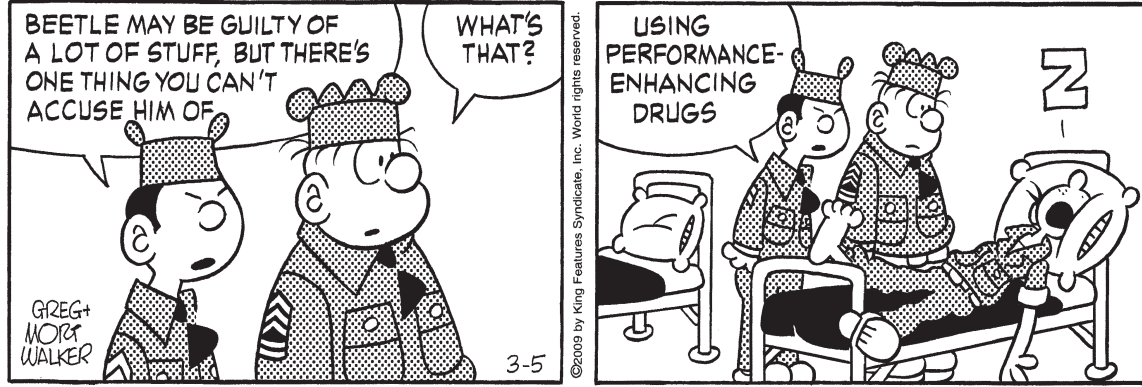


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



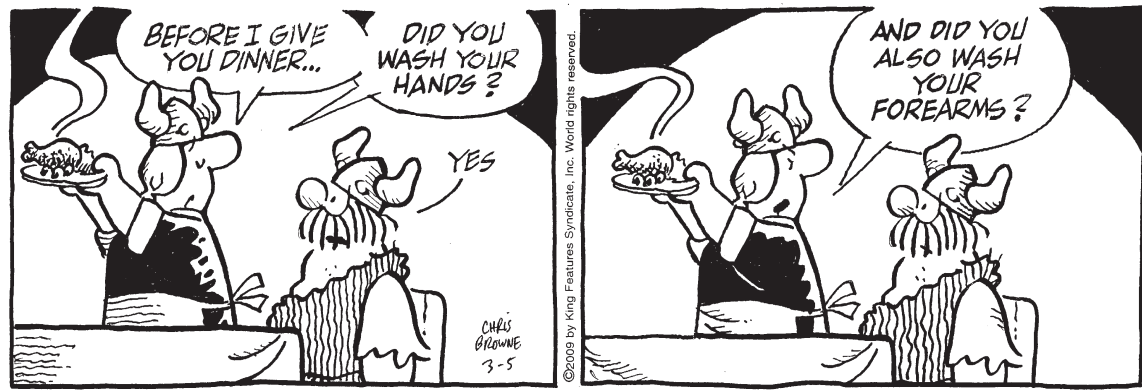
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



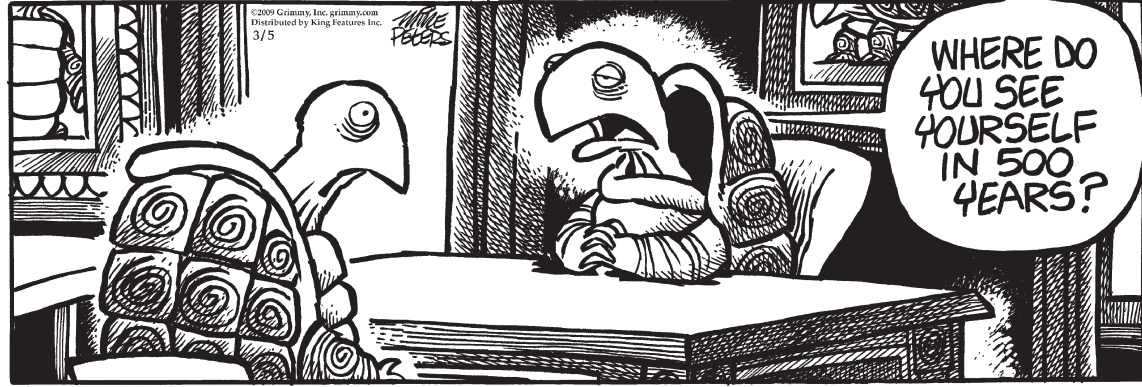
Blondie • Chic Young



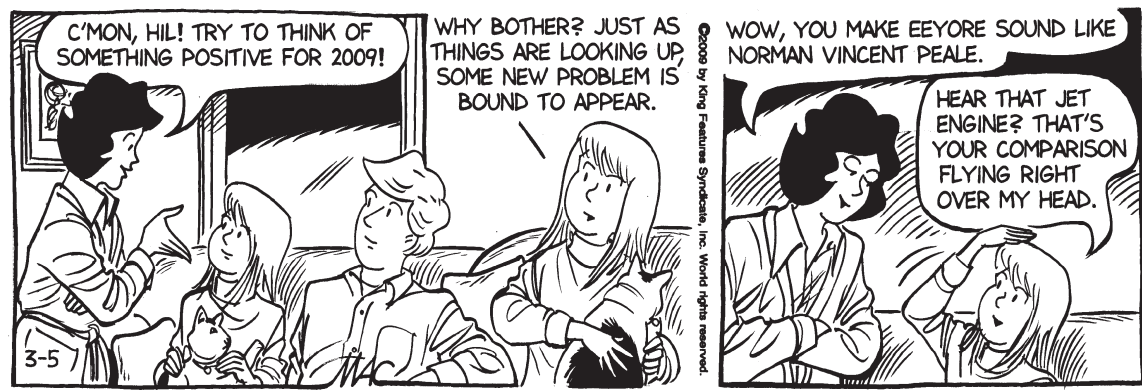
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



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
Job title sound too stressful?

Dear Dr. Brothers: Ever since I led a movement to prevent a sewage dump from coming to our neighborhood, I've become known as a community activist. It's a label I'm not really comfortable with – and now all my neighbors want to nominate me for a seat on the town commission. I don't want to see our town developed against its unique character – but on the other hand, I don't feel I could handle such a large responsibility. Any clue as to what I should do? – L.B.

Dear L.B.: You should feel honored that your neighbors look to you as a leader, and want to make it official. But holding public office is not something to be considered lightly. Do you really think you're good enough for the job, or is it simply that you don't have the extra time to devote to doing the job right?

You've already proven to yourself and your neighbors that when you put your mind to it, you can make a difference in your community – and you've probably built up some credibility with the local government as well. Don't be intimidated by the title of the job. Sometimes the best requirement for holding public office is the capacity to care, and you seem to have that down pat. Just because you don't think of yourself as a local official is no reason to dismiss the thought outright. Remember that sometimes the best leaders are the ones who never seek out the job.

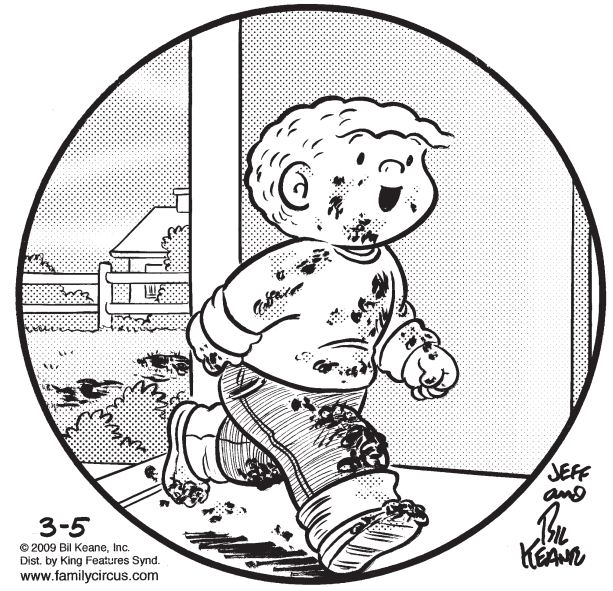
Dear Dr. Brothers: It was a dream come true – at least, it seemed that way at first. My good friend of 14 years and I decided to open up a pizza shop together. During the planning stages, he was as excited as I, but now as we're getting closer to actually constructing the place, he seems to never be available. I can't seem to count on him anymore for even the simplest things. Should I press on and hope he comes around, or just move on without him? – H.D.

Dear H.D.: Going into business with a friend can be tricky. On one hand, you have the comfort of knowing someone you can trust; on the other, it's all the more disappointing if you find that trust broken. Many a friendship has ended once commerce enters the picture.

Your friend most likely isn't as serious about this project as you are. That's OK – for a large number of people, just talking about an idea is good enough to satisfy them. When it comes to actually working on making the idea happen, these people usually become withdrawn when they realize the effort involved. But you shouldn't let the attitudes of your friends dictate your future. Your best bet is to sever the business part of your relationship before it interferes with your friendship further. It doesn't have to be a scene of high drama or confrontation – simply get the whole thing out in the open by talking to him. It's important to try to get him to be as honest as possible without his feeling cornered. He'll most likely be relieved to be let off the hook, and you'll feel a lot freer to pursue your dream.

(c) 2009 by King Features Syndicate

Family Circus • Bil Keane



3-5

© 2009 Bil Keane, Inc. Dist. by King Features Synd. www.familycircus.com

"I've decided mud is a lot more fun than plain ol' dirt!"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

© 2009 Concepts Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

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.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

Cryptoquip

MOPGIQO QWKKFR DGQ GCC

TKIE KT DHQ COBQ

KISQSEOSPDOZ, H'Z QGR

DO'Q CRHWB QFEOGZ-MOGBCO.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A GINGER SNAP OR MACAROON IS STRANGE-LOOKING, I SUPPOSE YOU MIGHT CALL IT A KOOKY COOKIE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals S

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Typeface choice
5 Quest
9 Witty one
12 Open a crack
13 Terrible guy?
14 Rd.
15 Plumbers' job?
17 X rating?
18 Stages a protest, of a sort
19 On the qui vive
21 "And I should care ... why?"
22 "Napoleon Dynamite" star
24 Sore
27 Distant
28 As well
31 As well
32 Sub-machine gun
33 "— Town"
34 November responsibility
36 Fellows
37 Failure
38 Cardiff's country
40 "Goodness gracious!"
41 Extra
43 Tea variety
47 Table scrap
48 Johnson opponent
51 Anonymous John
52 Very enthusiastic
53 Telegram
54 Spring-time mo.
55 Colleen
56 Garbage barge
22 Mists
23 Ms.
24 Brockovich
25 Off-roader (Abbr.)
26 Bill's partner
27 Trouble
28 Sulk
29 angrily
30 Bottom line
31 Scepter ornament
32 Listening device
33 Local ordinance
34 Constitutional
35 Take blades to blades
36 Pop
37 Item on stage
38 Probability
39 Related to
40 35-Down
41 Peter
42 Got bigger
43 Eggs
44 Fleur-de-

DOWN
1 Cry like a baby
2 California
3 Tardy
4 Stylish
5 Bill-board
6 Mendes or Longoria
7 Pack away
8 Massage
9 ABBA hit
10 State with certainty
11 Fellow city
16 Carnival city
20 Grazing area
21 State with certainty
22 Mists
23 Ms.
24 Brockovich
25 Off-roader (Abbr.)
26 Bill's partner
27 Trouble
28 Sulk
29 angrily
30 Bottom line
31 Scepter ornament
32 Listening device
33 Local ordinance
34 Constitutional
35 Take blades to blades
36 Pop
37 Item on stage
38 Probability
39 Related to
40 35-Down
41 Peter
42 Got bigger
43 Eggs
44 Fleur-de-

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 3-5

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						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	