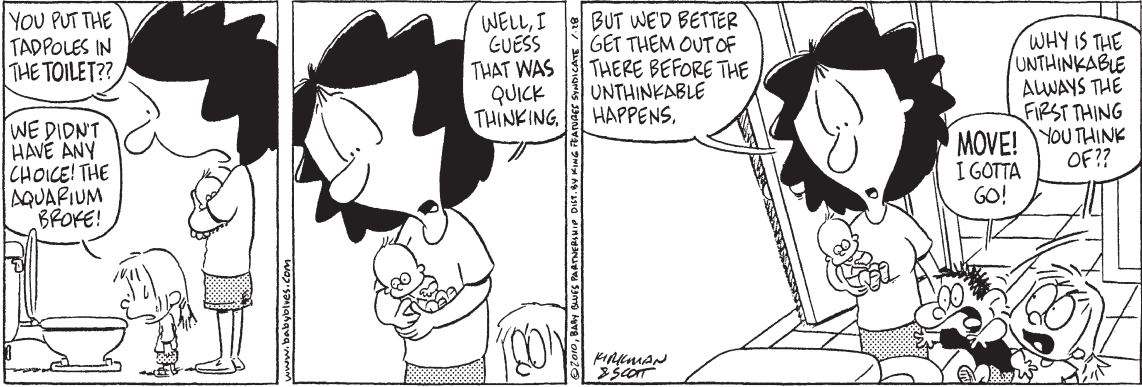
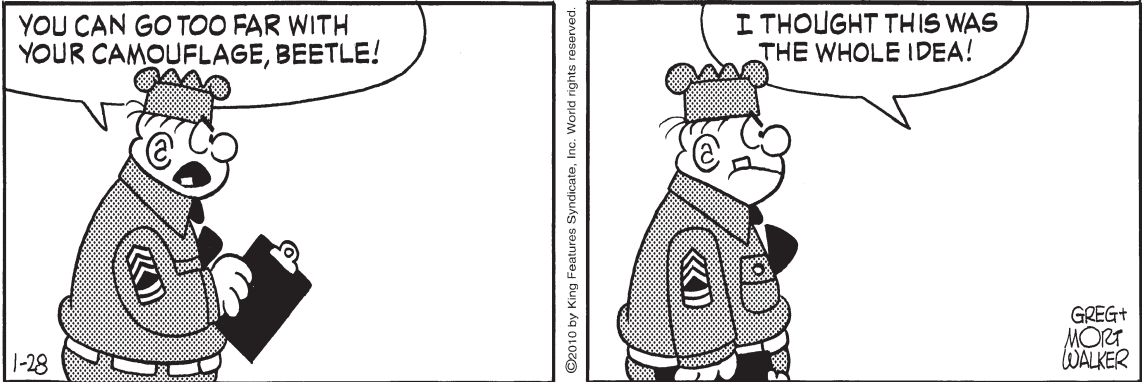


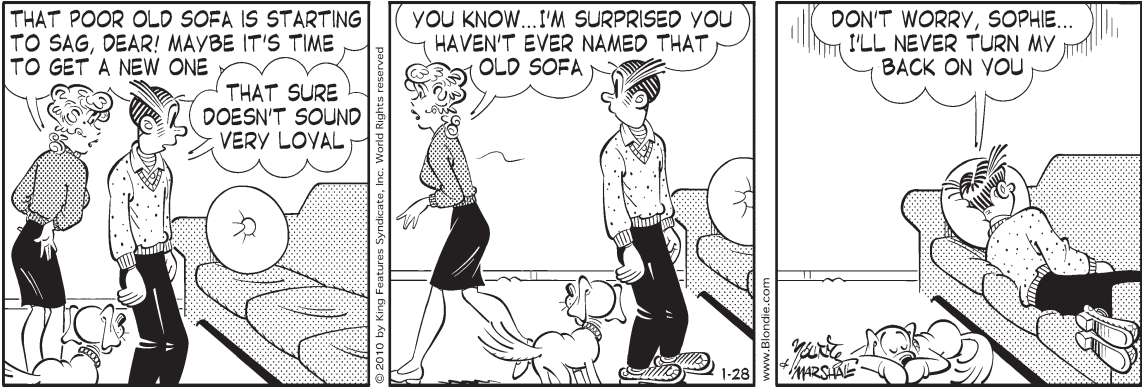
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



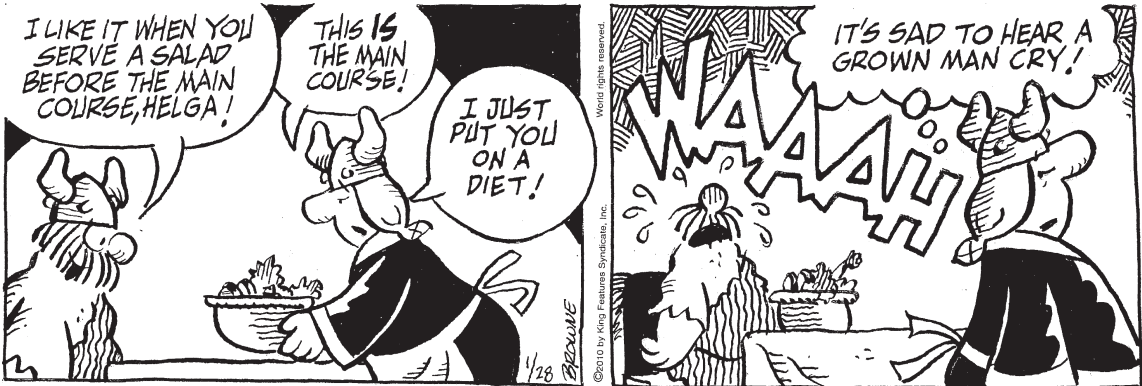
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



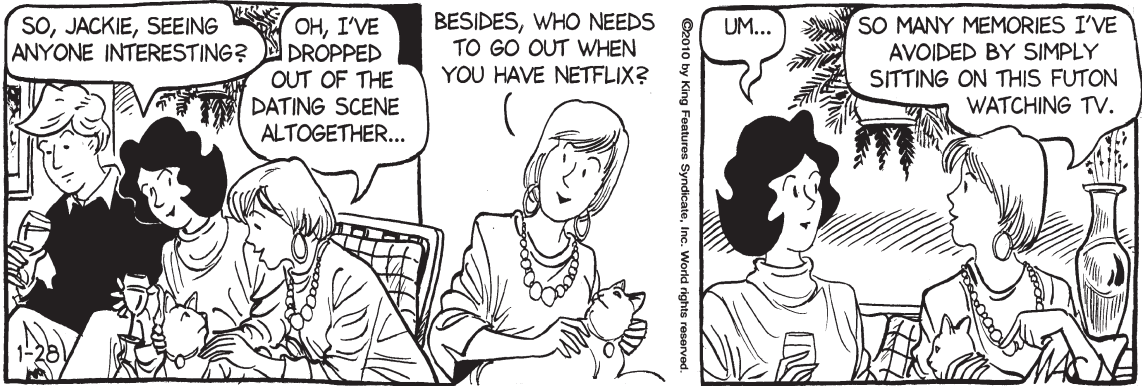
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



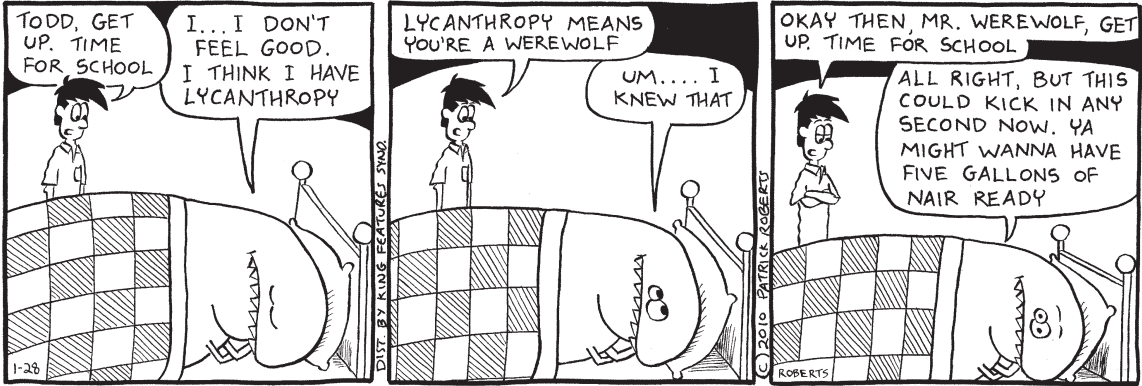
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



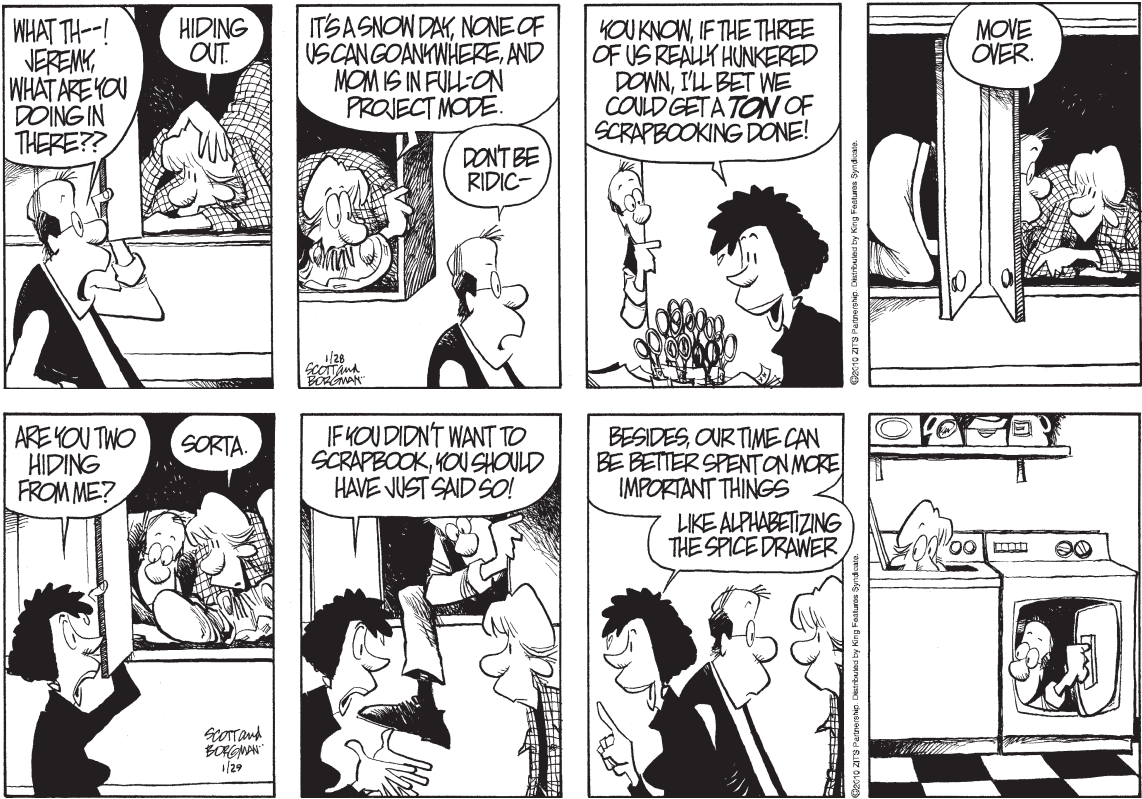
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers
• Ask Dr. Brothers

Parents won't leave baby alone

Dear Dr. Brothers: There is a sweet couple in the apartment next to mine. We are friends, and my 12-year-old likes to visit their new baby. But she tells me they never let the baby be by herself – she is always in the same room as one of the parents. They work at home, and I don't see how they get anything done! Shouldn't the baby sleep in her own room and learn how to comfort herself? She is 2 months old now. – C.V.

Dear C.V.: One of the most exciting things in the world to a new parent is to be near the baby. If the mother is nursing, there is a strong emotional pull to be with her child, and the baby's cries and murmurs stimulate the let-down reflex so that Mom can provide nourishment for her child. Many parents today – fathers included – practice attachment parenting, which includes “wearing” the baby, much like parents in other cultures do. What seems strange to us wouldn't to others, who don't separate parent and child at night or when going about chores during the day. While it may bother you to think of the child in the same room with a working parent, to them it may be the way they feel most comfortable.

But you do have a good point about the child learning to comfort herself. While the first need is for security, a baby also benefits from learning to fall asleep without being held. These will come in time, as the new mother and father feel more comfortable leaving the infant in her own space. As long as they are acting out of love and not fear that something will happen to the baby if she isn't in sight, I don't have a problem with their style. It will be impossible to keep up forever, and they will learn to separate. So let your child see this loving family for just what it is.

Dear Dr. Brothers: Maybe I'm naive, but I just can't get into sports. I've never understood the point of rallying around people I don't know moving a ball I don't care about up and down a field. But I see sports fans going nuts on TV and feel either that I'm missing out or that something is wrong with me. I'm also sick of pretending I care when someone wants to talk sports. I feel like less than a man. What should I do? – B.Y.

Dear B.Y.: There is a wistful note in your question that speaks of the outsider. You don't seem to have the sports fan “gene,” and you wear that admission proudly – after all, why be part of this mob mentality that goes bananas for something as silly as a sports team? On the other hand, you have the feeling you might be missing something. Have you ever considered going to the ballpark and merging into the mob, just to feel the vibes? You may not be a person who can handle crowds and noise and high-running emotions. But at least you would have tried it out.

You are not less than a man – you just don't share the interest that binds some men together. Maybe you'd like another sport, like tennis or bike racing. Or you could try being an athlete yourself. By the way, a study at University of California, Davis, showed that groups that rely on bragging actually open themselves up to threats from other groups. Maybe you just don't like the implied conflict in being a die-hard fan. There's nothing wrong with that. Be true to yourself.
(c) 2010 by King Features Syndicate

Bridge • Steve Becker

East dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ K 10 7
♥ Q J 7 5 2
♦ J 5
♣ 4 3 2

WEST
♠ 2
♥ K
♦ 10 9 6 2
♣ A K J 10 8 7

EAST
♠ A Q J 9 8 4 3
♥ 8 4 3
♦ Q 9 5
♣ 9 5

SOUTH
♠ 6 5
♥ A 10 9 8 6 4 3
♦ A K 7
♣ 6

The bidding:
East 3♠ South 4♥ West All Pass North
Opening lead — king of clubs.

Pinpoint Defense
In bridge, the opportunity for brilliance seldom arises; rather, excellence is dependent upon a player's consistently making the right bid or play whenever it is his turn, even in the most mundane circumstances.

Nevertheless, when the occasion for something special does arise, he should be prepared to make a play that might be well off the beaten path.

Consider this deal where West led the king of clubs, East playing the five and South the six. West then shifted to the deuce of spades. East took dummy's ten with the jack and continued with the ace of spades, on which West had to make a discard.

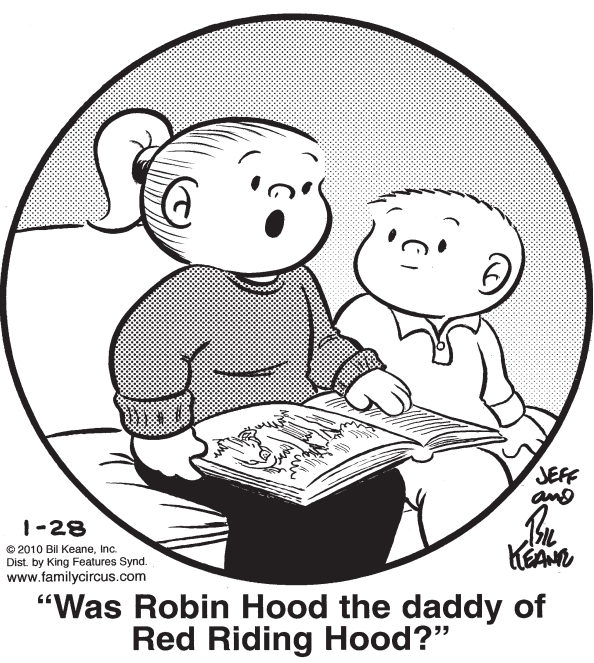
The winning play was not long in coming: On the ace of spades, West discarded the ace of clubs! This was undoubtedly a spectacular discard -- but that was not the purpose of the play.

The purpose was to tell East as clearly and as emphatically as possible not to lead a club at trick four, which is what East almost surely would have done without the benefit of West's ace-of-clubs play. So East led a third round of spades, and declarer could not stop West from scoring the setting trick with the king of trumps.

What does the hand teach us? Essentially, it demonstrates that top-notch defense depends not only on occasional individual brilliance, but also on partnership cooperation. West realized, at trick three, that the only sure way to beat the contract was to get East to lead a spade at trick four. West therefore chose the extraordinary discard of the ace of clubs to try to get that message across, and East's spade return showed that he had gotten the message loud and clear.

(c)2009 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/28

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

Cryptoquip

GK G MBME QYUA GPCR YP

GZM ZEMYL HFRS, G SUYP

CR PRPZFYUYPCUO YHA

“QRJUT ORJ TR LM Y KUYBRE?”

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I THINK THE FAVORITE ADHESIVE OF CERTAIN WEB-FOOTED POND BIRDS WOULD BE CALLED “DUCKED TAPE.”

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals I

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Santa's paper-work
5 Scenery chewer
8 Ostriches' relatives
12 Blood-hound's clue
13 Prima donna's problem
14 Year-end celebration
15 12-Across detector
16 Part of UCLA
17 Sicilian spouter
18 Classroom spinners
20 Low bow
22 Inventor Whitney
23 Profit
24 Athlete
27 Bit of marginalia
32 Black bird
33 Japanese pond carp
34 Raw rock

35 Pool variety
38 “Do — others ...”
39 Latin 101 word
40 Family relatives
42 Some calisthenics
45 King who abdicated
49 Wife of Osiris
50 “— the fields we go”
52 Bellow
53 Arctic sheet
54 Larry's pal
55 Opposed
56 Be inclined (to)

57 Conclusion
58 Incubator sound
DOWN
1 Protracted
2 “American —”
3 Mediocre
4 Man with all the answers?
5 Finland's capital
6 Way back when
7 Rolling stone's lack
8 Grommet
9 Chromosomal change
10 Arm bone
11 Line of fashion?
19 Urban transport, maybe
21 Literary collection
24 Discor-dance
25 John's Yoko
26 Sum-mons
28 Tic-tac-toe win
29 Toyed (with)
30 Scrap
31 Ultra-modernist
36 Enter-tained
37 Upper surface
38 Open, as a gift
41 Freudian concept
42 Winnow
43 Gilligan's home
44 A handful
46 Blue-ribbon
47 Assess
48 Plumbing problem
51 A billion years

Solution time: 25 mins.

SWAP AGO EPPE
IOTA BOW XRAY
PROPOSAL POSE
SEPAL SLOPES
CESS ASH
ESPY AHOY EBB
WAR PROPS CIA
EGO RICE MYTH
PEA KNEE
BIALYS STASH
ANNO PROPERTY
STEP IOU READ
HOSE NET SAGE

Yesterday's answer 1-28

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				57			58			