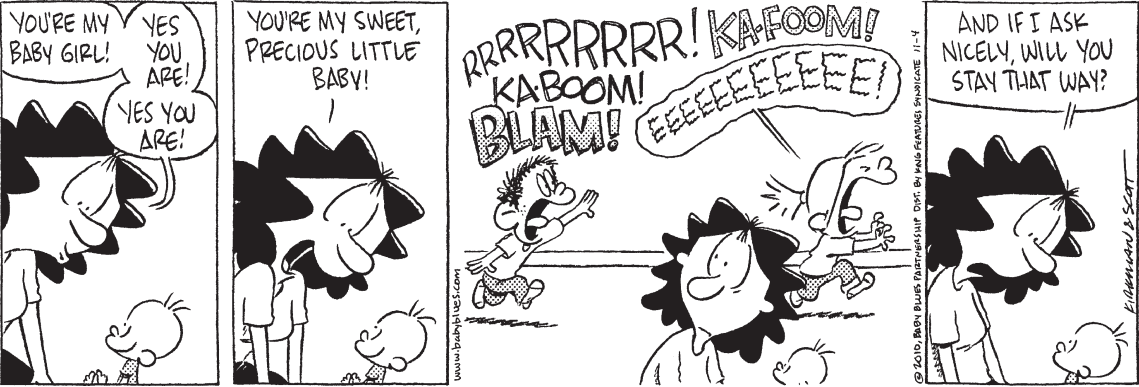


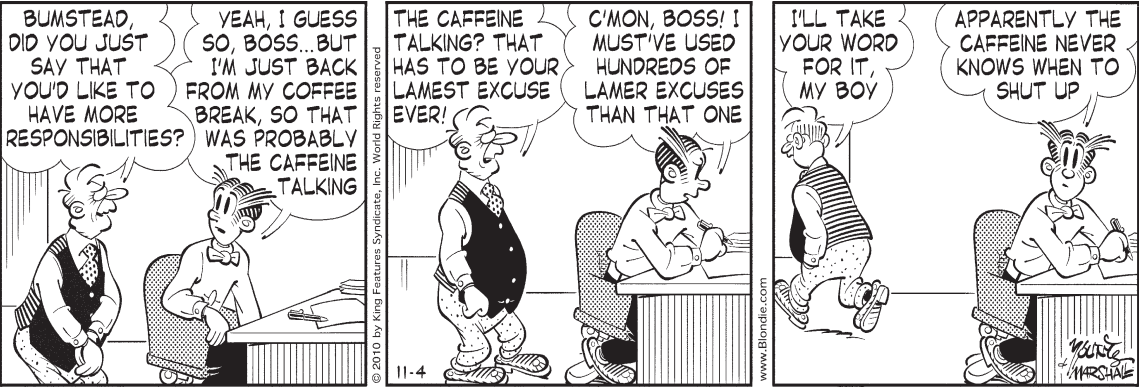
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



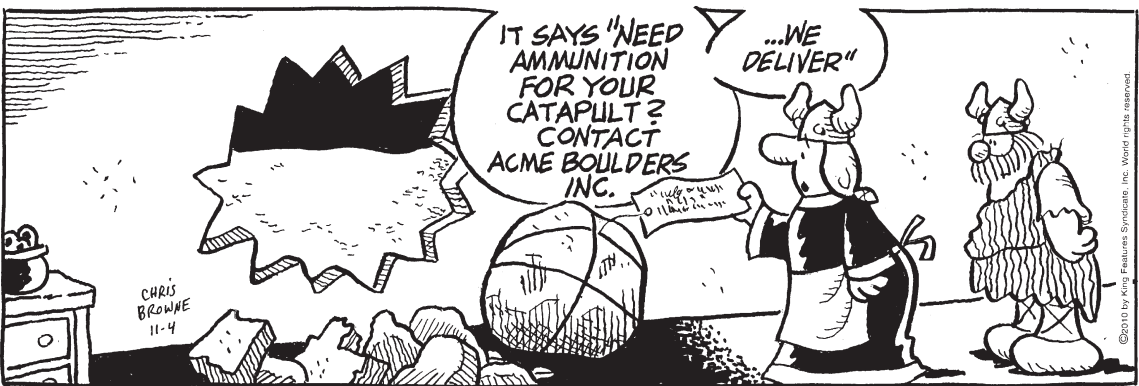
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



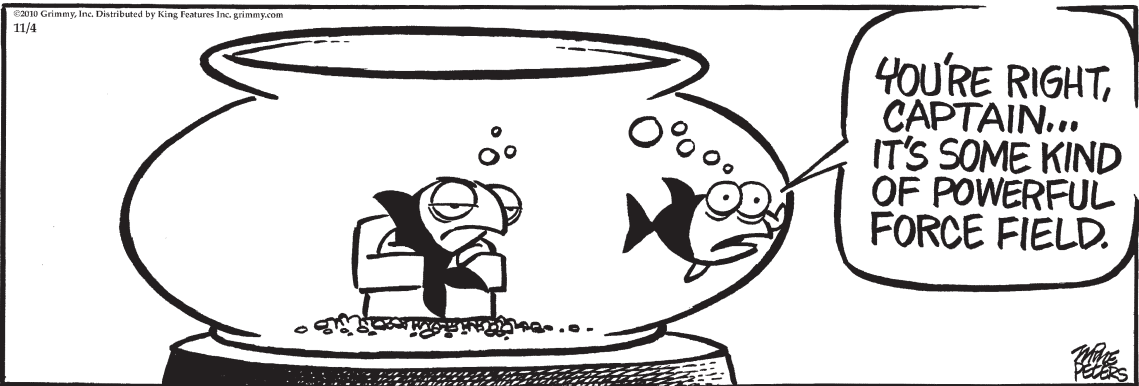
Blondie • Chic Young



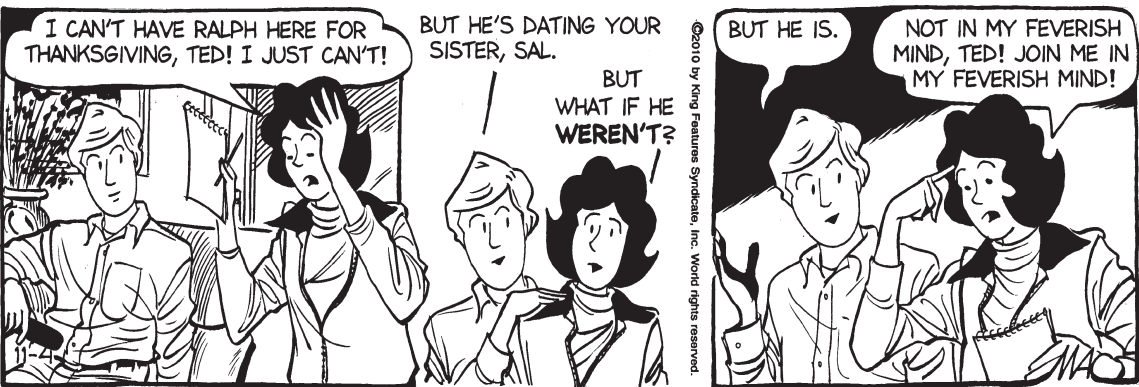
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



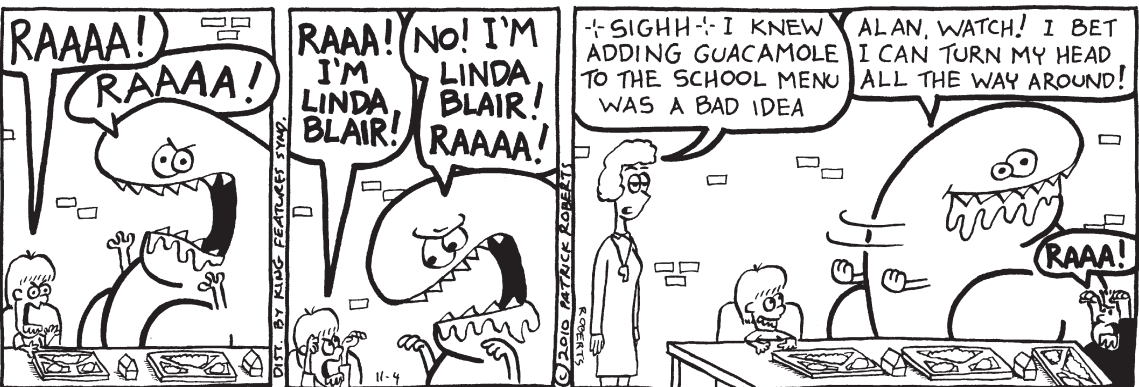
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



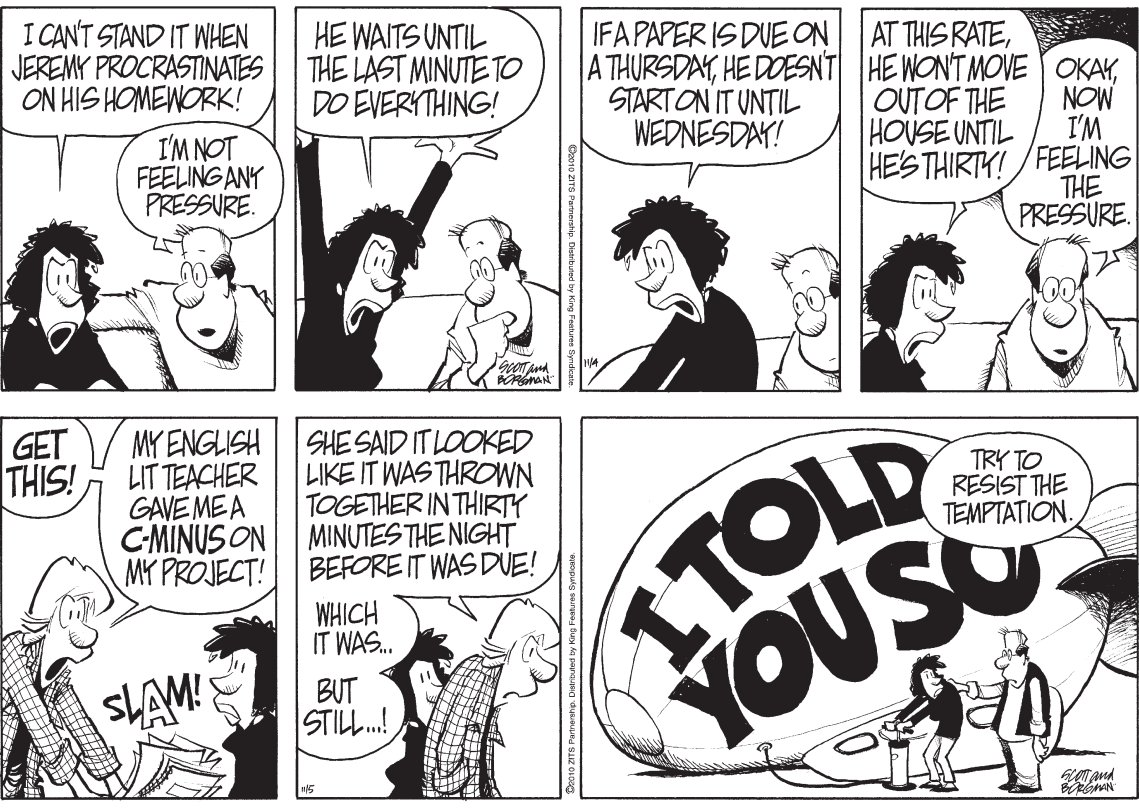
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Can kids change their inner goals?

Dear Dr. Brothers: I'm writing because I am worried about my middle-schooler, who has always been sort of a geek or whatever the kids say. He now comes home from school in seventh grade saying he's not into computer games and science anymore – he's going to be a writer and actor! I knew his looks have changed lately (he's gotten tall and good-looking), but I don't know if we should encourage this sea-change. – K.B.

Dear K.B.: You've probably spent the past couple of years, or maybe more, encouraging your son to follow his heart and waiting to see how he was going to turn out. You got used to thinking of him one way, and probably had a comfortable feeling about how he would be growing in the future. But you were in for a surprise! Not only does he look totally different as he enters adolescence, but he has new ideas that are throwing you for a loop. And guess what? There could be more drastic changes ahead, so fasten your seat belt and get used to being on a wild ride for a while.

Regardless of how comfortable you are with your son's new plans, or whether you think he is serious or capable of sticking with them, it's always a good idea to try to be supportive of a son or daughter's vision of him- or herself. Encourage him to try out for the school play or work on the school newspaper, and see if he is happy with changing the focus of his talents. This is a fine time to be trying out different things – by next year, he may be interested in a sport, a new hobby or a talent. You can encourage him to keep up with his old interests as well – he may want to go back to them at some point. His image won't suffer a bit if he is seen as a Renaissance boy!

Dr. Brothers: I am the mother of three kids, and stepmom to two more. Needless to say, my husband and I have our hands full. What concerns me is that my youngest child has become fascinated by her stepsisters, to the exclusion of her brothers. While I am glad the kids are forming relationships, I can see my boys are getting jealous. In fact, they have started to make rude remarks to their stepsisters. How do I manage this situation? – A.H.

Dear A.H.: There is a lot of juggling to go through when you have a blended family, and I'm sure you are doing the best you can to make sure things run smoothly. The best way you can equip yourself for the challenges ahead is to take a realistic attitude toward what you can expect. Peaceful coexistence would be great, but if there are some rough edges you will be doing great if you and your husband do not get too discouraged. That said, you can use some insight into your kids and their friends and siblings to help you understand how they might be coping with their new family relationships.

If your stepdaughters are treating your little girl with kindness and decency, it's not too surprising she is lapping it up. They can be the big sisters she never had – and can relate to in a different way than she does her brothers. The baby of the family is sometimes used to being the center of attention – or the one whose voice is least likely to be heard above the din. So I would encourage the girls to get along, and at the same time make sure the boys are aware they won't be permitted to be rude to the new stepsisters, but acknowledge that they will need a period of adjustment. (c) 2010 by King Features Syndicate

Bridge • Steve Becker

West dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH  
♠ 10 8 5  
♥ 10 5 2  
♦ Q J 9 6  
♣ 8 4 3

WEST  
♠ A K Q J 9 7 6 3  
♥ 10 4  
♦ 10 7 2

EAST  
♠ J 7 2  
♥ 8 4  
♦ 8 7 5 3 2  
♣ K J 9

SOUTH  
♠ A K Q 9 6 4 3  
♥ A K  
♦ A Q 6 5

The bidding:  
West 4♥ North Pass East Pass South 6♣  
Opening lead — king of hearts.

Rising to the Occasion  
South's blind shot at six spades certainly wasn't scientific, but all factors considered, it was a sensible bid that was likely to win most of the time. Whenever your judgment says that you're more apt to gain points than to lose them by making a certain bid, you should not talk yourself out of doing so because your partner might have the wrong hand for you. That's not the way to play winning bridge.

The slam ordinarily would have been easy to make, even with the relatively poor dummy South inherited. Had the spades been divided 2-1, he would have scored at least 12 tricks by cashing the A-K of trumps and A-K of diamonds, then crossing to dummy with a trump to discard his two low clubs on the Q-J of diamonds.

But when declarer ruffed the opening heart lead and played the ace of trumps, West showed out, and South had to reorganize his plans. With no ready entry to dummy to utilize the Q-J of diamonds, he decided to force his way into the North hand by deliberately losing a trump trick.

So he next cashed the A-K of diamonds and then led a low trump to dummy's eight. East won with the jack but could do no better than return a heart.

South ruffed and led another low trump to dummy's ten. He then cashed the Q-J of diamonds and on them deposited the 6-5 of clubs.

Only one more hurdle – a club finesse – remained to be surmounted, and when it succeeded, the slam was home.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/04

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.

Cryptoquip

HR RBIUYI NYPZVBI DBD

NAQQBIVN NBUYDBET

RHPZPSHZFFT, SBAFE TBA NZT

VCZV QYINBP HN BP VCY EBFY?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT MIGHT SOMEONE CALL ANY AUSTRALIAN PERSON'S PANCREAS OR THYROID? THE GLAND DOWN UNDER.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals B

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS  
1 New York Giants founder Tim  
5 Petrol  
8 Counterfeit  
12 Tied  
13 Skedad-dle  
14 Headlight?  
15 Forbidden act  
16 Venusian vessel  
17 Grandson of Eve  
18 False  
20 Razor inserts  
22 Donkey  
23 "Monty Python" opener  
24 Hesitate  
27 Branch  
32 Yoko of music  
33 Larry's pal  
34 Long March leader  
35 Slender cigar
- 38 Nil  
39 Greek vowel  
40 Shad product  
42 Buckle or button  
45 Grab  
49 Reed instrument  
50 In olden times  
52 Traditional tales  
53 Charitable donations  
54 Energy  
55 Exam format  
56 Encounter  
57 Away from WSW
- 58 Office part-timer  
DOWN  
1 Carte  
2 Stratford's river  
3 Landlord's due  
4 Parka  
5 Macabre  
6 "Wiedersehen"  
7 Uppity one  
8 Scabbard  
9 Nice-looking  
10 Lotion additive  
11 Rolling stone's lack
- 19 "People" rival  
21 Fleur-de- —  
24 Jazz style  
25 Literary collection  
26 Isolated, and  
28 feeling it  
29 Arousing terror  
30 Rowing need  
31 Excessively  
36 Swear (to)  
37 Menlo Park monogram  
38 Enthusiast, plus  
41 Broadcasting  
42 Lather  
43 Competent  
44 Church section  
46 Ripped  
47 Pull an all-nighter  
48 Succor  
51 Tonic mate

Solution time: 25 mins.

SHAD	JUG	TSAR			
MIRE	USA	AQUA			
OLEANDER	LUNG				
GLADE	BLOATS				
LESS	INN				
LUCY	LUBE	DEL			
EMO	PURRS	EVA			
GAL	ERGO	BREW			
AHA	EWER				
ARNOLD	RAISA				
DADA	ISLANDER				
EVER	MAY	CENT			
NERD	EW	HATS			

Yesterday's answer 11-4

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				