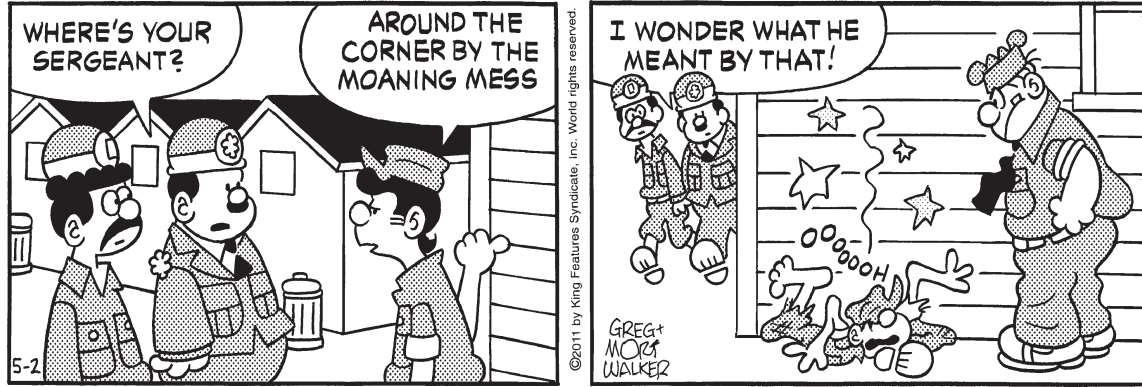


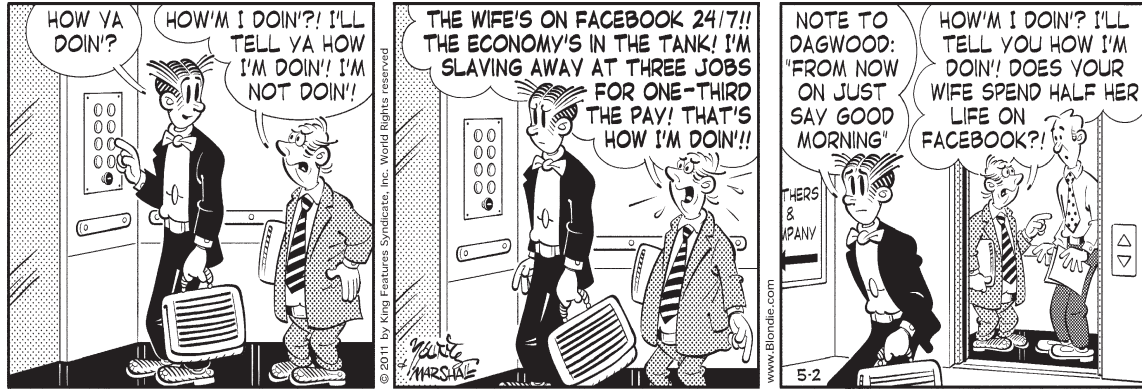
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



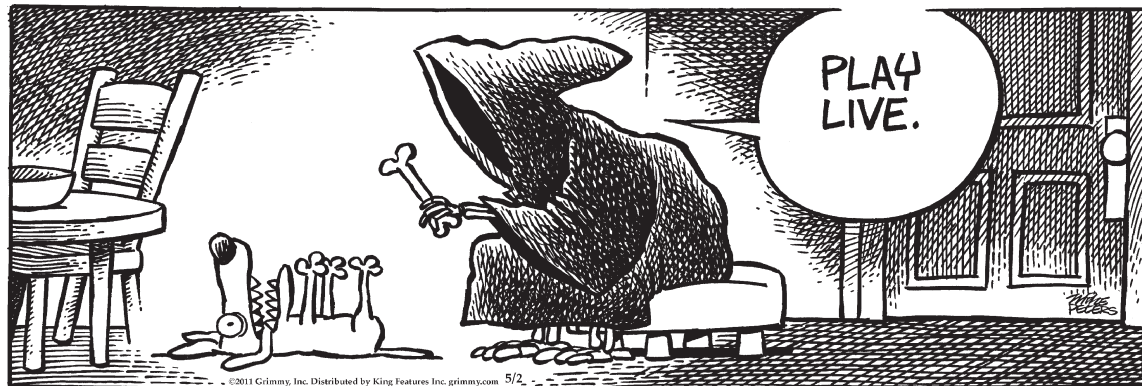
Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



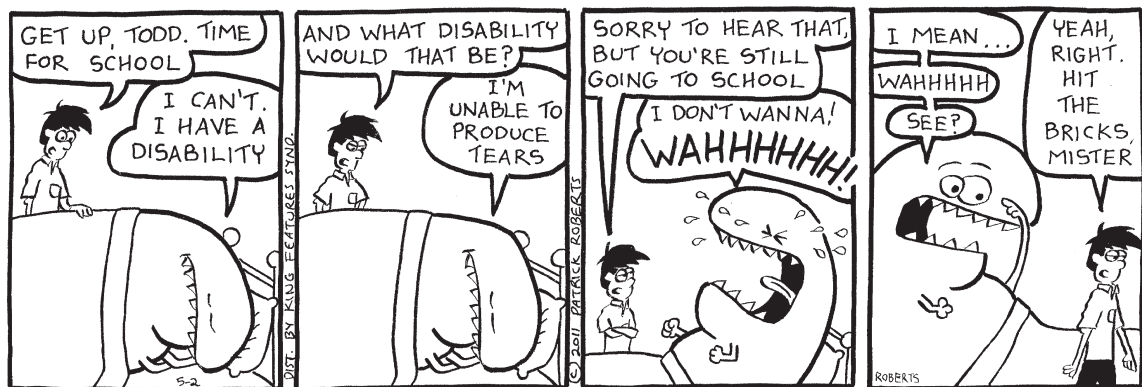
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers
• Ask Dr. Brothers
Time to move out of childhood

Dear Dr. Brothers: When my wife and I married, 10 years ago, her parents decided to buy a condo, and gave us a really good deal on their house. It's the house my wife grew up in and she was ecstatic about raising a family there. Now we have a great opportunity to move into a bigger house with our three kids, but she gets weird when I bring it up. It seems she might be too attached to this house. Is this normal? – B.D.

Dear B.D.: It seems normal and a little sad, but it's something you can cope with if you approach your wife with sensitivity. She has never lived anywhere else, and now the home has more memories than before because of you and your children. The fact that her parents were kind and generous enough to help you buy the home also might figure into her reluctance to move. She doesn't want to look ungrateful and anger or hurt her parents by rejecting this gift. If this is what is bothering her, the best idea would be to talk to her parents and ask their advice. If they are in the loop, they are less likely to take offense. They might enjoy helping you make a decision, and even offer to help with the next house!

Your wife's feelings of sentimentality about her childhood home may be harder to deal with. Perhaps making sure you have plenty of pictures and videos of her times there it might make it easier for her to move on. In any case, an understanding attitude from you will be the best approach. If she feels you are dismissive of her feelings about her home, it only will make things worse. So try as hard as you can to understand her emotions.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I'm a 36-year-old man who has gotten over the whole "being given up for adoption" thing. I put the whole business behind me in my mid-20s. Now, out of the blue, I get this email from my biological dad. He told me this story about why he gave me up for adoption, how my mother died years ago – really heavy stuff. He wants to meet, but I really don't know if I want to open this door. Any advice? – W.T.

Dear W.T.: What a surprise to receive an email from your biological father! I suppose with the Internet, it is inevitable that people on both ends of adoption will be hearing from each other even if they have made peace with the process. Now you must decide whether to open that door and the can of worms with it, or keep everything in its tidy place. Unfortunately, it's not always easy to accept all the things you have told yourself through the years to make peace and move on. Having a loving family helps, and being in your 30s helps, but you are in a difficult place if you stoically insist it doesn't matter. Opening up under these circumstances is a scary proposition.

You seem unmoved by your biological dad's story and his plea. It is natural to have mixed feelings – although his excuses may be valid, the child inside you will have a hard time accepting that any reason is good enough to have been given away. You are bound to have feelings of anger, even though you project indifference. So, it is up to you whether you want to open up the possibility of a relationship – or just a bunch of stirred up angry or sad feelings. Take a while to mull it over – your father has had plenty of time to do the same, and has voted to open those scary doors.
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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
K 7 5
10 8 6 5
A Q 10 5 4 2

WEST **EAST**
10 9 8 3 ♠ 6
Q 10 9 7 ♠ A K 6 5 4 3 2
K Q 7 4 2 ♠ A J 9
— ♠ J 9

SOUTH
A Q J 4 2
J 8
3
K 8 7 6 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♣ 2 ♥
4 ♠ 4 ♠ 4 ♥ 5 ♦
Pass 5 ♥ 5 ♠ 6 ♣

Opening lead — two of diamonds.

Famous Hand
This deal was played in the New Zealand-U.S. match in the 1974 world team championship. When New Zealand held the North-South cards, the bidding went as shown.

Against six spades, the American West (Bobby Goldman) made the highly unusual lead of the deuce of diamonds. East (Mark Blumenthal) won with the ace and realized that Goldman could not possibly have only four diamonds, considering his four-diamond bid. He therefore concluded that Goldman's purpose in leading his lowest card from the K-Q-x-x-x was to direct a club return. So Blumenthal led a club, Goldman ruffed, and the seemingly certain slam went down one.

At the second table, with Bob Hamman and Bobby Wolff holding the North-South hands for the U.S., the bidding went:

South West North East
1 [S] Pass 2 [C] 4 [H]
5 [C] 6 [H] Dble

The New Zealand East-West pair were exceptionally active in the bidding and quickly arrived at six hearts, doubled by North. South led a diamond, and the New Zealand declarer made six hearts doubled with an overtrick for a score of 1,310 points.

In the match between Italy and Indonesia, the Italians did even better. At the first table, sitting North-South, they made six spades doubled with an overtrick for 1,860 points, while at the second table, they made six hearts doubled with an overtrick for 1,310 points and a total gain of 3,170 points on the deal!
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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★

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

WE NZYXZ LN GWSF LCXWZ EXJ
GZXDWYXEL, LCX DSMZXSZNJ
TWVVMHX ZXDWYXELD MZX
LMFWEH M DLZMJ TNLX.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHICH CLEANING SESSION WON'T YOUR BABY PUT UP A BIG FUSS ABOUT? THE BATH OF LEAST RESISTANCE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
1 Trudge behind
5 Serenade the moon
8 No-no for a vegan
12 Wash
13 One's years
14 Wheel bar
15 Satanic
16 "Location" for one in disfavor
18 Meanie
20 Wine glass
21 Three-sloth
23 Mr. Sajak
24 Bent over, as a page corner
28 Cook in the oven
31 "CSI" evidence
32 Reservation home
34 "To be or — ..."
35 Examination
37 Doctrinaire
- DOWN**
1 Common-er
2 Volcanic outflow
3 Roman love poet
4 Strike place from the text
5 Harassed
6 Past
7 Safe-cracker
8 Tropical tree
9 Showing great joy
10 Other-wise
11 Yard components
17 Leap
19 Capricorn
- 22** Train station
24 Banned pesticide
25 Individual illuminant
27 French president throughout the '60s
29 Japanese pond carp
30 And so forth (Abbr.)
33 Send ballroom dances
36 Hawaiian welcomes
40 "Golly!"
42 Praiseful verses
43 Something, in music
44 Colorless
46 Yank
47 Division word
48 On
50 TV Tarzan portrayer

Solution time: 27 mins.

A	B	S	A	F	A	R	T	R	A	P
I	R	A	T	U	N	A	E	A	C	H
D	A	Y	D	R	E	A	M	S	H	E
A	S	A	I	L	A	F	T			
N	U	S	D	A	Y	S	P	A		
H	A	R	E	M	T	A	X	A	R	C
I	R	E	S	T	E	N	B	R	I	M
E	E	L	F	O	X	P	R	I	M	E
D	A	Y	G	L	O	A	H	A		
			O	U	R	B	A	S	S	O
V	I	E	T	O		D	A	Y	S	H
A	G	E	S	E	N	S	E	A	M	O
N	O	D	E	R	O	S	S	M	E	W

Saturday's answer 5-2

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		