

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



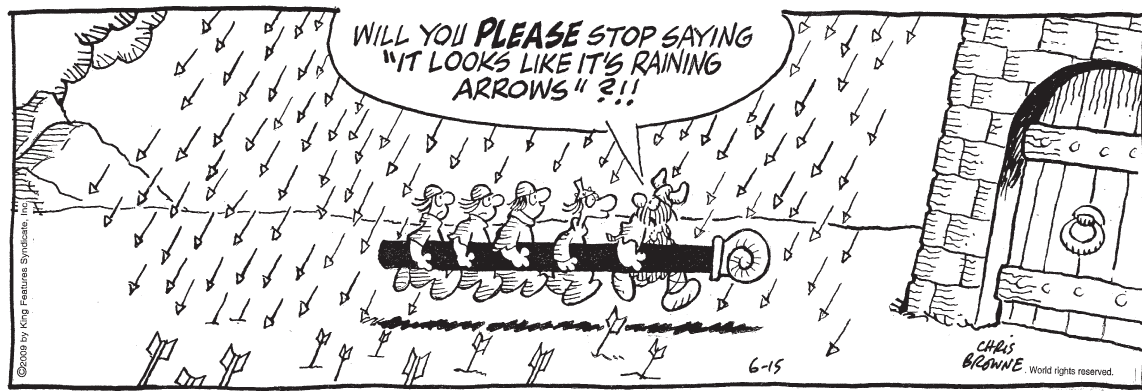
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



**Blondie** • Chic Young



**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



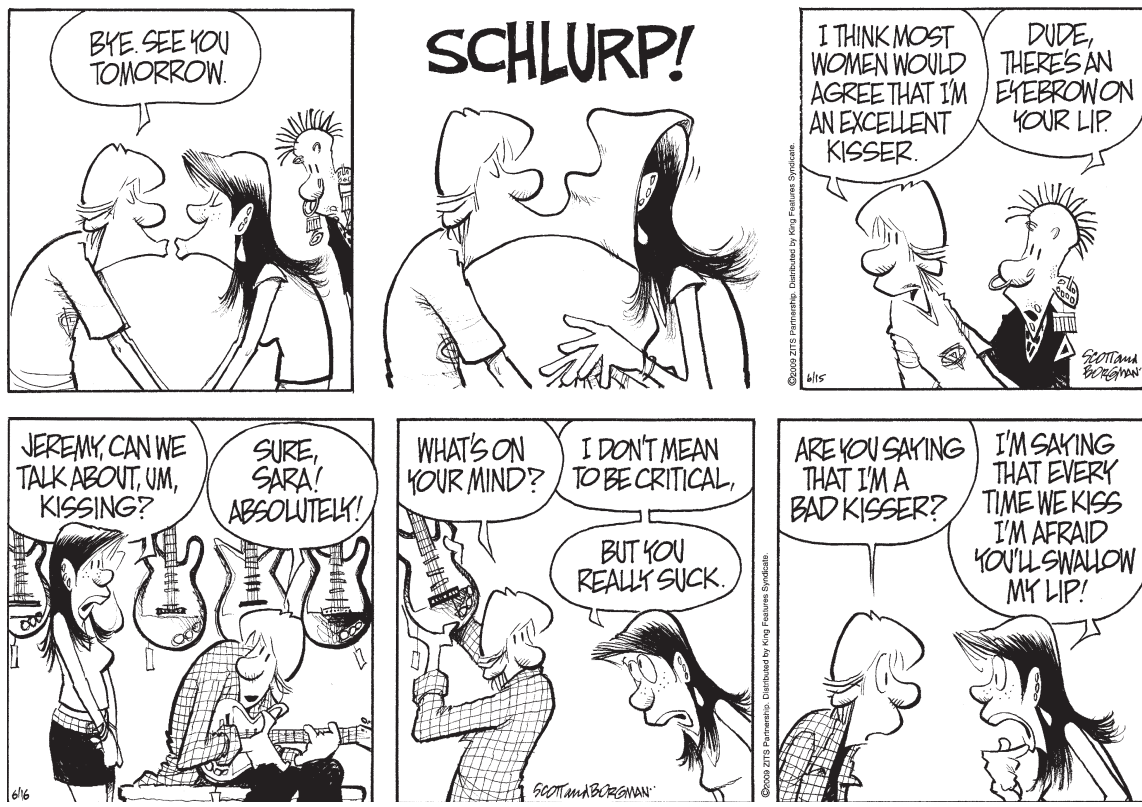
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Dr. Joyce Brothers**

• Ask Dr. Brothers

**Friend moved; girl must cope**

**Dear Dr. Brothers:** A good friend of mine – a guy – moved away with his family, and it affected me more than I thought it would. I have a boyfriend, and he was always suspicious of my relationship with this friend, but I reassured him that I wanted to be with him. Now that my friend has left, I'm questioning whether I actually might have had feelings for him. What do I tell my boyfriend while I figure all this out? – J.G.

**Dear J.G.:** You owe it to your boyfriend to be honest with him no matter what. First, you need to figure out whether you want to stay with him or not. You are allowed to have fleeting feelings for someone else, and as long as you're honest with your boyfriend about what the relationship with your friend meant to you, you may be able to salvage your relationship. Don't expect him to take this lying down, though. He has every right to be angry, especially since he'd been suspicious. He may think that you were hiding your feelings, and will be hurt by that perceived dishonesty.

If you can figure out where you stand with your own feelings, you'll be able to explain them better to your boyfriend. He's likely been confused or unsure about something in your relationship before, and if you can make him understand that the feelings you may or may not have had for your friend were more about yourself than about your friend, it will be easier for your boyfriend to accept. You should both realize that it is normal to miss an absent friend, but try to think of a way to emphasize that you did indeed choose your guy in the end.

**Dear Dr. Brothers:** I just gave birth to my first child, and I can't seem to make myself happy with my body again. Until I got pregnant, I worked hard to stay in shape and keep my weight down, and now I can't seem to lose the weight. I don't want to give up looking good, but I'm getting frustrated. Is it unhealthy to change my target weight or allow myself to stop dieting? – C.H.

**Dear C.H.:** It sounds like you may actually have been practicing some fairly unhealthy ways to control your weight in the past, but now you are set up to become much more healthy. Healthy bodies come in all shapes and sizes. For most people, it would be impossible to exercise and diet their way to a "model" body. This is not to say, that you should give up and let your motivation for fitness and health go. It's OK to set long-term goals for healthy eating and exercise, and to try to make changes that are reasonable and that you can stick with in the long run.

Undoubtedly, your lifestyle has changed since having a baby, and you should try to work with this change instead of fighting against it. You can add exercise into your daily routine. Regardless of what size clothing you wear, you need to learn to accept your body and focus on the things you like. Value your body for the things it does, not just for how it looks!

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



Little Billy fills in with his observations while Daddy takes the week off.

**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 6/15

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.

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

**Cryptoquip**

ADSTXRD PGD JXRP GTB  
 ANYOZ HYC T QCYPTSPDB  
 QDCMYB YH PMKD, KMJGP IYX  
 RTI MP OTR NYZZ-OMZBDB?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF AN ANIMATED FILM OGRE IS FRIGHTENED AND SCREAMING, YOU COULD SAY THOSE ARE SHREK'S SHRIEKS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals Y

**Bridge** • Steve Becker

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable.  
 NORTH  
 ♠ A 7 4 2  
 ♥ Q 10 7 5 4 2  
 ♦ 5 4  
 ♣ K  
 WEST  
 ♠ 1  
 ♥ K 6  
 ♦ 10 8 7 3  
 ♣ A Q 9 8 4 2  
 EAST  
 ♠ K 10 8 6 3  
 ♥ 1 9 3  
 ♦ Q 1 6  
 ♣ J 5  
 SOUTH  
 ♠ Q 9 5  
 ♥ A 8  
 ♦ A K 9 2  
 ♣ 10 7 6 3

The bidding:  
 South West North East  
 1 ♠ 2 ♣ 2 ♥  
 2 NT Pass 3 NT  
 Opening lead — eight of clubs.

**Famous Hand**

Many players think that a bridge expert makes one sensational bid or play after another and wins most of his points that way. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The fact is that the expert's reputation stems primarily from one source -- he makes fewer mistakes than the next fellow. Seldom does he do anything really dramatic -- rather, he just quietly goes about his business making precisely the right bid or play in hand after hand.

The expert's judgment is not clouded by extraneous influences -- he reasons everything out very carefully. If his logic leads him to a play that might appear sensational, that is not why he makes the play -- he does so simply because he believes it's the winning play under the circumstances.

Today's hand features perfect defense of the kind that many would term spectacular. It was played many years ago in a tournament in Asheville, N.C. South got to three notrump, and West (Margaret Wagar, one of the top women players of all time) led her fourth-best club.

Dummy's king won, and on it East (Hal McDonald) played the jack! Declarer then led a low heart to the ace, and on it Mrs. Wagar played the king!

These extraordinary plays fixed South's wagon beyond repair. He could do no better than continue with hearts, but when East took his jack and returned the five of clubs, South went down two.

Note that if McDonald had failed to play the club jack at trick one, the suit would have become hopelessly blocked. Note also that if Mrs. Wagar had neglected to drop her king of hearts on the ace, East would have been unable to gain the lead for the killing club return.

Both plays were absolutely necessary to defeat the contract, but we would prefer to think of them simply as indicated rather than sensational.

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**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**  
 1 "Slippery" tree  
 4 Regions  
 9 Pismire  
 12 Vast  
 13 Ballroom favorite  
 14 Actress Myrna  
 15 Letter from the Vatican  
 17 Cleopatra's slayer  
 18 Floral garland  
 19 Undeveloped stage  
 21 Reacted in horror  
 24 Leeway  
 25 "Uh-huh"  
 26 Thickness  
 28 Dynamite inventor Alfred  
 31 Disposition  
 33 Formal  
 25-Across  
 35 "I never — man I didn't like"  
 36 Porcine sniffer  
 38 Pen point

**DOWN**  
 1 Kreskin's claim  
 2 Meadow  
 3 Orienteering aid  
 4 Dormant  
 5 With great intensity  
 6 Ostrich's cousin  
 7 More skilled  
 8 Canned fish  
 9 Warning signal  
 10 Too curious  
 11 Error in print  
 16 Matter-horn  
 17 Upper surface  
 20 Prosperous time  
 21 Workout venues  
 22 Charlize Theron film, "Flux"  
 23 Ibis' kin  
 27 Hankering  
 29 Handy Latin abbr.  
 30 Frilly  
 32 Song for two  
 34 Motorcycle attachment  
 37 Cheap  
 39 Lullaby composer  
 42 Lock of hair  
 44 Sphere  
 45 Basketball tactic  
 46 A Great Lake  
 50 Chicken — king  
 51 Suitable  
 52 Zodiac sign  
 53 Once around the track

**Solution time: 27 mins.**

**Saturday's answer 6-15**

|    |    |    |    |   |    |    |   |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|---|----|----|---|----|----|----|
| 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 |   |    |    |   | 59 |    |    |