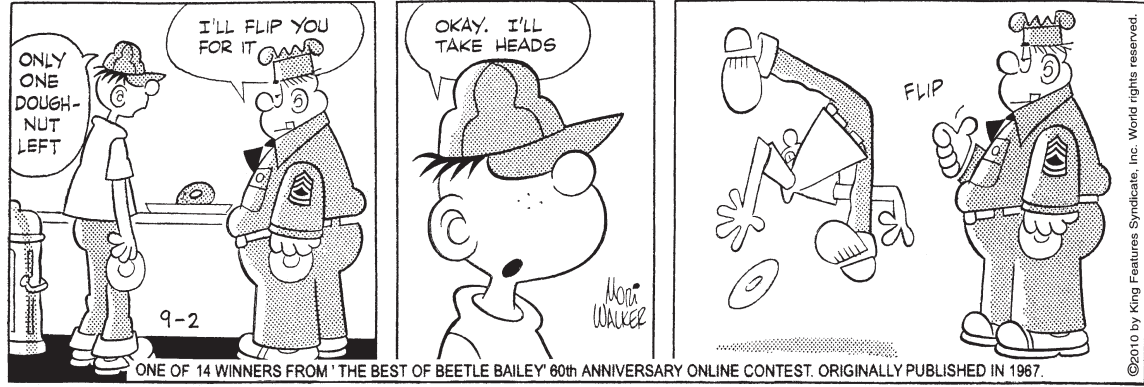


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



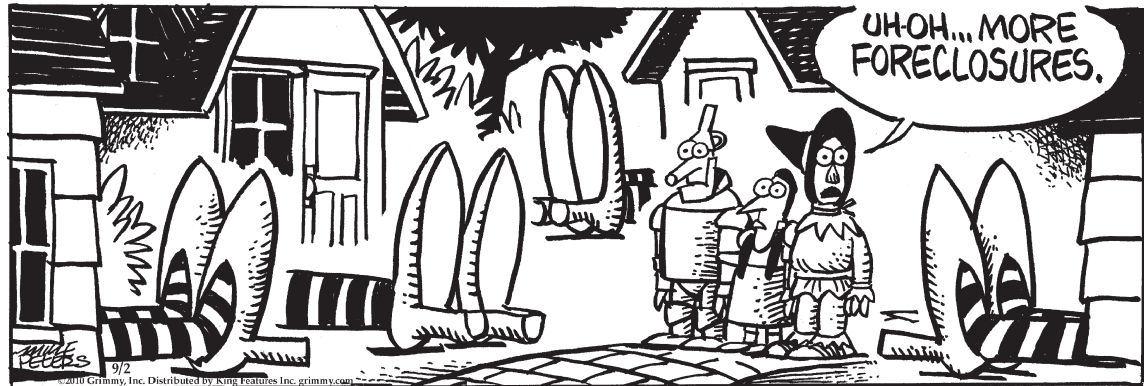
Blondie • Chic Young



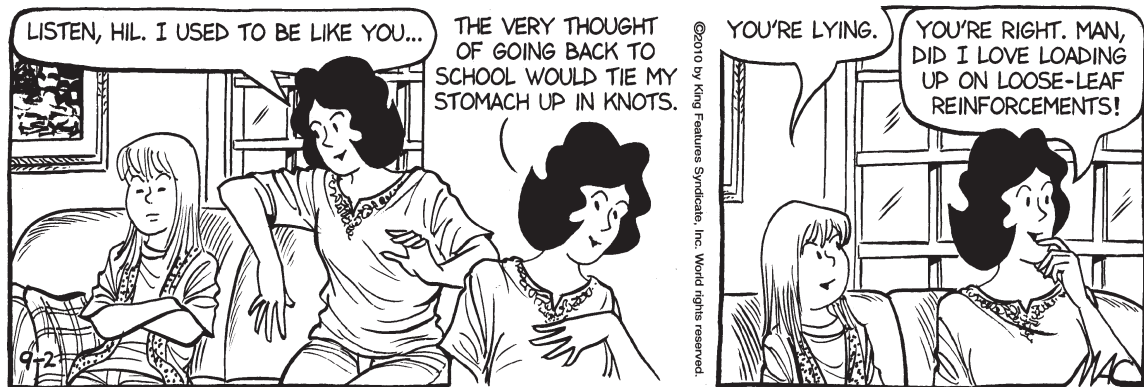
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



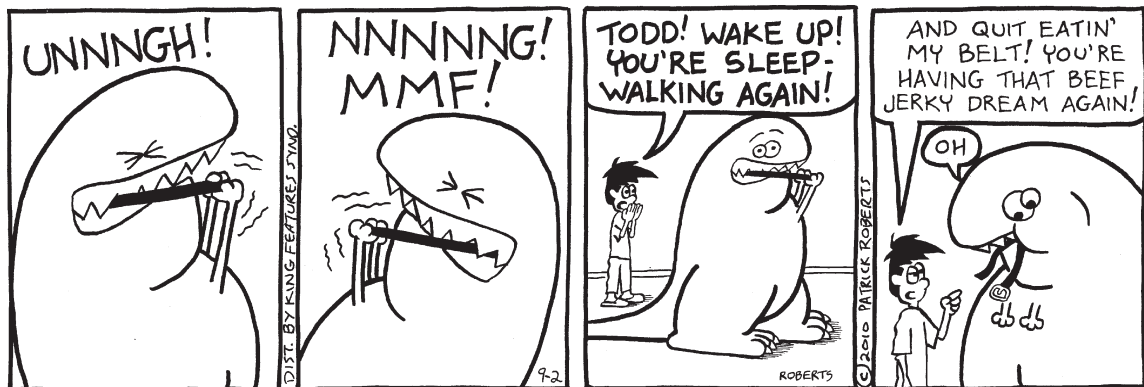
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



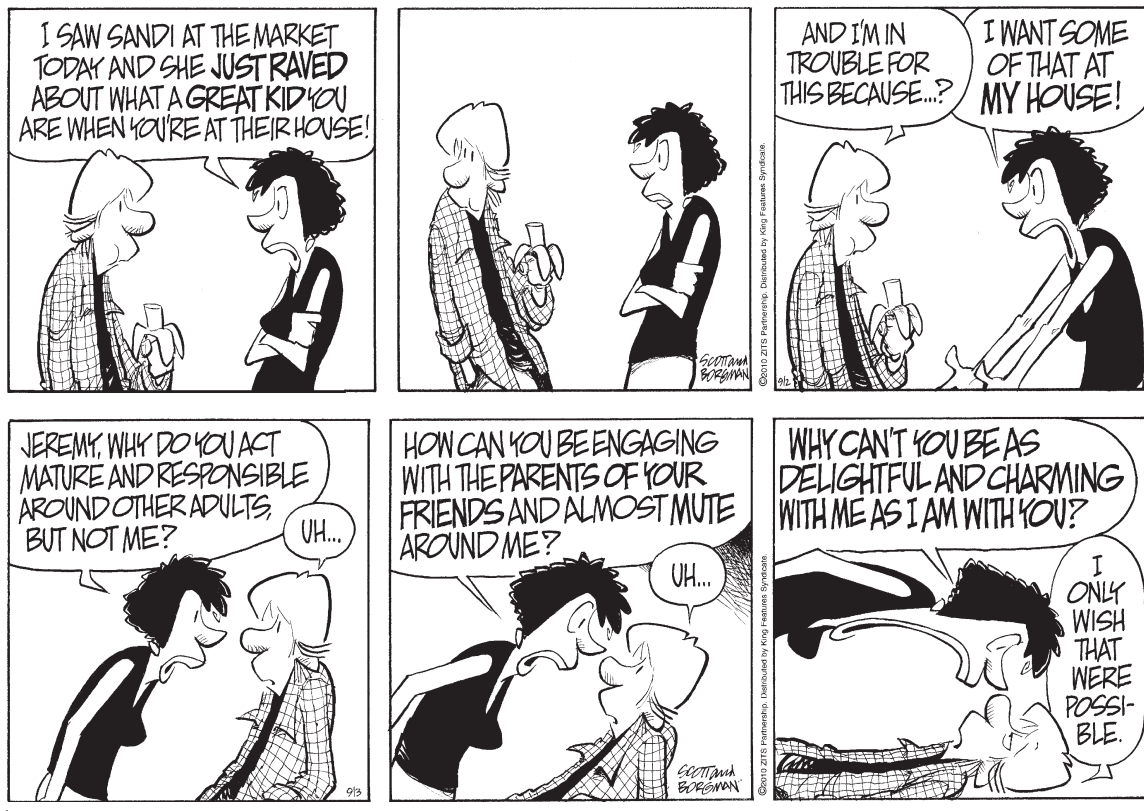
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Problems teach need for coping

Dear Dr. Brothers: My newborn baby daughter has just been diagnosed with a serious birth defect. All my life, I've tried to do what's right and have conquered roadblocks in my path, but I don't know how I'm going to deal with this. I'm a single mother attending night school, but this whole thing seems much too big to get my mind around, and is leaving me very depressed. I really need some sound advice, quickly. — K.T.

Dear K.T.: I am sorry you are having to cope with this sad turn of events, and I know you must be reeling from worry about your life and that of your daughter. Even with a healthy newborn, there often is a helpless feeling when a new parent — especially a single mother — has to realize that she is responsible for a helpless infant and then a child and a teenager — it all seems too much. That's why the phrase "take it one day at a time" was invented. This seemingly simplistic remedy is a good one when trying to avoid the fear and paralysis your situation can bring about.

The second thing is to get help — from organizations that specifically deal with your daughter's birth defect, from other parents with the same problems, and from whatever family and friends or community resources you can call upon. You may be surprised at how willing people are to help children with special needs; you will not be alone. Educate yourself about your daughter's condition, and join a support group, which will help you cope with loss, guilt and anger that may arise. You want to be strong for your daughter to meet her emotional needs, and facing things squarely will be the best way. Above all, don't be afraid to reach out and ask for help, and use your religious faith as well.

Dear Dr. Brothers: My sister tried to keep something from me, because she thought I would freak out — and she was right. Last year at college, her 19-year-old son tried to commit suicide. Thank God his roommates found him in time. She says he's going to counseling and OK now, but is it possible to turn something like this around? I'm so worried; I don't know what to do. — H.B.

Dear H.B.: It is not unlikely that your nephew might try to end his life again; I wouldn't be honest with you if I were to say otherwise. It is always a worry for those who have a loved one who has attempted suicide, because the young person sometimes takes steps to make sure no one suspects he is still depressed, desperate, addicted or whatever he is — so next time he will succeed. That is why this is a crucial period. He needs to get help that will make his life bearable, pleasant and happy. It definitely can be done.

It is good to get counseling, and there are medications if he has depression. But I wouldn't rely on counseling to solve his problems. The suicide attempt, while being a so-called cry for help — debatable, if he didn't expect to be rescued — also is a stigma. So he needs to be treated with love and kindness, and not with kid gloves — if he can communicate freely, half the battle may be won. Regulating his mood and helping him invest in something he loves and is good at can help him move forward — and college classes might not be the best thing for him right now. So be flexible.

Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ A Q 6
 ♥ 7 2
 ♦ K J 5 4 3
 ♣ Q 8 4

WEST
 ♠ 10 9 8
 ♥ K J 8 5 4 3
 ♦ 8 7
 ♣ 6 5

EAST
 ♠ J 7 4 3 2
 ♥ A 6
 ♦ 10 9 6 2
 ♣ 10 9

SOUTH
 ♠ K 5
 ♥ Q 10 9
 ♦ A Q
 ♣ A K J 7 3 2

The bidding:
 South West North East
 1 ♣ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
 3 NT
 Opening lead — five of hearts.

The Valiant Die but Once

This deal occurred in a team-of-four match, but what happened at the two tables could just as easily have taken place in a rubber-bridge game.

At one table, the bidding went as shown. East won the heart lead with the ace and returned a heart, and the defense quickly ran off six heart tricks — down two despite North-South's combined 31 high-card points.

It is hard to blame South for the sad outcome. Looking at only his 13 cards, his three-notrump rebid was surely the most attractive choice. Three notrump would be the winning bid in the overwhelming majority of hands. Had North held, say, the jack of hearts instead of the K-J of diamonds and queen of spades — a much weaker hand — nine tricks would have been certain. Or if the opponents' hearts had been divided differently, the notrump game might have been made.

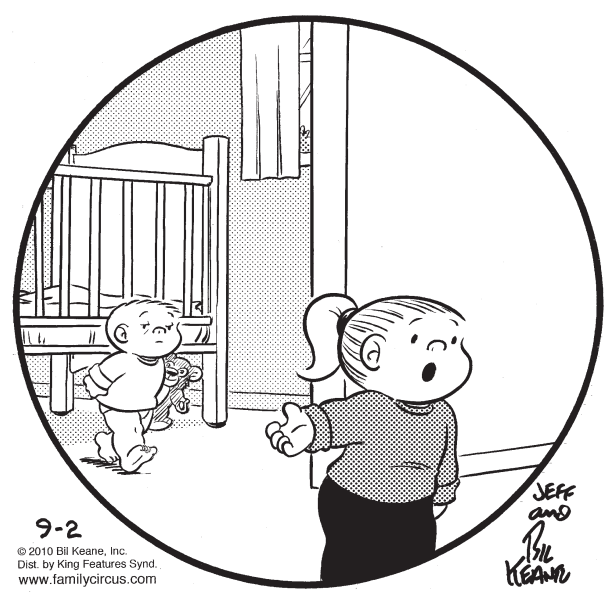
It may be argued that South should have bid three clubs instead of three notrump, and five clubs might then have been reached. The flaw in this contention is that three clubs is merely invitational, and a laydown game might be missed if North passed.

At the other table, the bidding started exactly the same way. But the North player at this table obviously valued his hand much more highly than the first North, because he raised South's three notrump directly to six notrump.

The six-notrump bid paid off very handsomely. West thought it was too dangerous to lead a heart from the K-J against such strong bidding, so he opted for the "safe" lead of the ten of spades. South then had no trouble collecting all the tricks to bring his team a net gain of 1,670 points on the deal.

(c)2010 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



9-2 © 2010 Bil Keane, Inc. Dist. by King Features Synd. www.familycircus.com

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/02

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.

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

Cryptoquip

C J P B W W G W O U K G J N K S V B

S V K N W U C M I W A W C T X N W U

X U Y W O N Z T W O V Y W A J K N I Z K K A W T :

" K X N Z T U X M O J P S N I A J Y W "

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF SOMEONE ACCUSES MY DOG OF LEAVING ITS HAIR ALL OVER THE FURNITURE, I'LL CRY "YOU SHED IT!"

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals B

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 "— De-Lovely"
 - 4 Scatters seeds
 - 8 Oxen's burden
 - 12 Grazing area
 - 13 Noble gas
 - 14 Five-star review
 - 15 Joey, e.g.
 - 17 Finished
 - 18 Space
 - 19 Poisonous plant with milky juice
 - 21 Patsies
 - 24 Atl. state
 - 25 Maui memento
 - 26 Second person
 - 28 Opera's Dame Nellie
 - 32 Grecian vessels
 - 34 Use a crowbar
 - 36 Timbuktu's country
- DOWN**
- 11 Existed
 - 16 School of whales
 - 20 Jewel
 - 21 Organization
 - 22 Present
 - 23 Bribe
 - 27 Web address
 - 29 Tongue
 - 30 Just
 - 3 Blood-red
 - 4 Quick and lively
 - 5 "— the an
 - 7 Hairnet
 - 8 Dilemma
 - 9 Volcanic outflow
 - 10 It takes the cake
 - 31 "— She Sweet"
 - 33 Having an aroma
 - 35 Deviate off course
 - 38 Pos-sessed
 - 40 Mendi-cant
 - 43 Curative center
 - 45 Hostel
 - 46 "That's a relief!"
 - 47 Stow cargo
 - 48 Craving
 - 49 Exceptional
 - 53 Born
 - 54 Author Fleming
 - 55 Caustic solution

Solution time: 25 mins.

UPS	SOCK	ELSE
TAU	THAI	MEEK
AFE	IMPLI	CATE
HAZEL	ONE	
STET	DEBTS	
IMPL	ORES	SLOE
NIL	NEROS	ONA
DRUM	IMPLI	CIT
OASIS	SHED	
SEA	USURP	
IMPLEMENT	ROE	
FETA	BLAH	GAG
SWAY	OOPS	EMS

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		