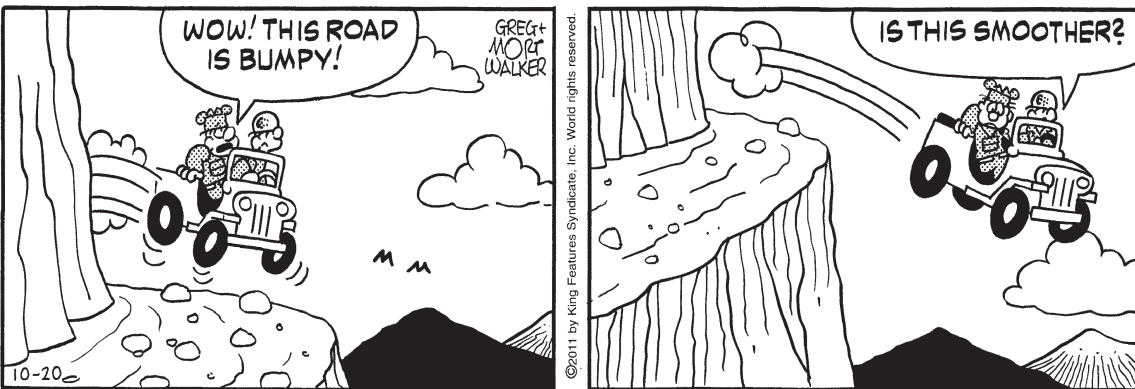


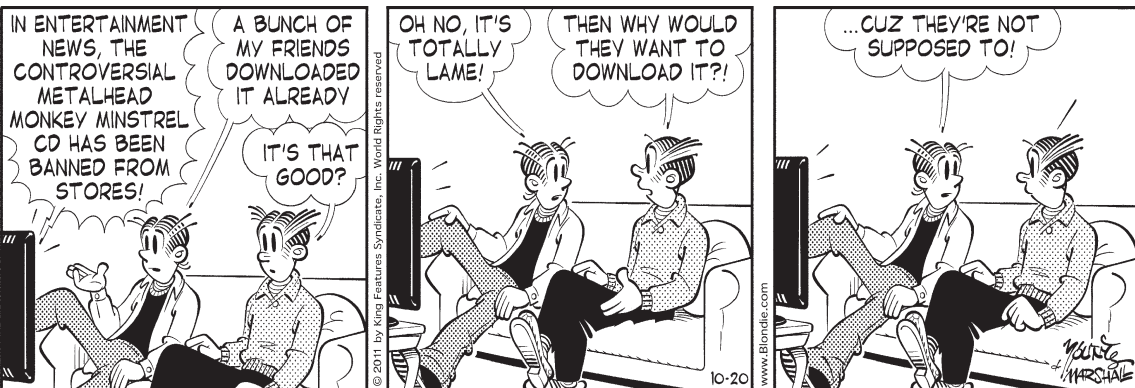
**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



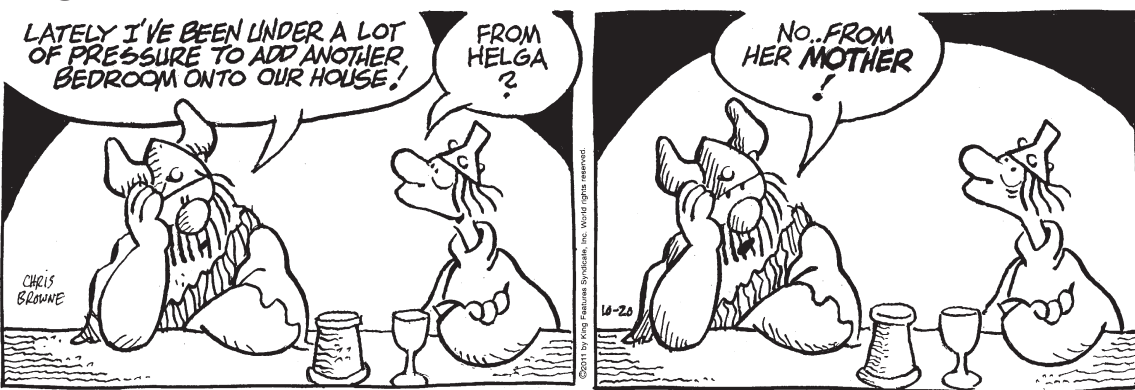
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



**Blondie** • Chic Young



**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



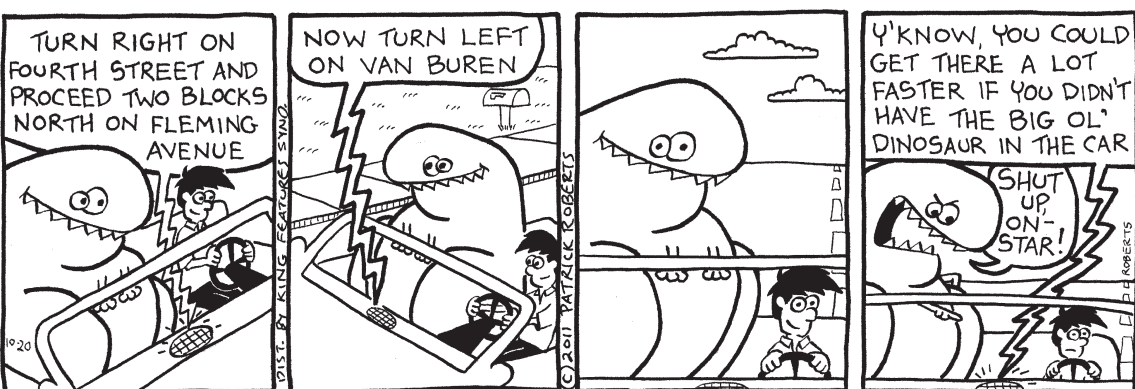
**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



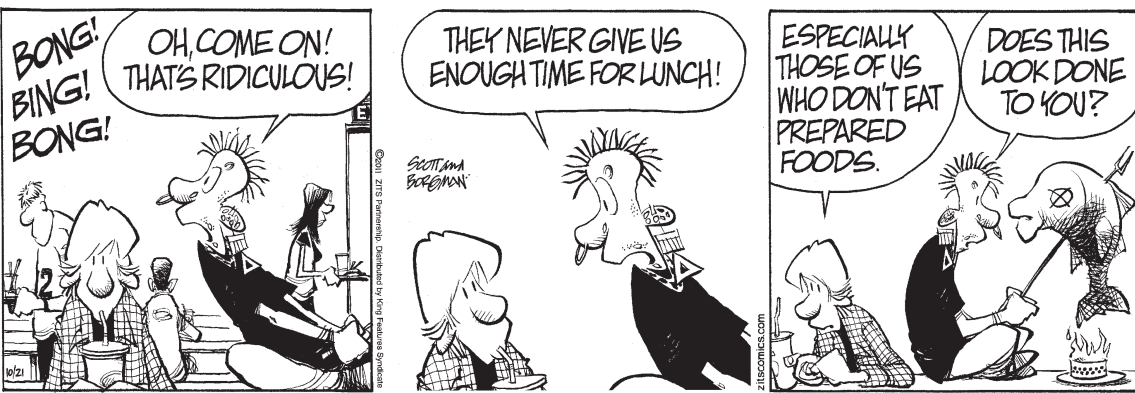
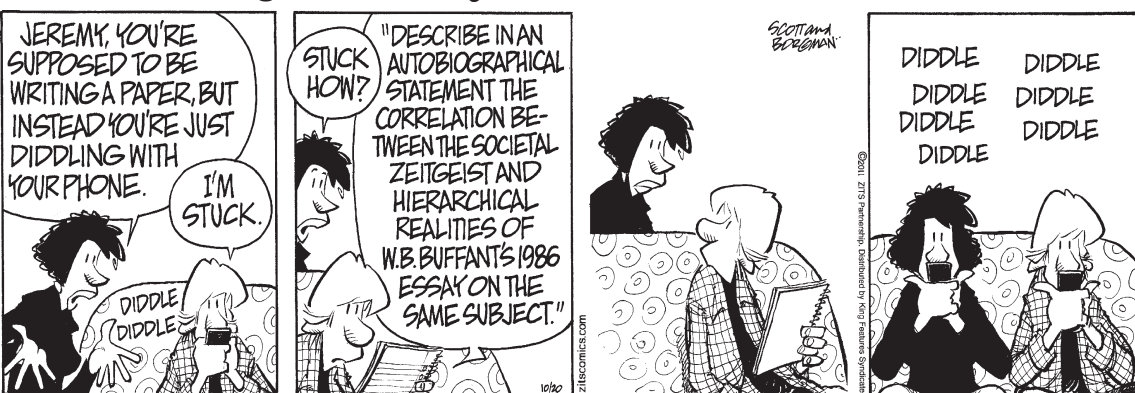
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Dr. Joyce Brothers**

• Ask Dr. Brothers

**Kids resist following rules**

Dear Dr. Brothers: We are parents of three kids, ages 4, 7 and 10. They keep us hopping, and we have always had the same rules for all, adjusted by age. We expect them to know and follow the rules, but aren't having much success as they get older. It is frustrating to deal with these different kids who understand what is expected of them but are too stubborn to obey. They are different kids, but the rules are the same. — G.P.

Dear G.P.: The key to your problem may lie in something you perhaps don't recognize as a factor in the problems. The phrase you used is, "They are very different kids," and you may be failing to take into account the fact that one size doesn't necessarily fit all when it comes to rearing children. So while it seems fair and logical to have the same rules and consequences for each child, this might not actually be the case. Knowing each child's personality may be more crucial.

Psychologists at the University of Washington have completed a study in which parents who tailored their parenting to each child's personality found their kids developed half as many symptoms of depression and anxiety during the study, while mismatches of style and children produced twice as many symptoms. So, by varying your parenting — how strict or lenient you are, how much autonomy you give the child, how much control you wield and the degree of warmth you exhibit — you can benefit your child's emotional health and maturity. "Know thy child" is key.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I have made friends with another mom in the preschool my son and I are part of. I have noticed there are two kinds of moms — those who teach their kids right from wrong, and those who let their kids do what they want so they won't have tantrums. Can I help my friend become one of the former? I'm worried about how she lets her son torment pets. — D.M.

Dear D.M.: It is good that you are concerned about the welfare of the cats and dogs in your social circle as well as hoping your friend isn't creating a monster of a 4-year-old! It is interesting how parents cope with the challenges presented by preschoolers determined to have their own way and short on the ability to tolerate frustration. But parents who know they are not doing themselves or their kids any favors by taking the easy way out and giving in to demands are ahead of the game. Because every lesson at that age is taken to heart, children learn whether it is productive to never compromise, or whether it's acceptable, for example, to be unkind to animals.

You needn't become the paragon of virtue pointing out where your friend's parenting style has gone wrong, but try to lead by example. Your own child is your top priority, so make sure his good behavior is always supported and reinforced. He has you as a model mom, but don't be too surprised or upset if he picks up behaviors from his friends you don't like. It might be a good time to ask him to help you teach the other child about kindness to animals, and he can show his buddy how to pet a dog or cat gently and not pull their tails, etc. (under supervision, or course). Usually kids are flexible and open to learning right from wrong.

**Bridge** • Steve Becker

North dealer. North-South vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
 ♠ K 2  
 ♥ K Q 6  
 ♦ K 9 8 3  
 ♣ Q 7 6 5

**WEST**  
 ♠ 7 4  
 ♥ 5 4 3  
 ♦ Q 7 6 4  
 ♣ A 10 8 4

**EAST**  
 ♠ J 10 9 8 6 5  
 ♥ 9 2  
 ♦ J 2  
 ♣ J 9 3

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ A Q 3  
 ♥ A J 10 8 7  
 ♦ A 10 5  
 ♣ K 2

The bidding:  
 North East South West  
 1♥ Pass 2♥ Pass  
 3♥ Pass 4NT Pass  
 5♣ Pass 6♥ Pass

Opening lead — four of hearts.

**A Delicate Operation**  
 Assume you're declarer in six hearts and West leads a trump. It looks as though you've bitten off more than you can chew — apparently you must lose a club and a diamond — but, in fact, the contract is far from hopeless. If the defender who holds the club length for his side also has to guard diamonds, you can make the slam on a squeeze.

Accordingly, after cashing three rounds of trumps ending in dummy, you lead a low club to your king. West takes the king with the ace and returns the seven of spades. You win with dummy's king and play the queen and another club, which you ruff. You then cash the A-Q of spades, producing this position:

**North**  
 ♦ K 9 8  
 ♣ 7

**West**  
 ♠ Q 7 6  
 ♣ 10

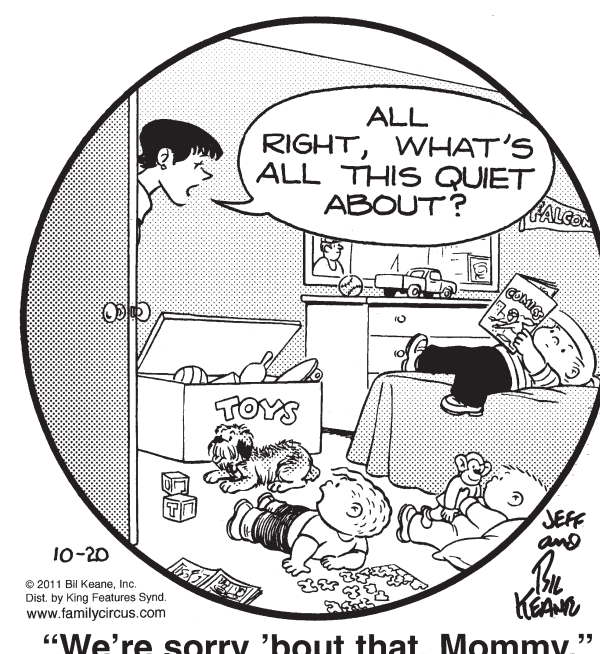
**East**  
 ♠ J 10  
 ♦ J 2

**South**  
 ♥ 8  
 ♦ A 10 5

When you now play your last trump, West is in serious trouble. If he discards a club, dummy's seven becomes a trick; if he discards a diamond, all your diamonds are tricks. Either way, you make the slam.

Note that it is necessary to ruff a club for the squeeze to succeed. If you failed to ruff a club, East would be able to guard the clubs while West guarded the diamonds, and you would go down one. The purpose of the ruff is to force one defender to guard both suits, which is the key element of a squeeze.

**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



"We're sorry 'bout that, Mommy."

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/20

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**

AGLE-ZOLLVLE QJ IYZVYI  
 HYUQOZVLE CZGHVAYI GH  
 JUZVGOI TGUIQUA TVQVYI:  
 "RVBY RGZAB GH IYUCGZQI."  
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MY DOCTOR SAID HE MAY ABANDON THE MEDICAL FIELD BECAUSE HE'S RUN OUT OF PATIENCE FOR PATIENTS.  
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals V

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**  
 1 By way of, briefly  
 5 Perch  
 8 Some-where out there  
 12 Many millennia  
 13 Bill's partner  
 14 Buffalo  
 15 Support group?  
 16 Genetic letters  
 17 River to the Seine  
 18 Holy locations  
 20 Miffed  
 22 It's opposite the hypotenuse  
 26 "Ghosts" playwright  
 29 "a mouse!"  
 30 Play with robots  
 31 Carey or Brees  
 32 Pitch  
 33 All — (attentive)

**DOWN**  
 1 Surveil-lance  
 2 Mrs. Zeus  
 3 Reddish horse  
 4 Remove a twist-off cap  
 5 Raw-boned person  
 6 Charged bit  
 7 Small appliance  
 8 Squirrel's tidbit  
 9 Ritzy pâté  
 10 Bill-boards  
 11 "Catcher in the —"  
 19 Can metal  
 21 Former 8-Down  
 23 Moor  
 24 Entice  
 25 Formerly, formerly  
 26 "Ameri-can —"  
 27 Soft cheese  
 28 Altruistic  
 32 Mardi, as in "Mardi Gras"  
 33 Chess denouement  
 35 Japanese sash  
 36 Indivisible  
 38 Choppers  
 39 Gold mold  
 42 Dumb-struck  
 43 Oriental gang  
 44 Other-wise  
 45 Jerry's pursuer  
 46 Shade  
 48 Praise in verse

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

|    |    |    |   |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|---|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4 | 5  | 6  | 7 | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |
| 12 |    |    |   | 13 |    |   |    | 14 |    |    |
| 15 |    |    |   | 16 |    |   |    | 17 |    |    |
| 18 |    |    |   | 19 |    |   | 20 | 21 |    |    |
|    |    |    |   | 22 |    |   |    |    |    | 24 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 |   |    |    |   | 29 |    |    | 30 |
| 31 |    |    |   | 32 |    |   |    | 33 |    |    |
| 34 |    |    |   | 35 |    |   |    | 36 |    |    |
| 37 |    |    |   | 38 |    |   |    | 39 |    |    |
|    |    |    |   | 40 |    |   |    | 41 |    | 42 |
| 45 | 46 |    |   | 47 | 48 |   |    | 49 |    |    |
| 50 |    |    |   | 51 |    |   |    | 52 |    |    |
| 53 |    |    |   | 54 |    |   |    | 55 |    |    |