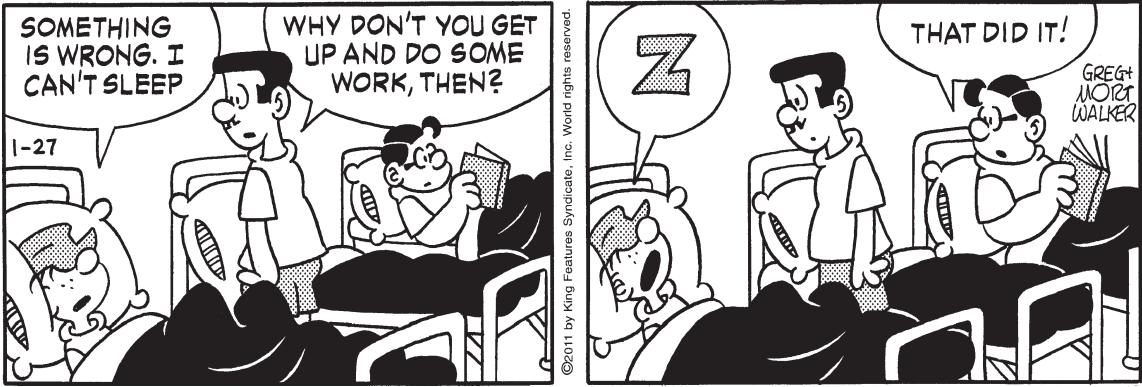


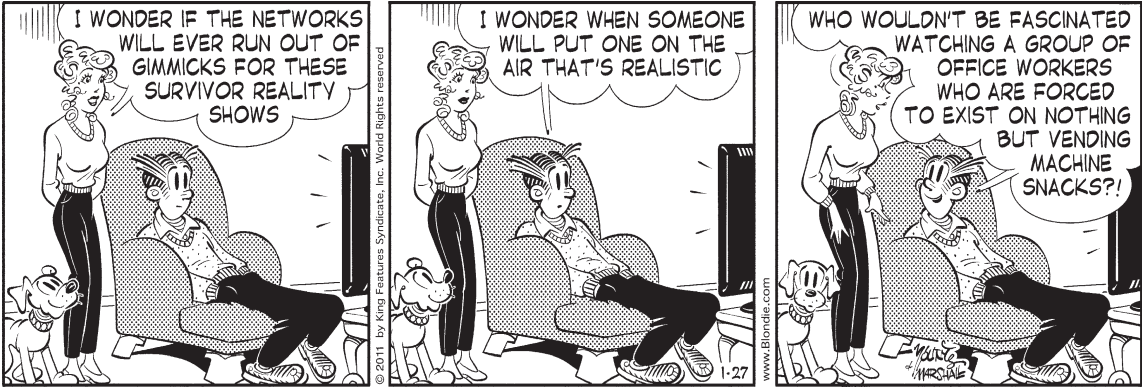
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



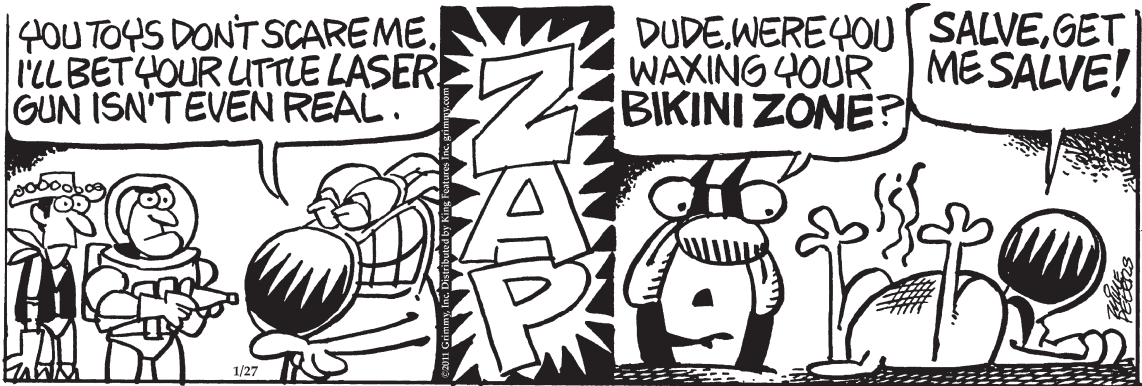
Blondie • Chic Young



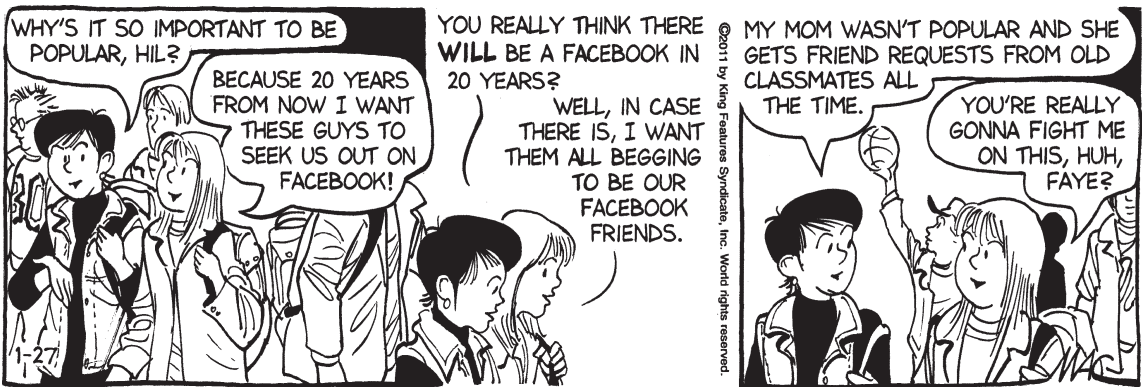
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



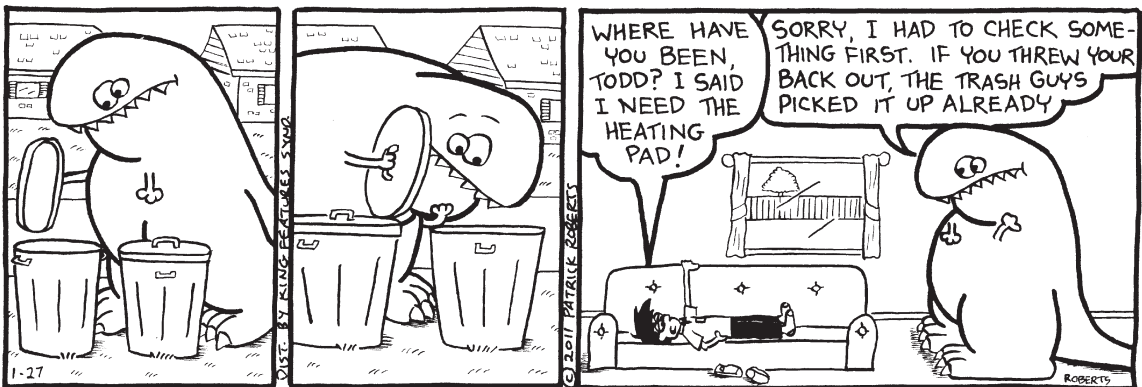
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



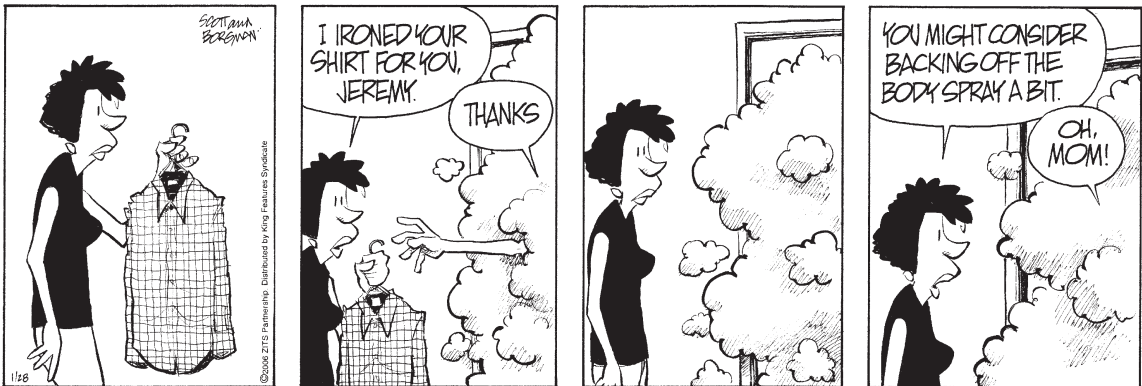
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

- Ask Dr. Brothers

Middle son seen as crybaby

Dear Dr. Brothers: I have three boys, ages 5, 6 and 9, all very different. The oldest is quiet and serious like his dad, one is a free spirit like me, and the middle one is sort of overly emotional. He lets things bother him and is sometimes picked on because the kids, his brothers and others, seem to think it is funny to see him cry or run to Mommy. I hate to keep rescuing him, but I feel sorry for him, too. How do I get turn this around? – G.C.

Dear G.C.: It seems your middle child is a bit of a mystery, at least to his parents. He's not like you and he's not like your husband. And he's sure not like his brothers. You can't see yourselves in him, so you don't understand him as well as you do the others. And it seems your son is having trouble finding his place in the family and his peer group. The typical middle child, one hears, is sometimes left behind and forgotten, suffering from a lack of attention. Many turn to whining, pouting, throwing tantrums or making trouble to get the attention they feel they are lacking. So the description of "crybaby" isn't surprising.

It may be there is a straightforward fix. Treat him as an individual – he's going to be more emotionally sensitive than the other kids – and single him out for some one-on-one quality time. Leave the brothers at home and explore some of his favorite places and activities. See if the extra private time makes him less needy. He needs to feel confident at home before he can stand up for himself at school. And you need to read the riot act to his brothers about picking on him. If you've gone along with letting the boys sort things out, it's time for a little intervention here.

Dear Dr. Brothers: My family has had to move into our travel trailer because we lost our home to foreclosure. With both of us working part time, we are having a hard time feeling like we have a normal family life. The kids are in elementary school, and we have tried to make this seem like a fun adventure, but I don't know if they are buying it. It seemed fun the first week, but now they want their rooms back. We can't move for a while. Help! – B.N.

Dear B.N.: You are very brave to take on this challenging set of circumstances and try to pass off being homeless as an adventure, but it is unlikely this will succeed for long, as you are finding out. I am sure it is difficult to feel you are letting down your kids or putting them in physical or emotional jeopardy by not having a real home to go to after school. But I bet if you look at their schoolmates, you would see others in the same sort of situation, so they needn't feel alone. This probably is little comfort at the moment, but if kids can feel that others understand what they are going through, it makes things a little easier.

After putting all your resources into finding a solution to your living situation, you may feel drained and like you don't have much left for the kids. But if at all possible, let them continue with normal after-school and weekend activities, and spend plenty of time outdoors and with nature. Let them know your situation is temporary and you are all going to need to pull together and care for one another. They may need reassurance they will have a little extra love and attention now, and that everything really is going to be OK.

(c) 2011 by King Features Syndicate

Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer.  
North-South vulnerable.  
NORTH  
♦ K J 9 3  
♥ 7 5  
♦ 9 5 2  
♠ A 7 4 3

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

The bidding:  
South 1 ♠  
West 2 ♣  
North 2 ♠  
East Pass  
Opening lead — king of clubs.

The Long-Range View

At the start of play, declarer must sometimes visualize a point much later on when he hopes to establish an impregnable position. This type of thinking is usually needed to lay the groundwork for an elimination play.

Here is a typical case. Declarer is in six spades, and West leads the king of clubs. South sees at once that the outcome hinges on whether he loses one diamond trick or two.

Declarer's first thought, of course, is that he could rely on a successful diamond finesse to bring home the slam. But this is not a particularly good prospect, considering that West overcalled with two clubs and is therefore highly likely to have the king of diamonds.

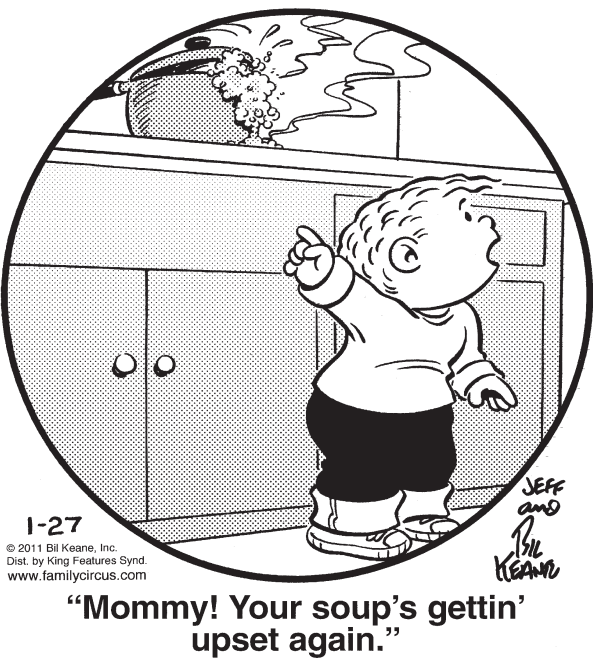
So South starts thinking about how to avoid the diamond finesse. And, somewhere in the course of his cogitations, it occurs to him that he might be able to endplay West and force a favorable return.

Accordingly, South ruffs the king of clubs, cashes the A-K of trumps, ruffs another club, cashes the K-A of hearts and ruffs a heart in dummy. Then, having eliminated hearts from both hands, South next eliminates dummy's clubs. He plays the ace of clubs, discarding a diamond, and leads dummy's last club, the seven.

East discards a heart, and now South, instead of ruffing the club, discards another diamond! West wins the club – it is now trick number nine – but must then return a diamond into South's A-Q or yield a ruff-and-discard. Either way, the slam is home, and South's planning at trick one pays the maximum dividend at trick 10.

(c)2011 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

©2011 Bill Keane, Inc.  
Dist. by King Features Synd.  
www.familycircus.com

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

Cryptoquip

XTNO R JVGWH WE QWOKCQML

CL CO RMMNOUROQN EWV

R LTWX, C JGNLL MTRM'L

R QRHMCKN RGUCNOQN.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF I AM CAREFULLY READING SOME LITERATURE IN LIMA, I SUPPOSE YOU COULD SAY I'M PERU-SING.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals F

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	34 Regret	DOWN	11 Departed
1 Parli-mentar-ian	35 Trysters' locale	1 Mary's follower	19 41-Down's partner
5 Wynken and Blynken's pal	38 Mideast gulf	2 Hodge-podge	21 Prior to
8 Talon	39 Ostrich's cousin	3 Colonial seamstress	24 Symbol of wisdom
12 Lotion additive	40 iPad down-load	4 Solve a cryptogram	25 Stickum
13 Rushmore face	42 Missing Lass	5 Almost black	26 Chair for a pair
14 Por-trayal abbr.	45 Lecher's look	6 Sapporo sash	28 Switch positions
15 Catchall	50 Blackbird	7 Ante-lope's playmate	29 Niacin or riboflavin
16 Compete	52 Continen-tal coin	8 Emotion-al period	30 Poolroom prop
17 Terrible guy?	53 Boast	9 Variety of small parrot	31 "Jeopardy!" juggernaut
18 Zaftig, perhaps	54 Family	10 Chester — Arthur	32 Come out
20 Take umbrage at	55 Family	11 Down's partner	33 Swiss city
22 Slight touch	56 Initial stake	12 Actress Jessica	34 Boring
23 Cage component	57 Recede	13 Swiss city	35 Geologi-cal
24 Eye with desire	58 Other-wise	14 Down's partner	36 Come out
27 Like some suitors		15 Down's partner	37 Sister
32 Court		16 Down's partner	38 Each
33 One (Pref.)		17 Down's partner	39 Come out

Yesterday's answer 1-27

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		