

Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



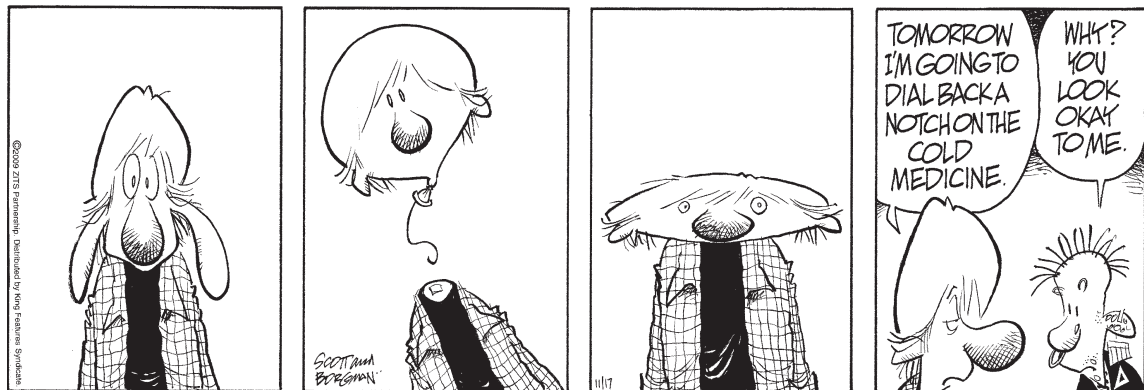
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Cops battling budget cutback

Dear Dr. Brothers: I'm a police officer who loves his job. I've been on the force 15 years and am proud to have chosen law enforcement as my career. The thing is, due to recent budget cutbacks, some officers in my precinct were let go, making those who are left work twice as hard. The extra work is stressing me out, and I'm afraid of making bad choices in the line of duty. What can I do? This is my job! - G.R.

Dear G.R.: You have reason to be concerned. Since your job is one that can involve split-second decisions that can lead to life-or-death outcomes, it's probably obvious to everyone when the force is stretched to the limit and officers show signs of stress. This is already one of the highest-stress jobs there is, so when conditions force you to be even more under the gun than usual, it can take its toll on your mental and emotional health as well as the level of danger you face every day. Before layoffs, you may never have given a thought to mental-health issues as long as things were going well. Stress can build when things are out of balance and you know you are having to cut corners to do the job. And when you are under stress decisions will suffer, because you may not be able to think clearly and logically.

If you can't do anything to change conditions on the job, make sure your off hours are as predictable, healthy and pleasant as possible. Adequate sleep, nutrition and exercise are important, and making sure you have laughter in your life and quality time with loved ones can't be overemphasized. So get your family to understand your need for a calm environment as long as there's a crunch at work. Try to have fun if at all possible.

Dear Dr. Brothers: My wife finally persuaded me to get a physical. I haven't been to the doctor in about 20 years, and was not looking forward to it. I was even more alarmed when my doctor looked like he wasn't old enough to drive! He assured me he was qualified and has been practicing medicine for five years. He gave me a clean bill of health, but I don't believe him. Am I too old-fashioned to favor experience over youth? - C.S.

Dear C.S.: For someone who avoided doctors for 20 years, going to an appointment with anyone would be a culture shock. You may recognize the examining table but find much else has changed. Tests are more sophisticated, and in ways less invasive, and if you don't like the way things are going, you can explore alternatives from acupuncture to meditation. But at the heart of the exam is still that question, "Is there anything wrong with me, and can they fix it?" Some of us avoid the scenario in case there might not be good news. Did you avoid going to the doctor because you felt healthy, or because you were terrified?

At any rate, you've gone, and you've gotten an opinion from a young doctor. There's never any harm in getting a second opinion - and finding a new (older) physician. There is no reason you have to be stuck with this one if his age makes you uncomfortable. Regular checkups will ease you back into feeling comfortable when you go to see your primary physician.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

West dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ K J 3
 ♥ A Q 7 4
 ♦ K Q 9 4 2

WEST
 ♠ A 5 4
 ♥ 8 4 3 2
 ♦ K 9 6
 ♣ A 10 7

EAST
 ♠ Q 10 7 6
 ♥ 10 5
 ♦ J 10 5 3 2
 ♣ 6 3

SOUTH
 ♠ 9 8 2
 ♥ A K Q J 9 6
 ♦ 8
 ♣ J 8 5

The bidding:
 West North East South
 Pass 1 ♣ Pass 1 ♣
 Pass 2 ♣ Pass 3 ♣
 Pass 3 NT Pass 4 ♣
 Opening lead — four of spades.

Famous Hand

Back in 1935, Ely and Jo Culbertson played a long challenge match against Hal and Dorothy Sims. Although it did not stir as much public interest as the famous Lenz-Culbertson encounter two years earlier, the match was followed with great interest by most of the faithful in the bridge world.

Sims, a giant of a man with a dominating personality, was one of the great cardplayers of all time. He had an unerring instinct for good card play that produced the best possible result in virtually every hand.

But in this deal, Sims met his match in the person of the brilliant but shy Jo Culbertson, who chose the four of spades as her opening lead against four hearts!

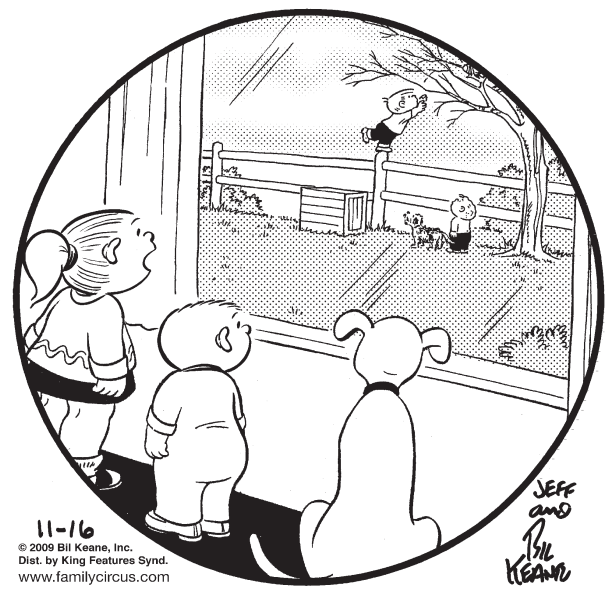
The underlead of an ace against a suit contract is a practice severely frowned upon in expert circles. But Mrs. Culbertson reasoned that Sims' unwillingness to play three notrump stemmed from a weakness in spades and that dummy was correspondingly marked with some spade strength by virtue of the three-notrump bid.

So Jo, taking advantage of what seemed an ideal occasion in view of the bidding, underled the ace of spades. After studying the situation at length, Sims played low from dummy, hoping Mrs. Culbertson had led low from either the ten or the queen, or both. Ely won with the ten and returned a club to his wife's ace, whereupon Jo led a low spade again!

Sims glared at Jo for quite a while before finally deciding she wouldn't dare underlead an ace twice against the likes of himself. Accordingly, he played the jack from dummy. Ely won with the queen and returned a spade to Jo's ace, and a scarlet-faced Sims went down one.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Billy better hope his guardian angel didn't get laid off."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 11/16

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

Cryptoquip

MNNR QNAYV TPNHI T JVSNDG
 LON FNHUR GVAVS QNAV IN
 IOV LNUAVSYGV DITIV:
 "QYFOYMTG: YQJNDYPUV."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT IS THE SYSTEM FOR OVERLAYING PLASTIC ON A CERTAIN VOWEL? THE PROCESS OF E-LAMINATION.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals O

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Trade blows
 - 5 Light application
 - 8 Slays, syndicate-style
 - 12 Perspiration
 - 13 Gorilla
 - 14 Highland hillside
 - 15 Verve
 - 16 Lack of restrictions
 - 18 Strong greenish blue
 - 20 Pal
 - 21 Restaurant
 - 23 CSA soldier
 - 24 Impassioned
 - 28 Pleasant
 - 31 Judge Lance
 - 32 Japanese, e.g.
 - 34 Scoot
 - 35 Pinnacle
 - 37 Left to fend for oneself
- DOWN**
- 1 Detail, for short
 - 3 Bedouin
 - 4 Change the title
 - 5 Insanity
 - 6 Spring-time
 - 7 Surf-and-turf
 - 8 Leno's successor
 - 9 Lynyrd Skynyrd classic
 - 10 Willing, old-style
 - 11 Transmit
 - 17 Bobble
 - 19 Golf legend
 - 22 Join together
 - 24 By way of (Abbr.)
 - 25 And so forth
 - 26 Out of harm's way
 - 27 Last to miss the deadline
 - 29 Prompt
 - 30 Conclude
 - 33 Gripes
 - 36 Breadwinner
 - 38 Fit inside one
 - 40 Sports arbiter
 - 42 Cain's victim
 - 43 Bound along
 - 44 Sketched
 - 46 — Minor (constellation)
 - 47 Simple
 - 48 Deli loaves
 - 50 Away from WSW

Solution time: 27 mins.

ABA	REEF	BASS			
RUN	HERE	OPAL			
INTHERED	RELY				
ASSIST	ORE				
	DUE	REDHOT			
URGES	TAX	URI			
TEAS	BUS	GLAD			
ANI	FAX	FULLY			
HOTDOG	ALA				
	UGH	REVERE			
BLOC	DOG	EARED			
IOWA	ABOUT	GIG			
DIET	DIES	ONE			

Saturday's answer 11-16

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		