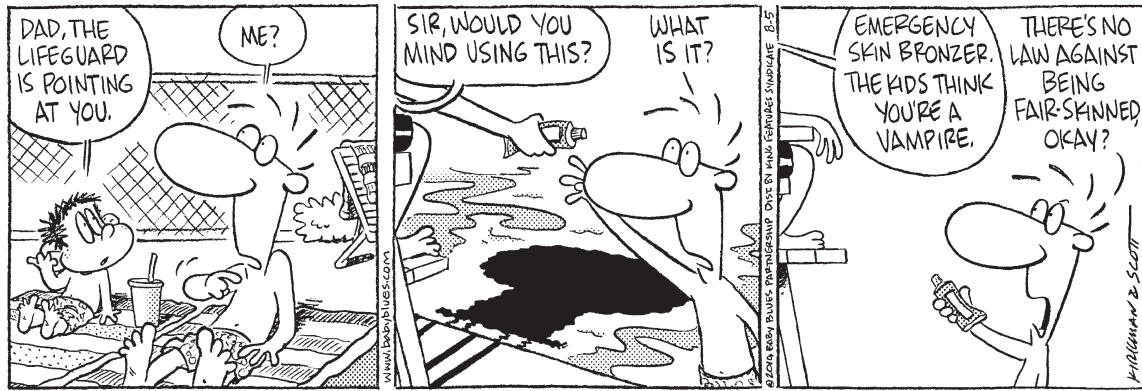
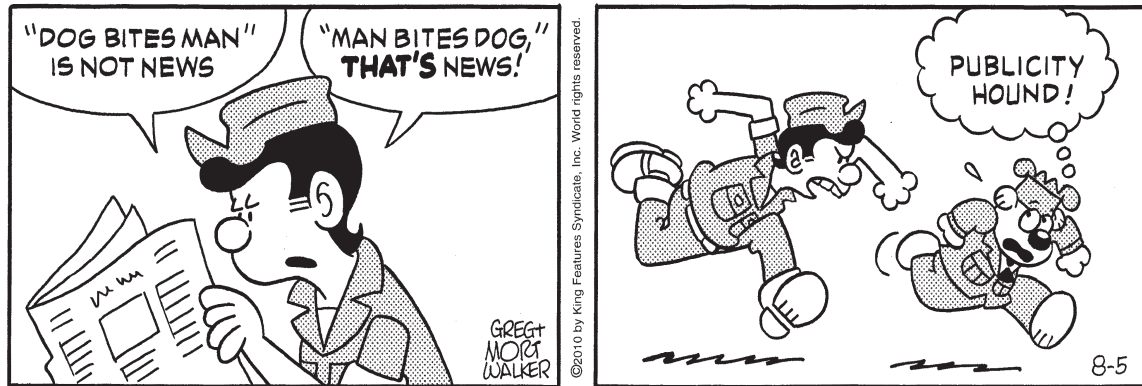


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



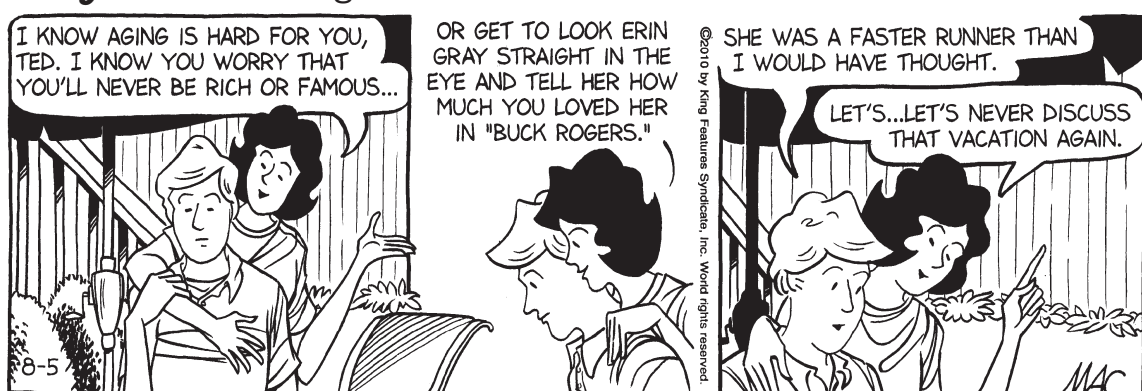
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



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
Husband wants nose job for kid

Dear Dr. Brothers: My husband has developed a bizarre obsession with our daughter's nose. While I think there's nothing at all wrong with it, he insists it's crooked and large. He insists we start a savings account to fund plastic surgery. Thank God our daughter knows nothing of these debates, as I fear it would ruin her self-esteem. How can I make him revert to sanity? — K.P.

Dear K.P.: It is a shame that your husband has gone on this crusade, for it can be a signal he does not accept his daughter. On the other hand, he may be empathetic, thinking he knows how your daughter feels, and that changing her appearance will offer a happier experience. He may have been plagued by doubts as a youth if there was something about his appearance he didn't like. Why don't you probe his motivation? It might lend logic to the situation.

Whatever is driving him, the fact that your daughter hasn't expressed any interest in changing her appearance is what should guide your decision. If you want to initiate a conversation about plastic surgery in general, that is up to you, but if she picks up on the topic, I would emphasize that you, as a couple, are willing to explore an operation, not that you want her to have one. I agree that having Dad decide what your daughter needs to look better could be hurtful. The sooner you make that clear the better. Only your daughter knows if her nose is an issue. She needs to feel unconditional love from both of you.

Dear Dr. Brothers: My brother loves to rescue dogs. He currently has seven pit bulls in his makeshift garage shelter as he tries to find homes. Recently, he's been offered the opportunity to study and work overseas, and is asking me to care for these dogs! It would be fine for a week, but he doesn't know when — or if — he will be back. How do I tell him no? — C.F.

Dear C.F.: It would help if you were a big dog lover too, but even if you were, there would be the issues of space and time to care for these pets properly. Your brother sounds generous, but obviously doesn't realize the commitment must be shared by anyone who takes these animals on. Perhaps he has a lot of time, or maybe the animals aren't getting ideal care. Seven dogs in a garage doesn't sound ideal, and could endanger anyone near them if they aren't properly socialized. There even is the possibility that these dogs may be unable to transfer to another person!

So, of course you must tell him no, and the sooner the better. Unless you have led him on or he had unrealistic expectations, he probably will understand. Perhaps you can help him place the dogs in homes. There also are breed-rescue groups that appreciate this type of dog. You have your work cut out.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

North dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♦ Q J
♥ A 6
♠ Q 10 3
♣ A Q J 9 5 2

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

EAST
♦ 8 7 6 4 3 2
♥ Q 2
♠ K 7 5
♣ 6 4

SOUTH
♦ A K
♥ J 10 9 8 5 3
♠ J 9 4
♣ K 8

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
4 ♠

Opening lead — ten of spades.

Long Live the King

The defenders are usually in the dark when play commences. Whatever knowledge they have of declarer's hand at that stage comes largely from the bidding. But as the play progresses, the defenders learn more and more about declarer's high cards and distribution, and can then apply this knowledge to score their rightful share of the tricks.

Take this deal where East has a crucial decision to make early in the play. West leads a spade, taken by South's king. Declarer plays the jack of hearts, West and dummy follow low, and East wins with the queen.

If East lacks the courage to return a diamond at this point, South makes the contract. Declarer wins any other return, cashes the ace of hearts and then plays four rounds of clubs, discarding two of his diamond losers. West ruffs the fourth club with the heart king, but the contract is home.

In general, it is poor policy for a defender to lead away from a king when dummy has Q-10-x, as this can all too easily cost a trick if declarer has the ace. But this generality should not be allowed to intimidate the defense in all situations. Each deal is an entity in its own right and should be approached in a practical manner, not in a vacuum.

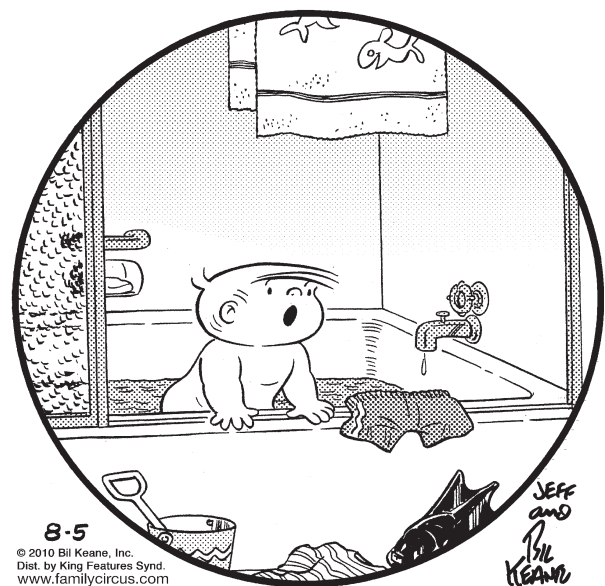
East's aim here is to find some way for his side to score four tricks. In attempting to reach this goal, he must not credit declarer with a holding that renders the contract impregnable. He should instead assume declarer has a hand that permits the contract to be defeated.

As a first step, East should assume his partner has the king of hearts, since it is unlikely that declarer would take a first-round finesse for the queen with a trump suit headed by the K-J-10. East therefore credits his partner with a trump trick.

He then starts looking for two more tricks. Since declarer obviously has no spade or club losers, East's only remaining hope is that West has the ace of diamonds. So East shifts to a diamond at trick three, and West takes the ace and returns a diamond to sink the contract.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Is it okay if I don't sit down? There's too much SAND in the tub!"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/05

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.

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

Cryptoquip

RNKX VKGJJK VIGAWSK TRKHY

OX RKTYKIX HWTYIHJOH'T

SHVOYHJ, OT YNHY SHJKA

VKIYN-V OIHYOGX?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF SOMEONE'S FANCIFUL IDEAS START TO MAKE YOU ILL, I'D SAY YOU'RE GETTING NOTION SICKNESS.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: V equals P

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Space pressed
 - 4 Enthusiasm
 - 8 "Take — Train"
 - 12 Ms.
 - 13 Approximately
 - 14 Sauce thickener
 - 15 Element in laughing gas
 - 17 Storybook villain
 - 18 Run smoothly
 - 19 Spray can
 - 21 Investigated
 - 24 Tear
 - 25 Trail the pack
 - 26 Accomplished
 - 28 Transfer
 - 32 Finished
 - 34 Conger, e.g.
 - 36 Portrayal
 - 37 Doctrine
 - 39 "Humbug!"
- DOWN**
- 41 De-
 - 42 Existed
 - 44 Put on ice,
 - 46 Moods
 - 50 Lingerie item
 - 51 Singer Amos
 - 52 X-ray discoverer
 - 56 Settled down
 - 57 Shakespearean baddie
 - 58 Before
 - 59 Got up smoothly
 - 60 "No —" ("OK")
 - 61 Arrest
- 22 Carry on**
- 23 Conk out**
- 27 Society newbie**
- 29 Cause of a fat lip?**
- 30 Lotion additive**
- 31 Lascivious**
- 33 Edit in the extreme**
- 35 Fond du —, WI**
- 38 — chi**
- 40 Mingle**
- 43 Disrobe**
- 45 Leftover scrap**
- 46 Luminary**
- 47 Game played on horses**
- 48 Eye part**
- 49 Take to the skies**
- 53 Id counterpart**
- 54 Historic period**
- 55 Kan. neighbor**

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 8-5

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				60					61		