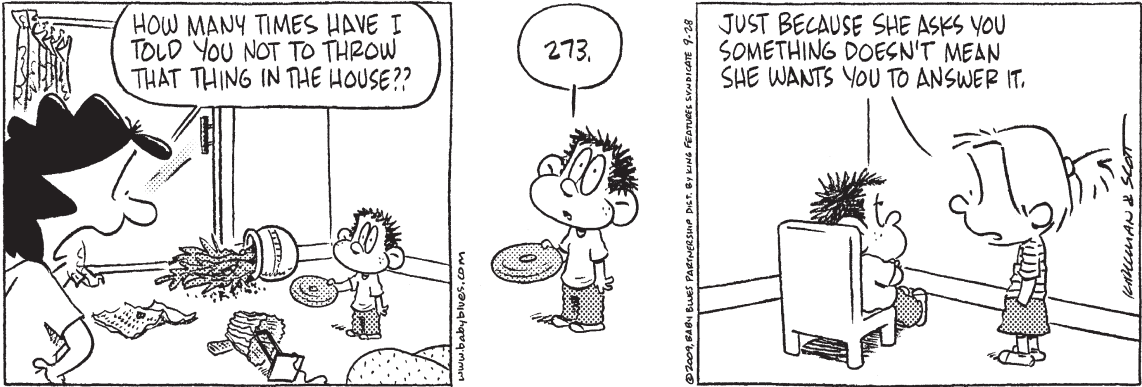
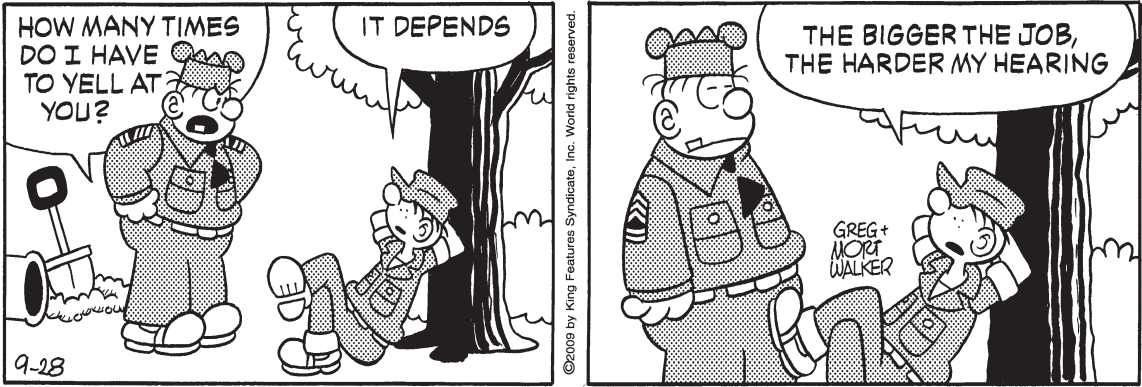


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



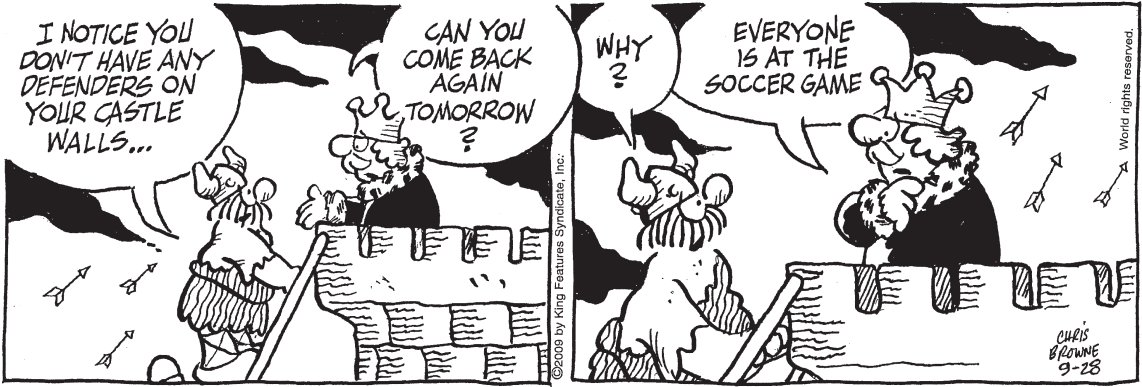
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



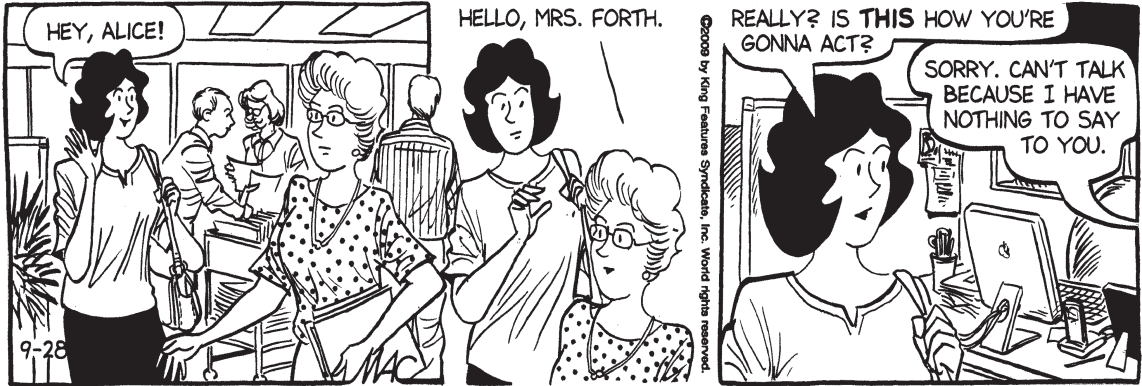
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



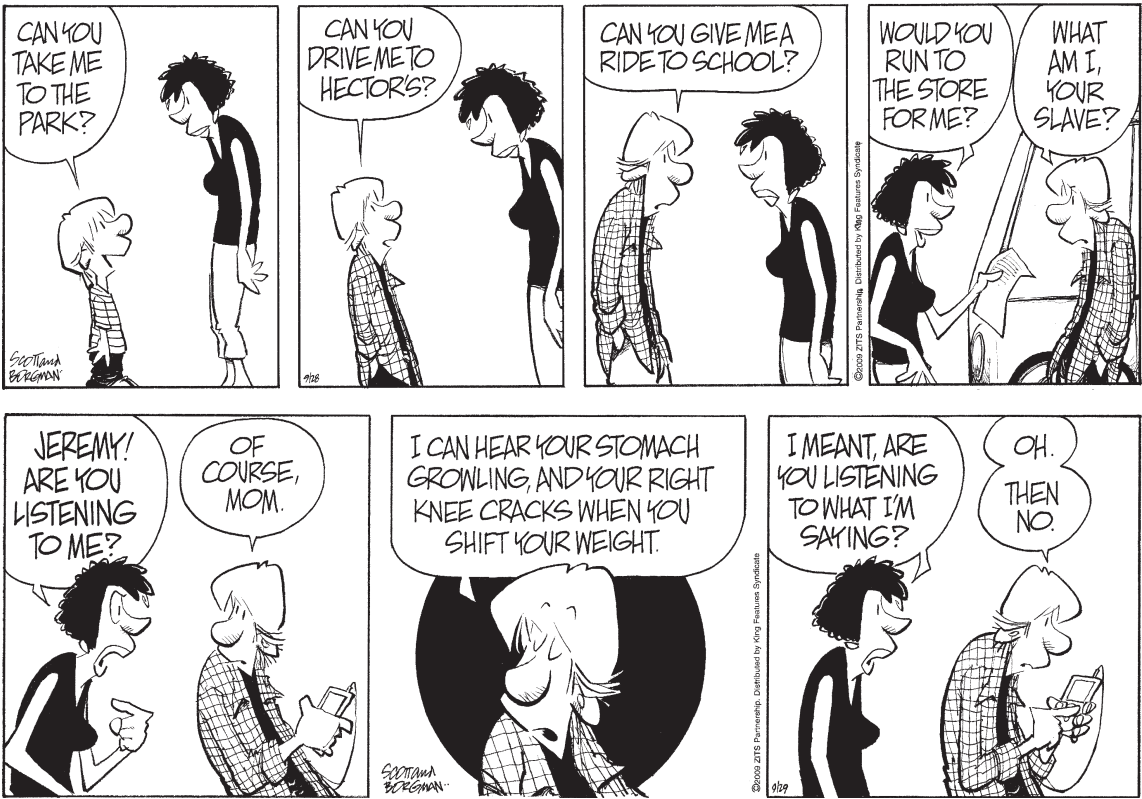
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers • Ask Dr. Brothers

New employee isn't respectful

Dear Dr. Brothers: I work in middle management in a corporation. One guy is a good new employee, but his interpersonal skills are odd and too casual. We are in a formal office setting, and I am not used to people sitting on the corner of my desk, slapping my back, asking me to discuss TV shows and joking about the pictures on my desk. How do I get him to back off and become more business-like? – L.C.

Dear L.C.: It seems this employee slipped by the human resources department, or maybe he put on a business face for the interview. In any case, he probably is capable of acting in a professional way, yet chooses not to. This is rather odd behavior for a new employee trying to succeed, but perhaps his newness is the key. Many people act in a more informal way than is appropriate in an attempt to ingratiate themselves. He may feel uncomfortable to be in the job, and is looking to be pals so you will give him the benefit of the doubt. Since his work is able to stand on its own, you might try praising his effort – giving him a chance to relax and behave more appropriately. Another facet of his personality might be tone-deafness to recognizing and absorbing corporate culture. This means he hasn't noticed how people act in the office and what acceptable behavior is. You may need to give him time to get acclimated, or sign him up for a class in interpersonal skills. Obviously, the more you respond to his too-personal forays, the more acceptable he'll find them, so keep your cool and your distance.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I work as an intern in a research lab in a university. My background is such that I was able to get my job, but it's a dead end. Everyone else here has advanced degrees from top colleges, and I am just a local who went to the community college but will do menial stuff for credit. The problem is, everyone lords it over me that they are more well-educated. How can I get them to think better of me? – A.T.

Dear A.T.: It sounds as though your problem isn't how to get them to think better of you – it's how to get them to think less of themselves, and you to think better of yourself. Start with what you are getting out of the job. It is great you have a distinguished university in your backyard and were able to get an internship there, despite your perceived lack of credentials. Someone believes you have a lot to offer, so put your chin up and act as though you belong – the experience will be a feather in your cap. If there are colleagues you would like to befriend, get to work on that. You can't compete on the educational level. But you have something of value: You're a local, and you can offer an insider's tour of your city. Invite them out after work to some great restaurant or club that's under the radar – and let them see you as an expert on a different platform. Be friendly but not in awe of their credentials – after all, you may end up with a Ph.D. yourself someday; you just are at a different point in the process. I think the less you let yourself be intimidated, the more you will fit in after all.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

| | | | |
|--|------|-------|------|
| North dealer. East-West vulnerable. | | | |
| NORTH | | | |
| ♦ A K | | | |
| ♥ K J 10 5 | | | |
| ♦ Q J 9 3 | | | |
| ♠ J 8 5 | | | |
| WEST | | | |
| ♦ 10 4 3 2 | | | |
| ♥ A 8 7 2 | | | |
| ♦ K 4 2 | | | |
| ♠ A 9 | | | |
| EAST | | | |
| ♦ Q J 9 8 5 | | | |
| ♥ 6 | | | |
| ♦ 8 7 5 | | | |
| ♠ 7 6 4 3 | | | |
| SOUTH | | | |
| ♦ 7 6 | | | |
| ♥ Q 9 4 3 | | | |
| ♦ A 10 6 | | | |
| ♠ K Q 10 2 | | | |
| The bidding: | | | |
| North | East | South | West |
| 1 ♦ | Pass | 1 ♥ | Pass |
| 2 ♥ | Pass | 3 ♦ | Pass |
| 3 ♦ | Pass | 3 NT | Pass |
| Opening lead — two of spades. | | | |

Famous Hand

This deal was played in the final of the 1989 world team championship, which saw Brazil defeat the United States to capture the Bermuda Bowl.

With Hugh Ross of the U.S. South, four hearts was reached as shown. West led a spade to dummy's king, and Ross played two rounds of trumps, West ducking both. Declarer then led a club to the jack, also ducked, and lost a diamond finesse to West's king.

West's spade return was taken by the ace, and a club was conceded to the ace. West saw that a diamond or heart return would make it easy for South to score 10 tricks, so he returned a spade, hoping declarer would slip. But Ross did not falter.

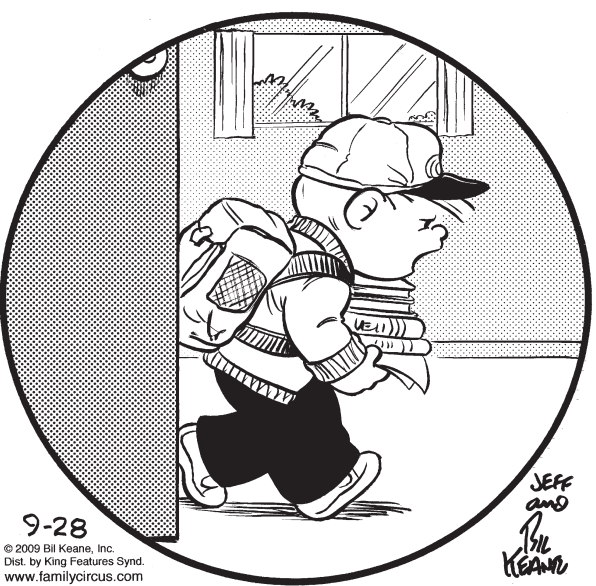
He discarded dummy's third club while ruffing in his hand, cashed the diamond ace and then played clubs, rendering West helpless. If West ruffed with the eight, dummy would overruff and play good diamonds until West scored his trump ace; if West did not ruff either club, declarer would discard both diamonds from dummy and then lead the diamond ten to achieve the same result. Either way, the contract was home.

When Brazilian star Gabriel Chagas held the South cards at the other table, the play to the first few tricks was essentially the same. But after West took the diamond king and returned a spade to dummy's ace, Chagas erred by playing a third round of trumps instead of driving out the club ace.

West, Chip Martel, made no mistake. He won the heart and returned a heart, drawing Chagas' last two trumps in the process. With no stopper left in spades and the club ace still outstanding, Chagas could not score a second club trick and so finished down one, giving the U.S. a 470-point gain on the deal.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

Cryptoquip

Q W O D J I D W P V C O D

Z P E P B D O E C P U K Q W J E W O

Q O J D P Z D Z O T I B Y Z D I E Y Z T P M

U P P V M J I W P I ? O W O I W D Z O K .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: DO YOU SUPPOSE ANYBODY WILL EVER MAKE A VIDEO ABOUT WHISKEY AND MARKET IT AS A SCOTCH TAPE?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals H

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
1 One of the Three Bears
5 Sample from a sniffer
8 First victim
12 Lift
14 Hayseed
15 Christmas wreath adornment
16 Press clothes
17 Fresh
18 Rose protectors
20 Photographer Diane
23 Jailer's janglers
24 Traditional stories
25 Regard as forgivable
28 Sch. org.
29 Aspect
30 A Gershwin brother
32 Tornado
34 Paper holder
35 Hawaiian neckwear
- DOWN**
1 Energy
2 — Baba
3 Writing implement
4 Fifth or Madison
5 Pack cargo
6 Charged bit
7 Sham
8 Melodious
9 "Ironsides" star
10 Black, in verse
11 Contact, e.g.
13 "Bullets," to a poker player
19 Jekyll's alter ego
20 Mother-horn for one
21 Mil. training grp.
22 Heehaw
23 Zen paradoxes
25 Certain church singer
26 Cleo-patra's river
27 A Great Lake
29 Entreaty
31 Spring mo.
33 Customer
34 Paratroopers' gear
36 Slender
37 Superhero costume part
38 Winged
39 Promises
40 Gift tag word
43 Oklahoma city
44 Mel of baseball
45 Ultra-modernist
46 Historic time

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Saturday's answer 9-28

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 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 | | | |
| | | | | | | | 36 | | | |
| 37 | 38 | 39 | | | | 40 | | | | |
| 41 | | | | 42 | 43 | | | 44 | 45 | 46 |
| 47 | | | | 48 | | | | | | |
| 49 | | | | 50 | | | 51 | | | |