

Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



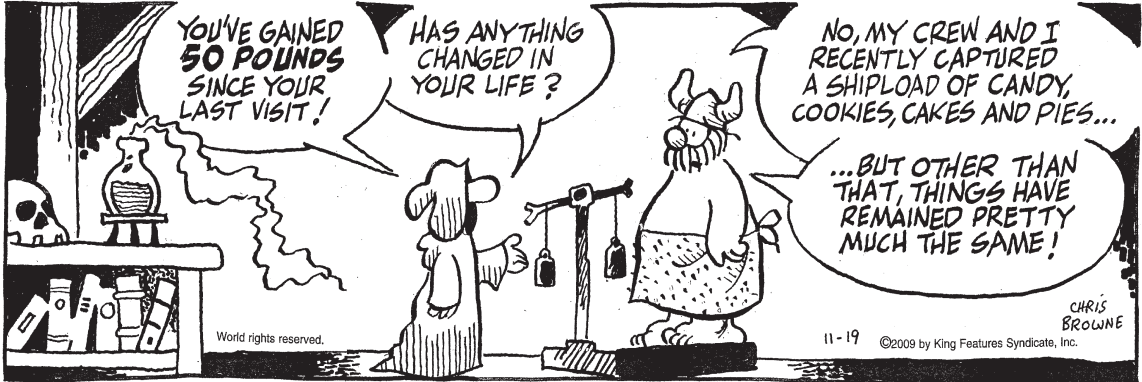
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



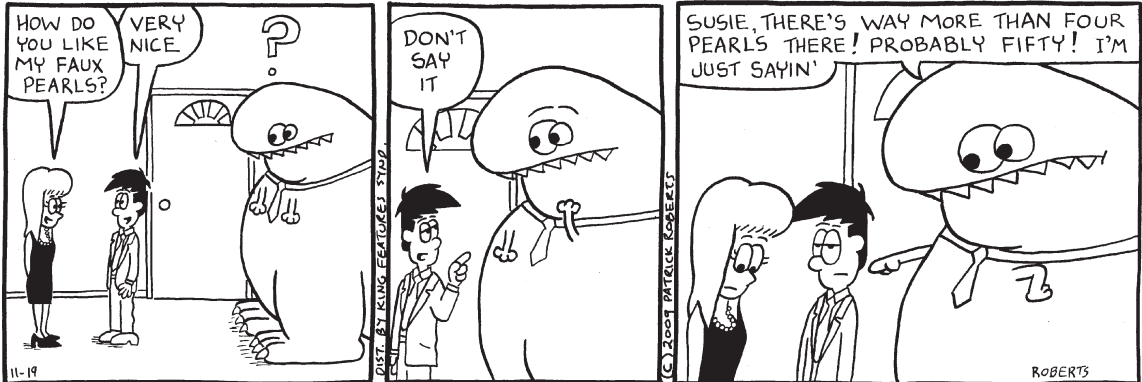
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



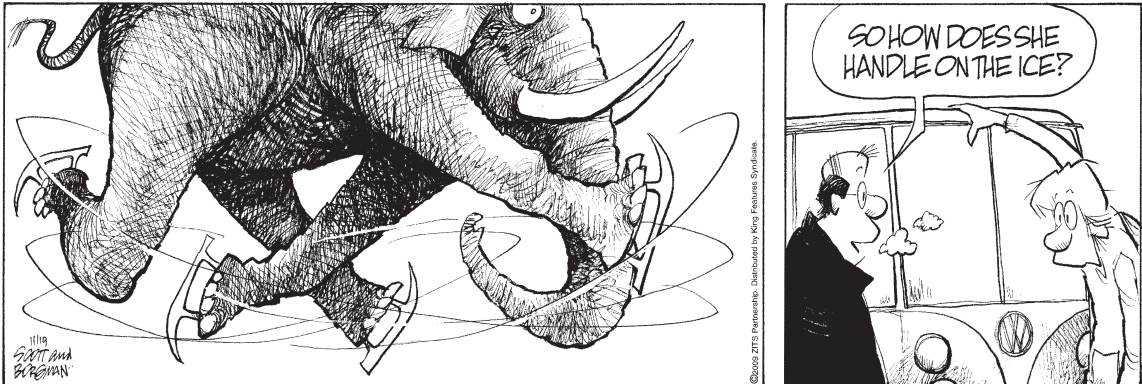
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Bilingual babies have a head start

Dear Dr. Brothers: I am a native Spanish-speaker, and my husband has learned Spanish. We both place a lot of value on being bilingual, but I know how hard learning English can be for a nonnative speaker. We are due to have our first child soon, and are undecided on whether to raise him with both Spanish and English, or solely with English. Is there any benefit or problem with being a bilingual kid, especially in school? – K.B.

Dear K.B.: There are a lot of reasons to learn languages as early as possible, most notably because the earlier you start learning a language, the easier it is. For example, babies being raised to be bilingual will learn two languages in the same time as it would take them to learn one, simply by speaking to them in both languages. There are many myths about raising bilingual children, including that the child will end up mixing languages. Actually, bilingual children even have an easier time learning a third language later in life than their monolingual counterparts.

In addition to this, if your son identifies himself as an ethnic minority, learning the community language can connect him to a parent culture and strengthen his link with your family. Being bilingual is seen as cosmopolitan. There is a growing interest among multilinguals in “complementary schools,” which teach in multiple languages and give the opportunity to develop academic skills across multiple languages. For information on raising multilingual children, try the Multilingual Children’s Association Web site, at [www.multilingualchildren.org](http://www.multilingualchildren.org). For specific Spanish bilingual information, try [www.spanglishbaby.com](http://www.spanglishbaby.com).

Dear Dr. Brothers: My son’s elementary school is trying to get parents more involved with school and learning. This is a nice thought, but a lot of the teachers (specifically my son’s teacher) seem resistant to the idea, and aren’t offering suggestions for what parents can do. I’d like to be more involved, and think it would help my son succeed in school, so how can I reach out to his teacher without overstepping my bounds? – T.J.

Dear T.J.: In an ideal world, schools and parents would work together to educate children and ensure their success as students and as people. By giving parents a more active role in decisions that can affect their kids, schools can bring parents into the fold, but a correct balance is hard to strike in the real world. This is complicated by either overbearing or neglectful parents, who may be a part of the problem. Not parents like you!

A new study in a recent issue of the journal Child and Family Social Work suggests ways parents and schools can work together for the best chance at success. Their strategy revolves around building a team of mentors and role models enlarged to potentially include extended family, social workers, religious leaders or friends. Some teachers are skeptical of this much “outside” involvement. While you cannot change those feelings, you can encourage interaction between schools and parents. If you show teachers that involving parents may have benefits, you will get more cooperation from those who may have been doubtful of the process.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

East dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

♦ 7 5

♥ 8 5 3

♠ A J 9 2

♣ J 9 7 6

WEST

♦ K 8 4

♥ K 10 9

♠ 8 5 4

♣ Q 10 8 3

EAST

♦ K Q 9 2

♥ J 7 4 2

♠ 10 7 6 3

♣ 5

SOUTH

♦ A 10 6 3

♥ A Q 6

♠ K Q

♣ A K 4 2

The bidding:

East South West North

Pass 2 NT Pass 3 NT

Opening lead — three of clubs.

A False Sense of Security

Playing hastily in bridge is analogous, in many ways, to the ancient proverb about marrying in haste and repenting at leisure. Today’s deal provides a case in point.

Assume you’re in three notrump and West leads a club. Dummy’s six holds the first trick, and you apparently have nine sure tricks consisting of a spade, a heart, four diamonds and three clubs.

Lulled by this false sense of security into thinking that it’s all over but the shouting, you try for an overtrick by taking a heart finesse at trick two, losing the queen to the king.

West returns the ten of hearts, and about this time it begins to dawn on you that there’s some doubt about making nine tricks. The four diamond tricks you counted at the start are much easier to count than to cash. If you take the K-Q, there will be no way to reach dummy’s A-J, while if you cash the king and then overtake the queen with the ace, you will make only three diamond tricks unless the ten falls. (In the actual deal it doesn’t, so you finish down one.)

To make matters worse, you now realize where you went wrong. The fault goes back to trick one, when you won the club lead with dummy’s six and should have won with the ace! You could then have played the king of clubs, cashed the K-Q of diamonds and led another club toward dummy’s J-9. Whether West took his queen or not, the jack of clubs would be an entry to the A-J of diamonds, and nine tricks would be assured.

Obviously, it’s clear in retrospect that winning the opening club lead with the ace is correct, but you must give yourself enough time to think of it. If you play too hastily at trick one and allow dummy’s six to win, you will, as the proverb says, have lots of time later to repent at your leisure.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

11/19

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

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

11/19

Cryptoquip

AUT AH SG RPAWT HILTUIW

PLCTW OA OZLUC AH Y

WYLUO EYOILRC'W JYG

EYIYJT YW Y SYIRZ LU SYIRZ.

Yesterday’s Cryptoquip: IF PEOPLE DISCOVER AN EFFECTIVE METHOD FOR REDUCING SMOG, I’D CALL THAT A POLLUTION SOLUTION.

Today’s Cryptoquip Clue: H equals F

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Church service

5 Life story, for short

8 Money

12 Norway’s capital

13 Bobby of hockey

14 Out of the storm

15 Authentic

16 “My Gal —”

17 Charged bits

18 Tribe known for their rugs

20 Swiss river

22 Visiting casually

26 Happy companion?

29 Praise in verse

30 Historic time

31 “Sad to say, ...”

32 Pair

33 Advanced math

34 Zero

35 “Eureka!”

36 Alan Ladd classic

**DOWN**

1 Sunup time

2 Cruising

3 Czech, Serb or Pole

4 Comforts

5 — buddy

6 George’s brother

7 Florida tourist mecca

8 Egypt’s capital

9 Skin cream

10 Congress addr.

11 “— a real nowhere man, ...”

19 Behar of “The View”

**21** Time of your life?

**23** Davenport dweller

**24** Sports-caster

**25** Anger

**26** “Phooey!”

**27** A little of everything

**28** Certain breakup payment

**32** Roaring sound

**33** Add

**35** Past

**36** Prepared

**38** Face parts

**39** Take to the floor

**42** Cinder-ella’s horses, really

**43** Holm oak

**44** “— Si Bon”

**45** Slight amount

**46** Debtor’s letters

**48** “Who am — judge?”

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

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

Yesterday’s answer 11-19

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			