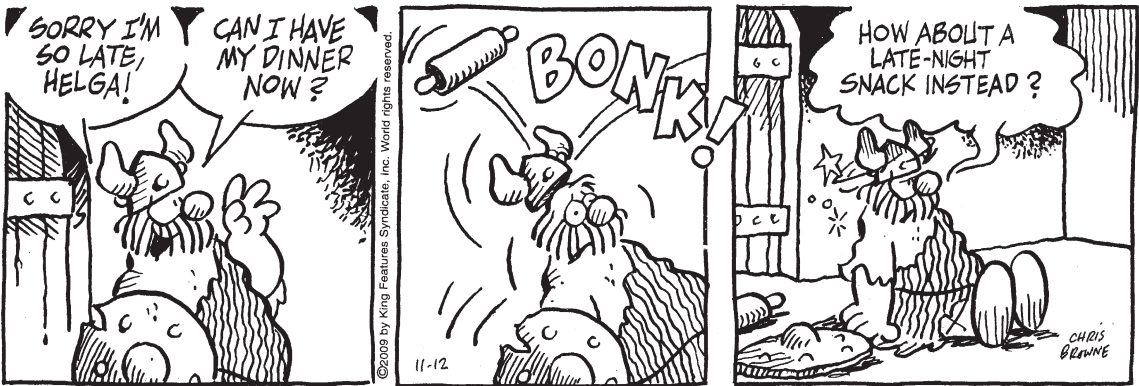
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



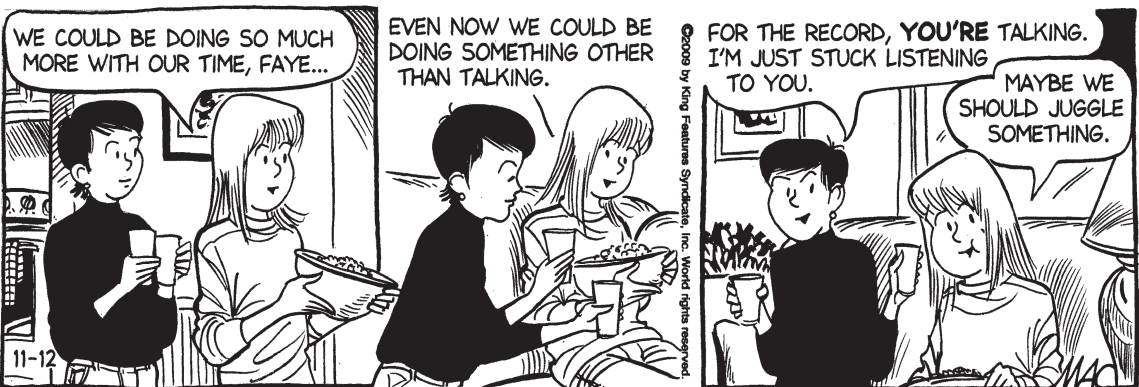
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



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

Sister controls all kid's choices

Dear Dr. Brothers: My big sister (she's 36, I'm 32) has always been controlling and bossy. And I am being kind! She spent most of my youth ordering me around and trying to run my life. She is now trying to pick my niece's friends, not to mention her clothes, activities, etc. This was fine when she was 3, but now my niece is 7 and wants to make her own choices. Advice? – H.T.

Dear H.T.: It is difficult being the auntie who can look at the mother and see all the flaws that were thorns in your side as you were growing up. She probably has some very good attributes – firstborns tend to be take-charge individuals, and that brings some excellent traits when it comes to responsibility. But it also can put them over the top when it comes to bossiness, as you found out growing up. You probably were the younger sister who became the person she practiced on as a little mother! Now you want more freedom for your niece, with whom you undoubtedly identify.

One way to make a difference for this child is to volunteer to take her shopping or to the playground. Would your sister relinquish control enough for you to do this? It would take only a few trips, in which you gave your niece freedom to choose her own items, for her to get experience that will give her motivation to speak up and tell her mom she'd like to choose her own! You can start with small items, such as a bracelet or pair of flip-flops. This way, sis can't really object. It may take a sit-down with her to talk about what she fears would come from her daughter picking friends, but that might be a good investment of your time. Just do it in a loving, supportive way.

Dear Dr. Brothers: Maybe it is because I went to a small, private high school, but I never had experience of bad manners. So now that I am in college, it is strange to see how some of my fellow students behave in class. They have no respect for professors, and are constantly sleeping, eating, texting, talking back to them as though the professor was stupid and so on. I was taught to respect authority, and I want to know how to not be so upset by this. – G.C.

Dear G.C.: Your question implies that you realize you would be unable to change your fellow students' behavior, and you just want to adjust to them so you are not so emotionally affected. That's sad, but realistic. I doubt you could change a class full of disrespectful students by yourself. But you can make sure you don't lower your standards in order to "fit in." You should be able to maintain your relationship with the professor – one of a traditional teacher and pupil – without bringing behavior issues into your experience. If it really bothers you, there is always an opportunity to meet privately with the professor and express your chagrin, but you might be mistaken for a brownnoser, so be careful!

Any number of polls and surveys have found that people consider others more rude now than in previous generations. And much anecdotal evidence backs up what you are saying about how college students behave in class. It is almost as though the professor is not as valuable a source of information as in previous years, since kids get so much of their knowledge through the Internet now. But good manners are always appropriate, and if your fellow students appall you, just wait a few months. Unfortunately, you will get used to it. Just don't join them!

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Bridge • Steve Becker

East dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH		EAST	
♦ K 10 7 2		♦ 4	
♥ A 9 5		♥ 10 8 6 4 3	
♣ K J 6		♣ 9 8 4 3 2	
♦ Q J 3		♦ 6 2	

WEST		SOUTH	
♦ 18 6 3		♦ A Q 9 5	
♥ 7 2		♥ K Q J	
♣ 7 5		♣ A Q 10	
♦ 10 9 8 7 4		♦ A K 5	

The bidding:
East Pass 3 NT
South Pass
West Pass
North 7 NT
Opening lead — ten of clubs.

Voyage of Discovery
A player doesn't often get the chance to bid seven notrump at his very first turn, but that's what happened to North on this deal. Considering the circumstances, though, he was on very firm ground. South's three-notrump bid indicated 25 to 27 high-card points, which in turn meant that the most East-West could have was one point, so North could hardly have done less than raise to seven.

West led the ten of clubs, and South could see at once that he had 12 absolutely sure tricks, with a probable 13th in spades.

But since either opponent might have been dealt four (or five) spades to the jack – which could easily be overcome if declarer knew which opponent had the spade length -- South had to play carefully. He began by cashing three club tricks, learning that West had started with five cards in that suit.

Then, continuing the exploratory process, South next cashed three heart tricks and three diamond tricks, revealing in the process that West had been dealt exactly two hearts and two diamonds. These developments proved conclusively that West had started with four spades.

Accordingly, South next played the A-Q of spades, East showing out, as expected, on the second spade. It was then a simple matter to lead another spade toward dummy and score the K-10 to bring in the grand slam.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/12

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

Cryptoquip

DAND NQQEBNMD BOU FAE

FNR FEQYKMB EM NXX DAERV

FNDVQDKBAD RVNXR ANZ

ROJA N JNOXY-U NDDKDOZV!

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A CERTAIN RODENT LIKES TO RESIDE IN THE CAPITAL OF OMAN, I SUPPOSE THAT'S A MUSCAT MUSKRAT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals L

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| ACROSS | 38 Final approval | DOWN | 20 Museum fill |
| 1 Hardly hirsute | 40 End of a Des-cartes quote | 1 Magnitude | 22 Sound portion |
| 5 Last few notes | 41 Expenditure | 2 Largest of the seven | 23 Holyoke founder |
| 9 Hairdo goo | 43 Comments to the audience | 3 Tax | 24 Request Mary |
| 12 Addict | 47 Monk's address | 4 Really hand-some | 25 Witness |
| 13 Any time now | 48 Measuring device | 5 Eliot-based musical | 26 Needle location? |
| 14 Raw rock | 51 Buddy | 6 Yoko of music | 27 Jokes |
| 15 Farm animals | 52 Unpaid | 7 Elmer, to Bugs | 29 Aye undoer |
| 17 Play-ground game | 53 Roll call | 8 Bracelet location | 30 Prior to |
| 18 River craft | 54 Wapiti | 9 Couldn't proceed | 35 Droop |
| 19 Cow catcher? | 55 Solidifies | 10 Historic periods | 37 Margaret Chase |
| 21 "Heavens!" | 56 Poker variety | 11 Toy block name | 39 Vacillates |
| 22 On the qui vive | | 16 Firma-ment | 40 Donkey |
| 24 Wan | | | 41 "... so why not take all —?" |
| 27 Fellow | | | 42 Caspian feeder |
| 28 Pull strings? | | | 43 Puts two and two together |
| 31 Red or Black | | | 44 Regimen |
| 32 Commotion | | | 45 Beige |
| 33 Gridlock component | | | 46 Time-table, for short |
| 34 Jailer's janglers | | | 49 Shock and — |
| 36 Card-table cry | | | 50 On pension (Abbr.) |
| 37 Terrier type | | | |

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 11-12

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			