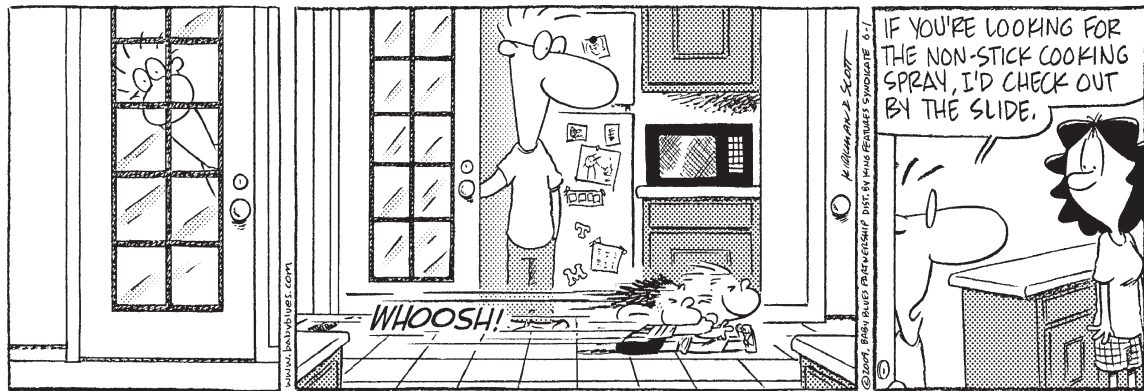
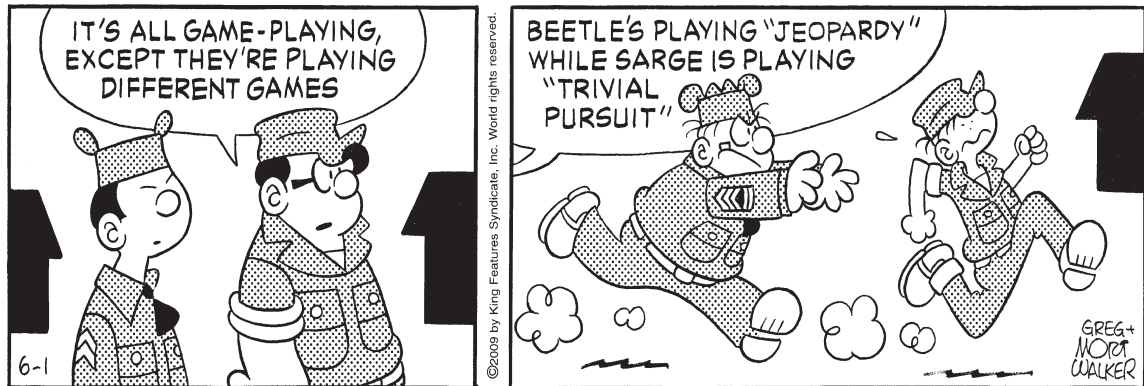


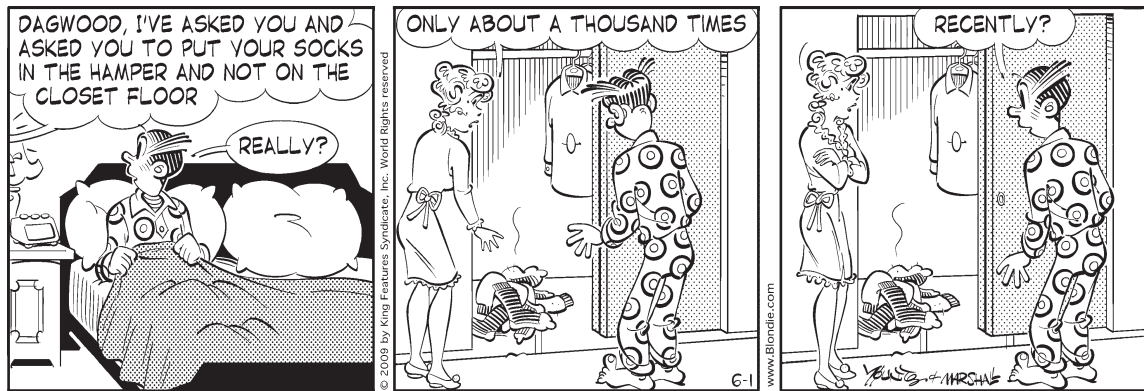
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



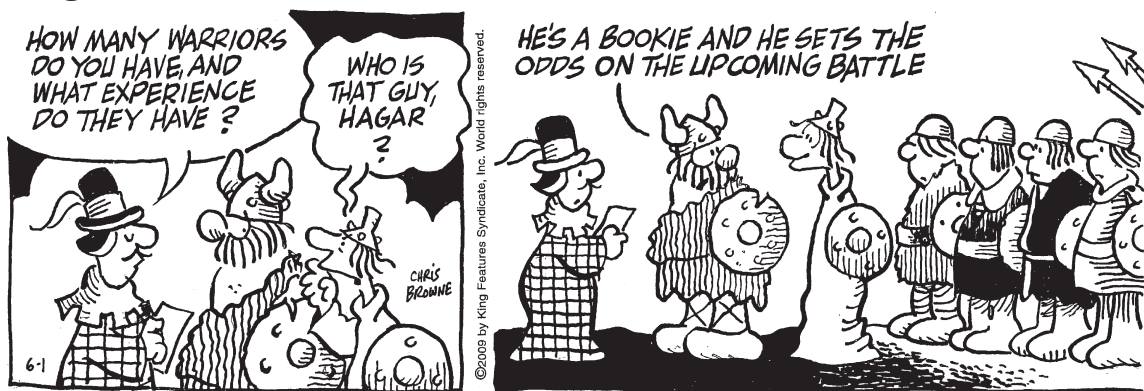
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



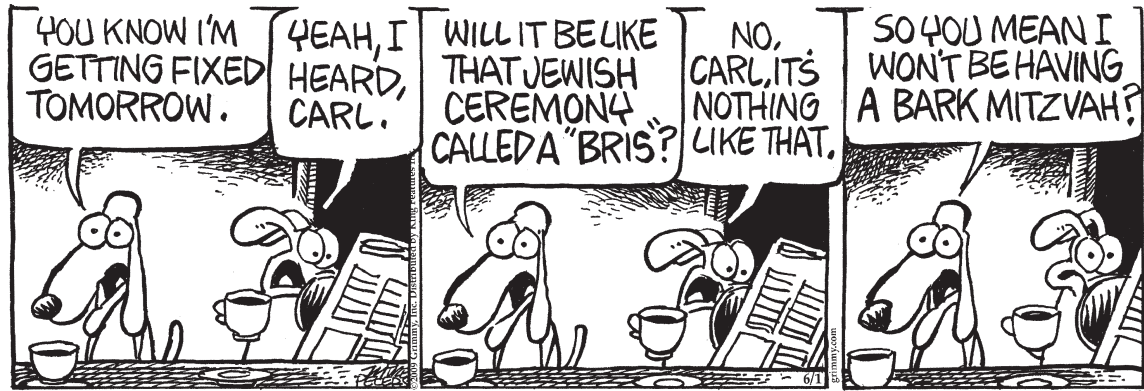
Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



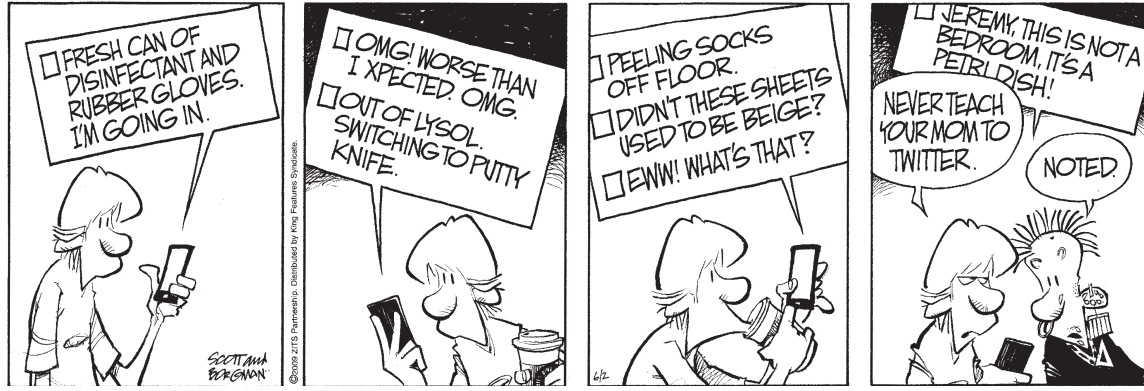
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Job's dress code too high for him

Dear Dr. Brothers: I have been fortunate enough to find a great new job after being laid off from my old place. The former job was very cool – just a small group of people creating up a storm in a small graphics and ad agency. My new job is similar work, but there seems to be a dress code going on that I don't fit into. Everyone looks like they are going to a country club. Me, jump on the khakis-and-polo-shirt bandwagon? No way! Or will my jeans and tees likely mess me up? – W.C.

Dear W.C.: Your own personal dress code won't mess you up per se. Jeans and tees are perfectly acceptable (especially if they are clean and only ripped by the designer). But there are at least a couple of ways this could come back to haunt you, so I'm glad you asked the question. First off, if you decided to make this uniform an issue and so did your employer, you likely would lose. Employers have a right to ask employees to dress within certain parameters. That's the legal stuff.

But you would do well to consider the corporate culture and just what your new place of business is like, compared with the old company. The culture dictates the uniform. It seems that everyone in charge at the new place feels most comfortable in an environment where the country club look is king. If you want to fit in, you might want to consider a polo shirt with your jeans, or a pair of khakis with the tee. If you can't stomach the idea, see if you can work there happily as a sort of rebel. Those often don't last long. Obviously your new bosses saw something in you that they liked. But it probably wasn't your casual wardrobe.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I am an "empty nester" with a lot of time on my hands, so I try to spend at least a couple of days a week volunteering in my community. The problem is, I find a lot of this work to be too emotionally devastating. Other volunteers I work with are fine, but I find myself feeling so sorry for poor, sick, old or disabled people that I can barely be of assistance. How do I toughen up so I can be of service? – J.K.

Dear J.K.: There is nothing wrong with you. You are an empathetic person who has a big heart – and this doesn't mean that you need to harden it. When you compare yourself with the veterans who have coped more successfully with their feelings of sympathy, it isn't useful. You needn't think of them as being hard-hearted, unless you believe they are volunteering in order to try to force themselves to feel more empathy. Or perhaps they were sentenced to community service! You see how silly it is to compare our emotional capabilities with those of others.

What you might want to do, though, is switch over to a less gut-wrenching type of service. Do some tutoring of children or ESL students. Become a docent at a historical site, or a scouting leader. You've earned a respite from the difficult stuff. And even though you are an empty nester, don't forget about your own child or children. Often you can be much more useful as an older parent.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ 8 7
 ♥ 9 5
 ♦ J 10 6 5 4 2
 ♣ A K 6

WEST
 ♠ A 9 6
 ♥ A K 8 7 4
 ♦ 8 3
 ♣ J 4 2

EAST
 ♠ J 3
 ♥ J 6 2
 ♦ 9 7
 ♣ Q 10 9 7 5 3

SOUTH
 ♠ K Q 10 5 4 2
 ♥ Q 10 3
 ♦ A K Q
 ♣ 8

The bidding:
 South West North East
 1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
 3 ♣ Pass 4 ♣ Pass
 Opening lead — king of hearts.

Famous Hand

This deal occurred during the 1986 world team championship in Miami. It was played in several matches, and at each table the final contract was four spades. However, at only two tables did the player holding the West cards find the way to stop declarer from scoring what appeared to be 10 certain tricks.

One of the successful defenders was French star Michel Perron, who, after leading the king of hearts, paused to consider where his side might collect a fourth trick in addition to the three he had in his own hand.

In view of South's strong bidding, Perron did not think prospects were good that East would be able to take a trick in his own right. He therefore decided that his best chance was to try to develop his nine of spades into a second trump trick -- a plan that had a reasonable possibility of succeeding if East had as little as the doubleton ten of spades.

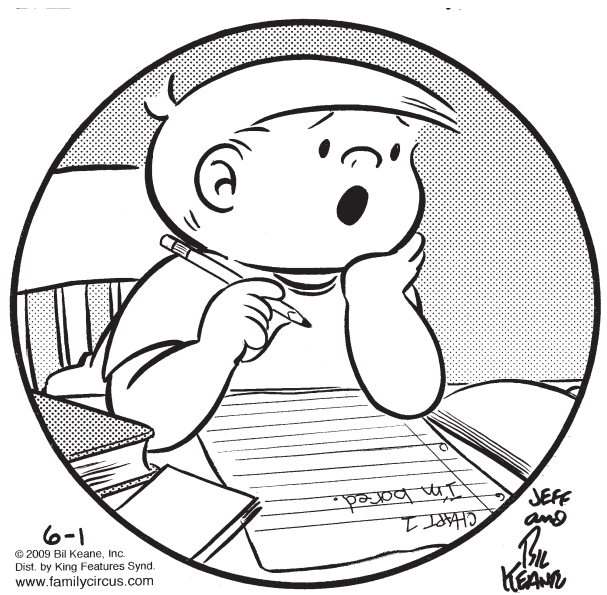
Accordingly, Perron cashed the ace of hearts and continued with a third heart to declarer's queen. South then crossed to dummy with a club and led a spade to the ten. This brought Perron to the position he had visualized at the start of play. After taking the ace of spades, he continued with a fourth heart. It was now his partner's turn to get in on the act, and East cooperated perfectly by ruffing the heart with the jack.

South overruffed with the queen, but since West could not be stopped from scoring a trick with the nine of spades, the contract had to go down one.

Perron's farsighted plan required only that declarer have three hearts and that his partner have either the 10-x, J-x or Q-x of spades. Given the bidding, this was by far the best hope for the defense, and the plan paid off handsomely.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

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.

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

Cryptoquip

L E R V X K T W E G U Y C K N W Y K F
 Z Y B K T C S W A K N V U K N E G
 W A K B E U R D T Y R Y F U D T L
 R E V T W N S : W A K X D Z X D R D N W D .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: GREAT SITCOM ABOUT A BUNCH OF PLEASANTLY ZONED-OUT TEENAGERS IN THE FIFTIES: "HAPPY DAZE."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Neatnik's story
 5 Navigation aid
 8 Small plateau
 12 Hippocratic, e.g.
 13 Blackbird
 14 Previous nights
 15 Wound reminder
 16 Lunchbox occupant, usually
 18 Tears to smithereens
 20 Culpable
 21 Cry
 23 Conclusion
 24 "Chicago Poems" writer
 28 Suitable
 31 Ostrich's cousin
 32 At-tempted
 34 Away from WSW

DOWN

35 Grand bane
 37 Resin used in making varnish
 39 Drunkard
 41 Intend
 42 Noah's mountain
 45 "Monty —"
 49 Where the Chargers play
 51 Rabbit pizzicato
 53 Modern prefix
 54 Greek vowels
 55 Hammer-head part

56 — Aviv
 57 Thaw
 1 Rolling stone's lack
 2 Apiece
 3 Luminary
 4 Crafty
 5 Rubbers?
 6 Literary collection
 7 Pong
 8 Kitten's commentary
 9 Villain
 10 Denomination
 11 Wan
 17 Payable

19 Amount owed
 22 Trojan War king
 24 Glimpse
 25 Rock band's need
 26 Pest
 27 Interbreeding data
 29 — budget
 30 Year-end abbr.
 33 Crucial time
 36 Rope (off)
 38 Country singer?
 40 Skater
 40 S Babylonian
 42 Pronto, on a memo
 43 Exceptional
 44 Circus covering
 46 Loathe
 47 Exam format
 48 Egg container
 50 "Golly!"

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Saturday's answer 6-1

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		