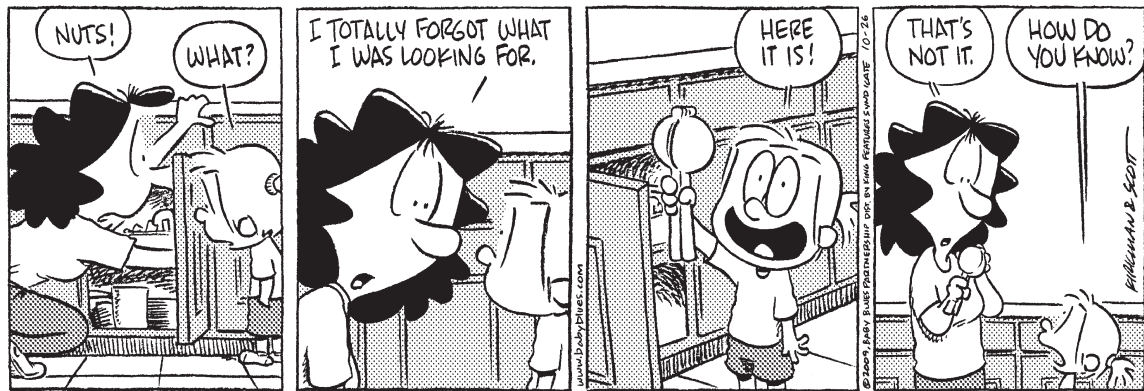
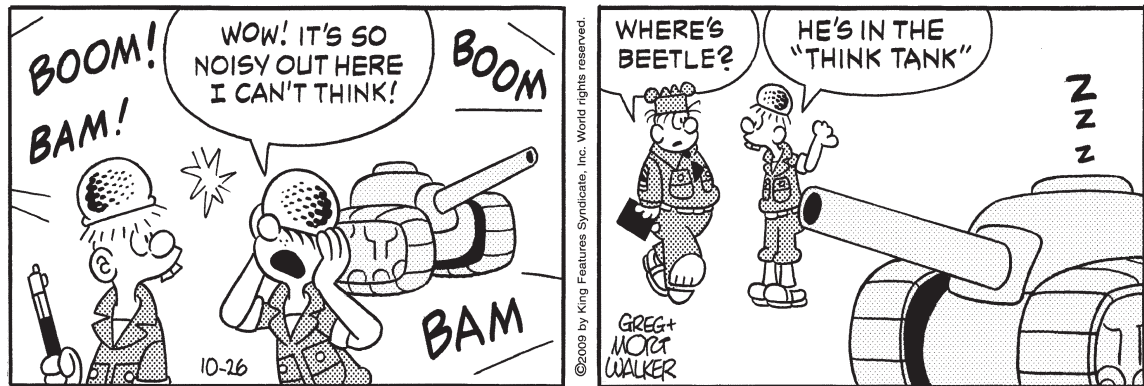


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



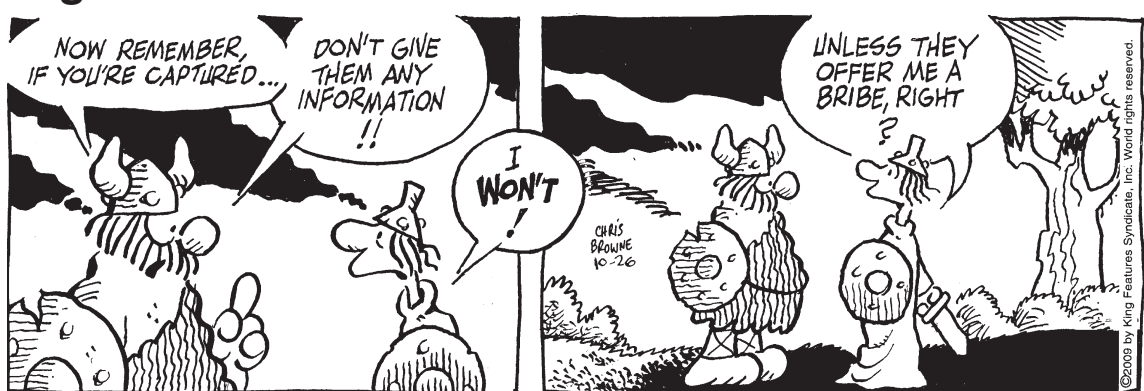
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



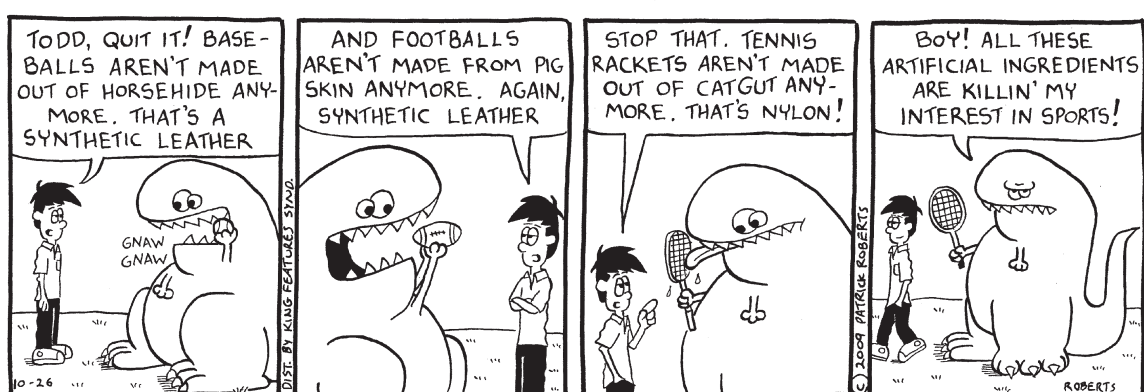
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



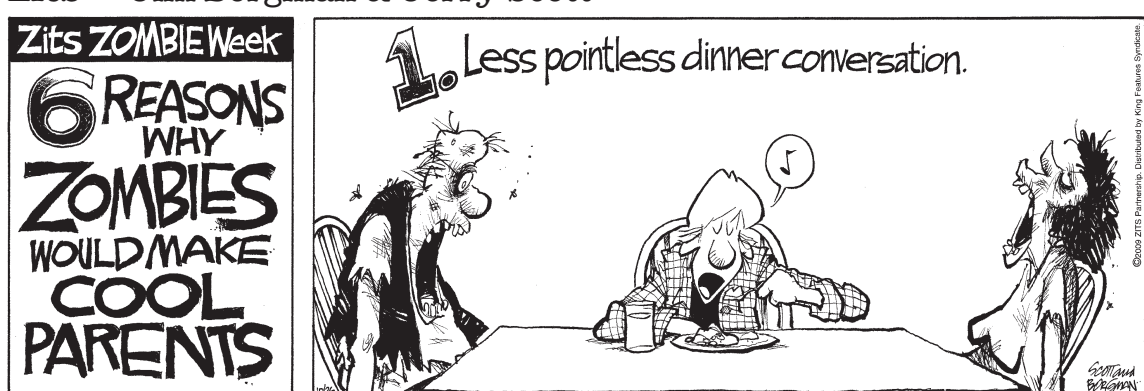
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Employee seems full of excuses

Dear Dr. Brothers: I have an employee with an excuse for everything. He's actually very good at his job, but when confronted with a mistake or oversight, he shifts into this defensive, excuse-making mode. It's impossible to work with someone who will never take responsibility. How can I talk this out without making him even more defensive? — H.C.

Dear H.C.: Excuses serve a lot of functions in a lot of scenarios, and you've undoubtedly used a couple yourself. But over time, excuses can keep you from understanding your actions, and create obstacles to reaching goals. Start by evaluating how you use excuses in your own life, and what functions they serve. You also should think about how your behavior as a superior may be contributing to the problem. If you set unreasonably high standards you may be setting him up to make excuses.

Alternatively, if you've already labeled him as someone who always has an excuse, it can become a self-fulfilling prophecy. Sharing your understanding of what he is faced with can be a model for taking responsibility. Talk to him in a supportive manner, and make sure others aren't around to gang up on him. Focus on your observations, and ask open-ended questions about his opinions. Let him know why excuse-making is worrisome, and focus on positive reasons for taking responsibility for his actions.

Dear Dr. Brothers: My son won't leave the house. He's almost 30, and still living at home. He has a job, but never wanted to move. We tried to get parents and offer him a home, but this is getting absurd. My wife and I are retired, and we'd like the house to ourselves — this isn't how we pictured retirement. Is it OK to ask him to move out? How do we bring this up? — T.P.

Dear T.P.: Of course it's OK to ask your son to move out. It's one thing when he's 16 to make sure he has security and a place to call home, but as an adult you can expect him to begin a life of his own. If you enjoyed living with him, it would be different, but in this case, it sounds like he's holding you back from doing things that you want to do. Surely if he knew you were unhappy, he might take some steps to become independent. It sounds like you haven't even mentioned your concerns to your son, which might send the message that you have no problem and don't expect change. Do specific things he does make it hard to live with him, or make you unable to do what you want? If you're uncomfortable asking him to move, at least discuss arrangements. He must understand living with you doesn't mean not taking responsibility. This conversation naturally may extend to suggesting that, at almost 30 years old, it may be time for a house of his own.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

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

Famous Hand

This deal occurred at the 1984 World Team Olympiad in the final of the women's championship, which saw the United States defeat Great Britain by the narrow margin of 11 International Match Points.

At the first table, with Betty Ann Kennedy and Carol Sanders North-South for the U.S., and Pat Davies and Nicola Gardener Smith East-West for Britain, the bidding went as shown. After Sanders' weak two-heart bid and West's two-spade overall, Kennedy, with the vulnerability in her favor, tried the best she could to throw up a smoke screen by bidding four notrump. However, East was not dissuaded by this obvious tactical measure and bid six spades.

Kennedy then judged well by bidding seven hearts, which was doubled by East and defeated five tricks for a score of 900 points (1,100 in today's scoring). Since East-West would have made all the tricks in a spade contract, yielding a score of 1,460 points for a small slam and 2,210 for a grand slam, this was an excellent result and had the potential to produce a hefty swing for the Americans.

But things took an unexpected turn at the second table when the bidding went:

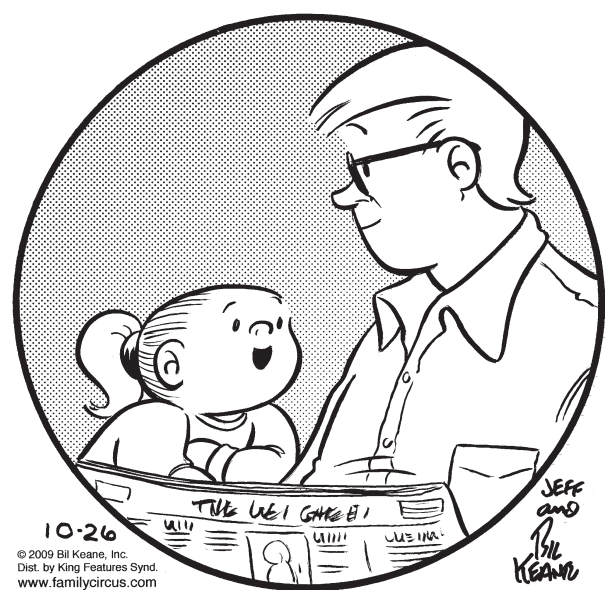
South West North East
2♥ Pass! 2♠!! 3NT
4♥ 4♠

The British South's two-diamond opening indicated one of several types of hands, including a weak two-bid in hearts, and West decided to await developments. North muddled the waters with two spades, and after East's leap to three notrump and four hearts by South, West belatedly showed her spades.

Having done their damage, the English were delighted to let the U.S. pair buy the contract at this level, with North certain her opponents had missed a slam. She was absolutely right, but must have been disappointed to learn her teammates had scored only 900 points at the first table, giving the British a net gain of only 190 points, or five IMPs.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 10/26

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.

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

Cryptoquip

JINN-LDCJD LUKR' OCCL

RIZUIR GOCWQ G KIIB

SGDHCD QXGQ'R XUTXNH

BISWNUGZ: "SWZUCWR TCZTI."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I GET AN EXTREMELY EXCITED FEELING ABOUT SOME HANGING FLOWERS. COULD IT BE WISTERIA HYSTERIA?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 34 Witticism | 3 Computer acronym | 22 Lotion additive |
| 1 Brownish songbird | 35 Soon, in verse | 4 Seemingly unsolvable (Pref.) | 23 English cattle breed |
| 5 Tiny | 36 Rotates (Large.) | 5 Had on | 25 Humanitarian |
| 8 Large | 37 Sound system | 6 Kin of | 26 Gloomy |
| 12 Godparents, e.g. | 40 Kin of | 30 -Across | 27 Tibia's place |
| 14 "Once a time" | 41 Cabbie | 7 Regarded | 29 Movie |
| 15 Barack Obama, e.g. | 42 Raze | 8 Drury Lane | 31 Chances, for short |
| 16 Exploit | 43 Eternally | 9 Duel | 33 Made an impression |
| 17 Stocking stuffer? | 44 Liniment target | 10 Capricorn | 34 Com-punctions |
| 18 Soft and weak | 45 Disposition | 11 Initial stake | 36 Explorer Heyerdahl |
| 20 Actor Benjamin | 46 Operated suddenly | 13 Edinburgh resident | 37 Counterfeit |
| 23 Sandwich shop | 1 1960s hallucinogen | 19 Level | 38 Mexican entree |
| 24 Depend (on) | 2 Gorilla | 20 Sis' sib | 39 Reverberate |
| 25 Insists on | | 21 Tear to bits | 40 "So be it" |
| 28 Yoko of music | | | 43 A Gabor sister |
| 29 Break a Commandment | | | 44 Charged bit |
| 30 Discoverer's cry | | | 45 Spanish Mrs. |
| 32 One bordering on divine | | | 46 With it, once |

Solution time: 27 mins.

ARC	ALEE	CITE
BAH	FILE	ADAR
SHOPTALK	JETS	
PIER	ROAST	
TASER	BAAL	
ONUS	GASPEDAL	
ONE	POSIT	RBI
KEYCHAIN	POET	
HITS	DEPTH	
FERAL	PEAK	
OVAL	STOPSIGN	
GENE	ARLO	CEO
SNIT	MALT	KEN

Saturday's answer 10-26

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	