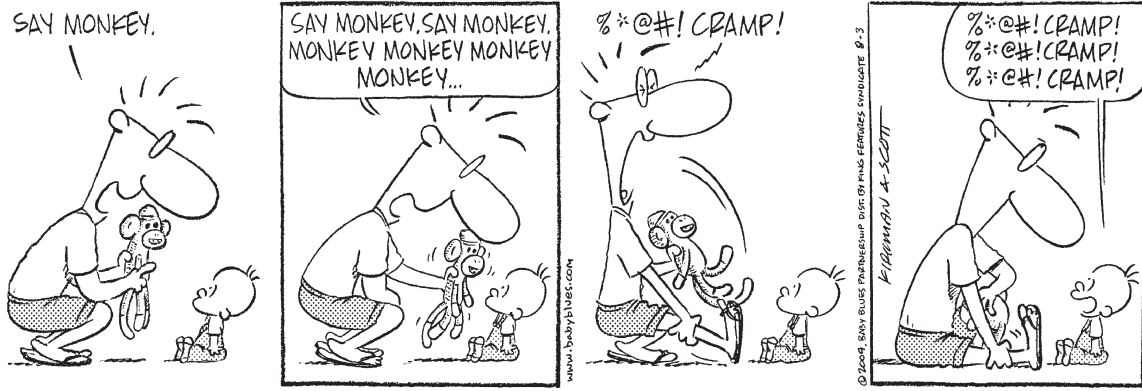


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



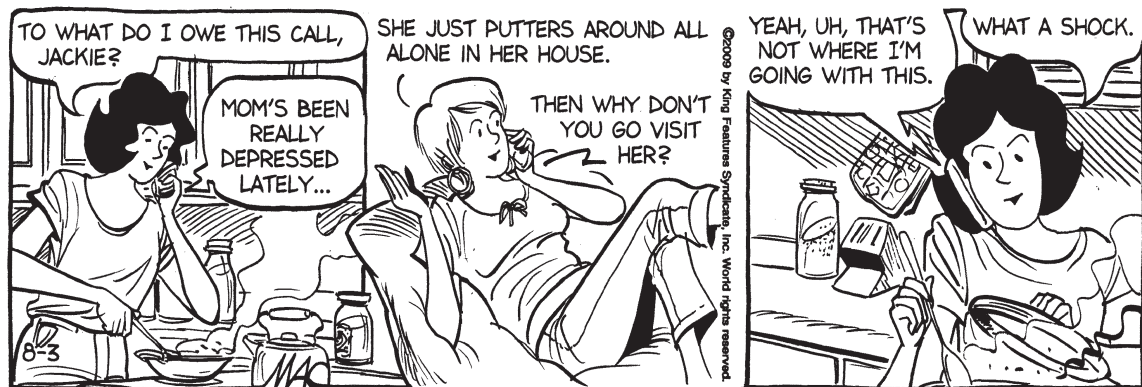
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



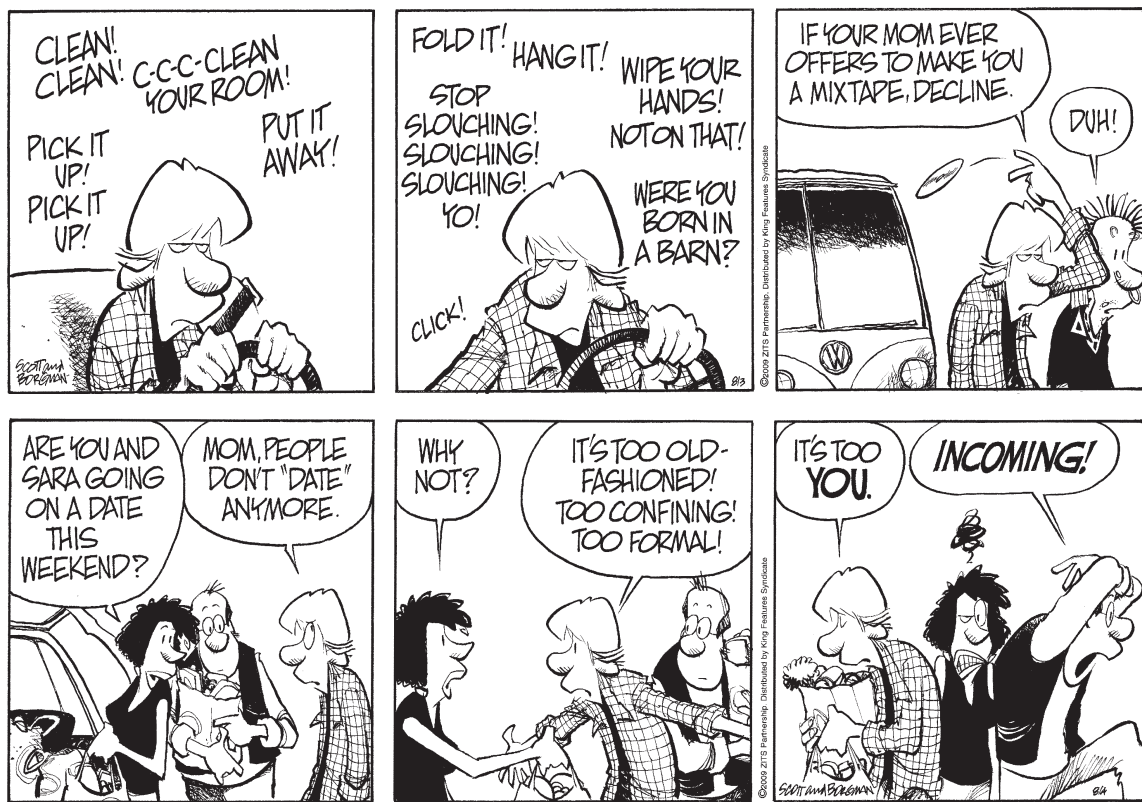
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Some places linked to trouble

Dear Dr. Brothers: My friend from work and I were talking, and we have a disagreement. He was down on a certain college because a lot of kids have committed suicide there. He said the place (a good school) is jinxed. I bet him that there is nothing about a place that would make people kill themselves. Have there been studies done on this? We need you to settle it. B.H.

Dear B.H.: I don't know about settling your argument, because it would be very hard to prove that a place caused someone to kill him- or herself. But you might have postulated that a place can have an association with suicide, and you'd be correct - whether it is a notorious chasm at a well-regarded college, or the Golden Gate Bridge, whose many suicides have prompted at least one documentary. As far as studies go, there was one produced by Temple University that studied the association of a place with suicide during the past 30 years. The place? Las Vegas.

It compiled figures to show that the place may be "suicidogenic," or toxic in the way of risk for suicide, although it seems to be getting less so. This still leaves somewhat unresolved the question of whether suicides were "caused" by gambling losses, or whether people already suicidal go there planning to die. There is evidence that those who live in Vegas but travel elsewhere have less chance of dying as they are away visiting.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I was talking with a friend who grew up in Europe, and she said she has never seen so much praise of kids as here, compared with what she got. Her parents were more likely to criticize and encourage harder work than to praise and "stroke" her and her siblings. I wonder if I might be guilty of this. - L.C.

Dear L.C.: It might take a friend raised in a different culture to shine a light on the problems we create through unearned praise and shielding from the actual world. And while it is better to build a child's self-esteem than to tear it down, I am wondering if your friend didn't meet fewer ugly surprises in the "real world" than your kids and their friends will find.

A recent study shows that kids today have more self-esteem than their counterparts in the 1970s. The findings, reported in the journal Psychological Science, find that those today claim higher grades, though they do less homework, and think they will make better spouses, workers and parents. And they thought of themselves as more intelligent and were more satisfied with themselves. But they also acknowledged a lower level of self-competency - perhaps paving the way for disappointment when unrealistic goals based on over-confidence aren't realized. So perhaps you can take a cue from your friend and realize that work and more know-how will help your kids much more than meaningless praise.

(c) 2009 by King Features Syndicate

Bridge • Steve Becker

North dealer. Neither side vulnerable.
NORTH
 ♠ K 9 7 2
 ♥ 10
 ♦ 13
 ♣ A K 19 5 2
WEST
 ♠ A J 10 5 4
 ♥ A K 9 6 4 2
 ♦ 10
 ♣ 7
EAST
 ♠ Q J 7 5 3
 ♥ A 6 4 2
 ♦ 8 6 4 3
SOUTH
 ♠ Q 8 6 3
 ♥ 8
 ♦ K Q 9 8 7 3
 ♣ Q 10
The bidding:
 North East South West
 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass!
 2 ♥ Pass 3 ♠ Pass!
 4 ♥ Pass 4 ♥ 4 NT
 Pass 5 ♦ Dble 6 ♥
 Pass Pass 7 ♣ Dble
 Opening lead - seven of clubs.

Famous Hand

This deal occurred in the 1986 world team championship and features Pakistan's Zia Mahmood, whose daring and ingenuity through the years have provided bridge journalists with enough material to fill several volumes.

On this occasion, though, he produced an unexpected lapse from which mere mortals may take heart. After conducting a typically Zia-esque auction with the West hand to reach a laydown heart slam, he failed to find the best defense against North-South's seven-diamond sacrifice. As a result, he allowed the opponents to escape with a much smaller loss than they should have.

The bidding went as shown, with Zia characteristically lying low at his first two turns before showing his true colors. In the interim, the opponents' spade bids told him that his partner had at most one spade. When Zia eventually bid the slam, South, who had seen the Pakistani in action before, believed him and so decided to take the diamond save.

The defense seemed obvious: ace of spades, spade ruff, a heart to the king, spade ruff and the ace of diamonds. This would come to 900 points (1,100 in today's scoring) -- only 80 less than the score for making six hearts.

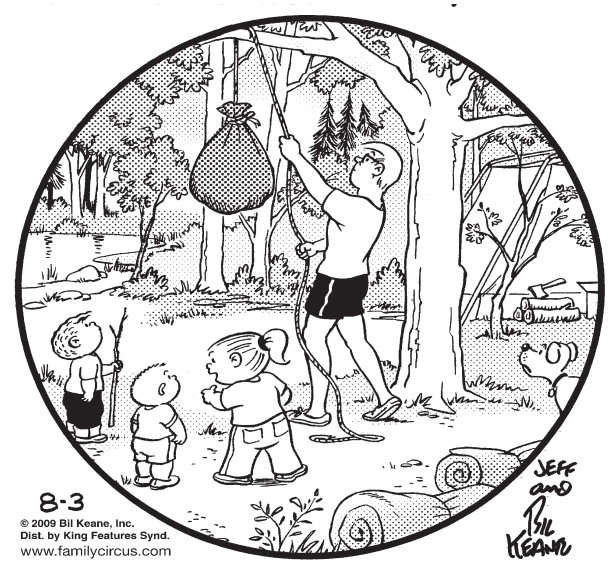
But to everyone's astonishment, Zia led a club, reasoning that on the bidding, his partner's ace was likely to be in clubs. In that case, the defense would go club ace, club ruff, spade ace, spade ruff, heart king, spade ruff for down six and 1,100 points.

However, South won the first club and led a trump to the jack and ace. East then returned a club, never expecting that his partner would lead a singleton club holding only one trump. When West couldn't ruff, declarer discarded his losing heart on a third round of clubs, drew trumps and then led a spade. Zia had to grab the ace or he would have lost it, so South finished down only two for a loss of 300 points.

Perhaps there is hope for the rest of us after all.

(c)2009 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



8-3 © 2009 Bil Keane, Inc. Dist. by King Features Synd. www.familycircus.com

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 8/01

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.

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

Cryptoquip

VGLTH VGLEHZ HSRGH GV
 XL XDGTGILXRI ID DGLH
 DIIR, SIC NGEYQ VXS
 VYH'V X EICZNHQ EIZNH.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHOLESOME SITCOM CONCERNING A SUBURBAN FAMILY BOY WITH GREAT FAITH: "LEAVE IT TO BELIEVER."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals O

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| ACROSS | 36 Things Mob scene | 5 Wire measures | 22 Very energetic |
| 1 Mob scene | 40 Tavern | 6 Sch. org. | 23 "Garden of Earthly Delights" |
| 5 Speedometer stat | 41 Suburban setting | 7 Unman- ageable painter | 25 Trust- worthy |
| 8 Venue for Michael Phelps | 42 Erstwhile tabs on | 8 Colorado city | 26 Fully fill |
| 12 Horrifying act | 48 At full strength | 9 Exam format | 27 Grad |
| 14 Desire | 49 Brazilian rubber | 10 Shrek, e.g. | 29 Skip |
| 15 Algebra data | 50 Started | 11 Fasting time | 31 Egos' counter- parts |
| 16 Deserve | 51 Small barrels | 13 Rubik's brain- teaser | 33 African country |
| 17 Couric's network | DOWN | 19 Charitable donation | 34 Jog sans togs |
| 18 Writing pad | 1 U.K. fliers | 20 Tummy muscles, for short | 36 Metrical foot |
| 20 Aquarium buildup | 2 Judge Lance | 21 Block of bread | 37 Dance lesson |
| 23 Tele- phone inventor | 3 Bobby of hockey | | 38 George- town athlete |
| 24 Italy's silhouette | 4 Male meower | | 39 Basin accessory |
| 25 Another name for Taiwan | | | 40 Actor Pitt |
| 28 Droop | | | 43 Insepa- rable |
| 29 Desert haven | | | 44 Num- bered hwy. |
| 30 - Baba | | | 45 Lower limb |
| 32 Counter- top material | | | 46 Football dist. |
| 34 Variety of poker | | | |
| 35 Accompanying | | | |

Solution time: 27 mins.

ALL	FATE	STOW
SEA	OVER	PAPA
SANGUINE	RUES	
GOLD	HITCH	
APSES	SWAN	
GUY'S	SLEIGHTS	
URN	CHANG	ARE
ELEPHANT	KNEW	
YEGG	LOGES	
VAULT	KALE	
ORSO	KANGAROO	
TEEN	OREO	OWN
EAIRS	TICES	NEE

Saturday's answer 8-3

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	