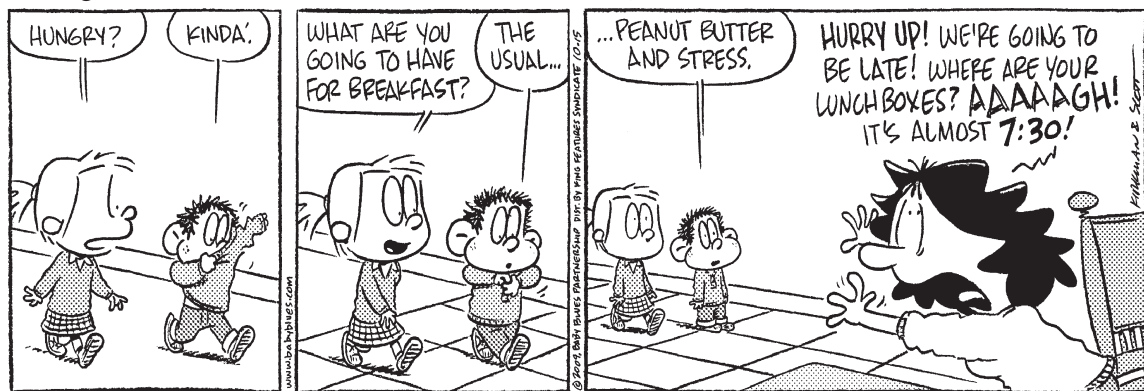


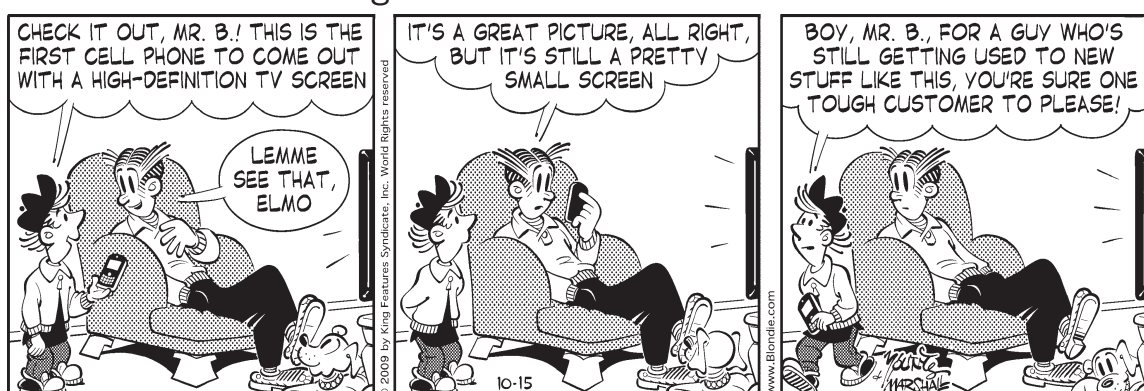
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



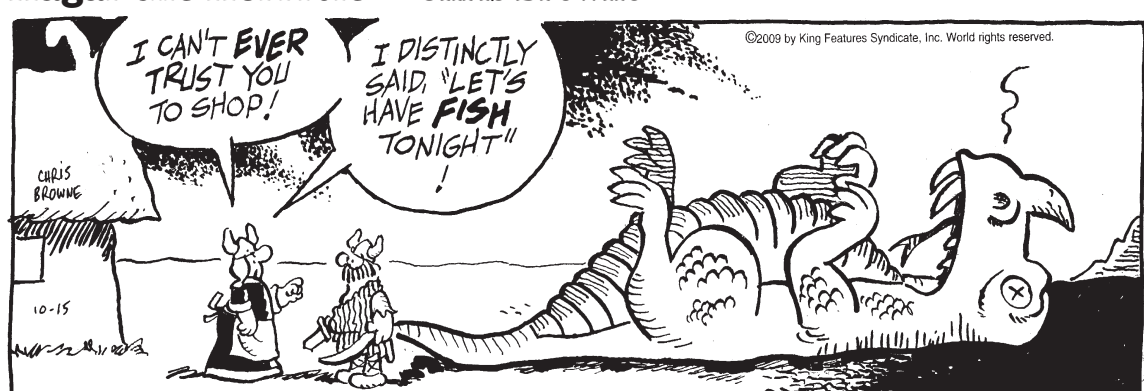
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



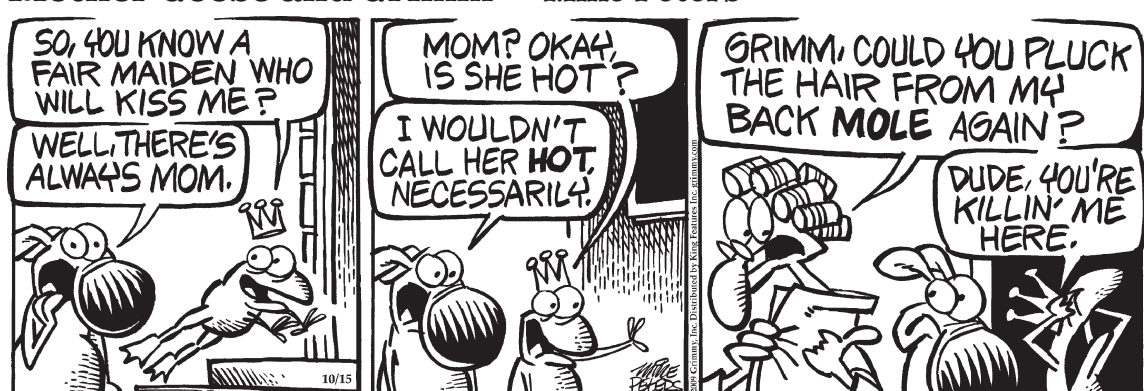
Blondie • Chic Young



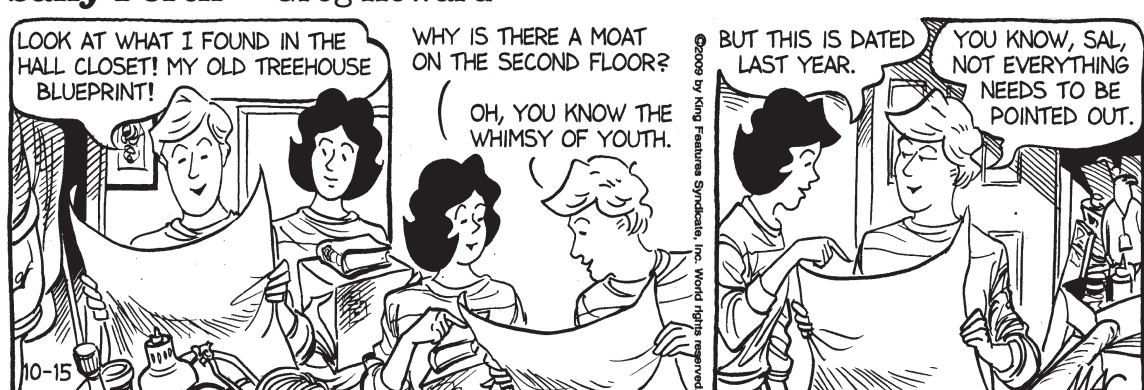
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



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
Band tryouts cause son stress

Dear Dr. Brothers: My son is shy and not competitive. This summer he showed interest in learning to play an instrument, so we got him a saxophone and lessons. He likes playing, and seems interested. Today, he said if he joins the school band, he must try out for placement. He was crying and wants to know why he must compete. He's in sixth grade. What do I say? - D.B.

Dear D.B.: Your son has a good point. A lot of musicians feel the same way. Some even refuse honors because they don't feel music should be competitive. If he fears competition, it's a good time to face that fear head-on, because life is only going to become more competitive, and he needs to find strength and resolve to cope with that. I realize many schools (and families) have removed the trappings of rewarding excellence, and make all "winners" for participating, but that doesn't prepare kids for the harsh realities to come.

Your son probably will enjoy band. Sit down with the director and let him explain the tryouts are the only means he has of listening to all the children play and placing them in the seat that best fits them and the band. It will be a place from which he can strive to improve and not start out over his head. In the meantime, he can take lessons and play for enjoyment. It sounds like something he can enjoy for years to come, so give him encouragement with his music.

Dear Dr. Brothers: Our family will be proud to have our nephew join the Army next year after he graduates from high school. It is something he has always wanted, although we have no other military people in our family. We are wondering what steps are taken to make sure soldiers are able to cope with the stresses of combat? You hear awful things about post-traumatic stress disorder. We think he has mental toughness, but he may need some help. - P.G.

Dear P.G.: Your nephew is joining up just as a new program is being phased in that should give all in the military tools in building resiliency. There will be intensive training classes in dealing with emotions through examination of troubling thoughts and beliefs. Such training has been used in schools and shown to reduce mental distress among children and teenagers. Military officials are hoping the techniques will help in their organizations, where suicides and post-traumatic stress are rising. Soldiers will be required to fill out questionnaires frequently. This should lead to fewer slipping between the cracks of the system.

You can support your relative and make sure everyone keeps in touch. Frequent communication will help keep him connected and help you gauge how he's doing. Don't be afraid to talk about emotions - long avoided in soldiers' experience. There are questions as to whether mental toughness and resiliency can be taught. This approach will attempt to make a difference to those open to growth and adaptability.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



10-15
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"Where were we while all this was going on?"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

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.

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

Cryptoquip

U G K P N E L H G U N E S A L J
G K C C Z S X Z P O E S J L L H Z P I
G K X Z P S X X C S N Z C S C O L I L O L
O E S A L N U A X E Z P I A S X G U J.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: PLAY CONCERNING SOME LOYAL FOLLOWERS WHO END UP GETTING DISGRACED: "THE SHAMING OF THE TRUE."
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals O

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Tackled weeds
5 Miss Scarlet's game
9 Occupation
12 Incite
13 Padlock fastener
14 Kyoto cummerbund
15 Recurring marine events
17 Thither
18 Fall
19 Propelled a scull
21 "— what?"
22 Felix Salten story
24 Bad habit
27 "El —"
28 Old Testament kingdom
31 Commotion
32 Peculiar
33 Actress — Longoria Parker

DOWN
34 — hall meeting
36 Month (Sp.)
37 Now, on a memo
38 Refugee
40 @
41 Non-sense
43 Will subject
47 Disen-cumber
48 Wasn't neutral
51 Lemieux milieu
52 Saskatchewan tribe
53 Com-plain
54 Surprise cries
55 Flock
56 Host

20 Homer's dad
22 Obama's veep
23 Puts in
24 Cistern
25 Altar
5 Goatee site
6 Young bloke
7 Work with
8 English racetrack site
9 Trips taken in "borrowed" cars
10 Reed instrument
11 Tie
16 Pair
21 Theseus' land
39 Fodder plant
40 Pompous sort
41 Small combo
42 Opulent
43 Scratch-ed (out)
44 Hebrew month
45 Clause in a contract
46 Get a glimpse of
49 Raw rock
50 — the ramparts ...

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 10-15

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		

Bridge • Steve Becker

East dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♦K5
♥A J 5
♠A J 8 4
♣A 7 6 2

WEST
♦10 2
♥Q 3
♠K Q J 10 9 8 5 3
♣K Q

EAST
♦J 7 6 4 3
♥K 9 7 6 4 2
♠6 3
♣—

SOUTH
♦A Q 9 8
♥10 8
♠K Q 10 9 7 5
♣4

The bidding:
East South West North
Pass 1♦ 4♣ 6♦

Opening lead — king of clubs.

Right Bid, Wrong Declarer

The basic purpose of a pre-emptive bid is to crowd the bidding so that the opponents - who are presumed to have the better hands - will have very limited space in which to exchange information. Quite often this tactic succeeds in jockeying the opponents into the wrong contract.

West's four-club bid in today's deal is a typical pre-emptive bid. With seven winners in his hand and 100 honors to boot, West cannot lose more than 400 points even if he is doubled and goes down three.

Furthermore, if it should turn out that his partner does not provide him with a single trick, the 400-point loss becomes very worthwhile, since the opponents are then almost sure to have a game, if not a slam. From every viewpoint, therefore, the jump-overcall by West is a sound tactical measure.

Consider North's predicament after the four-club bid. It is not clear what he should do. His actual raise to six diamonds - though a shot in the dark - is probably as reasonable an action as any.

The way things turned out, though, North should have bid only five diamonds. West led the king of clubs, covered by the ace and ruffed by East. Declarer later lost a heart trick and so went down one.

However, the outcome does not prove North was wrong to bid the slam. In fact, had his partner played the hand more carefully, he would have made six diamonds. He should have anticipated the possibility that East had no clubs, and protected against it by playing low from dummy at trick one, allowing West's king to win the trick!

If West continued with a second club, South would again play low from dummy and ruff in his hand. With the ace of clubs still in dummy and available for a heart discard, it would then have been a simple matter for declarer to score the 12 tricks he had started with.

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