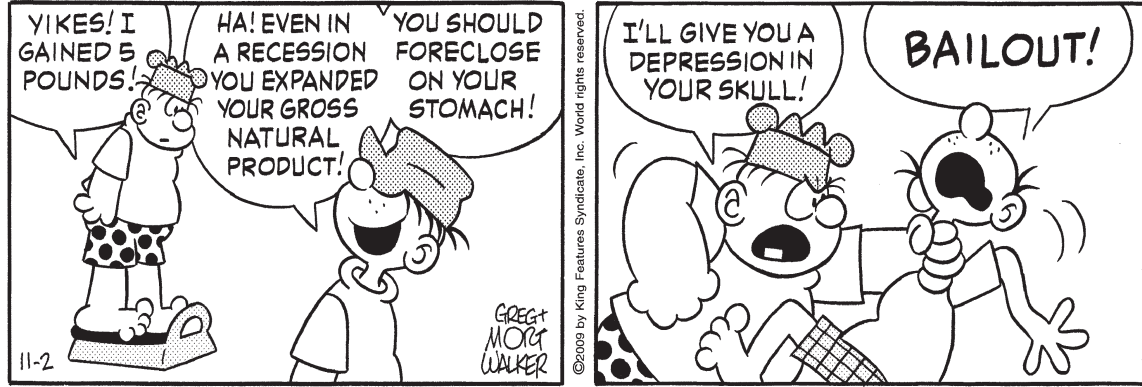


**Baby Blues** • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



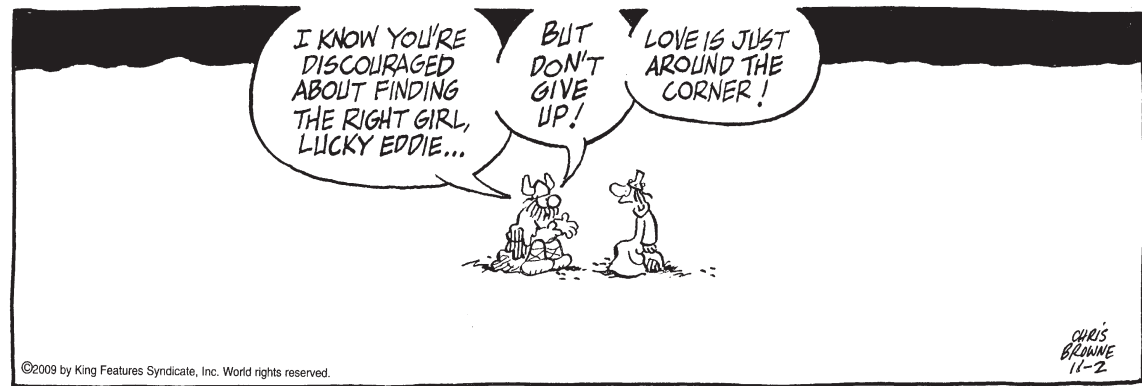
**Beetle Bailey** • Mort Walker



**Blondie** • Chic Young



**Hagar the Horrible** • Chris Browne



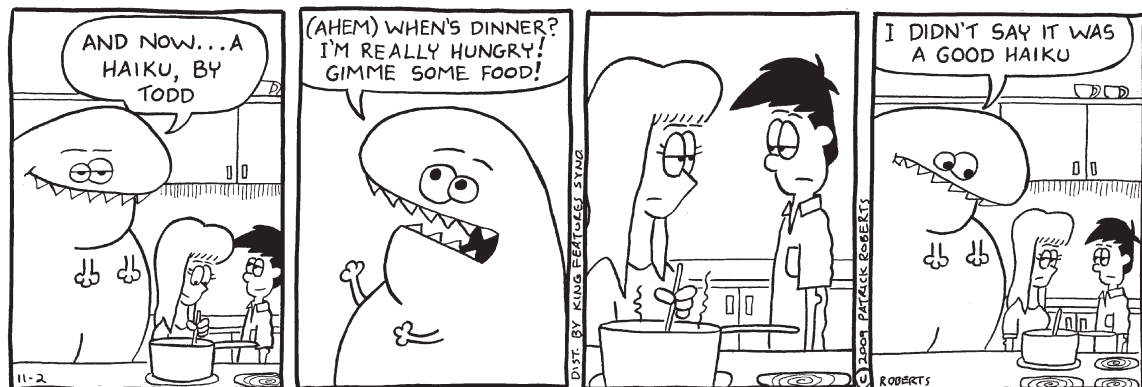
**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



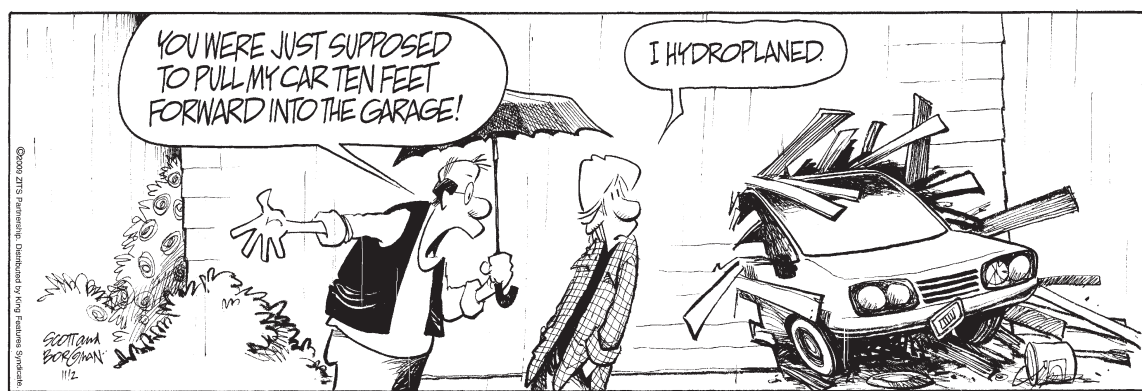
**Sally Forth** • Greg Howard



**Todd the Dinosaur** • Patrick Roberts



**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



**Dr. Joyce Brothers**  
• Ask Dr. Brothers  
**College dreams not always great**

**Dear Dr. Brothers:** I am a career counselor at a small liberal-arts college. I know how to handle most career and business issues that come up with the students, but I am writing to you because I see so much of a side to this business I am not prepared to cope with. One thing I can't do is tell students they aren't qualified for and won't succeed in their chosen future job. Any tips? — K.P.

**Dear K.P.:** You may be interested in a study done recently at Ohio State University and published in the journal *Social Cognition*. Students were told there would be a new graduate program that would lead to good jobs. But they were given different amounts of discouraging news, ranging from that their scores weren't quite up to par to that they wouldn't be able to get a job in this field. The students given the most discouragement had higher self-doubt and anxiety to begin with, but after they changed to more realistic career goals, their anxiety levels decreased.

In this job market, giving students unrealistic expectations when you don't have any confidence they can succeed may seem to be the way to go, because it doesn't lead to anxiety; dreams die hard, and it may seem cruel to dash them. But the better way may be to give students a realistic assessment of their chances as they head down a certain path. There will always be those who confound logic and succeed in spite of predictions. Those will be the ones you don't want to discourage. You must have the faith in your judgment to know which student to steer away from his goal and which to give a little push.

**Dear Dr. Brothers:** I am feeling something strange. I have always been upbeat and love life. Well, this summer I had a fabulous opportunity to travel in South America working with native people and animals. I can't explain how great it was, but now that I am back in college, everything seems dull and ordinary. I miss the friends I made, too. Am I depressed? — C.E.

**Dear C.E.:** You may be suffering from a reactive depression — that is, being depressed because of your reaction to a specific event, an unforgettable summer in another world. I imagine this was a setting in which the adrenaline was flowing, emotions were high and you always had to be on your toes and at the top of your game. I don't doubt many intense friendships were formed, discoveries were made and worthwhile contributions were left behind. If you think about it, this has all the makings of a very tough act to follow.

Now that you are back, it is understandable to feel let down. First, you are back in the real world, which may hold fewer challenges. And you miss friends who shared that experience, which no one at home or school can quite understand. You have a lot to contribute, and since you enjoy living on the edge, it's time to take on another challenge — I'm sure you can find one at school. Look into local programs that might offer the same kind of thrill and sense of purpose and accomplishment you've just experienced. If your down feelings persist, the health clinic is there for you. But I think your new venture will help a lot.

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**Bridge** • Steve Becker

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

**Famous Hand**

This deal occurred about 50 years ago in the European Championships in a match between Ireland and Poland.

The bidding shown took place when the Irish held the North-South cards. The auction was pressured by West's pre-emptive overcall, but the final contract was a reasonable one.

The Polish West led the nine of clubs, and the declarer, Barry O'Connell, made the first of several key plays by putting up dummy's king. A spade was then led to the jack, which held. After cashing the A-K of spades, O'Connell exited with a heart.

Unwilling to yield a ruff-and-discard, West shifted to the jack of diamonds, which rode to South's queen. West's choice of a club lead and his failure to continue the suit convinced O'Connell that the original lead was a singleton. This meant East still held the Q-10-8 of clubs, which constituted two natural tricks unless O'Connell could find a way to make one of them disappear.

After taking the jack of diamonds with the queen, he led a diamond to the ten, taken by East with the ace. Avoiding the club suit like the plague, East returned the diamond nine to dummy's king. South then cashed the eight of diamonds and led a low club from dummy. When East produced the eight, O'Connell let him hold the trick!

This left East in a hopeless position. A heart return would allow declarer to dispose of his remaining club loser as he ruffed in dummy, while a club lead from the Q-10 would let dummy score the jack. Either way, the contract was home.

At the other table, the Polish North-South pair also reached four spades, and the Irish West also led his singleton club. But here, declarer neglected to play the king from dummy at trick one, and the contract failed.

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**Family Circus** • Bil Keane



11-2  
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**Conceptis Sudoku** • Dave Green

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

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.

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

**Cryptoquip**

AOWLLNA YWOJ ATRAJSRNR  
W LKWO KTYTS YGWY  
ATINJZ W INFJTR: "YGJ  
ONYYOJ JRFNRJ YGWY ATTJZ."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT COULD ONE CALL THE PEOPLE WHO RAISED THE WRITER OF "OH! SUSANNA"? FOSTER PARENTS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals T

**Crossword** • Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**  
1 TV alien  
4 "Everybody Loves Raymond" wife  
9 Slight application  
12 Animation frame  
13 Bankrupt company of 2001  
14 Regret  
15 Indoor garment  
17 Finish  
18 Latin 101 word  
19 Plays unfairly  
21 Tenant  
24 Steersman's place  
25 Asia's neighbor (Abbr.)  
26 Last mo.  
28 Big, colorful parrot  
31 On the briny  
33 Long sandwich  
35 Not any

**DOWN**  
11 monest English word  
16 Droop  
20 Verve  
21 Meadows  
22 Expel  
23 Very attractive one  
27 Coffee holder  
29 "Diana" singer  
30 Have on  
32 Jai —  
34 Whom Castro overthrew  
37 Woodshop machinery  
39 Lurch  
42 Bread  
44 CSA soldier  
45 Unwanted e-mail  
46 Incite  
50 Old Mideast ints.  
51 No longer chic  
52 Bonfire residue  
53 Golf-ball prop

**Solution time: 27 mins.**

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

Saturday's answer 11-2

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		